BELGIUM
(including Eupen-Malmédy)

GENERAL

Area .............................................. 30,444 sq. km.
Population (31. XII. 1927) ....................... 7,932,077
  Per sq. km ............................ 260.5
Length of land frontiers ...................... 1,379 km
Length of coast-line ......................... 65.5 km
Length of railway lines (1926) .............. 9,667 km

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The King is the supreme head of the Army in time of war.

  I. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The Minister of National Defence commands the Army in time of peace.

The Ministry of National Defence consists of:

  The Minister’s Secretariat;
  The Army General Staff;
  Higher Infantry Directorate;
  Higher Artillery Directorate:
    General Inspectorate of Artillery;
    Armaments and Ammunition Branch;
    Motor Transport and Motor Fuel Branch;
    Anti-Gas Branch.
  Higher Medical Directorate:
    General Medical Inspectorate;
    Army Medical and Pharmaceutical Branch.
  Higher Intendance Directorate:
    General Intendance Inspectorate;
    Intendance, Administration and Supplies Branch.
Military Personnel and Recruitment Branch;
Technical Engineer Branch;
Air Branch;
Veterinary and Remounts Branch;
Mobilisation of the Nation Branch;
General Civil Administration;
General Inspectorate of Manufactures;
General Inspectorate of Army Administration.

2. ARMY GENERAL STAFF.

The Chief of the Army General Staff is the Minister's technical adviser. He is responsible for all studies and work relating to the preparation of the country's military forces for war.

He has under his orders two Deputy-Chiefs of the General Staff.

The General Staff consists of:
1st Section (Military Operations);
2nd Section (Intelligence);
3rd Section (Mobilisation, Organisation and Coast Defence);
Section A. (Training);
Section B. (Physical Training and Preparatory Military Instruction, Physical Training in the Army);
Section C. (Bibliography — Military Scientific Documentation);
Section D. (Historical Section).
4th Section (Transport, Supply and Evacuation, Lines of Communication).

3. COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The Council of National Defence consists of the Chief of the General Staff; the Inspectors-General of the various arms; the Commander of the Army of Occupation and Army Corps Commanders and the Commander of the Cavalry Corps.

The Chief Clerk of the Ministry of National Defence acts as Secretary of the Council of National Defence. Officers or civilians possessing special competence may be called upon individually or in groups to attend meetings of the Council in an advisory capacity.

4. COMMITTEES OF THE VARIOUS ARMS.

These consist of:
An Infantry Committee;
A Cavalry Committee;
An Artillery Committee;
An Engineer Committee;
A Higher Committee.

The composition of these Committees is prescribed by the Minister of National Defence, who presides over them.

The Chief Secretary (Chef de Cabinet) of the Minister acts as Secretary to the Committees.
The Director-General of Military Personnel and Recruiting is present in an advisory capacity at meetings of the Committees.

The Inspectors-General of Gendarmerie, Intendance Services, Administration and Supplies and Medical Service, may be called in when questions concerning their departments are under discussion.

The Committee has power to decide upon:

(a) Suitability of officers belonging to the arm it represents for promotion from the rank of captain up to and including that of lieutenant-colonel;

(b) Recommendations in regard to officers refusing promotion, or being passed over on account of age or incapacity.

The Higher Committee has similar powers in regard to applications by colonels for the rank of major-general and major-generals for the rank of lieutenant-general and the command of higher units.

The Committees may also be asked for an opinion on any question of general or particular interest which the Minister of National Defence may think fit to submit to them.

The opinions of the Committees are purely advisory in character.
5. **Commissions, Committees, Corps, etc.**

(a) Corps of Engineer Officers for Military Factories; This Corps supervises the technical services for the construction, repair and upkeep of Army technical material, armaments and munitions.

(b) Infantry and Cavalry Armaments Commission;

(c) Artillery Armaments Commission;

(d) Commission for Special Equipment of Light Troops;

(e) Committee of Research on Technical Engineering Material;

(f) Committee of Research on Medical Material;

(g) Army Air Commission.

These bodies submit, for the approval of the Minister, recommendations for drawing up the programme of requirements in regard to technical material for the various arms and the medical service; they also supervise the execution of the programme.

**B. TERRITORIAL MILITARY AREAS**

The country is divided into three territorial areas as follows:

1. The provinces of Brabant and Hainault;
2. The provinces of West Flanders, East Flanders and Antwerp;
3. The provinces of Namur, Liége, Luxemburg and Limburg.

**C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY ON A PEACE FOOTING**

The army on a peace footing consists of:

I. **Higher Command:**
   - Ministry of National Defence;
   - Territorial Higher Command.

II. **Troops:**
   - Three army corps;
   - One cavalry corps;
   - Army artillery and Air service;
   - Engineer and fortification troops;
   - Tanks;
   - Transport troops and services;
   - Medical troops and establishments;
   - Intendance troops and establishments;
   - Schools and independent units;
   - Manufacturing establishment troops;
   - Territorial services;
   - Special formations of occupying forces.
BELGIUM

I. Command.

Ministry of National Defence;
Territorial Command:
  Military area commands;
  Provincial commands;
  Fortress commands.

II. Troops.

ARMY CORPS.

1 army corps headquarters;
2 infantry divisions, each consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   3 regiments of infantry consisting of:
      3 battalions, each of four companies (including 1 machine-gun company);
      1 depot and park company;
   1 machine-gun battalion consisting of 3 companies;
   1 infantry battery;
   1 artillery regiment consisting of:
      3 gun groups of two batteries each;
      1 light howitzer group of two batteries;
      1 depot battery and park;
      1 divisional depot and park;
   1 army corps artillery regiment consisting of:
      4 groups of 2 batteries each;
      1 depot battery and park.

CAVALRY CORPS.

Headquarters;
2 cavalry divisions, each consisting of:
   Staff;
   3 cavalry regiments, each consisting of:
      2 groups of 3 squadrons each (including 1 machine-gun squadron);
      1 depot squadron and park;
   1 cyclist regiment consisting of:
      2 battalions with 3 companies (including 1 machine-gun company);
      1 depot company and park;
   1 armoured car group;
   1 horse artillery regiment consisting of:
      2 gun groups of 3 batteries each;
      1 depot battery and park;
   1 cavalry school;
   1 remounts depot.
Staff;  
1 army artillery brigade consisting of:  
Staff;  
1st Army Artillery Regiment consisting of:  
1 group of 2 batteries of light guns;  
3 heavy gun groups of 2 batteries each;  
1 howitzer group;  
1 depot battery and park;  
2nd Army Artillery Regiment consisting of:  
2 gun and heavy howitzer groups of 2 batteries each  
1 mortar group of 2 batteries;  
1 depot battery and park;  
1 park.  
Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment consisting of:  
3 gun groups of 3 batteries each;  
1 searchlight group of 3 batteries;  
1 technical group;  
1 depot battery.  
The Air Service consists of:  
Headquarters;  
The 1st Air Regiment with:  
1 balloon group and  
3 observers' groups;  
2nd Air Regiment with:  
2 fighter-plane groups and  
1 bomber group;  
3rd Air Regiment with:  
1 technical group and  
1 school group;  
1 depot;  
Each group consists of:  
2 flights and  
1 depot squadron and park.  

Engineer and Fortress Troops.  
Headquarters;  
1st Engineer and Fortress Directorate:  
Headquarters;  
1 engineer regiment consisting of:  
3 battalions of 2 companies each and  
1 depot company and park;  
1 engineer cyclist battalion of 2 companies.
2nd Engineer and Fortress Directorate:
Headquarters;
1 engineer regiment consisting of:
3 battalions of 2 companies each and
1 depot-park company;
Railway troops consisting of:
5 railway companies and
1 depot company;
1 bridge-building battalion consisting of:
2 bridge-building companies and
1 depot-park company.

3rd Engineer and Fortifications Directorate:
Headquarters;
1 engineer regiment with:
3 battalions, each consisting of 2 companies;
1 depot-park company.

Signal troops and services consisting of:
Headquarters;
1 regiment of signal troops consisting of:
1 battalion of telegraphists with four companies;
1 battalion of radio operators with four companies;
1 depot and carrier-pigeon company.
A technical service consisting of:
1 civilian workers' company and park;
Signals School.

The Army Engineer Park.

TANKS.

Headquarters;
2 tank companies;
1 depot-park-workshop company.

TRANSPORT TROOPS AND SERVICES.

Headquarters:
Three corps of horse transport, each consisting of:
Three horse-drawn companies;
1 field company;
3 companies of supply clerks and orderlies;
1 depot and park company.
One motor-transport corps consisting of:
2 motor-transport companies;
2 park companies;
1 depot company.
One motor-transport service school.

MEDICAL TROOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS.
INTENDANCE TROOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

3 intendance units consisting of one company.
1 administrative services school.

MILITARY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The military training establishments in Belgium are as follows:
(a) **Staff College**, for higher military training. Officers passing the final examination are given staff rank.
(b) **Military School**, for training infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineer officers.
(c) "**Ecoles des Pupilles de l'Armée**", open to war orphans, and sons of disabled ex-service men, of soldiers serving with the colours, of civil servants and fathers of large families, etc., and consisting of:
   1. **Two Cadet Schools**, for higher secondary education, preparatory for the Military School.
   2. **Four "Ecoles des Pupilles"**, strictly so called, for primary and lower secondary education. These "Ecoles" prepare for the Cadet School and supply recruits for the lower non-commissioned ranks in the army.
(d) **Central School of Science** attached to the Cadet School and intended for the training of soldiers at the Military School and for the examination for second lieutenant.
(e) **Schools for the various arms**:
   1. **Infantry School**;
   2. **Artillery School**;
   3. **Cavalry School**;
      each consisting of:
         a staff;
         a centre for technical studies (except at the Cavalry School);
         an advanced course for second lieutenants and a course for qualified N.C.O. instructors.
      The Cavalry School also includes a course for riding-masters and a farriers course.
(f) **Army Physical Training Institute** to train army physical training instructors.
(g) **Schools for the services**:
   1. **School for Army Medical Officers** consisting of an advanced school and four sections for medical and pharmacy students.
   2. **School for Administrative Services**.
   3. **Motor-Transport Service School** consisting of an advanced course for transport corps officers, a course for qualified N.C.O. instructors in the transport corps and an advanced course for N.C.O.s.
(h) **Special schools**:
   1. **Flying School** for training pilots and air observers.
   2. **Signals School** for N.C.O.s and technical experts belonging to these troops.
   3. **Anti-Aircraft (land) School (D.T.C.A.)** for officers, N.C.O.s, and technicians of the D.T.C.A.

MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENT TROOPS.

The Great Army Park consisting of:
   Staff;
   2 group staffs;
   7 park batteries;
   1 depot battery.
Arsenal administrative company.
Gun factory administrative company.
State arms factory administrative company.
Ammunition factories administrative company.
Motor-transport establishments administrative company.
Motor-transport repairs factory.
Motor-transport supply store.

**TERRITORIAL SERVICES.**

25 recruiting offices.
13 depots and parks.

**SPECIAL OCCUPATION TROOPS FORMATIONS.**

General headquarters.
Special commands and organisations.

**ARMS Factories, arsenals, workshops, etc.**

(a) Royal Gun Factory 617 employees and workmen.
(b) Arsenal 772 employees.
(c) State Arms Factory 491 employees.
(d) Munitions Factory 615 employees.
(e) Military buildings and constructions 572 workmen.
(f) Supply depot for motor transport and repairs shop 116 employees and workmen.
(g) Great field park, divisional parks, artillery range parks, searchlight group parks and workshops 629 employees.

Total number of workmen and miscellaneous personnel 3,812.

**D. POLICE FORCE.**

**NATIONAL GENDARMERIE.**

The National Gendarmerie is composed of:

(a) the Department of the Inspector-General of the Gendarmerie;
(b) a Corps of Gendarmerie consisting of:

- the Headquarters of the Corps;
- the Medical Service;
- the Veterinary Service;
- the Central Administration (administrative council, quartermaster, chief of the clothing store, etc.).

A staff which includes:

A mobile legion, organised in squadrons.

6 groups, organised in mobile detachments, companies, districts and brigades. | Ghent, | Namur, |
| Antwerp, | Mons, |
| Liége, | Brussels. |
### Summary Table of Commands and Units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corps</th>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Brigades</th>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
<th>Flights</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Groups</th>
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1. Including 6 machine-guns.
2. Infantry batteries.
3. Including 12 machine-guns.
4. Including 2 cyclist regiments.
5. Cyclist battalions.
6. Including 12 machine-guns; not including 6 depot squadrons.
7. Cyclist companies, including 4 machine-gun companies; not including 2 depot companies.
8. Including 1 group of armoured cars.
9. Including 6 regiments of divisional artillery, 3 regiments of army corps artillery, 1 regiment of horse artillery, 2 regiments of army artillery and 1 regiment of anti-aircraft artillery.
10. Not including 8 depot batteries.
11. Including the following flights: 2 balloon, 6 observation, 4 fighter, 2 bomber, 2 technical and 2 school.
12. Not including 7 depot companies.
13. Including 1 bridging and 1 cyclist battalion.
14. Including 5 railway, 2 cyclist and 2 bridging companies; not including 5 depot companies.
15. Not including 1 depot company and 1 labour company.
16. Not including 4 depot companies.

### E. Material in Service in the Units (1927).

- Rifles or carbines: 44,600
- Pistols or revolvers: 1,800
- Automatic rifles: 1,215
- Machine-guns: 618
- Guns or howitzers (calibre less than 120 mm.): 302
- Mortars (calibre less than 120 mm.): 36
- Guns or howitzers (calibre 120 mm. and over): 112
- Completed bombing planes: 47
- ,, battle planes: 47
- ,, observation planes: 152
- Captive balloons: 6

### F. Recruiting System.

#### I. Fundamental Principle.

(a) Every Belgian subject is liable to military service;
(b) No exemptions are granted except on account of physical disability;
(c) The Army is recruited by the annual calling-up of recruits and by voluntary engagement and re-engagement.
2. Territorial Groups.

The men are allotted to garrisons in the provinces in which they were registered for conscription, up to the establishment of the troops quartered therein.

Any surplus numbers are posted to garrisons of a neighbouring province — preferably a province of the same language, or the province of Brabant — in which the number of conscripts is below the required establishment.

Conscripts may, however, be posted to garrisons other than those fulfilling the above conditions. The cases in which this may be done will be regulated by a Royal Decree.

The troops for the occupation of the Rhine territory are recruited from all parts of the kingdom.

If a province is unable to furnish sufficient men suitable for service in the regimental units and in the specialist troops required by other corps and services, the deficiency has to be made up from neighbouring provinces, or, if absolutely necessary, from all parts of the kingdom.

3. Recruiting Offices.

The recruiting offices are responsible for carrying out the instructions of the Minister of National Defence for recruiting.

4. Exemptions and Postponements on Account of Physical Disability.

Men who are found unfit for any form of military service on account of their general constitution or of incurable infirmity or disease are exempt.

Men who are found temporarily unfit for military service on account of weak constitution, infirmity or disease are put back for one year.

Not more than three postponements of service can be granted.

5. Anticipation of Period of Service: Suspension.

A man entered in the recruiting reserve roll is permitted to serve as a conscript in the year when he attains his 18th or 19th year, provided he is passed fit.

Suspension for an indefinite period is granted under certain conditions to the first member called up of a family consisting of not less than 6 children.

All conscripts may obtain suspension for a year, which is renewable on the ground that a man belongs by age to one of the last 5 contingents.

Applications for postponement of service are granted without difficulty, provided that they do not exceed 15% of the total numbers on the roll.

Otherwise the Recruiting Board grants suspensions to the categories of conscripts prescribed by law.

1 The Recruiting Board consists of:
   A Chairman, chosen from among the magistrates actually serving, deputy-magistrates or honorary magistrates of a tribunal of the first instance;
   A Director, inspector or, failing either of these, a controller of taxes, and an Army officer.
6. Posting to Arms and Services.

The following are posted *ex officio* to the administrative branch of the Medical Service:

1. Ministers of religion;
2. Members of a religious community domiciled in Belgium;
3. Persons engaged in missionary work abroad;

Men who are permanently resident in a colony where their families have resided at least ten years and who, after having their service suspended to the full extent allowed under Article XI, engage to serve in the colony, are placed at the disposal of the Colonial Office for the whole period of their liability to military service in the home army. They are borne on the strength of the recruiting reserve.

Conscripts whose family circumstances comply with certain conditions are permitted to choose their arm and are posted to a garrison, if possible, in the town where their family resides.

7. Military Obligations.

The duration of military obligations is 25 years, divided as follows:

1. 15 years in the Regular Army and Reserve;
2. 10 years in the Territorial Army.

On the outbreak of war, or if the country is threatened with invasion, men in the Territorial Army may be incorporated in the field army, except, however, married men with four children.

8. Recruiting Reserve.

The recruiting reserve can only be called out for active service in case of war or if the country is threatened with invasion.


The following are called up for the annual contingent each year:

1. Men whose names are entered on the recruiting reserve roll and who were 19 years of age on December 31st in the preceding year;
2. Men whose names are entered on the recruiting reserve roll in accordance with special provisions of the Law;
3. Men who are permitted to be called up in anticipation of their contingent;
4. Men who have been granted suspension of service;
5. Men whose service has been postponed.

Conscripts accepted for military service are called to the colours on the dates fixed by the Minister of National Defence.

Military obligations commence on July 1st of the year to which the contingent belongs.
io. Duration of Military Service.

The period of service with the colours commences on the date on which a conscript enters the Army.

It must be completed in its entirety.

The period of service with the colours is as follows:

(1) Out of the whole annual contingent 21,000 men have to perform 12, 13 or 14 months' active service. This number may be increased to supply the wastage recorded in this portion of the contingent during the year preceding that by which the class is denoted.

The service exacted from this portion of the annual contingent is as follows:

(i) 14 months' active service for all conscripts designated under the Law for the recruitment of the supplementary cadres;

(ii) 13 months' active service for men posted to cavalry and mounted artillery or to the fortress troops of Liége. The number of these men may not exceed 3,650, besides those required to supply wastage;

(iii) 12 months' active service for the remainder.

(2) The portion of the annual contingent not included under (i) has to perform 8 months' active service.

(3) The portion of the contingent referred to under (i) is composed as follows:

(a) All the men designated by the Law for the recruitment of the supplementary cadres;

(b) All temporary, probationary or permanent officials of Government departments, and of establishments working under their direction; the said establishments are indicated in a Royal Decree.

(c) The first son of each family, taken for service as a conscript and not coming under paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

(4) If the total number of conscripts liable to perform 12, 13 or 14 months' active service under (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 3 exceeds the number required under (i), the men composing the surplus (who will only be required to perform 8 months' active service), are designated having regard to:

I. The total military service already performed by members of their families:

II. In case of equal claims, the military service which members of the conscript's family will have to perform in the future, taking into account the number of sons not yet liable for service.

(5) The procedure in paragraph 4 above will not be applied to men designated under the Law as recruits for the supplementary cadres. Nevertheless, where a family has already furnished two recruits for such service, the other sons will only be held to serve for 8 months, unless they come within the category referred to in Article 50 of the Law.

(6) Where a man is only liable for 8 months' service, but re-engages for 4 or 5 months under paragraph (c) of Article 61 of the Law, one of his brothers, not yet designated for service and coming under (b) or (c) of paragraph (3),
will thereby be exempted from liability to 12 or 13 months' service. Those
benefiting by this provision are only required to perform 8 months' active service.

(7) With the exception of men belonging to the Medical Service, the Intendance
Service, supply clerks and orderlies companies, the Great Army Park, the
Army Engineer Park and the manufacturing establishments, all conscripts are
liable during the first 10 years of their service to be recalled to the colours for a
period of 6 weeks.
Infantry conscripts and conscripts of the army corps artillery and infantry
divisions are further liable to be called up to the colours twice, for 8 days at a
time, during the same period.

(8) Men designated as recruits for the supplementary cadres are liable to be
recalled, as in paragraph 7, irrespective of the unit or service to which they
belong.

(9) Men who are liable to 12, 13 or 14 months' active service under (3)
receive a monthly allowance of 400 francs when they have served for 8 months;
the details of such payments are laid down by Royal Decree.

(10) During the periods of recall under paragraph (7), all men receive a
weekly allowance of 150 fr. ; the details of such payments are laid down by Royal
Decree.

(11) Absences due to injuries received, or to sickness contracted or aggravated
owing to performance of military duty, are alone reckoned as time served with the
unit and reckoned for the granting of the allowances under paragraphs (9) and (10).
Men who fulfil certain educational conditions to be laid down by the Minister
of National Defence are designated as recruits for the supplementary cadres.

II. INDEFINITE FURLOUGH.

On completing their period of service with the colours men are
sent on indefinite furlough.

In special circumstances, however, the Government may suspend
or modify the application of this provision or may temporarily recall
to the colours, either en masse or in part, any number of contingents
which it may think necessary. In the latter case the decision must
be immediately brought to the knowledge of the Houses of Parliament.

Men who have served a sentence of detention or imprisonment and men who
have absented themselves without leave are retained with the colours for the
periods mentioned below, the total duration of such retention not to exceed 70
days:

(1) 2 days' retention for each day's detention or imprisonment ;
(2) 4 days' retention for each day's absence without leave.

Men who, on account of bad conduct, indocility or flagrant negligence, fail
to complete their military training upon the expiration of their period with the
colours may, subject to approval by the Minister of National Defence, be retained
with the colours until they are considered to have reached a satisfactory standard
of training ; prolongation of service for this reason cannot, however, exceed 100
days.

No man may be retained with the colours on the above-mentioned grounds for a
period exceeding 100 days.

Men of all categories who are sent on indefinite furlough are liable to be
called out for an annual inspection of Army effectives under the conditions laid down by the Minister of National Defence.
12. RECALLING TO THE COLOURS.

Conscripts, except those belonging to the Intendance Service and Medical Corps troops, the Horse Transport Corps supply companies, the Great Army Park, the Army Engineer Park and the manufacturing establishments, are liable, during the first ten years of their period of service, to be recalled on one or more occasions on the orders of the Minister of National Defence for a period of not more than six weeks.

Men who are candidates for non-commissioned rank to complete establishment are also liable to be recalled as indicated above.

13. RELEASE FROM SERVICE WITH THE COLOURS.

If the number of men called up for service exceeds 44,000, the surplus in each category may be granted release from service with the colours, regard being paid to family circumstances.

Conscripts who only have to perform four months' service are not included in the contingent of 44,000.

14. VOLUNTARY ENGAGEMENT AND RE-ENGAGEMENT.

In time of peace any Belgian subject between the ages of 16 and 30 may enlist voluntarily.

Youths who hold certificates showing that they have performed at least six years of primary studies may be recruited as professional N.C.O.'s.

Those who do not possess such a certificate and are not therefore eligible for recruitment as professional N.C.O.s may be employed as officials after having performed a complete period of military training.

Any volunteer under 20 years of age must give proof of the consent of his father or (if the father is dead) mother, or (if both parents are dead) guardian.

The period of engagement depends upon the age of the recruit; men between 16 and 17 engage for four years, between 17 and 18 for three years, 18 and over for two years.

In the case of candidates for the non-commissioned ranks of the flying personnel of the Air Service who are over eighteen years of age, the engagement shall be for two years.

Men may re-engage on the following terms:

(1) For a single period of six months immediately following the first period of regular service.

(2) For a period of 1, 2, 3 or 4 years in the case of volunteers and conscripts who have completed their period of regular service, and of all men on indefinite furlough or discharged from military obligations.

(3) For a period terminating at the age of 32 for under-officers who have served in that capacity for at least two years.

Upon mobilisation, men may engage or re-engage upon the conditions fixed by the Minister of National Defence for the period during which the Army is maintained on a war footing; engagement upon these terms does not exempt a man from any obligations to which he may subsequently be liable as a conscript. The service of engaged and re-engaged men is prolonged without further formality until the date fixed for demobilisation.
### G. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES (1928).

#### I. ARMY.

(a) **Officers:***

- Lieutenant-Generals: 20
- Major-Generals: 25
- Colonels: 118
- Lieutenant-Colonels: 110
- Majors: 301
- Senior Captains (Acting rank):
  - Captains: 1,407
- Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants: 2,182

  **Total Officers:** 4,163

(b) **Non-Commissioned Officers:**

- Higher grade of pay (appointés): 8,058
- Lower grade (soldés) (volunteers and conscripts): 293

  **Total:** 8,351

(c) **Other Ranks** (corporals and privates):

- Higher grade of pay (appointés): 4,077
- Lower grade (soldés) (volunteers and conscripts): 46,372

  **Total other ranks:** 50,449

- Employed without military pay, military and civil employees: 2,200

  **Total: Officers and other ranks:** 65,163

*Note:* The number of days of actual service was in 1928:

- Non-Commissioned Officers (volunteers and conscripts): 106,945
- Other ranks (volunteers and conscripts): 16,925,780

  **Total:** 17,032,725

#### 2. GENDARMERIE.

- Officers: 148
- N.C.O.s and Gendarmes: 5,900

  **Total:** 6,048

#### 3. TABLE GIVING NUMBERS OF THE 1928 CONTINGENT POSTED TO THE VARIOUS CORPS AND SERVICES.

- Infantry: 20,012
- Cavalry: 3,270
- Artillery: 7,720
- Air Force: 1,240
- Engineers: 1,651
- Transport: 960
- Miscellaneous: 5,276

  **Total:** 40,129
H. CADRES.

1. N.C.O.s.

(a) Source of supply.

The N.C.O.s of the Belgian army are supplied from volunteers who enter the Army as a profession and conscripts performing military service.

The various ranks are:

In the infantry, engineers and air force: corporal, sergeant, quartermaster-sergeant, 1st sergeant (1er sergeant), sergeant-major, 1st-class sergeant-major (1er sergeant-major) and warrant officer (adjudant).

In the cavalry and artillery: corporal, sergeant (maréchal des logis), quartermaster-sergeant (maréchal des logis fourrier), three classes of sergeant-major (1er maréchal des logis, maréchal des logis chef, 1er maréchal des logis chef) and warrant officer (adjudant).

(b) Method of promotion.

1. Corporal (brigadier). Conscripts who have passed the prescribed examination are promoted to the rank of corporal (brigadier) up to the number of vacancies in the corps, or are given the acting rank of corporal.

There is no time-limit for promotion to the rank of corporal (brigadier) in the case of volunteers entering the Army as a profession.

2. Sergeant (maréchal des logis). Conscripts who are aspirants for the rank of second lieutenant in the Reserve and who have passed the examination for sous-officiers and have at least six months' seniority in the substantive or acting rank of corporal (brigadier), may be appointed sergeant (maréchal des logis) or assimilated to that rank; regular soldiers cannot be promoted to the rank of sergeant (maréchal des logis) unless they have served as corporal or brigadier with the Colours for at least six months and have passed the examination for sous-officiers.

3. Quartermaster-Sergeant (maréchal des logis fourrier). First Sergeant (1er maréchal des logis).

Sergeants with three years' seniority in that rank may be promoted to the rank of Quartermaster-Sergeant (maréchal des logis fourrier) and First Sergeant (1er maréchal des logis) provided they have passed the tests prescribed for these ranks.

4. Sergeant-Major (maréchal des logis chef). Quartermaster-Sergeants (maréchaux des logis fourriers) who have held this rank for two years may be made Sergeant-Major (maréchal des logis fourrier chef) provided that they have passed the tests prescribed for this rank.

5. First Sergeant-Major (1er maréchal des logis chef). First Sergeants (1ers maréchaux des logis) who have served in that rank for two years may be appointed First Sergeant-Major (1er maréchal des logis chef) if they have passed the tests prescribed for this rank.

6. Warrant Officer (Adjudant). Sergeant-Majors (maréchaux des logis chefs) and First Sergeant-Majors (1ers maréchaux des logis chefs) who have served in this rank for three years may be promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer by seniority if they have been awarded the military decoration, second class. Nevertheless, this rank may not be given to more than two-thirds of the picked instructor sous-officiers, or to more than one-third of the picked accountancy sous-officiers (excluding Quartermaster-Sergeants (maréchaux des logis fourriers).)

2. SPECIAL RANKS.

Appointment and assimilation to the ranks of corporal and sergeant, N.C.O. candidates of the complementary cadres of the active regiments.

Conscripts selected to attend courses in the special platoons are, if they possess the necessary aptitude and character, promoted or assimilated to the rank of
corporal after two and a-half months; they are appointed sergeants after a further period of six months if they have passed the prescribed examination. The number of promotions in the case of each rank depends on the number of vacancies available in the corps.

3. **Officers.**

I. **Active Officers.**

(a) *Source of Supply.*

Officers are supplied:

(a) from the military school;

(b) from the establishment of N.C.O.s.

To be appointed 2nd Lieutenant, a man must have:

1. completed 19 years of age in the arms and services, with the completion of 25 years of age in the gendarmerie corps.

2. have served with the colours for at least 2 years as a N.C.O. in an army unit and have passed an examination implying a general literary, scientific and military knowledge; or have been at least 2 years a cadet at the military school and have satisfied the conditions required on leaving that school.

The examination to be passed by men who desire to become officers after having served in one of the Army units without having gone through the military school may be divided into two parts, the first of which, bearing solely upon literary and scientific knowledge, may be passed before the candidate has enlisted.

(b) *Promotion.*

The period of service in a lower rank necessary to qualify for promotion from one rank to another is as follows:

- To Lieutenant: 3 years;
- To Captain: 2 years;
- To Major: 5 years;
- To Lieutenant-Colonel: 3 years;
- To Colonel: 2 years;
- To Major-General: 3 years;
- To Lieutenant-General: 2 years.

In war-time the above conditions are not applicable.

In the arms and in the transport service one-third of all the commissions as second lieutenant which fall vacant are reserved for pupils of the Military School, a third to N.C.O.s and a third at the discretion of the King.

Promotion in the subaltern ranks of officers is made by seniority from the rank immediately below.

Field officers and general officers are appointed at the discretion of the King. Rank cannot be granted without employment; an officer cannot be promoted to a rank senior to that implied by his employment.

II. **Reserve Officers.**

In addition to the officers in the active Army, there are reserve officers required to complete the officering of troops called up in the event of mobilisation.
Recruiting:
Reserve officers are recruited from:

(1) Officers in the active Army who have resigned;
(2) ,,, ,, ,, on the pension list;
(3) Sous-officiers in the active Army who were formerly aspirants for the rank of second lieutenant in the active Army;
(4) Conscripts trained in the special platoons (see 2 — Special Ranks).

Promotion:
The rules for the promotion of officers in the active Army also apply to officers in the Reserve.

The latter, however, are not promoted unless they have served in their substantive rank during a period of recall, and have shown that they possess the general and military knowledge required for promotion to the next higher rank.

No officer may be promoted to a higher rank unless all his contemporaries in the active Army have been promoted to that rank.

Second lieutenants in the Reserve may not be promoted to the rank of lieutenant unless they have served for four years as second lieutenant.

**COLONIAL FORCES.**

**Belgian Congo.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>2,385,120 sq. km.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>per sq. km.</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of railway lines (1926)</td>
<td>2,969 km.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Command.
The Government forces in Belgian Congo are under the direction of the Governor-General of the Colony, who is assisted by a field-officer, the Colonel commanding the Government forces, whose headquarters are at the seat of the local Government.

(2) Recruiting.
The public defence force is recruited by enlistment and annual levies. The period of service with the colours for conscripts and volunteers does not exceed 7 years. The period of re-engagement after completion of the term of service may be reduced to three years. No man may join a unit before completing his sixteenth year or after completing his thirtieth year.

(3) Organisation of the Forces — European and Native.
The Government forces consist of the troops in cantonments and the troops on district service.
The troops in cantonments are especially organised for the defence of the colony. They take part in certain work of general utility. The troops on district service are permanently placed at the disposal of the district authorities who employ them to maintain public order and keep the peace.
The troops are divided according to provinces. A field-officer commands the troops in each province.

A defence force reserve has also been organised. Men who are given indefinite furlough on completion of their term of active service pass into the reserve for a period not exceeding 7 years.

Except in the event of mobilisation, men who are transferred to the reserve are not entitled to any allowance.

On mobilisation, the existing units are doubled, the serving soldiers and the reservists being allotted in equal proportion to these doubled units.

There are no European troops.

The units and the services of the Government forces include European officers and N.C.O.s, native subordinate N.C.O.s and native rank and file.

Only officers who are, or have been, on the active list of officers of the home army, are eligible for service on the active list of the defence force.

As a rule, officers are gazetted to the defence force with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. To obtain a commission, candidates are required:

1) To hold the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the home army.
2) To have served for at least one year as a commissioned officer with a unit of the home army.
3) To have taken a training course for colonial duties and to have passed out successfully.

Candidates for appointment as under-officers or sergeants of the defence force must have performed at least one year's service in that rank, with the home army, have completed their 21st year, and have passed successfully through their colonial training courses.

4) Number of Units and Establishment.

(1) Troops on territorial service: 1 company of variable strength in each district.

(2) Troops in cantonments: Infantry battalions (9); Artillery batteries (3); Engineer companies (4); Railway companies (2); Mechanical Transport Sections (2); centre of instruction for signal troops; instruction centres (4); depots (4).

5) Budgetary Effectives for 1927.

Officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonel</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonels</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 198

N.C.O.s: 228

Rank and file (Natives): 16,384

Including armourers, artisans, etc.
II.

Navy.

The Belgian Navy has been suppressed as a measure of economy, the sloop *Zinnia* alone being retained for Fishery Protection.

III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

1. The budget year coincides with the calendar year. In July each year the Finance Minister sends out a circular letter to the ministries, reminding them to forward to him estimates of expenditure for the coming year. The budget proposals are then prepared in the Ministry of Finance and have to be submitted to the members of the legislative chambers before the end of October. The budgets are not voted until after the beginning of the budget year, the expenditure for the intervening period being authorised by "laws for provisional credits" (*lois de crédits provisoires*). The credits are provided for a specified number of months (*douzièmes provisoires*) on the basis of the previous credits.

2. In 1925 defence expenditure was accounted for as follows:

   (a) In the Ordinary Budget of National Defence, comprising ordinary and exceptional expenditure, the latter including high-cost-of-living allowances and some expenditure resulting from the war;

   (b) In the Extraordinary Budget, comprising the expenditure for construction and acquisitions, and

   (c) In the Recoverable Expenditure Budget, which comprised reparations, costs of army of occupation and commissions on war pensions.

It should, however, be noted that the cost of the army of occupation is really included in the Ordinary Budget, the appropriation in the Recoverable Expenditure Budget only signifying a transfer of the amount to the receipts side of the Ordinary Budget. This expenditure is now (beginning with 1926) accounted for in the Ordinary Budget only.

In 1926 the Extraordinary and Recoverable Expenditure Budgets were combined and called the Extraordinary Budget; this was subdivided into extraordinary expenditure proper and expenditure on account of reparations.
B. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

I. Summary of Defence Expenditure (Net).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of National Defence:</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Ordinary Budget:</td>
<td>577.7</td>
<td>558.5</td>
<td>603.1</td>
<td>705.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Extraordinary Budget:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Budget proper:</td>
<td>133.2</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Reparation:</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>715.1</td>
<td>577.3</td>
<td>621.3</td>
<td>776.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index of defence expenditure</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wholesale price index number:</th>
<th>1914 = 100</th>
<th>1925 = 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>558</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>774</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>847</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>843 (^2)</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Index of defence expenditure reduced to the 1925 price level | 100 | 58 | 51 | 72 |

1 Arranged, so far as possible, according to the grouping in the budgets for 1927 and 1928.
2 Average, January to September 1928.

Notes. — (1) The defence expenditure shown in the table above includes war charges and a part of the pension charges, but not debt service, expenditure on civil aviation or expenditure for the account of other departments.

The cost of the Gendarmerie Corps is not included in defence expenditure.

(2) There is no special budget for the Navy. The expenses of the few torpedo boats owned by Belgium were provided for by the Defence Department under the chapter "Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenditure". This service was abolished in 1928 and the personnel transferred to the Pontoon Corps.

(3) According to the Treasury Statement of January 1927 the ordinary expenditure of the Ministry of National Defence for 1925 was about the same as originally estimated, and that for 1926 will probably prove to be about 10 million francs less than was estimated. The extraordinary expenditure of that ministry was about 1 million less than was estimated for 1925 and for 1926 will probably prove to be 32 million more than was estimated.

II. Analysis of Defence Expenditure.

I. The following table shows the main items of defence expenditure charged to the Ordinary Budget of National Defence for 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Ordinary Expenditure:</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central administration</td>
<td>10,472</td>
<td>8,721</td>
<td>6,688</td>
<td>12,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, pay and accessories of troops</td>
<td>210,266</td>
<td>198,086</td>
<td>201,589</td>
<td>319,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General services of troops</td>
<td>18,846</td>
<td>19,038</td>
<td>15,056</td>
<td>17,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals and pharmacies</td>
<td>2,208</td>
<td>2,115</td>
<td>2,174</td>
<td>6,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military academy, schools and museum</td>
<td>50,487</td>
<td>46,583</td>
<td>32,981</td>
<td>65,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armaments, vehicles, etc.</td>
<td>15,629</td>
<td>13,815</td>
<td>11,129</td>
<td>16,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical services of engineers</td>
<td>3,896</td>
<td>3,486</td>
<td>3,756</td>
<td>5,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>22,235</td>
<td>26,492</td>
<td>24,405</td>
<td>45,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and forage, etc.</td>
<td>153,327</td>
<td>155,770</td>
<td>145,506</td>
<td>191,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, etc.</td>
<td>14,671</td>
<td>13,540</td>
<td>10,830</td>
<td>12,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions</td>
<td>4,572</td>
<td>6,578</td>
<td>4,649</td>
<td>4,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torpedo boats and Naval Corps</td>
<td>4,108</td>
<td>3,454</td>
<td>2,311</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous and unforeseen expenditure</td>
<td>3,597</td>
<td>2,504</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>1,548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct: Services rendered to and material taken over by other departments</td>
<td>8,860</td>
<td>9,435</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ordinary expenditure</td>
<td>505,454</td>
<td>490,747</td>
<td>462,026</td>
<td>701,507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II. Exceptional Expenditure:</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure resulting from the war.</td>
<td>7,428</td>
<td>5,899</td>
<td>2,748</td>
<td>3,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-cost-of-living allowances</td>
<td>64,680</td>
<td>61,862</td>
<td>128,772</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in pensions</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9,578</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13,340</td>
<td>12,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct: Services rendered to and material taken over by other departments</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>13,340</td>
<td>12,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total exceptional expenditure</td>
<td>72,213</td>
<td>67,761</td>
<td>154,438</td>
<td>16,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td>577,667</td>
<td>588,508</td>
<td>603,124</td>
<td>705,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes.**

1. The above figures correspond to those indicated in the budgets of National Defence after deduction of the expenditure on civil aviation (1925) and on services rendered to and material taken over by other departments. As regards the last-named expenditure, until 1927 this was not shown separately from the various items of ordinary defence expenditure proper and only the corresponding receipts in the general budget of Ways and Means indicated the amount of expenditure of this description. In 1927, however, it was separated and shown under special items of the exceptional expenditure.

2. These figures include the costs of the Army of Occupation, which have been estimated at 102,600,000 francs for 1925, 122,500,000 francs for 1926, 127,500,000 francs for 1927 and 114,000,000 francs for 1928. Under the Finance Ministers' Agreement of January 14th, 1925, regarding the distribution of annuities under the Experts' Plan (German reparations), Belgium receives 25 million gold marks per annum on account of Army of Occupation costs.

3. The working expenses of military establishments are included in the appropriations shown in the table above.

4. In 1928 the high-cost-of-living allowances are distributed over the various items of ordinary expenditure on personnel.

2. The following table shows the main items of defence expenditure charged to the Extraordinary Budget proper for 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928, after deduction of the expenditure on civil aviation:
3. The defence charges in the Budget of Recoverable Expenditure (from 1926 onward, reparation expenditure) represent, after deduction of pension charges, reconstruction of military buildings destroyed during the war and various restitutions chargeable to Germany. These defence charges amounted to 4,244,552 francs for 1925; 1,721,545 francs for 1926; 1,380,200 francs for 1927 and 1,175,000 francs for 1928.

III. Receipts in connection with Defence Expenditure.

As a rule the receipts earned by the various units of the Defence Department in the course of their administration accrue to the Treasury (see note (1) to the analysis of the Ordinary Budgets). The budget laws indicate, however, exceptions to that rule, so that certain units (Supply services, Hospitals, etc.) are authorised to utilise specific receipts (sale of disused material, etc.) as appropriations-in-aid.

IV. Expenditure referring to Previous Years.

(1) Debt Service. — No charges for interest on or redemption of public debt are included in the Defence Department appropriations.

(2) Pensions. — Expenditure on military and naval pensions is shown partly combined with civil pensions in the Budget of Public Debt and partly in the Defence Budget. For war pensions a special Caisse nationale des Pensions de Guerre has been established, with the right to contract its own loans, the debt service of such loans being provided for in the General Budget.

C. Supplementary Notes.

(1) The Gendarmerie is organised as a special corps with its own budget, co-ordinated both with the budget of the Defence Department and with that of the Department of the Interior. The following table shows the estimated expenditure of this corps for 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary expenditure</td>
<td>57,665</td>
<td>57,496</td>
<td>59,615</td>
<td>103,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional expenditure:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) High-cost-of-living allowances</td>
<td>14,600</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>32,229</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Arrears of pensions</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4,430</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Radio stations</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72,265</td>
<td>72,196</td>
<td>96,274</td>
<td>103,255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is stipulated in the Finance Laws that, in the event of war, the expenditure on account of the Gendarmerie shall be charged to the National Defence Budget under headings corresponding to the nature of the expense incurred.

(2) The budget of the Ministry of the Colonies does not include any appropriations for military or naval purposes. The budget of the Belgian Congo, which remains in force for two years, includes appropriations for a "public force", which corresponds to the Gendarmerie Corps at home. The expenditure for this force was estimated at 24,758,000 francs for 1924 and 1925 and at 38,552,495 francs for 1926 and 1927. The corresponding expenditure of Ruanda Urundi was estimated at 926,100 francs for 1926 and 1927.