CHINA

GENERAL

Area ............ 11,080,000 sq. km.
Population (31-xii-27) .... 457,787,000
Density per sq. km. .... 41.3
Length of railway system (about) 13,000 km.

I

Army.

A. MILITARY ADMINISTRATION

Before the proclamation of the constitution of the national Government, questions connected with military administration were, generally speaking, under the authority of the Military Council, presided over by the Commander-in-Chief of the national revolutionary army.

On November 7th, 1928, the Ministry of War was officially constituted.

The Ministry of War is divided into five directorates: general administration, army, air-force, intendance and munitions. Each directorate is managed by a director and is divided into a number of departments sub-divided into sections.

B. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY IN 1928. RE-ORGANISATION OF THE ARMY IN 1929

In 1928 the tactical unit of the national army was the army corps consisting of three divisions. The fighting forces as a whole were divided into four army groups and a frontier defence army, each of these groups being under a commander-in-chief appointed direct by the national Government, and responsible to the latter.

Each army corps consisted of 3 infantry divisions, 1 field training regiment, 1 cavalry squadron, 1 field artillery group, 1 engineer battalion, 1 signal corps, 1 military police company, and a number of hospitals. Each division consisted of 3 regiments, 1 supernumerary battalion, 1 machine-gun company, 1 trench mortar company, 1 training section and 1 medical section. The field training regiment consisted of 3 infantry
battalions, 1 machine-gun company, 1 battery of artillery and 1 signal company. Each army corps had a total of 30,400 men and its organisation provided great mobility.

In 1929 the national Government began to reduce and re-organise the national army. A special conference for the demobilisation of troops was held at Nankin in February 1929, and created a National Demobilisation Commission. The division was adopted as the largest formation under a single command. The traditions of the different military units were, however, taken into account, and it was decided that each division should belong to one of the following types:

1. **Division of type A**, consisting of:
   - 2 infantry brigades (each consisting of 3 regiments);
   - 1 cavalry squadron;
   - 1 artillery group, consisting of 3 field or light artillery batteries (each battery having 4 guns);
   - 1 battalion of 3 companies of engineers and 1 signals company;
   - 1 train squadron, consisting of 2 companies;
   - 1 supernumerary company.

2. **Division of type B**, consisting of:
   - 2 infantry brigades, each consisting of 2 regiments;
   - Other units similar to division of type A.

3. **Division of type C**, consisting of:
   - 2 infantry brigades, each consisting of 2 regiments;
   - 1 cavalry regiment of 4 squadrons, or 1 cavalry squadron;
   - 1 artillery regiment of 3 groups, or 1 artillery group;
   - 1 battalion or 2 companies of engineers and 1 company of signalers;
   - 1 train company; and
   - 1 supernumerary company.

This represents the peace time organisation of the army during the period of transition; each division has a total of 14,000 officers and men.

C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY IN 1929 AND DEMOBILISATION PROGRAMME

In January, 1929, the Chinese army — except for units already demobilised and those allotted special duties — consisted of the following troops:

A. Under the direct control of the Central Government:
   - Infantry: 41 divisions;
   - 16 brigades;
   - 10 regiments.
   - Cavalry: 1 brigade.
B. First army group:
   Infantry: 13 divisions;
      2 brigades.
   Cavalry: 1 division.
   Artillery: 3 independent regiments.

C. Second army group:
   Infantry: 12 divisions;
      5 mixed brigades.
   Cavalry: 1 division;
      2 brigades.

D. Third army group:
   Infantry: 13 divisions;
      6 brigades;
      3 regiments.
   Cavalry: 6 divisions;
      1 brigade;
      2 regiments.
   Artillery: 10 regiments;
      1 battalion.
   Engineers: 7 battalions.
   Army Service Corps: 8 battalions.

E. North-east frontier defence army: 15 divisions.

F. In the provinces of: Szechwan, Yunnan and Kweichow:
   20 divisions.

There were in all 114 divisions, 29 brigades and 13 regiments of infantry; 8 divisions, 4 brigades and 2 regiments of cavalry; 13 regiments of artillery and 15 battalions of engineers and army service corps. Calculated on the basis of 14,000 officers and men per division, the total numbers amounted to about 1,800,000 men.

To carry out the demobilisation programme, the country was divided into 6 demobilisation territories, placed under the direct control of the National Demobilisation Commission, and the necessary administrations were created in these territories.

The existing forces are to be reduced, demobilised or re-organised so as not to include more than 65 divisions of infantry, 8 brigades of cavalry, 16 regiments of artillery and 8 regiments of engineers, with a total strength of 800,000 men. The central Government and the different demobilisation territories are not authorised to retain more than 11 divisions each; the total military expenses must not be greater than 40% of the national budget.

D. AIR FORCE DIRECTORATE

Until the creation of this directorate, military aviation questions were dealt with by the Aviation Bureau attached to the Military Council.
On November 11th, 1928, the Air Force Directorate was created under the authority of the Ministry of War.

Since its creation, this Directorate has established the following organisations or auxiliary agencies: an aeroplane factory at Shanghai; an air-force hospital at Nankin; a central flying school; an air force; an anti-aircraft defence force; an aeronautical meteorological office; an aeronautical wireless station, and 40 air stations in the strategic centres of the different provinces. The Shanghai aeroplane factory is able not only to assemble and repair aeroplanes, but to construct complete machines, and its budget has therefore been increased so as to enable it to extend its activities.

The future programme of the Air Force Directorate aims at creating by the end of the preliminary period (1935), 23 squadrons of military aeroplanes and hydro-aeroplanes, 4 squadrons of dirigibles, 11 anti-aircraft defence squadrons, 2 aircraft carriers, 7 flying schools, 1 advanced flying school, and 3 aeroplane factories.

E. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Service in the National Army is mainly voluntary for the present, though a form of conscription is enforced in certain provinces. The enlistment of soldiers is generally limited to the population of the interior provinces of China. Soldiers serve three years with the colours, and then pass into the First Reserve for three years. During this period they are supposed to put in a month's drill per annum. At the expiration of their service in the First Reserve the men are drafted into the Second Reserve. Their obligation is then decreased to a month's drilling in alternate years. At the expiration of their time in the Second Reserve the men receive their final discharge and are no longer liable to military service.

Recruits must be between 20 and 25 years of age.

II.

Navy.

LIST OF UNITS
(1930)

Nota. — The first date in brackets gives the date of the launching of the ship; the second that of its completion. The dash (—) signifies that the construction has not yet been completed or that the date of completion is not known.

Protected Cruisers:


2. Chao Ho (1911-1912)
3. Hai Yung 1 (1897—)
4. Hai Chou 1 (1897—)
5. Hai Chen 1 (1898—)

6. Hai Chi 2 (1898—)


Destroyers (12 in 1929 and 11 in 1928):
1. Chien Kang (1912) 2
2. Tung An (1912) 2
3. You Chang (1912) 2
4. Fei Ying (1895) 2

390 tons. Dimensions: 208 x 21.3 x 10 feet. H.P. 6,000 = 32 kts. Guns: 2 3-inch, 4 3-pdr., 2 18-inch tubes.

850 tons. Dimensions: 210 x 30 x 11 feet. H.P. 5,500 = 22 kts. 3 tubes above water.

Torpedo-boats:
1. Hu Peng, or No. 7 (1907-08) 2
2. Hu Oah, or No. 8 (1907-08) 2
3. Hu Ying, or No. 9 (1907-08) 2
4. Hu Chun, or No. 10 (1907-08) 2
5. Su, or No. 4 (1895) 2
6. Chen, or No. 2 (1895) 2
7. Lieve, or No. 3 (1897) 2
8. Chang, or No. 1 (1895) 2

97 tons. Dimensions: 135 x 15.2 x 7 1/3 feet. H.P. 1,200 = 23 kts. Guns: 3 14-inch tubes and 2 guns.

90 tons. Dimensions: 144 x 17 x 7 feet. H.P. 700 = 18 kts. 2 torpedo-tubes (14-inch).

62 tons. 3 torpedo-tubes (14-inch).

Miscellaneous: 46 units (27 gunboats, 16 river gunboats, transport, despatch vessels, training-ship, etc.).

### Summary Table of Naval Units.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Tonnage</th>
<th>Depreciated Tonnage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battleships and battle-cruisers.</td>
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<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coast-defence ships and monitors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft-carriers</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruisers and light cruisers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyers and torpedo-boats</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous craft</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>19,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total tonnage</td>
<td>40,292</td>
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<td>4,383</td>
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</table>

1 The depreciated tonnage at January 1st 1931, is calculated as follows:
   (1) For battleships, battle-cruisers, coast-defence ships, monitors, aircraft-carriers and miscellaneous vessels, a reduction in original tonnage at the rate of 1/20 per annum from date of completion.
   (2) For cruisers and light cruisers, a reduction of 1/17 per annum from date of completion.
   (3) For torpedo craft and submarines, a reduction of 1/12 per annum from date of completion.

2 Under the heading Miscellaneous Craft, only sloops, gunboats, river gunboats and despatch vessels are shown.

1 Refitted in 1928.
2 Date of launching.
NAVY

**Distribution (in %) of Tonnage of the Navy among the Different Classes of Vessels in 1913, 1919 and 1930**

**Note.** — Only units completely finished on the dates in question have been included.

**Number and Tonnage (in thousands of tons)**

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<th>1919</th>
<th>1930</th>
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<td><strong>Destroyers and torpedo-boats</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Submarines</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Not including, for 1913, 3 destroyers (1,170 tons) launched in 1912 but not completed in 1913.

2 Gunboats, torpedo-gunboats and river gunboats. Not including for 1919 a certain number of river gunboats which do not belong to the Chinese Navy but to the provincial government.
NAVY

Number of Units and Tonnage in 1913, 1919 and 1930
III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year adopted by the new Republic covers the period from July 1st to June 30th. Budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for successive financial years have been published, but no closed accounts are available.

The Report ¹ on the National receipts and expenditure for the financial year July 1928 to June 1929 (the 17th fiscal year of the Republic of China) was presented by the Finance Minister on March 3rd, 1930, to the third Plenary Session of the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang and contains the following incomplete; they omit the accounts of the areas where the Ministry of Finance did not administer the national receipts and expenditure.

¹ The Report is summarised briefly in the Chinese Economic Journal, April 1930.

² In Yuan dollars, the value of which, for the period indicated above, was approximately Yuan $1 = U.S.A. $0.45.