FRANCE

Area .............................................. 551,000 sq. km.
Population (vi. 1930) .......................... 41,400,000
Density per sq. km. ............................. 75.1

OVERSEA TERRITORIES

1. Colonies and Protectorates.

North Africa:

ALGERIA (INCLUDING THE ALGERIAN SAHARA).
Area ............ 2,195,000 sq. km.
Population (III.1931) 6,600,000

MOROCCO
Area .......... 415,000 sq. km.
Population (III.1926) 4,894,000

FRENCH WEST AFRICA
Area (estimate) 3,750,000 sq. km.
Population (1929) 14,267,000

FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA
Area (estimate) 2,370,000 sq. km.
Population (VI.1926) 3,130,000

Indian Ocean Settlements:

MADAGASCAR AND DEPENDENCIES
Area ........ 616,000 sq. km.
Population (VII.1926) 3,622,000

SOMALI
Area ........ 22,000 sq. km.
Population (VI.1926) 86,000

2. Mandated Territories.

SYRIA AND LEBANON
Area .......... 200,000 sq. km.
Population (estimate 1926) 2,500,000

CAMEROONS
Area .......... 430,000 sq. km.
Population (1930) 2,188,000

TOGOLAND
Area ........ 52,000 sq. km.
Population (estimate 1930) 726,000
 MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The armed forces of France consist of the army, the military air force and the navy. The first is under the authority of the Ministries for War and the Colonies, the second under that of the Air Ministry and the third under that of the Ministry of Marine.

The land army consists of two categories of active troops: the home troops and the colonial troops, which are not on the same statutory basis but which both consist of French units and mixed units composed of colonial natives or foreigners, with French cadres. Home troops and colonial troops are employed jointly for the maintenance of peace in all French overseas territories.

Of the home and colonial troops stationed overseas, those occupying territories controlled by the Ministry of the Colonies are placed under the orders of that Ministry. The others are all under the orders of the Ministry for War.

Certain home and colonial units at present stationed in the home country and in Algeria-Tunisia and known as mobile forces constitute the reserves of the oversea forces.

Army organisation is based on the division of the home territory into twenty military areas. At the head of each of these military areas there is a general officer, who holds both the command of the troops and the territorial command.

This officer is in charge of recruiting, military training, mobilisation, etc., in his area and is assisted to that end by the organs of command, staffs, recruiting offices, mobilisation centres, etc.

The function of the mobilisation centres is to prepare and carry out mobilisation. They consist of officers, a few regulars, military officials and civilian labourers.

The oversea forces are organised according to the respective needs of the territories in which they are stationed.

Troops stationed in the territories controlled by the Ministry of the Colonies are placed under the Senior Commanding Officer, who exercises his command under the authority of the Civil Governor of the territory. There are six higher commands: Indo-China, West Africa, East Africa, West Indies, Pacific, Equatorial Africa.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION

Under the constitution, the President of the Republic is the Chief of the land, sea and air armed forces. He is assisted by the Supreme National Defence Council and the Supreme War, Naval and Air Councils. His authority over the land armed forces is exercised through the Minister for War.
Supreme National Defence Council.

It is the duty of the Supreme National Defence Council to examine all questions concerning national defence which require the co-operation of several ministerial departments.

The composition of the Council is as follows: the President of the Republic, if he considers it proper, the Cabinet, with the addition, in an advisory capacity, of the vice-presidents of the Supreme War and Air and Naval Councils and the vice-president of the Technical Committee of National Defence.

The latter body is responsible for making a preliminary examination of questions which have to be submitted to the Supreme National Defence Council.

Supreme War Council.

It is the duty of the Supreme War Council to advise on all matters connected with preparation for war and all measures which may affect the constitution of the army. The president of the Supreme War Council is the Minister for War, and the vice-president is the Marshal of France or general of division appointed to command the French armies in time of war.

Ministry of War.

The Minister for War is responsible for the command and administration of the army. He is assisted by the Central Administration of the Ministry of War, which may comprise one or more of the Under-Secretariats of State, the Minister's Secretariat, the Secretariat-General, the General Staff of the army and the Departments of the Directors of the different arms and services.

Inspection of the Army.

The vice-president of the Supreme War Council appointed to command the French armies in time of war is responsible in time of peace for the permanent inspection of the troops, services and military schools. He is also the technical adviser of the Ministry in all matters connected with preparation for war.

General Staff of the Army.

Of the various organs of the Central Administration, the General Staff of the army is placed under the authority both of the Minister for War and of the Inspector-General of the army. The General Staff of the army is directed by a general officer who holds the rank of Chief of the General Staff of the army, and who, at the same time, is a member of the Supreme War Council. This general officer submits all schemes and important documents to the Inspector-General of the army for approval, before submitting them to the Minister for signature.
ORGANISATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

1. Higher units.
   (a) Higher units at home:
   - 20 infantry divisions;
   - 5 brigades of tanks;
   - 5 cavalry divisions;
   - 5 artillery brigades;
   - 2 engineer brigades.

   (b) Higher units belonging to the mobile forces stationed in the home country:
   - 5 infantry divisions;
   - 2 cavalry brigades;
   - Personnel belonging to the General Reserve.

   (c) Oversea forces:
   - The oversea forces are organised according to the respective needs of the territories in which they are stationed.

2. Arms and services.

   Infantry and Tanks.
   
   Units stationed at home:
   - 56 infantry regiments, each of 3 battalions;
   - 7 half-brigades of light infantry (21 battalions);
   - 10 tank regiments, each of 2 battalions;
   - 1 independent tank battalion.

   Units stationed overseas:
   - 6 regiments of Zouaves;
   - 20 regiments of North African tirailleurs;
   - 5 foreign infantry regiments;
   - 2 bataillons d'Afrique;
   - 5 Saharan companies;
   - 3 tank battalions;
   - 5 regiments of colonial infantry;
   - 4 battalions of colonial infantry;
   - 4 companies of colonial infantry;
   - 19 regiments of colonial tirailleurs;
   - 10 battalions of colonial tirailleurs;
   - 3 tank companies and 1 tank section.

   Units belonging to the mobile forces stationed in the home country:
   - 8 regiments of North African tirailleurs (3 battalions each);
   - 5 regiments of colonial infantry (3 battalions each);
   - 6 regiments of colonial tirailleurs (3 battalions each);
   - 4 colonial machine-gun regiments (2 battalions each).

---

1 Position on September 15th, 1931.
An infantry regiment consists of 3 battalions, each comprising 2 or 3 companies of riflemen and 1 machine-gun company; in time of peace, the infantry is armed with 12 Hotchkiss machine-guns per battalion and 9 machine-rifles per company. The infantry's armament also includes 37-mm. mortars, hand and rifle grenades.

A tank regiment consists of 2 battalions.

**Cavalry:**

Units stationed at home:
- 25 cavalry regiments;
- 12 motor machine-gun squadrons;
- 5 battalions of dismounted dragoons.

Units stationed overseas:
- 15 regiments;
  - 5 *chasseurs d' Afrique*;
  - 9 Spahis;
  - 1 foreign regiment;
- 7 squadrons motor machine-guns.

Units belonging to the mobile forces stationed in the home country:
- 4 regiments of Spahis.

A cavalry regiment consists of 4 squadrons exclusive of 1 headquarters squadron, and possesses in time of peace 8 machine-guns. Each squadron is further armed with 9 machine-rifles. A machine-gun motor is armed with 1 machine-gun together with a semi-automatic 37-mm. gun and 1 spare machine-gun.

**Artillery:**

Units stationed at home:
- 20 regiments of divisional artillery;
- 2 regiments of mountain artillery;
- 7 regiments of heavy horse-drawn artillery;
- 5 regiments of foot artillery;
- 5 regiments of heavy tractor-drawn artillery;
- 8 regiments of field (transportable) artillery;
- 1 regiment of heavy artillery (on railway mountings);
- 5 divisional cavalry artillery regiments;
- 2 independent groups.

Units stationed overseas:
- 5 regiments of divisional North African artillery;
- 5 regiments of colonial artillery;
- 3 independent groups.

Units belonging to the mobile forces stationed in the home country:
- 2 North African regiments of divisional artillery;
- 6 regiments of colonial artillery;
- 1 North African regiment of heavy horse-drawn artillery;
- 1 North African regiment of transportable artillery.
The number of batteries per regiment varies. A divisional artillery regiment consists of 6 batteries of light artillery and 4 batteries of heavy artillery. A regiment of mountain artillery consists of 6 batteries, and a regiment of heavy horse-drawn artillery of 8 batteries, while a regiment of foot artillery consists of a variable number of batteries. A regiment of heavy tractor-drawn artillery comprises 8 batteries, and a regiment of field (transportable) artillery 6 batteries. The regiment of heavy artillery on railway mountings also includes 6 batteries, while a regiment of divisional cavalry artillery consists of 4 batteries.

**Engineers**: stationed at home: 11 regiments; stationed overseas: 7 battalions and 4 independent native companies.

**Train**: 6 squadrons and 20 area companies at home; 8 squadrons overseas.

**Summary Table of Units.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFANTRY</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>North Africa</th>
<th>West and Equatorial Africa</th>
<th>Indian Ocean</th>
<th>Pacific Ocean</th>
<th>Indo-China</th>
<th>America</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Levant</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<th>Total</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Motor machine-gun squadrons.
2 Dismounted dragoons.
3 Remount cavalry.
4 Artillery artificers.
5 Including 2 artillery batteries.
I. **Gendarmerie and Republican Guard.**

The purpose of the formations belonging to the Gendarmerie and the Republican Guard is the maintenance of order; they are therefore placed under the orders of the Minister of the Interior.

The Gendarmerie consists of "brigades" of 5 or 6 gendarmes distributed throughout the territory.

The mobile Republican Guard is organised in "platoons" of 40 men.

The Minister for War is responsible for the administration of all these formations.

2. **Customs and Forest Guards.**

The Customs personnel is placed under the authority of the Ministry of Finance; the Forest Guards under that of the Ministry of Agriculture. The personnel of these corps is not liable for military service other than that to which all reservists are liable.

The question whether these corps are or are not formations organised on a military basis according to the draft convention will depend on the decision of the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments.

**RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE**

I. **General Regulations.**

Military service is compulsory and must be performed in person. The total duration of liability to military service is 28 years, made up as follows:

- Active army: 1 year;
- Immediately available for military service though returning to civil life: 3 years;
- First line of reserve: 16 years;
- Second line of reserve: 8 years.

If necessary, that section of the classes which has completed its 12 months of service may be temporarily retained with the colours; the Government is obliged to explain the reasons for such a course to the chambers.

Men in the "available" class can be individually called back to the colours on the same conditions.

Men who have served for the regulation period in each category pass automatically into the next category.

**Periods of Training in the Reserves.** — One period of 21 days for men in the "available" class; 2 periods — the first of 21 days, the second of 15 to 21 days — for men in the first line of reserve. Men in the second line of reserve may be called up for special periods not exceeding 7 days. Total: 64 days minimum and 70 days maximum. Men of the
“available” class or the reserves are regarded, on being called up for periods of training, as soldiers of the active army. In peace-time they must keep the military authorities informed of their movements.

2. Troops serving at home. Engagement and re-engagement of Frenchmen.

**Engagement.** — All Frenchmen may engage for a period of 18 months, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years (home forces) and choose their own arm and corps. Young men not less than 18 years of age may, under certain conditions, engage before being called up for service.

**Re-engagement.** — Soldiers in the active army who have served for 6 months may re-enlist for periods of 6 months, 1 year, 18 months, 2, 3 and 4 years, renewable up to a maximum period of 15 years’ service.

If they are non-commissioned or warrant officers they may be admitted to the corps of regular non-commissioned and warrant officers and serve up to the age-limit of the rank which they have attained (37, 40, 43 or 45 years).

**Native personnel** is recruited either by conscription (2 years in Algeria, 3 years in Tunisia) or by enlistment and re-enlistment.

**Foreign personnel** is recruited solely by voluntary enlistment and by re-enlistment.

3. Colonial Troops.

The **French personnel** is recruited from volunteers enlisted or re-engaged, and Frenchmen residing in the colonies called to the colours.

The **native personnel** is recruited by drawing lots (except in Indo-China, where this system is not in force). The period of service of those called up, whose numbers are fixed annually by the Governor, is 3 years. The whole contingent is not taken for service. The recruits form the first section of the contingent; the other section remains at home at the disposal of the military authorities.

The native personnel is also recruited by engagement (4, 5 or 6 years) and re-engagement (3, 4 or 5 years) up to a maximum of 15 years of service. Native soldiers remain in the reserve for a period equal to the difference between 15 years and their period of service with the colours.

All native soldiers may be called upon to serve outside the territory of their origin.

**Recruiting of N.C.O.s and Officers.**

N.C.O.s are generally appointed in each unit by the commanders of independent units, after having undergone special courses in instructional platoons.

**Regular Officers** are commissioned from the military academies and N.C.O. cadet schools; by direct appointment from the non-commissioned officers’ corps and from the reserve officers’ corps, having completed a certain probationary period.
Reserve Officers are appointed in time of peace from amongst the following: officers of the active army resigned or retired; men trained in an instructional detachment for reserve officer cadets during their period of service with the colours and who have subsequently passed the competitive examination for reserve officers; men who have served as N.C.O.s in the active army and have completed at least 5 years of service; reserve N.C.O.s holding the certificate of platoon or troop leader.

PRELIMINARY TRAINING

This instruction consists of elementary military preparation and advanced military preparation.

(a) Elementary preparation.

Such training is voluntary and is given to young men of the age of 17 and over, who may thus obtain the elementary training diploma. Recruits holding this diploma enjoy the following privileges: the right to select units stationed near their homes; admission without further formality to the platoons for probationer corporals.

This preparation is given by private physical-training and sporting associations which receive State subsidies, but are free to choose such methods of training as they think fit. The military authorities supervise the manner in which subsidies are spent and supply instructors.

(b) Higher military training.

In the large educational establishments, preparatory courses in higher military training intended for the preparation of candidates for the rank of reserve officer are given.

EFFECTIVES

I. EFFECTIVES OF THE LAND ARMED FORCES.

(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.)

Note. — In its letter to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, dated September 4th, 1931, the French Government emphasises the necessity of interpreting the statistical information given in the tables below in the light of the considerations set forth in its memorandum published on July 16th, 1931, and distributed in document C.440.M.187.1931.IX. The statistical information must be regarded as a mere annex to the above-mentioned memorandum, and must be interpreted with reference to it.

In this connection, the French Government recalls that, in the memorandum in question, it indicated its reasons for believing that comparison of the real position as regards the armaments of the various

1 Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(1)).
countries and their military value is impossible on the basis of mere statistics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land armed forces stationed</th>
<th>In the home country</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recruits not trained as defined in the national legislation</td>
<td>Total effectives Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total effectives Officers</td>
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<td>1921</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home defence forces</td>
<td>30,271</td>
<td>19,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>30,271</td>
<td>19,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trained men</td>
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<td>Untrained men</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile forces to be used if necessary for the defence of oversea territories</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Men</td>
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</table>

1. Forces stationed in the Home Country.

2. Forces stationed Overseas.

3. Theoretical effectives calculated on the basis of the complete application of the legal provisions. They differ on that account from the budgetary effectives adopted for the last few financial years and shown in official documents or declarations. It has only been possible to put the legal provisions of the new military statute into effect by degrees (raising of the age for service from 20 to 21 years, recruiting of supplementary professional personnel), and it is not anticipated that this process will be completed until the year 1931-32 as regards the land armed forces stationed overseas and 1932-33 as regards the land armed forces stationed in the home country.

4. Normal reservoir for the relief of forces stationed overseas and reserve for any oversea operations requiring a considerable proportion of men on furlough or en route. These forces, which constitute a reserve in the event of colonial troubles, cannot be regarded as available at any time for the defence of the home country, since circumstances may at any moment require some or all of them to be called upon for service in distant lands.

5. Average daily effectives calculated according to the method laid down in Article 3 of the draft Convention, corresponding to the calling up of the reserve officers and men for the periods for which they are theoretically liable to serve according to law — i.e., the annual calling up (for the men of the French contingent, in the case of the armed forces stationed overseas) of two classes for 21 days, one class for a period varying from 15 to 21 days (an average of 18 days), and the equivalent of one class for periods of 7 days. It should be noted that, during the years 1927 to 1931, only one class was called up for 21 days.

1 Officers stationed in the Home Country.

Actual effectives for the year 1921. The contingent called up was liable by law for three years' service, but was discharged from the end of 1920 without having served the third year. The mobile forces intended for reinforcing overseas forces if necessary were not organised in 1921. The overseas effectives were, however, reinforced at this time, mainly by the addition of men drawn from the home forces under conditions corresponding to those governing the despatch overseas of the whole of the effectives of the present mobile forces.

No reservists were called up for a period of training in 1921.

The regulations provided for the employment of recruits in the field after six months' training.

The law provided for the employment of recruits in the field after six months' training.

The theoretical effectives calculated on the basis of the complete application of the legal provisions. They differ on that account from the budgetary effectives adopted for the last few financial years and shown in official documents or declarations. It has only been possible to put the legal provisions of the new military statute into effect by degrees (raising of the age for service from 20 to 21 years, recruiting of supplementary professional personnel), and it is not anticipated that this process will be completed until the year 1931-32 as regards the land armed forces stationed overseas and 1932-33 as regards the land armed forces stationed in the home country.

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The regulations provided for the employment of recruits in the field after six months' training.

Theoretical effectives calculated on the basis of the complete application of the legal provisions. They differ on that account from the budgetary effectives adopted for the last few financial years and shown in official documents or declarations. It has only been possible to put the legal provisions of the new military statute into effect by degrees (raising of the age for service from 20 to 21 years, recruiting of supplementary professional personnel), and it is not anticipated that this process will be completed until the year 1931-32 as regards the land armed forces stationed overseas and 1932-33 as regards the land armed forces stationed in the home country.

Normal reservoir for the relief of forces stationed overseas and reserve for any oversea operations requiring a considerable proportion of men on furlough or en route. These forces, which constitute a reserve in the event of colonial troubles, cannot be regarded as available at any time for the defence of the home country, since circumstances may at any moment require some or all of them to be called upon for service in distant lands.

Average daily effectives calculated according to the method laid down in Article 3 of the draft Convention, corresponding to the calling up of the reserve officers and men for the periods for which they are theoretically liable to serve according to law — i.e., the annual calling up (for the men of the French contingent, in the case of the armed forces stationed overseas) of two classes for 21 days, one class for a period varying from 15 to 21 days (an average of 18 days), and the equivalent of one class for periods of 7 days. It should be noted that, during the years 1927 to 1931, only one class was called up for 21 days.

Notes continued on following page.
As regards the North African native or colonial recruits, this calculation is based on the calling up of one contingent for 21 days.

1 Average daily effectives consisting of:
1,658 young men in the case of the armed forces stationed in the home country, and 112 young men in the case of the armed forces stationed overseas, completing their service in the active army as reserve officers — i.e., 1 month or 7 months as officers in the case of the armed forces stationed in the home country, and 7 months as reserve officers in the case of the armed forces stationed overseas;
1,430 reserve officers in the case of the armed forces stationed in the home country, and 100 reserve officers in the case of the armed forces stationed overseas, serving the regulation training periods, varying in length from 7 to 25 days in the first case, and from 7 to 15 days in the second case.

2 In 1921, the effective of the contingent of conscripts called up was reduced by the number of young men belonging to the class called up who had enlisted during hostilities and had thus been enrolled before their class was called up.

3 The recruiting law in force (March 31st, 1928) has reduced the period of service in the active army for men called up to one year. The contingent is called up half at a time, in April and October. The regulations provide for the employment of recruits in the field after six months' training, and the army therefore permanently includes half a contingent trained and half a contingent of recruits. For native recruits the period of training is, in practice, longer.

4 The regulations provide for the employment of recruits after six months' training. For native recruits the period of training is, in practice, longer.

II. EFFECTIVES OF THE FORMATIONS ORGANISED ON A MILITARY BASIS.
(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.)

The status of the gendarmerie and the mobile republican guard stationed in the home country is such that they should apparently be included under forces organised on a military basis. According to the legislation in force, these effectives are: 1,255 officers; 41,430 men.

The formations organised on a military basis stationed overseas comprise effectives necessarily variable according to requirements.

The "irregulars" might be classified in these formations. These "supplementary" forces necessitated by local circumstances have no legal status, and their strength varies according to events.

BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES

The figures in the following table, which are extracted from previous editions of the Armaments Year-Book, differ in character from the figures in the preceding table. These two kinds of returns are not comparable with each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>33,628</td>
<td>32,102</td>
<td>31,255</td>
<td>30,516</td>
<td>30,684</td>
<td>29,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and men</td>
<td>700,079</td>
<td>655,011</td>
<td>640,867</td>
<td>587,017</td>
<td>565,516</td>
<td>493,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie and Republican Guard:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>780</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>895</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>1,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and men</td>
<td>28,807</td>
<td>28,516</td>
<td>29,918</td>
<td>32,136</td>
<td>33,312</td>
<td>36,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregulars 2:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and men</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>17,285</td>
<td>12,361</td>
<td>12,781</td>
<td>12,487</td>
<td>18,021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 These effectives have been reduced to the following budgetary effectives: 32,931 officers, 639,651 N.C.Os and men.
2 The irregulars are without legal status. They are supplementary forces necessitated by local circumstances. They appear pour mémoire only in the Ministry of War budget.

1 Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(I)).
II. Air Force.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION

The air force is placed under the authority of the Air Ministry, which was set up by decree on October 2nd, 1928. The Ministry for War has at its permanent disposal 8 reconnaissance air regiments and 5 independent reconnaissance air groups, 2 balloon regiments and, when it requires them, 2 battle regiments. The number of flights attached to these units cannot be modified except with the consent of the Ministry for War.

The Inspectorate-General of Air Force, which was set up on January 10th, 1931, is responsible for the training of the personnel of the air force. On February 9th, 1931, an Inspector-General of Air Defence was appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating measures adopted by the Ministry for War, the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Marine in matters concerning air defence.

A Supreme Air Council was set up on August 27th, 1931. Its chairman is the Air Minister, and it includes, in an advisory capacity, the Inspector-General of Air Force, the Chief of the Air General Staff, the General Technical Director, and five general officers attached to the air force.

The Supreme Air Council is an advisory body for consultation on matters concerning the general organisation of the air force, the co-operation of the air service in the operations of the land and naval forces, methods of recruiting, etc.

COMPOSITION OF THE AIR FORCE

Troops stationed in Europe:

3 divisions (Metz, Paris, Tours) and 2 non-divisional brigades, making altogether 12 aviation regiments (2 battle regiments, 6 observation regiments, 2 day bombing regiments and 2 night bombing regiments), 2 balloon regiments and 1 independent group (excluding the air artificers groups).

Troops stationed outside Europe:

2 aviation regiments, 4 independent groups and 4 aviation flights.

Total:

14 aviation regiments and 5 groups comprising:

- 42 observation flights;
- 32 battle flights;
- 20 day bombing flights;
- 12 night bombing flights;
- 26 flights in Algeria, Tunis, Morocco, the Levant, Indo-China and West Africa.

1 Position on September 15th, 1931.
AIR MATERIAL
(Extract from the communication from the French Government,
dated September 4th, 1931.)

Table I. — NUMBER OF AEROPLANES OR SEAPLANES AND HORSE-POWER.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the home country</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aeroplanes of war type</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machines in service in tactical units</td>
<td>$1,210^2$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machines in service in training schools or formations</td>
<td>637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,847$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 In the absence of a clear definition of "machines in immediate reserve", it has been impossible to give their number in this table.

According to the definition given by the French delegate to the Preparatory Commission for the Limitation and Reduction of Armaments, the immediate reserve should include machines necessary for the working of units in peace-time.

Under this definition, the immediate reserve is constituted in France by the spare machines, whose number is fixed periodically according to the types of aeroplanes and at present varies between 20 and 50 per cent of the number of machines in service.

On April 1st, 1931, the number of spare machines was:
- $310$ aeroplanes of a total of $185,190$ h.p. for the tactical units;
- $164$ aeroplanes of a total of $86,017$ h.p. for the training schools and formations.

2 Exclusive of aircraft carried on board ship (see Table II).

3 The figures for the total horse-power of the machines of the air force included in the present tables have been drawn up according to the formulae given in Appendices I and II to the Report of the Committee of Experts to fix rules for the adoption of a standard horse-power measurement for aeroplane and dirigible engines (document C.259/115, dated April 24th, 1931). This fact in no way prejudices the opinion of the French Government with regard to the final adoption of these formulae which are at present being studied by its technical services.

4 These numbers represent the machines in service in formations, with the exception of those carried on board ship (see Table II) and exclusive of the spare machines (see note 1), the number of which amounted, on April 1st, 1931, to:
- $120$ machines of a total of $65,567$ h.p. for tactical units;
- $11$ machines of a total of $4,970$ h.p. for training formations.

5 Excluding $46$ health service aeroplanes.

Table II. — AEROPLANES (OR SEAPLANES) CARRIED ON BOARD SHIP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aeroplanes of war type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total horse-power</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Machines in service in tactical units</td>
<td>$62^2,3,4,5$</td>
<td>31,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machines in service in training formations</td>
<td>$27^2$</td>
<td>11,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>43,650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(1)).

2 This number represents the machines in service in the units, but does not include the spare machines.

3 On account of the mobility of the naval forces, aircraft carried on board ship cannot be divided into those stationed in the home country and those stationed overseas.

4 The air forces carried on board ship are in process of organisation. The number of machines at present is considerably below the requirements.

5 Not including $20$ machines of a total of $8,160$ h.p. which will shortly be used on the vessels now building.
Table III. — Dirigibles of the Armed Forces. ¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total horse-power</th>
<th>Total volume (cubic metres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>974 ³</td>
<td>10,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EFFECTIVES OF THE AIR FORCES

(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.) ⁴

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effectives of the air force stationed</th>
<th>In the home country</th>
<th>Overseas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trained effectives</td>
<td>22,852 ¹, 4</td>
<td>Trained effectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Untrained</td>
<td>9,258 ²</td>
<td>Untrained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservists</td>
<td>1,450 ³</td>
<td>Reservists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Theoretical effectives calculated on the basis of the application of the legal provisions and not including aircraft on ships.
² The regulations provide for the employment of recruits in the field after six months' training.
³ Average daily effectives of reservists liable to be called up according to law.
⁴ The actual effectives on April 1st, 1931, were 21,022 trained men and 11,415 untrained.

EFFECTIVES OF THE AIR FORCE CARRIED ON BOARD SHIP

(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.) ⁴

Total effectives ............................................. 476

¹ The existing dirigibles are stationed in the home country.
² One escort and two scouts.
³ Power calculated according to the special formula contained in Appendix II of the Report of the Committee of Experts to fix rules for the adoption of a standard horse-power measurement for aeroplane and dirigible engines.
⁴ Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(1)).
III. Navy.

(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.)

NUMBER OF UNITS AND TONNAGE
(on January 1, 1st 1931).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 battleships</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>185,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 aircraft-carrier</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 cruisers with guns exceeding 155 mm.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>124,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 cruisers with guns not exceeding 155 mm.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>64,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 destroyers</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>73,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61 torpedo-boats</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 submarines</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>97,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>628,603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The French Navy further includes a number of special vessels (minelayers, despatch-boats, etc.), with a total tonnage of 28,644 tons.

Of the 9 battleships in commission, 3, with a total tonnage of 52,791 tons, were completed in 1911; 3, totalling 66,567 tons, were completed in 1913 and 1914; and 3 others, totalling 66,567 tons, in 1915 and 1916.

Of the 12 cruisers with guns of more than 155 mm., 1 vessel of 8,758 tons was launched in 1902; 4 vessels, totalling 45,666 tons, were built in the years 1908 to 1911; 3 vessels, totalling 30,000 tons, were built in 1928; 1 vessel of 10,000 tons in 1929; and 1 vessel, also of 10,000 tons, in 1930. Two vessels of 10,000 tons each are under construction, one of which was launched in 1930.

Of the 11 cruisers with guns not exceeding 155 mm., 1 vessel of 8,189 tons was built in 1902; 3 vessels, totalling 12,172 tons, were built in the years 1912 to 1914; 1 vessel of 5,264 tons was launched in 1915; 3 cruisers, totalling 21,748 tons, were built in 1925; 2 cruisers, totalling 11,269 tons, were built in 1929-30; and 1 cruiser of 5,886 tons is under construction.

Of the 31 destroyers, 14, totalling 34,942 tons, are under construction.

Of the 110 submarines, 31, totalling 30,661 tons, are under construction.

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE NAVY

The figures in the table given below, which are taken from the previous edition of the Armaments Year-Book, should not be compared with those in the preceding table. The latter comprises vessels completed

---

1 Document C.440(t).M.187(t).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(t)).
2 Washington displacement expressed in English tons.
3 Including 6 vessels totalling 133,134 tons subject to the Washington rules and 3 vessels totalling 52,791 tons not subject to the Washington rules.
4 Not including 12,539 tons (replacing the Edgar-Quinet). The total does not include the units comprised in Division 1931 — i.e., 1 capital ship and 2 light cruisers of 7,600 tons each.
— — — State boundary.
— — — Command boundary.
**Nancy** Command headquarters.
Area or separate group.

Area.
and vessels under construction, whereas the former only comprises vessels completed in the years under consideration. Further, the displacement of the vessels shown in the former table is “Washington” displacement (standard displacement) and is expressed in English tons, while the displacement of the vessels in the summary table is expressed in normal tonnage. The latter table comprises not only the types of vessels which figure in the preceding table, but also gunboats, sloops and despatch-boats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Thousands of tons</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Thousands of tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>689.2</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>499.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>671.3</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>504.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EFFECTIVES OF THE NAVAL FORCES**

(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total effectives</th>
<th>Officers (less than six months' service)</th>
<th>Recruits not trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General service (active)</td>
<td>55,266</td>
<td>3,759 (61)</td>
<td>8,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast defence (active)</td>
<td>1,863</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers of corps not serving</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afloat</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>494</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservists</td>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These effectives are theoretical effectives calculated on the basis of the complete application of the legal provisions. They differ, therefore, from the budgetary effectives adopted for the last few financial years.

These effectives include:

1. All the non-civilian personnel of the fleet, with the exception of the categories referred to below;
2. Officers of corps serving afloat of all ranks, including officers of naval crews;
3. Officers of the corps not serving afloat referred to in the *loi des cadres* of March 4th, 1929;
4. Cadets at the schools from which officers are directly recruited;
5. Among active forces, second-class reserve sub-lieutenants and reserve midshipmen on regular service;
6. Among reservists, the average daily effectives of reservists normally liable to be called up according to law.

These effectives do not include:

1. The naval personnel of *aircraft carried on board ships* (476 men, including 35 officers) (see Table: *Effectives of the air armed forces*);
2. The naval personnel of *naval aircraft*, other than the personnel of aircraft, carried on board ships, which forms an integral part

1 Not including the aircraft-carrier of 22,500 tons.
2 Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(1)).
of the air armed forces and is thus under the control of the Air Ministry for military and administrative purposes (see Table: Effectives of the air armed forces).

EFFECTIVES OF THE SEA FORMATIONS ORGANISED ON A MILITARY BASIS

For information, the auxiliary corps used for police or fatigue duties in arsenals and on the coast comprise 4,419 men.

IV. Expenditure on National Defence.


(Extract from the communication from the French Government, dated September 4th, 1931.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Land forces</th>
<th>Naval forces</th>
<th>Air forces</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effectives</td>
<td>5,527.1</td>
<td>727.5</td>
<td>548.7</td>
<td>6,803.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>821.0</td>
<td>173.3</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>1,130.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>737.7</td>
<td>239.4</td>
<td>204.2</td>
<td>1,181.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War material</td>
<td>1,570.0</td>
<td>1,873.7</td>
<td>1,250.5</td>
<td>4,694.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,655.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,013.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,139.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,809.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES.

1. The grand total of the above expenditure includes all the military expenditure of the home country and of all the overseas territories, with the exception of a few very small items of military expenditure on armed forces and formations organised on a military basis, charged to the general and local budgets of distant possessions. These will be communicated later, as soon as information is received, but will not, however, appreciably affect the total amount.

2. As the budget of the Air Ministry includes certain credits covering military and civil aviation jointly, the expenditure for military and civil aviation have been separated as exactly as possible.

3. Certain credits voted for defence expenditure for the year 1930-31 have, for various reasons, only been partially used, particularly on account of the difficulties involved in setting on foot manufacturing or building operations, especially in connection with defence works. The above expenditure, therefore, may not correspond to that contemplated for subsequent financial years.

4. Outstanding amount, at the end of the financial year 1930-31, of block credits voted in respect of expenditure for more than one year. None

5. Outstanding amount, at the end of the financial year 1930-31, in respect of purchases on credit or deferred payments relating to goods delivered or services rendered in cases where the due dates of payment are later than those customary in contracts of the same kind which do not provide any special credit facilities. None

1 Document C.440(1).M.187(1).1931.IX (Conf. D. 5(1)).
6. Statement, for the financial year 1930-31, of loans made to, or participations acquired in, enterprises having among their objects the furnishing of goods or services for armament purposes, where these have been excluded from the return on the ground that they are not regarded as armament expenditure. None

7. Expenditure in respect of pensions for the year 1930-31:
   I. Military personnel:
      (a) Service pensions .................................................. 1,880
      (b) Invalidity pensions ................................................. Included in III.
      (c) Mixed pensions ..................................................... Included partly in I (a) and partly in III.

   II. Civil personnel: Pensions ........................................ 88

   III. War pensions (including allowances to ex-combatants) .... 5,741

IV. Pensions or other compensation granted, apart from the regulations regarding normal pensions, for premature retirement, discharge or loss of office resulting from a reduction of the forces

2. BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS 1925 TO 1930-31.

The data in the table below are from earlier editions of the Armaments Year-Book. These data should not be compared with those in the foregoing table, which is based on the answer of the French Government in response to the Council's request for information concerning the state of its armaments (see Preface, page 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General budget:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>3,467.0</td>
<td>4,296.4</td>
<td>5,074.9</td>
<td>6,030.6</td>
<td>5,745.9</td>
<td>6,278.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of the Marine</td>
<td>1,252.0</td>
<td>1,433.0</td>
<td>1,792.2</td>
<td>2,451.2</td>
<td>2,485.3</td>
<td>2,722.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Ministry</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1,769.7</td>
<td>2,018.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of the Colonies (military expenditure)</td>
<td>211.1</td>
<td>228.4</td>
<td>319.6</td>
<td>395.3</td>
<td>449.4</td>
<td>465.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army of Occupation</td>
<td>613.5</td>
<td>479.3</td>
<td>541.8</td>
<td>512.7</td>
<td>518.4</td>
<td>465.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,543.6</td>
<td>6,437.1</td>
<td>7,728.5</td>
<td>9,389.8</td>
<td>10,968.7</td>
<td>11,599.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index numbers of:
- Wholesale prices (1913 = 100) .................................. 550 703 617 126 124 105
- Retail prices: Cost of living (1914 = 100) ................. 390 485 525 105 113 116

1 Average of second quarter in each year.
2 Since date of stabilisation, gold index.
3 Average of seven months.
4 Average, April 1930 to January 1931.

NOTES. — 1. The defence expenditure in the table above includes various charges resulting from the war, but does not include pensions (with the exception of a few insignificant allowances for non-effective services, etc.).

2. Until 1929, appropriations for the air force are included in the budgets of the Ministry of War, the Ministry of the Marine and the Ministry of the Colonies (military expenditure). In 1929, an Air Ministry was created, the budget of which contains appropriations for the air force and civil aviation. The above figures for that Ministry include expenditure on both military and civil aviation, as it is impossible from the budget to make the distinction. Prior to 1929, expenditure on civil aviation was shown under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. The above figures for the Ministry of the Colonies represent only the military expenditure and not expenditure for civil purposes and penitentiary services charged to that Ministry.

4. Expenditure on the army of occupation forms a special treasury service, which is covered by reparation payments by Germany.

5. The expenditure shown in the table above does not include the following expenditure of a military character included in the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Welfare and Relief and in the Ministry of Agriculture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowances to families whose supporters are called up for service with the colours</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>88.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of horses and mules required by the Army</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries of the personnel of the remount service and committees for purchase of horses for the Army</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. In 1925, under the Ministry of Public Works is shown a contribution of 30 million francs for the powder service.

7. Under the Ministry of Finance the following amounts are assigned to improvement of salaries for civil and military personnel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improvement in salaries for civil and military personnel</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td>Francs (000,000's)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in salaries for civil and military personnel</td>
<td>1,309.8</td>
<td>1,505.1</td>
<td>1,250.0</td>
<td>1,400.0</td>
<td>500.0</td>
<td>1,810.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is impossible to ascertain the portion of these amounts which is devoted to military personnel.

The figure for 1930-31 includes 200 million francs assigned to increase of family allowances and expenses of missions.

8. Military pensions and the greater part of war pensions are charged to the budget of the Ministry of Finance (under public debt service) and the other part of war pensions and similar allowances to the Ministry of Pensions. This expenditure has amounted to the following sums:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military pensions</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td>Francs (000,000's)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pensions</td>
<td>704.3</td>
<td>777.8</td>
<td>1,000.3</td>
<td>1,402.8</td>
<td>1,675.6</td>
<td>1,928.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War pensions</td>
<td>2,578.1</td>
<td>4,179.5</td>
<td>4,488.4</td>
<td>5,253.1</td>
<td>5,404.0</td>
<td>6,262.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>