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LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ARMAMENTS YEAR-BOOK

General and Statistical Information

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PREFACE

The Armaments Year-Book is by published the Disarmament Section in pursuance of a decision taken by the Council of the League of Nations in July 1923 and in conformity with the principles laid down by the Council and the Assembly of the League of Nations.¹

The monographs have been based on the official publications which the Secretariat has been able to obtain, such as parliamentary debates, collections of laws, official journals, various military publications, statistical publications, etc. In certain cases, the information taken from these publications has been supplemented by the data which various Governments communicate to the Secretariat.

All the publications consulted in compiling the monographs are included in the bibliography at the end of the volume. Thus the reader can see what sources have been utilised in each case.

The information contained in the Armaments Year-Book relates solely to the organisation and composition of the various armies in peace time.

The present edition (thirteenth year) has been revised and, as far as possible, brought up to date and completed in the light of the most recent official publications; it contains monographs on sixty-four countries, both Members and non-members of the League. In the case of countries possessing colonies and colonial forces, the monographs also give detailed information on the organisation and composition of such forces.

It has been possible in most cases, with the aid of publications appearing at frequent intervals, to follow the changes which have taken place in the military organisation of the different countries up to August 1937. As regards budgetary effectives and expenditure on national defence, it has been possible to give figures for 1937 (or 1937-38) for the majority of countries.

Owing to the difference in military systems and the transitional state of the laws on armaments in certain countries, it has not been possible to follow a uniform plan in all the monographs. The information given is more or less detailed according as the military systems described are more or less complicated and as the documents at the disposal of the Secretariat are more or less numerous.

¹ For details, see the introduction to the first edition of the Year-Book, published in 1924.
There is a close connection between the different chapters of each monograph. To form a correct idea of any particular aspect of the military organisation of a given country, it is therefore necessary to read the whole monograph, or at any rate those chapters which supplement one another. For example, a perusal of the chapter concerning military effectives is not always sufficient to give a correct idea of the situation; in some cases, it must be supplemented by reading the chapter on the system of recruiting (period of service, etc.).

Each monograph is preceded by a short table which, as a rule, gives particulars of the area, population, length of railways and length of land and sea frontiers of the country in question.

Wherever possible, the length of the land frontiers of the country with all the neighbouring countries has been given. As the information regarding the length of frontiers has been taken from the official publications of the respective countries, there is in some cases a certain discrepancy between the figures relating to the same frontier.

**ANNEXES I AND II.**

The *Armaments Year-Book* contains two annexes. Annex I relates to the Conventions, Treaties and Agreements concluded between different countries from 1815 to 1936, which are at present in force and relate to questions generally affecting the reduction and limitation of the armaments of the contracting countries. Annex II contains a number of recapitulatory statistical tables and graphs showing world military expenditure, the essential characteristics of the army of each country, the navies of a number of countries, etc.

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Each monograph is divided into three or four parts—namely: I, Land Army; II, Air Force; III, Navy; IV, Expenditure on National Defence. In cases where the air force is not organised as an autonomous arm, it is included in the chapter dealing with the army.

**I. ARMY.**

As a rule, the part relating to the army contains the following chapters:

- Main characteristics of the armed forces.
- Organs of military command and administration.
- Territorial military areas.
- Organisation and composition of the army (higher units, arms and services).
- Police forces, etc.
- System of recruiting and period of service.
Cadres (recruiting, promotion).—Schools.
Preparatory military training and para-military instruction.
Passive defence against aero-chemical attacks. Civil and
industrial mobilisation.
Army effectives.

II. AIR FORCE.

For the air force, in cases where it is organised as an independent
arm, the same arrangement as for the army has been followed as
far as possible.
It has also been possible, thanks to the co-operation of certain
Governments, to give recent figures regarding the number of aircraft
attached to their armies.

III. NAVY.

This chapter contains information on various warships by cate-
gories (battleships and battle-cruisers, coast-defence ships, aircraft-
carriers, cruisers, destroyers and torpedo-boats, submarines), together
with information concerning the most important characteristics of
each vessel or of each class of vessel (dimension*, tonnage, motive
power, armaments, etc.). For some countries, a summary is also given
of the organisation of the central administration of the navy, and,
where possible, the effectives of the naval forces have been indicated.

IV. EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The tables of national defence expenditure have been prepared in
accordance with the method explained in the introduction to previous
editions of the Armaments Year-Book, that is, generally speaking,
without attempting "to recast defence budgets according to a standard
system in order to make them comparable ".

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1 The tonnage is given in most cases in the form of standard displacement; in some cases it is
given as normal displacement :

Standard Displacement.—According to the definition given in the Washington Naval
Treaty (Chapter II, Part IV), standard displacement of a surface vessel is " the displace-
ment of the ship complete, fully manned, engined and equipped ready for sea, including
all armament and ammunition, equipment, outfit, provisions and fresh water for crew,
miscellaneous stores and implements of every description that are intended to be carried in
war, but without fuel or reserve feed water on board ".

Normal Displacement (Cases of Normal Armament).—The normal displacement is the
standard displacement plus part only of the weight of the fuel and the whole (in the case
of large ships) or part only (in that of small ships) of the weight of the reserve fuel water on
board.
In order to avoid all duplication, and as a measure of economy, it has been decided to discontinue publishing in the *Armaments Year-Book* the information on the raw materials and other products affecting national defence.

The Secretariat publishes every year very detailed information on the production of and trade in a large number of raw materials and other products.

The reader will find in particular in the *Statistical Year-Book of the League of Nations* (Year 1936/37) the following statistical information:

Fuel: coal, lignite, petroleum.

Ores and Metals:

I. Ores: iron, copper, lead, zinc, tin.

II. Metals: pig-iron and ferro-alloys, steel, copper, lead, zinc, tin, aluminium, nickel.

Chemical Products: natural phosphates, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, cyanamide of calcium, sulphur, salt.

Agricultural Products: wheat, rye, barley, oats, maize, rice.

Potatoes.

Live-stock.

Various Products: cotton, flax, wool, rubber.

For the international trade in these products, the reader is referred to the Secretariat’s publication entitled *International Trade Statistics, 1936* (published in 1937).