BELGIUM

Area .................................................. 30,444 sq. km
Population (XII. 1935) ......................... 8,300,000
Density per sq. km. ............................... 272.6

Length of land frontiers:
  With Netherlands .............................. 449.5 km.
  With Germany ................................ 161.5 km.
  With Luxemburg ............................... 148.0 km.
  With France .................................. 620.0 km.

Length of coast-line ............................ 1,379.0 km.

Length of railway system (XII. 1933) ........ 65.5 km.

Belgian Congo:

Area .................................................. 2,385,000 sq. km.
Population (estimated) ........................ 9,400,000
Density per sq. km. ............................... 3.9

Length of land frontiers:
  With French Equatorial Africa ............. 2,725 km.
  With Egyptian Sudan ......................... 500 km.
  With the Protectorate of Uganda .......... 685 km.
  With Tanganyika ............................... 455 km.
  With Ruanda-Urundi ......................... 610 km.
  With British Rhodesia ....................... 2,065 km.
  With Portuguese Angola ..................... 2,135 km.
  With the enclave of Cabinda ............... 160 km.

Length of coast-line ............................ 9,335 km.

Length of railway system (1933) ............. 40 km.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

The Belgian armed forces consist of the home army and the Government forces in the Belgian Congo (including the forces of occupation in the mandated territory of Ruanda-Urundi).

The **home army** is under the direction of the Ministry of National Defence. There is no Ministry of Marine.
The Government forces in the Belgian Congo are under the direction of the Governor-General of the colony. They are attached to the Ministry of the Colonies. They are responsible, not only for ensuring the occupation and defence of the territory, but for maintaining public order and keeping the peace, enforcing the laws, etc. No troops belonging to the home army are stationed in the colony. As a rule, the armed forces of the colony do not take any part in the defence of the home country.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

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, under which are placed:
  - General Inspectorate of Artillery;
  - Armaments Branch;
  - Reception and Supervision of Steam Apparatus Branch;
  - Transport and Motor Fuel Branch;
  - Anti-Gas Branch;
  - Air Service.
- Higher Directorate of Engineering and Fortifications, under which are placed:
  - General Inspectorate of Engineering and Fortifications;
  - Fortifications Branch;
  - Destruction and Floods Branch;
  - Branch in charge of material and the technical equipment of the troops;
  - Three Directorates of engineering and fortifications.
- Higher Medical Directorate, under which are placed:
  - General Medical Inspectorate;
  - Medical Branch;
  - Intendance Branch;
  - Military Personnel Branch;
  - Military Buildings Branch;
  - Veterinary and Remounts Branch;
  - National Mobilisation Branch;
  - General Civil Administration.
Army General Staff.

The Chief of the 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 is assisted by two Deputy Chiefs of Staff.

The General Staff consists of:

1st section: Military operations;
2nd section: Intelligence;
3rd section: Mobilisation, organisation and material;
4th section: Transport, supply and evacuation, railways;
Section A: Training, physical training;
Section B: Reserve officers;
Section C: Bibliography, military scientific information;
Section D: Historical section;
Railway Commission.


The Higher Council of National Defence consists of the Chief of the General Staff; the inspectors-general of the various arms; the army corps commanders; and the commander of the cavalry corps.

The Chief Secretary of the Ministry of National Defence acts as Secretary to the Higher 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.

3. Commissions.

Infantry and Cavalry Armaments Commission;
Artillery Armaments Commission;
Commission for Special Equipment of Light Troops;
Committee of Research on Technical Engineering Material;
Committee of Research on Medical Material;
Army Air Commission;
Motorisation Commission.

These bodies submit, for the approval of the Minister, recommendations for 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.

Permanent National Mobilisation Board.

This Board, which was set up in 1926, is attached, for administrative purposes, to the Ministry of National Defence.

The chairman of the Board is a general officer selected by the Minister for National Defence.
It consists of representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Railways, Marine, Posts, Telegraphs, Telephones, and the Air, the Ministry of the Colonies, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry, Labour, and Social Welfare, the Ministry of the Interior and Health, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Science and Art.

The Board’s duty is to co-ordinate measures for meeting the needs of the army and ensuring the subsistence of the general public throughout the war.


These consist of: an Infantry Committee, a Cavalry Committee, an Artillery Committee, an Engineer Committee and a Higher Committee.

Each Committee has power to decide upon the suitability of officers belonging to the arm it represents for promotion from the rank of captain up to and including that of lieutenant-colonel.

The Higher Committee has similar duties in regard to the suitability of colonels for the rank of major-general and of major-generals for the rank of lieutenant-general and the command of higher formations.

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.

TERRITORIAL MILITARY AREAS.

The country is divided into four territorial areas as follows:

1. The provinces of Brabant and Hainaut (Area Headquarters: Brussels);
2. The provinces of West Flanders, East Flanders and Antwerp (Area Headquarters: Antwerp);
3. The provinces of Liége and Limburg (Area Headquarters: Liége);
4. The provinces of Luxemburg and Namur (Area Headquarters: Namur).
COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.

(July 1937.)

The army on a peace footing consists of:

I. Command:
   Ministry of National Defence;
   Territorial Command.

II. Troops:
   Three army corps;
   Defence troops of Luxemburg and Namur;
   Cyclist frontier units;
   Cavalry corps;
   Army artillery brigade;
   Territorial air defence;
   Army engineer troops;
   Liége fortress regiment;
   Transport troops and services;
   Medical troops and establishments;
   Intendance troops and establishments;
   Schools and independent units;
   Manufacturing establishments;
   Territorial services.

I. Command.

A. Ministry of National Defence (see page 57)

B. Territorial Command:
   Military area commands;
   Provincial commands;
   Fortress commands.

II. Troops.

Army Corps.

1 army corps headquarters;
2 infantry divisions, each consisting of:
   Headquarters;
Belgium

3 regiments of infantry, each consisting of:
- 3 rifle battalions of 4 companies each (including 1 machine-gun company);
- 1 "ordnance battalion" (one machine-gun company, one 47 and one 76 mm. gun company);
- 1 school company;
- 1 depot company and park;
- 1 Scout detachment.

1 artillery regiment, consisting of:
- 3 75-mm. gun groups of 2 batteries each;
- 1 light howitzer group of 2 batteries;
- 1 school battery.
- 1 depot battery and park.

1 divisional depot and park.

1 army corps artillery regiment, consisting of:

Headquarters;
- 2 155 howitzer groups of 2 batteries each;
- 1 105 L. group of 2 batteries;
- 1 120 M.31 motor group of 2 batteries;
- 1 school battery;
- 1 depot battery and park.

1 engineer regiment, consisting of:

Headquarters;
- 3 battalions of 2 companies each;
- 1 school company;
- 1 depot company and park.

The Defence Troops of Luxemburg and Namur.

Headquarters;
The Division of Ardennes Chasseurs, comprising:

Headquarters;
- 3 regiments, each consisting of:
  Headquarters;
  - 1 battalion, composed of:
    - Headquarters;
    - 2 rifle companies;
    - 1 "Ordnance" company.
  1 cyclist battalion, composed of:
    - Headquarters;
    - 2 mixed cyclist companies, comprising:
      - 2 rifle detachments;
      - 1 machine-gun detachment.
BELGIUM

1 training battalion, composed of:
   Headquarters;
   1 rifle company;
   1 "Ordnance" company.
   1 depot company and park.
   1 motor group of 3 batteries of 75 guns;
   1 school.

The Namur fortress regiment, consisting of:
   Regimental headquarters;
   Various group headquarters;
   Various fortress batteries;
   1 school battery.

THE CYCLIST FRONTIER UNITS.¹

The cyclist frontier battalion of Limburg, consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   2 Maeseyck companies;
   The Lanaeken Company.

The Cyclist Frontier Battalion of Visé, consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   The Liége Company;
   2 Visé companies.

The Cyclist Frontier Battalion of Verviers, consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   The Homburg Company;
   The Henri-Chapelle Company;
   The Verviers Company.

The Malmédy Company.

THE CAVALRY CORPS.

Headquarters:

2 Cavalry Divisions, each composed of:
   Headquarters:
   3 mixed regiments, consisting of:
      Headquarters;
      1 cavalry group;
      1 motor cyclist group;
      1 armoured car squadron;
      1 school squadron;
      1 depot squadron and park.

¹ The cyclist frontier battalions of Vielsalm, Bastogne and Arlon form part of the division of Ardennes chasseurs.
BELGIUM

1 regiment of cyclist carabineers, consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   2 battalions;
   1 school company;
   1 depot company and park.

1 Artillery Regiment, comprising:
   Headquarters;
   3 motor groups of 75 guns;
   1 motor group of 105 howitzers;
   1 school battery;
   1 depot battery and park.

1 Cyclist Engineer Battalion;

1 Cavalry School;

1 Remount Depot.

**ARMY ARTILLERY BRIGADE.**

**Headquarters;**

1st Army Artillery Regiment, consisting of:
   3 heavy 150 and 155-mm. gun groups of 2 batteries each;
   1 school battery;
   1 depot battery and park.

2nd Army Artillery Regiment, consisting of:
   1 gun (170 and 280 mm.) and 1 howitzer (150 mm.) groups of 2 batteries each;
   1 mortar group (220 mm.) of 2 batteries;
   1 school battery;
   1 depot battery and park.

**TERRITORIAL AIR DEFENCE.**

**Headquarters.**

**LAND ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE.**

**Headquarters;**

1st Regiment, consisting of:
   Headquarters;
   1 motor-gun group of 2 batteries;
   4 groups of guns on gun-carriages of 2 batteries each;
   1 depot battery and park.
2nd Regiment, consisting of:
  Headquarters;
  1 searchlight group of 2 batteries;
  1 look-out battery;
  1 depot battery and park;
  40 mm. gun sections.

Technical service, consisting of:
  Headquarters;
  1 workshop battery and park.

1 Land Anti-aircraft Defence School.

MILITARY AIR SERVICE.

Headquarters;

1st Regiment, consisting of:
  3 observers' groups.

2nd Regiment, consisting of:
  3 fighter-plane groups.

3rd Regiment, consisting of:
  1 observation group;
  1 mixed group (1 observation squadron, 1 bombing squadron and 1 depot squadron and park);
  1 balloon company.

1 Flying-school;

1 School for Pilots, comprising 4 flights (2 piloting, 1 school, 1 depot and park);
1 depot;
Air Force workshops.

Each group consists of:
  2 flights;
  1 depot flight and park.

ARMY ENGINEER TROOPS.

Headquarters:

The Railway Troops, consisting of:
  Headquarters;
  1 workshop company;
  1 engineering works company;
BELGIUM

traffic management, locomotive and vehicle and equipment company;
track and works company;
track and works company and park;
depot company;
school company.

Bridging Battalion, consisting of:
Headquarters;
2 bridging companies;
depot company and park.

Signal Troops Regiment, consisting of:
Headquarters;
telegraphists' battalion of 4 companies;
radio operators' battalion of 6 companies;
school company;
depot and carrier-pigeon company.

Signal Troops Technical Service, consisting of:
Headquarters;
civilian labour company and park.

Liège Fortress Regiment.

Regimental headquarters;
Various group headquarters;
Various batteries;
school battery.

Transport Troops and Services.

Headquarters;

Three corps of horse transport, each consisting of:
Two, three or four horse-drawn companies (9 companies in all);
field company;
depot and park company.

One motor-transport corps, consisting of:
4 motor-transport companies;
2 park companies;
depot company.

One motor-transport service school (Staff and an administrative and training company).
Medical Troops and Establishments.

3 corps of 2 companies each;
School for army medical officers.

Intendance Troops and Establishments.

4 intendance companies.

Manufacturing Establishments.

The Great Army Park at Antwerp, consisting of:
Staff;
Munitions depots;
Park of material.

Transport arsenal.
Royal gun factory.
State arms factory.
Ammunition factories.
Anti-gas establishments (laboratories and experimental workshops).
Army Engineer Park.
Ammunition Destruction Service.

Territorial Services.

21 recruiting offices.
6 regional parks and 6 depots.

Summary Table of Units.
(Forces stationed at home.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Brigades</th>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>7¹</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>21²</td>
<td>84³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>8³</td>
<td>4³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14⁶</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air force</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signals</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intendance</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Including the division of Ardenne chasseurs.
² Including 3 regiments of Ardenne chasseurs.
³ Including 6 cyclist battalions (including 3 cyclist frontier battalions).
⁴ Including 2 cyclist regiments.
⁵ Cyclist battalions.
⁶ 6 regiments of divisional artillery, 3 regiments of army corps artillery, 1 régiment of cavalry corps artillery, 2 régiments of army artillery and 2 regiments of ant-aircraft artillery. Not including 2 regiments of fortress artillery.
MATERIAL IN SERVICE IN THE HOME COUNTRY.

1. **Land Army.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>In service for normal requirements</th>
<th>Additional for the recall periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rifles and carbines</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine rifles</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy machine-guns</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortars up to 15 cm.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortars over 15 cm.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns up to 7.7 cm.</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns from 7.7 cm. to 15.5 cm.</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns of 15.5 cm. and over</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howitzers up to 10.5 cm.</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howitzers from 10.5 cm. to 15.5 cm.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howitzers of 15.5 cm. and over</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-aircraft guns up to 10 cm.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armoured cars</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Air Force** (on June 1st, 1937).

Number of aeroplanes: 210.
Total horse-power: 120,000.

On the date given above, 60 of the 210 aeroplanes were unavailable, as they were undergoing repairs in the workshops.

Apart from the field aeroplanes, there are 140 school machines, having a total horse-power of 30,000, but none of these aeroplanes is fit for field service.

There are also 4 captive balloons, having a total volume of 4,000 cubic metres.

Belgium has no dirigibles.

**GENDARMERIE AND POLICE.**

**National Gendarmerie.**

The Corps of Gendarmerie is under the Ministry of National Defence as regards personnel, material and discipline, and under the Ministries of the Interior and Justice as regards public order and police work.

The National Gendarmerie is organised in eight territorial groups (Ghent, Antwerp, Liège, Namur, Bruges, Mons, Brussels and Hasselt), each of two or three companies (making a total of 23 companies), and 65 districts; there is also a mobile force of four groups, each of 4 squadrons (one mounted, three cyclist). Each squadron includes a tank section and an armoured car section (2 cars).

The gendarmes in the territorial brigades and mobile units are armed with carbines and pistols; the mobile units also have a collective armament consisting of 6 machine rifles per mounted squadron and 9 machine rifles per cyclist squadron. The group of motor machine-guns has, as collective armament, 6 machine-guns and 6 Stokes-Brandt mortars.
The National Gendarmerie is recruited by voluntary enlistment and re-enlistment, for preference from among soldiers with the colours or soldiers on unlimited furlough. The term of service is four years, renewable for periods of three years; after twenty years' service, gendarmes may re-enlist for periods of one, two or three years.

The gendarmerie has its own budget.

The Finance Act requires gendarmerie expenditure, in the event of war, to be included in the national defence budget under the heads corresponding to the nature of the expenditure.

**Auxiliary Gendarmerie.**

The auxiliary gendarmerie forces are constituted in time of peace with a view to their employment in case of war.

The auxiliary gendarmerie consists of military personnel serving with the colours or on indefinite furlough who have applied for and obtained enrolment in this force.

Military personnel with the colours or on indefinite furlough enlist in the auxiliary gendarmerie forces for a period of three years (renewable).

The auxiliary force may only be called out for service by order of the Minister of National Defence. The periods of training with the auxiliary forces are independent of those which military ranks on indefinite furlough are required to perform under the militia law.

The weapons of the auxiliary forces include rifles and bayonets.

The auxiliary gendarmerie forces are organised in companies consisting of one officer and 112 other ranks. Each auxiliary company is administered by the territorial gendarmerie company in whose area it is constituted.

**Police.**

*Rural Police.*—The rural police includes 2,000 to 2,300 rural guards, recruited from former soldiers for preference. These rural guards are unarmed.

*Communal Police.*—The communal police is proportioned to the population (3 to 4 policemen to 5,000 inhabitants). The policemen are recruited by means of examinations for a length of service of 25 to 30 years, and receive police training. They are armed with revolvers.

*Police of the Department of Justice.*—This police includes 100 officials of the Criminal Investigation and Prosecutor's department. They remain in the service from the ages of 21 to 55.

**League for Passive Protection Against Aircraft.**

The purpose of this League, which is a public utility institution, aims at:

Training the population in peace-time by means of propaganda giving wide publicity to the rules laid down in the standing instructions for the passive protection against aircraft of the population and of public installations, as approved by the Minister of National Defence;

Recruiting and training volunteers who would undertake, during mobilisation, to help and assist their fellow-citizens threatened by an air attack;

Establishing and keeping up to date lists of names and addresses of volunteers, arranged in classes, such volunteers not to be recruited from persons on the strength of the field army;

Assisting in war-time, by means of its volunteer formations and financial resources, in the passive defence of the population and of public installations against air attack.

There is a General Commission for Passive Protection attached to the Ministry of the Interior.
RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

1. 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. Regional 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, at their request, 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.

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—numbering 21—are responsible for carrying out the instructions of the Minister of National Defence as regards recruiting operations, and for the mobilisation of the army.

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 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.

Any man entered in the recruiting reserve roll is permitted to serve as a conscript in the year in which 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.
A conscript may obtain suspension for a year, which is renewable so long as the man belongs by age to one of the last 5 contingents.

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

Otherwise the recruiting board limits this privilege to the categories of conscripts prescribed by law.

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 the Law, 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 twenty-five years, divided as follows:

1. Fifteen years in the regular army and reserve;
2. Ten years in the territorial army.

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

Military obligations cease on reaching 50 years of age.

8. RECRUITING RESERVE.

A recruiting reserve exists in which all Belgians are placed from the year in which they reach the age of 17 until they enter the army, are exempted or are discharged.

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

---

1 The recruiting board consists of:

A chairman, chosen from among the magistrates actually serving in one of the lower courts or from among the deputy-magistrates or honorary magistrates of such a court;
A director, inspector or, failing either of these, a controller of taxes, and an army officer.

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;
6. Absentees.

10. Duration of Military Service.

The period of service with the colours is fixed at 12 months.

During the period covering the 1937 to 1941 classes inclusive the following conscripts will, however, be liable for an extra five months' service:

1. Conscripts designated for the recruitment of the reserve cadres;
2. Ordinary infantry conscripts, with the exception of the machine-gun battalions and the 76 mortar companies;
3. Ordinary conscripts of the cyclist regiments and a proportion of the mixed groups of Ardennes Chasseurs;
4. Ordinary conscripts called up to meet any shortage of volunteers for the cavalry corps, the fortress regiments and the cyclist frontier units.

While they form part of the active army or the active army reserve, conscripts belonging to the various arms and transport corps are required to perform one or more periods of training covering a total maximum period of 42 days.

Similarly, conscripts belonging to the infantry, the artillery attached to an army corps, to infantry divisions, to the artillery attached to the cavalry corps and to land anti-aircraft artillery, as well as those belonging to cyclist regiments, engineering troops, cavalry regiments and mixed regiments are required to perform one or more additional periods of training which, added to those referred to in the previous paragraph, may raise the total maximum period to 58 days.
All conscripts intended for the reserve cadres, whatever the corps or service to which they belong, as well as conscript engineer N.C.O.s, are required, so long as they belong to the active army or the active reserve, to perform periods of training for a total maximum duration of 74 days.

In addition, conscripts intended for the reserve cadres may, at their request, be called up on three occasions for a total period of service not exceeding 18 days.

II. INDEFINITE FURLough.

On completing their 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 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. RELEASE FROM SERVICE WITH THE COLOURS.

If the number of conscripts 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.

13. 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 as professional N.C.O.s may be engaged as employees after having performed a complete period of military training.

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

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

In the case of candidates for the non-commissioned ranks of the flying personnel of the Air Service who are over 18 years of age, the engagement shall be for two years.
On expiry of their period of regular service, volunteers and conscripts may re-engage for 1, 2, 3 or 4 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.

14. Recruiting Results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number called up for medical inspection</td>
<td>91,925</td>
<td>76,270</td>
<td>79,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result of inspection:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt</td>
<td>10,494</td>
<td>5,614</td>
<td>6,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Held over</td>
<td>10,401</td>
<td>7,748</td>
<td>8,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passed for service</td>
<td>48,285</td>
<td>43,195</td>
<td>45,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number on the rolls who have not undergone inspection</td>
<td>22,745</td>
<td>19,713</td>
<td>20,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released from service</td>
<td>4,285</td>
<td>3,195</td>
<td>1,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingent</td>
<td>44,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Number of Men Serving with the Colours and Sent on Indefinite Furlough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Serving with the colours</th>
<th>Sent on indefinite furlough</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>43,741</td>
<td>41,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>43,232</td>
<td>39,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>46,133</td>
<td>38,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>39,772</td>
<td>39,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>45,142</td>
<td>40,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>44,988</td>
<td>40,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>42,432</td>
<td>40,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>43,480</td>
<td>40,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>36,615</td>
<td>40,641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. Table Giving Numbers of Conscripts Posted to the Various Corps and Services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>8,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air force</td>
<td>900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>3,640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>1,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>44,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Enrolled contingent, service held over or suspended from previous years and men permitted to be called up in anticipation of their contingent.
BELGIUM

CADRES.

N.C.O.s.

To become an N.C.O., a man must have passed the examinations prescribed by the Minister of National Defence, have served at least six months (in war-time three months) with the colours as a corporal (brigadier) and be appointed to a vacancy on the regular establishment of sergeants (maréchal des logis).

Professional N.C.O.s belong to a special corps of N.C.O.s and, in principle, are recruited from among the N.C.O.s of army units.

To be admitted to the corps of professional N.C.O.s, a man must have served at least three years with the colours as an N.C.O., have passed the final examination of the second scientific section organised in the corps, and hold an instructor N.C.O.'s certificate. In the case of Air Force N.C.O.s, the minimum of three years' colour service is reduced to two years and the maximum term is five years. Air Force N.C.O.s must hold a higher certificate.

The order of seniority among N.C.O.s is as follows: sergeant, first sergeant, first sergeant-major and warrant officer (adjutant).

N.C.O.s are promoted by arm or service or special class of seniority in accordance with the rules of promotion and the numbers fixed for each rank in each arm. The minimum period of actual service in a lower rank necessary to qualify for promotion to the next rank is three years in the rank of sergeant, three years in the rank of first sergeant and four years in the rank of first sergeant-major.

OFFICERS.

I. Active Officers.

Source of Supply.

Officers are supplied:

(a) From the military school;
(b) From the N.C.O.s trained in the cadres.

To be appointed 2nd Lieutenant, a man must:

(1) Have attained the age of 19 for a commission in one of the arms or services, or of 25 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 candidates for commissions who have served in an army unit without having gone through the military school may be taken in two parts, the first of which, bearing solely upon literary and scientific knowledge, may be passed before the candidate has enlisted.
Promotion.

The minimum period of actual service in a lower rank necessary to qualify for promotion to the next rank is as follows:

- 3 years in the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.
- 2 years in the rank of Lieutenant.
- 5 years in the rank of Captain.
- 3 years in the rank of Major.
- 2 years in the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
- 3 years in the rank of Colonel.
- 2 years in the rank of Major-General.

In war-time, the above conditions are not applicable.

In the arms and in the transport service, one-third of the second lieutenants' commissions which fall vacant are reserved for pupils of the military school, one-third to N.C.O.s and one-third are granted at the discretion of the King.

Subaltern officers are promoted 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 is a reserve list of officers required for the reservists called up on mobilisation.

Recruiting.

Reserve officers are recruited from:

1. Officers in the active army who have resigned;
2. Officers in the active army on the pension list;
3. Sous-officiers in the active army who have been candidates for the rank of second lieutenant in the active army;
4. Conscripts trained in the special platoons (see: Special Ranks).

Promotion.

The rules for promotion 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.

Specialist Reserve Officers.

The cadre of specialist reserve officers provided for by the Law of July 6th, 1935, consists of reserve officers of the arms and services posted to certain special services, such as the Anti-gas Service, the Royal Gun Factory, the Technical Artillery Research Centre, the Rear Service and the Supply Service.
MILITARY TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS.

The military training establishments in Belgium are as follows:

(a) Staff College (Brussels), for higher military training. Officers passing the final examination are given staff rank.

(b) Royal Military School (Brussels), for training infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineer and transport officers.

(c) Cadet Schools, for higher secondary education, preparatory for the Military School.

(d) Schools for the various arms:

- Infantry school;
- Cavalry school;
- Artillery school.

Each consisting of:

- Headquarters;
- A centre for technical studies (except at the Cavalry School);
- An administrative company.

(e) Army Physical Training Institute (Brussels) to train army physical training instructors.

(f) Schools for Services:

1. School for Army Medical Officers, consisting of an advanced school and four sections for medical and pharmacy students.

2. Motor-Transport 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.

(g) Military Air Force:

- Pilots' School;
- School of Aeronautics.

PREPARATORY MILITARY TRAINING.

Only the civilian pupils of the Military School not under 18 years of age receive pre-military training prior to their incorporation in the armed forces.

The length of the pre-military training varies but does not exceed ten months (including leave).

The number of civilian pupils of not less than 18 years of age varies from 25 to 40.
EFFECTIVES.

I. EFFECTIVES OF THE HOME ARMY.

1. Budgetary Effectives.

(a) Officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Generals</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major-Generals</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonels</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonels</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Captains (acting rank)</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains</td>
<td>1,577</td>
<td>1,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants and Second Lieutenants</td>
<td>2,086</td>
<td>2,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total officers</strong></td>
<td>4,460</td>
<td>4,641</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Non-commissioned officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher grade of pay (appointés)</td>
<td>9,450</td>
<td>10,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower grade (soldés) (volunteers and conscripts)</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-commissioned officers</strong></td>
<td>10,226</td>
<td>11,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Other ranks (corporals and privates):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher grade of pay (appointés)</td>
<td>1,421</td>
<td>1,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower grade (soldés) (volunteers and conscripts)</td>
<td>49,170</td>
<td>52,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total other ranks</strong></td>
<td>50,591</td>
<td>54,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed without military pay, military and civil employees</td>
<td>2,183</td>
<td>2,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: Officers and other ranks</strong></td>
<td>67,460</td>
<td>72,141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.—Number of days of actual service estimated for non-commissioned officers (volunteers and conscripts) and other ranks (volunteers and conscripts) 18,230,290 19,447,565


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Other ranks</th>
<th>Voluntary enlistments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>1,721</td>
<td>27,903</td>
<td>662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>11,862</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>4,577</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>8,768</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,232</td>
<td>60,389</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Excluding officers on furlough.
2 Excluding non-military pupils and cadets, navigating personnel and farriers.
## II. GENDARMERIE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and gendarmes</td>
<td>7,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7,371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## III. SUMMARY TABLE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES OF THE HOME ARMY.

### (a) Army.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>4,163</td>
<td>4,086</td>
<td>4,010</td>
<td>3,982</td>
<td>3,990</td>
<td>4,192</td>
<td>4,236</td>
<td>4,318</td>
<td>4,460</td>
<td>4,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s</td>
<td>8,351</td>
<td>8,492</td>
<td>8,509</td>
<td>8,409</td>
<td>8,553</td>
<td>9,380</td>
<td>9,579</td>
<td>10,001</td>
<td>10,226</td>
<td>11,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ranks</td>
<td>52,649</td>
<td>54,508</td>
<td>56,491</td>
<td>53,430</td>
<td>54,286</td>
<td>51,962</td>
<td>54,031</td>
<td>53,499</td>
<td>52,774</td>
<td>56,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65,163</td>
<td>67,086</td>
<td>69,010</td>
<td>65,821</td>
<td>66,829</td>
<td>65,534</td>
<td>67,846</td>
<td>67,818</td>
<td>67,460</td>
<td>72,141</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### (b) Gendarmerie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and gendarmes</td>
<td>5,949</td>
<td>5,900</td>
<td>5,900</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>6,281</td>
<td>6,291</td>
<td>6,291</td>
<td>6,289</td>
<td>6,289</td>
<td>6,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,098</td>
<td>6,048</td>
<td>6,048</td>
<td>6,148</td>
<td>6,439</td>
<td>6,449</td>
<td>6,449</td>
<td>6,447</td>
<td>6,447</td>
<td>6,446</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## COLONIAL FORCES

### Belgian Congo.

#### 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 Commander-in-Chief of the Government forces, whose headquarters are at the seat of the local Government.

#### RECRUITING.

The Government defence force is recruited by enlistment and annual levies.

The period of service with the colours for conscripts and volunteers may not exceed seven years. Re-engagements after completion of the term of service may be for as little as three years. No man may join a unit before the age of 16 or after the age of 30.

The recruits, numbering 1,600, receive one year's training as riflemen in training-centres and are then drafted into the troops in cantonments, where they obtain specialist training in the technical arms.
ORGANISATION OF THE FORCES—EUROPEAN AND NATIVE.

The Government forces consist of a commander-in-chief assisted by a staff; three groups corresponding respectively to the territorial area of the two provinces, and each comprising units in cantonments, territorial service troops, a training centre and a school for candidate N.C.O.s; troops in cantonments and on territorial service drafted to the territory of Ruanda-Urundi (see below), a river section attached to a training centre; a central depot; an artillery depot and a company of signal troops.

The troops in cantonments (infantry, artillery, engineers, etc.) are especially organised for the defence of the colony, and are placed under the direct authority of the Governor-General. They take part in certain work of general utility.

The territorial service troops are placed at the disposal of the provincial commissioners. It is their duty to occupy the territory and maintain public order therein. These troops are divided into the same number of territorial service companies as there are districts in the province; the territorial service companies of a province constitute a territorial service battalion. Each territorial service company consists of detachments of varying strength, whose duty it is to occupy and police the various districts, and three sections of fusiliers, which constitute a reserve and are responsible for carrying out the duties which the detachments are called upon to perform, and military and police operations in particular.

From the point of view of military training, the detachments are under the sole orders of the military authorities to which they are attached.

Men sent on indefinite furlough form part of the Government reserve forces for a period of seven years from the day following that on which their term of service with the active army or their limited furlough expires.

Men on limited furlough are subject to the same obligations as reservists.

Service with the active army performed by natives re-enlisting on the expiration of their period of active service (7 years) is deducted from their obligations in respect of service in the reserve.

Men on limited or indefinite furlough may be recalled to the colours:

(1) In the event of general mobilisation;
(2) In the event of partial mobilisation for operations within the territory of the colony or for the defence of this territory.

On the expiration of their period of service with the active army (7 years) or of this period of service reduced in accordance with instructions given by the Governor-General, men are sent either on
indefinite or on limited furlough and proceed to their territory of origin or to the territory in which they have asked for and obtained permission to fix their residence.

Men sent on limited or indefinite furlough are liable to be called out for an annual inspection.

On the expiration of their period of service in the reserve, men on indefinite furlough are discharged.

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

There are no European troops.

The units and 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.

European Reserve Cadres of the Government Forces.

Officers and N.C.O.s of the reserve or assimilated persons may be called up:

1. In case of mobilisation;
2. In peace time, by order of the Governor-General, to maintain or restore order;
3. For training and, for such of them as belong to the cadres of the home army, to discharge any obligations they may have.

The above-mentioned persons are called up for training at their own request; the total period of training is forty-two days in every period of three years.

Officers and N.C.O.s of the reserve are deemed to be on unpaid leave except when under arms.

The recruiting of cadres of officers and N.C.O.s of the reserve is by means of voluntary engagement for a term of not less than three years.
NUMBER OF UNITS AND ESTABLISHMENT (1937).

1. Troops performing territorial service: 15 territorial companies (effectives 5,500).
2. Troops in cantonments—total effectives 6,062: 3 infantry battalions and 11 infantry companies in cantonments, including 9 detached companies; 2 artillery batteries; 2 infantry batteries; 2 engineer companies; 1 railway company; 2 cyclist companies; 1 signalling company; 3 training-centres.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER CORPS AND MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Volunteer Corps.

The duty of the volunteer corps is to keep order in the places in which they are organised during mobilisation or in the event of revolt or serious disturbances. A volunteer corps consists of not fewer than twelve men.

The volunteer corps comprise:

1. Town guards;
2. Militiamen serving compulsorily for one year in a volunteer corps in virtue of the power conferred by the law on the militia;
3. Members of the Belgian army on indefinite leave, authorised to serve in the Government forces the periods during which they may be called up under the law on the militia.

The volunteer corps are placed under the authority of the provincial commissioner, assisted by the officer commanding the territorial battalion and, in case of mobilisation, by the officer commanding the district troops of the province.

The European volunteer corps are placed according to the district under the command of an officer on the active list of the Government force, an officer on the reserve list of that force or an officer on the active or reserve list of the Belgian army seconded to the colony.

Enlistment in the volunteer corps is for terms of one, two or three years. In case of requisition, periods of enlistment actually being served are automatically extended until the withdrawal of the requisition.

Volunteers are not required to wear uniform.

The arms to be borne by volunteers are decided by a corps commander, in accordance with the instructions of the Governor of the province.

The military arms and ammunition allocated to volunteers are stored in premises placed by the military or district authority at the disposal of the officer commanding the corps.

Volunteers must have had sufficient military training to be able to use the weapon allocated to them as members of the sub-unit to which they belong. Volunteers on service must know how to handle a carbine or pistol.

Militiamen serving compulsorily for one year in a volunteer corps and militiamen on indefinite leave from the Belgian army performing their service with the Government forces must attend a sufficient number of drills of a unit of those forces to obtain the necessary training, or must serve with such unit during the period laid down for the performance of their military obligations.

In 1936, the strength of the volunteer corps was 300 men.
**Municipal Police.**

Each urban district has a municipal police force under the command of the district commissioner. Municipal police may also be established in other places under the direction of the territorial administration. Every municipal police force includes a chief police commissioner, assisted, if necessary, by one or more deputy police commissioners and by a detachment of troops on district service, the strength of which is fixed by the Governor of the province. No military training is given in the police corps.

The budgetary strength for 1934 is 1,145 commissioners and policemen.

**Native Gamekeepers and Forest Guards.**

These men, who are placed under the administrative authority of the district administrators, are recruited by voluntary enlistment, preferably from among ex-privates or N.C.O.s of the Government force. The period of service is three years. If necessary, firearms are distributed to them.

**EFFECTIVES.**

**PUBLIC FORCE OF THE BELGIAN CONGO.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar year</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual authorised contingent</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>6,150</td>
<td>1,680</td>
<td>3,439</td>
<td>3,618</td>
<td>4,479</td>
<td>4,816</td>
<td>3,872</td>
<td>4,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men under arms</td>
<td>16,384</td>
<td>16,384</td>
<td>16,300</td>
<td>14,300</td>
<td>13,649</td>
<td>13,438</td>
<td>13,471</td>
<td>13,471</td>
<td>13,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European cadre</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MILITARY STATUS OF THE MANDATED TERRITORY.**

**Ruanda-Urundi.**

Area ... ... ... ... ... 53,200 sq. km.

Population (estimate) ... ... 3,387,000

The Belgian mandated territory belongs to the "B" class of mandated territories, in which it is forbidden to erect fortifications or establish military or naval bases, or to organise native military forces except for local policing and defending the territory.

Administratively, the Territory of Ruanda-Urundi is attached to the Colony of the Belgian Congo, of which it forms a Deputy-Governorship.

The troops of the public force which have the duty of maintaining peace and order in Ruanda-Urundi consisted in 1935 of 4 European officers and 34 European N.C.O.s and 645 native rank and file (excluding the personnel of the motor transport service).

---

1 Excluding Ruanda-Urundi.
They were formed by one company of native cyclist-riflemen 115 strong, stationed at Astrida; two territorial companies, with a total strength of 460 men, one company being attached to each of the two Residencies, where they were distributed among various localities; and three machine-gun sections, totalling 70 men, stationed at Usumbura, Kigali, and Kitega respectively.

Native Police Corps.

On December 31st, 1935, the Native Police Corps comprised 164 sergeants and constables.

II. Navy.

In 1928, the Belgian navy was abolished, as a measure of economy.

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year coincides with the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provisional results</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary Budget</td>
<td>969.8</td>
<td>845.8</td>
<td>869.9</td>
<td>766.6</td>
<td>886.4</td>
<td>885.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary Budget</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>400.0</td>
<td>353.2</td>
<td>479.1</td>
<td>556.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,034.8</td>
<td>936.8</td>
<td>1,269.9</td>
<td>1,119.8</td>
<td>1,383.5</td>
<td>1,442.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index numbers of:

- Wholesale prices (1929 = 100)
- Retail prices: Cost of living (1929 = 100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>80¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>90²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Average, January to April 1937.
² Average, January to March 1937.

Notes.—1. Expenditure on the air force is included in the budget of the Ministry of National Defence. Belgium has no naval forces.

2. The above figures for national defence include the value of services rendered to and material taken over by other departments and the pensions
charged to the Ministry of National Defence. These have been estimated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services rendered to and material taken over by other departments</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pensions charged to the Ministry of National Defence</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The estimated extraordinary expenditure since 1934 represents the *tranches* of payments to be effected on a scheme for strengthening the defence organisation of the territory. The total expenditure to be made according to that scheme amounts to 2,114.9 million francs.

4. War pensions and military service pensions are paid by the National Fund for War Pensions, which receives State subsidies for the purpose. Until 1936 these subsidies were entered in the public debt budget, but as from 1937 they are included in the estimates of the pensions budget. This budget has taken over the charges for military pensions—which formerly appeared in the National Defence budget—and also certain soldiers' and policemen's widows' and orphans' pensions charged, prior to 1936, to the social welfare budget jointly with other pensions. These expenses have been estimated at the following figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies to the <em>Caisse nationale des pensions de guerre</em> :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War invalidity pensions</td>
<td>918.7</td>
<td>1,016.0</td>
<td>791.5</td>
<td>732.2</td>
<td>822.4</td>
<td>858.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military service pensions</td>
<td>205.0</td>
<td>189.0</td>
<td>194.6</td>
<td>216.5</td>
<td>238.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other military pensions charged to pensions budget</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>37.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies to the <em>Fonds des combattants</em></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. The gendarmerie is organised as a special corps with its own budget. Its expenditure has been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie Corps (ordinary expenditure)</td>
<td>135 2</td>
<td>127.6</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>113.9</td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td>135.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Extraordinary expenditure (construction, etc.) for the Gendarmerie Corps, charged to the extraordinary budget, was estimated at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie Corps (extra-ordinary expenditure ..)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Expenditure on military courts, amounting to about 2.5 million francs per annum, is charged to the Ministry of Justice.

7. The budgets of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi include expenditure for a "public force" which corresponds to the Gendarmerie Corps at home. Expenditure on this public force has been estimated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public force :</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Congo .. ..</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruanda-Urundi .. ..</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>