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for the period 1923-24.]*



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Year Ended 30th June, 1924

PRETORIA

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY OFFICE

1925

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Department of Defence.

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1924.

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF AND SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE :
BRIG.-GEN. A. J. E. BRINK, D.T.D., D.S.O.

I.—INTRODUCTORY.

The Chief of the General Staff and Secretary for Defence reports as follows :—

1. *General.*—The year under review witnessed the return to pre-war conditions in so far as the defence organization of the country was concerned, in that the compulsory registration of citizens liable to undergo the course of peace training for military service in the Defence Forces of the Union was reintroduced in January, 1924, in terms of the *South Africa Defence Act Amendment Act of 1922*, after registration had been in abeyance for ten years. The results of this registration were most gratifying. Out of a total of 60,504 citizens between the ages of 17 and 20, inclusive, who actually registered themselves, only 5,082 did not elect voluntarily to undergo peace training with the Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Forces. In other words, 91·5 per cent. of the 60,504 citizens voluntarily expressed a desire to serve in the Active Citizen Force of the Union for a period of four years to fit themselves for the defence of their fatherland. This speaks volumes for the spirit of patriotism which pervades the young manhood of our country, and this spirit should be encouraged.

In terms of Section 2 of the *Defence Act* every citizen in his 21st year is liable to undergo the course of peace training for military service prescribed for the Active Citizen Force. Section 3 of the Act, however, provides that only 50 per cent. of those liable for peace training shall actually undergo that training unless Parliament makes special monetary provision for a greater proportion. Section 4 makes provision for the training in Defence Rifle Associations of those citizens who in their 21st year have not been entered for peace training in the Active Citizen Force.

It will thus be seen that every citizen of the Union, unless exempted on medical or other special grounds, must undergo a four-years' course of training, commencing in his 21st year, to fit him, in time of war, for personal service in defence of the Union. It is, therefore, apparent that within a period of four years, commencing from the 1st July, 1925, provision must be made for the training of the 60,000 odd citizens who registered in January, 1924. This number, however, for various reasons, medical unfitness, special exemption, etc., should be reduced to approximately 50,000. These citizens are at present between the ages of 17 and 20 years—so that each year, on an average, 12,500 citizens will attain the age of 21 and in accordance with the terms of the Act will be required to undergo training from the 1st July of that year. Of the number 12,500, only 50 per cent. is required to undergo peace training in the Active Citizen Force, so that annually from the 1st July, 1925, 6,250 citizens will be entered for training with Active Citizen Force units, and the remaining 6,250 will

be required to undergo a modified course of training as compulsory members of Defence Rifle Associations for a period of four years.

The present strength of the Active Citizen Force for which provision is made on the Estimates is 10,557. Of this number approximately 5,000 citizens have already served for a period of three years, and will be due for transfer to the Reserve on the 30th June, 1925, on completion of their period of four years' peace training. The effective strength of the Active Citizen Force will then be reduced to approximately 5,000 citizens. The wastage, however, will be made good if the 6,250 citizens due for peace training in their 21st year are posted to the Active Citizen Force on the 1st July, 1925.

The policy of the Department in regard to the Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Forces is gradually to build up to a strength of 25,000 all ranks by the posting each year of 6,250 citizens. At the commencement of the fourth year this strength will be attained and, thereafter, each year 25 per cent. of the strength will be transferred to the Reserve on completion of four years' course of peace training and a like number of recruits will be posted for training in their 21st year. This is the ideal organization on which the *Defence Act* is based. For various reasons, principally the intervention of war, it has never been attained since the commencement of the original Act in 1912.

If, however, the provisions of the Act are to be carried into effect, and the present services are to be maintained, it will be necessary to make financial provision in excess of that which, I understand, the Government is prepared to spend on its defence organization. If this be so, the time has arrived to consider whether the country should adhere to the policy laid down in the *Defence Act* of 1912 and reaffirmed in 1922, *vide* the *Defence Amendment Act*, or whether, in the interests of economy, some modification should be made, and if so, to what extent. This much is clear—it will not be possible to carry out the full provisions of the Act without increased expenditure. Under the *Defence Amendment Act*, for instance, provision is made for a much longer period of continuous training in the first year of a citizen's service than the ten days' camp now allowed. The present members of the Force have passed the recruit's stage and a long period of continuous training is unnecessary. In the case of recruits, however, ten days is altogether too short a period to train efficiently a young citizen in the elements of military drill and discipline.

I would here observe that any increase in the number of citizens accepted for training will not involve the employment of any additional administrative staff. The Department is so organized that it is in a position to cope with a sudden expansion of activities. This must of necessity be so, as any disorganization in the initial stages of an emergency would be fatal to the cause.

2. *Instructional Staff*.—It will be necessary in the very near future to add to the strength of the subordinate instructional staff. In 1921–22, during the period of retrenchment, the strength of this branch of the service was reduced from 131 to 92. This was more or less possible as Active Citizen Force peace training was practically in abeyance. In view, however, of the number of citizens now and in the future to undergo peace training and the insistent demands from districts for additional staff to cope with the routine work and instruction of Cadet Detachments and Defence Rifle Associations, it is essential that the strength of the instructional staff should be materially increased. Arrangements have accordingly been made to train specially-selected members of the South African Permanent Force at the South African Military College for ultimate appointment to the Instructional Corps for district duties.

3. *Appointment of Officers to the S.A. Permanent Force*.—The first permanent officer cadet course for the training of candidates for appointment to commissioned rank in the South African Permanent Force terminated in October,

1923, and was very successful. All the candidates who attended the course were members of the South African Permanent Force and were in possession of the necessary educational qualifications to admit of their appointment to commissioned rank. As the result of the course, 6 received permanent commissions and 4 failed to qualify. Two of the latter were permitted to purchase their discharge from the Force, and the remaining two accepted appointment on the subordinate instructional staff, where the intensive training received by them will stand them in good stead. In order to provide for future vacancies it has been decided to commence a further course and to provide for the training of 20 selected candidates. The regulations provide that no candidate shall be eligible for appointment to commissioned rank unless he shall have passed the matriculation examination or its equivalent, or have passed the Permanent Force Officers' Entrance Examination, the syllabus for which shall be approved by the Minister and the standard of which shall not be lower than matriculation. Candidates from the Permanent Force must be below the age of 28 years. Applications from members of the Permanent Force to attend the course were called for from those who were qualified in respect of age, medical fitness, etc., and (a) who possessed the necessary educational qualifications, and (b) those who had not so qualified, but who were prepared to sit for the Permanent Force Officers' Entrance Examination.

With regard to (b), several candidates sat for the examination, which was arranged by the Public Service Commission, but none of them succeeded in passing. It is perhaps to be expected that a youth who failed to reach the matriculation standard whilst attending school, would not succeed in passing the Permanent Force Officers' Entrance Examination unless he continued his studies after leaving school. It is hoped, therefore, that this Entrance Examination will prove to be an incentive to members of the Force eligible in other respects for promotion to commissioned rank, to continue their educational studies whilst serving in the Force, to fit them for the duties of an officer. Under present-day conditions warfare may be considered as one of the exact sciences and it is impossible to expect an officer to keep in touch with the latest developments and scientific innovations unless his mind has been trained previously by educational study. He must be fit in all respects to keep abreast with the times and to follow the improvements which are continually being effected in the weapons of offence and defence. Of the 20 candidates required for the course, only 11 who were educationally and otherwise qualified for admission to the course at the South African Military College, could be obtained from applicants from the South African Permanent Force. To complete the class it became necessary to seek further afield for qualified candidates and it was decided to invite application from students attending Universities who fulfilled the necessary requirements in respect of age, education, and general fitness for appointment. After the various applicants had been interviewed by Boards of Officers at Cape Town and Pretoria, with a view to determining their general suitability and fitness, 7 candidates were finally selected to undergo the course. The students at present undergoing instruction at the South African Military College for appointment to commissioned rank, therefore, number 18. At the conclusion of the course a qualifying and competitive examination will be held and vacancies to the extent of the number then available will be offered to the successful candidates in the order of their passing. Arrangements have been made with the Public Service Commission to accept, for appointment in the Public Service, candidates—other than members of the Permanent Force—who qualify for appointment to commissioned rank but for whom no vacancy at the time is available. Such candidates will be considered for transfer and appointment to commissioned rank in the Force on suitable vacancies occurring later.

4. *Defence Endowment Account.*—Defence endowment buildings and land, surplus to military requirements, are still being disposed of as favourable opportunity offers. During the course of the year property to the value of £108,660 was sold. In addition, nearly £14,000 was realized from rents, leases, and encroachments. In terms of the *Defence Endowment Act* all moneys derived from the sale or lease of endowment property must be applied to permanent defence works and buildings and to alterations and renovations to existing endowment buildings, providing that no moneys shall be withdrawn from the Account except in pursuance of an Appropriation Act. An amount of approximately £56,000 was expended during the year on the erection of new, and repairs to existing, buildings.

5. *South African Military School.*—That there is no lack of interest on the part of members of the Union Defence Forces is demonstrated by the fact that 1,228 students passed through the various branches of the school during the course of the year. This represents an increase of 559 over the attendance recorded during the preceding twelve months. A gratifying feature is the increased number of officers who voluntarily attended the various courses. Especially is this noticeable in the case of officers of Defence Rifle Associations, 210 of whom attended at the Military School against a total of 50 last year. The title of this institution has been changed to that of the South African Military College. The change is in designation only, as no alteration in personnel or constitution is at present contemplated.

6. *New Accommodation for Defence Headquarters.*—In view of the insanitary condition of the group of buildings at present known as Defence Headquarters, in Market Street, and the obvious desirability of housing the whole of the staff in one building—the Quartermaster-General's staff is at present in occupation of the Artillery Barracks and the Director of Medical Services is at the Union Buildings—Government has decided upon the erection of a new wing at the Artillery Barracks which, when complete, will house the whole of the Headquarters Administrative Staff.

7. *Air Fatalities.*—During the year two regrettable aeroplane accidents occurred which resulted in the death of four members of the South African Air Force. In neither case was the disaster attributable to any structural defects of the machines.

Bombing Accident.—At Kuruman, during the course of an aeroplane bombing demonstration, a bomb accidentally became detached from a machine, and unfortunately exploded amongst a group of spectators, with the result that 6 were killed and 34 were treated in hospital as the result of injuries received. Criminal proceedings were instituted at the instance of the Attorney-General of the Cape and resulted in the honourable acquittal of the pilot concerned.

Machine-Gun Accident.—One civilian was killed and another was wounded as the result of an unfortunate machine-gun accident at Douglas during an aeroplane demonstration. The court exonerated the machine-gun demonstrator from all blame.

8. *Civilian Staff.*—One senior official was retired on pension as the result of reorganization and 3 other officials resigned during the year, 8 were transferred to other Government Departments, 13 were promoted, 32 were appointed, and 2 received commissions in the Permanent Force. The 32 new appointments include 19 former temporary officials. The net increase is 18. In the temporary staff 3 were appointed, 56 appointments were terminated (including 19 appointed to the permanent establishment), and 3 were transferred to other Government Departments. Included in the figures "56 appointments terminated" are 8 posts which were militarized. The total net decrease is 56.

II.—CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

1. *District Staffs*.—District instructional staffs were employed throughout the year on the organization, training, and administration of such units of the Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Forces as were accepted for peace training, and of Defence Rifle Associations and Cadet Detachments. Members fired three musketry courses during the year and a large percentage attended refresher courses at the Military School in drill, musketry, the Vickers gun and Lewis gun; selected members also attended courses in physical and recreational training.

2. *1st Regiment, S.A.M.R.*—Section, troop, and squadron training was carried out. Owing to one of the squadrons being stationed at Cape Town, it was not possible to complete the regimental training in its entirety.

3. *S.A. Field Artillery*.—The batteries performed section and battery training at Roberts Heights and brigade training at Potchefstroom; live-shell practice was also carried out at the latter place. During this practice, shoots with aircraft observation and wireless were conducted with excellent results, especially considering that this was the first occasion on which the Air Force and Artillery had co-operated. Artillery demonstrations were given on three occasions at *wapenskouings*.

4. *Permanent Garrison Artillery*.—Company training was carried out and all ranks were exercised in the different calibre guns in the defences. Gunnery and specialists' courses were also held. The annual manning of the Cape Peninsula Defences took place between the 20th March and 5th April, terminating with light and heavy gun practice seawards.

5. *S.A. Engineer Corps*.—(a) *Fortress Section*.—This unit has been employed in the maintenance of the electric lights, search-lights, military telephones, and works of the defences of the Cape Peninsula.

(b) *Maintenance Section*.—The section has the duty of maintaining all Defence buildings, both in the Cape Peninsula and at Roberts Heights.

6. *Coast Garrison Force*.—The Cape Garrison Artillery performed the full course of non-continuous training. Continuous training, which included gun practice seawards, was performed at Fort Wynyard from the 20th to 29th March, 1924, in conjunction with the Permanent Garrison Artillery.

7. *Active Citizen Force*.—One battery field artillery, 5 mounted rifle regiments, 13 infantry battalions, 2 armoured train units, and 4 medical units were accepted for peace training during 1923–24. All these units performed the prescribed course of non-continuous training.

Continuous training was carried out as follows:—

14th to 23rd August, 1923....	Ladysmith.....	1st and 2nd Mounted Rifles.
11th to 20th September, 1923	Eshowe.....	1st Infantry and 2nd Field Ambulance.
2nd to 11th October, 1923....	Grahamstown..	3rd and 5th Infantry.
16th to 25th October, 1923....	Potchefstroom.	8th Citizen Battery; 5th Mounted Rifles; 7th, 8th, 10th, and 12th Infantry; 1st (Inf.) Battalion, Railways and Harbours Brigade; 1st Field Ambulance.
3rd to 12th March, 1924.....	Wynberg.....	2nd, 6th, and 9th Infantry; 2nd (Inf.) Battalion, Railways and Harbours Brigade; No. 1 Company, S.A.M.C.
12th to 21st April, 1924.....	Creighton.....	3rd Mounted Rifles.
18th to 21st April, 1924.....	Squadron Camps at Squadron Headquarters	19th Mounted Rifles.

At all the above camps, with the exception of the squadron camps of the 19th Mounted Rifles, aircraft co-operated.

During the period of the Wynberg camp, one of the tactical exercises included participation by the ships of the Africa Station; the exercise proved most instructive and was of undoubted value from the point of view of the Cape Peninsula Defence Scheme. The presence of personnel from the Royal Naval and Royal Marines engendered a friendly rivalry with the citizen troops, which is all to the good. During the exercise wireless communication was maintained between the air and a ground station. The ground station also received messages from H.M. ships.

8. *S.A. Naval Service.*—(i) *Hydrographic Survey, H.M.S.A.S. "Protea."*—From the 1st July to the 4th October, H.M.S.A.S. "Protea" was in the Dockyard, Simonstown, refitting. On the 5th October she sailed for Durban and commenced a survey of the coast between Durban and Bashee River, on which work she was continuously employed until the end of the year under review.

(ii) *Mine-sweeping Vessels.*—In accordance with the policy decided upon, these vessels were engaged throughout the year in training the personnel of the Mine-sweeping Section of the S.A. Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Eleven officers and 138 men of that section, out of a total average quarterly strength of 15 officers and 180 men, went through their annual fortnight's training afloat on H.M.S.A.S. "Sonneblom" and "Immortelle." These ratings were drawn from the four ports of Cape Town, Durban Port Elizabeth, and East London. Under the scheme, the first week, when instruction in the general work of the ship was given, was spent in harbour. The second week was spent at sea, where instruction in mine-sweeping was given, the "A" and "Oropesa" sweeps being worked. The progress made by both upper deck and engine-room ratings was good.

These ships were in dry dock from 1st November to 18th December for annual refit, and for half-yearly docking from 5th June to 16th June.

(iii) *R.N.V.R., S.A. Division.*—(a) *Training Afloat.*—The following table shows the number of officers and men embarked for training afloat in H.M. ships:—

R.N.V.R. Base.	Number of Officers and Men Embarked in			
	H.M. Ships.		H.M.S.A. Ships.	
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.
Cape Town.....	—	41	7	43
Durban.....	3	60	1	19
Port Elizabeth.....	1	21	3	34
East London.....	2	40	—	42
TOTAL.....	6	162	11	138

(b) *Annual Musketry Course.*—The number of officers and men who fired the annual musketry course was as follows:—Cape Town, 187; Durban, 110; Port Elizabeth, 94; East London, 69; total, 460, or 70 per cent. of total strength.

9. *South African Military School.*—The South African Military School comprises the following branches :—(a) General ; (b) Musketry ; (c) Signalling ; (d) Training Depot.

(a) *The General Branch.*—(i) *Permanent Force Cadets.*—The Permanent Force Cadet Course referred to in last year's Report concluded at the end of October, 1923, when 6 out of the 10 remaining cadets were commissioned in the Permanent Force, 2 were appointed to the S.A. Instructional Corps, and the remaining 2 left the Force.

(ii) *Active Citizen Force Officers' Courses.*—The attendance of officers of the Active Citizen Force was more satisfactory than during the previous year. The revival of Active Citizen Force training has certainly been a contributing factor, and there now appears to exist a keen desire to attend these courses on the part of officers belonging to units accepted for peace training. A total of 46 officers attended the three courses held—two of three weeks, one of fourteen days.

(iii) *Cadet Officers.*—The manner in which officers of Cadet Detachments have come forward to attend courses has again been most gratifying. 134 officers attended during the period under review (two courses each of three weeks) as against 115 during the previous training year.

(iv) *Defence Rifle Association Officers' Courses.*—These courses, which were initiated as an experiment, have become very popular. In all, 210 officers attended at three courses, each of three weeks, as against 50 during the previous year. The D.R.A. officers take a keen and live interest in all branches of military work in which they are instructed.

(v) *Instructors' (Permanent Force) Qualifying Course.*—A course for members of the Permanent Force to train as instructors was commenced on the 12th February, 1923, and terminated on the 31st August, 1923, when 18 non-commissioned officers qualified for appointment as instructors. The course was the most thorough of its kind conducted at the S.A. Military School, and the non-commissioned officers who qualified undoubtedly provided a valuable and efficient body of men for the S.A. Instructional Corps.

(vi) *Physical and Recreational Training.*—During January, 1923, Major T. H. Wand-Tetley, the Wiltshire Regiment, was seconded to the Union Defence Forces by the War Office. This officer conducted two courses at the S.A. Military School, each of three months' duration, and passed out 3 officers and 52 other ranks as instructors in physical and recreational training. Major Wand-Tetley's experience and methods of instruction have proved of the greatest value and have resulted in organized recreational training being placed on a proper footing in the Permanent Force.

(vii) *Active Citizen Force Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers' Courses.*—During the year general courses for warrant and non-commissioned officers were introduced for the first time since the reopening of the Military School. 47 students attended two such courses—one of three weeks and one of fourteen days—and the results prove that these courses are of great value in improving the efficiency of the non-commissioned officers of the Active Citizen Force. It is accordingly intended to include such courses wherever possible in future syllabuses.

(viii) *Cooking Courses.*—During the year the cookery instructor attended a refresher course in England. One course was conducted at which 36 regimental cooks qualified. These courses are now being conducted at regular intervals and are providing a long-felt want. The cookery instructor, on his return from England, was attached to the various messes of the S.A. Permanent

Force units and assisted very materially in putting the cooking and messing systems on a proper basis.

(ix) *Training Camps.*—During the year members of the staff of the General Branch attended training camps at Ladysmith, Eshowe, and Potchefstroom, and assisted in the instruction of units of the Active Citizen Force.

(b) *Musketry Branch.*—The following subjects are dealt with at the Musketry Branch:—Rifle, bayonet, Webley pistol, Vickers gun, Lewis gun, Barr & Stroud rangefinder.

The Musketry Branch dealt with a total of 632 students at seven courses during the year. In addition, 340 students were dealt with at training camps held at Ladysmith, Eshowe, Potchefstroom, Grahamstown, Wynberg, and Creighton. A miniature battle practice range was completed and put into use during the year. This range is proving of great value in bringing home to students valuable lessons in section and platoon or troop leading. A tin ring bayonet fighting course is now in use and is proving very useful. Two light mortars are now on charge to this branch and demonstrations with sand-filled bombs have been carried out. It was found that in firing these with a Blue X4 cartridge with 45° elevation, the approximate centreing of the 50 per cent. zone was 900 yards from the mortars as against 700 yards in the United Kingdom. This must be ascribed to the altitude (4,850 feet).

(c) *Signal Branch.*—This branch dealt with 95 students at four courses—two of four months and two of six weeks—during the year. In addition, the instructional staff attended the following A.C.F. Training Camps:—Ladysmith, Eshowe, Potchefstroom, Grahamstown, Wynberg, Creighton.

(d) *Training Depot Branch.*—All Mounted Riflemen and Field Artillery recruits are passed through this depot, which is under the command of the Commandant of the Military School. During the year the musketry training of recruits was transferred from the Musketry Branch to the Training Depot Branch with entirely satisfactory results. The object for which the Training Depot Branch was established is to fit and prepare recruits adequately for the duties they will be required to perform as soldiers. The average South African youth, little accustomed to the stern discipline demanded of a soldier, has to be handled with a great deal of sympathy and understanding. Recruits in the Training Depot are lectured regularly on the duties of a soldier, obedience, cleanliness, cheerfulness, honour, and courage, and they are made to realize what the term "soldier" means. A recruit, if drafted into a unit without being taught these subjects by specially selected instructors, would be unable to adjust his mental outlook, to suit the strange surroundings in which he suddenly found himself. He would be unlikely to develop in the desired manner, and probably, finding himself out of his depth and very uncomfortable, would take the first and easiest opportunity of quitting the Force. The instructors at the depot, through experience, have learnt to treat recruits with sympathy and firmness. The Training Depot is virtually a school with the instructors as schoolmasters. A progressive system of training is adopted. Recruits are, in the first instance, treated gently but firmly, and as they progress they are gradually made to realize the strict discipline which is necessary in an army. Minor offences which they committed as raw recruits are no longer condoned when they are advanced into senior squads.

(e) *Staff.*—The work which the Commandant and his staff have been called upon to carry out during the year has been heavy; so much so that an increase of staff will become necessary if there is to be no decrease in the number of courses held at the school. Further, the present standard attained is bound to suffer if the pressure is not eased.

10. *Courses in England.*—One officer completed a course of instruction at the School of Military Engineering, Chatham. Three officers are undergoing courses at military educational establishments in England; one each at the School of Artillery (Instructor in Gunnery), Artillery College (Ordnance Officer), and Royal Ordnance Corps School of Instruction (Ordnance Officer).

11. *Defence Rifle Associations.*—(i) *General.*—Interest in the Defence Rifle Association organization was well maintained during the year. In some districts, however, owing to the severe drought and locust invasion, the attendance at Bisleys, *wapenshowings*, and musketry practices organized by the Department was not up to standard. In No. 8 Military District, where all Defence Rifle Associations had been disbanded subsequent to the revolt in March, 1922, reorganization made satisfactory progress.

The strength of Defence Rifle Associations at the 30th June, 1924, is shown in the following tables:—

Locality.	Associations.	Officers.	Other Ranks.	Total.
(a) PROVINCES.				
Cape.....	447	867	46,836	47,703
Natal.....	60	67	3,430	3,497
Orange Free State.....	250	510	26,725	27,235
Transvaal.....	373	1,194	57,387	58,581
UNION (at 30/6/24)....	1,130	2,638	134,378	137,016
UNION (at 30/6/23)....	1,087	2,527	133,872	136,399
(b) MILITARY DISTRICTS.				
1.....	6	15	618	633
2.....	61	123	7,702	7,825
3.....	90	152	7,497	7,649
4.....	44	45	2,748	2,793
5.....	16	22	682	704
6.....	102	331	14,984	15,315
7.....	101	372	16,862	17,234
8.....	8	21	892	913
9.....	162	470	24,649	25,119
10.....	147	309	15,329	15,638
11.....	103	201	11,396	11,597
12.....	56	110	6,527	6,637
13.....	66	157	5,456	5,613
14.....	48	99	5,217	5,316
15.....	120	211	13,819	14,030
TOTAL.....	1,130	2,638	134,378	137,016

Number of associations formed during the year 1923-24..... 87
 Number of associations disbanded during the year 1923-24..... 44

(ii) *Commandos*.—The number of Commandos established under paragraph 2 of the Regulations governing Defence Rifle Associations is 129.

12. *Cadets*.—(i) *Strength*.—During the year there was an increase in the number of cadets and 25 new detachments were formed. A few small units were, however, disbanded. The following statement shows the number of detachments, officers, and cadets in each of the military districts at the 30th March, 1924:—

Military District No.	Detachments.	Officers.	Cadets.
1.....	36	109	4,025
2.....	28	97	3,092
3.....	34	45	3,091
4.....	17	27	1,749
5.....	27	28	2,294
6.....	29	78	2,190
7.....	19	55	2,001
8.....	69	249	8,538
9.....	52	81	3,095
10.....	17	37	1,526
11.....	22	54	2,073
12.....	15	28	927
13.....	10	30	1,091
14.....	25	81	2,640
15.....	33	65	2,265
TOTAL.....	433	1,064	40,597

These figures show an increase of 29 officers and 1,281 cadets since 30th June, 1923.

(ii) *Instruction*.—Instruction to cadet detachments is given as frequently as possible by the members of the Permanent Force Instructional Staff. At other times the instruction is given by cadet officers.

(iii) *Encampments*.—Owing to the financial stringency no cadet camps were held during the year. A number of detachments, however, held bivouacs. The only financial assistance given by the Government was a maximum of 2s. per cadet for transport and 4s. per cadet for rations. These bivouacs were an undoubted success and the efficiency gained thereby was very appreciable.

(iv) *Musketry*.—All cadets carried out the 2nd class cadet musketry course with miniature ammunition.

(v) *Contingency Grant*.—The cadet contingency grant remained at the reduced rate of 1s. 6d. per cadet per annum.

(vi) *Competitions*.—To encourage shooting and general efficiency, trophies, provided by the Government and by private individuals, are competed for in all military districts, with good results on the efficiency of the cadet movement. Last year's results in the Imperial Challenge Shield competitions, senior and junior, show the progressive interest taken by the South African cadets in these

competitions. The following is extracted from a report by the National Rifle Association on these competitions:—

For all-round progress South Africa is again easily first, for not only have numbers largely increased, but that increase has been accomplished without any falling off in the standard of shooting previously set up. No less than two-fifths of the prizes have been won by the boys of the Union. These remarkably successful results again testify to the careful training provided and to the importance attached to it throughout South Africa. South Africa won both Imperial Challenge Shields, i.e. Hilton College Cadets, Natal, being awarded the Senior, and the Emmasdale Industrial School Cadets, Heidelberg, the Junior Shield. The Governor-General's trophy was awarded to these two detachments jointly.

III.—ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

Adjutant-General: LIEUT.-COL. D. O. VAN VELDEN, D.T.D., D.S.O.

1. *General*.—Registration of citizens under the provisions of the *Defence Act* was carried out during the year, and with a sound record system functioning, the staff work which fell to be dealt with by this section, with the assistance of a small extra clerical staff temporarily employed to meet the work of registration, was smoothly accomplished. The militarization of a portion of the clerical staff resulted in the more efficient handling of the routine office work.

2. *Maintenance of the Forces in Personnel*.—(i) *Attestations, etc.*—

A.—Permanent Force.

Military.—The number of applications received for enlistment in the Force was not as great as during the preceding twelve months, but was, however, greatly in excess of the number of men required to replace wastage.

Applications Received.	Rejected.		Attested.	Pending.
	Medically Unfit.	Other Reasons.		
1,658	214	982	359	103

The number of men attested in the different arms of the Service was as follows:—Riflemen, 120; gunners, 92; drivers, 66; sappers, 12; privates, 57; trumpeters, 12.

The majority of recruits attested was of Dutch South African parentage. From the number of applications received from the country districts it was evident that the advantages of the Service were becoming better known. The educational standard of recruits was higher during the year under review than during any previous year. A number of men of Junior Certificate or Matriculation standard enlisted. The physical standard of men presenting themselves was, generally speaking, very good.

Naval Service.—Twenty men were attested in the South African Naval Service.

B.—Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Force.

The units as detailed below were undergoing training during 1923-24:—

**UNITS OF THE COAST GARRISON AND ACTIVE CITIZEN FORCES ACCEPTED
FOR PEACE TRAINING (OTHER RANKS), 1923-24.**

Military District No.	Unit.	Authorized Establish-ment.	Strength at 1/7/23.	Strength at 30/6/24.
1	Garrison Artillery.....	150	49	40
	2nd Infantry (D.E.O.R.).....	320	286	265
	6th Infantry (D.C. and S.O.C.H.)....	350	297	320
	9th Infantry (C.P.R.).....	340	218	161
	No. 1 Company, S.A.M.C.....	87	54	48
2	3rd Infantry (P.A.G.).....	370	282	353
3	5th Infantry (Kaffrarian Rifles).....	280	220	208
	19th Mounted Rifles (T.M.R.).....	280	265	252
4	1st Mounted Rifles (N.C.).....	340	305	348
	2nd Mounted Rifles (N.C.).....	260	210	248
5	3rd Mounted Rifles (N.M.R.).....	383	318	364
	1st Infantry (D.L.I.).....	777	729	735
	2nd Field Ambulance, S.A.M.C.....	100	36	94
8	8th Citizen Battery (T.H.A.).....	103	85	103
	8th Infantry (Transvaal Scottish)....	625	507	484
	1st Field Ambulance, S.A.M.C.....	100	48	88
	5th Mounted Rifles (I.L.H.).....	239	234	228
	10th Infantry (Wit. Rifles).....	361	361	333
	11th Infantry (Rand Light Infantry).	361	189	350
9	12th Infantry (Pretoria Regiment)....	520	374	324
13	7th Infantry (Kimberley Regiment)...	315	237	245
	<i>Railways and Harbours Brigade.</i>			
	1st Infantry Battalion.....	969	862	917
	2nd Infantry Battalion.....	869	695	677
	No. 1 Armoured Train, Cape Town...	38	—	38
	No. 2 Armoured Train, Johannesburg.	38	—	38
	No. 2 Company, S.A.M.C. (allotted to Railways and Harbours Brigade)...	87	—	55
	TOTAL.....	8,562	6,861	7,316

C.—*Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.*—

The establishment and strength of the companies and mine-sweeping flotillas at 30th June, 1924, were as follows :—

Heading.	Companies.*					Mine-sweeping Flotillas.			
	A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	Cape-Town.	Durban.	East London.	Port Elizabeth.
Establishment	98	98	98	98	98	72	72	36	36
Strength....	101	101	111	97	83	69	69	36	24

* Recruits up to a number not exceeding twenty per company may be borne in addition to the establishment.

(ii) *Establishment Tables.*—The following establishment tables for the Union Defence Forces were completed during the year and promulgated :—

- A Company, South African Native Labour Corps (War).
- Revised Establishment Table, Railways and Harbours Brigade (Armoured Train, Peace and War).
- An Ammunition Column (War).
- A Supply Depot (Peace and War).
- A Permanent Ordnance Depot (Peace).
- A Permanent Central Armoury (Peace).
- A Permanent Barrack Store (Peace).
- A Permanent Detached Magazine (Peace and War).
- Intelligence Section, Railways and Harbours Brigade (War).

3. *Registration of Citizens under the Defence Act.*—(i) *General.*—In accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the *S.A. Defence Act Amendment Act, 1922*, registration of citizens was carried out during January, 1924. In 1913 and 1914, district staff officers were responsible for the organization of registrations of citizens in their respective districts, but for purposes of the 1924 registration a central registration office was established in this Section and all the preparatory organization was carried out here. Registrations were effected at 243 magistrates' offices and 1,001 police stations. According to the census for 1921 approximately 68,000 citizens were liable for registration. The number of registration forms received and checked actually totalled 69,399; of this number only 621 were returned for amendment. Over 8,000 citizens registered themselves who were not liable for registration, and a letter of notification to this effect was addressed to each citizen concerned. The following table shows the registrations effected up to 31st March, 1924 :—

REGISTRATION OF CITIZENS, 1924.
FINAL RETURN OF REGISTRATIONS EFFECTED, 31st MARCH, 1924.

SUMMARY.

Military District.	Approximate Number Liable for Registration.	Total Number Registrations Effected. (By Ages.)				Total, with Addition of Serving Members.	Total Voluntary Entries, Mounted. (By Ages.)				Total.	Total Voluntary Entries, Dismounted or Infantry. (By Ages.)				Total.	Total Non-Voluntary Registrations. (By Ages.)				Total.
		17.	18.	19.	20.		17.	18.	19.	20.		17.	18.	19.	20.		17.	18.	19.	20.	
		1	5,594	1,165	1,335		1,192	1,032	5,000	18		12	13	19	62		1,100	1,277	1,117	934	
2	6,166	1,203	1,430	1,345	1,181	5,223	86	42	40	40	158	1,010	1,237	1,198	1,084	4,579	157	101	107	57	422
3	3,781	892	918	820	751	3,477	122	148	144	117	531	702	718	636	587	2,643	68	52	40	47	207
4	2,195	451	498	442	384	1,858	197	203	206	175	841	209	202	209	177	797	45	33	27	32	137
5	2,747	622	676	520	394	2,567	73	85	58	48	264	512	563	441	321	1,837	37	23	21	25	111
6	3,738	802	812	867	713	3,199	240	237	286	235	998	497	472	487	379	1,835	65	103	94	99	361
7	4,538	934	1,008	951	822	3,715	166	191	174	168	699	654	718	673	571	2,616	114	99	104	83	400
8	9,801	2,433	2,230	2,133	1,842	9,101	507	585	568	406	2,156	1,823	1,532	1,451	1,195	6,001	103	113	114	151	481
9	7,147	1,674	1,796	1,845	1,672	7,267	121	128	144	144	537	1,371	1,469	1,504	1,258	5,602	182	199	197	270	848
10	4,831	1,077	1,132	1,098	1,022	4,329	315	375	397	369	1,456	594	620	550	523	2,227	168	137	151	130	586
11	4,328	945	1,070	950	804	3,769	159	224	177	168	728	672	746	675	540	2,633	114	100	98	96	408
12	2,288	346	503	471	415	1,735	93	140	139	119	491	235	330	313	274	1,152	18	33	19	22	92
13	2,544	439	523	495	372	1,903	76	92	108	91	367	348	419	362	271	1,400	15	12	25	10	62
14	4,899	991	1,204	1,115	993	4,303	28	35	45	46	154	865	1,051	952	845	3,713	98	118	113	102	436
15	3,727	699	833	827	694	3,053	88	113	141	117	459	549	631	597	520	2,297	62	89	89	57	297
TOTAL	68,324	14,673	15,968	15,071	13,091	60,504	2,239	2,670	2,840	2,352	9,901	11,141	12,035	11,165	9,479	43,820	1,293	1,263	1,266	1,260	5,082

One hundred and eighty-six citizens have been prosecuted for failure to register during January, 1924. The majority of these were reprimanded, but in some cases fines varying from 6d. to £5 were imposed.

The volume of work was heaviest during the period January to March, 1924, and the following staff was then actually employed thereon: Staff sergeant, 1; privates, 5; temporary clerks, 16; typist, 1. The staff was reduced from 1st April to 1 staff sergeant, 1 corporal, and 7 privates. The whole of the staff dealing with registrations were quite new to the work and were therefore handicapped to a large extent. Many difficulties arose which could not be foreseen and which entailed extra work. For this we shall be prepared when registration is carried out in 1925. Over 2,000 letters were sent out on miscellaneous matters in connexion with registration to magistrates, police, district staff officers, and citizens. From early in January an average of fifty post cards per diem were received from citizens notifying their change of address. This entails a great deal of work, as the record cards must have the new addresses entered thereon. The citizen's name is often irregularly given and difficulty in tracing the record card is therefore experienced.

(ii) *Reservists (Class "A")*.—The total number of reservists on strength at 30th June, 1924, was 32,281—22,221 being available and 10,060 not available.

4. Officers of the Union Defence Forces—Appointments, Promotions, etc.— A.—Permanent Force.

(i) *Appointments*.—2 majors, 1 captain, 23 lieutenants (including 13 short-service Air Force commissions), and 2 sub-lieutenants.

(ii) *Promotions*.—1 lieut.-colonel, 2 majors, 7 captains.

(iii) *Resignations and Retirements*.—2 majors, 3 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 acting sub-lieutenants.

(iv) *Deaths*.—2 lieutenants.

(v) *Cashiered*.—1 lieutenant.

(vi) *Services Dispensed with*.—1 surgeon lieut.-commander.

(vii) *Secondments from the Imperial Forces*.—2 lieut.-commanders and 1 lieutenant from Royal Navy; 1 major from the Imperial Army; 1 major from the Royal Air Force.

(viii) *Return to the Imperial Forces*.—1 lieut.-commander to the Royal Navy; 1 major to the Royal Air Force.

B.—Citizen Forces.

(i) *Appointments*.—90 officers to units accepted for peace training; 28 officers to the Railways and Harbours Brigade; 73 officers to the Supernumerary List, A.C.F. (Cadet Section); 4 officers to the R.N.V.R. (S.A. Division).

(ii) *Services Dispensed with*.—18 officers. The reason in the case of half this number was failure to render annual report as required by the Regulations for the Reserve of Officers.

C.—Officers Posted to the Reserve of Officers.

Transferred from the Cape Garrison and Active Citizen Forces.....	80
Defence Rifle Association Officers.....	220
S.A. Air Force Special Reserve of Pilot Officers..	46
S.A. Air Force General Reserve of Officers.....	19
Other appointments to the Reserve.....	62
TOTAL.....	427

D.—Retired List.

78 officers were placed on the retired list, having reached the age limit.

5. *Strength of Officers.*—The following table gives the strength and distribution of all officers of the Union Defence Forces at 30th June, 1924 :—

UNION DEFENCE FORCES.—STRENGTH OF OFFICERS, 30TH JUNE, 1924.

Force.	Authorized.	Actual Strength.
S.A. Permanent Force.....	200	184*
Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Force—		
Military District No. 1.....	137	67
" " " 2.....	116	56
" " " 3.....	118	56
" " " 4.....	86	66
" " " 5.....	74	54
" " " 6.....	70	34
" " " 7.....	92	38
" " " 8.....	132	106
" " " 9.....	103	49
" " " 10.....	76	13
" " " 11.....	79	19
" " " 12.....	30	4
" " " 13.....	87	33
" " " 14.....	98	31
" " " 15.....	99	35
Railways and Harbours Brigade.....	298	269
Supernumerary.....	—	100
Supernumerary (Cadet Section).....	—	406
Chaplains.....	—	2
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.....	44	33
Reserve of Officers.....	—	2,395
TOTAL.....	—	4,050

* Includes officers seconded from the Imperial Forces.

The above reflects an increase over last year of 194 officers. In connexion with the numbers against military, districts the difference in strength as compared with authorized establishment is due to the fact that many units have not been accepted for peace training. In such units no appointments are being made.

6. *Total Strength of Defence Forces.*—The total available strength of the Union Defence Forces (excluding Defence Rifle Associations) on 30th June, 1924, was as follows :—

Force.	Officers.	Other Ranks.
South African Permanent Force.....	184	1,701
Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.....	33	691
Coast Garrison and Active Citizen Force.....	400	7,316
Reserve of Officers.....	2,395	—
Class "A" Reserve.....	—	22,221
TOTAL.....	3,012	31,929

The above does not include 37 sisters of the South African Military Nursing Service, or 1,038 officers holding A.C.F. commissions, who are attached to units which have not been accepted for peace training and otherwise have no personnel.

7. *Military Law*.—During the year ended 30th June, 1924, 37 courts martial were reviewed. 89 charges were dealt with by those courts, the most serious being 15 for theft, 11 for desertion, 1 for fraudulent enlistment, 15 by reason of loss by neglect of clothing and equipment. The remainder were offences of less serious nature, such as breaking out of barracks, absence without leave, neglecting to obey orders, etc. Of the convictions obtained 3 were quashed on review. In the civil courts 300 members of the A.C.F. were prosecuted for absence without leave from training parades and camps.

8. *Courts of Inquiry, Discipline, Naval and Military Codes, etc.*—(i) *Courts of Inquiry*.—The proceedings of 22 courts, assembled during the year to inquire into the loss of public moneys, damage to Government property, etc., were reviewed, and the necessary disciplinary action taken. 15 courts of inquiry on illegal absentees were also reviewed by this section.

(ii) *Discipline*.—Minor offences committed by members of the Permanent Force exceeded those of the previous year. As regards the citizen forces, the number of citizens prosecuted exceeded that of the year 1922–23. It was found that there was a growing tendency amongst members of this Force to change their addresses without notifying their commanding officers, with the result that there was a loss of Government clothing and equipment. Stringent measures were taken to put an end to this unsatisfactory state of affairs, and district staff officers were instructed to take immediate measures without reference to Defence Headquarters. This accounts for the increase of the prosecutions mentioned. During the year the question arose of reporting to the Controller and Auditor General and the Attorney-General in terms of the Financial Regulations cases of loss of Government property due to theft or fraud. The peculiar position of this Department in respect of its military personnel and the impracticability of reporting cases such as, for instance, the petty theft by one soldier from his comrade, were duly pointed out, and a request was made that the regulation concerned should be amended so as to exclude “the Services.” So far the matter has not been satisfactorily adjusted.

(iii) *Naval and Military Codes, etc.*—During the year drafts of the Union Naval Discipline Code and Naval Disciplinary Regulations were prepared and forwarded to the Admiralty for remarks. The review of the Military Law Handbook was also completed and is now in course of preparation for the Government Printer.

9. *Honours and Awards*.—(i) *Orders and Decorations for the Great War*.—During the year the issue of all orders and decorations conferred on officers of the Union Defence Forces was completed. The awards numbered in all 1,265.

(ii) *Anglo-Boer War Republican Awards*.—The following awards have been made to date:—

Decoratie voor Trouwe Dienst.....	503
Anglo-Boer War Medals.....	7,483
Wound Ribands.....	907

(iii) *Long Service Decorations and Medals.*—During the year the following were issued :—

Colonial Auxiliary Forces Officers' Decorations.....	38
Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medals.....	75
Permanent Force Long Service and Good Conduct Medals	9

(iv) *Battle Honours for the Great War.*—Regimental committees have been convened and have sat to examine war diaries, and lists have been prepared of battle honours claimed by the various units of the Union Defence Forces. When the honours have been finally approved of they will appear against regiments in the official officers' list and will also be emblazoned on the regimental colours of the units concerned.

10. *Ceremonial.*—Guards of honour, escorts, etc., were arranged, amongst other, for the following occasions :—The opening of the Session of Parliament; the arrival at and departure from the capitals of the Governor-General; the presentation of colours and unveiling of memorials; the farewell parade before His Royal Highness the Governor-General of the Roberts Heights Garrison, and the departure of His Royal Highness from South Africa at Durban; the reception of His Excellency the Governor of Southern Rhodesia; the celebrations in connexion with Armistice Day; the arrival at Cape Town and Pretoria of the Governor-General His Excellency the Earl of Athlone; the centenary celebrations at Durban; and the observance of His Majesty the King's birthday and Union Day by the firing of the necessary salutes.

11. *Record Branch.*—This branch of the section was brought into being when the Permanent Force was reconstituted. It deals with the complete record of every man in the Force from the time of his enlistment to the date of his discharge, including all questions relating to re-engagement, postings, promotions, transfers, dates of contributions to pension fund, pensions, married establishment, records of children, increments of officers, seniority roll for promotion, special qualifications for use after discharge in obtaining employment, etc. In addition, a complete check is kept of the establishments of the Force (some 1,900 all ranks) so that the strengths of the various units shall not be exceeded, and against each authorized post the incumbent's name is shown. The personnel of the Force is constantly changing, a large number of senior non-commissioned officers and men having taken their discharges.

The following table shows the length of service of the warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the Permanent Force, which approximately averages only 7½ years.

Private soldiers may be considered as recruits :—

Service.	Number.
20 years and over.....	45
15 to 19 years.....	22
10 to 14 years.....	76
5 to 9 years.....	66
1 to 4 years.....	178
TOTAL.....	387

The following casualties have been recorded during the period under review :—

Cause.	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Deaths.....	2	6
Retirements, etc.....	12	120
Discharges.....	—	190
Desertions.....	—	24
Transfers to South African Police.....	—	2
TOTAL.....	14	342

12. *War Records.*—(i) *Strength.*—The strength of this staff was reduced from 20 to 8 during the year, this reduction being responsible for the decrease in the output of this branch as compared with that reflected in the last annual report.

(ii) *Archives.*—The General Records or Archives Branch work occupied a large part of the time of the limited staff. Requests for information from this branch continued to be numerous.

(iii) *Plaques and Scrolls.*—The number of plaques and scrolls issued during the year was 296 and 195, leaving a balance to be issued of 527 and 382 respectively. The distribution was proceeding slowly and became increasingly difficult owing to the inability to trace the next-of-kin.

(iv) *Soldiers' Graves.*—Headstone inscriptions and cemetery register forms continued to be received and were dealt with as expeditiously as possible. A few applications only were received for the original wooden crosses from graves in France. 281 advices of exhumations show an increase over last year and the next-of-kin were advised without delay. Personal effects of deceased soldiers received were disposed of as requested by the next-of-kin.

(v) *Medals, War Badges, Emblems, etc.*—61 applications for Silver War Badges were received and 43 were approved and issued; the same number of applications for the King's Certificate were dealt with and 22 were issued; 132 certificates of mention in dispatches and 16 commission forms were issued; a number of these certificates and forms remain on hand and every endeavour is being made to dispose of them. The following medals have been engraved and disposed of :—

Description.	Engraved.	Disposed of.
Decoratie voor Trouwe Dienst.....	57	57
Anglo-Boere Oorlog Medal.....	1,164	1,164
Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.....	30	30
Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal.....	56	56
1914-15 Star.....	857	1,427
British War Medal.....	4,675	4,805
Victory Medal.....	3,616	3,724
Mercantile Marine Medal.....	11	11
Police Long Service Medal.....	1,016	1,016
Prisons Long Service Medal.....	36	36
TOTAL.....	11,518	12,326

The following remain to be issued :—16,636 1914-15 Stars, 40,842 British War Medals, 21,058 Victory Medals.

IV.—QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Quartermaster-General: COLONEL C. BRINK, D.T.D., D.S.O.

1. *General*.—The period under review was one of tranquillity and it was, therefore, possible to consolidate the position brought about by the reorganization of this Section referred to in last year's annual report. The militarization of the European staffs in the Ordnance, Supplies and Transport, and Engineer Services was completed, with satisfactory results. A number of the warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the S.A.M.R. taken over by this Section in 1922, were retired on pension or gratuity during the year, by reason of their non-acceptance of the new conditions of service. An efficient staff, however, is gradually being built up, although the inexperience of the recruits has naturally thrown an increased strain on the older members. The militarization of the non-European employees in the Ordnance, Supplies and Transport, Engineer and Veterinary Services, was also completed, and proved most beneficial from the point of view of efficiency.

During the year, as a result of the reorganization of the Section, the post of Chief Clerk, Administration, became redundant. The duties of the General and Financial Branches were combined under the General Branch for purposes of centralization and more effective control.

A number of training camps and bivouacs were held during the period covered by this Report, at which the usual staff for Administration, Ordnance, Supplies and Transport, and Veterinary Services were furnished from this Section.

2. *Ordnance*.—There were no abnormal circumstances in connexion with the activities of the Ordnance Branch during the period under review.

(i) *Stores Transactions*.—The aggregate value of stores received and issued was £664,028, the receipts amounting to £310,857, and the issues to £353,171. These figures do not include the transactions on vote charge (barrack stores, signalling and wireless equipment), nor do they include gift stores received from the Imperial Government. Of the issues, the sum of £31,634 represents issues made on payment to other Government Departments and Provincial Administrations.

(ii) *Sales*.—Sales of unserviceable, redundant, and obsolete stores were held in all three depots. Sales of stores, the property of the Imperial Government, held during the year, realized £32,796. With the exception of a few small lots the whole of the Imperial Government stores have now been disposed of.

(iii) *Ammunition*.—During the year the question with regard to a large quantity of war stock cartridges, which had been the source of complaint, was the subject of negotiation with the War Office, and the settlement arrived at was favourable to the Union Government.

(iv) *Depots*.—No outstanding features calling for special comment occurred at the Pretoria, Cape Town, or Tempe depots during the period under review. At the Pretoria depot, however, considerable additional work had to be coped with, owing to the necessity of vacating certain store sheds in order to make room for the artillery workshops, which were moved from Roberts Heights.

(v) *Staff*.—At the end of December the Officer Commanding S.A. Ordnance Corps retired on having reached the age limit, the post remaining vacant. His successor has, however, been nominated and is now undergoing a course of instruction in the United Kingdom, from which he is due back shortly.

3. *Central Armoury*.—During the year, in addition to the usual duties of the armoury, inspections were carried out at the Cape Town, Tempe, and Pieter-

maritzburg armouries; South African Air Force Depot and Zwartkop Aerodrome; South African Police, Witwatersrand area and Pretoria West depot; Permanent Force and A.C.F. units at Cape Town and Durban. Armourers were in attendance at the various Bisleys and were detailed to carry out repairs at training camps. Various services were also performed for other Government departments.

4. *Inspecting Ordnance Officer's Branch.*—(i) *Inspection of Explosives.*—The normal work in connexion with the inspection of explosives was carried out. Shortage of staff at Cape Town made it very difficult to keep the work up to date. The stock of cartridges, S.A. Ball .303 VI, of war time manufacture having become expended, supplies of Kynoch 1923 ammunition were purchased. This ammunition gave uniformly excellent results; a complaint that it left excessive nickel in the barrel was not substantiated. Serious complaints were received concerning one lot of cartridges S.A. Ball .303 VII, and on investigation it was found that although the cases were marked R.L. they had been reloaded by other contractors, which may account for abnormal behaviour. This lot was withdrawn from service.

(ii) *Artillery Depot and Workshops.*—In addition to the normal repairs and maintenance, modifications to armament were carried out as far as stores were available. Two batteries of 18-pr. Q.F. guns (air recuperator type) were withdrawn from the S.A. Field Artillery, and were replaced by one battery of 13-pr. Q.F. guns and one battery of 18-pr. Q.F. guns (spring recuperator). Two 18-pr. Q.F. guns "P" mountings were suitably mounted in armoured trucks and handed over to the Railways and Harbours Brigade, after being tested on the Quagga Poort range with satisfactory results. Two others were prepared in readiness and placed in store. Owing to the separation of the combined aircraft and artillery depot early in March, 1924, the whole of the armament and artillery stores, together with the machinery and tools, comprising the artillery workshops, were transferred from Roberts Heights to Artillery Barracks. All artillery stores, guns, vehicles, and appurtenances have been handed over to the Ordnance Depot.

5. *Supplies and Transport.*—(i) *General.*—The work of this branch was considerably increased as a result of the introduction of the rationing system for the Permanent Force, and the resumption of Citizen Force Training, and it became necessary during the year to increase slightly the establishment. At the 30th June, 1924, the strength of the Supply and Transport Services was as follows: 5 officers, 24 non-commissioned officers, 27 privates, 2 civilians and 106 natives.

(ii) *Mechanical Transport.*—There were 18 motor vehicles on charge at 30th June, 1924, as compared with 21 at the 30th June, 1923. Mechanical transport services were maintained at Roberts Heights, Pretoria, and in the Cape Peninsula. Six Ford one-ton truck chassis were purchased during the year for conversion into 4 ambulances and 2 light lorries. The bodies were built at the Aircraft Depot. The average running cost was: solid tyred vehicles 45·33d. per mile; pneumatic tyred vehicles 15·05d. per mile, as against 32·47d. and 18·33d. in the previous year. The higher running cost of solid tyred vehicles is attributable to 2 Packhard lorries, which had reached such a stage of wear that maintenance cost had become excessive. They have since been disposed of. Eleven vehicles were sold and realized £555 and sundries £80.

(iii) *Transport and Remounts.*—Transport depots were maintained at Roberts Heights and in the Cape Peninsula (Cape Town, Wynberg, and Simons-town), during the year, and a small transport establishment at Tempe for the use of the Ordnance Depot at that station. The strength of the animals and

vehicles on charge at these depots at June 30th, 1924, was as follows: Horses, 77; mules, 241; vehicles, 79; an increase of 2, 19, and 11 respectively. Purchases during the year were 114 horses, 26 mules, 7 scotch carts, and 5 wagons, in addition to which 17 mules and 8 vehicles were taken over from the Public Works Department on valuation, for use in respect of sanitary services in the Tempe Cantonments. The sales were 61 horses, 16 mules, and 15 vehicles, in addition to which 15 horses were sold to the Veterinary Bacteriological Laboratory.

(iv) *Supplies*.—Supply depots were maintained at Roberts Heights, Pretoria, Wynberg, Cape Town, and Simonstown. Hospitals were supplied at Roberts Heights and Wynberg. Camps were held during the year at Ladysmith, Eshowe, Potchefstroom, Grahamstown, Wynberg, and Creighton, and camp supply depots were formed at each, the necessary personnel being drawn from the permanent supply depots, supplemented by recruits from the training depot. The value of supplies purchased was £81,078. The number of rations issued during the year at permanent supply depots was: European, 415,000; coloured, 171,000; and animal, 316,000; and at camp supply depots: European, 84,037; coloured, 8,505; and animal, 38,310.

6. *Veterinary*.—(i) *General*.—The work of this branch increased considerably, owing to the commencement of instructional courses for farriers and shoeing-smiths, and the necessity for supplying the veterinary requirements for A.C.F. training camps.

(ii) *Equipment*.—The necessary changes in the mobilization equipment, in accordance with the new scale laid down, are being carried out gradually, and the new pattern field-chests are being obtained from overseas.

(iii) *Training*.—A course of lectures was delivered to the cadet officers class at the South African Military School and an examination held at its conclusion. The work of training farriers and shoeing-smiths proceeded continuously throughout the year, with satisfactory results, and the shortage of farriers, which was threatened last year was, to a large extent, overcome.

(iv) *Purchase of Horses*.—During the year 114 horses were purchased by the Remount Department for the S.A. Field Artillery, and 1st Regiment, S.A.M.R., and 26 transport mules. These were all tested with mallein on arrival at Roberts Heights, and the mules immunized against horse-sickness.

(v) *Animal Wastage*.—The average animal strength of the Permanent Force remained about the same throughout the year, and on June 30th, 1924, was 764 horses and 247 mules. Eight horses and 2 mules died from disease and 74 horses and 19 mules were cast. In the case of the majority of animals cast for unsoundness, the development of foot and limb lesions was the cause.

(vi) *Citizen Force Training Camps*.—Camp veterinary hospitals were established at the Ladysmith and Creighton training camps, and short courses of instruction for farriers were arranged.

(vii) *Veterinary Hospitals*.—During the period under review, 269 horses and 10 mules were treated at the Veterinary Hospital, Roberts Heights, and 960 in the unit sick lines. In the Citizen Force training camps 86 cases were dealt with.

(viii) *Specific Diseases*.—There was an outbreak of strangles amongst the horses of the Permanent Force in the early part of the year, but the measures adopted to prevent the disease spreading were successful. Only one case of horse-sickness occurred at Roberts Heights this season, as against 27 last year, and only 3 cases of biliary fever. The usual precautionary measures were adopted.

(ix) *Animal Inefficiency Statistics*.—The principal causes of inefficiency during the period under review were (a) diseases of the respiratory system, (b)

skin diseases (chiefly ringworm), (c) accidental injuries, (d) foot and limb lesions. The average number of animals daily under treatment was roughly 50. Two horses purchased in Natal last year developed an incurable disease known as "dunziekte," and were handed over to the Director of Veterinary Research for observation.

7. *Stores Inspection.*—The ordinary inspections were carried out throughout the year. A new accounting system was introduced for the South African Naval Service, and was working satisfactorily. The instructions for district, garrison, regimental, and unit messes, canteens, recreation and sports clubs were revised during the year and reissued with the regulations suitably amended.

8. *Lands and Buildings.*—Sales of lands and buildings not required for Defence purposes during the year amounted to £108,660, of which a large proportion was in respect of purchases made by the Railways and Harbours Administration, and the remainder for sales of buildings to firms and private individuals, either by public tender or out of hand at the assessed valuations provided for by Act No. 33 of 1922. Sales are still proceeding. From rents, leases, and encroachments an amount of £14,579 was realized.

Of the amount £77,200 voted by Parliament for the Defence Endowment Account, the sum of only £56,500 was expended for the reason that further tenders for the building of officers' and warrant officers' quarters in the Cape Peninsula, received subsequent to the last report, were still considered to be too high. Provision has not been made on the current year's estimates for expenditure in this connection. With regard, however, to Roberts Heights, 5 officers' and 4 warrant officers' quarters were constructed during the period under review. At the 30th June, 1924, there were 28 officers and 67 other ranks in receipt of allowance in lieu of quarters, the majority of whom are stationed in military districts where quarters are not provided.

From the 1st April, 1924, this section carried out the administrative services in connection with the maintenance, repairs, water, lighting, heating, sanitation, etc., of the Defence Endowment property throughout the Union, which services were previously performed by the Public Works Department. As a result of the change it was possible to effect a very considerable saving in staff and transport expenses. A careful investigation into the question of the water consumption at Roberts Heights, and a rearrangement of the distribution system resulted in a saving of approximately £5,315 per annum.

In accordance with the request of the Controller and Auditor General, Property Registers, containing details of all lands, buildings, leases, agreements, servitudes, and machinery were instituted. These books contain all particulars of Endowment Fund activities.

9. *Rifle Ranges.*—An amount of £5,236 was expended in the construction and repair of rifle ranges. Owing to the financial stringency the full requirements of the various military districts were not met.

10. *Soldiers' Graves and Memorial Crosses.*—Thirty-one memorial crosses have been ordered in respect of members of the Forces who died as a result of service in the industrial disturbances on the Rand, 1922, and when these have been supplied it is anticipated that the work of this section in connection with the supply of memorial crosses will have been completed. Necessary work in connection with the care of the military cemetery at Roberts Heights was carried out during the year, and all crosses repaired and renumbered.

11. *District Stores.*—There was a further decrease in the number of applications for authority to write off deficiencies. One or two cases of theft of stores

were reported from cadet detachments, and dealt with by the police. In every case where a satisfactory explanation of losses could not be given, the officer responsible was debited with the value of the deficiencies, or it was recovered from the Unit Contingency Grant. The loss to Government in this connection was appreciably small.

V.—AIR SERVICES SECTION.

Director of Air Services: COL. SIR H. E. VAN RYNEVELD, K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

1. *Programme.*—The programme of expansion decided upon for 1923-24 was completed by the end of the financial year. The sum voted for the Air Force for the year under review was approximately £91,000, which was utilized as follows: (a) Consolidating the Cadre of No. 1 Squadron so as to be ready for expansion in case of emergency; (b) placing the Aircraft Depot on a sound working basis; (c) purchase of necessary expendable equipment, petrol, oil, stores, etc., and erection of further permanent aeroplane accommodation; and (d) general maintenance.

The policy decided upon towards the end of the last financial year, namely, that of increasing the number of higher ranks of mechanics in the Air Force for the purpose of establishing a sound personnel cadre for future expansion, proved to be of great value. In the majority of cases these artisans were trained to the duties and responsibilities of command, and with added experience they will be ready to undertake the training and supervision of the comparatively untrained air mechanics, who from time to time join the Force to complete establishments, as well as the greater numbers that would come in on mobilization.

2. *Organization and Strength.*—The organization for 1924-25 is as follows:—

- (1) Headquarters Staff, consisting of the Director of Air Services and two Staff Officers.
- (2) Camp staff, consisting of the adjutant, the regimental sergeant-major, and a small staff for dealing with the purely regimental side of the Force, e.g. guards, drill, rations, clothing, quarters, etc.
- (3) Aircraft Depot, with (a) stores and repair sections, (b) reserve aeroplane park.
- (4) Zwartkop Air Station, consisting of (a) headquarters and running workshops, with one Squadron Commander and two pilots, who do administrative work in addition to their flying duties, (b) Flying Training School, with a Flight Commander and four flying instructors, (c) No. 1 Squadron, consisting of three flights, each with a Flight Commander and five flying officers.

The total authorized strength of the Force for 1924-25 is 35 officers, 224 warrant officers, air non-commissioned officers, and airmen, 7 civilians, 30 air apprentices and 110 natives.

At the end of the year under review only a few vacancies existed in the skilled trades and for flying officers. These latter will be filled during the financial year 1924-25.

3. *Training.*—(a) *Officers.*—As hitherto, the training of officers continued in accordance with the Training Regulations of the Royal Air Force. The extensive touring of the Provinces by aeroplanes, to co-operate and demonstrate at Active Citizen Force training camps and *wapenskouings* continued throughout the year with very beneficial results to all concerned. Aeroplanes co-operated for two and sometimes three days at all the principal training camps, and participated in the training and manoeuvres at Potchefstroom and at the visit

of the Imperial Fleet to Cape Town in December, 1923. The training benefits to the Air Force of attending camps and D.R.A. meetings are manifold and invaluable experience has been gained. Altogether, aeroplanes co-operated at 43 camps and *wapenskouings* during the year.

(b) *Other Ranks*.—The technical and non-technical training of mechanics has continued systematically with very beneficial results. Special steps were taken to ensure the thorough training of those filling the posts of air non-commissioned officers so as to enable them, in addition to their increased value to the Force, to impart knowledge to new recruits.

4. *Photography*.—The small photographic section allowed for in the 1923–24 establishments was expanded slightly, and having moved into the new photographic building at Zwartkop Air Station, was able to produce better results. All pilots carried out systematic training during the year in photography.

5. *Air Force Reserve of Officers*.—The scheme whereby officers of the S.A. Air Force Special Reserve should come up annually for training has up to the present proved very satisfactory. Up to the end of the financial year 1923–24 five initial refresher courses, each of approximately two months' duration, were held. In all, 52 officers have attended full courses, and of these 15 were absorbed as pilots into the permanent establishment, 22 qualified as pilots for the Special Reserve, 8 after failing to qualify as pilots completed the course under training as observers and were transferred to the General Reserve, 6 were turned down altogether, and 1 officer was killed during training. In addition, 38 officers were enrolled for the General Reserve of the Force, and this number is being steadily augmented. Further selections to the Special Reserve of officers who will likewise be required to come up for training will be made from amongst the officers of the General Reserve. No officers had come up for the annual refresher course of three weeks' duration, but it was anticipated that a large number would be required to attend during the ensuing financial year.

6. *Construction*.—Two additional steel hangars were erected at Zwartkop Aerodrome, the tarmac completed and aerodrome enlarged to provide extra room for reserve aircraft park aeroplanes. An engine test house was erected at the aircraft depot.

7. *Flying*.—The total number of hours flown during the year was 2,265, being an increase of 1,590 hours over 1922–23. Of this time, 1,171 hours were flown by No. 1 Squadron in carrying out annual training and co-operating with A.C.F. units, 997 hours by the Flying Training School in reserve courses, instruction, and training, 97 hours by the reserve aeroplane park in testing machines.

8. *Aeroplanes*.—The number of aeroplanes in commission was 33, as compared with 16 in 1922–23—

	31st May, 1924.	31st May, 1923.
Zwartkop Air Station—D.H.9.....	12	7
D.H.4.....	1	2
S.E.5.....	1	2
Avro.....	6	5
Reserve Aircraft Park—D.H.9.....	10	—
D.H.4.....	2	—
Avro.....	1	—

—a net increase of 17 aeroplanes in commission during the year. There were 9 aeroplanes under erection at the aircraft repair park at the end of the year.

Losses and depreciation were as follows: Aeroplanes written off, 10 (including 2 sold); severely damaged, 4; partially damaged, 9.

The present position of all aeroplanes included in the original Imperial gift is as follows:—

	In Commission.	Under Erection.	Written Off and Damaged.	Awaiting Erection.
D.H.9.....	22	6	11	9
D.H.4.....	3	2	—	5
S.E.5.....	1	—	2	19
Avro.....	7	1	10	12
TOTAL.....	33	9	23	45

9. *Engines.*—The output of engines was ample to meet requirements of new aeroplanes and replacements. They gave excellent service during the year, only one forced landing during numerous cross-country flights having occurred. This was due to overheating while taking off under exceptionally hot weather conditions. Some trouble was experienced through cracked water jackets and sumps of the puma.

10. *Mechanical Transport.*—A special body was designed for the Crossley tender; and manufacture of the number required was well advanced. The organization of the system of overhaul and maintenance of running transport resulted in a considerable improvement in the mileage obtained per gallon of petrol.

11. *Accidents.*—Two regrettable aeroplane accidents occurred during the year under review, resulting in the deaths of two officers of the Permanent Establishment, one Reserve officer, and one air non-commissioned officer. The findings of the Courts of Inquiry are briefly set forth below.

(i) Aeroplane crash at Zwartkop Air Station on 19th November, 1923, during a refresher course for Special Reserve Officers, resulting in the deaths of Lieut. G. E. B. Lawson, D.F.C., S.A. Air Force, and Lieut. J. W. G. Shaw, S.A. Air Force (Special Reserve). The court was of the opinion that the accident was not due to any structural defect of the machine, but was caused by an error of judgment in flying by the pilot. There was no direct evidence to indicate who was actually in control of the aeroplane at the time of the crash.

(ii) Aeroplane crash at Dealesville, Orange Free State, on 14th December, 1923, during co-operation with the Active Citizen Force, resulting in deaths of Lieut. A. W. Blake, S.A. Air Force, and Air Corporal E. J. te Brugge. The court was of opinion that either the late Lieut. Blake stalled his machine on a turn and at a spot where the air might have been "dead," owing to the proximity of a "pan" and the presence of a severe whirlwind, or otherwise that the machine was caught in a strong whirlwind which apparently raged at the time, lifted the tail and caused the machine to nose-dive from a comparatively low height. The court held an inspection *in loco* but the wreckage afforded no clue to the accident.

In addition, a regrettable machine-gun accident occurred during co-operation with the A.C.F. at Douglas, Cape Province, resulting in the death of

one civilian and the wounding of another. The court exonerated the demonstrator, Air Corporal E. J. te Brugge, from blame.

12. *Medical Section.*—Seventy-six examinations for physical efficiency and suitability for flying were conducted during the year with, in many cases, the assistance of the Senior Medical Officer, Roberts Heights, and 108 special examinations of other ranks undergoing special physical instruction at the Military School, making a total of 184 special examinations. Five Refresher Courses in flying were carried through.

Since June, 1923, 90 recruits were examined, 36 rejected, 50 accepted and 4 refused to attest. The sickness incidence was not above average, and considering the number of Grade III men in the Force the scheme of attesting such men proved satisfactory during peace training. Every endeavour was made to improve the physique of the Grade III men.

Two officers attended for a course of instruction in special R.A.F. medical work, and one officer received two months' instruction prior to taking over the duties of Medical Officer in Charge, S.A. Air Force. One medical officer qualified in flying and received wings. Three S.A.M.C. non-commissioned officers were trained in aviation medical work during the year.

Research work continued with a view to correlating physical and mental and moral qualities best suited for aviation, and a very valuable set of specially chosen psychological apparatus purchased for the Air Force was loaned to the Department of Psychology of the Transvaal University College under Drs. Hugo and Rautenbach, for special study of suitable types of pilots, along the lines of the Continental and American aviation services. It was hoped by these means to be able to select certain picked men for special work, to economize man-power both in peace and war. This work will eventually spread to recruits to fit the right man for the right job, and ensure improved output of work and the well-being of the individual.

VI.—MEDICAL SERVICES SECTION.

Director of Medical Services: COL. SIR E. N. THORNTON, K.B.E.

1. *Permanent Force Medical Section.*—(i) *Organization.*—No change was made in the organization of the Medical Services Section during the year. The office of the Director of Medical Services remains a definite section of Defence Headquarters, but the general direction of medical policy, except in time of war, is under the Department of Public Health. The Director of Medical Services is one of the Assistant Health Officers for the Union and is paid as such: he only becomes a whole-time Defence Force officer in the event of war. As a result of this arrangement there has been close and continuous co-operation between the two Departments during the year, resulting in economy and efficiency in medical services. The Headquarters work of the section is carried out under the general direction of the Director of Medical Services by a Medical Staff Quartermaster, who is attached to the South African Staff Corps for this purpose.

The establishment of the South African Medical Corps (Permanent Force) provides, in addition to the Director of Medical Services, for 3 medical officers with the rank of major and 3 with the rank of captain, 5 medical staff quartermasters, a sanitation officer, 2 first class warrant officers, 2 second class warrant officers, 11 staff sergeants, 13 sergeants, 11 corporals, and 15 privates, making a total of 13 officers, 4 warrant officers, and 50 other ranks. On the 30th June last the unit consisted of 4 medical officers, 5 medical staff quartermasters, a sanitation officer, 3 warrant officers, and 44 other ranks. The unit is normally employed in staffing the two military hospitals, the central medical

and veterinary stores, in providing personnel for sanitary services at Roberts Heights and in the Cape Peninsula, and instructors for the 1st and 2nd Field Ambulances. By far the greater number of members of the unit are employed at the military hospitals. To the military hospitals are sent ex-soldier pensioners for treatment of their service disabilities and a certain number of members of the police and prisons services as well as any serving soldier requiring hospital treatment. The salaries of members of the hospital staffs are defrayed from a Hospital Suspense Account and are not, therefore, provided for on the vote. The cost of treating the different classes of patients is distributed out to the different departments on a per capita basis. The members of the South African Medical Corps employed at the military hospitals are not, therefore, merely training for war, but are carrying out an essential service in time of peace in dealing with the sick for whom the Government is responsible.

(ii) *Medical Supplies.*—The Central Medical and Veterinary Stores undertake the purchase and supply of drugs, dressings, surgical and veterinary instruments and appliances for all Government departments and institutions. The advantages of the scheme were set out in the report for the year 1921–22. The Stores are now financed out of Standard Stock Account.

(iii) *The Sanitation Section.*—The Sanitation Section was brought into being to control the sanitary and health organization of the cantonments, which are excluded under the *Public Health Act* from the ordinary jurisdiction of the local authority. Much good work was done at Roberts Heights in organizing an efficient system. The officer in charge also acts as lecturer at the South African Military College and has control of the sanitary demonstration centre established thereat. Through his hands pass a number of Active Citizen Force and cadet officers who come up to the college for courses of training, which include military hygiene.

(iv) *Training of Medical Personnel.*—The fact that members of the Medical Services Section were employed on routine duties hindered their training in general corps duties considerably; nevertheless very satisfactory progress in training was made during the year, and the matter reflects great credit on officers and other ranks alike.

2. *Active Citizen Force Medical Units.*—The only medical units of the Active Citizen Force accepted for training during 1923–24 were the 1st Field Ambulance at Johannesburg, the 2nd Field Ambulance at Durban, No. 1 Company, S.A.M.C., at Cape Town, and No. 2 Company, S.A.M.C. (Railways and Harbours Brigade), in Johannesburg. These units are insufficient in number, particularly as in the event of mobilization burgher forces would be likely to be called out to co-operate with the Active Citizen Force. No. 1 Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance has now been accepted for training and this will improve the position in some respects. It cannot, however, be too clearly stated that medical units cannot be organized quickly to become efficient, and that at least one additional mounted brigade field ambulance and three additional companies of S.A.M.C. should be accepted for peace training so as to make the position safe.

3. *South African Military Nursing Service.*—This service was reconstituted in 1921 as a Reserve of Nursing Sisters organized more or less on the lines of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Reserve in Great Britain. It was established by the regulations framed under Section 121 of the *South Africa Defence Act, 1912*, which were published under Government Notice No. 660 of 1921. In connection with this organization there is a Defence Nursing Council, consisting of a president, nominated by the Minister, two matrons of

civil hospitals, nominated by the Executive Committee of the South African Trained Nurses' Association, together with the Director of Medical Services and the Matron-in-Chief or the time being. The duties of the Council are to advise the Minister on the selection of a Matron-in-Chief whenever that post falls vacant, the regulations and conditions generally affecting the Service, the enrolment and registration of members and any other matter referred to it by the Minister of Defence or Director of Medical Services.

There has been an impression created that the South African Military Nursing Service offers a permanency in the military hospitals to nurses willing to serve indefinitely. This is not so. The object the Department has in view is to get nurses on the Reserve to volunteer for periods of a year or so in the military hospitals and thereafter to take up civil appointments, so that on mobilization there may be a large number of civil nurses in the Union who have had experience in military work and are capable at once of taking over wards in military hospitals without special training or supervision in military routine. With this object in view the Matron-in-Chief is the only member of the nursing service who is on the permanent establishment, all others serve in a temporary capacity under agreement with the Department and subject to one month's notice on either side.

The South African Military Nursing Service on the 30th June, 1924, had the following enrolled:—1 Matron-in-Chief, 4 matrons, 2 assistant matrons, 64 nursing sisters, 69 staff nurses, 3 probationers, 4 masseuses. Of these the Matron-in-Chief, 1 matron, 9 sisters, 20 staff nurses, and 1 probationer and 3 masseuses were actually called up for service on that date.

4. *St. John Voluntary Aid Corps and South African Red Cross Voluntary Aid Corps.*—Early in 1923 the negotiations between the Department and the Joint Council of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in South Africa and the South African Red Cross Society were concluded, and the ambulance and nursing detachments of these organizations have been accorded official recognition by regulations framed under Section 121 of the *South Africa Defence Act, 1912*, and published under Government Notice No. 280 of the 13th February, 1923. Each organization forms a corps—consisting of ambulance and nursing detachments—which is established as a Division of the South African Military Ambulance Service and is included in the Voluntary Aid Section of the South African Medical Corps. On the 30th June, 1924, the South African Red Cross Society had 11 nursing detachments in Johannesburg and several others elsewhere. The St. John Corps has 11 nursing detachments and 29 ambulance detachments. The exact strength of each detachment is not available, but the South African Red Cross nursing detachments represent about 500 ladies, while the St. John nursing detachments represent approximately 500 ladies, and the ambulance detachments about 800 men.

Under the regulations the Joint Council undertakes to hold each detachment available for public service in local emergencies without cost to the Government, and to prepare a special service list of 200 ladies for registration as probationers in the South African Military Nursing Service, who are willing to serve in time of war anywhere as may be required, and also a special service list of 200 qualified members of ambulance detachments, who in time of war or national emergency would be prepared to engage for general service with the South African Medical Corps. The detachments do not cost the Department anything and have to be inspected annually by, or on behalf of, the Director of Medical Services. They form a very valuable reserve for the Medical Services. Twelve Red Cross nursing detachments and 6 ambulance detachments belonging to the Order of St. John were actually

inspected by the Director of Medical Services before the close of the period under review. At the last annual inspection of the 11 Red Cross nursing units in Johannesburg, 366 were present on parade. The units presented a very smart appearance and carried out all tests satisfactorily. The organization of the units established by St. John and the S.A. Red Cross should be of immense help to the Government in time of national need, whether of a civil or military nature.

5. *Examination of Recruits.*—The number of recruits examined in the districts for the Permanent Force was 1,315. Of these 663 were passed and sent up to Roberts Heights. That the local examinations are not satisfactory from a military point of view is evident from the fact that out of the 663 who were passed as medically fit at the local examinations, 250 or 37·7 per cent. failed to pass the final medical examination prior to attestation. For the year ended 30th June, 1923, out of 791 sent to the depot 395 or 49·8 per cent. were rejected at the final examination. It is evident that the efforts made by the Department to ensure more satisfactory examinations in the districts have not been without some result, but there is still room for very great improvement and in several instances men were sent forward with conditions which any medical practitioner without special experience in the examination of recruits should have known would make the applicants unacceptable for the Service. In all such cases, the Director of Medical Services has taken the matter up with the practitioners concerned. One of the practitioners stated quite frankly that he always gave what he considered to be borderline cases the chance of being accepted, as, if turned down by the final medical board, they never caused any trouble, whereas if rejected by him they frequently subjected him to unfair and unjust criticism. Apart, however, from the possibility of other practitioners taking up the same standpoint, it must always be expected that when the examination of recruits is mainly undertaken, as it has to be done in this country, by practitioners not specially trained to the work, a considerable number of men unfit for service in the Permanent Force will slip through, and it is for this reason that recruits are required to be passed at a final medical examination at Roberts Heights prior to acceptance. The standard of physical fitness for the Permanent Force is necessarily a high one and the only men who should be accepted are those who are fit for all forms of active service.

A large number of medical examinations were conducted for Active Citizen Force units during the year for filling up vacancies in units accepted for training, but the numbers examined were not sufficient to warrant any special conclusions to be drawn from a medical point of view. The standard of physical fitness laid down is, of course, very much lower than that required for the Permanent Force.

6. *Health of Troops, Cantonments and Camps.*—The health of the Permanent Force during the year was very good on the whole. The total number of admissions to hospital was 996, the average daily number in hospital 62·26, and the average stay 22·88 days. There were 9 deaths during the year, but 4 of these were due to aeroplane accidents. Of the remaining 5, 2 were due to pneumonia, 1 to appendicitis, 1 to a railway accident, and 1 was due to violence, the result of a quarrel in the cantonments. In a force with an average strength of about 1,700 the daily average number in hospital was not excessive, though the daily average number under treatment for venereal disease was still high. In the Cape Peninsula 1 member in every 7 who required hospital treatment was admitted for this disease as compared with 1 in 4 during the previous year. The proportion at Roberts Heights was 1 in 17

as compared with 1 in 14 in previous years. During the year blue light depots have been opened, and it is hoped that the incidence of sickness from venereal disease may be materially reduced.

Several ladies interested in Roberts Heights have recently pressed for the establishment of a families' hospital. Under the Imperial régime a families' hospital existed, but there was then a large garrison and the number of women and children residing there and in Pretoria very considerably exceeded the number of women and children of South African troops entitled to medical attendance in the same area under present-day conditions. Further cases requiring treatment were sent in from other centres. The old families' hospital consisted of a maternity ward and a number of small wards. Officers' wives and families were not in the ordinary way catered for, and boys of soldiers, if over twelve years of age, were usually admitted into the wards of the military hospital proper. It was staffed from the military hospital, but it had its own sister-in-charge, who was a maternity nurse. It appears to have had a daily average of from 3 to 4 patients in it, but as the number of Imperial troops were reduced, the daily average of patients declined, and in fact on some occasions the families' hospital stood empty. During 1912, when there were about 3,000 Imperial troops at Roberts Heights, 129 women, of whom 69 were maternity cases, were admitted, and 88 children. Any sick amongst the families ordered to hospital under Imperial regulations had to go to hospital or forfeit their right to medical attendance. On the withdrawal of the Imperial troops such of the buildings as remained were converted into military wards during the war and are still used as such. If a families' hospital were to be provided, it would have to contain at least a maternity ward and special rooms for surgical and medical cases and a special ward for children. The old buildings could not readily be reconverted and a suitable block of new buildings could not be erected under at least £3,000. To meet the demand in a measure, and also to look after cases of minor illnesses amongst women and children in the camp, the Department engaged the services of a properly qualified nurse to act as district nurse. The services of a families' medical officer are also retained, whose duty it is, *inter alia*, to visit the sick in their quarters. The district nurse has filled a real want, but though at times she is very busy, it cannot be said that she had been overworked. There are, under present conditions, just under 750 women and children at Roberts Heights. In order to test hospital requirements the records of the Pretoria Hospital were examined. The admissions to this hospital from Roberts Heights average about 28 per annum, representing a daily average of about 1 patient under treatment. There has never been any difficulty in securing beds in the General Hospital for patients from Roberts Heights. A local hospital unit would, of course, be likely to be used more freely than one at a distance, but at the most it would be unlikely that the figure would be doubled. Now it is certain that a families' section with a daily average of only 2 patients could not be administered as an economical proposition, and it is doubted if such patients could be treated at much under £1 per diem, as compared with the charge of 12s. 6d. per diem made by the General Hospital. There is, however, real hardship to a soldier when a member of the family is on the seriously-ill list in the General Hospital, owing to the cost of travelling to and from the hospital, and the question of providing some means of free transport is at present under consideration.

The health of the Active Citizen Force in the training camps has been excellent. There were 155 admissions to hospital and a daily average of 6.65 members of the Active Citizen Force under treatment during the year. Any member of the Active Citizen Force arriving at a training camp with venereal disease or any chronic ailment is not retained in the camp, but is returned at

once to his home, so that the hospital figures do not really reflect the actual incidence of sickness in the members of the Active Citizen Force undergoing training.

VII.—FINANCIAL BRANCH.

Financial Under-Secretary : E. H. LEWIS, C.B.E.

1. *Staff*.—The staff of this section was reduced on the 31st December, 1923, from 44 to 43, which is the number fixed by the Public Service Commission. It is considered that the number of the staff should be fixed at 45 rather than, 43. During the year under review 10 of the temporary clerks who have filled permanent posts in this section for periods varying from 7 to 10 years were placed on the permanent staff, in terms of Section 10 (6) of Act No. 27 of 1923, and the cases of two others are still under consideration.

2. *Provisions and Expenditure*.—The amounts provided by Parliament for the financial year 1923–24 and the expenditure against that provision were as follows :—

	Provided.	Expended.
	£	£
On Revenue Vote.....	935,262	934,000
On Loan Vote.....	66,000	48,000
On Defence Endowment Account.....	77,200	56,500
TOTAL.....£	1,078,462	1,038,500

3. *Examination and Payment of Accounts*.—During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, 10,846 accounts, exclusive of claims received from the Railway Administration, and of claims for pay and allowances, were examined and paid.

4. *Revenue Collections*.—An amount of £20,000 was accounted for and paid over to general revenue during the financial year 1923–24, being proceeds of sales of unserviceable stores and cast horses, rentals, etc.

5. *Military Hospitals*.—Expenditure in connection with military hospitals during the financial year 1923–24 amounted to £47,690, being for salaries and allowances of staff, medicines, diets and rations, clothing and equipment, washing, and mending, etc. This amount was charged out and recovered as follows :—

From Defence Vote.....	£13,613
From Treasury Pensions (Discharged Soldiers, etc.)	27,421
From South African Police.....	4,930
From Prisons Department.....	1,262
From Sundry other Departments and Persons....	464
TOTAL.....	£47,690

6. *Sales of Government Property.*—During the financial year 1923–24 a sum of £64,798 was accounted for in respect of sales by auction and out-of-hand, viz.:—

Ordnance Stores, Clothing, Equipment, etc.....	£43,039
Defence Endowment Properties.....	19,786
Horses, Mules, etc.....	937
Motor Transport.....	555
Aircraft Materials and Stores.....	481
TOTAL.....	£64,798

7. *Transactions on Behalf of Imperial Government.*—A sum of £32,796, being mainly the proceeds of sales of clothing and equipment, accrued to the Imperial Government during the financial year 1923–24 and adjustment was effected with the War Office, London.

8. *Defence Endowment Account, Rentals Collected.*—During the financial year 1923–24 rentals amounting to £14,579 were brought to account, involving collections by district staff officers, etc., from approximately 615 tenants.

9. *Standard Stock Account.*—The capital of the Standard Stock Account at 30th June, 1924, was £1,353,586, while at the same date the value of the stocks on hand were: Ordnance and clothing, £1,115,950; medical and veterinary, £30,000. The purchases during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, were:—

<i>Overseas.</i>	
Ordnance and Clothing.....	£258,190
Medical and Veterinary.....	17,145
	£275,335
<i>Within the Union.</i>	
Ordnance and Clothing.....	52,667
Medical and Veterinary.....	8,752
	61,419
TOTAL.....	£336,754

The issues made from the various depots during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1924, were—

Ordnance and Clothing.—13,900 issue vouchers, involving.....	£353,171
Medical and Veterinary.—2,714 issue vouchers, involving.....	21,021
TOTAL.....	£374,192

Of the above total of £374,192, issues on repayment were made as under—

Ordnance and Clothing to members of Union Defence Forces, other Government Departments, etc..	£31,634
Medical and Veterinary Stores to other Government Departments.....	17,043
TOTAL.....	£48,677

As from the 1st April, 1924, the work of costing and pricing of medical and veterinary stores, formerly carried out at the Central Medical and Veterinary Store, has been transferred to the Financial Section and is now brought into line with the Ordnance and Clothing Stores.

10. *Pay Work—Permanent Force and Civilians.*—Prior to 1st February, 1923, all members of the Permanent Force, in common with the police and the Public Service generally, were paid at consolidated rates of pay. From that date, however, the pay of the Permanent Force was entirely remodelled and differentiation made between married and single members. Members now receive basic pay according to rank and are given free quarters, rations, clothing, fuel and light, and medical attendance, while married members of "other ranks" receive the above allowances for their wives and families, and are in addition paid a "family allowance" which is regulated by the number of children maintained. Under this system very large economies in the pay bill have been effected, but it will be realized that the work of the Pay Group has been rendered very much more onerous and complicated, and much greater application and vigilance are necessary to ensure accuracy than was formerly the case.

The Group is responsible for the payment monthly of the following personnel:—

	Military.	Civilian.	Total.
Permanent.....*	2,028	220	2,248
Part-time.....	33	75	108
Non-European.....	—	—	619
TOTAL.....	—	—	2,975

11. *Pay and Allowances—Training Camps.*—Members of the staff of this section attended at training camps held during the year for the disbursement of pay and allowances due to officers and other ranks of the Active Citizen Force undergoing training. The sum of £14,107 was paid to 6,614 members of the Active Citizen Force at these camps. This system of effecting payment proved highly satisfactory.