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WAR OFFICE

MEMORANDUM
OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR
RELATING TO THE
ARMY ESTIMATES
1957—58

*Presented by the Secretary of State for War to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
April, 1957*

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
TWO SHILLINGS NET

Cmnd. 150

PREFACE

This Memorandum deals primarily with the work of the Army during the past year.

The Government's defence policy, explained in the White Paper on Defence, has far-reaching implications for the Army. These can be dealt with in our forthcoming debates.

Memorandum of the 1009 Secretary of State for War relating to the Army Estimates, 1957-58

FINANCIAL

1. The Army Estimates for 1957-58 amount to:—

	£
Gross Expenditure	513,480,100
Appropriations in Aid	112,080,000
	401,400,100
Net Expenditure	401,400,100

2. The figures for the three previous years were:—

	1956-57 ⁽¹⁾	1955-56 ⁽¹⁾	1954-55
	£	£	£
Gross Expenditure ..	612,725,100	597,970,100	628,500,100
Appropriations in Aid ..	112,725,000	123,969,930	93,500,000
	£500,000,100	£474,000,170	£535,000,100

3. The Appropriations in Aid to Army Votes include £40,850,000 from the Federal German Government. This is the Army's share of the total sum of £50 million which the Federal Government will make available to the United Kingdom as a contribution to the defence effort of the United Kingdom in 1957-58.

4. The Appropriations in Aid also include the sum of £3,250,000 arising from mutual defence assistance by the United States of America.

5. The reduction in Defence expenditure in 1957-58 has already been announced. The Army will contribute to this reduction in the following ways:

- (a) Orders for new equipment will be reduced.
- (b) The maximum use will be made of existing stocks for normal maintenance purposes.
- (c) The strength of the Active Army will fall during the coming year from 373,300 men to 335,000 men. This reduction is reflected in the reduced provision for pay and allowances (Vote 1), supplies (Vote 6) and stores maintenance (Vote 7). The full extent of the reduction, however, has been partially offset by recent increases in civilian wages and in prices.
- (d) Part-time training in the Reserve Army has been restricted to volunteers and has led to the consequent reduction in Vote 2.
- (e) The withdrawal of British contractors from the Suez Canal Base and the ending of the subsidy to the Arab Legion has led to the reductions in Vote 9.

(1) Including Supplementary Estimate.

OPERATIONAL

6. A map showing the world-wide deployment of Army units in February of this year is attached as an Appendix.

British Army of the Rhine

7. The British Army of the Rhine has continued to play its part in the N.A.T.O. system of Western defence. As stated in the White Paper on Defence and in agreement with our allies in W.E.U. and N.A.T.O. this Army will be reduced by some 13,000 in the year ahead. These reductions will be made chiefly in administrative units.

8. The last twelve months have witnessed the first stages in the development of the new German Army. Relations between the German forces and our own have been thoroughly cordial and German officers regularly attend studies and exercises at all levels in the British Army of the Rhine.

9. The British Army of the Rhine is trying to help the new German Army to meet its accommodation problems by releasing barracks wherever possible. In the same spirit arrangements are being made to share training areas with German forces.

10. The status of N.A.T.O. forces in Germany is still governed by the provisions of the Bonn Forces and Finance Conventions of 1955. Negotiations are in progress, however, between the Federal German Government and other N.A.T.O. Governments with forces stationed in Germany to replace the Bonn Conventions by a Status of Forces Agreement.

Egypt

11. It is not possible to do justice to the army aspects of the Anglo-French intervention in Egypt in November, 1956, within the compass of this memorandum. The events leading up to these operations and the operations themselves have been fully discussed in Parliament. Their military implications are being carefully studied in the War Office.

Cyprus

12. In the early summer of 1956 the Commando Brigade and parachute and infantry units carried out extensive operations against EOKA bands in the mountain areas. Several EOKA bands were destroyed, large quantities of arms and ammunition were taken and much valuable information gained.

13. The international tension resulting from the seizure of the Suez Canal led to the withdrawal of the Commando and Parachute brigades from anti-terrorist duties. As a result it was not possible to exploit the successes of the early summer and the EOKA bands, which in August had been reduced to asking for a truce, were able to regroup and resume operations.

14. EOKA attacks reached a climax in November. The Cyprus garrison was then re-inforced by the 3rd Infantry Brigade from Malta. This served as a mobile striking force and enabled the Government to regain the initiative. Since the beginning of the year the EOKA forces have been attacked with mounting success. Many terrorist leaders, including the second in command have been killed or captured. Large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives have been discovered. As a result of these operations there has been a marked decrease in EOKA activity. More striking still, Greek-Cypriots are beginning to provide our forces with information, and most of our recent

successes have been based on such information. It is still too soon to speak of a final victory. There is no doubt, however, that EOKA morale and potential have been severely shaken and that the EOKA intimidation campaign is losing ground among the civil population.

Arabian Peninsula

15. With the growing tension in the Middle East last summer, units were sent to Aden and the Persian Gulf to re-inforce our allies and protect our interests against possible outbreaks of violence. In the event, there were only minor disturbances, although British troops were employed to assist the police in Bahrein in clearing demonstrations. They did this without having to open fire.

16. It has been decided to double the Trucial Oman Scouts. The necessary expansion is in progress.

17. The Aden Protectorate Levies, a local Arab force with British officers, have continued their task of policing the Protectorate. This force had hitherto been administered by the Royal Air Force and officered by the Royal Air Force Regiment. It has now been agreed that the Army shall take over responsibility for the Aden Protectorate Levies; the change over has taken place and the Army assumed responsibility formally on 1st April, 1957.

18. Since the beginning of the year, Yemen tribesmen and regular Yemen troops working in conjunction with dissident tribesmen of the Western Aden Protectorate have made a number of incursions into the Beihan and Dhala Areas. They have sniped at transport, raided villages, abducted hostages and attacked forts. Fighting has been on a North-West frontier scale. There have been actions involving up to a hundred tribesmen and some use of artillery. In February, a British patrol was ambushed with fatal casualties.

Libya

19. At the time of the Suez crisis there were one or two Egyptian-inspired acts of violence directed against British lives and property. The Libyan police force, dealt firmly with these incidents. As a precautionary measure, however, soldiers' families and dependants were evacuated from the Tripoli area in November. They were able to return before the end of the year.

20. The details of the planned reduction in the British forces in Libya indicated in the White Paper on Defence (Outline of Future Policy) (Cmnd. 124) are being worked out.

21. Our Military Mission has continued to assist the development of the Libyan Army and combined exercises have been held.

Jordan

22. General Sir John Glubb Pasha, the founder of the Arab Legion was dismissed from its command in March, 1956. At the time there were 65 British officers and 30 warrant officers and sergeants either seconded or under contract to the Jordan Army. The majority of the Arab Legion's senior commanders and staff officers were British.

23. After General Glubb's dismissal, British personnel serving with the Jordan forces were reduced to a few officers and warrant officers and sergeants acting in a purely advisory role. These officers and non-commissioned officers were finally withdrawn, at the request of the Jordan authorities, at the time of the Anglo-French intervention in Egypt.

24. In accordance with the wishes of the Jordan Government negotiations took place in Amman leading on 14th March, 1957, to the termination of the

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Anglo-Jordan Treaty of 1948. As a result of these negotiations all British forces are to be withdrawn from Jordan within six months of the date of termination of the Treaty.

West Africa

25. Until 1st July, 1956, the military forces of Nigeria, the then Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, which together comprise the Royal West Africa Frontier Force, were under command of Headquarters, West Africa Command, and were controlled and administered by the War Office.

26. It is the policy of Her Majesty's Government that these territories should assume responsibility for their own forces. These forces will mainly consist of infantry and signals units on a reduced internal security organization. West Africa Command was abolished on 1st July, 1956. At the same time the Gold Coast assumed financial and administrative responsibility for her forces under the Governor.

27. On 6th March this year the State of Ghana achieved independence and assumed complete control of the Ghana Military Forces. 185 British officers and 220 British non-commissioned officers are seconded to these forces.

28. Headquarters, Nigerian Military Forces, and Headquarters, Sierra Leone and Gambia District, each with its own Commander and Staff, became separate entities working independently under the War Office. Plans are being made for the handover of control of the Nigerian Military forces to take place on 1st April, 1958. The future organization of the forces of Sierra Leone and Gambia is being studied.

29. At the request of the Governments of Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, the post of Military Adviser to the West African Governments was created on 1st July, 1956, and a British Lieutenant-General appointed. He is responsible solely to the West African Governments.

East Africa

30. At the beginning of 1956 there were still over 2,000 active Mau Mau in the forests, reserves and settled areas. The most important of these gangs was in the Aberdare Forest under the control of Dedan Kimathi, the overall Mau Mau leader. The task of the security forces was to account for these remaining Mau Mau and particularly for their leaders and witch doctors who might have constituted potential rallying points for a Mau Mau revival.

31. Operations were marked by increasing co-operation on the part of the people of the reserves. On several occasions these turned out in thousands to help hunt down Mau Mau gangs. Outstanding successes were gained by the Police Special Force Teams consisting largely of ex-terrorists under European control. Their pseudo-gang operations became the main offensive element of the anti-Mau Mau campaign while the Army and Police drew a tight cordon around the areas where the last gangs had taken refuge.

32. At the same time, in order to give additional operational responsibility to the Police, the Army ceased to operate exclusively in the forests, retaining joint responsibility with the Police only in those areas known to contain the majority of terrorists. These arrangements made it possible by 1st April to release from operations two British battalions and in addition one King's African Rifle battalion which had been loaned by Tanganyika to Kenya earlier in the Emergency. By June it was estimated that terrorist strength had been reduced to about nine hundred. The climax of this phase of operations was reached on 21st October when Dedan Kimathi, whose gang in previous weeks had been harried and progressively reduced, was wounded and captured on

the edge of the Aberdare Forest near Nyeri by a tribal police ambush. By 1st November terrorist strength was assessed at under four hundred and fifty, many of whom were believed to be no longer living as terrorists. Of the fifty-two leaders and seven witch doctors known to be at large in February, 1956, only nine leaders and three witch doctors were thought to remain. As a result of this drastic reduction in terrorist strength it was clear that militant Mau Mau no longer constituted a threat justifying the retention of the Army in operations. In addition to the units released earlier in the year the headquarters of an infantry brigade and a squadron of Royal Engineers left the Command in November.

33. In November, 1956, the Governor of Kenya was able to announce the withdrawal of the Army from operations just four years after the declaration of the emergency on 21st October, 1952. Responsibility for operations now rests with the civil authorities, especially the Commissioner of Police, whose forces in conjunction with those of the Administration have the task of rounding up the remaining terrorists as the final stage in the restoration of law and order.

34. A major reorganization of the East African forces will take place this year. It has been agreed that from 1st July, 1957, the East African Forces, which have been controlled and administered by the War Office since 1939, should become once again the full responsibility of the three East African Territories. It has been recognized, however, that a centralised command together with a measure of centralised administration will best serve the interests of efficiency, economy and flexibility. To this end a General Officer Commanding will exercise the normal functions of command, on behalf of the Governors, from a Command Headquarters situated in Nairobi. A small administrative staff will be included in this Headquarters, but there will be no representative of the administrative services. These functions will be exercised on behalf of the Governors by a central agency, which will operate the necessary depots and workshops for this purpose. Although the War Office administration of the East African forces will cease after 30th June, 1957, certain United Kingdom staff elements, units and installations will be temporarily retained to carry out residual tasks such as the backloading and disposal of surplus stores, the closing of accounts and the settlement of claims. In addition, as indicated in the policy statement on Defence plans are being prepared to enable certain British forces to be stationed in East Africa to help to safeguard our general interests in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

FAR EAST

Korea

35. The Commonwealth Contingent in Korea has been reduced to one United Kingdom infantry battalion, supported by an advance Base containing personnel from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The battalion is located in the area of, and is trained with, a division of the United States Army.

36. The Commonwealth Contingent in Korea came under the administrative command of the Commander-in-Chief Far East Land Forces on 1st July, 1956. It remains under the operational command of the United Nations Unified Command.

37. No United Kingdom headquarters or units now remain in Japan. A leave camp for personnel of the Commonwealth Contingent Korea has been established in Hong Kong.

38. With the agreement of our allies, we are withdrawing all British forces from Korea during the forthcoming year. A liaison mission will be retained at the headquarters of the United Nations command.

Hong Kong

39. On 10th October, the Chinese Nationalist Festival of the Double Tenth, Nationalist flags were pasted on certain buildings in Kowloon. This was a breach of police regulations and an official caused some of the flags to be removed. As a result rioting broke out. Under the influence of secret societies the rioting spread, and the Officer Administering the Government called for military assistance.

40. By the next day, the Army had a firm grip on the situation and only minor incidents occurred. On 13th October things started to return to normal and by mid-day on 15th October, it was possible to withdraw all troops.

41. In the main the rioting was confined to the north of Kowloon and the industrial area of Tsun Wan. Firm and prompt action in aid of the civil power prevented the riots spreading and no incidents occurred on Hong Kong island itself. During the riots, although sorely provoked, the Army did not at any time open fire.

Singapore

42. Following the failure of the London talks on the future constitution of Singapore in May, 1956, two infantry battalions were withdrawn from operations in Malaya and moved to Singapore. Thanks in part to this precautionary measure the situation in Singapore remained calm.

43. In October, 1956, after an overwhelming vote of confidence, the Government of Singapore decided to take action against subversion. Various neo-communist organizations were banned and individual communists were arrested. On the evening of 25th October, rioting ostensibly in sympathy with the arrested persons, broke out. At the request of the Singapore Government four British infantry battalions, an armoured car regiment and two Gurkha infantry battalions were moved into Singapore from operations in Malaya and were deployed for internal security duties during the night of 25th/26th October. Troops carried out patrols, manned road blocks, and dispersed crowds in the streets. Helicopters provided by the Royal Air Force proved of the greatest assistance for reconnaissance and for the control of crowds. By 28th October, the disturbances had virtually ceased, although troops continued to assist the police until the morning of 2nd November.

44. The presence of enough troops at an early stage in the rioting clearly indicated the Government's intention to restore law and order promptly, and was a major factor in restoring confidence and obtaining the full co-operation of the public.

Malaya

45. The ninth year of the Emergency started on 18th June, 1956. Troops from the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, and Gurkha units of the British Army, together with the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, Commonwealth Air Forces, Police and Security Forces enlisted in the Federation, continue to operate against the terrorists.

46. During 1956 the successes of 1955 in Pahang and South Selangor have been extended to Negri Sembilan. Present operations are directed at driving a wide belt free of terrorists across central Malaya which will thereby split the Malayan Communist Party Organization into two separate halves. Terrorist activity in Johore, previously the most active remaining stronghold, has been much reduced and steady progress has continued in other areas.

47. Armed Communist terrorist strength, which was estimated at 8,000 at its peak in 1951, has been reduced from 3,000 to under 2,000 during the past year ; terrorist incidents have dropped to an average of 35 a month compared with 500 a month in 1951 ; " white " areas, in which emergency restrictions have been lifted and in which responsibility for maintaining law and order has been reassumed by the civil administration, have been increased by a further 4,000 square miles to a total area of 23,000 square miles.

48. In February, 1956, the amnesty, offered by the Federation Government in an attempt to bring about the cessation of communist terrorist operations, was rescinded. Few terrorists had in fact surrendered as a result of the terms offered under this amnesty. Operations were then intensified and the Federation Government reaffirmed its advocacy of the policy of destroying the Communist Party in Malaya.

49. The terrorists appear to have appreciated that they have virtually lost the armed struggle directed at the overthrow of the elected government, and have adopted the defensive policy of avoiding contact with the security forces.

50. The public are now co-operating with the security forces, and, as confidence increases with further military success, the security forces are able to act against known targets, instead of using all their efforts to search the large areas of jungle for possible terrorist camps.

51. Despite these favourable trends and some recent marked successes there still remains a hard core of terrorists in both Johore and Perak. As further areas are declared " white ", troops will be available to concentrate against these and other remaining strongholds, but many months of active operations must be expected before these two States can be cleared.

52. Ground operations against the terrorists depend to a great extent on the support of the Air Force. The Royal Air Force in Malaya has been assisted by squadrons of the Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Air Forces, and a helicopter squadron of the Royal Navy. The ability to move and supply our forces by air has given us the flexibility and speed of movement without which operations against guerillas have little hope of success.

53. When the Federation of Malaya achieves independence within the Commonwealth, which it is planned she should do later this year, the Federation Government will assume sole responsibility for internal security.

54. The Federation Army is to be increased by the formation of two Malay battalions and two multi-racial Federation battalions with a light scale of supporting and administrative units. We are contributing to this expansion by the transfer to the Federation Army of certain British Army units composed mainly of Malays.

55. As a first step in the expansion a Headquarters, Federation Army, has been set up in Kuala Lumpur under a British Major-General seconded to the Federation Government. This headquarters will administer the expansion programme.

56. Although the Federation will have full responsibility for external as well as internal defence, British and Commonwealth formations will, under the terms of the proposed United Kingdom-Malaya Defence Agreement, continue to be stationed in Malaya in order to assist in external defence and to safeguard Commonwealth interests in South East Asia. These formations will still be available at the request of the Government of Malaya to assist in operations against the terrorists.

ORGANIZATION

Deployment

57. The Central Reserve has been reconstituted in the United Kingdom. This reserve is organized for limited or global war. It also includes units on a brigade basis especially trained for internal security duties. It will be our policy as the overseas garrisons are reduced to ensure that the elements of the Central Reserve can be moved to any point of danger where they may be needed by air.

58. The first surface-to-surface guided weapon regiment is now in the process of being raised. A second regiment will be raised in the course of the year. These units are being equipped with the American "Corporal".

59. Headquarters have been reduced in numbers and size, and are planned to be the minimum which are needed tactically.

60. The disbandment of the Coast Artillery has been completed.

61. Further cuts have been imposed on headquarters and on units, including the infantry battalion for which a new lower establishment is being agreed.

62. A cut of between 15 per cent. and 25 per cent. has been imposed on vehicle strengths throughout the Army and increased use is being made of trailers. This will lead to considerable savings in manpower.

63. In spite of the tension culminating in the Anglo-French intervention in Egypt and of the accompanying mobilization of some 25,000 reservists, the run-down of the Active Army has proceeded according to plan. Between 1st April, 1956, and 1st April, 1957, the total strength was reduced by some 35,000 all ranks.

The Reserve Army

64. The reorganization of the Reserve Army referred to in last year's Memorandum has continued throughout 1956 and is nearly completed. The reorganization involves the loss of some 160 units in the Territorial Army, mainly by amalgamation, and of some 300 units in the Army Emergency Reserve. Units in Territorial Army formations generally had the opportunity of training in their new roles at camp in 1956 and all divisions have now reformed as planned. Non-divisional units of the Services will, where applicable, be trained in their new roles at camp this year. The highest tribute must be paid to the loyal and co-operative manner in which the reorganization has been accepted and implemented by all concerned.

65. It has been decided to forgo all training for part-time national servicemen in 1957. The Reserve Army will, therefore, go to camp as an all volunteer force for the first time since 1950. Since industry will be relieved

of the burden of sending many thousands of young men away for a fortnight at the busiest time of the year, I hope that employers in all branches of industry will give these volunteers the support which they so richly deserve and will indeed encourage others to emulate their example.

66. The reorganization of the Defence Forces will inevitably call for certain further changes in the Territorial Army. It is the Government's intention, however, that the Territorials should continue to be trained in a fighting role. As explained in the White Paper on defence it is no longer considered realistic to earmark two Territorial Army divisions for service on the Continent. The main task of the Territorial Army will, therefore, be home defence. We cannot, however, exclude the possibility that circumstances may arise in which some T.A. units would be needed for service overseas.

The Army Cadet Force

67. The Army Cadet Force is a valuable recruiting ground for the Regular Army and helps to develop the character and powers of leadership of British youth. There has been no examination of this force since 1936. A committee has accordingly been set up under the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War to examine its charter, organization and training and to ensure that it is used to the best advantage.

WEAPONS AND DEVELOPMENT

68. A considerable reduction in the cost of maintaining the Army in 1957-58 has been achieved by consuming, as maintenance, that proportion of the war reserves made surplus by the run-down of the army. It will be appreciated that the more we eat into these reserves the smaller the savings will be in subsequent years.

69. An army is always tempted, like the White Knight in Alice in Wonderland, to equip itself for every conceivable contingency. In the interests of economy, however, and to reduce the strain on manpower, the Army aims to simplify its equipment as much as possible. We plan, therefore, to produce a family of weapons with no supplementary or over-lapping members. This family will provide an armoury which is a fine balance between the needs of limited operations on the one hand and global war on the other. Development projects which offer only marginal improvement have been discarded.

70. The Army took part in the recent nuclear trials in Australia. A wide range of Army equipment was exposed, instruments for measuring radiation were fully tested, and valuable experience was gained by the officers who witnessed these trials. The Army is also providing engineer and administrative support for the trials soon to be held in the South Pacific.

71. Further progress has been made in equipping the Army with operational radiac instruments to measure nuclear radiations from both a nuclear explosion and from radio-active fallout. Training is carried out on a special range of instruments which do not require dangerous levels of radiation for their operation.

72. During the last year troop trials of the FN rifle have been completed in Malaya and Kenya, and the rifle has fully justified our expectations. Over 14,000 FN rifles are now in service. United Kingdom production is due to start this year.

73. A number of Bren light machine guns have been converted to fire the 7.62mm. North Atlantic Treaty Organization round and are now in service.

74. Large scale production of a new sub-machine gun is planned for 1957-58 to replace the existing Sten gun.

75. User trials of possible replacements for the Vickers machine gun will take place this year.

76. Re-equipment with new type radio sets, which began last year, will continue.

77. During the coming year troop trials will continue on the new pattern combat equipment.

MOVEMENT

78. Air trooping has continued to be the main means of movement for Army personnel to and from the Mediterranean, Middle East, West Africa, Aden and the Caribbean, though some units have continued to move by sea.

79. Despite the increased use of air trooping some modern troopships will continue to be required. The new troopship "Nevasa" came into service in July, 1956, and the "Oxfordshire" sailed on her maiden voyage to the Far East in late February, 1957. The "Lancashire" was withdrawn from service in March, 1956, and the "Cheshire" in February, 1957. On present planning it is likely that the "Empire Clyde" will be withdrawn from service in July, 1957, and the "Asturias" about September, 1957.

80. Since the crisis in the East Mediterranean last summer, certain Middle Eastern countries have refused overflying rights to British aircraft. This has inevitably complicated the problem of trooping to the Far East. In the latter part of 1956 such trooping was only maintained spasmodically. Early this year, however, an alternative route was opened via Turkey and the air movement of personnel has been resumed at a somewhat higher level than before the crisis. It is running at approximately 1,100 personnel each way each month for all three Services.

81. The closing of the Suez Canal has likewise interrupted sea movement to the Far East. By concentrating the majority of the troopship fleet, however, on the Far East route it was possible to restore the trooping programme to normal by mid March, 1957.

82. As a result of the blocking of the Suez Canal, shipments to ports east of Suez take longer to arrive. Freight costs generally have risen by 15 to 40 per cent., and for shipments to Aqaba the freight rates have doubled. Particular difficulty was found in maintaining the garrisons in Aqaba, Aden and the Persian Gulf as only a very limited number of commercial vessels normally sail around the Cape to these Stations. The difficulty was largely overcome by using a landing ship tank from the Far East to carry freight on local journeys south of the Suez Canal. This Landing Ship Tank is being returned to the Far East, but there are, at the moment, five Landing Ship Tanks en route via the Cape for the evacuation of Jordan. Two of these Landing Ship Tanks will remain south of the Canal for the maintenance of our forces in Aden and the Persian Gulf.

83. The bulk of overland traffic during the Suez Emergency was moved on the Army's own transporters whose performance continues to be satisfactory. Transporter routes are being replanned in co-operation with the

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation so that we can make more general use of Army transporters. Excellent co-operation has been maintained between the Army movements staff and the British Transport Commission. Valuable co-operation has been received from the transport industry including, for example, the use of specialized transporters owned by Pickfords.

84. A very moderate expenditure of Army funds has greatly improved feeding arrangements for troops making long train journeys in the United Kingdom. Families travelling to a soldier's new station have also been authorized, under certain circumstances, to use taxis.

MANPOWER

85. I have included as Appendix "A" to this Memorandum a table showing a comparison of strength figures at the end of 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956.

Regular other ranks

86. *Recruiting.*—I have included as Appendix "B" a comparison of recruiting results in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956. The new Pay Code was announced in March, 1956, and introduced in April, 1956, with the following results. A moderate fillip was given to regular recruiting, but this was not maintained. Recruiting in the first half of 1956 was a little over 8 per cent. better than in the first half of 1955. From June to September recruiting continued at about the 1955 level, but the seasonal fall in the autumn was not as marked as usual and the final outcome for 1956 shows an increase of some 10 per cent. on the figures for 1955. Some 9·2 per cent. of recruits enlisted for more than three years (3·1 per cent. for six years and 6·1 per cent. for nine years): this means that although only 3,290 more men enlisted in 1956 than in 1955 the increase in terms of man-years recruited was some 23,000. Furthermore, analysis has shown that in general it is the higher quality men who are going for the longer engagements. As the Army becomes smaller and better equipped the need for higher quality men for training in the more highly skilled trades will increase.

87. The recruiting of boys was markedly affected by the introduction of the new Pay Code. Until the end of May the figures were below those for the same period last year but recruiting then spurted and by the end of the year the increase over 1955 was 15·5 per cent.

88. *Prolongations.*—The introduction of the new Pay Code also led to an immediate increase in the number of prolongations of service, though the real extent of this increase is very hard to assess since the new Pay Code encourages a man to prolong as early as possible during his service, and the number of those who would benefit financially by immediate prolongation is very large. Of those who enlisted for three years in 1952 only 7·7 per cent. have served on past the three year point. The percentage for those who enlisted in 1953 was a little better at 8·5 per cent. but the improvement was only marginal. One primary task is to achieve a marked improvement in the numbers who are prepared to give more than three years service. This is necessary to the process of dispensing with national service.

89. I am not satisfied that the present combination of enlistment terms is the one best suited to provide the strength and structure that we need to build up the all regular Army of the future, which is our ultimate aim, and we are at present examining possible alternatives in the light of experience over the past ten years. More important still is to improve the conditions

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of life which we can provide for officers, other ranks and their dependants if we are to obtain the Army we need. I have in mind particularly the desirability of bringing about a greater measure of stability throughout the Army and a reduction in the periods in which officers and soldiers are separated from their families. The longer service soldiers have responded to the new pay terms with alacrity and prolongations by those with between six and twelve years service have been encouraging. This suggests that once recruiting generally and prolongations past the three year point in particular have reached an appropriate level there should be less difficulty in building up a satisfactory Army structure.

National Service Men

90. The Army's share of men called up in 1956 including those of call up age who have enlisted on regular engagements was some 111,000. The planned reduction in the size of the Active Army during 1957-58 will result in a reduction in this figure to some 85,000.

Women's Corps

91. The strength of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps has been largely maintained in 1956, both in officers and other ranks. The Preliminary Training School at Aldershot has been a success. Although it has not greatly stimulated initial recruiting it has considerably increased the number of women extending their service.

92. Recruitment in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (Army Emergency Reserve) has continued to be disappointing. The present strength is far short of the requirement.

93. Although recruiting for the Women's Royal Army Corps has shown an increase in the past year, there is still a need for clerks, telephonists and other trades in order that our overseas commitments can be fulfilled.

The Officer Situation

94. The number of officers in the Army has fallen by some 2,000 in the past financial year from a figure of 33,000 to the present figure of approximately 30,700. In the coming year there will be a further reduction of some 3,000.

95. This reduction is in step with the declining requirement for officers, arising from the run-down in the size of the Army. It will be effected in the following way. First, a large number of officers who were given Short Service Commissions shortly after the Second World War are coming to the end of their service, and secondly the reduction in the national service call-up will produce fewer national service officers.

96. This year will see the commissioning of the first cadets who have attended Welbeck College, which was established in September, 1953, to produce officers for the technical corps. There is still a need for more candidates for the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and particularly for those with an engineering aptitude who intend to serve in the Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

97. There are also opportunities for a greater number of graduates to obtain commissions under the University Graduates Entry Scheme, which offers a special entry with the minimum of basic training to graduates both in Science and in the Arts.

98. The improvement in the strength of officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Army Dental Corps, to which reference was made last year, has not been maintained.

99. I regard the improvement of the Army's living accommodation as a matter of absolute priority. It has a major bearing on regular recruiting and even more on encouraging senior warrant officers and non-commissioned officers to remain in the Service. For this reason, despite the substantial reduction in the size of Army Estimates planned expenditure on new capital works remains at a high level.

100. A committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Lieutenant-General Lord Weeks to investigate our whole system of initiating and carrying out works projects and to make recommendations. The committee have already made good progress towards the completion of their task and I expect that as a result of their report we will be enabled to achieve a higher degree of efficiency and to accelerate both the construction of new buildings and the much needed renovation of existing barracks.

Home

101. The programme for rebuilding and modernizing the accommodation in this country has been further expanded and more projects have been started. Work is now in progress at 22 sites and we plan to start at a further 15 sites during 1957-58. It is our intention to press on with this programme to the maximum extent which funds will permit.

102. While the rebuilding and modernization of permanent barracks remains our primary task, we have also initiated a programme of improvements to hatted camps used either for the permanent accommodation of units or as temporary training camps.

103. A programme of works services for the Territorial Army is in hand whereby some 12 additional centres have been started in 1956 and further additions are planned in the coming year.

104. The building of new married quarters and the modernization of existing ones will continue in the coming year. Since the war we have built over 10,000 new married quarters and some 500 have been modernized.

105. The Army is making its contribution to the construction of the Guided Weapons Development Establishment now being started under the control of the Royal Air Force in the Hebrides.

Abroad

106. The decline of terrorist activities in Malaya should enable British troops to withdraw progressively from their advanced jungle camps during the coming year. They will then be accommodated in temporary base camps until such time as the permanent cantonments are ready. These cantonments will be sited by agreement with the Government of the Federation of Malaya.

GENERAL

Chaplains

107. The Bishop of Maidstone was appointed in November, 1956, by the Archbishop of Canterbury as his episcopal representative with the forces. Diocesan bishops and heads of other denominations have visited troops at home and abroad.

108. Army Church Houses and Retreat Houses maintained in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Middle East and Far East continue to serve the religious life of the Army. Confirmations in the Army have risen and the number of servicemen registered as candidates for the Ministry has increased.

Army Education

109. A school of Preliminary Education has been opened at Everleigh, Near Tidworth, since January of this year. This replaces the former five Preliminary Education Centres. This school which will take about 1,400 backward recruits a year is designed to raise their educational standard to that acceptable for regular soldiers. Previous experience has shown that the number who fail to reach this standard is negligible.

110. The standard of higher education has continued to improve. The last survey showed that about 8 per cent. more men qualified educationally for promotion to the next higher rank than in the preceding year. 2,118 soldiers entered for the special forces General Certificate of Education in December, 1955, and July, 1956, and 1,135 of them obtained passes in one or more subjects. During the past 12 months soldiers took over 13,000 correspondence courses.

111. The resettlement scheme provides advice and assistance for all ranks with the aim of enhancing their employment prospects when they leave the service. Business training courses have now been provided, some on part-time and others on a whole-time (28 days) basis for personnel about to leave the service. I attach the greatest importance to ensuring that those who give the best years of their lives to the service of the Army have every prospect when they return to civil life of a good career up to normal civilian retiring age.

112. There is a comprehensive library service to meet the recreational educational and training needs of the Army. Each Command has at least one large library with branches in garrisons. Units also carry stocks of books and a request system is in operation so that individuals' requirements can be met.

113. Every effort is made to keep the Army all over the world informed of current events. Sunday newspapers are flown to all commands overseas. Daily newspapers are supplied, to those areas within 24 hours flying time from the United Kingdom, where there is no suitable English language newspaper. A news service linked with Reuters operates from London for the benefit of Army newspapers and local newspapers in overseas areas where troops are serving. A regular supply of publications is maintained to all units so that troops receive a wide selection of comment and opinion.

114. The number of children's schools run by the War Office has dropped from 163 in 1955 to 150 in 1956. This is mainly due to closures in the Canal Zone and the Gold Coast. The decrease has been partially off-set by a slight increase in the number of schools in Cyprus.

115. At the same time the upward trend in the total of pupils has been maintained, the increase over the last 12 months being some 1,000 children.

116. Reports by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools confirm that provision for primary school education is satisfactory. The great problem remains that of secondary school education particularly in small isolated stations and for children suitable for grammar school education. This problem has been further aggravated by recent developments in the Middle East and by the withdrawal of facilities for attendance at the English School, Cairo. The effect has been partially off-set by attendance at other suitable local civilian schools under official arrangements. I still do not regard the Army arrangements for secondary education as satisfactory. I am studying how the situation may be improved.

Health

117. During 1956 the health of the Army has remained good.

118. Rates of admission to hospital in Germany and the United Kingdom showed a decline and if the trends for the first 10 months of the year continue the rate in Germany will be the lowest recorded for any major Command since the war and the rate in the United Kingdom will be at the lowest in this country since the war.

119. The emergency in the Middle East led to the concentration of troops in Malta and Cyprus and to some overcrowding. As a result there was some increase in the rates of admission to hospital.

120. Of the smaller Commands, East Africa showed an increase. Korea/Japan during its last six months as a separate Command showed a striking reduction in its total admission rate and a noticeable improvement occurred in West Africa.

121. The medical discharge rates are similar to those for 1955. It is planned to make a start on the modernization of two military hospitals in the United Kingdom (Woolwich and Cowglen) during 1957.

Entertainment

122. Forces Broadcasting stations will continue to be maintained, where necessary, in overseas Commands to ensure that adequate listening facilities are available to the troops.

123. The Army Kinema Corporation continues to provide a world-wide service of training and entertainment films. Attendances during 1955-56, whilst lower than the previous year as a result of extensive redeployment, have been up to expectations. A large number of cinemas have now been provided with modern equipment.

124. Professional live entertainment will continue for the forces in Germany, the Middle East and the Far East. I would like to express the appreciation of the Army for the continual advice and assistance which has been given by the Combined Services Entertainment Advisory Committee.

Voluntary and Philanthropic Organizations

125. Once again the Army is much indebted to the voluntary organizations for the invaluable support which they have continued to render both to the soldier and to his dependants. The decision to make a grant in aid to the Council of Voluntary Welfare Work in Germany, to compensate for the withdrawal of the former concessionary rate of exchange is a token of the importance which the Army ascribes to their activities. The members of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association and the Forces Help Society continue to give devoted service for which we are most grateful.

JOHN HARE.

THE WAR OFFICE,
16th April, 1957.

COMPARISONS OF STRENGTHS IN THE ARMY AS AT
31st DECEMBER, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956

	31st Dec., 1953	31st Dec., 1954	31st Dec., 1955	31st Dec., 1956*
1. Male Officers				
Regulars	18,442	18,729	18,837	18,758
Short Service	8,890	7,588	6,681	5,342
Extended Service	1,770	2,275	2,528	2,612
National Service	4,479	5,028	4,801	4,258
Others	182	163	131	56
Total, Male Officers ..	33,763	33,783	32,978	31,026
2. Male Other Ranks (excluding Boys)				
Regulars	176,874	192,101	168,844	162,383
Short Service	2,653	1,844	1,388	1,538
National Service	214,088	199,807	197,438	178,327
Total, Male Other Ranks (excluding Boys).	393,615	393,752	367,670	342,248
Total, Male Officers and Other Ranks.	427,378	427,535	400,648	373,274
3. Boys	4,679	4,933	4,346	4,274
4. Women				
Q.A.R.A.N.C.—				
Officers	1,120	1,078	1,023	958
Other Ranks	929	822	729	687
W.R.A.C.—				
Officers	435	461	438	391
Other Ranks	6,456	5,955	4,596	4,264
Total, Women ..	8,940	8,316	6,786	6,300
5. Total Strength, Active Army, Men, Women and Boys.	440,997	440,784	411,780	383,848

* Recalled Reservists and retained Regulars are excluded from these figures.

ARMY RECRUITING : MALE OTHER RANKS 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956

	ANNUAL TOTALS			
	1953	1954	1955	1956
Normal Regular Engagements				
<i>From Civil Life</i>				
1. Men with no previous service	29,725	28,024	26,965	29,698
2. Men with previous service	3,329	2,165	1,043	1,501
3. Enlisted Boys	2,656	2,784	2,258	2,608
<i>From Serving Soldiers</i>				
4. Men on Short Service Engagements ..	37	67	49	53
5. National Servicemen	6,048	5,419	4,280	4,092
6. } Total, Normal Regular { Men (1, 2, 4 and				
7. } Engagements { 5 above) ..	39,139	35,675	32,337	35,344
	41,795	38,459	34,595	37,952
Short Service Engagements				
8. <i>From Civil Life</i>	373	286	118	207
<i>From Serving Soldiers</i>				
9. National Servicemen	409	70	40	122
10. Other than National Servicemen ..	103	80	65	166
11.*Special Northern Ireland Engagements ..	17	50	98	109
12. Total, Short Service Engagements ..	902	486	321	604
13. Total, Recruited on Normal Regular and Short Service Engagements (Men and Boys)	42,697	38,945	34,916	38,556

* These recruits enlisted on a special Northern Ireland engagement corresponding with the period of national service in Great Britain. Other recruits from Northern Ireland joining on engagements applicable in Great Britain are included under the appropriate heads.

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