

Inskip Report

Defence Expenditure in Future
Years

December 1937

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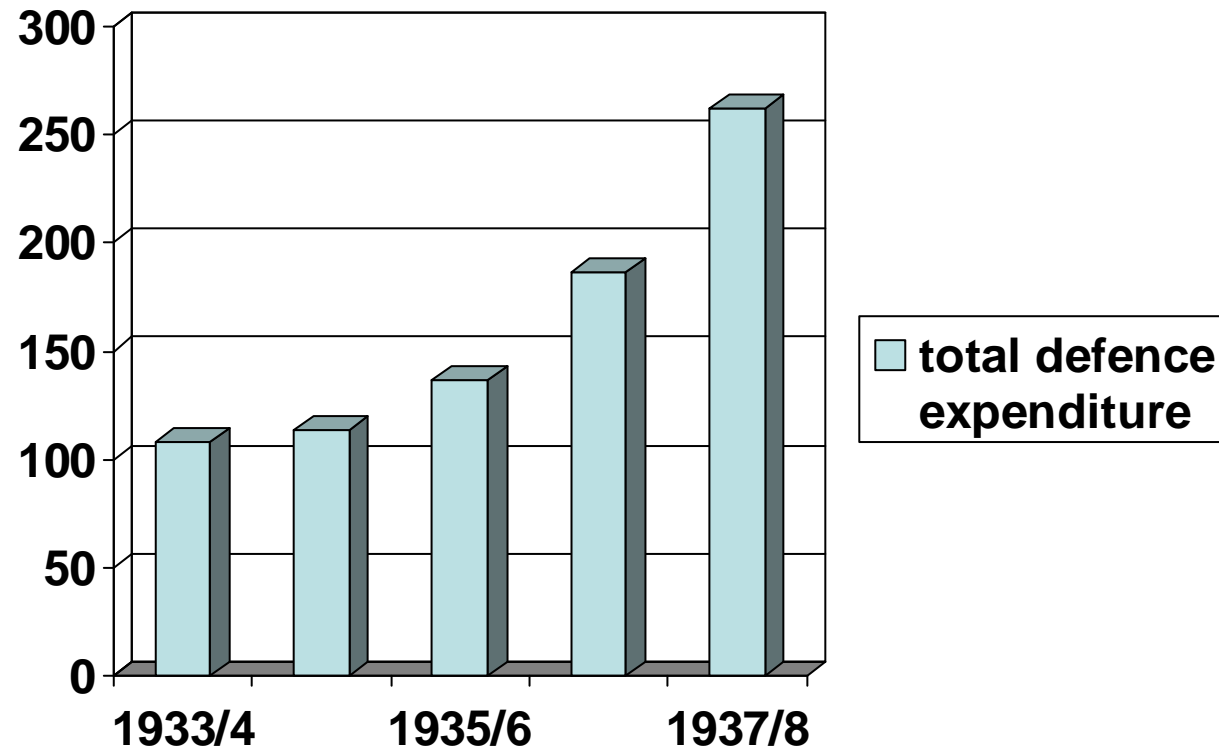
Role of Army:

- AA defence of UK
- Imperial defence
- Insufficient munitions for European operations at outbreak of war

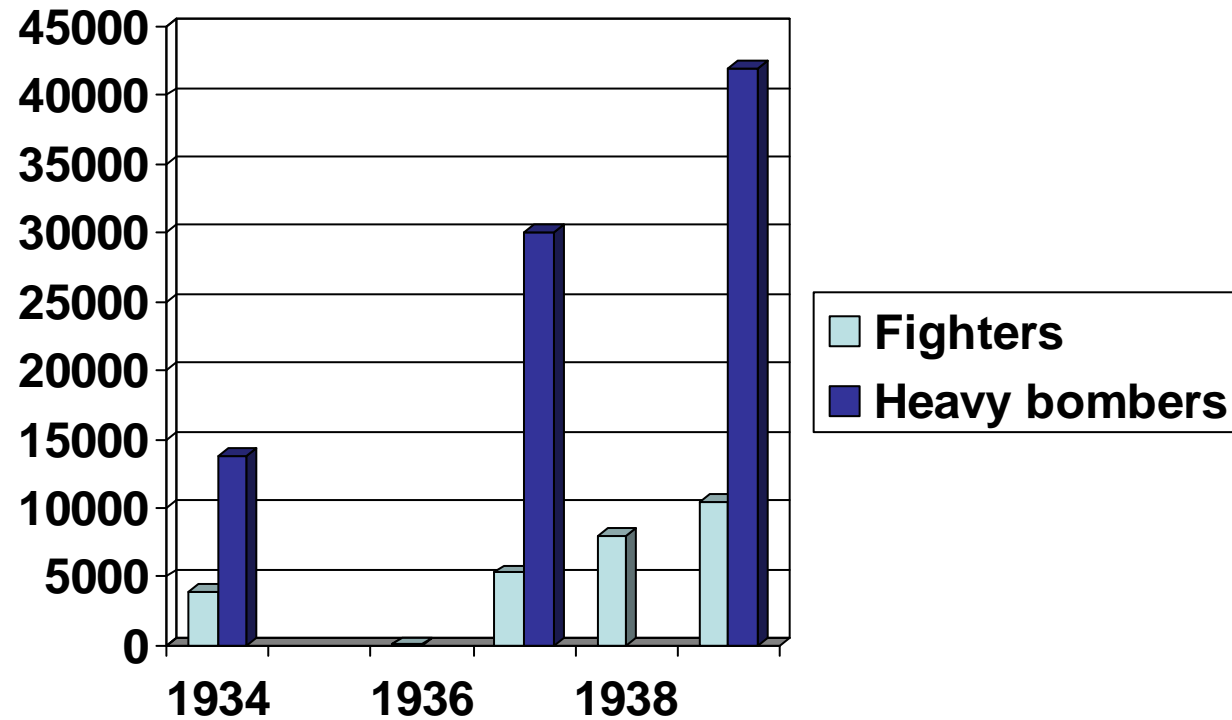
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- What was generally termed a policy of 'limited liability' in continental warfare had now shrunk to one of no liability at all (Howard).
- The Field Force was cancelled (McKercher).

Expenditure in financial years 1933/4 – 1937/8



Cost of aircraft (£)



Edward Bridges:

- money and effort would be wasted in building isolated parts of a structure planned on so gigantic a scale that it could not be completed.

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- We must confront our potential enemies with the risks of a long war which they cannot face.
- Economic stability a fourth arm of defence

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- Protect UK against attack
- Preserve trade routes
- Defence of British territories overseas

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- Our fourth objective, which can only be provided after the other objectives have been met, should be co-operation in the defence of any allies we may have in war.

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- If France were again in danger of being overrun [we might have] to improvise an army to assist her.

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- Should this happen, the Government of the day would most certainly be criticised for having neglected to provide against so obvious a contingency.

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Vansittart

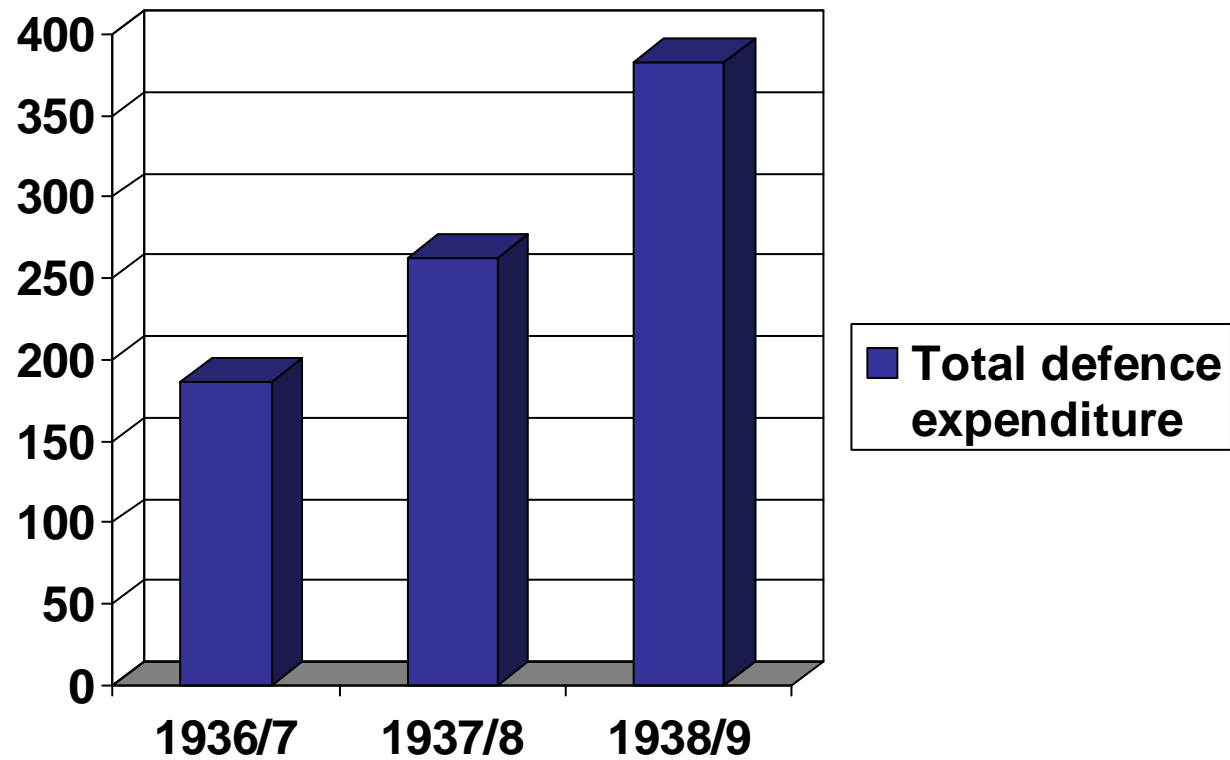
Hankey

Chatfield

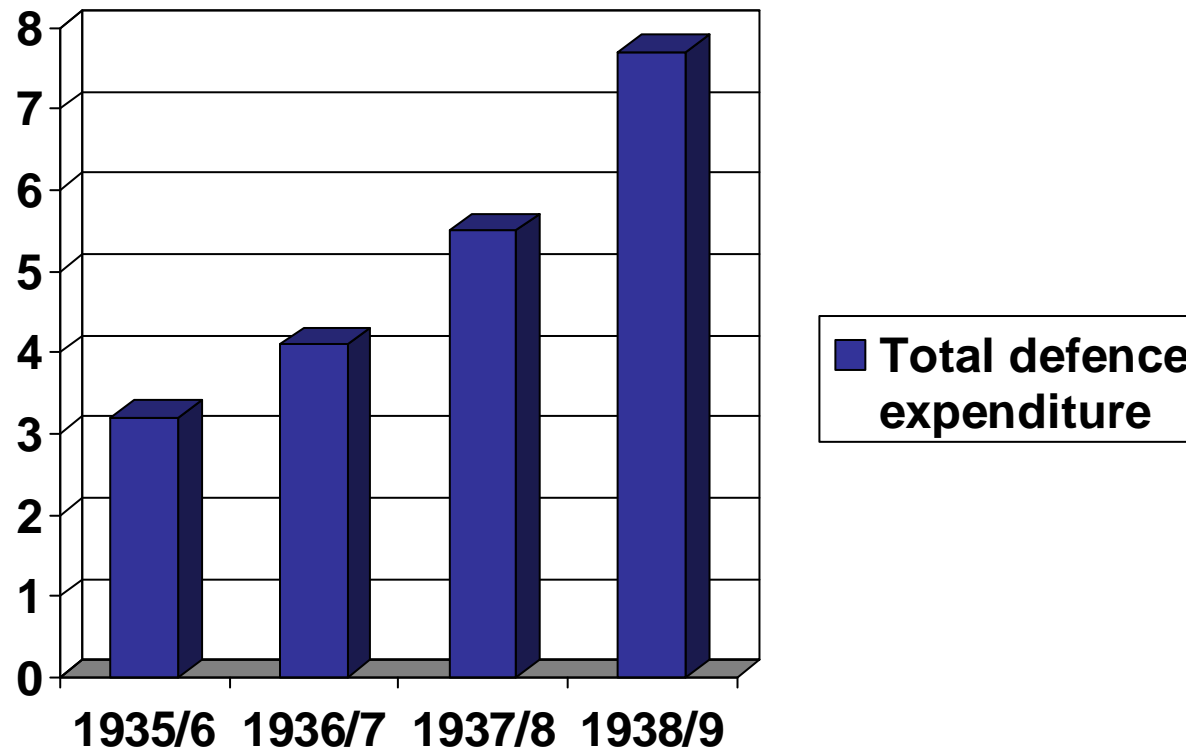
Second Inskip Report
February 1938

- Planning on basis of 'ration' of £1570m over five years
- Rate of expenditure set by industrial capacity
- Further review in light of international situation in 1939

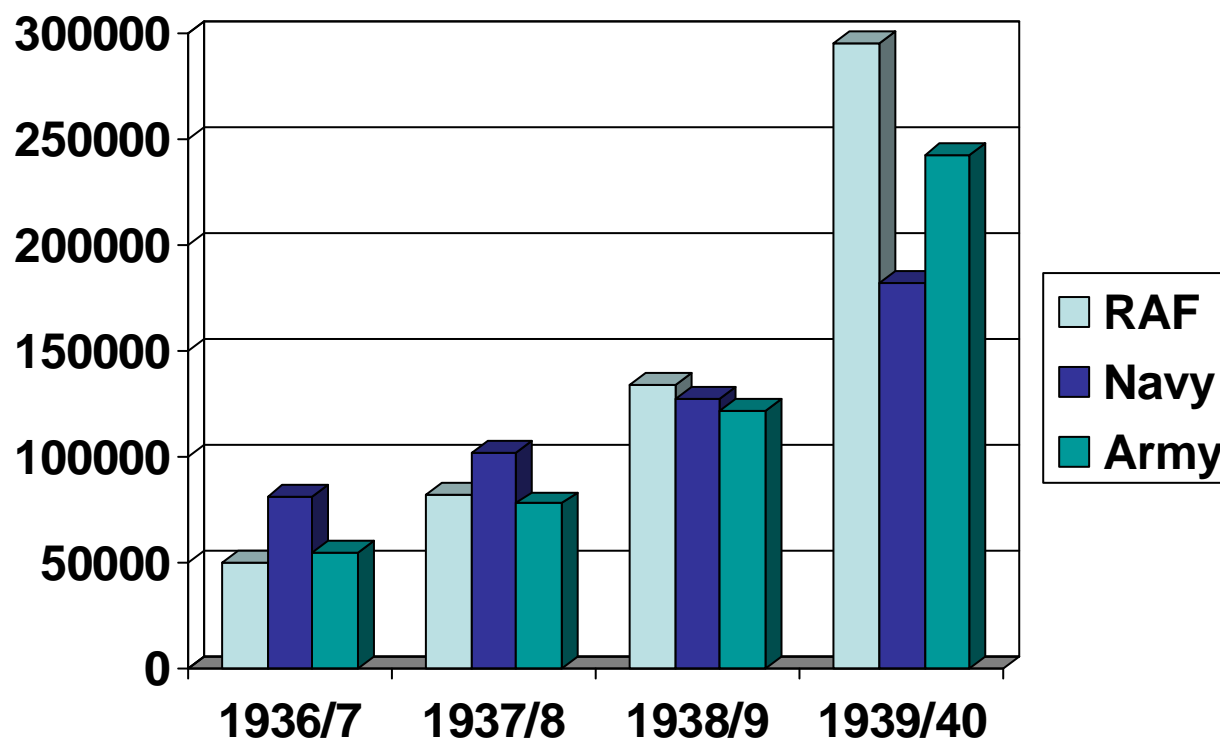
Expenditure in financial years 1936/7-1938/9



Defence expenditure as % of GDP



Defence departments' expenditure in financial years 1936/7-1939/40



Role of Field Force:

- February 1938 – Egypt?
- February 1939 – France

Tanks

- Light
- Infantry
- Cruiser
- Medium

Increases in Army

- Regulars from 5 divisions to 6 (Feb. 1939)
- TA from 13 divisions to 26 (March 1939)
- Conscription (April 1939)

Pluses and minuses

- Battle of Britain
- Battle of the Atlantic
- Dunkirk

Post-war defence reviews

- 1957 Duncan Sandys
- 1981 John Nott
- 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review

1957 Duncan Sandys

- Britain's influence in world depends on health of its economy
- Need to sustain armed forces in long run

1957 Duncan Sandys

- Deterrence > defence of UK
- BAOR
- Air/sea mobility east of Suez

1981 John Nott

- NATO > out of area
- *Invincible*
- *Endurance*

2010 Defence and Security Review

- Overspend on procurement since 1998 review
- 2008 Credit Crunch
- Growing national debt

2010 Defence and Security Review

- *Ark Royal*
- *Queen Elizabeth class*

Themes

- Increasing costs of weapons systems
- Tendency for the sum of three services' requirements to exceed what national economy can sustain
- Need for flexibility to provide for different contingencies