REPORT OF A SURVEY OF THE
CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION

San Diego is one of the oldest cities on the West coast having been first settled in 1769 when the Franciscan Fathers established a mission on the present site of the city. Its area is 96.8 square miles, a land-grant of this extent having been made to the Pueblo de San Diego by the Spanish Crown, upon the founding of the city. It is now the fourth largest city in California, located at the extreme southwestern corner of the State on the Pacific Ocean, 16 miles north of the Mexican border, on the shores of San Diego Bay, a land-locked harbor.

The residential portion of the city is largely built upon elevations or headlands formed by numerous canyons which cut into the low-lying hills surrounding the business section of the city. Some idea of the terrain can be gained by referring to the topographical map which will be found at the beginning of the second section of this report.

I - TYPE, SIZE and POPULATION

A. Brief summary of leading industries, agriculture and finance.

1. Industry. San Diego has never been known as an industrial city and the basis of its economic welfare has undoubtedly been its climate. With a variant of only 14 degrees in temperature between winter and summer, it has proved a great attraction to those who were seeking an equable climatic condition in which to pass their declining years. This accounts for the very large number of people who have retired from the Army, the Navy, the professions and business, who have chosen San Diego as their place of residence.

The climate, in conjunction with its location and its natural, land-locked harbor, is also responsible for its selection by the United States Government as one of the chief Naval Bases of the nation. The importance which this Naval development has been to the city is shown by the number and size of the units which are maintained here. They are as follows: