COLOMBIA

Area .... 1,150,000 sq. km.
Population (1933) 9,016,000
Density per sq. km. 7.8
Length of railway system (estimate 1930) (in use) 2,950 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

In time of peace, the supreme command of the army is vested in the President of the Republic; in time of war, he may delegate his powers to a general.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War comprises the following branches, which are directly under the Minister:

Minister's Secretariat.

No. 1 Department: Secretariat, with five sections (Correspondence, Registry and Distribution, Pensions, Justice, Chaplains).

No. 2 Department: Personnel, with three sections (personnel and statistics, service forms, army records).

No. 3 Department: Wireless Communications, with two sections (technical and equipment, traffic and control).

No. 4 Department: Military Administration, which includes four sections.

No. 5 Department: Audit and Accounts.

No. 6 Department: Navy.

There are also: a general directorate of war material which controls the ammunition factory, the army workshop and arsenal; a
general directorate of aviation, comprising a military aviation department and a civil aviation department; a general medical directorate and a remount and veterinary section.

**General Staff.**

The General Staff, an autonomous organisation directly responsible to the Minister of War, consists of 4 departments and 1 autonomous section:

- **No. 1 Department:** 3 sections (operations, mobilisation and territorial service, communications and maps).
- **No. 2 Department:** 2 sections (organisation and statistics, geography).
- **No. 3 Department:** 3 sections (astronomy and geodesy, topography, aerophotogrammetry and cartography).
- **No. 4 Department:** 3 sections (land transport, river and sea transport, intendance and lines of communication service).

**Autonomous Section:** History, personnel, and publications.

**Inspectorate-General of the Army.**

The Inspectorate-General of the army is an autonomous organisation directly under the Minister of War.

The Inspector-General of the army is the senior divisional general. He supervises the execution of military measures emanating from the Government and the Ministry of War. He must inspect every command, military institution and army unit at least once a year.

**Higher Command.**

The brigade commands are responsible for the direction and training of officers and men. They direct the administrative services and are also charged with the maintenance of barracks, arms, etc. These commands constitute the recruiting centres of the corresponding military areas.

**Territorial Military Districts.**

The country is divided into 14 zones (one for each department). Each departmental zone is divided into military districts, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War. The total number of military districts may not exceed 26.

The military districts are divided into territorial areas, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War. The total number of territorial areas may not exceed 150.

For purposes of territorial military service, each departmental zone is under the orders of the Governor, who comes under the Ministry of War.

Each departmental zone supplies the contingent required for the replacement of the army effectives.
COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.

1. Higher Formations.

5 brigades.

Each brigade consists of: 3 infantry battalions, 1 cavalry group, 1 artillery group, 1 engineer battalion, 1 transport battalion, and 1 trench-mortar company.

There are also a battalion forming the Guard of Honour, a signals battalion (3 companies), an Amazonas detachment, and garrison troops at Buenaventura (1 coastal battery).

Each infantry battalion consists of 4 companies, including 1 heavy machine-gun company (4 guns).

Each cavalry group consists of 3 squadrons, including 1 machine-gun squadron.

Each artillery group comprises 3 batteries (including 1 howitzer battery) of 4 guns each.

Each engineer battalion consists of 2 sapper companies.

Each transport battalion consists of 2 companies.

The battalion forming the Guard of Honour comprises 4 companies, including 1 machine-gun company.

The Amazonas detachment consists of 2 rifle companies, 1 machine-gun and trench-mortar company, 1 mountain artillery section, 3 anti-aircraft artillery sections, and 1 transport company.

2. Arms and Services.

**Infantry:**

15 battalions (47 rifle companies, including 2 Amazonas companies, and 15 machine-gun companies).

6 trench-mortar companies (including 1 machine-gun and trench-mortar company of the Amazonas).

**Cavalry:** 15 squadrons (including 5 machine-gun squadrons).

**Artillery:** 16 batteries (including 1 coastal battery).

**Engineers:**

5 sapper battalions (10 companies).

1 signals battalion (3 companies).

**Transport:** 5 battalions (11 companies, including 1 Amazonas company).

**Aviation.**

Aviation comes under the War Ministry, and is controlled by the General Directorate of Aviation, which is attached to the War Ministry, and the Advisory Council for Aviation.
The Advisory Council for Aviation consists of the War Minister (President), the Chief of the Army General Staff, and the Director-General of Aviation.

The air force comprises 1 training squadron (6 machines), 3 fighting aeroplanes, and 6 scouting aeroplanes.

In addition, the army comprises 3 railway battalions (6 companies) and 1 medical company.

**RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.**

Military service in the first-line army is compulsory for all citizens between 21 and 30 years of age. The enlistment of volunteers is prohibited.

The period of service with the colours is one year, and every six months contingents of 3,000 conscripts are called up.

Men who are not exempted or excluded from service by the law serve in the *First-Line Army* from the age of 21 to the age of 30; in the *National Guard* from 31 to 40; in the *Territorial Guard* from 41 to 45, after which age they are no longer subject to any military obligations.

The men comprising the First-Line Army, the National Guard or the Territorial Guard, who are not performing active service, constitute the reserve of each of the above groups. Reservists are placed in the first class if they have undergone full military training; otherwise in the second class.

The Government may call up reservists in time of peace for periods of training, exercises and manoeuvres.

There is a *Territorial Service*, consisting of military personnel, which deals with the mobilisation and supply service of the army.

It comprises the following personnel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majors or captains (commanding zones)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains (commanding districts)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants and second-lieutenants</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orderlies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Military Tax.**

Persons liable to military service but who have not been drawn by lot to serve with the colours pay a single tax (national defence tax) of from 5 to 100 pesos in lieu of military service.

There is also another single military tax, known as the "exemption charge" (50 to 300 pesos), which may be levied on all citizens liable to military service who have been selected by lot but do not wish to perform active service.
Exemptions.

The following persons are exempt from military service in all circumstances: Catholic clergy and seminarists, members of religious educational communities, disabled persons, and persons unfit for service as a result of disease or infirmity.

Persons engaged in certain duties, and young men who are studying for a professional career (up to the end of their studies) and have not failed in their university examinations, are temporarily exempted from military service.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Staff College.—The object of this college is to train field and staff officers. The course lasts for two years.

Military Cadet School (100 cadets).—The school comes under the Inspectorate-General of the Army. The course lasts for three years. Students who have successfully followed the instruction given in the military school leave with the rank of second-lieutenant.

A preparatory course for supernumerary cadets, organised in 1929, is attached to the school.

Military Aviation School.—Is directly under the Ministry of War and is established in Gali.

EFFECTIVES.

Army.

ESTABLISHMENT (1934).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Other ranks</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brigade commands</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>5,635</td>
<td>5,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>1,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>2,080</td>
<td>2,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>1,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>634</td>
<td>11,125</td>
<td>11,759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prescribed establishment of the guard is 18 officers and 368 other ranks.

Police.

(May 1933.)

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National police</td>
<td>2,654(^1) men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental, district and commissariat police</td>
<td>5,267 men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal police</td>
<td>2,904 men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10,825 men</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) 2,424 in 1934.
II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.
(1934.)

Destroyers:
Antiquois
Caldas

Gunboats:
Chercinto (1896)
Santa Marta
Cartagena
Barranquilla

Pichincha Junin

Miscellaneous: 14 units (patrol vessels, transports, etc.).

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The budget year coincides with the calendar year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes.—1. The above expenditure of the Ministry of War includes that on coastguard vessels and river gunboats.
2. The above figures include pensions estimated at 0.3 million pesos for each of the years 1930 to 1933.
3. The figure for 1933 includes expenditure on national defence due to the armed conflict with Peru.