ARGENTINA

GENERAL

Area: . . . . 2,987,353 sq. km.
Population: . . . 8,698,516 (1920).
per sq. km. 2.9.

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

Under the terms of the Constitution, the President of the Republic is the supreme authority in matters concerning national defence.

I. THE WAR OFFICE.

Consists of: 5 army divisional headquarters, a secretariat, the departments of the Director-General (personnel, arsenals, administration, engineers, medical services, air services, liaison troops and services, musketry, gunnery and physical training services, remount service), the Military Accountancy Department, the Judge-Advocate-General’s Department, the Army General Staff, and the Inspector-General’s Department. The Minister for War is the head of the Army.

2. INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FORCES.

This officer is directly and immediately responsible to the Minister for War, assists him in directing, supervising, and training the Army, and advises him in all matters connected with the preparation of the Army for active service.

He acts as Commander-in-Chief of the Army when mobilised, submits to the Minister for War a list of nominees to be appointed to a General Officer’s Command or to the command of units on mobilisation. He inspects, either personally or through his representatives, the Units, services, and establishments under his orders and lays down general regulations for the training of the Army and ensures absolute uniformity in the method of imparting the said training; he directs man-
œuvres when carried out by more than one division and recommends the necessary measures for co-operation between the Army and the Fleet.

3. **THE ARMY GENERAL STAFF**

is the technical body appointed to prepare the country for war.

B. **TERRITORIAL MILITARY DISTRICTS**

The country is divided into five military districts, each corresponding to an army division.

C. **HIGHER UNITS**

There are no Army corps in the Argentine Army. The largest unit is the Army division; the largest cavalry unit is the cavalry brigade. There are also certain mountain detachments.

**THE ARMY DIVISION.**

There are 5 divisions. A division consists of:

- Headquarters with staff.
- Infantry Headquarters.
- 3 Infantry Regiments.
- 1 Battery attached to the Infantry.
- 1 Cavalry Regiment.
- Artillery Headquarters.
- 1 Regiment of Field Artillery.
- Engineer Headquarters.
- 1 Field and Pontoon Engineer Battalion.
- Divisional Park and Train.

**Note.** — Two of the divisions have only one cavalry squadron. The 2nd and 3rd divisions have also a regiment of mounted infantry.

**CAVALRY BRIGADES.**

There are three of these. A cavalry brigade consists of headquarters, 3 cavalry regiments, 1 machine-gun squadron, 1 group of horse artillery and 1 troop of mounted field and pontoon engineers.

**MOUNTAIN DETACHMENTS.**

There are two of these. A mountain detachment consists of: Headquarters, 1 regiment of light infantry, 1 section of scouts, 1 group of mountain artillery.
D. ARMS AND SERVICES

1. Infantry. The unit is the regiment, which consists of 2 battalions (each of 2 companies) and 1 machine-gun company.

2. Cavalry. The unit is the regiment, which consists of 3 (or 4) squadrons.

3. Artillery.
   (a) Field Artillery. The unit is the regiment, which consists of 2 groups (each of two 75 mm. batteries) and 1 battery of 105 mm. howitzers.
   (b) Horse Artillery. The unit is the group (each consisting of two 75 mm. batteries).
   (c) Mountain Artillery. The unit is the group (each of two 75 mm. batteries).

4. Field and Pontoon Engineers. The unit is the battalion (2 companies and 1 bridge train).

5. Railway Troops. There is only 1 railway battalion. The unit is the battalion of 2 companies and 1 park of material.

6. Liaison Troops. There are 4 liaison companies under a single command, which acts as headquarters for communication troops.
   Each company consists of 2 sections, and each section has its own wireless, telephone, and visual signalling appliances.
   The companies are cadres, which are intended to be used for the formation of the liaison battalions of the army divisions.

7. Air Service Troops. There is an aviation group composed of 1 fighting flight, 1 bombing flight, and 1 observation flight. It has also a telegraph section and a training section.

   The following are the military establishments: War Staff College, Military College, N.C.O.s’ School, Musketry and Gunnery School, Cavalry School and the Mechanics’ School.

9. Services. The artillery, engineers, administration, medical services, etc., are governed by the departments of the respective Directors-General through their arsenals, store depots and intendance, medical, etc., personnel.

E. GENDARMERIE AND POLICE

1. Gendarmerie.

There is a regiment of gendarmerie directly under the Ministry of War which is used in the territories of Chaco and Formosa.

There is also a gendarmerie force 100 strong in each district in the country. These corps are under the Ministry of the Interior.
2. Police.

The police force strictly so-called consists of civilians subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior in the federal capital and to the provincial governors in the various territories.

F. RECRUITING SYSTEM

1. General.

Recruiting is carried out on a basis of compulsory military service and on the same terms for all Argentine citizens.

For reasons of economy, not more than about 35 per cent of the annual contingent is ever called up. Men who prove that they have acquired at the shooting ranges the standard of marksmanship required by the executive authorities only serve a quarter of the time which they would otherwise have to serve.

2. Exemptions from military service.

The following are exempted from military service:

(a) Men who are unfit for service and who cannot be employed in non-combatant services.

(b) Men exempted on account of family situation (widows' sons supporting their mothers, brothers supporting younger brothers, etc.).

(c) Members of the State and provincial public services and governors and secretaries of Federal Territories, during the whole duration of their tenure of office or employment.

(d) Members of the regular and secular clergy, seminarists, and ministers of all religions. Every exemption must be renewed in January each year; men granted exemption must also pay a military tax.

3. Reduction of period of service.

Students may apply for permission to perform a special period of training lasting three months as candidates for commissions in the reserve of officers.

4. Volunteers.

The army takes volunteers for 1 year, with the option of re-enlistment subject to approval by the military authorities.

5. Military obligations.

The duration of compulsory military service is 25 years. The class of recruits aged 20 serves 1 year in the regular Army. The nine following classes form the regular Army Reserve, the ten next classes (from 30 to 40) form the National Guard and the five remaining classes the Territorial Guard.¹

¹ The Navy's complement of recruits is filled by a drawing of lots for each class; men drawing the highest numbers being posted to that service.
G. EFFECTIVES

1. Officers.

The Argentine Army has at present 1,501 combatant officers on the active list between the ranks of divisional general and 2nd lieutenant (inclusive) and 542 men holding rank equivalent to that of officer.

2. Other ranks.

Budget Strength:

- 3,160 N.C.O.s.
- 1,820 volunteers.
- 21,000 conscripts called up.

3. Allocation of other ranks between the different arms and services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARM</th>
<th>N.C.O.s</th>
<th>Conscripts called up</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>8,112</td>
<td>436</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>3,824</td>
<td>179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>3,786</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>1,476</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools and Services</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>2,173</td>
<td>1,801</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The term "N. C. O." includes: warrant officers 1st class (sergt.-adjudants), sergt.-majors, orderly-room sergt.-majors, sergeants, orderly-room sergeants, corporal majors (caporaux-majors), orderly-room corporal majors (caporaux-majors), archivists and corporals.

2 Volunteers include buglers, drummers, cadet N.C.O.s, volunteers in the gendarmerie regiment and volunteer orderly-room clerks.

Special Formations:

| R. 4                      | 124     | 1,389                | 32         |         |
| Liaison troops and services | 135     | 957                  | 70         |         |
| Air Service headquarters and troops | 82     | 398                  | 4          |         |
| Gendarmerie regiment      | 34      |                      | 212        |         |
| Disciplinary company      | 19      |                      | 32         |         |

3 Battalions I and II of the 4th regiment act as a training regiment at the School of Musketry.

Battalion III (9th and 10th companies and machine-gun company) at the Esteban de Luca Arsenal.

Company II at the San Lorenzo Arsenal.

Company II at the José M. Rojas Arsenal.

NOTE. — The total strength of the various arms is higher than the total fixed in the budget, as these partial figures contain a certain additional percentage in order to provide for wastage.
H. CADRES

I. Officers on the Active List.

Combatant officers are supplied from the Military College. The completion of their training in the various arms and services is carried out through the establishments already referred to.

2. Reserve of Officers.

The Reserve of Officers consists of officers removed from the Active List at their own request, all third-year cadets from the Military College removed from the strength of that establishment and candidates for the rank of reserve officers who have satisfactorily carried out the period of training to which they are liable as such.

3. Recruiting of Corporals.

Corporals are recruited from the N.C.O.s' School.

II.

Navy.

|                          | Number | Total tonnage | Depreciated tonnage
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battleships and battle cruisers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>55,880</td>
<td>19,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast-defence ships and monitors</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cruisers and light cruisers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34,880</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Destroyers and torpedo-boats</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5,300</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submarines</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous craft</td>
<td>10¹</td>
<td>4,330</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Seven despatch vessels, 2 river gun-boats, 1 gun-boat.
² Depreciated tonnage (on January 1st, 1924), is calculated as follows.
(1) For battleships, battle cruisers, coast defence ships, monitors, aircraft carriers and miscellaneous craft, a reduction in original tonnage at the rate of 1/20 per annum from date of completion.
(2) For cruisers and light cruisers, a reduction of 1/17 per annum from date of completion.
(3) For torpedo craft and submarines, a reduction of 1/12 per annum from date of completion.
III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

1. The financial year coincides with the calendar year. The budget estimates for 1923 were submitted to Congress in December 1922. By a law enacted in November 1923, the budget for 1923 was made valid for another period not exceeding twelve months.

2. The budget is divided into two parts: (a) Current expenditure; (b) Public works, the former category including expenditure on account of defence.

B. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1922</th>
<th>1923</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td>Estimates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper pesos (ooo's omitted)</td>
<td>Paper pesos (ooo's omitted)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>48,813</td>
<td>59,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>41,940</td>
<td>42,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90,753</td>
<td>102,196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures for 1923 in the table above relate to the estimates submitted to Congress. In the estimates voted by Congress, Army and Navy expenditure was combined in one item, the total amounting to 100,738,000 as against 102,196,000 pesos in the table. As the budget for 1923 has been made valid for 1924 also, this figure represents the defence appropriations for 1924.

Sources.

Communication from the Government on 16th July, 1924.
Jane's Fighting Ships, 1923.
Budget Estimates for 1923 made valid for 1924.