PARAGUAY

GENERAL

Area . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 507,640 sq. kilom.
Population (1923) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1,000,000
Per sq. kilom . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2.0.

I.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS.

The supreme head of the armed forces of the nation is the President of the Republic.

The military organisation of the national forces is in the hands of the Ministry of War and Marine and the Army General Staff.

I. MINISTRY OF WAR AND MARINE.

The Ministry of War and Marine deals with all questions relating to military organisation, training, armament, fortification and administration.

The Ministry consists of a Secretariat, four departments (War Department, Naval Department, Administrative Department, Department of Military Justice and Awards), four divisions (War Material Division, Division for Technical Work, Health Division, Remounts Division) and an independent section (Library and Archives).

The Ministry of War and Marine controls:

(a) The Army General Staff,
(b) The General Inspectorate of the Army,
(c) The Commands of the military areas,
(d) The military and naval arsenals,
(e) The Command of the Fleet,
(f) Inspection of Army Administration,
(g) The Administrative Department,
(h) The Health Services Directorate.
The Army General Staff controls the Staffs of the areas and the military training establishments; the General Inspectorate of the Army issues orders to the Inspectors of the different arms or areas; the Area Authorities issue orders to the commanders of the troops in their different areas; the Administrative Department controls military intendance in the areas, and the Health Division administers the Health Services of the Army and Navy.

2. COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

The Council of National Defence consists of the Ministers of War and Marine, Foreign Affairs and Finance, the Chief of the General Staff of the Army, the Inspector-General, the Inspectors of the areas or different arms, the Area Commanders and the Commander of the Fleet.

The President of this Council is the President of the Republic or the Minister of War and Marine and the Secretary is the Under-Secretary of State for War and Marine.

It deals with all questions relating to the acquisition of arms, fortifications and, generally speaking, all problems concerned with national defence.

3. INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

The Inspector-General is responsible for:

(a) The inspection of all the troops and units in the army. Each year he forwards to the Ministry of War a detailed report on this inspection, mentioning any improvements or defects which he has noticed.

(b) Issuing instructions to inspectors of arms and areas.

B. MILITARY AREAS

The Paraguayan Army is divided into three military areas.

1st Military Area. Headquarters at Concepcion. The first military area contains 1 cavalry squadron and 1 machine-gun section.

2nd Military Area. Headquarters at Paraguari. The second area contains a headquarters staff, an infantry battalion of 2 companies, a machine-gun company and a group of mountain artillery with 2 batteries.

3rd Military Area. Headquarters at Villarrica. The third area contains a headquarters staff, an infantry battalion of three companies, a machine-gun company and a machine-gun section.
Each of the three military areas also contains garrison forces, which are divided as follows:

Garrison of Villa Hayes: 1 company of sappers.
  » Asuncion: 1 cavalry squadron,
    1 machine-gun section,
    1 infantry company.
  » San-Ignacio: 1 cavalry squadron.

C. ARMS AND SERVICES

Infantry. The largest unit of infantry is the battalion. Each battalion consists of two or three companies and a machine-gun company.

At present the Infantry consists of 2 battalions, making up 6 companies of the line, 2 machine-gun companies and 3 machine-gun sections.

Cavalry. The largest unit of cavalry is the squadron. At present the army contains 3 cavalry squadrons.

Artillery. The Artillery consists of one group of mountain artillery with 2 batteries.

Engineers. The Engineers consist of a company of sappers.

TABLE OF COMMANDS AND UNITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
<th>Cos. of the line</th>
<th>Machine-Gun Cos.</th>
<th>Machine-Gun Sections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Artillery</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Military service is compulsory for all citizens of Paraguay.

LENGTH OF SERVICE.

The length of service is 28 years, and it is divided as follows: (1) between 18 and 20 in the regular army or navy; (2) between 20 and 45 in the Reserve.
Service in the Reserve is divided into three periods:
1. Between 20 and 29, in the Reserve of the regular army;
2. Between 29 and 39, in the National Guard;

When the number of enlisted men exceeds the contingent fixed by the budget, military service may be reduced to a year. This provision may be applied by the drawing of lots to the whole of the contingent or only to a part of it.

Similarly, the contingent called up may be reduced by the drawing of lots to the total number fixed.

The authorities can call up every year for active service, for a maximum period of 6 months, a contingent of the Reserve which has never done service. It can also call up every 2 years for 90 days men of the National Guard who have never passed into the army, and every 3 years for 60 days it can call up men of the Territorial Guard who have never done any service.

Exemptions.

The law exempts from service men who are physically unfit, men who are supporting families, clergymen and certain officials.

E. CADRES

1. NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Recruitment.

Non-commissioned officers of the regular army are recruited from conscripts, volunteers and re-enlisted men.

Re-engagement.

Non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who, after completing the service required of them by the law, desire to remain in the army may re-engage for a minimum period of one year.

2. OFFICERS.

Recruiting.

Officers of the regular army and navy are trained in military schools.

Candidates for a commission between 18 and 25 who have completed three years of secondary studies may be admitted to the regular army as commissioned subalterns or military cadets.

Subaltern officers, non-combatant officers of the army and navy and military officials are appointed by the President of the Republic. The appointment of senior officers and Generals requires the assent of Congress.
Promotion.

In order to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant a candidate must have served for at least two years as a second lieutenant.

In order to be promoted to the rank of captain the candidate must have served at least three years as a lieutenant.

In order to be promoted to the rank of major a candidate must have served as captain for at least four years.

In order to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel a candidate must have served for at least six years as major.

For promotion to the rank of colonel a candidate must have served for at least five years as a lieutenant-colonel, and have held a command for three years.

In order to be promoted to the rank of brigadier-general a candidate must have served as colonel for at least four years and have held a command for two years.

In order to be promoted to the rank of divisional-general, he must have served for at least four years in the rank immediately below and have held a command for two years.

3. Officers of the Reserve.

Officers of the Reserve consist of officers of the old National Guard who hold brevet rank. When called to the colours, they are subject during the whole of their service to the laws and regulations of the regular army.

F. EFFECTIVES

Regular Establishment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.s Excl. corporals</th>
<th>Corporals and men.</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ministry of War | 24 | 3 | 11 | 37  
| Infantry | 52 | 48 | 864 | 964  |
| Cavalry | 24 | 27 | 271 | 302  |
| Artillery | 18 | 16 | 184 | 218  |
| Inspectorates | 12 | 19 | 22 | 53  |
| Military Academy | 8 | 4 | 16 | 28  |
| Military Flying School | 3 | 1 | 10 | 14  |
| **Total** | **141** | **120** | **1,378** | **1,639** |

1 Not including 63 orderlies.
2 Not including 6 orderlies.
3 Not including 3 orderlies and 80 cadets.
4 Not including 6 orderlies and 10 pupils.
Budget Effectives, 1925-1296.

Officers.

Divisional-Generals .......... 1
Brigadier-Generals .......... 2
Colonels .................... 1
Lieutenant-Colonels .......... 2
Majors ...................... 9
Captains .................... 25
Lieutenants ................ 15
2nd Lieutenants ............. 53
Total ....................... 108

N.C.O.s (excl. corporals) ......... 135
Corporals and men ............. 2,285
Total N.C.O.s and men .......... 2,420
Grand total 1 ............... 2,528

Army Training Establishments.

Military Academy ........... 130 cadets
Military Flying School ...... 12 (various)
Practical School ............ 33 other ranks
Army Medical School ........ 16 pupils
Reserve Practical School ... 200 students.

II.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

(1) The Budget year covers the period from September 1st to August 31st.

(2) The Budget is drawn up according to the principles of gross budgeting.

(3) The estimates include both votes in gold pesos (oro sellado) and votes in paper pesos (curso legal). In the following table the paper pesos have been converted into gold pesos at the rate prevailing at the date of voting the budget (December 1st, 1923), 1 gold peso = 42.6 paper pesos.

1 Not including 28 medical officers; 31 administrative officers; 34 N.C.O.s and men in the Medical Service; 36 hospital sergeants; 56 bandsmen and 74 orderlies.
B. Defence Expenditure.

Budget estimates for the financial year 1923-24.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of War and the Navy</th>
<th>Gold pesos</th>
<th>Paper pesos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>106,824</td>
<td>17,671,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Defence Expenditure in gold pesos . 521,500

Sources.

Diario Oficial; No. 592, 27/II 1920; No. 803, 26/IX 1922; No. 806, 23/X 1922.