BOLIVIA

GENERAL

Area .......... 1,834,225 sq. km.
Inhabitants (1923) ...... 3,200,000
Per sq. km. ...... 1.7

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of the army.

I. MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War is organised in 5 sections as follows:

1. The Secretariat;
2. Section of military justice, claims and military conscription;
3. Section of inspection, accounts, equipment and remounts;
4. Personnel, cadres and arms;
5. Archives, correspondence and information.

II. THE GENERAL STAFF.

In peace time the General Staff is under the President of the Republic and the Ministry of War. In time of war it is subordinate to the Commander-in-Chief of the army in the field.

The General Staff consists of 5 sections.

1st section: Organisation of the army of the line; military training and establishments;
2nd section: Recruiting, mobilisation;
3rd section: Information, statistics;
4th section: Geodesy, topography;
5th section: Personnel.

B. MILITARY AREAS

Bolivia is divided into 3 military areas and 2 commands.

1. The Northern area, comprising the department of La Paz;
2. The Central area, comprising the departments of Oruro and Cochabamba;
C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The Bolivian army contains:

3 mixed brigade staffs;
6 infantry regiments, consisting of 2 battalions of 4 companies (1 machine-gun company);
3 cavalry regiments, consisting of 4 squadrons;
1 regiment of field artillery, consisting of 2 batteries;
1 regiment of mountain artillery, consisting of 4 batteries;
2 engineer battalions;
1 aviation flight (10 machines).

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Obligation and length of military service.

All Bolivians between 19 and 49 are required to serve in the army:
1. Between 19 and 25, in the army of the line and its depot;
2. Between 25 and 32, in the ordinary reserve;
3. Between 32 and 40, in the extraordinary reserve;
4. Between 40 and 49, in the territorial guard.

Army of the line and depot.

If it is found that the number of conscripts called up is in excess of the contingent fixed for the regular army, lots will be drawn so as to divide the contingent into two categories. The first category is incorporated in the army of the line for a period of 2 years and forms the regular national army. The second category is also incorporated in line units for purposes of military training for a maximum period of 3 months; at the end of that time the men in this category are sent on furlough without any other obligation than that of undergoing certain periods of training.

When they have completed their 2 years’ or 3 months’ service, as the case may be, both classes pass into the depot, where they undergo 30 days’ training each year.

General and Special Reserve.

Men belonging to these formations also undergo a period of training of from 12 to 20 days. For this purpose they are formed into special units, incorporated in the army of the line.

Territorial Guard.

Men belonging to this formation are only called up in the event of war with a view to maintaining public order in their respective districts.
Men debarred or exempted from service.

Men who have been sentenced to degrading penalties and have completed their sentence are debarred from service in the army, but, in so far as they are liable to military service, are placed at the disposal of the Ministries of War and the Colonies.

Men physically unfit are exempt from military service.

Men with a family to support and men with certain University degrees or professional titles are exempted from the 2 years' service, but serve 3 months with the army of the line, and are required to undergo periods of training.

Members of Congress, Ministers, ministers of religion, etc., will not be required to undergo training so long as they hold their posts.

Military Tax.

Those exempted or excused from military service or periods of training are subject to a tax varying with the exemption and with the means of the person concerned.

Volunteers and re-engaged men.

Young men from 17 to 18 who desire to complete their 2 years' or 3 months' service in advance of their time may be accepted as volunteers. Other volunteers, both adults and minors, may be taken on for 2 years with consent of their parents or guardians, if there are any vacancies.

Corporals and sergeants may reengage for a year in the rank they hold or in the rank immediately above, provided their commanding officer considers that they possess the necessary qualifications.

First- and second-class sergeants with 4 years of service in their rank will receive additional pay equal to 20 per cent of their ordinary pay.

Non-commissioned officers who, as the result of successive re-engagements, have completed 15 years of service or more, will be entitled to retire with a life pension.

E. EFFECTIVES (1925)

The effectives of the Bolivian army (officers and men) amount to 8,000 men.

II.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. NOTES ON BUDGET PROCEDURE.

(1) The financial year coincides with the calendar year.

(2) The budget shows gross figures, i.e., receipts collected by the various departments in the course of their administration are accounted for on the revenue side of the budget.

B. BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Summary.

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<th>1923</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Closed accounts</td>
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<td>Estimates</td>
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<td>Department of War</td>
<td>7,016</td>
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Bolivianos (ooo's omitted)

Note. — The budgets do not contain any details regarding expenditure on defence. The figures include expenditure on pensions.
III.


(P = Production; E = Exports.)

ORES AND METALS

(A) Ores.

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(B) Metals.

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<td>8.7</td>
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¹ Practically all the ore is exported and the metal extracted abroad.
² Estimate.
³ Estimated domestic smelter production.