COLOMBIA

GENERAL

Area . . . . . . 1,195,870 sq. kilometres
Population (1923). . . . . . 6,618,000
Per sq. kilometre . . . . . . . 5.5

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS.

The supreme command of the Army is vested in the President of the Republic, who may delegate his powers as provided by the Constitution and the laws of the country.

I. MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War consists of the following Departments:

(a) Central Department (Secretariat) : 2 sections.

(b) General War Department : Army section ; recruiting section.

(c) Personnel Department : Personnel section ; statistics and archives section.

(d) Administrative Department : accounting section ; depots (intendance supplies) ; remounts section ; military justice and rewards section ; chaplains' section ; army medical section.

(e) Office of the Director of war material ; military workshops ; arms depots (general park).

The Army treasury and ammunition factory are also under the Ministry of War.

2. INSPECTORATE-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

The Inspector-General has the rank of general commanding division. The Inspector-General supervises the execution of orders emanating from the Legislature, the Government or the Ministry of War. He must inspect every command, military institution and army unit at least once a year.
3. **General Staff.**

This consists of a Chief of the General Staff with the rank of general commanding division, and 5 heads of departments (generals commanding brigades or colonels) and 7 heads of sections (majors or lieutenant-colonels).

The General Staff includes the following departments:

(a) Central Department;
(b) Intelligence Department;
(c) Transport Department;
(d) Topographical Department;
(e) Historical Department.

4. **Higher Commands.**

The divisional commands are responsible for the instruction of officers and men. They direct the administrative services of the divisional troops and are charged with the maintenance of barracks, arms, etc. These commands constitute the recruiting centres of the military areas under them. A divisional command is organised in 5 sections.

   - Section I is responsible for the direction of military training in the division and, in general, for all work dealt with by a divisional staff, such as preparations for mobilisation, the concentration of troops, etc.
   - Section II deals with all questions not specifically allotted to any other section.
   - Section III deals with matters connected with military justice in the division.
   - Section IV is responsible for the inspection and direction of the administrative services of the division and everything connected with barracks, equipment, etc.
   - Section V deals with recruiting in the military area of the division.

**B. Composition of the Army.**

The military forces of the Republic consist in time of peace of five divisions, one cavalry brigade and one river flotilla. The five divisions are numbered from 1 to 5 and their divisional headquarters are stationed at Bogotá, Barranquilla, Cali, Medellin and Bucaramanga respectively. The headquarters of the cavalry brigade is at Bogotá.

The Army consists of the infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineer and air arms and of the medical and transport auxiliary services. Separate regulations will be issued for the river flotilla.

Each division consists of two or more infantry regiments in addition to troops of other arms which are attached to it.

The infantry regiments are composed of two to four battalions; a battalion consists of two to four companies.

The cavalry consists of regiments, groups or squadrons. A regiment consists of three or four squadrons, or of two groups. A group consists of two or three squadrons.

The artillery consists of groups of two to four batteries each.

The engineers are organised in battalions composed as follows: the sapper battalion consisting of two companies, including one bridging company; a railway battalion consisting of three railway companies,
including one construction company, 1 operating company and 1 company of permanent way guards; and a communications battalion consisting of two to four companies.

The air troops are organised in companies according to the number of flights available.

The medical and transport troops are organised in companies.

The river flotilla consists of four or more gun-boats which patrol the upper and lower portions of the River Magdalena and its navigable tributaries. The organisation of the flotilla will be laid down in a special decree.

C. RECRUITING SYSTEM.

Every Colombian citizen between the ages of 21 and 40 is liable to serve in the active army and in the reserve or militia.

The recruiting is effected by drawing lots each year. The men selected serve for three years.

Military Tax.

Persons who have not been drawn by lot to serve with the colours pay a single tax in lieu of military service. This tax may not exceed 100 pesos and may not be less than 5 pesos, according to the income of the individual. For this purpose citizens are divided into six classes.

The payment of the military tax or service with the colours for three years in the case of persons drawn by lot dispenses them from all other service for life except in case of domestic or external disorders. In the latter case, all men between 21 and 40 years of age who form part of the national militia may be called up for 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, persons who have lost limbs, and persons unfit for service as a result of disease or infirmity.

Certain supporters of families are exempt from service in peace-time.

Persons engaged in certain duties, young men studying for the liberal professions (up to the end of their studies) and persons whose presence in the army would be harmful to the moral of the troops are temporarily exempted from military service.

Voluntary engagements are only permitted when the number of conscripts enrolled is not sufficient to fill existing vacancies. Voluntary engagements may only take place at the times fixed for the calling up of the contingents.

For 1926 the number of recruits is 4,683.

Military Education.

The military educational establishments are governed by special regulations and their personnel is appointed in accordance with the provisions of the budget. These educational establishments are under the Minister for War; the Staff College is under the General Staff Department; and the Military School, the School of Aviation, the Non-Commissioned Officers' School and other similar schools which will be created are placed under the Inspector-General of the Army.
**COLOMBIA**

**Staff College.** — The object of this college is to train staff officers. It holds a supplementary course for the preparation of subaltern officers and officers who have not passed through the military school.

**Military School.** — 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. The number of pupils is 150. A reorganisation took place in 1927.

**Schools for N.C.O.s.** — 3 such schools were established in January 1926 (and one Central School for N.C.O.s in 1927):
- School for N.C.O.s No. 1 at Bogotá, for troops of the 1st Division.
- School for N.C.O.s No. 2 at Cali, for troops of the 3rd and 4th Divisions.
- School for N.C.O.s No. 3 at Bucaramanga, for troops of the 2nd and 5th Divisions.

The Staff of each of these schools consists of 1 Commandant (Captain) and three instructors (Lieutenants). They are directly under the Ministry of War. The duration of each course is 4 months.

**Military Schools of Aviation.** — There are several military Aviation Schools. They are directly under the Ministry of War. One of these Schools is established in Madrid (Bogotá) and has 20 Officer pupils.

**D. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES FOR THE YEAR 1925.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporals and other ranks</td>
<td>5,620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military employees</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,386</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The budgetary efectives for the year 1925 are calculated on the basis of the former composition of the army, viz. — 3 divisions, each consisting of 2 brigades and including 12 infantry regiments, 1 artillery regiment, 1 cavalry regiment, 1 cavalry group, 1 engineer battalion, 1 train battalion and 1 railway battalion. The Law of February 28th, 1925, reorganised the Colombian army on a basis of 5 divisions.

**II.**

**Navy.**

**LIST OF UNITS**

(1926)

**Gunboat:**


**River Gunboats:**


2. *General Nerino* (1895) Guns: 3 M. G.

**Miscellaneous:** 10 units (coastguard vessels, motor launches, etc.).

- Total tonnage (3 units) ... ... ... ... ... 1,443 tons
- Depreciated tonnage (at January 1st, 1927) ... ... —
III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

(1) The financial year coincides with the calendar year.
(2) The budget is gross, and the accounts of public undertakings are included in those of the administrative departments with which they are connected.

B. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

I. Summary of Defence Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>3,032</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>3,498</td>
<td>3,631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The appropriations include military pensions.

II. Analysis of Defence Expenditure.

The following table shows the main items of defence expenditure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Expenditure on personnel:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry personnel</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army personnel</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military school</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluvial fleet</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure on personnel</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, A</strong></td>
<td>1,349</td>
<td>1,499</td>
<td>1,601</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Expenditure on material:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, washing and hair-dressing</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>710</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War material</td>
<td>647</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military school</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluvial fleet</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenses</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>366</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, B</strong></td>
<td>1,683</td>
<td>1,777</td>
<td>1,897</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3,032</td>
<td>3,276</td>
<td>3,498</td>
<td>3,631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Not available.

The budget of the Ministry of War (war material) contains the working expenses of a munition factory, amounting to 150,000 pesos.

The item "Various expenses" in the budget for the year 1926 includes appropriations for a school of aviation amounting to 50,000 pesos and for military pensions to 130,000 pesos.
IV.


(P = Production.)

I. FUEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1922</th>
<th>1923</th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Petroleum</strong></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>134</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>854</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

II. VARIOUS PRODUCTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1922</th>
<th>1923</th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cotton</strong></td>
<td>P</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>