CUBA

GENERAL

Area ...................................... 118,831 sq. km
Population (31.XII.28) ................. 3,599,000
Density per sq. km. .................... 30.3
Length of railway system (iii. 1927) 4,924 km.

I

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

SUPREME COMMAND.

The supreme command of the army is vested, under paragraph 17 of Article 68 of the Constitution, in the President of the Republic, who exercises his powers in time of peace through the Secretariat of the Army and Navy and through the Chief of the Staff. In case of war or grave disorder the President may place the army, entirely or in part, under the command of one or more officers under his orders.

ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT.

The Secretary of State for the Army and Navy is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the President of the Republic in questions relating to defence.

The Army and Navy Department consists of two divisions: the Control and Administrative Divisions.

The Control Division consists of the following sections: Inspection, Military Law, Intelligence, Veterinary, Medical, Personnel, Education, Police, Engineers.

The Administrative Department consists of the following sections: Supply, Accountancy and Pay, Remounts, War Material.

STAFF.

The Chief of Staff is appointed by the President of the Republic. He is responsible, under the orders of the President or the Secretary of State for the Army and Navy, for the direction, inspection and administration of all the branches of the army, including the military academies and schools of every description.
It is the duty of the staff to undertake enquiries and to keep itself informed on all questions relating to the effective strength of the army and its preparation for military operations.

**B. MILITARY AREAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Western province</td>
<td>Staff, 1 cavalry regiment and 10 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Camaguey</td>
<td>Staff, 1 cavalry regiment and 6 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
<td>Staff, 1 cavalry regiment and 5 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Matanzas</td>
<td>Staff, 1 cavalry regiment and 5 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Havana (except for Columbia and the municipal district of Havana)</td>
<td>Staff, and 6 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Staff, 4 infantry battalions, a signallers’ corps, an aviation section and 1 cavalry regiment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fortress of La Cabaña</td>
<td>Staff, 3 coast artillery battalions, 1 field artillery battery, 2 mountain artillery batteries and 1 corps of engineers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pinar del Rio</td>
<td>Staff, 1 cavalry regiment and 6 squadrons of gendarmerie.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY**

The army comprises the following organisations:
- The staff.
- The artillery, cavalry and infantry arms.
- The corps of rural guards.
- The corps of engineers.
- The corps of signals.
- The air force and its school.
- The medical and veterinary services; military justice.
- The military schools.
- Pensioners: Officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks.

**D. ARMS AND SERVICES**

The Cuban army consists at the present time of:
- General Staff,
- 8 Staffs corresponding to the 8 areas,
- 6 Cavalry regiments,
- 4 Infantry battalions,
- 3 Coast artillery battalions,
- 1 Field artillery battery,
- 2 Mountain artillery batteries,
- 38 Squadrons of gendarmerie,
1 Corps of engineers,
1 Corps of signallers,
1 Aviation Corps.

**Infantry.** — Each infantry battalion consists of a staff, 4 companies, a machine-gun section and a horse-transport section.

**Cavalry.** — Each cavalry regiment consists of a staff, 3 squadrons, a machine-gun section and a horse-transport section.

**Coast Artillery.** — Each battalion consists of a staff, 4 companies, a machine-gun section and a horse-transport section.

**Air Forces.** — The air forces consist of two observation and light bomber squadrons and one squadron of fighter planes.

The normal establishments are:

- Officers ................. 36
- N. C. O. s ................ 24
- Rank and File ............ 145

Total .......................... 205

Each observation and bomber squadron comprises 12 aeroplanes, 36 machine guns, besides bomb-dropping gear, etc. The fighter squadron comprises: 6 fighter planes, 12 machine guns, etc.

**Engineers.** — The corps of engineers consists of a staff, a railway company and a company of sappers and field engineers.

**Signallers.** — The corps of signallers consists of a staff, a wireless company and a telegraph and telephone company.

**E. SUMMARY TABLE OF UNITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrions</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Machine-gun</th>
<th>Transport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Artillery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Artillery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Artillery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signallers</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**F. RECRUITING SYSTEM**

In conformity with the terms of the constitution and subject to the exemptions provided in the laws, military service is obligatory for all citizens, not physically unfit, who are between the ages of 18 and 45.
In peace time, service in the army is voluntary; but men who sign contracts of service are obliged to serve for a minimum period of two years.

The following conditions have to be fulfilled by men desirous of signing contracts of service: \(a\) the applicant must be a citizen of Cuba, \(b\) he must be more than 18 and less than 35 years of age.

**Military Educational Establishments.**

Under the system of military education in force in the Cuban army, the following educational organisations are maintained:

1. The cadet school at Moro, Havana, for the instruction of cadets.
2. A practical training school (cavalry and infantry sections) at Columbia, for the training of officers of these arms.
3. A practical training school (artillery section) at Cabaña, for the advanced training of artillery officers.
4. Corporals' and under-officers' schools: one to each battalion, or one or more in each district.
5. Recruiting schools: one to each battalion, or one or more in each district.
6. A garrison class in each military station.
7. An academy for N.C.O's, corporals and other ranks of all units and detachments of the army.
8. The flying school at Columbia for the training of air pilots and observers.
9. The veterinary and farriery school at Columbia.
10. The school for motor drivers and lorry drivers at Havana.
11. The armourers' school at Havana.
13. Naval School at Mariel.
14. School for mechanics of the Navy.

**G. RURAL GUARDS**

The Corps of Rural Guards is employed in time of peace, under the orders of the President of the Republic, for the maintenance of order and the protection of life and property in other than urban areas. The rural guards have a maximum establishment of 42 squadrons, numbering (1929-30) not more then 6,320 under-officers, corporals and privates.

The Rural Guards have a double organisation — firstly, military and, secondly, that of rural police. As regards their military organisation, they are governed by the laws, regulations, orders and circulars of the army; as regards their rural police organisation, they are governed by the special regulations of the Rural Guard.

The President of the Republic is empowered, having due regard to the economic circumstances and resources of the nation, to increase or decrease the total establishment of N.C.O's, corporals or privates, of any squadron, company or battery, to a maximum of 150 or a minimum of 60; or in the case of squadrons...
employed in the maintaining of public order, to a maximum of 200 or a minimum of 75, provided, however, that the grand total of the establishment of under-officers, corporals and privates is not exceeded.

Applicants for service in the Rural Guards must be 21 years of age, must not have been convicted of any crime, and must be able to read and write.

H. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES

1929-30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Colonels</th>
<th>Lieut.-Colonels</th>
<th>Majors</th>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Lieutenants</th>
<th>Second Lieutenants</th>
<th>Total No. of officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.'s</th>
<th>Other Ranks</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>War Department</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>10,438</td>
<td>11,974</td>
<td>11,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Serv.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>186</strong></td>
<td><strong>241</strong></td>
<td><strong>110</strong></td>
<td><strong>614</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,142</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,913</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,669</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Not including 1 chief and 2 assistant chiefs of General Staff.
2 Not including 158 supernumerary officers, 54 officers in excess of establishment and 75 cadets.

Number of animals in service (Army and Rural Guards) in 1929-30, 7,843.

NATIONAL POLICE. 1

Officers ........................................ 98
Constables ..................................... 2,044

II.

Navy.

LIST OF UNITS

(1929)

Cruisers:


Gunboats:

2. *Pinar del Rio* (1912)

1 Placed under the Secretariat of the Government.
2 The dates in brackets give the dates of the launching.
3. **Diez de octubre (1911)**

   218 tons. Dimensions: 110 x 20 x 8 feet.
   
   Speed: 12 kts. **Guns**: 3 3-pdr.

4. **Veinte y cuatro de febrero (1911)**

   218 tons. Dimensions: 110 x 20 x 8 feet.
   
   Speed: 12 kts. **Guns**: 3 3-pdr.

5. **Baire (1906)**

   500 tons. Dimensions: 196 x 23 x 9 feet. H.P. 1,200 = 14 kts. **Guns**: 4 3-inch, 2 3-pdr.

   Miscellaneous: 11 units (coastguard vessels, etc.).

### SUMMARY TABLE OF NAVAL UNITS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Depreciated Tonnage¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cruisers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,255</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,351</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personnel (1928-29): 151 officers

25 cadets

1,014 N.C.O.'s and men.

¹ The depreciated tonnage 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.

2 On January 1st, 1929.

3 On January 1st, 1929.

4 Under the heading "Miscellaneous craft", only sloops, gunboats, river gunboats and despatch vessels are shown.

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### III.

#### Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

**A. NOTES ON BUDGET PROCEDURE.**

1. The budget year covers the period from July 1st to June 30th.

2. The budget, which is gross, is divided into two sections, the permanent budget and the annual budget. Defence expenditure is included in the annual budget.

3. There are various special funds outside the budget.

**B. DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.**

#### I. Summary of Defence Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926-27</th>
<th>1927-28</th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat of War and the Navy</td>
<td>12,483</td>
<td>12,325</td>
<td>12,859</td>
<td>12,734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## II. Analysis of Defence Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926-27</th>
<th>1927-28</th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>5,855</td>
<td>6,013</td>
<td>6,204</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victualling</td>
<td>3,190</td>
<td>3,143</td>
<td>3,238</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>113</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War material and various expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>784</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>602</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12,483</td>
<td>12,325</td>
<td>12,859</td>
<td>12,734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures in the table do not include the military and naval pensions, some of which are charged to the Ministry of Finance jointly with civil pensions, some to a special section of the budget (Veterans of the War of Liberation, 6,743,298 pesos for 1928-29 and 7,336,360 pesos for 1929-30) and others paid out of special funds.