BOLIVIA

GENERAL

Area ............. 1,333,000 sq. km.
Population (estimation) .... 3,000,000
Density per sq. km. ......... 2.3
Length of railway system (1929) 2,252 km.
(excluding some industrial lines)

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:

The Minister's Secretariat;
1. Personnel, arms, equipment and remounts;
2. Accountancy Section;
3. Section of military justice, claims and military conscription;
4. Archives and correspondence;
5. Military constructions.

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: Surveying, topography;
5th section: Personnel.
III. SUPREME COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The Supreme Council of National Defence is responsible for studying and proposing all measures ensuring the preparedness of national defence.

The Supreme Council of National Defence is responsible, in particular, for:

1. Fixing the plan to be followed by the country in international policy, according to the principles adopted by the Government and the resources required for carrying it into effect.
2. Organising the nation in case of war;
3. Developing the systems of supply, transport, manufacture and resources of all kinds.
4. Taking health measures against diseases of social importance, and
5. Developing the moral education of the population.

The Supreme Council of National Defence consists of the President of the Republic, the Secretaries of State for War, Colonisation, Foreign Affairs, Worship, Finance, Industry, Public Works, Communications, Education and Agriculture, and the Chief of the General Staff.

The technical advisers are the Adjutant-General of the Ministry of War, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff, the chief advisers of the Ministries named above, the Director of the War Arsenal, and the Director of the Military Aviation School.

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;
3. The Southern area, comprising the departments of Potosi and Chuquisaca.

Each area is commanded by a Brigadier-General.

The departments of Tarija, Santa Cruz and Beni, together with the territories of the north-western colonies, make up the two military commands.

C. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The army contains:

6 divisional staffs;
12 infantry regiments, consisting of 2 battalions of 4 companies (1 machine-gun company);
6 cavalry regiments, consisting of 4 squadrons;
1 regiment of field artillery, consisting of 2 batteries;
3 regiments of mountain artillery, consisting of 2 batteries;
6 engineer battalions;
2 aviation flights (20 machines).

1 In process of formation: 1 regiment of field artillery and 1 regiment of mountain artillery, consisting of 2 batteries each.
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 annual periods of training of 30 days.

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 for degrading offences 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 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.

Men with certain University degrees only serve one year and then pass an examination to become N.C.O.s.

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 re-engage 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.

Military schools.

War School, for training of officers of higher ranks.
Military College, organised in 2 companies, comprising 247 cadets (1928).
Aviation School.
Recruits' professional training School.
School of engineering attached to the Arsenal (19 pupils in 1928).
School for N.C.O.s.

E. EFFECTIVES

The effectives of the Bolivian army for the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 (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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<tr>
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Note. — The budgets do not contain any details regarding expenditure on defence. The figures include expenditure on pensions.