ARGENTINE

Area .................. 2,792,713 sq. km.
Population (vii. 1931) ....... 11,577,000
Density per sq. km. ........... 4.1

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The armed forces of the Argentine include the army, the military air force and the navy, the first two of which are under the control of the Ministry of War, while the third is under that of the Navy Department.

The Argentine army consists of: (a) the regular army, (b) the national guard and (c) the territorial guard.

The regular army consists of the standing army and its reserve. The technical organisation of the national guard and the territorial guard is similar to that of the regular army.

Each provincial Government is responsible in its territory, and the Central Government is responsible in the capital and in the national territories, for the training and organisation of the National Guard.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION

MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Minister of War is the supreme head of the army.

A General Directorate of Air Services is attached to the Ministry of War in an advisory capacity for questions affecting the military air force. It is responsible for the organisation of the air force, the recruiting and training of its personnel, etc. The command of the air force is vested in a senior officer.

ARMY GENERAL STAFF.

The Army General Staff is attached to the Ministry of War, and deals with all technical questions concerning the preparation of the country for war.
INSPECTORATE-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

The Inspectorate-General of the Army is attached to the Ministry of War, and is responsible for the supervision and training of the army, under the immediate control of the Minister of War. It also advises the Minister of War in all matters concerning the preparation of the army for active service.

The office of Inspector-General of the Army is filled by a general appointed by the executive authorities, who has the highest position in the army after the Minister for War.

The duties of the Inspector-General of the Army in connection with preparation for war are exercised through the General Staff of the Army, which is directly under his orders. His duties in connection with training and inspection are exercised through the inspectors of arms.

A Standing Committee of Arms was established in 1921 consisting of the inspectors of arms, the Inspector-General being its president.

COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

1. Higher units: 5 infantry divisions;
   3 cavalry brigades.

   Each division comprises 3 infantry regiments, 1 cavalry regiment
   (2 divisions have only 1 cavalry squadron each, for drills and manoeuvres)
   1 field artillery regiment, 1 engineer bridging battalion and 1 battery
   of artillery. Two divisions comprise, in addition, 1 mounted infantry
   regiment.

   Each cavalry brigade possesses, in addition to its 3 regiments
   1 machine-gun squadron and 1 horse artillery group of 2 batteries, and
   1 engineer bridging squadron.

2. Arms and services.

   Infantry: 19 regiments (including 2 mounted infantry regiments
   and 2 light infantry regiments).

   Each regiment consists of 2 battalions and 1 machine-gun company.
   Each battalion is divided into 2 companies.

   Cavalry: 11 regiments, 3 of which are divisional.
   Each cavalry regiment consists of 3 or 4 squadrons.

   Artillery:
   Field artillery: 5 regiments (making a total of 20 75-mm. batteries
   and 5 105-mm. howitzer batteries).

   Horse artillery: 6 75-mm. batteries.
   Mountain artillery: 4 75-mm. batteries.

   Each of the five divisions also possesses a battery attached to the
   infantry.
Engineers: 5 engineer bridging battalions of 2 companies each; 1 battalion (2 companies) of railway troops.

Air force: 3 bombing flights; 3 observation flights; 1 fighter flight.

Air Material.

(Extract from the communication from the Argentine Government, dated October 28th, 1931.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of aeroplanes</th>
<th>86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global horse-power</td>
<td>32,460</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The army also includes communication troops, artillery service, engineers service, medical service, etc.

Summary Table of Units.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Higher units</th>
<th>Divisions</th>
<th>Brigades</th>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>94 ¹</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25 ²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air force</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Including 18 machine-gun companies. ² Including 5 trench-mortar batteries.

Gendarmerie and Police

The gendarmerie, comprising a regiment (3 squadrons), is under the control of the Ministry of War, and is used in the Chaco and Formosa territories.

In each of the national territories, moreover, there is a gendarmerie force, which is under the Ministry of the Interior.

Strength on January 1st, 1930: 592 officers, N.C.O.s and men.

The police force consists of civilians and is subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and the provincial governments.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE

Military service is compulsory. The whole annual contingent is not called to the colours; for reasons of economy, not more than about 35 per cent are ever called up.

Liability to military service covers in all a period of 25 years, namely:

- Between the ages of 20 and 30 in the regular army and its reserve, including one year with the colours;
- Between the ages of 30 and 40 in the national guard;
- Between the ages of 40 and 45 in the territorial guard.

The rank and file in the regular army reserve are required to undergo two periods of training or manoeuvres of not more than one month each.

The contingent of recruits for the year 1930 comprised 108,541 enlisted, 26,636 of whom were incorporated in the army and 7,200 in the navy.

RECRUITING OF OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Regular army officers are recruited through the Military College. Reserve officers are recruited from among the officers of the active army, the third-year cadets of the Military College, and candidates for the rank of officer of reserve who have passed satisfactorily through a period of special instruction.

EFFECTIVES

1. AVERAGE DAILY EFFECTIVES REACHED DURING THE YEAR 1930.

(Extract from the communication from the Argentine Government, dated October 28th, 1931.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total effectives</th>
<th>32,712</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>1,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. SUMMARY TABLE OF BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES.

The figures in the following table, which are extracted from previous editions of the Armaments Year-Book, differ in character from the figures in the preceding table.

These two kinds of returns are not comparable with each other.

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2 Deduct 10 per cent of conscripts on account of death, incapacity, etc., the corps of military workmen and the services which figure in the cadres of the peace organisation.
3 This includes 983 officers, N.C.O.s and men belonging to the air force.
### II. Navy.

**NUMBER OF UNITS AND TONNAGE**

(Extract from the communication from the Argentine Government, dated October 28th, 1931.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Vessel</th>
<th>1924</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 battleships</td>
<td>55,880</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 coast-defence battleships</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 armoured cruisers and cruisers</td>
<td>45,740</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 destroyers and flotilla leaders</td>
<td>12,680</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 submarines</td>
<td>22,265</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>121,165</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2 battleships, 1 of which was largely refitted in 1924-25, were launched in 1911 and were completed in 1914-15.

The 2 coast-defence battleships were launched in 1890-91.

Out of the 7 armoured cruisers and cruisers, 2 units of a total tonnage of 13,600 are under construction; these 2 armoured cruisers were launched in 1929.

Four armoured cruisers, 1 of which was largely refitted in 1924-25, were launched between 1895 and 1897. Lastly, 1 cruiser with a tonnage of 4,780 was launched in 1895.

The flotilla leaders, numbering 5, were launched between 1925 and 1928, and the destroyers, numbering 7, in 1898 and 1912.

The 3 submarines, of a total tonnage of 2,265, are under construction.

The Argentine navy also comprises 13 sloops, gunboats and despatch vessels, of a total tonnage of 8,115 tons, and 19 miscellaneous units, such as mine-sweepers, gunboats, training-ships, etc.

**SUMMARY TABLE OF THE NAVY**

The figures in the table given below, which are taken from the preceding edition of the *Armaments Year-Book*, should not be compared with those in the preceding table. The latter comprises vessels completed

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and vessels under construction, whereas the former only comprises vessels completed in the years under consideration. The summary table comprises not only the types of vessels which figure in the preceding table, but also gunboats, sloops and despatch-boats.

(In thousands of tons)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>107.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>113.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>113.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW CONSTRUCTIONS

The current naval programme approved by Parliament in September 1926 involves the expenditure of 75 million pesos over the ten years 1927 to 1936. The construction of the following vessels to replace obsolete tonnage is provided for:

- 3 cruisers;
- 6 flotilla leaders;
- 6 submarines;
- 1 aircraft tender;
- 2 surveying vessels.

EFFECTIVES OF THE NAVAL FORCES

Officers and seamen ........... 9,500
Personnel of the ordinary reserve ... 8,000
Personnel of the special reserve ... 10,000

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927 and 1928</th>
<th>1929 and 1930</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td>Closed accounts</td>
<td>Yearly estimates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of War</td>
<td>63.6</td>
<td>82.4</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of the Navy</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>47.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>107.2</td>
<td>143.4</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>125.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES. — 1. The above figures include the appropriations for the Defence Departments and military expenditure in the so-called Constructions budget.

2. Expenditure for lighthouses and harbour administration is included in the budget of the Department of the Navy.
3. Military Aviation expenditure is included in the budget of the Departments of War and the Navy.

4. The above figures do not include pensions, which are charged to a special section of the budget and have amounted to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military and Naval Pensions</th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927 and 1928</th>
<th>1929 and 1930</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td>Closed accounts</td>
<td>Yearly estimates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paper pesos (ooo,ooo's)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military and Naval Pensions</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>24.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>