LITHUANIA

Area ........................................ 56,000 sq. km.
Population (xii.1930) .................... 2,367,000
Density per sq. km. ....................... 42.3

I. Army.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ARMED FORCES

The armed forces of Lithuania comprise the land army and the military air force, which are under the Ministry of National Defence.

The armed forces of Lithuania consist of the active army and its reserve, the territorial reserve and the reserve of recruits (see Chapter: Recruiting System and Period of Service).

There also exist auxiliary forces (Lietuvos Šaulių Sąjunga) which are not formations organised on a military basis. Although these forces have part of the personal armament, they have neither machine-guns, nor accessory equipment, nor artillery, nor field transport. The auxiliary forces are in peace time a national organisation for the patriotic education of Lithuanian citizens, for the physical training of the young, and for pre-regimental military training. The local organisation of the members of the auxiliary forces does not correspond to any combatant unit. As this organisation is largely composed of reservists of the regular army, these, in the event of mobilisation, are drafted into the mobilised army. In order to facilitate the work of the auxiliary forces, the Ministry of national defence seconds to it a certain number of officers on the active list.

On January 1st, 1930, the first line contained about 52,000 combatant troops.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The Ministry of National Defence is in effective command of the army in peace time; it is assisted in its functions by the Chief of the Army General Staff.
Army General Staff.

The Chief of the Army General Staff is technical adviser to the Minister. He is responsible for the preparation of the military forces of the country for war, and is assisted by two deputy chiefs of the General Staff and the Inspectorates of Arms and Services.

General Inspectorates of Arms and Services.

There are at present general inspectors of infantry and artillery, cavalry, technical troops (engineers, signallers), the medical service and the veterinary service.

Councils of National Defence.

There are two councils of national defence, the Higher Council and the Lower Council. The first works intermittently under the President of the Republic; the second is an advisory body to the Minister of National Defence, who presides over its meetings.

Organisation and Composition of the Army

1. Higher units: 3 infantry divisions; 1 cavalry brigade.

Each infantry division consists of 2 or 3 infantry regiments, 1 field artillery regiment, 1 divisional squadron (lower establishment), and 1 infantry battery.

The cavalry brigade consists of 2 regiments.

2. Arms and services.

Infantry: 6 to 9 regiments.

Each regiment consists of 2 or 3 battalions made up of 3 rifle companies and 1 machine-gun company.

Cavalry: 2 cavalry regiments; 1 divisional squadron.

Each cavalry regiment consists of 4 line squadrons, 1 machine-gun squadron, 1 technical squadron and 1 training squadron.

Artillery: 4 regiments and 3 infantry batteries forming a unit.

Engineers: 1 engineer battalion; 1 bridging company; 1 railway engineer company.

Technical troops: 1 signal battalion; 1 tank company; 1 armoured train; 1 motor machine-gun group.

Air force: 7 flights (including 1 training flight).

The army also possesses a motor and horse transport service.
RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE

Military service is compulsory. The period of the military obligation in the regular army is divided up as follows:

- Thirteen years and a half (from 21½ to 35 years) in the active army and its reserve (including period when available without mobilisation);
- Ten years (from 35 to 45 years) in the territorial reserve.

The period of compulsory service in the auxiliary force is 28 years in the first-line units (from 17 to 45 years); men over 45 are posted to the units for services in rear of the army.

The period of service with the colours is 18 months. Conscripts are enrolled at the age of 21½.

In addition to the reserve of the active army and the territorial reserve, there is a reserve of recruits consisting of militians in excess of the numbers which may be embodied annually. The reserve of recruits is divided into two categories, the first comprising men from 21½ to 35 years, and the second men from 35 to 45.

Reservists of the active army have to perform, in all, 14 weeks of training, divided into three periods.

Reservists of the territorial reserve undergo a period of training of 4 weeks.

Reservists belonging to the reserve of recruits have to perform in all 5½ months’ training.

For budgetary reasons, the periods of training of these reserves have not hitherto been observed.

RECRUITING OF OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Non-commissioned officers are recruited from active service and re-engaged men who have passed a special examination after a course in the regimental schools. Officers are recruited from the Central Military School.

Second lieutenants in the infantry reserve are recruited from the Cadet School; the reserve officers of other arms are trained with the troops of the respective arms.

PREPARATORY MILITARY TRAINING

There is no special law governing pre-regimental or preparatory military training in Lithuania.

It should, however, be noted that the members of ‘‘Šaulių Sąjunga’’ receive a certain amount of military training, which does not, however, exempt them from service with the colours.
Further, with the consent of the Ministry of Education, military training is given in the State schools, where officers from various garrisons and reserve officers are responsible for physical training and military drill (without arms) and elementary instruction in army regulations.

**BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES**

*(1931)*

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<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.s</th>
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<td></td>
<td>1,351</td>
<td>3,438</td>
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**II. Budgetary Expenditure on National Defence.**

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<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
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<th>1929</th>
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<th>1931</th>
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<td>Closed accounts</td>
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<td>Ministry of National Defence</td>
<td>49.7</td>
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<td>49.2</td>
<td>49.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of living <em>(1913 = 100)</em></td>
<td>158⁴</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>107²</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1. Month of July.
2. Month of January.

**Notes.** — 1. The above figures represent expenditure on the army and the air force.

2. Lithuania has no navy.