VENEZUELA

Area ............ .. .. 912,000 sq. km.
Population (XII. 1931) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 3,226,000
Density per sq. km... .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 3.5
Length of railway system (1930) (excluding some industrial lines) .. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. 1,070 km.

I. Army.

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of the army; he either commands the army and navy in person or designates a commander to act in his place. The duties of the Commander-in-Chief of the army are laid down by the National Congress. The command of the army is entrusted to the general officer who is regarded by the Federal Executive as best fitted for the appointment.

All matters concerning the army, navy or air force are within the competence of the Federal Government.

With the exception of the police and prison guards, the States and municipalities are not allowed to have forces other than those organised by order of the Federal Government.

The army is made up of a contingent provided by each State, by the federal district and by the dependent federal territories, in proportion to their population.

The Ministry of War and Marine is the supreme authority for all questions concerning organisation, armament, fortifications and administration of army and navy; it is also the organ through which the Commander-in-Chief exercises his command.

The Ministry of War and Marine consists of three directorates:

1. War Directorate:

Compulsory military service;
Organisation, training, etc., of the active army;
Effectives and promotion;
Schools and military training establishments;
War material;
Military communications and air force;
Medical service;
Fortresses and barracks, etc.
2. Naval Directorate.
3. Administrative Directorate:
   Administration and accountancy;
   Equipment;
   Finance, pensions, etc.

The General Staff is an intermediate organ between the Commander-in-Chief of the army and his subordinates; it is placed under the Ministry of War and Marine.

The General Staff includes: the General Staff proper and the brigade or regimental staffs which assist the General Staff in carrying out its duties in connection with the army.

**MILITARY AREAS.**

The territory of the Republic is divided into a certain number of military areas; these are further subdivided into military districts, and the latter again into military subdistricts. The command of each military area is entrusted to the commander of the division or brigade stationed in the territory forming the area in question.

**CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.**

Every citizen is liable for service in the active army and in the reserve during the periods laid down by the law. The national army includes the active army and the reserve army.

The active army includes the following arms: infantry, cavalry and artillery, besides the following departments and services: staff, engineers, train, air force, intendance, remounts and veterinary services, military justice and medical service.

The Venezuelan army is organised in 9 brigades, consisting, in all, of 43 infantry battalions.

The artillery consists of five fortress and coast artillery groups, one regiment of field artillery and one machine-gun company.

The cavalry consists of one regiment.

**WAR MATERIAL.**

*(1931.)*

*Infantry.*

Mauser rifles, 71/84 .................................................. 25,000
Oberderf, rifles, 7-mm. calibre ................................. 5,000
Mauser carbines ...................................................... 1,500
Oberderf. carbines, 7-mm. calibre .............................. 1,000
Mauser cartridges, 71/84 ........................................... 10,000,000
Oberderf. cartridges ................................................ 7,000,000
Hotchkiss heavy machine-guns, 7-mm. calibre ............... 25
Hotchkiss light machine-guns, 7-mm. calibre ............... 50
Machine-gun cartridges ............................................. 2,000,000
Artillery.

- Schneider guns, 15 cm. ........................................... 7
- Shells for the above ........................................... 1,500
- Krupp guns, 8 cm. ........................................... 20
- Shells for the above ........................................... 5,000
- Erhardkt guns, 75 mm. ........................................... 4
- Shells for the above ........................................... 1,000
- Saint-Chamond guns, 7 cm. .................................... 8
- Shells for the above ........................................... 500
- Hotchkiss guns, 42 mm. ........................................... 18
- Shells for the above ........................................... 2,500
- Infantry guns, 37 mm. ........................................... 8
- Shells for the above ........................................... 3,000
- Mortars .......................................................... 8
- Shells for the above ........................................... 1,700

Effectives.

The active army of Venezuela has a strength of 6,000 men.¹

II. Navy.

List of Units.

(1932.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tons</th>
<th>Cruisers</th>
<th>Tons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</table>

Total .......................................................... 3,450

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Estimates</th>
<th>Closed accounts</th>
<th>Estimates</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1926-27</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>26.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1930-31</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.—The above figures include expenditure on military pensions (amounting to 0.5 million bolivars for 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 and estimated at 0.6 million for 1931-32), pilotage and lighthouses.

¹ This figure is not official, and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed; the Secretariat has no been able to obtain any official Venezuelan documents showing the strength of the active army.