ESTONIA

Area .......... 48,000 sq. km.
Population (XII. 1935) ... 1,130,000
Density per sq. km. ... 23.5
Length of land frontiers ... 633 km.
Length of coast-line ... 3,404 km.
Length of railway system (III. 1932) ... 1,434 km.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

The supreme command of the army is vested in the President of the Republic, who exercises it through the Government of the Republic, the Minister for National Defence and the commander of the armed forces.

COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

In exercising his functions, the President of the Republic is assisted by the Council of National Defence, an advisory body consisting of the members of the Government and a certain number of military commanders of high rank, holding important commands. The Council studies all questions relating to national defence submitted to it by the President of the Republic.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Government of the Republic sees that all the resources of the country are utilised to the best advantage for national defence purposes and settles the various economic questions relating to national defence.

MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The chief task of the Minister for National Defence is to supervise the military administration of the budget, and the supply and medical services of the armed forces; he deals with questions of military justice. The following are under his orders: the supply service, the health service, the supreme court martial, the Judge-Advocate, the legal adviser to the Ministry of National Defence.

The Minister for National Defence is assisted by the Council of the Ministry of National Defence, an advisory body consisting of the Deputy Minister for National Defence, the permanent members, the
group commanders of the armed forces, the heads of the services, the inspectors of the infantry, artillery, engineers and cavalry, and the commander of the Civic Guard. The Council is required to study various economic questions and to give its opinion on any other matter submitted to it by the Minister for National Defence.

**Commander of the Armed Forces.**

In time of peace, the commander of the armed forces has command over all the national defence forces. He is directly responsible to the President of the Republic. The commander of the armed forces has under his orders the chief of the General Staff, the divisional commanders, the commanders of the naval forces and air defence corps and of the Civic Guard, the inspectors of the various arms, and the chief of the united military schools.

**General Staff of the Armed Forces.**

The General Staff of the armed forces is placed under the authority of the commander of the armed forces. As regards questions of organisation and effectives, it is also under the Minister for National Defence. It is divided into seven sections (operations, intelligence, communications, administration, organisation and mobilisation, training, cartography).

**Territorial Military Areas.**

For purposes of command, Estonia is divided into three divisional areas, each consisting of two or three military districts. There are eight districts in all. The commanders of all the infantry, artillery, armoured train and guard units stationed in the various districts are under the commander of their military district. The naval and air force units and the united military schools are not under the divisional commanders (divisional area) or the military district commanders, but are placed under their respective higher commands.

I. **Army.**

**Composition of the Army.**

(June 1936.)

1. Higher Units.
   3 divisions of infantry.

2. Arms and Services.

   **Infantry.**

   2 regiments.
   12 independent battalions (36 companies).
Each regiment consists of 3 battalions of 3 rifle companies and 1 heavy machine-gun company.

**Cavalry.**

1 regiment consisting of 4 line squadrons and 1 heavy machine-gun squadron.

**Artillery.**

5 groups of field artillery with 3 or 4 batteries each.
1 anti-aircraft artillery group.

**Engineers.**

2 battalions.
A pioneer battalion consisting of 3 companies of sappers, 1 anti-gas company, 1 searchlight company, 1 training company.
A signal battalion consisting of 3 signal companies, 1 training company.

**Armoured Units.**

1 regiment of armoured cars and tanks.
1 regiment of armoured trains (3 trains).
The regiment of armoured cars and tanks consists of 3 companies of tanks and armoured cars, 1 company of motor vehicles, 1 training company.

**Air Force.**

3 aviation groups, 1 naval aviation detachment and 1 school of aviation, comprising 68 aeroplanes (total horse-power: 23,400).
The air force establishment is 500 officers, N.C.O.s and other ranks.

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**Summary Table of Units.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regiments or groups</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>Light field</td>
<td>5(^1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heavy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-aircraft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armoured units</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Mixed groups.
STATE POLICE, FRONTIER GUARD AND CIVIC GUARD.

State Police.

The approximate effective of the State police is 1,200. The individual arms are automatic pistol, rifle and rubber truncheon. The training of the police is given in the police training-school; the duration of the training is six months and includes, from a military point of view, training in the use of arms included in regulation equipment and practice for street fighting. Conditions of service are the same as for other State officials.

Frontier Guard.

The frontier guard is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. The guard is an organisation of a military character and comprises about 800 men. The individual arms of the guard consist of pistols and rifles; the collective arms comprise light machine-guns.

The frontier guards are recruited from men having accomplished their military service with the colours. Enlistment is voluntary, the length of service being generally one year. Other conditions are similar to those obtaining for persons seeking re-enlistment in the army.

Civic Guard.

The duties of the civic guard are to help the legal authorities of Estonia in preserving order under the Constitution, also to defend the constitutional Government, to give help in public calamities, to encourage a patriotic and national feeling, and to assist in the physical development of the people.

The civic guard (32,000 men and 12,000 women) is composed of citizens who are admitted according to the statutes of the guard; women form organisations with a special view to helping the guard.

As regards operations and training, the civic guard is under the command of the armed forces.

The activities of the civic guard are directed by the chief of the civic guard. The guard is composed of territorial units (regiments, representing either a town or a province); with regard to executive functions, it is organised in complete analogy to military units (companies, battalions, etc.).

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

All citizens of the Estonian Republic are liable for military service.

Military service is divided into four stages:

(a) Service in the active army;
(b) On furlough from the active army;
(c) Service in the reserve;
(d) Territorial service.

The 3rd line of reserve consists of young men between 17 and 30 who have not yet been called up and men between 20 and 30 whose military service has been postponed. When the latter reach the age of 30 they are transferred to the 2nd line of reserve, where they remain 15 years until they are transferred to the second territorial service (from 45 to 55).

Recruits are called up in the year in which they reach the age of 20. The total length of service with the colours and on furlough is 5 years. Service with the colours lasts 1 year in the infantry,
cavalry and artillery, and 18 months in the other arms and in the navy. However, the Government may reduce the period of military service. Actually, service with the colours lasts 11 months in the infantry, the artillery and the regiment of armoured trains; 12 months in the cavalry, signal battalion and tank regiment; 15 months in the wireless troops; and 15 to 17½ months in the navy. After finishing service with the colours and on furlough men are transferred to the 1st line of reserve, where they remain until they complete their 45th year, after which they are transferred to the first territorial service, where they remain until 55.

Men between 20 and 55 medically unfit for military service are transferred to the third territorial service.

The total length of compulsory service is 38 years, taking into account the compulsory service of young people from 17 to 21.

The reservists may be called up for not more than four periods of training, not exceeding six months in all (N.C.O.s and specialists may be called up for six periods not exceeding nine months in all).

**Cadres.**

The officers of the army are trained in the United Military Schools, which include the following schools: Staff College; Military School (3 companies of infantry, 1 artillery battery); School for N.C.O.s (2 companies of infantry, 1 artillery battery and 1 cavalry squadron); Course for majors.

**PRE-MILITARY TRAINING.**

Pre-military training is given to young men in accordance with the programme drawn up by the General Staff (Staff of the Armed Forces) and approved by the Minister for Public Education. It is given by specially qualified instructors and aims at familiarising pupils with the rudiments of military training.

In 1934-35, 10,000 secondary-school pupils received this training, 5,000 (young pupils) receiving 10 hours' and 5,000 pupils 130 hours' teaching.

**EFFECTIVES.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>1,323</td>
<td>1,313</td>
<td>1,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s and men</td>
<td>15,840</td>
<td>15,840</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>10,800</td>
<td>12,423</td>
<td>9,722</td>
<td>9,526</td>
<td>9,310</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,340</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,340</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,533</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,047</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,849</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,623</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,915</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 On August 1st, 1931.
II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.

(1935.)

Torpedo-boat:

*Sulev* (1916)

Displacement, 228 tons. Dimensions: $165\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ feet. Guns: 2 3-inch, 2 torpedo-tubes (18-inch).

Miscellaneous: 11 units (gunboats, minelayers, despatch-boats).

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period April 1st to March 31st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
<th>1934-35</th>
<th>1935-36</th>
<th>1936-37</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closed accounts</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of National Defence:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ordinary expenditure</td>
<td>$15.3$</td>
<td>$12.1$</td>
<td>$12.5$</td>
<td>$13.7$</td>
<td>$13.3$</td>
<td>$15.0$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extraordinary expenditure</td>
<td>$1.1$</td>
<td>$0.8$</td>
<td>$0.5$</td>
<td>$3.1$</td>
<td>$1.6$</td>
<td>$2.6$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$16.4$</td>
<td>$12.9$</td>
<td>$13.0$</td>
<td>$16.8$</td>
<td>$14.9$</td>
<td>$17.6$</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Estimates</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Index numbers of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale prices ($1929-30 = 100$)</td>
<td>$78$</td>
<td>$72$</td>
<td>$76$</td>
<td>$73$</td>
<td>$75$</td>
<td>$77^1$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail prices: Cost of living ($1929-30 = 100$)</td>
<td>$87$</td>
<td>$81$</td>
<td>$78$</td>
<td>$76$</td>
<td>$80$</td>
<td>$85^1$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$^1$ Average, April-May 1936.

Note.— Military pensions are not included in the figures above. They are shown under the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, jointly with other pensions.