PARAGUAY

Area .......... 458,000 sq. km.
Population (estimate 1934) .... 900,000
Density per sq. km. ..... 2.0
Length of railway system (1930) (excluding some industrial lines) ..... 468 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

The supreme head of the armed forces of the nation is the President of the Republic.

The military organisation of the national forces is in the hands of the Ministry of War and Marine and the Army General Staff.

I. MINISTRY OF WAR AND MARINE.

The Ministry of War and Marine deals with all questions relating to military organisation, training, armament, fortification and administration.

The Ministry consists of a Secretariat, four departments (War Department, Naval Department, Administrative Department, Department of Military Justice), four divisions (War Material Division, Division for Technical Work, Health Division, Remounts Division) and an independent section (Library and Archives).

The Ministry of War and Marine controls:
The Army General Staff;
The General Inspectorate of the Army;
The commands of the military areas;
The military and naval arsenals;
The command of the fleet;
The inspection of army administration;
The Administrative Department;
The Technical Works Directorate;
The Health Services Directorate;
The General Naval Directorate.
The Army General Staff is the central authority controlling the whole of the army staff organisation and constitutes a department working under the Ministry of War and Marine.

The General Staff is responsible for studying all technical professional questions, as well as all problems relating to national defence and the use of troops in war-time.

The General Staff consists of the following departments and sections:

1. Office of the Chief of the Staff and of the Quartermaster-General;
2. Organisation and Mobilisation Department;
3. Intelligence Department;
4. Operations Department;
5. Department of Transport and Lines of Communication Services;
6. Historical Section.

The Departments and Sections are under the Chief of the General Staff, and each is controlled by a field officer, or a captain or subaltern, assisted by the necessary staff.

Military training establishments are under the orders of the Chief of the General Staff in all matters relating to the general control of military studies.

The Deputy-Chief of the General Staff is the intermediary between the Chief of the General Staff and the Departments.

The Deputy-Chief of the General Staff directs and supervises the work of the various departments.

He acts for the Chief of the General Staff whenever the latter is absent or otherwise unable to attend to his duties.

2. COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The Council of National Defence consists of the Ministers of War and Marine, Foreign Affairs and Finance, the Chief of the General Staff of the Army, the Inspector-General, the inspectors of the areas or different arms, the area commanders and the Commander of the Fleet.

The President of this Council is the President of the Republic or the Minister of War and Marine, and the Secretary is the Under-Secretary of State for War and Marine.

It deals with all questions relating to the acquisition of arms, fortifications and, generally speaking, all problems concerned with national defence.

3. SUPREME COMMAND OF THE MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCES.

A Supreme Command of the military and naval forces was created on December 17th, 1928.

The Commander-in-Chief ranks as a Divisional Commander; the Chief of the Army General Staff acts as Deputy-Commander-in-Chief.

4. INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

The Inspector-General is responsible for the inspection of all the troops and units in the army. Each year he forwards to the Ministry
of War and Marine a detailed report on this inspection, mentioning any improvements or defects which he has noticed.

**COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.**

The Paraguayan army is divided into five military areas.

**First Military Area**, with its headquarters at Concepción and comprising 1 infantry regiment.

The infantry regiment comprises the regimental staff, 1 infantry battalion (3 rifle companies and 1 heavy machine-gun company), 1 battery of mountain artillery, 1 signalling section, 1 detachment of the Army Medical Corps, and 1 detachment of the intendance.

**Second Military Area**, with its headquarters in the capital and comprising 1 infantry regiment and 1 cavalry regiment.

The infantry regiment comprises the regimental headquarters, 2 infantry battalions (2 rifle companies and 1 heavy machine-gun company each), 1 battery of mountain artillery, 1 signalling section, 1 detachment of the Army Medical Corps, and 1 detachment of the intendance.

The cavalry regiment comprises the regimental headquarters, 3 cavalry squadrons, 1 mounted machine-gun section, 1 detachment of the Army Medical Corps, and 1 detachment of the intendance.

**Third Military Area**, with its headquarters in the town of Pilar, and having at the moment no troops in its establishment.

**Fourth Military Area**, with its headquarters in the town of Encarnación and comprising 1 infantry regiment.

The infantry regiment comprises the regimental headquarters, 1 infantry battalion (incomplete) (1 rifle company), 1 detachment of the Army Medical Corps, and 1 detachment of the intendance.

**Fifth Military Area**, with its headquarters in the Chaco and comprising 1 detachment.

The detachment comprises 1 infantry battalion (3 rifle companies and 1 heavy machine-gun company), 3 rifle companies, 1 troop of cavalry, 1 signalling section and 1 heavy machine-gun section.

Arms and Services.

**Infantry**: 4 regiments including 1 reserve regiment (18 companies including 4 machine-gun companies).
Cavalry: 1 regiment (3 squadrons) and 1 mounted machine-gun section.

Artillery: 2 groups.

Engineers: 1 company of sappers.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

Military service is compulsory for all citizens of Paraguay.

LENGTH OF SERVICE.

The total length of military obligation is twenty-eight years, and it is divided as follows: (1) between 18 and 20 in the active army or navy; (2) between 20 and 45 in the reserve.

Service in the reserve is divided into three periods:

(1) Between 20 and 29, in the reserve of the active army;
(2) Between 29 and 39, in the national guard;
(3) Between 39 and 45, in the territorial guard.

When the number of enlisted men exceeds the contingent fixed by the budget, military service may be reduced to a year. This provision may be applied, by the drawing of lots, to the whole of the contingent or only to a part of it. Similarly the contingent called up may be reduced by the drawing of lots to the total number fixed.

The Executive can call up every year for service with the colours, for a maximum period of six months, a contingent of reservists who have never done service. It can also call up every two years for ninety days men of the National Guard who have never passed into the army, and every three years for sixty days it can call up men of the Territorial Guard who have never done any service.

Exemptions.—The law exempts from service men who are physically unfit, men who are supporting families, clergymen and certain officials.

Recruiting areas.—The territory of Paraguay is divided into 12 recruiting areas. At the head of each area there is an officer of the active or reserve army who is responsible for the enforcement of the law on compulsory military service.

Cadres.

Non-Commissioned Officers.

Non-commissioned officers of the active army are recruited from conscripts, volunteers and re-enlisted men.

Non-commissioned officers and private soldiers who, after completing the service required of them by the law, desire to remain in the army may re-engage for a minimum period of one year.
**Officers of the Active Army.**

Officers of the active army and navy are trained in military schools.

Candidates for a commission between 18 and 25 who have completed three years of secondary studies may be admitted to the active army as commissioned subalterns or military cadets.

Subaltern officers, non-combatant officers of the army and navy and military officials are appointed by the President of the Republic. The appointment of senior officers and generals requires the assent of Congress.

**Officers of the Reserve.**

Officers of the reserve consist of officers of the old national guard who hold brevet rank. When called to the colours, they are subject during the whole of their service to the laws and regulations of the active army.

**MILITARY SCHOOLS.**

The Staff College.
The Military College (30 cadets).
The Army Flying-School (15 cadets).
The Army Administration School.
The N.C.O.s School.
The Hospital Orderlies and Military Stretcher-Bearers School. Army Medical and Training School (16 pupils).
Training School for Boy Artificers (72 students).
The Motor School.

**BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES.**

*(1927-28.)*

1. **Army.**

Officers:

- Divisional General .................. 1
- Brigadier-generals .................. 2
- Colonel .................................. 1
- Lieutenant-colonels .................. 3
- Majors .................................. 13
- Captains ................................ 26
- Lieutenants .............................. 25
- 2nd lieutenants ......................... 35

Total .................................. 106

N.C.O.s, corporals and men ........... 2,809

Grand total 1 .......................... 2,915

2. **Police (1930-31):**

- Military Police (1933) ................ 158
- Security police ......................... 1,911
- Security Division (1 battalion and 1 squadron) .................. 352
- Police School .......................... 30 students

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1 Not including: 39 medical officers and veterinary officers; 72 administrative officers; 51 N.C.O.s and men in the Medical Service; 44 hospital sergeants; 81 bandsmen.
2 Under the Ministry of the Interior.
3 Under the chiefs of the military areas.
II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.
(1935.)

Gunboats.

1. **Humaita (1930)**

2. **Paraguay (1930)**
   Displacement: 150 tons. Dimensions: 129.2 x 24.8 x 6 feet. H.P. 300 = 10 kts. Guns: 4 76-mm.

3. **Taguari (1910)**
   Displacement: 180 tons. Dimensions: 98.4 x 23.5 x 6 feet. H.P. 300 = 12.5 kts. Gun: 1 76-mm.

4. **Capitan Cabral (1907)**
   Displacement: 80 tons. Gun: 1 76-mm.

5. **Coronel Martinez (1908)**

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period September 1st to August 31st.

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<th>1930-31</th>
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<td><strong>Closed accounts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Paper pesos (000,000's)</strong></td>
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<td>71.5</td>
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NOTES.—1. The estimates include votes in gold pesos and votes in paper pesos. The gold pesos have been converted into paper pesos at the rate of 42.61 paper to 1 gold peso.

2. Military and naval pensions are not included in the above table; they are shown in the budget under the item "Public Debt", jointly with civil pensions.

3. The figures for 1932-33 are those for 1931-32 increased by 8.5 million pesos (Law No. 1265, July 20th, 1932). By Decree No. 45015, of September 26th, 1932, the 1931-32 budget, with all its amendments, was put into force for 1932-33.

4. No information is available regarding the extraordinary expenditure in consequence of the war with Bolivia.