COLOMBIA

Area ...... 1,162,000 sq. km.
Population (VI. 1937) .... 8,847,000
Density per sq. km ...... 7.6
Length of land frontiers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>235 km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>2,280 km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,490 km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>1,722 km.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>400 km.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 6,127 km.

Coast-line .... 3,230 km.

Length of railway system (1934) (in use) .... 3,262 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

Supreme authority is exercised on behalf of the President of the Republic by the Minister of War.

The Minister of War is responsible for the command and use of the military forces, unless the President of the Republic specially delegates these duties to another person.

MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War comprises the following branches:

Minister's Secretariat.
War Secretariat.
War Material Department.
General Intendance.
Remounts and Veterinary Service.
General Directorate of the Health Service.
Personnel Department.
Territorial Department.
**General Staff.**

The General Staff, an autonomous organisation directly responsible to the Minister of War, consists of:

- Central Service (Library and Publications; Administration);
- Operations Service (Operations, Organisation, Mobilisation);
- Intelligence Service: (Geography, Home and Foreign Intelligence, History);
- Transport Service.

**Inspectorate-General of the Army.**

The Inspectorate-General of the army is an autonomous organisation directly under the Minister of War.

The Inspector-General of the army is the senior divisional general. He supervises the execution of military measures emanating from the Government and the Ministry of War; he also supervises the work of the General Staff and of the technical and administrative services of the army. He must inspect every command, military institution and army unit at least once a year.

There are inspectors of infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers, transport, the air force and the navy.

**Higher Commands.**

The brigade commands are responsible for the direction and training of officers and men. They direct the administrative services and are also charged with the maintenance of barracks, arms, etc. These commands constitute the recruiting centres of the corresponding military areas.

**Territorial Military Districts.**

The country is divided into 6 zones. Each zone is divided into military districts, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War.

The military districts are divided into territorial areas, the number of which is fixed by the Ministry of War.

For purposes of territorial military service, each departmental zone is under the orders of the Governor, who comes under the Ministry of War.

Each departmental zone supplies the contingent required for the replacement of the army effectives.
COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.

(1936.)

The reorganisation of the Colombian army provided for under the Decree of August 28th, 1934, is not yet entirely complete.

The army consists of six brigades.

The first brigade is composed of two infantry battalions of three light companies each (including one company with a skeleton cadre) and one heavy company, one cavalry group of two squadrons, one artillery group of three mountain artillery batteries (including one battery with a skeleton cadre), one engineer battalion consisting of one sapper company, one bridging company, one signals company, one railway company and one medical company.

The second brigade consists of three infantry battalions, each battalion comprising four companies, of which three are light companies (including one with a skeleton cadre) and one is a heavy company, one cavalry group of two squadrons (one with a skeleton cadre) and one artillery group of three mountain batteries (one with a skeleton cadre).

The third brigade consists of three infantry battalions, the composition of which is the same as that of the battalions of the second brigade, one cavalry group of two light squadrons, one artillery group comprising three mountain batteries (one with a skeleton cadre) and one coast battery.

The fourth brigade consists of three battalions, the composition of which is the same as that of the battalions of the second brigade, and one artillery group of three mountain batteries (one with a skeleton cadre).

The fifth brigade consists of two infantry battalions, the composition of which is the same as that of the battalions of the second brigade, and one infantry battalion composed of three light companies and one heavy company, one cavalry group of two squadrons (one with a skeleton cadre) and one artillery group of three mountain batteries (one with a skeleton cadre).

The sixth brigade consists of two battalions composed of three light companies and one heavy company, one artillery group composed of three mountain batteries (one with a skeleton cadre) and one coast battery.

Aviation.

Aviation comes under the War Ministry, and is controlled by the General Directorate of Aviation, which is attached to the War Ministry, and the Advisory Council for Aviation.
The Advisory Council for Aviation consists of the War Minister (President), the Chief of the Army General Staff, and the Director-General of Aviation.

The air force comprises 1 training squadron (6 machines), 3 fighting aeroplanes, and 6 scouting aeroplanes.

**NATIONAL POLICE.**

The National Police, which is a civilian institution but which has a military character, is under the direct orders of the Ministry of the Interior; when the President of the Republic considers it necessary, however, he may place it temporarily at the disposal of the Ministry of War.

The National Police consists of the following services: (a) city police, (b) rural police, (c) public highways police, (d) Customs police, (e) prison police, (f) health police, (g) public safety police, (h) judicial police.

**RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.**

Military service in the first-line army is compulsory for all citizens between 21 and 30 years of age. The enlistment of volunteers is prohibited. The period of service with the colours is one year. Every six months, contingents of 3,000 conscripts are called up.

Men who are not exempted or excluded from service by the law serve in the First-Line Army from the age of 21 to the age of 30; in the National Guard from 31 to 40; in the Territorial Guard from 41 to 45, after which age they are no longer subject to any military obligations.

The men comprising the First-Line Army, the National Guard or the Territorial Guard, who are not performing active service, constitute the reserve of each of the above groups. Reservists are placed in the first class if they have undergone full military training; otherwise in the second class.

The Government may call up reservists in time of peace for periods of training, exercises and manoeuvres.

There is a Territorial Service, consisting of military personnel, which deals with the mobilisation and supply service of the army.

It comprises the following personnel:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Majors or captains (commanding zones)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains (commanding districts)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants and second-lieutenants</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.C.O.s</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orderlies</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Military Tax.

Persons liable to military service but who have not been drawn by lot to serve with the colours pay a single military tax (national defence tax) of from 5 to 100 pesos.

There is also another single military tax, known as the “exemption charge” (50 to 300 pesos), payable by all citizens liable to military service who have been selected by lot but do not wish to perform active service.

Exemptions.

The following persons are exempt from military service in all circumstances: Catholic clergy and seminarists, members of religious educational communities, disabled persons, and persons unfit for service as a result of disease or infirmity.

Persons engaged in certain duties, and young men who are studying for a professional career (up to the end of their studies) and have not failed in their university examinations, are temporarily exempted from military service.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Military School (400 students in 1936). The School comprises one training battalion consisting of one company of infantry, one rifle company and one battery of artillery;

- Staff College (52 students);
- 3 Artillery Training Courses for officers between the ranks of second-lieutenant and major (84 students);
- Special twelve-month course for officers between the ranks of second-lieutenant and captain (11 students);
- Reserve Officers’ Course at the Military School (25 students);
- Infantry Field Training School for cadets between the ages of 18 and 24 (3 companies);
- Cavalry Field Training School;
- Artillery Field Training School;
- Training Corps for N.C.O.s;
- Wireless Telegraphy School;
- Military Aviation School.

PRE-MILITARY TRAINING.

Pre-military training is organised by the military schools. It comprises two courses: a preparatory course and a primary course. Pupils who have completed both courses of training are enrolled, under certain conditions, as first-class reservists and attached to the command of the garrison where they received their training.

EFFECTIVES.

Army.

ESTABLISHMENT.

(October 15th, 1936.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.s, corporals and privates</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10,383</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

252 COLOMBIA
Police.

Military Police\(^1\) (1935) ........................................ 550
National Police (1937) .......................................... 3,819
Customs Guard (1935)\(^2\) ...................................... 436
Gendarmerie (1935)\(^2\) ........................................... 248

II. Navy.

LIST OF UNITS.

(1936.)

Destroyers:

\textit{Antiquois} (1932)  
\textit{Caldas} (1933)

Standard Displacement: 1,282 tons. Dimensions:  
322 \times 31 \times 11 \text{ ft.} \quad \text{H.P.} \ 33,000 = 36 \text{ kts.}  
\textit{Guns:} 4 \ 4.7\text{-inch}; 8 \text{ tubes (21-inch).}

Gunboats:

\textit{Presidente Mosquera}  
\textit{Santa Marta}  
\textit{Cartagena}  
\textit{Barranquilla} (1930)

Displacement: 200 tons.

River gunboats. Displacement: 142 tons.  
Dimensions: 137\(\frac{1}{2}\) \times 23\(\frac{1}{2}\) \times 2\(\frac{3}{4}\) \text{ feet.}  
Speed: 15.5 kts.

Miscellaneous: 16 units (patrol vessels, transports, etc.).

EFFECTIVES (1935).

Maximum permanent effectives: \(^3\)

\begin{tabular}{lrrrr}
Officers & \ldots & \ldots & \ldots & 134 \\
N.C.O.s & \ldots & \ldots & \ldots & 238 \\
Other ratings & \ldots & \ldots & \ldots & 448 \\
Total & \ldots & \ldots & \ldots & 820 \\
\end{tabular}

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The budget year coincides with the calendar year.

\begin{tabular}{lrrrr}
\hline
 & 1933 & 1934 & 1935 & 1936 & 1937 \\
\hline
\text{Ministry of War} & \ldots & \ldots & \ldots & 16.8 & 24.4 \\
\hline
\text{Closed accounts} & & & & & \\
\text{Provisional results} & & & & & \\
\text{Estimates} & & & & & \\
\hline
\text{Pesos (ooo,ooo's)} & 14.5 & 14.2 & 12.3 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Notes.—1. The above expenditure of the Ministry of War includes that on coastguard vessels and river gunboats and war expenditure for 1933 and 1934.

2. The above figures include pensions estimated at 0.3 million pesos for the year 1933.

3. The figures for 1933 and 1934 include expenditure on national defence due to the armed conflict with Peru.

\(^1\) The Military Police includes 5 companies which come under the Ministry of War.

\(^2\) Attached to the National Police since January 1st, 1936.

\(^3\) Including the administrative services but excluding the marine infantry (79 officers, N.C.O.s and men).