GUATEMALA

GENERAL

Area. .................. 109,724 sq. km.
Inhabitants (1923) ....... 2,232,000
Per sq. km. ............. 20.3

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The President of the Republic is the supreme military authority. The Ministry of War is an organ of liaison between the President of the Republic and the army.

1. MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War consists of the following departments:

(a) War Office Secretariat, which is under the direct control of the Minister.

(b) The Supreme Army Command which is directly under the Ministry of War.

The War Office Secretariat works in co-operation with the General Staff, the Polytechnic School, the military judicial organs, the military statistical service, etc. The War Office Secretariat prepares the annual military budget estimates for submission to the National Assembly.

The Supreme Army Command consists of:

A general officer, who is the commander-in-chief of the army and is appointed by the Ministry of War; a secretary, who is the second in command of the army, with the rank of colonel or general; a director of military administration and the officers commanding the infantry, the artillery and the engineers.

The Supreme Army Command deals more particularly with questions connected with recruiting, re-engagements, military training, promotion, etc.

2. GENERAL STAFF.

The General Staff is an auxiliary organ of the Army Command. It consists of all generals of division and generals of brigade in the army; it is under the direct authority of the Ministry of War.

The General Staff is divided into active and reserve lists.
Generals of brigades pass from the active list to the reserve list at the age of sixty and generals of divisions at the age of 62. Certain generals nominated by the Ministry of War form an Advisory War Committee.

B. SUBDIVISION AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The Guatemalan Army is divided into an active army and a reserve. The active army consists of men from 18 to 30 inclusive. The men of the active army may either be with the colours or released till called upon. The former provide garrison troops in time of peace; the latter are only liable to be mobilised in time of war; they may also be called upon in case of need for the purpose of re-establishing order in the country. The reserve army consists of men from 30 to 50 inclusive. They are liable to be mobilised under the same circumstances as regulars not with the colours.

Soldiers in the active army not with the colours are organised in battalions in each department. The reserve is organised in the same manner.

C. MILITARY AREAS

The territory of the Republic of Guatemala is divided into a number of army areas and these again are subdivided into local commands. There is an army command for each department. The army commands are inspected yearly by military inspectors attached to the department of the Inspector-General of the Army, which is itself part of the Ministry of War.

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

The army is recruited:

(1) By drawing lots;
(2) By the recruitment of volunteers;
(3) By enlistment.

Each year the Government lays before the National Assembly an estimate of the number of soldiers which it is necessary to keep with the colours.

The term of service in the active army is one year.

Volunteers under eighteen years of age are admitted if they have obtained the consent of their parents or guardians. The duration of service for volunteers is eighteen months in the infantry and two years in the artillery.

Re-engagements are allowed for a period of two years and may be renewed five times for the same period.

Exemption.

The law provides in a number of cases for the exemption of men supporting a family and members of certain professions.
Cadres.

Commissions are granted to cadets of the Polytechnic School; examinations are also held for the rank of second lieutenant.

To be promoted corporal, a soldier must have served for at least six months and have passed an examination. To be promoted second- or first-class sergeant, a soldier must have served as a corporal or as a second-class sergeant for six months and have passed an examination. Promotions to the rank of second lieutenant are made by seniority after examination.

Military training.

Military training for officers is given at the Polytechnic School and in the various officers' schools. Men in the active army are trained in the garrisons. Soldiers not serving with the colours go through a course of training twice a year in their respective departments. Each period of training lasts sixteen days.

E. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES
1923-1924.

Officers :

- Generals ........................................ 53
- Colonels ......................................... 10
- Lieutenant-Colonels ............................. 12
- Majors ............................................ 45
- Captains ......................................... 72
- Lieutenants ...................................... 150
- Second-Lieutenants .............................. 124

Total ............................................. 466

Non-commissioned officers .................................. 651
Corporals and privates .................................. 6,413

Grand Total 1 .................................... 7,530

Sources :

Recapilacion de Les Leyes de la Republica de Guatemala, 1893-1894. V. i.
Presepetto General de Productos y Gastos Administrativos, 1923-1924.

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1 Excluding 80 cadets, 25 student non-commissioned officers and 20 cornets.