GUATEMALA

GENERAL

Area . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 109,960 sq. km.
Population (31-XII-1928) . . . . 2,137,000
Density per sq. km. . . . . . . . 19.4
Length of railway system (XII. 1928) 708 km.

I.

Army.

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.

I. 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.

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.

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

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, 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.

(c) The Army Intendance Department.

(d) The General Inspectorate of Railways which is under the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Public Works and Commerce.
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.

3. **Army Inspectorates.**

There are at present six Army Inspectorates corresponding to six zones: Central, North-Eastern, South-Eastern, Southern, Western and Northern. The Inspectors periodically visit the zones allotted to them, satisfy themselves as to the condition of the troops, their organisation and training, and render detailed reports to the War Office.

**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 be either with the colours or released on furlough till called upon. Those in the former category provide garrison troops in time of peace; those in 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, who are liable to be mobilised under the same circumstances as men on furlough. Men on furlough are organised in battalions in each department. The reserve is organised in the same manner.

*Military areas.*

The territory of the Republic of Guatemala is divided into a number of army commands, 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.

**C. Arms**

There are two infantry corps consisting of:
- 14 companies and 1 section of infantry;
- 4 groups of artillery, including:
  - 4 heavy mountain batteries;
  - 2 light mountain batteries;
  - 2 field batteries;
6 machine-gun companies and 1 machine-gun section;
1 ceremonial battalion;
5 sections of employees and workmen;
1 national aviation school.

Air Service.

The Air Service comprises the Army Flying Service and the Civil Flying Service.

The Army Flying Service is represented by the Military Flying Corps, which is an integral part of the army and is subject to the military laws of the Republic; its personnel is regarded as military personnel performing active service.

The Civil Flying Service is under the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works. It is subject to the army penal legislation as regards national security; in time of war its whole material and personnel are at the disposal of the army.

The Air Service command is directly under the Ministry of War. The Commander of the Air Service exercises authority over the whole personnel of the Army Flying Corps; he also supervises the whole Civil Flying Service in matters relating to national security.

The Military Flying Corps came into existence on July 1st, 1929. Its commander has the rank of Divisional General.

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

The army is recruited:

(1) By drawing lots;
(2) By the recruitment of volunteers;
(3) By re-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 must not be under eighteen years of age and must 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-enlistment is 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 who have passed through the Polytechnic School and to soldiers who have passed an examination for the rank of second lieutenant.

Cadets who have passed through the Polytechnic School are distributed among the various corps and services as military instructors, or are given other military employment.

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 is given at the Polytechnic School and the various officers' schools. Men in the active army are trained in the garrisons. Men on furlough go through a course of training twice a year in their respective departments. Each period of training lasts sixteen days.

There is also a flying school attached to the Ministry of National Defence divided into two sections, for cadet pilots and mechanics respectively.

Musketry Courses.

In 1925, 19,352 men attended these courses.

E. BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES
1927-28.

Officers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generals of Division</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generals of Brigade</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonels</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonels</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majors</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captains</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieutenants</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Lieutenants</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-commissioned officers: 496
Corporals and privates: 5,898

**Grand total**: 6,791

1 Excluding 249 local commandants.
II.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

(i) The financial year covers the period from July 1st to June 30th.
(ii) The budget is gross.

B. Summary of Defence Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secretariat of War</th>
<th>1926-27</th>
<th>1927-28</th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed Accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quetzals (000's)</td>
<td>2,204</td>
<td>2,108</td>
<td>1,811</td>
<td>2,201</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note. — The figures in the table do not include the appropriations for pensions, which are charged to the Secretariat of Finance jointly with civil pensions.