PERSIA

GENERAL

Area ............... 1,626,000 sq. km.
Population (estimation) ....... 9,000,000
Density per sq. km. ........ 5.5
Length of railway system ....... 370 km.

I.

Army.¹

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The command of all the land, sea and air forces is vested in the Shah.

MINISTRY OF WAR AND GENERAL STAFF.

The General Staff consists of a Cabinet of the General Staff, a division for administrative questions and four departments.

The Ministry of War comprises:

The Minister's Cabinet and the following sections:

(a) compulsory military service section;
(b) air force section;
(c) military school section;
(d) Army Paymaster's department;
(e) arsenal and military depot section;
(f) intendance section;
(g) medical section;
(h) veterinary section;
(i) communications section;
(j) military justice section;
(k) military band section;
(l) remount section.

¹ The Persian Army is at present undergoing reorganisation. The particulars given below refer to 1928.
B. MILITARY AREAS

The territory of the country is divided into six military areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Areas</th>
<th>Headquarters</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Centre</td>
<td>Teheran</td>
<td>2 independent infantry brigades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 » cavalry »</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 » artillery »</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 » mixed »</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 air force battalions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 independent engineer battalion, and armoured car, tank, etc., sections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. North-West</td>
<td>Tabriz</td>
<td>1 division,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. West</td>
<td>Kermanshah</td>
<td>1 »</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. South</td>
<td>Shiraz</td>
<td>1 »</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. East</td>
<td>Meshed</td>
<td>1 »</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. ORGANISATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The Persian army comprises:

- 4 mixed divisions,
- 2 independent infantry brigades,
- 1 » cavalry »
- 1 » artillery »
- 1 » mixed »
- 3 air force battalions,
- 1 independent engineer battalion and armoured car, tank, etc., sections.

Each division consists of from 2 to 3 brigades; each brigade of from 2 to 3 regiments; each regiment of from 2 to 3 battalions (infantry regiments have three battalions, and cavalry or mehari regiments two squadron groups).

Each infantry battalion consists of 4 companies, including 1 machine-gun company; the cavalry or mehari squadron group consists of 2 squadrons and 1 machine-gun group.

D. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Military service is compulsory and begins at the age of 21 years.
LENGTH OF MILITARY SERVICE.

The total length of military service is 25 years, divided into 3 periods.

I. Active army: 6 years, including 2 years with the colours and 4 years in the active army reserve.

II. Reserve: 13 years.
   Service in the reserve comprises two periods: the first period extends over 6 years and the second over 7 years.

III. Territorial army: 6 years.
   Reservists of the first period are called up every two years, and reservists of the second period every three years for a month's training.

Exemptions: Members of the clergy, holders of college diplomas, students of theology and, in certain cases, only sons and those who support their families are exempted from military service.

Postponement of service: Students at the secondary schools and colleges can obtain postponement of their service until they have completed their studies.

Exclusions: Offenders sentenced to more than two years' degrading punishment (peine afflictive) are excluded from the army; they are liable for certain compulsory work for the army.

E. EFFECTIVES

The effectives of the army total 40,000 men. ¹
The effectives of the gendarmerie total 6,489 (1930-31).
The effectives of the police total 5,926 (1930-31).

II.

Navy.

2 gunboats.

1. Mozafar (1899) 379 tons.
2. Persepolis (1885) 1,200 tons.

¹ This figure has been taken from the unofficial technical publications and, in publishing it, every reservation is made as to its accuracy. None of the official Persian documents, which the Secretariat has been able to obtain, give the figures of the Persian army effectives.
III.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. NOTE ON BUDGET PROCEDURE.

The financial year begins on March 21st and ends on March 20th of the following year.

B. BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1925-26</th>
<th>1926-27</th>
<th>1927-28</th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>94.7</td>
<td>98.7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>98.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of ammunition</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES. — (1). The Ministry of Finance has been authorised to pay to the Ministry of War a sum of 60 million krans for purchase of ammunition, to be repaid out of budget savings in the years 1930-31 and 1931-32.

(2). The figures above do not include the appropriations for military pensions which are accounted for in the budget jointly with civil pensions.