GUATEMALA

Area .... 110,000 sq. km.
Population (1931) : 2,219,000
Density per sq. km. .... 20.2
Length of railway system (XI. 1931) .... 830 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

The President of the Republic is the supreme military authority.
The Ministry of War, upon which devolves the general direction of
the army, ensures the execution of orders given by the President of the
Republic in the exercise of supreme authority.

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.
(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 ques-
tions 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 62 and generals of divisions at the age of 64. Certain generals nominated by the Ministry of War form an Advisory War Committee.

3. Army Staff.

The Army Staff is an auxiliary organ of the War Secretariat, to which it is attached. It is responsible for the examination of all technical questions relating to the Guatemalan army.


The Advisory War Council is a supreme council known as the "Junta consultiva de guerra", presided over by the Minister of War, its purpose being to assist the Minister and to pass resolutions on questions of essential importance to the army. The following are members of the Council: the Chief of the Army Staff, the chiefs of the auxiliary technical bodies, and two generals; the Under-Secretary of State for War acts as secretary. The members of the Council are appointed by the Government.

5. Army Inspectorates.

The Minister of War acts as Inspector-General of the army. 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.

COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.

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 guard-of-honour battalion;
5 sections of employees and workmen;
1 national aviation school;
1 cavalry squadron (55 men) stationed at the capital.

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 Minister of War. The command of the air service exercises authority over the whole personnel of the Army Flying Corps; it 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.

Military Sappers Corps.

The Military Sappers Corps, created in September 1930, comprises all Guatemalans who are liable to whole or part-time service as sappers in the army; they are organised in companies, from which the engineers of the army are drawn.

The sappers belong to the regular territorial force or to the territorial reserve, according to age. In peace time they are employed for the construction and maintenance of roads and for public works under the direction of the Ministry concerned. In war time they are utilised by the army. The duration of service of the sappers in peace time is two years, divided into several periods; they may be called up again only in case of war or of public calamity.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

The Guatemalan army is divided into an active army and a reserve. The active army is subdivided into: (1) Regular troops, (2) Mobilisable troops, (3) Territorial troops.

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. 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. Men on furlough are organised in battalions in each department.
The **regular troops** consist of:

I. The annual contingent called up in January and July for compulsory service, which is for a period of one year for infantry and cavalry and two years for artillery and engineers. After completing their term of active service the men form part of the mobilisable troops.

II. Volunteers.—Volunteers are young men under 18 years of age who offer themselves for service, with the authorisation of their parents or guardians. Volunteers also include members of the reserve who desire to perform active service.

III. Re-enlisted troops.—Re-enlisted troops consist of troops who, after having concluded their regular service, desire to remain with the colours for one or more terms of service.

**Mobilisable troops** consist of men who have completed their term of service with the colours.

Such men, on reaching the age of 30, form part of the reserve and remain in the position of mobile reserve.

**Territorial troops** consist of men under 30 years of age who have not received any military training and are not included as regular troops.

Territorial troops also include students of educational establishments who are required to serve with the colours when they have completed their studies. The term of service of such students is six months, provided that they furnish proof of having received training as recruits in their own particular educational establishment.

The reserve, organised in battalions in each department, is subdivided into: (1) **Mobile reserve**, which has received military training, and (2) **Territorial reserve**, which has not received military training.

The **mobile reserve** consists of men from 30 to 50 years of age belonging to the mobilisable troops who have served with the colours.

The **territorial reserve** consists of men from 30 to 50 years of age who have not served with the colours.

Private soldiers, corporals and sergeants 50 years of age obtain their final discharge unless they re-enlist.

On January 1st in each year all private soldiers who have reached the age of 30 during the previous year become members of the reserve.

**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 or the Military Aviation 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-class sergeant, a soldier must have served for six months as a corporal, and to be promoted first-class sergeant must have served as second-class sergeant for one year. Promotions to the rank of second lieutenant are made by seniority after examination.

Military Training.

Military training is given at the Polytechnic School, the Military Aviation School and the various officers' schools (military academies, advanced school) and schools for corporals and sergeants. 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 national flying-school attached to the Ministry of War, divided into two sections, for cadet pilots and mechanics respectively.

BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES.

(1930-31.)

Officers:

Generals of Division ...................................... 19
Generals of Brigade ......................................... 35
Colonels ......................................................... 13
Lieutenant-Colonels ......................................... 4
Majors ........................................................... 15
Captains ......................................................... 32
Lieutenants .................................................... 77
Second Lieutenants ........................................... 120

Total .................................................................. 315

Non-commissioned officers .................................... 439

Corporals and privates ......................................... 5,895

Grand total\(^1\) .................................................. 6,649

\(^1\) Excluding 179 local commandants.
II. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

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Quetzals (ooo,ooo’s)

**Note.**—Military and civil pensions are charged jointly to the Secretariat of Finance.