ALBANIA

Area .............. 28,000 sq. km.
Population (V. 1930) .. ... .. .. .. .. 1,003,000
Density per sq. km... ............ 35.8
Length of land frontiers .... .. 734 km.
Length of railway system (under construction) .. 39 km.

I. Army.

COMPOSITION OF THE ARMED FORCES.

The armed forces of Albania are composed of the army proper and the gendarmerie.

r. Army.

The army consists of:

The national defence command;
The land army (which also comprises the royal frontier guard, acting as revenue police);
The air force.¹

The national defence command is composed of a General Staff, a director-general's department and a General Intendance Bureau.

The land army is composed as follows:

The Royal Guard;
The Royal Frontier Guard: 4 battalions (14 companies);
Infantry: 12 battalions (of which only 9 are permanently organised, the other 3 having permanent cadres);
1 section of armoured cars and tanks;
Artillery: 22 batteries comprising: 12 of 65 mm. (of which 9 are permanently organised), 6 of 75 mm., 2 of 105 mm. and 2 of 149 mm. guns;

¹ The air force has not yet a definitive organisation.
Engineers: 9 companies, consisting of 4 field engineer companies, 1 liaison company, 1 wireless company, 1 photo-electrical company, 1 air-line company and 1 bridging company.

2. Gendarmerie.

The gendarmerie, which forms part of the armed forces, is organised in a general headquarters, 10 district headquarters, 31 subdivisional headquarters and 252 post headquarters.

Gendarmes are recruited from among citizens who have sent in an application and who fulfil certain conditions.

Officers are recruited from among young men who have successfully completed their studies at a military academy and afterwards at an advanced school, and also from among infantry subalterns.

N.C.O.s are selected from among the corporals of the gendarmerie corps who have successfully completed the courses of the gendarmerie school.

The period of service in the gendarmerie is three years, renewable not more than three times for periods of three years each.

The gendarmes are armed with rifles, 1891 pattern, and with bayonets.

Military Schools and Various Establishments.

Royal School (for the recruiting of officers of the active army); School for supernumerary cadet officers; Schools for the advanced training of officers; Training centre for the royal frontier guard; 4 hospitals; 4 special companies; 1 motor repair workshop; 1 court martial.

POLICE FORCES.

Albania has a rural police (rural guards) appointed by the village council, a communal and municipal police (in process of organisation) and a State police (at present under consideration). The provisional personnel of the State police now serving comprises 150 superintendents, inspectors and constables armed with revolvers. Lastly, there is a forest police (19 inspectors and 57 guards armed with revolvers and rifles), which is under the Administration of Forests.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

Military service is compulsory. Men are liable for military service from the attainment of the age of 20 until the age of 50. The period of service with the colours is eighteen months. Men remain in the first reserve until the age of 45 years, and then in the second reserve until the age of 50.

The Royal Frontier Guard is recruited in the same manner as the gendarmes (see above).
PRE-MILITARY TRAINING.

Pre-military training is compulsory for all citizens; it begins at the age of 16 and ends at the age of 20, when citizens are called up.

Pre-military training is divided into two periods: lower pre-military training for young men of 16 and 17 years of age, and higher pre-military training for young men of 18 and 19. The duration of the course is 40 periods annually, each of them lasting 3 to 4 hours.

Pre-military training is given by the cadres of the army units and consists of physical and athletic training for young men of the first period, and pre-military training proper, with use of arms, for young men of the second period.

In 1935, the number of young men receiving the higher pre-military training was 2,500.

After having completed the higher pre-military training, those entered enjoy a reduction of six months in their period of military service if they are subject to the normal period of enlistment (18 months); they are exempted from effective military service if they are subject to the shortened period of enlistment (3 months).

Premilitary Militia.

Youths aged 17 are embodied in a premilitary militia which forms part of the national defence forces. It consists of headquarters (separate from the national defence headquarters) and 10 battalions, one in each prefecture. Each battalion comprises two or more rifle companies and, in some cases, one machine-gun company of 2 or 3 sections.

League of Albanian Youth.

This League, which is autonomous and has its own budget, is controlled and subsidised by the Minister of Education.

Its object is to provide physical training for schoolboys from the age of 15, supplemented at a later stage by paramilitary exercises as provided by the laws and regulations.

MATERIAL IN SERVICE IN THE UNITS.

(1935.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weapon Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rifles or carbines</td>
<td>11,581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolvers</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine-guns</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns less than 120 mm. calibre</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns of 120 mm. or over</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanks</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EFFECTIVES.\(^1\)

(1935.)

Total effectives .. .. .. .. .. 12,629
Officers .. .. .. .. .. .. 771\(^2\)

II. Navy.

The navy, the permanent organisation of which is under consideration, is composed of one flotilla of light units (tonnage: 184 tons).

Effectives: 141 officers, N.C.O.s and seamen, including 17 regular officers.

III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period April 1st to March 31st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
<th>1934-35</th>
<th>1935-36</th>
<th>1936-37</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Command of National Defence ..</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index numbers of wholesale prices (1929/30 = 100) ..</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES.—1. The expenditure of the Command of National Defence comprises that on the army, the navy, the frontier guard and the gendarmerie.

2. The air force has not yet a definitive organisation.

3. Military pensions are not included in the figures above, but shown under the Ministry of Finance. This expenditure has been as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1930-31</th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed accounts</td>
<td>Estimates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military pensions ..</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As from 1934-35, military pensions are given jointly with civil pensions.

---

\(^1\) Including the Royal Frontier Guard and the gendarmerie. On January 1st, 1936, the Royal Frontier Guard consisted of 1,338 officers, N.C.O.s and guards, and the gendarmerie of 3,233 officers, N.C.O.s and gendarmes.

\(^2\) The number of regular officers of the land armed forces provided for by the law is 1,017.