GUATEMALA

Area ...... 110,000 sq. km.
Population (1933) ....... 2,234,000
Density per sq. km. ...... 20.3
Length of railway system (XII. 1931) ...... 830 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION.

The President of the Republic is the supreme military authority.
The War Office Secretariat, 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. WAR OFFICE SECRETARIAT.

The War Office Secretariat is under the direct control of the
Secretary of State for War, who is appointed by the President of the
Republic.
As Inspector-General of the army, the Secretary of State for War
himself inspects the army, its organisation and training, etc. He
may appoint delegates for this purpose.

2. GENERAL STAFF.

The General Staff consists of all generals of division and generals
of brigade in the army; it is under the direct authority of the
Secretary of State for War.
The Staff deals with all questions relating to recruiting, military
training, army organisation, mobilisation, etc.
3. **Advisory War Council.**

The Advisory War Council is a supreme council, presided over by the Secretary of State for War or in his absence by the Chief of the Staff, its purpose being to study questions of essential importance to the army.

The following are members of the Council: the chiefs of the auxiliary technical bodies, and two generals; the Under-Secretary of State for War acts as secretary.

4. **Departmental Commands.**

Each Department of the Republic is placed under a commander, who is its highest military authority.

The Departmental commanders are appointed by the President of the Republic from among the generals and chiefs of the army. Their only superiors are the President of the Republic and the Secretary of State for War.

In the chief town of each Department there is a town commander who is under the immediate orders of the Departmental commander.

In each port there is a port commander under the direct orders of the War Office Secretariat.

The post of port commander is filled by an army chief.

In all the municipalities of the Republic which are of sufficient importance but which do not include the chief town of the Department, there is a local commander appointed by the War Office Secretariat.

**COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY.**

*Infantry:* 13 companies, including 4 machine-gun companies.

*Cavalry:* 1 squadron.

*Artillery:*

7 mountain batteries.
2 field batteries.

The army of Guatemala comprises in addition 6 militia battalions, 2 volunteer battalions in the Capital and 7 volunteer companies in the departments.

The 2 battalions in the Capital form a military corps governed by special regulations and intended for the defence of the country against foreign aggression, together with the maintenance of internal order. This corps receives periodic military instruction, both theoretical and practical, from special instructors. In 1933, 2,919 officers and 148,108 militiamen (on the active list or in the mobile reserve) took
part in the military training; 2,837 officers and 145,788 men belonged to the infantry, 68 officers and 2,006 men to the artillery and 14 officers and 314 men to the cavalry.

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 Secretariat 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 Secretary of State for 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 Secretariat 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.

POLICE FORCES.

State Police.

The State police, which is under the Secretariat of the Interior, includes the national police, the traffic police, the rural police and the revenue police.

The budgetary effectives of the State Police (1933-34) are 1,743 men.

The members of this force are armed with revolvers and, in case of disorder, carry a 7-mm. rifle. Armament not included in the regulation equipment, but in the use of which instruction is given to members of the police force, consists of light machine-guns and machine-pistols. The police are specially trained for their own particular service and also undergo elementary military training for the maintenance of discipline.

Enlistment contracts are valid for a period of four years.
RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.

Military service is compulsory for all Guatemalans between the ages of 18 and 50.

The Guatemalan army is divided into an active army and a reserve. The active army is subdivided into: (1) a **regular force** and (2) a **mobilisable force**, which consists of men who have received the prescribed military training.

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.

In 1932 there were 7,122 men, of whom 6,567 were between 18 and 30, on the military registers.

The **regular force** consists 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 force.

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.

The **mobilisable force** consists 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.

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 31 to 50 years of age belonging to the mobilisable troops who have served with the colours.
The *territorial reserve* consists of men from 31 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.

Exempted militiamen are nevertheless required to take part in the prescribed military instruction.

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 SCHOOLS.**

Military training is given at the Polytechnic School (100 pupils in 1933-34), the Military Aviation School, the military academies (1,692 pupils in 1932), and schools for corporals and sergeants (1,648 pupils in 1932). 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 War Office Secretariat divided into two sections, for cadet pilots and mechanics respectively.

**BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES.**

*(1933-34.)*

1. *Army:*

   Officers, N.C.O.s and men ........................................... 5,863

2. *Aviation:*

   Officers, N.C.O.s and men ........................................... 27

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1 Including local commandants.
II. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period from July 1st to June 30th.

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