

Table I:27. The Ottoman army, 1473

Janissaries	12,000
Cavalry of the Porte	7,500
<i>Timariot sipahis</i> of Rumeli	40,000
<i>Timariot sipahis</i> of Anatolia	24,000
<i>azefs</i>	20,000
Total	103,500

Source: Barkan (1953-54).

to the Ottoman troops in Egypt or sent to the Hejaz and İstanbul as provisions. The expenditures for the imperial navy and other units for the defense of Egypt and Syria were not reflected here.

A significant portion of the imperial revenue was set aside and assigned as *timar* for the members of the imperial navy or for the construction of vessels for the fleets based at Alexandria, Damietta and Suez.²¹ The captains of these bases alone received 1,800,000 *para*. Egypt's rich resources and surplus revenue were crucial for the imperial defense finances. In times of shortage, the governor of Egypt, who was responsible for policies and activities in the Indian Ocean, also supplied the province of Yemen through its provincial budget. When in 1573 the governor of Yemen was unable to pay the salaries of the troops, who were putting pressure on him, the Porte ordered the governor of Egypt to send a subvention of 50 thousand gold ducats.²² After meeting all the expenses and salaries, the province of Egypt sent a half million gold ducats to the central treasury annually, and occasionally also subventions to Hejaz, Yemen and Habesh.²³ It is to be remembered that most of the *mukataas* came under the control of the emirs (Mamluks) of Egypt through the tax-farming system.²⁴

EXPENDITURE FOR THE OTTOMAN ARMY

As seen above, the largest part of the state revenue was reserved for soldiers' salaries. İdris,²⁵ a reliable source for the early sixteenth century, analyzed the Ottoman army during the campaign against Uzun Hasan in 1473, when the sultan gathered all his forces for this decisive confrontation. His computation is shown in Table I:27.

In the official list dated 1528,²⁶ the regular forces numbered about 87,000, of which 37,000 were provincial *timar*-holders, and 50,000 were salaried troops (Table I: 28). *Timar*-holders had to bring to the campaigns auxiliary troops (*cebelüs*) at their own expense. Barkan²⁷ estimated the

Table I:28. The Ottoman army, 1528

	Number	Salary or benefice in million of <i>akça</i>	
<i>A. Regular army</i>			
The salaried (<i>ulufeli</i>) soldiers			
Divisions of the Porte (Janissaries, <i>sipahis</i> , cannoniers, etc.)	24,146	65.88	
Inner palace servants	2,903	-	
Fortress guards, <i>maratlos</i> and navy	23,017	40.13	
Beneficiaries of <i>hass</i> , <i>ziamet</i> , and <i>timar</i> in the provinces	37,741	200.19	Including those <i>timariot sipahis</i> as guards in the fortresses, which numbered 9,563 men
Total	87,807	306.20	
<i>B. Auxiliary troops</i>			
<i>Yaya</i> , <i>müsellems</i> , <i>canbaz</i> , <i>bazdars</i> and <i>Yörüks</i> , Anatolia	8,180	3.08	In 1582, at the abolition of their organization, <i>yaya</i> and <i>müsellem</i> numbered 6,900, <i>canbaz</i> 1,200 (Ayni [1280 H.] p. 45)
<i>Yörüks</i> and Tatars, Rumeli	7,000	?	(Gökbilgin [1957])
<i>Voynuks</i> , <i>eslaks</i> and other Christian soldiers	3,000	?	
Registered <i>akıncıs</i> (frontier raiders)	12,000	?	Their numbers swelled by volunteers in times of large-scale raids
Total	30,180		
Grand total	117,987	309.28	

Source: Barkan (1953-54), pp. 280-329.

number of these *cebelüs* at 60,000 in 1528. In the calculation *azefs* (see below) were not included.

An Italian source (Bessarion: 1470) and an Iranian source (*Ahsan al Tawarikh*) give a lower figure of 70,000 men, when the irregular forces, the *azefs*, were excluded. This was a small army by modern standards, but only by considering the extraordinary problems associated with feeding and moving troops into fields of action hundreds of miles away in Hungary, Iran and Iraq can we understand its enormity for the age. For