

**A Century of The Russian Ministry of War  
1802-1902  
General Staff Historical Department  
The Reign of Emperor Alexander I  
1801 - 1805**

[translated into English from the original Russian by Peter G.A. Phillips]

## **25. Reorganisation Of National Forces And Their Strength By The End Of 1805.**

By the end of 1805, the following reorganisation of national forces had taken place: the Lithuania-Tatar Regiment was divided into two regiments; the Poland Horse were reorganised; the Odessa Greek Battalion was formed.

### **The Division Of The Lithuania-Tatar Regiment Into Two.**

This regiment consisted not only of Tatars, but also of Poles and other Christians, who found the union an obstacle, due in many ways to the differences in lifestyle and therefore on 30 July [11 August] 1802, the Military Commission presented a report on dividing this regiment into two, making one of them consist of Tatars alone. Although this report was granted Supreme confirmation, General-of-Cavalry Baron Meyendorff was still instructed ‘to find the best and most feasible means to implement this on the ground.’<sup>1</sup>

The division of the regiment into two, according to the above-mentioned report, was to occur on the following basis:<sup>2</sup>

1. ‘To form a regiment of Tatars alone, numbering three squadrons, and another three-squadron regiment from the remainder of the men of other nationalities, precisely on the same basis as the Tatar Regiment under the designation Lithuania Horse Regiment, on the assumption that to that end the entire total of men in excess of establishment would be accommodated without exception.’
2. Their salary is to be paid, as in hussar regiments, with provisions and fodder provided in kind from the treasury.
3. Horses will continue to be provided for by the treasury, while ‘those currently purchased with funds issued will be taken onto treasury account.’
4. ‘Clothing and horse harness, so long as it is uniform, should be provided by the individual.’ As before, ‘each *namestnik* [steward], *tovarishch* [comrade] and *sherengov* [ranker], or private, receiving cash for necessities (uniform, weapons), was obliged to have them in their possession and feed himself and his horse without any relief from the treasury for items of this nature.’

Overall, it is apparent that this was mainly concerned with giving the regiments a more durable constitution in budgetary terms, but these so-called privileges were preserved.

The establishment for the three-squadron Tatar Horse Regiment was approved as follows:<sup>3</sup>

|                                                                     | Regiment | Squadron |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Field Officers                                                      | 3        |          |
| Subalterns                                                          | 20       | 6        |
| <i>Namestniki</i> , <i>Wachtmeister</i> & Non-Commissioned Officers | 36       | 12       |

<sup>1</sup> Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry (A.C.W.M.), dedicated listing from the most humble report by the War Minister for Land Forces regarding ‘exercises’ in 1803.

<sup>2</sup> A.C.W.M. catalogue 1, Supreme decrees etcetera, book No. 138, listing No. 54, report by the War Minister for Land Forces, General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov.

<sup>3</sup> A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 18 and the above-mentioned book No. 138, listing No. 54.

|                                           | Regiment       | Squadron |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| <i>Tovarishchi</i>                        | 264            | 88       |
| Privates (supporting <i>Tovarishchi</i> ) | 264            | 88       |
| Trumpeters                                | 7              | 2        |
| Support Personnel (subaltern status)      | 3 <sup>4</sup> |          |
| Support Personnel (lower ranks)           | 15             | 2        |
| Total all ranks:                          | 612            | 198      |

The other regiment was intended to have a similar establishment. According to a report dated 20 December 1802 [1 January 1803], the Lithuania-Tatar Regiment consisted of:<sup>5</sup>

|                           | Regiment          |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Field Officers            | 16                |
| Subalterns                | 49                |
| Non-Commissioned Officers | 69                |
| Musicians                 | 17                |
| <i>Tovarishchi</i>        | 500               |
| Privates                  | 497               |
| Support Personnel         | 33                |
| Total all ranks:          | 1177 <sup>6</sup> |
| War Horses                | 1091              |
| Draught Horses            | 48                |
| Total Horses:             | 1139              |

Despite the fact that the existing condition of the regiment was somewhat deficient for two three-squadron regiments,<sup>7</sup> nevertheless General-of-Cavalry Baron Meyendorff in his report to His Imperial Majesty proposed that ‘although the establishment has been issued for the regiment to consist of three squadrons, each of 176 men, due to the enthusiasm of the Tatars, it was possible to form four squadrons, each of 150 men, in addition, there could be a depot squadron of 100 men, as a rear-party in order to resupply the diminution of the regiment whenever it is detached from its quarters and might be located in places where it is not possible to get reliable volunteers.’<sup>8</sup>

As a result of this, General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov announced in accordance with the Supreme order that ‘the Military Commission, make an unsigned inclusion in the diary entry for 27 February [11 March] 1803, such that they propose to His Majesty, on the basis of General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov’s report on the state of the Tatar Regiment and General-of-Cavalry Baron Meyendorff’s report, their assessment that the creation of two regiments from the currently existing Tatar Regiment, should be made on the basis of five squadrons with an equal number of men in each.’<sup>9</sup>

4 Including an auditor, mullah and doctor.

5 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 18.

6 The numbers of Tatars and ‘other nations’ was almost equal.

7 There was a shortfall of 62 lower ranks to achieve establishment strength, but officers were surplus to establishment, field officers in particular.

8 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 18, ‘extracts regarding the Lithuania-Tatar Regiment.’

9 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 18, proposal by the Military Commission dated 27 February 27 [11 March] 1803.

On 4 [16] March 1803, the Military Commission submitted for Supreme confirmation an approximate establishment for ‘the Tatar Horse Regiment, which was to consist of five squadrons’<sup>10</sup> and by 29 March [10 April] both the table and the definitive establishment had already been drafted. The most humble report by the Military Commission ‘on the formation of two regiments from what is now the single Lithuania-Tatar Regiment: one designated the Tatar-Horse, while the other is to be the Lithuania-Horse’ received Supreme approval on 30 March [11 April].<sup>11</sup>

On the strength of this report, orders were issued ‘on the formation of two regiments from what is now the single Lithuania-Tatar Regiment; one designated the Tatar-Horse, while the other is to be the Lithuania-Horse and both should be established on the following basis’:<sup>12</sup>

1. ‘Such that the first-named regiment should consist solely of Tatars in the rank-and-file and support personnel ranks, excluding trumpeters.’
2. Each regiment was to consist of five squadrons.
3. ‘In order to fill the squadrons in these regiments with *namestniki*, non-commissioned officers and *tovarishchi*, and only from Tatars in the former, as stated above, the acceptance into service of those volunteers and their selection, upon presentation and certification by the squadron commanders, to provide to the colonel-in-chief, as before: the *sherengovi*, by selection and approval of the *tovarishchi* by the squadron commander. But at the same time, the colonel-in-chief and squadron commanders are obliged to ensure that those entering service are free men, not escapees, not under suspicion, of known heritage, not elderly or disabled, which should also be observed with regard to all support personnel appointments, whose acceptance into service is placed under the precise care of the colonel-in-chief.’
4. ‘Upon forming each of these regiments into five squadrons, it should be possible to place the current field officers and subalterns into vacancies, while whichever of these appointments could not be filled in the manning, these are to be replenished or by identifying alternatives in the Tatar from Tatar men, and in the Lithuania from Polish or other nationalities.’<sup>13</sup>

The establishment of the Tatar Horse and Lithuania Horse was approved as follows:<sup>14</sup>

|                                               | Regiment         | Squadron |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Field Officers                                | 3                |          |
| Subalterns                                    | 27 <sup>15</sup> | 5        |
| <i>Namestniki</i> & Non-Commissioned Officers | 60               | 12       |
| <i>Tovarishchi</i>                            | 300              | 60       |
| <i>Sherengovi</i>                             | 300              | 60       |
| Trumpeters                                    | 11               | 2        |
| Support Personnel (subaltern status)          | 3 <sup>16</sup>  |          |
| Support Personnel (lower ranks)               | 53               |          |
| Total Combatants:                             | 701              | 139      |
| Total Support Personnel:                      | 56               |          |
| Total All Ranks:                              | 757              | 139      |

10 A.C.W.M. catalogue 1, Supreme decrees etcetera, book No. 148, listing No. 6.

11 A.C.W.M. catalogue 1, Supreme decrees etcetera, book No. 148, listing No. 9.

12 Complete Collection of Laws (C.C.L.), Vol. XLIII, book II to No. 20695.

13 Other terms of reference, such as pay, uniform, and so on, remained extant.

14 C.C.L. Vol. XLIII, book II, to No. 23239 to No. 20695.

15 Including an adjutant and quartermaster.

16 Chaplain or mullah, auditor and two doctors.

|                | Regiment          | Squadron |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| War Horses     | 671 <sup>17</sup> |          |
| Draught Horses | 18                |          |
| Total Horses:  | 689               |          |
| Vehicles       | 14 <sup>18</sup>  | 2        |

### Reorganisation Of The Poland Horse Regiment.

The Poland Horse Regiment, following the division of the Lithuania-Tatars, temporarily continued to exist under the previous regulations and was awaiting reorganisation. At the beginning of 1805, the proposal was made 'to place its structure on an equal footing as with others' and therefore the regulations in this regard were 'adjusted' according to the model of 'hussar or Lithuania Horse regiments.'<sup>19</sup> The 'number of field officers and subalterns and privates in the squadron' and vehicles, draught horses<sup>20</sup> 'with other ancillaries' were allocated in accordance with hussar regiments. The composition of the regiment, pay and other innovations, which were mentioned above, remained following the model of the Lithuania Horse Regiment.

The regiment's establishment composition was as follows:<sup>21</sup>

|                                         | Regiment         | Squadron              |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Field Officers                          | 4                |                       |
| Subalterns                              | 63 <sup>22</sup> | 5/6                   |
| Non-Commissioned Officers <sup>23</sup> | 120              | 12                    |
| <i>Tovarishchi</i>                      | 600              | 60                    |
| <i>Sherengovi</i>                       | 600              | 60                    |
| Trumpeters                              | 21               | 2                     |
| Support Personnel (subaltern status)    | 5                |                       |
| Support Personnel (lower ranks)         | 34               | 2                     |
| Master Craftsmen                        | 37               | 3                     |
| Drivers                                 | 27               | 2                     |
| Total Combatants:                       | 1408             | 139/140 <sup>24</sup> |
| Total Support Personnel: <sup>25</sup>  | 103              | 8                     |

17 Ten for *namestniki*, ten for *wachtmeister*, 40 for non-commissioned officers, 600 for *tovarishchi* and *sherengovi*, and 11 for trumpeters.

18 Five ration wagons, five infirmary wagons, one treasury wagon, one cartridge caisson, and one tool/instrument wagon [one chapel/mosque wagon?].

19 The most humble report by the War Minister for Land Forces was approved on 20 March [1 April] 1805 (C.C.L. Vol. XXVIII, No. 21673).

20 C.C.L. Vol. XLIII, part II to No. 2603 to No. 21673.

21 See the establishment for hussar regiments in Part 7.

22 Including three adjutants, a quartermaster and a paymaster.

23 Including *namestniki*.

24 Hussar squadrons had 151 or 152 combatants, that is 12 more men, the latter were dismounted and, probably, in the new organisation for squadrons of the Poland Horse Regiment, they were not taken into account, but only those on horseback were meant.

25 There were no orderlies.

|                                | Regiment           | Squadron |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Total Personnel: <sup>26</sup> | 1511 <sup>27</sup> | 147/148  |

Comparing the establishment just given with the previous one,<sup>28</sup> one comes to the conclusion that the manning of the regiment has been increased by almost 27 percent; the number of officers has increased by almost 32 percent; the number of support personnel, with the introduction of a permanent train, has increased by a factor of more than 4½ (from 26 men to 106), and the categories of support personnel indicates that attention was paid to self-sufficiency.

#### Formation Of The Odessa Greek Battalion.

As stated in a decree dated 22 October [3 November] 1803, ‘Our Grandmother, Empress Catherine II, of blessed memory, in most gracious regard for the commitment of the Greeks and Albanians in Russia and for services rendered in various wars, decided in 1795 to establish a division [pair of companies] in which those of them who had most distinguished themselves by diligence and courage in battle could be identified, thus receiving a reward and finding sanctuary. By a coincidence of various circumstances, in 1799 the Greek division was disbanded; the ranks who served therein, both senior and lower, have not yet been reassigned anywhere. We, wishing to give this nation of our same faith a new reason for our patronage and to care for their welfare, and at the same time, Our benevolence and mercy are to be expressed to those of them who served in the Russian forces, gives orders, instead of the aforementioned division, to form a battalion designated the Odessa Greek, for which an establishment is to be sent by the Military Collegium. In this battalion, mainly Greeks and Albanians who have served in various wars for Russia are to be placed, in particular from the time when Our squadron was in the Mediterranean, for the settlement of whom with their families, by our decree on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August last [10 September], We have already ordered the allocation of a sufficient parcel of land near Odessa.’<sup>29</sup>

On 23 October [4 November], the establishment received Supreme confirmation and orders were issued for:<sup>30</sup> ‘their execution, which is entrusted to the Kherson Military Governor and the Inspector of the Crimea Inspection: mainly to place in this battalion those Greeks and Albanians who wish to join, who have served in various Russian wars, and especially when our squadron was in the Mediterranean; due to the fact that it is now fully manned, and henceforth, in those places in decline, should they so wish, to determine from their children who have come of age and are newly settled in the lands set aside for the Greeks and Albanians, but not otherwise, however, than men of these two nationalities; the headquarters of the battalion is to be assigned according to convenience, respecting the locality of the settlements on the lands allocated to them and inform Us of this.’<sup>31</sup>

The establishment was defined as follows:

26 The establishment strength of the regiment will be given below in the general table according to the returns on the state of the army as at 1 [13] January 1806, as 1,515 men, since this includes the colonel-in-chief and an additional three support personnel.

27 The given total in the C.C.L. is 1,513 men.

28 See the table at the end of Part 25, former establishments with changes up to 1 [13] January 1805.

29 A.C.W.M. log of directed decrees, proposal by General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov and Supreme signed Tsar’s decree for 1803 to the Military Collegium, dated 22 October [3 November] 1803, No. 166.

30 A.C.W.M. log of directed decrees, Tsar’s decree to the Military Collegium, dated 23 October [4 November] 1803, No. 169.

31 Also with regard to: reporting to the Military Collegium ‘who will be placed in which locations’; selection of the battalion commander; selection of non-commissioned officers by the battalion commander with the approval of the Inspector, and selection of officers by His Imperial Majesty, and regarding resignations.

|                                      | Battalion        | Company           |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Field Officers                       | 2                |                   |
| Subalterns                           | 14 <sup>32</sup> | 4                 |
| Non-Commissioned Officers            | 33               | 11                |
| Privates                             | 423              | 141 <sup>33</sup> |
| Drummers                             | 6                | 2                 |
| Support Personnel (subaltern status) | 3 <sup>34</sup>  |                   |
| Support Personnel (lower ranks)      | 6                | 1 <sup>35</sup>   |
| Orderlies <sup>36</sup>              |                  |                   |
| Total Combatants:                    | 487              | 159               |
| Total Support Personnel:             | 9                | 1                 |
| Total Manning:                       | 496              | 160               |
| Draught Horses <sup>37</sup>         |                  |                   |

On 18 [30] May 1804, the Infantry Inspector of the Crimea Inspection, General-of-Infantry Rosenberg, reported to His Imperial Majesty that the Odessa Greek Battalion had already been formed,<sup>38</sup> and attached a report on the condition of the battalion, from which it can be seen that by 1 [13] June it consisted of: two field officers; 14 subalterns; 28 non-commissioned officers, 136 privates and four support personnel enrolled in all three companies, for a total of 184 men; but of these only 160 men were present, giving between 51 and 56 men in each company.<sup>39</sup>

The Strength Of National Forces In 1805 And 1806, As At 1 [13] January Of Each Year.

By this time, the national forces consisted of three regiments of horse (Tatar, Lithuania and Poland) and two Greek battalions (infantry and the Odessa).

The establishment and available strength of national regiments and battalions is shown in the table at the end of Part 25.<sup>40</sup>

Looking at this table, we notice the following:

1. The establishment strength of all national troops in general, by the end of 1805, thanks to the changes to establishments and the formation of one battalion, exceeded 3,800 men, while compared with the same strength by March 1801,<sup>41</sup> it represented an increase of 31 to 40 percent.<sup>42</sup>
2. The manning shortfall was  $\frac{1}{10}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  below establishment.<sup>43</sup>

32 Including an adjutant and a paymaster.

33 Including three *artel* men.

34 An auditor (who also executed the duties of quartermaster), a chaplain and a doctor.

35 Barber.

36 Officers were not entitled to orderlies, but 'they were given money to pay for' a total of 27 men, at seven roubles 30 kopeks each.

37 It was intended to have one draught horse per ten lower ranks on campaign only.

38 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 87 original report to No. 95.

39 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 87 original report by battalion commander, Major Katsonis.

40 This table was compiled from reports on the state of the army (Military Scientific Archive of the General Staff (M.S.A), department I, No. 239).

41 See force strength returns as at March 1801.

42 The first percentage refers to the beginning of 1805, and the second to the end of the year.

43 The first fraction refers to the beginning of 1805, and the second to the end of the year.

3. Particularly noteworthy were the Greek battalions, in which there were 92 to 111 officers across six companies, that is, an average of 15 to 18 officers per company.
4. In the same battalions, the shortfall of lower ranks was almost  $\frac{1}{3}$  and sometimes more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the establishment strength.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> The first fraction refers to the beginning of 1805, and the second to the end of the year.

The Staffing And Available Strength Of National Regiments And Battalions In 1805 And 1806 Was As Follows:<sup>45</sup>

As at 1 [13] January each year.

|                                      | On Establishment |          |             |        |                   |             |        |              |        |         |        | Present    |          |             |        |                   |             |        |              |        |         |        |             |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|-------------|------------|
|                                      | Combatants       |          |             |        | Support Personnel |             |        |              | Horses |         |        | Combatants |          |             |        | Support Personnel |             |        |              | Horses |         |        | Shortfall   |            |
| In which regiments & battalions      | Generals         | Officers | Lower Ranks | Total: | Subalterns        | Lower Ranks | Total: | Grand Total: | War    | Draught | Total: | Generals   | Officers | Lower Ranks | Total: | Subalterns        | Lower Ranks | Total: | Grand Total: | War    | Draught | Total: | Lower Ranks | War Horses |
| Tatar Horse 1805                     |                  | 30       | 671         | 701    | 3                 | 53          | 56     | 757          | 671    | 58      | 729    |            | 47       | 618         | 665    | 3                 | 45          | 48     | 713          | 633    | 58      | 691    | 61          | 38         |
| 1806                                 |                  | 30       | 671         | 701    | 3                 | 55          | 58     | 759          | 671    | 58      | 729    |            | 47       | 615         | 662    | 3                 | 46          | 49     | 711          | 621    | 58      | 679    | 65          | 50         |
| Lithuania Horse 1805                 |                  | 30       | 671         | 701    | 3                 | 53          | 56     | 57           | 671    | 58      | 729    |            | 32       | 666         | 698    | 3                 | 49          | 52     | 750          | 670    | 58      | 728    | 9           | 1          |
| 1806                                 |                  | 30       | 671         | 701    | 3                 | 55          | 58     | 759          | 671    | 58      | 729    | 1          | 32       | 666         | 699    | 3                 | 50          | 53     | 752          | 639    | 58      | 688    | 10          | 41         |
| Poland Horse 1805                    | 1                | 51       | 1091        | 1143   | 4                 | 22          | 26     | 1169         | 1091   | 58      | 1149   | 1          | 45       | 1091        | 1137   | 4                 | 22          | 26     | 1163         | 1091   | 58      | 1140   |             |            |
| 1806                                 | 1                | 67       | 1341        | 1409   | 7                 | 99          | 106    | 1515         | 1341   | 118     | 1459   | 1          | 70       | 1211        | 1312   | 7                 | 93          | 100    | 1412         | 1273   | 118     | 1391   | 106         | 68         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Greek Battalion 1805 |                  | 30       | 792         | 822    | 5                 | 6           | 11     | 833          |        |         |        |            | 92       | 598         | 690    | 4                 | 9           | 13     | 703          |        |         |        | 278         |            |
| 1806                                 |                  |          |             |        |                   |             |        |              |        |         |        |            | 111      | 551         | 662    | 5                 | 4           | 9      | 671          |        |         |        | 316         |            |
| Total for 1805:                      | 1                | 141      | 3225        | 3367   | 15                | 134         | 149    | 3516         | 2433   | 174     | 2607   | 1          | 216      | 2973        | 3190   | 14                | 125         | 139    | 3329         | 2394   | 174     | 2568   | 368         | 39         |
| Total for 1806:                      | 1                | 157      | 3475        | 3633   | 18                | 215         | 233    | 3866         | 2683   | 234     | 2917   | 2          | 260      | 3073        | 3335   | 18                | 193         | 211    | 3546         | 2524   | 234     | 2768   | 497         | 159        |

Note: in order obtain the shortfall, the total number of combatant and support personnel lower ranks present was subtracted from the total of combatant and support personnel lower ranks on establishment.

<sup>45</sup> The table was compiled from reports on the state of the army (M.S.A. department I, No. 239).