

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

7. Conclusions on the new establishments, their influence on numbers and on the activation of the new establishments.

Conclusions on the new establishments:

In February 1802 the report of the Military Collegium regarding the new statutes received Supreme confirmation, in this report we find some general conclusions:¹

1. “According to these statutes, especially in the jäger regiments, by strengthening each of them with a whole battalion, and in all the mounted regiments, by adding replacement squadrons to these latter, a notable increase in the number of men should follow, while there are a number of changes in the various ranks.”
2. “In contrast, in the garrison battalions according to the field structure (consequently) there is some reduction in their numbers.”
3. “Moreover, all infantry grenadier and musketeer regiments have been brought from two battalions to three battalions, in accordance with which the combined grenadier battalions are disbanded, and together they will be composed of one grenadier battalion in each infantry regiment.”
4. “As with the musketeers, the grenadier regiment also has the same number of men, differing from it only in that, instead of two musketeer battalions, it consists of two fusilier battalions.” In the statute, there is no mention of fusilier battalions, and all the privates are referred to as grenadiers; but the Table of Uniform, Munitions and Other Items refers to “grenadier hats” in the colonel-in-chief’s battalion and to “fusilier hats” in the other two battalions,² and about the regiment it says that it “consists of three grenadier battalions.”

To these general conclusions, it is also necessary to add some specific ones, the Military Commission drew attention to:³

1. To create an easily managed battalion, and therefore settled on a four-company battalion, “revoking” the previous six-company ones.
2. To improve the internal administration of military units, and therefore found it “beneficial” to introduce a “sufficient number” of support staff (clerks, craftsmen, and others), but the total number of support staff only changed slightly, mostly in the direction of reducing them.
3. To reduce the number of wagons, having withdrawn the “carts for reserve ammunition,” there had been three of them per company, and two per

1 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20166.

2 Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry. Registry of various books. Statutes of 1802 (book of the Chancellery of the Chief of the General Staff H.I.H.). Statutes and Tables of “Grenadier Regiments.”

3 Only those points relevant to organisation will be listed here. In addition, we will mention that the Military Commission made huge calculations for supplying the troops with various items; descriptions for the Tailoring and Sewing of Uniforms, etc.; determined the nomenclature for items, their cost, made tables of equipment etc.

squadron.

4. On the withdrawal of pack horses “for cauldrons” since it was possible to “carry the latter on the tent box-carts.”
5. On the introduction of replacement squadrons, which were intended to provide manning for line cavalry regiments of both men and horses, but, in addition, were to perform another important task: “to accustom recruits and remount horses in the execution of military service.”
6. On the establishment of statutes for peacetime and wartime:
 - a) In grenadier and musketeer regiments, 24 privates per company were to be added “in wartime;” in each battalion, one ration wagon with driver; twelve box-carts in which greatcoats and entrenching tools were to be carried.
 - b) In the line of cavalry, 15-16 horses per squadron were to be added “in wartime.”
7. To provide manning to field regiments; a principle was established that “field regiments were to be manned from the garrisons;” this principle led in fact to “garrisons” playing the role in relation to field regiments of, as it were, replacement battalions.
8. On the “calculation” of colonels-in-chief in particular, without introducing them into the staffing total. This was necessary, as far as can be seen, for the following reasons:
 - a) In order to simplify reporting, as colonels-in-chief were of various ranks, for which they received salaries, they were not entitled to rations, and this complicated calculations.⁴
 - b) In order to eliminate such eventualities where the same colonel-in-chief could be in several regiments at once (for example, in the Lifeguard), and then he would be counted according to the number of regiments, and in the overall account there would be several extra men.⁵

The influence of the new statutes on troop numbers.

The extent of the “notable subsequent increase” is best evidenced by the “calculations and returns” that were drawn up by the Military Commission.⁶ The tables below are extracts from the original “returns,”⁷ the figures taken mainly relating to the grand total.⁸

ESTIMATE

Regarding the number of men who, according to the newly submitted Statutes, have been added or subtracted against the previous statutes in Lifeguard regiments.

4 Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry. Registry of various books. Statutes of 1802 (book of the Chancellery of the Chief of the General Staff H.I.H.). In the explanations for the statutes of garrison battalions on territorial establishment, salaries for ranks are given without rations.

5 Such calculations appeared in the previous statutes.

6 Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry. Registry of 1st Supreme Decrees etc. Book No. 148.

7 The returns represent “estimates” of the cost of maintaining men and horses for the former statutes and those newly introduced.

8 The returns made the calculation: firstly, for one regiment of grenadiers, musketeers etc. individually, and secondly, for all regiments (grenadiers, musketeers etc.).

	1798 Statutes								Newly submitted Statutes							
	Combatants			Support Staff				Total	Combatants			Support Staff				Total
	Officers	NCOs	Privates	Officers	NCOs	Other Ranks	Orderlies		Officers	NCOs	Privates	Officers	NCOs	Other Ranks	Orderlies	
Lifeguard Horse Regiment	67	162	1,000	7	3	128	192	1,559	41	97	660	5	8	64	125	1,000
Lifeguard Hussar Regiment	21	49	384	5	1	43	67	570	41	96	660	5	8	55	125	990
Preobrazhensky Regiment	126	405	3,475	9	6	296	299	4,616	87	266	2,256	7	13	158	216	3,003
Semenovsky/Izmailovsky	152	486	4,170	14	8	364	362	5,556	132	388	3,384	12	22	242	348	4,528
Lifeguard Jäger Battalion	13	52	300	2	2	37	39	445	18	50	400	2	6	42	51	569
Total:	382	1,154	9,329	37	20	868	959	12,749	319	897	7,360	31	57	561	865	10,090
Reduction compared to 1798 Statutes:									63	257	1,969	5		307	94	2,695
Increase:													37			37
Net reduction:																2,659

Signed in original by the Military Commission.

Notes:

1. For some reason, Supreme Daily Orders, dated 9 [20] September 1798 (Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXV, No. 18658) were not taken into account, according to which the Lifeguard Hussars were ordered to have ten squadrons of 100 men each. The Military Commission made theses calculations according to the statute for a five-squadron regiment (Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, Part I, Book of Statutes, note No. 19420 to No. 185, 7 - Statute 10 [21] July 1798).
2. The Lifeguard Preobrazhensky Regiment counted five battalions, according to the Statute of 10 [21] July, 1798.
3. His Imperial Majesty was counted three times; with the Preobrazhensky, Semenovsky and Izmailovsky regiments (see Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part I, Book of Statutes, note No. 19480 to 18577).

STRENGTH RETURNS.

For the calculation of men and horses in the 13 grenadier regiments, 69 musketeer regiments, 66 garrison regiments on field establishment, 20 battalions on territorial establishment and 20 invalid companies attached to the latter, which, according to the newly submitted Statutes, have been increased or decreased against the former Statutes.

For the calculation of men and horses, with a comparison between the newly submitted Statutes for the six cuirassier regiments, 22 of dragoons and eight of hussars, with the replacement Squadrons assigned to them, with increases or decreases against the previous Statutes.

INFANTRY	1798	New Statutes		CAVALRY	1798	New Statutes
Combatants			Increase	Combatants		
Officers	7,192	7,575	383	Officers	1,444	1,876
Non-Commissioned Officers	16,175	17,482	1,307	Non-Commissioned Officers	2,680	4,148
All Other Ranks	211,962	229,200	17,238	Privates	28,884	34,980
Support Staff				Support Staff		
Officer Equivalent	760	778	18	Officer Equivalent	180	188
NCO Equivalent	101	1,541	1,440	Non-Commissioned Officer Equivalent	80	348
All Other Ranks	15,011	14,375		All Other Ranks	3,044	2,908
Orderlies	10,704	11,761	1,057	Orderlies	2,210	2,860
Total:	261,905	282,712		Total:	38,522	47,308
Increase:			20,807	Increases		
Reduction:			636	Officers		440
Net Increase:			20,171	Non-Commissioned Officers		1,736
Draught Horses (in all regiments)	15,616	16,285		Lower Ranks		5,960
War Increment		2,952		Orderlies		650
				Net Increase:		8,786
				Horses - all regiments		
				War Horses	29,810	27,434
				Others	3,616	3,416
				War Increment		3,410
				With the 44 replacement squadrons		

	War Horses		3,004
	Others		132

Signed in original by the Military Commission.

Notes:

1. Infantry horses: there were more horses in the latter situation compared to the former situation, because 75 had been added to each Jäger regiment, although in the Grenadier and Musketeer regiments, in contrast, eight had been added to each; each regiment was supposed to have 36, and 82 horses respectively, for a total of 2,952 horses.
2. The infantry manpower total for the statute of 1798 in the return is incorrect, it shows, 261,908, hence the total has been reduced by three.
3. The number of infantry combatants and support staff, shown in the troop strengths for March 1801, does not agree with the returns for the following reasons:
 - a) In this return it calculates that there were 86 garrison battalions in the 1798 statutes, by March 1801 there were only 82 of them.
 - b) In this return it calculates that there were only 20 invalid companies with 20 territorial garrison battalions, but the number of invalid companies was greater than 20, and by March 1801 there were a total of 52 of these companies.

In general, we have observed that according to the 1802 by statutes:

1. The number of line infantry had increased by 20,171 men, and the line cavalry by 8,786 men.
2. In the Lifeguard there was a decrease of 2,659 men.
3. The number of draught horses had increased by 3,621 in the infantry, and decreased by 33 in the cavalry.
4. War horses, including the war increment and replacement squadrons, had increased by 4,008.

On the activation of the new statutes.

Gentlemen Inspectors, both for cavalry and infantry, were ordered “that each of them in his inspection, by reason of the reform of regiments for those Supremely Approved Statutes and bringing them to such a position, which the statutes have assigned to the matter, should act on everything with precision... Having observed that the men in each squadron or company have been deployed in equal numbers, and after bringing all that into due execution, are to report thereon.”⁹ But in view of the significant increase in manpower, the reconstitution of the army according to this new provision was postponed until the next call-up,¹⁰ which was assigned for 9 [21] September, 1802.¹¹

⁹ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20166.

¹⁰ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20166.

¹¹ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20994.