

**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]

13. Conclusions on the Calculations.

Thus, the Military Commission concluded:

- a. The ratios of cavalry, assuming the concept that although it should be based ‘on a rule such as consisting of one regiment of five squadrons capable of attacking infantry per two regiments of infantry, consisting of 12 companies, or for every two field squadrons of hussar cavalry one squadron or instead of them, 100 Cossacks’ but ‘costs are excessive in terms of maintenance in peacetime, when the need arises, the cavalry may immediately be multiplied using Cossacks and other irregular troops.’ Consequently, the opinion was expressed opposing an increase in regular cavalry.
- b. The need to increase the garrison force by 20 battalions, while the garrisons were to be assigned the following responsibilities:
 1. ‘Maintaining peace and tranquillity in the interior of the State.’
 2. ‘Preparation in wartime (of manpower) in order to staff the Army.’
 3. ‘The placement in internal garrisons of those incapable of field service’ (invalids).
 4. ‘Garrisons on field establishment’ must ‘always be ready, both for defensive and offensive operations.’
- c. The need to increase the field force by one musketeer regiment and one jäger regiment.¹
- d. Assigning the ‘total number of invalid companies in accordance with the total strength of the entire Army’ increasing them by 45 companies.

14. The opinion of His Imperial Majesty on the need to increase the Field Force, contrary to the ‘conclusions’ of the Military Commission.

Despite the opinions of the Military Commission, ‘the Supreme will of His Imperial Majesty’ was for increasing the Field Force, in favour of ‘adding four regiments of dragoons, two of hussars, seven of musketeer infantry, one of jägers and one horse artillery battalion to the Land Forces.’²

As a result, the most humble report stated on this occasion: ‘the Commission, for its part, cannot add anything else to this, but most humbly assume that Your far-sighted appreciation of the situation, Most Merciful Sovereign, and the need to employ the land forces, have decided upon this, both for an establishment with everything corresponding to the extent of the frontiers of the Empire and their protection, and for an appropriate proportionality between foot and mounted troops.’³ When the report was presented, ‘a schedule was submitted showing from where the squadrons and companies would come to form the new regiments and to which towns the latter would have quarters assigned, such that, after receiving Supreme Confirmation, we shall also most humbly submit another general schedule for the entire force without exception.’⁴

1 This modest ‘increase in the field force’ by two regiments is partly explained by the fact that the Military Commission was asked to take into account the ‘benefits to the treasury’ and the proportion of the cost ‘of maintaining military land forces’ to State expenditure.

2 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 20674 (see Appendix 1 to Part 14); Report by the Commission, dated 19 [31] March 1803. See Appendix 2 to Part 12.

3 Report by the Commission, dated 19 [31] March 1803. See Appendix 2 to Part 12.

4 Report by the Commission, dated 19 [31] March 1803. See Appendix 2 to Part 12.

The report was followed by a resolution: ‘therefore, also with regard to when to detach the squadrons and companies from these regiments for the formation of new regiments, a decree by the Military Collegium shall be issued.’

On 16 [28] May 1803, the Supreme *Ukaz* [Decree] was issued,⁵ while on 19 [31] July, the Military Commission submitted their ‘General Schedule’ on which the resolution had been ‘therefore’ put forward for 20 July [1 August].⁶

In view of the fact that in this list the engineering troops and artillery are mentioned in their new situation, it is necessary to move on to the consideration of the latter.

Appendix 1 to Part 14.

Decree Dated 16 [28] May 1803 Regarding The Formation Of 14 Regiments And An Horse-Artillery Battalion.

Decreed by His Imperial Majesty the Autocrat of All Russia to the State Military Collegium.⁷

The State Military Collegium, being honoured to accept His Imperial Majesty’s Supreme Directed Decree, signed in his own hand, on the 16th [28] day of this May, which depicts: ‘As a result of the report of the Military Commission approved by Me on the 19th [31] day of March of this year, on increasing the land forces by four dragoon regiments, two of hussars, seven of musketeer infantry and one of jägers, also, one horse artillery battalion, composed of squadrons and companies from existing regiments according to the schedule attached to that report,⁸ and having completed the initial call-up both for those regiments from which squadrons and companies have been detached and the new ones with the number of men deficient, the dragoons will have a five squadron establishment, hussars ten squadrons, and infantry twelve companies, I command:

1. The inspectors of troops of Inspections from which regiments have been assigned to detach squadrons and companies in order to form new regiments, are commanded to order those squadrons and companies, upon receipt of this *Ukaz*, to set out within 24 hours and proceed via the shortest or most convenient routes (provide them with march-routes for this) to those locations in the schedule for the quartering of new regiments, and the establishment to which they are assigned, showing their set marches in moderate stages and trying as much as possible to spare the men and horses. Specific orders were issued by Me as to which squadrons and companies are to be detached from the regiments.
2. Each company is to be sent complete including the men and horses and the actual appointments in which they were in when they received the order to separate, without making any subtractions from them to those remaining, nor adding to them from these latter, also with all weapons, clothing and munitions items, their company transport, war horses and draught horses, harness and everything included in the squadron or company establishment, while equally adding to them those lower support staff ranks that are prescribed to the regiments according to the number of squadrons or companies in the Establishment, such as: barbers, infirmary attendants, apprentice saddle-makers and farriers, blacksmiths, carpenters, armourers and drivers, and with them all their tools consistent with

⁵ See Appendix 1 to Part 14.

⁶ Report by the Military Commission dated 19 [31] July 1803. See Appendix 2 to Part 12. This report includes: the new regiments, the reduction of garrison battalions from 20 to seven, which is the difference between the report dated January 1803.

⁷ Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, 1803, minute No. 19; Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVIII, No. 20674 and Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 20674.

⁸ For the formation of these new regiments, cadres were extracted as follows: Dragoons - one squadron from four existing regiments for each new regiment, for a total of one squadron each from 16 regiments. Hussars - two squadrons from four existing regiments for each new regiment, for a total two squadrons each from eight regiments. Musketeers - one company from 11 existing musketeer, grenadier or garrison regiments for each new regiment, for a total of one company each from 77 regiments; Jägers - one company from 11 existing jäger regiments for the new regiment.

the same number of companies and squadrons; and provide the departing squadron or company commanders with forms for all ranks and reinforcement returns, report cards and certificates for the receipt of payments and provisions issued; the colonels-in-chief of the new regiments are to be notified in advance via mail regarding the number of men and horses, into which squadron or company they are to go and by which route.

3. As soon as whichever squadron or company arrives at the place assigned to it, then its commander must immediately present themselves to the regimental colonel-in-chief already located there, with the composition of whichever that squadron or company has been assigned, and wait for his orders.
4. The colonels-in-chief of the new regiments, having arrived in advance at the places designated by the schedule for the location of these units, are immediately to demand quartering from the civilian authorities for the anticipated squadrons or companies, taking into consideration the general situation on this matter, as well as liaising with those authorities regarding orders to build stables for dragoon and hussar war horses, and regarding rations and fodder from the nearest Provisioning Commission.
5. Each new regiment is to use its designation from the time when at least one squadron or company has arrived at the appointed place and its commander has reported to the colonel-in-chief.
6. Upon the arrival of all squadrons or companies of the respective regiment with its colonel-in-chief, they must be divided and designated: dragoons into five squadrons, hussars into two battalions each of five squadrons; musketeers into three battalions, one of which is of grenadiers and each battalion into four companies; jägers into three jäger battalions each of four companies, named for their commanders according to the final confirmation of the Establishment and prescribed by My orders.
7. By the same measure, in the old regiments from which squadrons or companies have been detached to form new units, immediately form others to replace those being separated from those remaining squadrons or companies in these regiments, such that their total would be as prescribed by the Establishments once more, the deficiency in every squadron or company in new and old regiments would remain in balance and, as mentioned above, recruits from the first call-up will be given to make this good.
8. In the meantime, while this is being done, the colonels-in-chief of the regiments are to submit to Me through their inspectors regarding the additional field officers and subalterns required to reach their full total in the regiment according to the Establishment, and to the Military Collegium regarding lower ranks which might be required as musicians, drummers, fifers and clerks to be appointed from soldiers' children from the nearest Military Orphanage Detachments, the remainder from recruits or garrison battalions.
9. As has already been mentioned above, all these regiments must be staffed and maintained in accordance with the Establishments and Tables confirmed on 30 April [12 May], 1802, then to these colonels-in-chief, make vigilant due diligence to take the most active measures to swiftly bring them into such a state, also in order to re-constitute whatever is missing from the new units for those with newly arrived squadrons or companies, while the existing units are to replace their transport, harness, tools and other items, as well as for the purchase of horses, and while waiting for the recruits, to prepare everything that is necessary for their equipment and clothing, demanding certain amounts and items according to articles from the Commissariat Department, which the Inspectors of troops are obliged to monitor and the colonels-in-chief are obliged to assist in these activities.
10. The Military Collegium is to consider the appointment of chaplains and medical staff to new regiments as appropriate.

11. The Inspectors of Troops are to supply the new regiments with all the instructions and regulations, both as far as their content, and those related to good order and administration of service, demanding whatever they lack from the Military Collegium, as well as the Expeditionary Commissariat and Provisioners with the subject manuals.
12. With regard to the formation of the Borisoglebsk Dragoon Regiment from the dragoon regiments of the Caucasus Inspection, the allocation of their quartering is left to the discretion of the Inspector of Troops from the local Inspection, Lieutenant General Prince Tsitsianov, as well as the determination of the timings which the squadrons of the Borisoglebsk regiment must depart from their previous regiments.
13. His office is also to determine where the quarters of the Vologda Musketeer Regiment should be located, and since some regiments of the Caucasus Inspection, from which companies are to be detached to form the Vologda Regiment, are currently in Georgia, and it may be inappropriate due to circumstances to detach them from there, then entrust the formation of this regiment to his instructions on the basis of what has been described above for others, but without assigning precise timings at the moment; companies from all regiments assigned to the Crimea Inspection from the Kherson Grenadiers, and the Troitsk, Vitebsk and Belev Musketeers, also, upon receipt of these orders, after 24 hours, are also to proceed to Georgievsk via the march-route which the Inspector of Troops for the Crimea Inspection will provide for them, having first ordered them to assemble en route at one location and entrusting all four companies to the command of the senior field officer, having also taken measures to provide them with supplies for the journey, and Lieutenant General Shepelev, who remains commander of the Caucasian Line, is to send a notification to Lieutenant General Prince Tsitsianov via courier that they are marching to Georgievsk, to this location for onward transit to Prince Tsitsianov; Lieutenant General Prince Tsitsianov must send a special order to intercept them regarding whether those companies are to proceed all the way to Georgievsk and stay there, or whether to turn their march to another location, and prescribe to those persons necessary with regard to orders for them en route and for provisioning locations.
14. Dragoon squadrons from the Pskov, Kargopol and St. Petersburg regiments, and the company from the horse artillery battalion, which are part of the Kiev Inspection, are to set out in the same manner as the others have been instructed, and proceed to the Mogilev Governorate to the town of Lyubrovna, where the colonel-in-chief of the 2nd Horse Artillery Battalion will already be waiting for them. - These three squadrons and one company should be divided into five companies, such that there are an equal number of privates from the horse artillery company in each, similarly with officers and non-commissioned officers. A sufficient number of artillery field officers and subalterns are to be provided in accordance with the establishments, upon submission to Me by the Inspector of All Artillery, and once they have joined the battalion, then those officers who came from the dragoon squadrons are to be returned to their former regiments, similarly with non-commissioned officers who cannot be employed in the artillery battalion, while the Military Collegium is to provide replacement recruits in order to man that battalion with the deficient number of artillery privates as soon as they receive notification from the Inspector of All Artillery. - The battalion colonel-in-chief should endeavour to bring them into the proper order in accordance with the establishments newly confirmed on 19 [31] March of this year, a copy of which is to be delivered to him by the Military Collegium, and once he has been supplied with everything that follows, then the dragoon weapons and munitions items that are employed by the battalion cannot be sent to their regiments. Moreover, the implementation of all of the above and bringing the battalion into perfect order is entrusted to the particular care of the Inspector of All Artillery.
15. The Expeditionary Commissariat is commanded to issue leave to the newly formed regiments and battalion and to those from which squadrons and companies have been

detached, in accordance with establishments, all requirements for their allowances, armament and supply of clothing, munitions and other items, and to the Expeditionary Provisioners with regard to the proper supply of provisions and fodder for them, both in static locations and during the procession of the squadrons and companies en route.

16. The company from the Vyborg Garrison Regiment assigned to the Petrovsk Musketeers, which is to proceed to Tikhvin, since it has neither a wagon train nor horses, is to be provided with an appropriate sum of money for their baggage according to the provisions for such cases.

And in accordance with the certificate issued by the Collegium, that with the despatches from the Military Commission of 24 March and 1 April [5 and 13 April] of this year, copies of these have been received, firstly: from those issued on the 19th day of this [31] March the Supreme Confirmation of the exemplary Establishments for one horse artillery battalion, consisting of five companies, and each company having 12 guns; similarly there are to be the appropriate artillery horses for the guns and transport in the company; secondly: a copy of the most humble report submitted by the Military Commission for Supreme Confirmation by His Imperial Majesty on this 19 [31] March, on the addition to the land forces of four dragoon regiments, two of hussars, seven of musketeers, one of jägers and one horse artillery battalion, and a schedule for which squadrons and companies of the former will come to compose the new regiments, and to which towns the latter have been assigned as quarters; the State Military Collegium are ordered:

1. With the description of all of the above Supreme Directed Orders from His Imperial Majesty, and with the appendix of the schedule of how many new regiments are assigned to be formed, from which existing regiments squadrons and companies are to be detached to form them, in which inspections the new regiments are to be located and where their quarters must be, send decrees from the Collegium to all Honourable Inspectors of Troops, as well as to the gentlemen colonels-in-chief of the new regiments and the horse artillery battalion, regarding the execution of this Supreme Directed Decree, to each of them to whom it applies, and to the remainder for their information, notifying the colonels-in-chief of the newly formed regiments that following this, the Collegium is to supply them with establishments and tables that received Supreme Confirmation on 30 April [12 May] 1802, and that orders have been issued to the Commissariat, Provisioning and Artillery Departments, on whom the speedy supply of those newly formed regiments and battalions is dependent.
2. Under these same decrees, they are to deliver to the Inspector of All Artillery, as well as to the colonel-in-chief of the 2nd Horse Artillery Battalion, certified copies of the Establishments for horse artillery battalions that received Supreme Confirmation on the 19th [31] day of March of this year by His Imperial Majesty, similarly for horse artillery companies, and the equipment schedule showing how many guns and transport is required for an artillery company of horse artillery.
3. The assignment of chaplains designate to new regiments are to be submitted to the Holy Governing Synod, while medical appointments are to be submitted to the State Medical Collegium.
4. In the aforementioned decrees sent to the Honourable Inspectors of Troops to whom the execution of this Supreme Directed Command from His Imperial Majesty relates, it is also recommended to the gentlemen colonels-in-chief of new regiments and battalions such that among them they initially most humbly report through their Inspectors to His Imperial Majesty and the Collegium regarding the departure of the squadrons and companies, thereafter the colonels-in-chief report regarding how soon whichever squadrons or companies are due to arrive at their appointed locations, equally also regarding their success in fulfilling this Supreme Order.

To be formed: Kurland Dragoons, Novorossia Dragoons, Borisoglebsk Dragoons, Pereyaslavl Dragoons,⁹ Belorussia Hussars, Odessa Hussars,¹⁰ Petrovsk Musketeers,¹¹ Koporsk Musketeers, Volhynia Musketeers, Podolia Musketeers, Galits Musketeers, Crimea Musketeers, Vologda Musketeers,¹² 20th Jägers¹³ and 2nd Horse Artillery Battalion.

According to the most recently confirmed Establishments, there must be the following appointments in the regiments as follows:

	Collectively		Individually	
	Officers	Other Ranks	Officers	Other Ranks
In the four dragoon regiments	188	3,688	47	922
In the two hussar regiments	150	3,328	75	1,664
In the seven musketeer regiments	469	14,651	67	2,093
In the jäger regiment	52	1,584	52	1,584
In the horse-artillery battalion	48	1,369	48	1,369
TOTAL:	907	24,620		

The officer appointments are to include: 14 aides-de-camp, 52 surgeons, 14 chaplains, six riding-masters, six master-craftsmen, and 106 master armourers, since these will not come through conscription. Therefore, there are to be 801 frontline field officers and subalterns.

⁹ These dragoon regiments were assigned to inspections respectively: Lithuania, Brest, Caucasus and Kiev.

¹⁰ These hussar regiments were assigned to the Dniester Inspection and Ukraine Inspection respectively.

¹¹ In the Complete Collection of Laws, XLIII, part II, No. 20674, this regiment was designated Belgorod, but Petrovsk is shown among those formed in 1803 (Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, 1803, minute No. 19 - schedule serial 33), while in the list of regiments according to seniority by date of formation, dated 11 [23] March 1816 (Complete Collection of Laws, XXXIII, No. 26190), Petrovsk is shown and not Belgorod.

¹² The regiments were assigned one each to the following respective inspections: St Petersburg, Livland, Lithuania, Brest, Ukraine, Dniester and Caucasus.

¹³ Assigned to the St Petersburg Inspection.