

**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]

18. Reorganisation Of Engineering Troops And New Establishments.

On 15 [27] June 1803, the Military Commission presented a report¹ in which it ‘considered the provision of Miners, Sappers and Pioneers, finding that this type of military personnel perfectly contributes to the benefit of the military services, not only in wartime but also in peacetime, being employed in the construction of fortresses and in other works...’ The commission found that ‘at the present time the number of these companies is insufficient in relation to the number of other troops and the need to complete various works corresponding to their capabilities’ and therefore they requested Supreme Orders ‘to divide the current Pioneer regiment into two, with each, in a similar manner to the artillery, to form two battalions, a battalion having four companies, of which one will be designated as miners and three as pioneers.’² The Establishment presented for the Pioneer Regiment received Supreme Confirmation, but was quickly changed somewhat, and on 27 July [8 August] 1803, a Supreme Order followed: ‘a second Pioneer Regiment is to be formed to join the current one.’

The Establishment of the Pioneer Regiment was as follows:³

	15 [27] June 1803			December 1803			1798		
	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy
Generals	1								
Field Officers	4			4			5		
Subalterns	35	4	4	35 ⁴	4	4	51	4	4
Non-Commissioned Officers	104	13	13	104	13	13	180	15	15

¹ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 20794.

² The shortfall in manpower was intended ‘to be supplemented during the first recruitment.’

³ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 22071, No. 20794 and No. 21081, tables I and II.

⁴ Including one paymaster/quartermaster and two aides-de-camp.

	15 [27] June 1803			December 1803			1798		
	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy	Regiment	Miner Coy	Pioneer Coy
Miners	150	75		150	75		150	75	
Sappers	150	75		150	75		150	75	
Pioneers	900		150	900		150	1500		150
Drummers	18	2	2	18	2	2	37	3	3
Support Staff - Officer Status	2			2			3		
Support Staff - Lower Ranks	43	5	5	43	5	5	42	1	3
Drivers	66	9	8	66	8 ⁵	8	152		15
Craftsmen	8			8					
Orderlies	69			61			84		
Total Combatants:	1362	169	169	1361	169	169	2073	172	172
Total Support Staff:	188	14	13	180	13	13	281	1	18
Total Manpower:	1550	183	182	1541 ⁶	182	182	2354	173	190
Vehicles				68	9 ⁷	8 ⁸	142		14
Riding Horses							10		1
Draught Horses				226			403		

Thus, according to the new establishment, the composition of the regiment was reduced by four companies, that is, instead of 12 companies (two of

⁵ In addition, one craftsmen was assigned to the drivers, since there were nine carts (see transport allocation).

⁶ In the Complete Collection of Laws the overall total is shown as 1,554, which is incorrect, since compared to the previous establishment there was a decrease of nine men (one general and eight orderlies).

⁷ One tent wagon, one rations wagon, one infirmary wagon, one office wagon and five tool wagons, for a total of nine.

⁸ As for the miner's company but with four tool wagons.

sapper-miners and ten of pioneers) there were eight companies (two of miners and six of pioneers). Such a change can only be explained with the formation of 2nd Pioneer Regiment; in one note in the establishment, a calculation was also made of how much would be ‘required for this augmentation.’⁹

In comparing the establishments, we note:

1. The composition of the company changes insignificantly - a reduction of two non-commissioned officers, one drummer and four or five drivers.
2. The company trains were reduced by almost half, carts for spare munitions stores (four), a tent wagon and one (or two) tool wagons had been withdrawn, for a total of six or seven vehicles; but having said that, a wagon was added ‘for the treasury, draughtsmen and office business.’

Overall, even in the Pioneer Regiment they strove to make the company self-sufficient; ‘the companies will exist as units independent from one another.’¹⁰

19. The New Schedule For The Army By Inspections.

The distribution of the Army among the Inspections according to the General Schedule, Supremely approved on 20 July [1 August], 1803, was as follows:¹¹

INSPECTIONS	Cavalry Squadrons				Infantry Battalions			Artillery					Garrison Battalions			
	Cuirassiers	Dragoons	Hussars	Others	Grenadiers	Musketeers	Jägers	Regiments	Battalions	Foot Coys	Horse Coys	Garrison Coys	Field Establishment	Internal Establishment	Pontoon Depot	Pioneer Coy
1. Finland	5				6	18	3	1			1		5	3	1	2
2. St Petersburg						9	6		1			6	10			2
3. Livonia		10			6	21	3		2		2		9		1	2
4. Lithuania		10	10	10 ¹²	3	21	12		2		3		2	1	1	2
5. Brest	5	10	10			18	3		2						1 ¹³	2

9 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 22071, note 16e.

10 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 22071, notes 7 and 10.

11 Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, Catalogue 1, Supreme Decrees etcetera, Book No. 48, schedule No. 12.

12 Tatar Horse and Lithuanian Tatars, each regiment of five squadrons.

13 At double strength.

INSPECTIONS	Cavalry Squadrons				Infantry Battalions			Artillery					Garrison Battalions			
	Cuirassiers	Dragons	Hussars	Others	Grenadiers	Musketeers	Jägers	Regiments	Battalions	Foot Coys	Horse Coys	Garrison Coys	Field Establishment	Internal Establishment	Pontoon Depot	Pioneer Coy
6. Ukraine		10	20	10 ¹⁴	6	9										
7. Dniester	5	5	30			21	6		1		2		1			
8. Crimea		5			6	12	9		2		1	4	5		1	2
9. Kiev	5	25	30	10 ¹⁵		21			1		2		1		1 ¹⁶	2
10. Smolensk		10			6	15			1					3		2
11. Moscow	10	5			3	27			1			1	4	7/3 ¹⁷		
12. Caucasus		25			3	21	12		2					1 ¹⁸		
13. Orenburg		5		3 ¹⁹		9				2			7	5		
14. Siberia		10				9	6			2			8/6 ²⁰			
TOTAL:	30	130	100	30	39	231	60	1	15	4	10	11	59	35	6	18
				+3				18 Bns					94 Bns			

Comparing this general schedule with the Outline of the Army Inspections of 1802,²¹ we come to the following conclusions:

1. The frontier Inspections have been reinforced with cavalry, and some with infantry.

¹⁴ Poland Horse.

¹⁵ Chuguev Cossacks.

¹⁶ At double strength.

¹⁷ Below are shown the battalions, members of the Arkhangelsk Governorate command and only those included in the Inspection.

¹⁸ Below are shown only those battalions included in the Inspection.

¹⁹ The Orenburg Cossack Regiment and two Teptyar Cossack regiments.

²⁰ Below are shown only those battalions included in the Inspection.

²¹ See Part 10.

2. The Caucasus Inspection has been significantly reinforced with 15 infantry battalions.
3. Artillery is absent only in the Ukraine Inspection, where previously it was absent from three Inspections.

The schedule of 1803 was the last before the war of 1805, and was subsequently only supplemented by the appointment for a newly formed regiment 'to be in such and such an Inspection'²² and therefore let us note that a significant part of the Field Force was distributed among the frontier Inspections,²³ namely: the Lithuania, Brest, Ukraine, and Dniester, while including those of Livonia and Kiev, had 215 out of 290 squadrons, 150 out of 330 battalions, 40 out of 82 artillery companies... The listed Inspections had been strengthened by 52 squadrons, against the Schedule of 1802, and the infantry had also been reduced by three battalions.

Thus, almost half of the field force was located on the western borders of the Empire, and for the concentration of regiments into Armies and Corps, as we saw above, there were secret guidelines 'in the event of a military mobilisation.'²⁴

20. The Establishment For An Ulan Regiment.

By Supreme Order of 11 [23] September 1803,²⁵ the newly formed Odessa Hussar Regiment was renamed His Imperial Highness Tsarevich Konstantin Pavlovich's Ulan Regiment. This marked the beginning of lancer regiments in our Army.

According to its establishment (dated 26 September [8 October] 1803),²⁶ the regiment consisted of two battalions, each of five squadrons for a total of ten squadrons in the regiment.

The manning of the Ulan regiment²⁷ was similar to that of the Hussar regiment given above,²⁸ but the total number of all ranks was slightly more, namely not 1,739 men, but 1,748 men. In addition, the Ulan regiment also has the peculiarity that the rank and file consisted of Ulans (1,160 men) and Carabiniers (160 men), therefore, there were two categories of rank and file in the squadron.

The composition of the squadron, trains and so on was similar to that of an hussar regiment.

21. New Regulations On Replacement Squadrons And Half-Squadrons.

We have already seen that it was proposed to establish replacement squadrons (one squadron for each cuirassier and dragoon regiment, and two

²² For how these regiments were formed see Appendix 1 to Part 14.

²³ The western frontiers.

²⁴ See Parts 10 and 11.

²⁵ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVIII, No. 20935.

²⁶ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 20951.

²⁷ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 23603, No. 20951. Incidentally, there were gross errors in the Complete Collection of Laws: firstly, the establishment was assigned to 1802, secondly No. 20252 is shown incorrectly, followed by No. 20951 and thirdly the numbers of support staff are shown incorrectly, which is revealed when calculating the total and when comparing with the adjacent column, namely: the total number of all ranks in an hussar regiment is 1,739 men, while in an Ulan regiment it is shown as 1,748, that is, nine more men, while the columns indicate that in the Ulan regiment there were ten more non-commissioned officers, ten craftsmen and eight orderlies, for a total of 28 men.

²⁸ See Part 6.

squadrons per hussar regiment),²⁹ in order to ‘always have a ready reserve for the required maintenance of the regiment as a whole.’

On 17 [29] December 1803, new regulations on the ‘establishment of replacement squadrons and half-squadrons within cavalry regiments’ received Supreme approval.³⁰

The new provisions were intended to ‘avert’ a number of ‘disadvantages’ and expand the role of these replacement units.

As the regulations stated, ‘absences of fighting men from regiments, although they are necessary according to requirements, not only reduce the number of men at the front, but also enforce a kind of disassociation from the realities of service and duty when the regiment goes on campaign, not having the right to leave any number of men in their permanent quarters, they will abandon various stores items belonging to them, timber prepared for the military trains, materials, and so on, without any recourse, while the soldiers’ and other lower military ranks’ families receive no special care or welfare, thus the aforementioned arrangement would serve to avert everyone from these disadvantages on the following grounds:

1. For cuirassier and dragoon regiments, except those located in the Caucasus, Orenburg and Siberia Inspections, form half squadrons, while hussars and ulans form a whole squadron³¹ according to the following establishments:³²

Numbers by Rank	Half-Squadrons		Squadrons	
	Cuirassier	Dragoon	Hussar	Ulan
Field Officers	1	1	1	1
Subalterns	3	3	4	4
Non-Commissioned Officers	10	10	12	12
Trumpeters	2	2	2	2
Privates	63	67	120	120
Support Staff - Lower Ranks	3	3	3	3
Orderlies	7	7	8	8
Total Combatants:	79	83	139	139

²⁹ See Part 6.

³⁰ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 21080.

³¹ Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, Diary of Directed Decrees, for the Land Forces War Minister, under Supreme signature for 1803, No. 211.

³² Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, Appendix No. 23603 to No. 21080.

Numbers by Rank	Half-Squadrons		Squadrons	
	Cuirassier	Dragoon	Hussar	Ulan
Total Support Staff:	10	10	11	11
Grand Total:	89	93	150	150

In these establishments, they are ‘entitled to neither war horses nor transport (half squadrons and squadrons).’

2. ‘While the regiment is in permanent quarters, the replacement squadron or half-squadron should be located, at the discretion of the regimental colonel-in-chief, in the same location as the headquarters, or very close by.’³³
3. Whenever a regiment departs on campaign, or on any other service assignment, the replacement squadron or half squadron remains in its permanent regimental quarters and its commander takes everything belonging to the regiment under his control, which, upon departure, remains with them in accordance with returns and schedules, with which the regimental colonel-in-chief must provide them.
4. The commander who is to remain with the squadron or half squadron in their quarters is not only obliged to maintain everything left by the regiment in good order and complete, but also to take care of the military staff remaining in quarters, seeing that they do not suffer any disrespect or oppression from anyone and providing them with legal protection by petition to the Civil *Uezd* or Governorate Authorities; in the event of failure to redress, he is to present the case to the State Military Collegium upon command.
5. To that end, all regimental field officers and subalterns, should they so wish, non-commissioned officers and other lower ranks are to leave their wives, children and domestic staff in their permanent quarters, such that the commander remaining knows who and what exactly has been left with whom, the regimental colonel-in-chief is also to provide him with statements in this regard, so that no disputes can occur later.
6. Those regiments to which a replacement squadron or half squadron has been assigned are not to send any detachments at any time for remounts, or for munitions or weapon supplies, but rather all of this is to be carried out by their replacement squadron or half squadron; rather for this purpose, by order of the regimental colonel-in-chief, subunits are to be sent for any kind of remount, and for recruits in peacetime, upon receipt of an order. Regarding the transfer of recruits to the regiment during wartime, this may be carried out either by the garrisons, or however the State Military Collegium commands.
7. The commander of a replacement squadron or half squadron is entrusted with particular care and diligence for the the training of recruits and remount horses purchased for the regiment in its absence, and is subject to strict punishment for any weak performance; nevertheless, however, he should not lose sight of their welfare whenever possible. But whenever the regiment is in quarters, and not on campaign, then following their

³³ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 21080 - articles from the regulations.

reception they may train them themselves and distribute them by squadron.

8. The colonels-in-chief of regiments, and in their absence, the commanders of replacement squadrons or half squadrons, must ensure that they are trained in exactly the same manner as the other squadrons in the regiment, are dressed identically in accordance with them, and so maintained in every department that even in the absence of the regiment, they could always perform equal service, as in every squadron when not detached.
9. Whenever a regiment goes on campaign, it must take all its fighting men with it, except for the replacement squadron or half squadron, excluding only the seriously ill, who are to be left as replacements.
10. Whenever a regiment departs, its colonel-in-chief is obliged to provide the commander of his replacement squadron or half squadron with clear orders for execution should he have any special assignments related to the service and benefit of the regiment, as well as the purchase of remounts and the like, and it is at the discretion of the colonel-in-chief whether to take the *Bereiter* [riding master] with the regiment, or leave him with the replacement squadron or half squadron, just as he is allowed to leave a certain number of craftsmen and other support staff lower ranks with them, ensuring only that he does not leave the regiment with a deficiency.
11. Just as in the regiment, remount horses must always be held in readiness, so in wartime, they are also to legally release money in good time for this from the Commissariat directly to the commanders of the squadron or half-squadron remaining in permanent regimental quarters, such that there is no hiatus in the purchase of horses; however, in order to receive money in this way, the regiment must obtain accreditation from the Expeditionary Commissariat whenever it departs.'
12. Since these replacement squadrons and half-squadrons 'will be training recruits and horses' then 'for this purpose, 30 still usable saddles with bridles, bits and all the related ancillaries are to be made available for use by cuirassier and dragoon regiments, and 60 sets in hussar and ulan regiments.'
13. 'Replacement squadrons and half-squadrons always remain part of the regiment and come under the command of their colonel-in-chief, or in his absence, of his regimental commander. Its situation is to be shown together with other squadrons in reports and all its supplies, food and manning come under the colonel-in-chief's command and responsibility; but whenever the regiment is on campaign, then it comes under the command of its squadron commander, who is answerable in every respect for its service and maintenance in due order and is to report to whomever has been entrusted with command over reserve squadrons during the absence of the regiments. Thereafter it follows from this, that all legal requirements for the remaining squadron must now be made by its commander, unless there is an Inspector appointed specifically to those squadrons of the regiments remaining behind...'
14. 'So that there should be no difficulty or confusion in the event of a sudden movement by the regiments, any leave of absence and so on for the replacement squadron or half squadron is to be carried out according to a dedicated formula, without mixing it with that of the regiment...'

On 21 December 1803 [2 January 1804],³⁴ a replacement half squadron was commanded to be established in the Lifeguard Horse Regiment, 'in accordance with the establishment confirmed for cuirassiers' while on 26 May [7 June] 1804,³⁵ a similar half squadron was commanded for the

³⁴ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 21092.

³⁵ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVIII, No. 21210.

Chevalier Garde Regiment.

Notes: When the regiments set out on campaign, the replacement squadrons or half-squadrons were assigned to the command of the following generals:

1. General of Infantry Rimsky-Korsakov: replacement half-squadrons from the Chevalier Garde, Lifeguard Horse, three cuirassier and 12 dragoon regiments. Replacement squadrons from four hussar regiments and His Highness' Ulan.
2. General of Cavalry Tormasov: replacement half-squadrons from one cuirassier and four dragoon regiments. Replacement squadrons from three hussar regiments.

In addition, by 3 [15] September 1805, after the regiments had marched off with the Army, the following remained not yet appointed to anyone's command, namely: replacement half-squadrons from two cuirassier and two dragoon regiments, and replacement squadrons from two hussar regiments.³⁶

22. New Establishment For The Chevalier Garde Regiment.

On 14 [26] March 1804,³⁷ the establishment for the Chevalier Garde Regiment received Supreme confirmation, according to which it was brought into a composition of five squadrons.

Their numbers by rank were as follows:

	Regiment	Squadron
General	1 ³⁸	
Field Officers	5	1
Subalterns	34 ³⁹	6
Non-Commissioned Officers	80	16
Guardsmen	660	132 ⁴⁰
Kettle Drummer	1	
Trumpeters	16	3

³⁶ Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, Catalogue 1, Supreme Decrees and Reports etcetera, Book No. 156, Registry No. 12.

³⁷ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVIII, No. 21210, and Vol. XLIII, part II, No. 24027 to No. 21210, Tables I and II and Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry, special catalogue of various books, book No. 51 (independent establishment for cavalry regiments).

³⁸ Colonel-in-chief.

³⁹ Including two aides-de-camp, a quartermaster and a paymaster.

⁴⁰ Four dismounted men, of whom two are *artel* men.

	Regiment	Squadron
Support Staff - Subaltern Status	5 ⁴¹	
Support Staff - Lower Ranks	21	2
Craftsmen	29	
Drivers	22	3
Orderlies	117	
Total Combatants:	797	158
Total Support Personnel:	194	5
Total Manning:	994⁴²	163
Vehicles	22	
War Horses	773 ⁴³	
Draught Horses	95 ⁴⁴	
Total Horses:	868	
Carbines	650	130
Pistols (pairs)	736	
Broadswords	770	
Canes	88	

Compared to previous establishments, the following changes have occurred:

1. The regiment has been increased from three squadrons⁴⁵ to five.

41 Auditor, riding master, chaplain and two medical officers.

42 Including the colonel-in-chief.

43 Including 34 subaltern's remounts, one each for the auditor and riding master, 80 for non-commissioned officers, 640 for guardsmen, 16 for trumpeters and one for the kettle drummer.

44 Including 21 riding horses for the infirmary supervisor, wagon master, regimental paramedic, regimental bone setter, five for barbers, regimental veterinarian, five for squadron veterinarians, six for blacksmiths.

45 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XLIII, part I to No. 19420, table I.

2. The squadron has added two non-commissioned officers, four dismounted guardsmen and one trumpeter.
3. In proportion with the number of squadrons, the number of combatants and support personnel has increased, namely from 572 men to 991 men.
4. The regimental trains have also increased from 11 to 22 vehicles, and the squadron no longer had two vehicles, but three.

On 26 May [7 June] 1804,⁴⁶ as mentioned above,⁴⁷ a reserve half-squadron was established in the Chevalier Garde Regiment, 'in keeping with the confirmed establishment for cuirassier regiments.'

⁴⁶ Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXIX, No. 21210.

⁴⁷ See Part 21.