

**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]

26. Cossack And Irregular Forces By The End Of 1805.

During the period under review, a number of significant changes took place in ‘the situation of the Cossack forces’; firm and definitive ‘regulations’ were issued concerning both their conditions of military service and their internal administration.

The strength of Cossack forces was increased with the formation of the ‘Caucasian Cossack Regiment of five *Sotnia*’ and the restoration of the Bug Cossack Force. In addition, the establishment of two regiments of Nagais was proposed in 1802,¹ but in 1805 this was cancelled, since by this time the two five-*Sotnia* strong regiments that were supposed to have been organised had not been formed² and the Nagais would remain in their previous position.³ The formation of a Guards Kabardian Squadron and the establishment of national forces in Georgia were also proposed.

The commander-in-chief in Georgia, General-of-Infantry Tsitsianov, in 1804 ‘tabled a proposal that had as its subject the planning of various institutions, through which, having provided the inhabitants of Greater Kabardia with ways to interact with the Russians as best they can, it will be more convenient to bring them closer to enlightenment and to tame the barbarity of their morals and innate inclination towards banditry...’⁴ Among these ‘institutions’ was the formation of the Guards Kabardian Squadron, but by 1805 it had not yet been formed. Prince Tsitsianov reported:⁵

‘I cannot begin to form a Guards squadron from Kabardians because the unrest in Greater Kabardia has not yet completely ceased... When drawing this up, one must first (know) the thoughts and inclinations of these peoples with regard to this, and then, having realised all the benefits, implement this (project) on solid principles...’

At some time around 1804, the establishment of a militia in Georgia was proposed, but then it was discovered that ‘this could not be done there soon, due both to poverty and according to the attitude of the population there’ and therefore it was decided ‘to recruit one man from every 20 households for a national force all paid for by the government, such that one mounted regiment could be formed in total.’⁶ In view of this, Prince Tsitsianov was asked to present his thoughts on what foundations this regiment might be ‘formed, maintained and manned’ and to draw up an establishment and table...

Preparations for the war in 1805, unrest in the Caucasus and the treacherous murder of Prince Tsitsianov (3 [15] February 1806), halted the implementation of both propositions.

Moving on to reform of the Cossack forces, we shall consider them, adhering to the following order: Don Force, Black Sea, Orenburg, Ural, Stavropol Kalmyks, Chuguev, the newly formed Caucasus Cossack Regiment and the restoration of the Bug Cossack Force, thereafter we shall calculate the strength of Cossack and irregular forces in 1805.

1 Complete Collection of Laws (C.C.L.), Vol. XLIII, part II to No. 20445.

2 But according to the returns on the state of the army as at 1[13] January, 1803, 1804 and 1805, for some reason they were shown (Military Scientific Archive of the General Staff (M.S.A.), department I, No. 239).

3 C.C.L. Vol. XXVIII, No. 21752, conclusions to minute No. 4.

4 Archive of the Chancellery of the War Ministry (A.C.W.M.), 1804, minute No. 41/75, response by Adam Czartoryski to General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov dated 29 May [10 June] 1804.

5 A.C.W.M. 1804, minute No. 41/75, report dated 28 February [12 March] 1805, No. 128.

6 A.C.W.M. 1804, minute No. 34/60, Count Kochubey’s response to General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov dated 26 April [8 May] 1804, No. 1940.

There were no changes in the other Cossack irregular troops, and therefore they will be mentioned only in the general table regarding the state of these troops as at 1 [13] January 1805 (before the war), and as at 1 [13] January 1806 (at the end of the war).

The Don Force.

The Don Force, which made up the bulk of our Cossack troops, in 1801 to 1802 underwent radical changes, expressed in the 'adoption of firm regulations' in all respects. In view of the fact that many of these decrees served as the basis for the reorganisation of the remaining Cossack forces, we consider it necessary to go into more detail, especially since the decrees, in any case, would apply to the vast majority of the Cossack troops.

'In 1801, the Force Ataman, Lieutenant General Platov, proposed various points related to the welfare of the Don Force and the service,⁷ including incidentally, to allow a contract to be issued under the military budget for a common calibre musket, according to the Cossack model, for the Tula plant to supply the Cossacks equipping themselves on campaign, with a deduction from their pay of one third per rouble, and from the fodder, which is not given to them in kind, but in cash, also one fifth for a trained horse; such that those officers who have not served for long and are still capable of service, who consider their rights to come under the charter granted to the nobility, which concerns only privileges in comparison with officers, and in other respects does not apply because, like the rest of the army in general, they enjoy the highest privileges granted on earth and are obliged to serve on an even basis with others for equal privileges, not to accept requests for early retirement, but on the contrary, to respect those who have a legitimate reason, as well as to submit for awards, not always adhering to seniority, but to respect for virtues, since Don officers have been primarily promoted according to merit and outstanding qualities, through which jealousy worsens and the number of deserving men increases. Regarding these proposals, the subsequent directed Supreme Decree dated 22 December 1801 [3 January 1802] to him, the Force Ataman, *inter alia*, states: supplying the Cossacks with suitable and common calibre muskets, I find the point you propose to be equally necessary and appropriate; but since the Tula Arms Factory is currently busy manufacturing the necessary new weapons for the troops, then I permit you to raise this matter in consultation with the Military Collegium, which, depending upon the time and taking into account the success of equipping the land forces with weapons, can then issue the appropriate instructions to the Tula Arms Plant.

Your precaution such that the Don Force does not become depleted in the number of useful, skilled and capable officers, and such that those who only serve for a short time do not leave the service as a burden to the force and their comrades, I find it thorough and consistent with your diligence for the service, but, due to the importance of this subject, I must allow myself a short time in order to provide you with a definitive resolution.

For now, we are content simply to remind you of the directed Decree issued by Our predecessor on 15 [26] May 1798, which states: 'Cossacks who have served for 30 or 25 years should be granted their retirement, but with the understanding that if they are ever needed, they can continue their service for the time necessary.' This Decree may also guide you, if necessary, in the assessment of the retirement of officers. I approve the rotation in service of those regiments located both on the Prussian-Imperial border and in other remote places that you propose, after three years in the Caucasus and after two years inside Russia, I concur for the reasons presented by you; as a result of which, you must also report each time to Me and the Military Collegium once the time has come for a rotation, after orders have been issued, which regiments are to be replaced by whom and when and by which route they are to proceed, such that from this, the commanding generals will be duly notified about the rotation of regiments within their department, as will the Provisioning Department for rations for those entering service and returning to their homes, and the Commissariat Department for supplying both with pay.'

7 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20, from the most humble report by the Military Collegium dated 21 September [3 October] 1802.

On 25 February [9 March] 1802, in view of ‘the vital need to make a firm decree for internal administration’ orders were issued to form the Don Force Chancellery, which was under the jurisdiction of the Military Collegium for military matters, and under the jurisdiction of the Governing Senate for civil affairs.⁸

‘According to the latest reports sent from the Don Force, as stated in the most humble report of the Military Collegium dated 21 September [3 October] 1802,⁹ those capable of service are: 15 generals, 177 field officers, 902 subalterns (*Esaul* [captain], *Sotnik* [lieutenant], *Khorunzhi* [cornet] and quartermasters), for a total of 1,094.

There are 1,157 non-commissioned officers and Cossacks, including Kalmyks living on Don Force territory, for a total of 40,797.’

The Military Collegium, which in 1802 reviewed the situation of the Don Force in accordance with Supreme Orders, ‘taking as their start point’ the previous establishment and ‘considering the benefits and the rights and privileges most mercifully granted to the Don Force that ensure its welfare, with the responsibilities that they bear in service, considered it necessary to decide: how many field officers and subalterns, as necessary, should constitute their manning; the procedure for submitting them for promotion; theirs and lower ranks discharge from service; subsistence for service when sent on journeys further than 100 *versts* [67 miles] from home.’ As a result, they also ‘presented their most humble findings’ namely:

1. Whereas the Don Force would amount to 80 five-*Sotnia* regiments based on the number of Cossacks and Kalmyks currently capable of serving therein, including those now on the borders and within the Empire, and how rarely it might be necessary to deploy half that number at any one time, such that, on the one hand, with any orders that occur for service and for the rotation of regiments one-for-one, there would be no problems due to a lack of officers, while on the other hand, their excessive numbers would not turn into a burden on the force, then the total field officers and subalterns, who already on the basis of directed Supreme orders have regular army ranks assigned to them, are to be divided into three elements, that is: into 60 regiments, namely - such that complete manning would see 60 colonels, 300 *esauli*, 300 *sotniki*, 300 *Khorunzhi*, 60 quartermasters, of which those who are not on active duty may be used, just as retired officers are, to conduct internal duties, to maintain order with the force in public places and (in) other positions.
2. Promotion to officer rank in this force, just as it is in the regular army, being dependent on the Supreme will of Your Imperial Majesty, is done by the Force Ataman, or in wartime by the commander of the army or corps, wherever the Don regiment might be located, by a general, in accordance with the dignity of the campaign ataman or by colonels, but only in the case of vacancies, not exceeding the above-mentioned total, and by these principles, observe not just seniority, but aptitude in service and virtues, while in wartime, most of all, respect outstanding valour and courage shown in the face of the enemy; nevertheless, however, when, in the presentation of officers for promotion, whoever among the seniors should be punished for weak execution of their duties, incompetence, or for any sort of vice, then in accordance with this very principle it must be revealed exactly why he is not deserving.
3. In the event that the need requires the deployment of more than 60 regiments from the Don, then, in order not to have problems due to a lack of officers, the Force Ataman, in conjunction with the military Chancellery, at his discretion, is to recruit from retired officers who are still capable of service, and then assign a certain number of senior non-commissioned officers to the regiments, from the junior non-commissioned officers and Cossacks who are capable and deserving of this trust, and to that end, of these non-commissioned officers, who in their rank and appointments have show the desired capability

8 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20156.

9 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20.

or through outstanding courage and efficiency in the face of the enemy, are to receive preference for submission for promotion in turn to *Khorunzhi*, and not to present anyone through patronage, such that others who have served together in actual officer appointments could feel no resentment as a result.

4. In discussing the retirement of officers from service, the Collegium are to be in agreement with the opinion of the force ataman on this subject, and so that the Don force does not become depleted in the number of useful, skilled and capable officers, and those who have only served for a short time do not leave the service as a burden to the force and their comrades, it is concluded that those in officer appointments who have not been in service seconded to regiments more than 100 *versts* [67 miles] from home at various times for a total of 15 years, and are still capable of service, should not be accepted nor submit pleas for retirement; the lower ranks should have this enforced in accordance with the precise contents of the directed Supreme decrees issued to the Force Ataman on 15 [26] May 1798 and 22 December 1801 [3 January 1802], that is, not before having served for 30, but not less than 25 years, and such that in necessary events they might perform service, as stated above, which also applies to officers; but the only ones excluded from this are those officers and lower ranks who, due to wounds received in battle, old age, or serious illness, have become disabled or completely incapable of serving.
5. In general, when assigning officers and Cossacks to regimental service or in dismissing them, either temporarily or permanently, the essential necessities are to be respected, for the reasons explained above, the Force Ataman and the military Chancellery are to be guided by complete impartiality, observing innocuous equality and in turn between one another, as the very duty of the oath requires, as they will inevitably be guilty of any act contrary to this and shall be made answerable.
6. Regiments sent to serve during their term of duty 100 *versts* [67 miles] from home are to receive the following allowances: field officers and subalterns are to be paid for orderlies and rations, according to the latest regulations for regular army hussar regiments, each according to their own rank, but they are not to be assigned orderlies in person; the regimental clerk is to receive an annual salary of 30 roubles and the designated issue of rations; Cossacks are to receive 12 roubles per year in cash, and provisions as for a soldiers' issue, and both the clerk and the Cossacks are to be issued fodder for the winter months, according to the climate, from six to eight months, for two horses each, for which one may be in kind, and the other in cash at prices that in those places fodder costs the treasury at the time of purchase.
7. When the Force Ataman himself is on campaign against the enemy, then for the sake of the privilege of his appointment, is to have a thousand-man regiment, designated the Ataman's after him, in which the number of all ranks is doubled compared to an ordinary five-*Sotnia* regiment.'

The proposals by the Military Collegium were awarded Supreme Confirmation and on 29 September [11 October] 1802, a Decree was issued,¹⁰ in which the same seven points that were presented in the most humble report were repeated almost verbatim.¹¹

Thus, according to the new decree, the Don Force was intended to consist of 80 five-*Sotnia* regiments, and in addition, two horse artillery companies, which for some reason are not mentioned in the decree or report. Considering such a seemingly significant number of regiments, the force could have produced even more.

The Force Ataman Lieutenant General Platov reported to the War Minister for Land Forces on 9 [21] December 1803, 'that in the entire Don force, generals, field officers and subalterns, both

10 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20, copy of the Tsar's Decree to the Military Collegium.

11 See Appendix 1 to Part 26.

serving and retired, were calculated to be 2,142; Cossacks, also those serving and retired, were 66,941; children of field officers, subalterns and Cossacks, counting from one to seventeen years of age, were 46,612, for a total of 115,695 souls in the Cossack family; Kalmyk servicemen were 1,438, retired with minors were 4,612; there were 64,702 peasants; 3,836 Little Russians were assigned to settlements. Giving a grand total of 190,283 male souls resident on the Don. If we include in this number the female gender, of which they were more numerous in the force than men, as the men sometimes suffer an untimely death while on duty, and these, due in contrast to their always being at home, in this case the total number of both sexes, given approximately, would be some 400,000.¹²

Unfortunately, the report does not indicate the exact number of servicemen, but the number of inhabitants of the male gender shows that less than ¼ of these inhabitants were intended for service.¹³

On 31 January [12 February] 1803, Count Lieven announced to Lieutenant General Platov that Supreme orders had been issued that Cossack regiments seconded to the Caucasus Line ‘were to be excluded from the two-year troop rotation and were to be left for three years.’¹⁴

But the Force Ataman, defending the interests of the force, soon petitioned once more:

‘regiments stationed on the Caucasus line must be rotated after two years, since the hardship of their two-year service there would be equal to the service of those Cossacks who spend three years on other campaigns.’¹⁵

On 24 August [5 September] 1803, a decree was issued cancelling the previous order, namely:

‘Cossack regiments sent to the Caucasus Line in order to maintain cordons and to Georgia from the Don Force are to be replaced by others every two years, and in terms of maintaining horses in the service, they need to remain on the same basis.’¹⁶

On 31 August [12 September] that same year,¹⁷ some amendments were made to the above decree of 1802. In the sense that the Decree embracing the amendments applied not only to the Don Force, but also to forces formed following the model of the Don Force, we present it in full, namely:

‘Having recognised it as beneficial to make an increase in the number of Cossacks in the regiments of the Don Force, for the service of those sent on missions, both for their correct and successful dispatch in all cases, and for the relief of their own personnel, and out of respect that the officers, carrying out the most privileged service over the Cossacks, and often occupying command appointments, they must be distinguished substantively from the rank and file, I command:

1. For all nationalities of troops of that regiment in service, each consisting of one colonel, five *esauli*, five *sotniki*, five *khорunzhi*, one quartermaster, one clerk, ten non-commissioned officers, 550 Cossacks, for a total of 578 all ranks in the regiment.
2. Whereas these regiments, having set out from their borders, would be more than 100 *versts* [67 miles] distant, and whereas their officers receive payment equal to the salaries of the officers of hussar regiments, non-commissioned officers are to be: the senior five 38 roubles each, and the junior five 17 roubles each.
3. This provision, both in terms of the number of ranks in regiments and the increase in pay for non-commissioned officers, will also apply to the regiments of other irregular forces, formed following the model of the Don Force.’¹⁸

12 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20, report No. 1717.

13 Calculated as some 42,000 under orders with artillery.

14 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 106.

15 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 68, report to His Imperial Majesty dated 30 July [11 August] 1803.

16 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 68, Tsar’s decree to the Military Collegium.

17 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20,921, decree to the Military Collegium, dated 31 August [12 September] 1803.

18 Black Sea Force, Ural Force and Bug Force.

Thus, the Don Force was already obliged to field 77 men per regiment more than previously, and 6,160 men for 80 regiments.

Finally, on 17 [29] February 1804,¹⁹ new regulations were drawn up for the military Chancellery of the Don Army and, 'for the most successful preparation of cases, for the consideration of certification and other matters' the Chancellery 'in the observance of conducting business is to be divided into three departments':

1. Military, which 'pertains to all matters regarding military units.'
2. Civil, 'including all litigation, investigative and criminal cases, serfs, boundaries and zemstvo police cases.'
3. The budgetary department 'includes expenses, contracts' and so on, 'up to the audit of books and any financial reports.'

For the military department, the Chancellery was subordinate to the Military Collegium, and for the civil department, 'complaints against it are to be considered by the Governing Senate...'

By July 1803, 'there were 32 regiments of the Don Force on campaign (active service)'²⁰ and they were simultaneously deployed:²¹ 'to Finland as well as along the borders of Prussia, Austria and Turkey, also in the interior of Russia, namely in Kiev, in the Yekaterinoslav Governorate, in Kazan and in the Vyatka Governorate, on the Caucasus Line, in Georgia, and in the Crimea.'²²

As at 1 [13] January 1805, there were 47,959 men of all ranks in the Don Force capable of service, while as at 1 [13] January 1806, there were 47,407 men.²³

The Don Force played a prominent part in the War of 1805, having 32 Cossack regiments and two horse artillery companies under orders.

On 4 [16] May 1804, Lieutenant General and Don Force Ataman Platov received the following orders: 'upon receipt of this, I order you, in addition to the 14 Cossack regiments of the Don Force that are now at readiness to serve on campaign, to mobilise two more regiments, who must be able to leave their villages without concentrating, rather, such that upon receiving the order to set off on campaign, they might immediately set out from there in proper order along the intended march route.'²⁴

On 11 [23] June 1805, orders were issued that of these 'regiments that were at readiness to go on campaign' (for the entire year): 'to immediately deploy ten regiments, ordering them to follow the march routes attached for each of them' and to mobilise another 16 Cossack regiments.²⁵

All these regiments set out on campaign one by one on 23 June, 11 and 12 [4, 23 and 24] July, and 12, 13 and 14 [24, 25 and 26] August 1805,²⁶ while on 22 September [4 October] it was reported that the horse artillery companies had set off.²⁷

19 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20, copy of the decree to the Senate.

20 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 68, report to His Imperial Majesty dated 30 July [11 August] 1803.

21 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 68, Platov's original letter dated 23 August [4 September] 1803.

22 Only a 'three-*Sotnia*' commando in the Crimea.

23 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the composition of Land Forces for 1804 and 1805 (see table at the end of Part 26).

24 M.S.A. department I, No. 244, log of announced orders and directed decrees for 1803, 1804 and 1805; Count Lieven's despatch dated 4 [16] May 1804; there is a definite indication that this log represents the log of Count Lieven's despatches, but the similarity in appearance and content convinces us that this No. 244 has an undoubted link to the actual log (M.S.A. department II, No. 1551), therefore the command dated 4 [16] May is considered a despatch by Count Lieven. The detail regarding these despatches will be set out later in Part 28.

25 M.S.A. department I, No. 244 and department II, No. 1551, also A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, serial 31, response to Lieutenant General Platov dated 11 [23] June 1805, and to General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov dated 13 [25] June 1805.

26 A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, original reports by Don Force Ataman Lieutenant General Platov, No. 3913 dated 26 July [7 August] and No. 5361 dated 16 [28] September.

27 A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, original reports by Don Force Ataman Lieutenant General

The Don regiments set off on campaign, in accordance with the regulations of 1803, with the new strengthened composition, namely: one field officer, eight to 12 subalterns, 14 to 18 non-commissioned officers, one clerk, 550 Cossacks, for an average regimental total of 578 men.²⁸

The composition of the horse artillery company was as follows: one field officer,²⁹ six subalterns, 26 non-commissioned officers, 224 Cossacks, for a total of 257 men.³⁰

The Black Sea Force.

‘Having entered into a detailed consideration of the situation of the Cossack forces, as stated in the Decree of 25 February [9 March] 1802, and the method of administration existing in the military chancelleries and, considering, on the one hand, the significant benefits to the state and services repeatedly rendered by these troops, while on the other hand, the essential need for a firm resolution for their internal administration’ the establishment of the Black Sea Military Administration was ordered. This administration was intended ‘for military matters - to be dependent upon the Inspector of the Crimea Inspection’ while for civilian matters - to be ‘answerable to the local Governorate Authorities and the Governor in particular.’³¹

In addition, the State Military Collegium,³² ‘on the subject of definitive terms of service for this force’ issued a dedicated resolution, which received Supreme approval, namely:

1. Taking as the foundation the number of officers and Cossacks capable of serving in the Black Sea Force,³³ and, at the same time, respecting the privileges granted to them in the Most Gracious Letter to recruit merchants and townspeople, equally, exercising at home on a budget that is still being revived, so to speak, and at the same time, the duties of internal service by the force, having the vigilance to preserve the borders from malign neighbours, and the opportunity no less to bring themselves up to the state required by their type of service, from now on considered sufficient to place in it those who are able, if necessary, to be employed on campaign service: ten mounted and ten foot regiments each of five *Sotnia*, allocating for service as marines and gun crews from among these latter, as the need and circumstances require.
2. Each regiment, following the model of the Don, both cavalry and foot, was to consist of one colonel, five regimental *esauli*, five *sotniki*, five *khорunzhi*, one quartermaster, one clerk and 483 Cossacks, for a total of 501 men.³⁴ It was soon acknowledged ‘as beneficial to increase the number of Cossacks in the regiments sent on active service’³⁵ and therefore it was ordered that ‘upon any orders for active service’ by a regiment there should be 550 Cossacks rather than 483 and ten non-commissioned officers, all other appointment maintaining a

Platov, No. 5478; For the order to deploy these companies, see Count Lieven’s despatch to Lieutenant General Platov dated 30 August [11 September] (M.S.A. department II, No. 1551 and A.C.W.M. 1805, minute No. 2, serial 357).

28 A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, original reports by Don Force Ataman Lieutenant General Platov, No. 5478.

29 A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, original reports by Don Force Ataman Lieutenant General Platov, No. 5478; one of the companies had two field officers.

30 Some details on the question of the order in which they were assigned will be given later (Part 28) when considering the issue of generating higher formations from 1802 to 1805.

31 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20156.

32 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 28, Supreme confirmation to the Military Collegium dated 13 [25] November 1802.

33 A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 28, according to the returns of 1 [13] September 1802, consisting of 385 officers and 15,094 Cossacks.

34 Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 were ‘on redefining appointments, on promotions, the procedure for presentation, replenishment of the shortfall of appointees in 20 regiments according to the above establishment.’ Articles 9, 10, 11 and 12 were on the terms of service issued ‘to the Ataman in conjunction with the Military Chancellery’ on allowances when on campaign.

35 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20921, decree to the Military Collegium dated 31 August [12 September] 1803. This decree applied to the Don Force, but the provision on strengthening the regiments was ordered to be extended to the regiments of other irregular forces drawn up on the model of the Don Force, and this applied to the Black Sea Force and the Bug Force.

similar total. As a result, the strength became 578 'all ranks per regiment.'

The grand total, as at 1 [13] January 1805 stood at 14,377 men.³⁶

The Orenburg Force.

Although significant changes did not emerge, the Force received a more definitive and 'firm resolution' in 1803,³⁷ namely, the Military Collegium laid down:

1. 'The Orenburg Army will continue to be administered by the Military Chancellery, which will be established in the image of the Ural and Black Sea forces, in accordance with the Supreme decree dated 25 February [9 March] 1802,³⁸ that is, for military matters - dependant upon the Inspector of the Orenburg Inspection, and for civil matters - upon the department of the local Governorate Administration and the Governor in particular.
2. The dispersal of the force into cantonments, the administration of these services, uniformity of dress, subsistence while in service and out of service, remain extant to this day, without any repeal. In view of the many amendments that followed on from the establishments of 1755 and the registration of a certain number of men, especially in 1798 and 1799, the Military Governor of Orenburg, together with the Military Chancellery, were instructed to present their views regarding the deployment on active service and other matters 'to the mutual benefit of one another (former Cossacks)' to the Military Collegium.
3. Since this force, being exempt from all state duties, except for participation together with the other inhabitants of that governorate in an overall system for the maintenance of post offices, roads, bridges and other public necessities, and the maintenance of the station, in the event, however, that should they cross the land, their only duty is to be ready for service, and all ranks in the army must continue this as long as they are able: to that end, there is no fixed period for their retirement, and only those who are completely incapable of continuing to serve due to old age or decrepitude, or due to illness or injury, are permitted to retire.
4. Whatever belongs to the Orenburg thousand-man Cossack regiment, which is either always on active service, or at constant readiness to depart abroad, is settled in the city itself, and has a great shortage of subsistence, about which the Military Collegium has most humbly submitted... is to be maintained according to the establishment provided herewith... A payment of 12 roubles each and provisions for the entire regiment against a soldiers' rations.
5. For natural wastage, recruit for this regiment from the 2,100 men living in Orenburg, as this has happened hitherto, but in the event of a greater shortage, in action with the enemy, they are to pursue the selection of those able family men as replacements from the cantonments, dismissing them thereafter and leaving them permanently resident in Orenburg...
6. The armament of this regiment is to consist of a sabre, a pair of pistols, a carbine and a lance.'

The establishment of the Orenburg Cossack Regiment was allocated as follows: one colonel, 30 *esauli*, *sotniki* and *khurunzhi* (ten each), one quartermaster, 40 non-commissioned officers, 1,000 Cossacks and two clerks, for a total of 1,074 all ranks.

As at 1 [13] January 1805, there were 9,487 men in the Force, and 1,074 in the Orenburg Cossack Regiment, a total of 10,561 men; as at 1 [13] January 1806, there were 8,351 in the Force and 1,080 in the Orenburg Cossack Regiment, for a total of 9,431 men.³⁹

The Ural Force.

36 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for these years. See the table at the end of Part 26.

37 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 3, from Supreme approval of the most humble report dated 28 June [10 July] 1803 (also in C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20786).

38 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20156; see also under the heading The Black Sea Force.

39 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for these years. See the table at the end of Part 26.

‘Various disadvantages that have arisen in the management of this Force’ prompted efforts ‘to seek methods, in accordance with the local situation, that might be found for its better organisation.’ Based on a report by the Minister of Military Land Forces and Minister of Internal Affairs,⁴⁰ the management of this Force was decided upon the following regulations:⁴¹

1. ‘Whereas, based on the size of the population and officers and Cossacks currently serving in the Ural Force, ten Cossack regiments may be raised for this, therefore, the number of appointments in each regiment should be exactly that which is currently in the Don and Black Sea forces, namely: one colonel, five regimental *esauli*, five *sotniki*, five *khорunzhi*, one quartermaster, one clerk, ten non-commissioned officers, and 550 Cossacks, for a total of 578 all ranks.’
2. ‘It goes without saying that the calculation of the total of ten regiments does not include the provision that these regiments, having been formed in their own homes, should always be at constant manning, as are regular regiments. This designation has the sole purpose of both knowledge of the number of men in the service of the state who are ready and able, such that the precise limitation on the number of regiments and of officers,⁴² whose promotion, assignment on active service and relief from this, was previously carried out in the irregular forces without proper regulation or principles. The regiments and commandos in this Force, as in all irregular ones, are composed of officers and of lower ranks, in proportion to the above-mentioned manning for them, then, whenever there is a need to mobilise them for internal or external service, and after this need has passed, re-entering the borders of their homelands within the overall numbers of the Force, each of those who were on active service returns to their home exercises.’ The comparison of ranks with regular troops, promotion to ranks, assignment to ranks, and so on, were established as in the Don Force.

As a salient feature, we point out that it was established that ‘active service with the Cossacks is a personal assignment without any substitutions or hiring of replacements, but at the same time, it is not forbidden to give so-called financial assistance to the Ural Force, from the military budget or from funds allocated for this purpose.’

‘Whenever they are assigned to serve more than 100 *versts* [67 miles] from their homes’ they were given an allowance, just as in the Don Force, and ‘upon returning from campaign they are to be compensated with the exchanges that are permitted.’

Thereafter, with regard to the civil administration and economic structure, it was necessary to ‘disband the existing Chancellery and to establish another in its place under the chairmanship of the Force Ataman.’ The office was divided into two departments: military and civil and, according to the decree of 25 February [9 March] 1802,⁴³ it was ‘under the authority of the Inspector of the Orenburg Inspection for military matters, while coming under the authority of the Orenburg Governorate Administration and of the Governor in particular, for civil matters.’ As at 1 [13] January 1805, there were 6,015 men of all ranks, while as at 1 [13] January 1806, there were 6,318 men.⁴⁴

The Stavropol Kalmyk Force.⁴⁵

In 1803, the Military Collegium, by Supreme order, considered ‘the most humble petition by the

40 In addition, there was a special report by the Minister of Military Land Forces ‘regarding exercises’ for 1803 (A.C.W.M. specific catalogue - reports for 1803).

41 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 21101, decree to the Senate dated 26 December 1803 [7 January 1804].

42 The manning in accordance with a total of ten regiments, excluding the Force Ataman’s was: ten colonels, 50 regimental *esauli*, 50 *sotniki*, 50 *khорunzhi*, ten quartermasters, 100 non-commissioned officers...

43 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20156.

44 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the composition of Land Forces for 1804 and 1805 (see the table at the end of Part 26).

45 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 89, General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov’s most humble report dated 1 [13] November 1803.

Force Ataman of the Stavropol Kalmyk Force from Sub Lieutenant Baglyunov of the regular army, regarding raising the status of this Force with that of irregular Cossack forces and on approval for an appropriate status for the interpreter assigned on the establishment of the Force Chancellery' and decided on the organisation of this Force on the following basis:

1. To leave the Decrees of 1739⁴⁶ and 1745⁴⁷ extant and to amend the rates of pay...
2. 'Whereas this Force, by its size, is present in only one of the Orenburg cantons, in which the Kalmyks serving as bearers are currently calculated to be some 1,000 men, then, it is proportionate to assign the formation of a thousand-man regiment from them, having decided on a similar number of officers and Kalmyk privates therein as are required in the Orenburg Cossack Regiment, such that it is always manned from among them and remains in other respects within the cantonal system that was introduced in the general decree of 1798,⁴⁸ to which the number of Kalmyks that should be seconded for general service is in proportion to other cantons, exactly as has happened thus far, and by no means more than half the total allocated to the regiment. In case of emergency only, the entire regiment is to march under the command of the Force Ataman, whenever a specific order is given to that effect.'⁴⁹

Thereafter it was ordered:

'That a Military Chancellery for compliance with the internal structure of the Force should be formed in accordance with the attached establishment, under the chairmanship of the Force Ataman.⁵⁰ With regard to military matters, the Chancellery is dependent upon the Inspector of the Orenburg Inspection, while the civil department comes under the responsibility of the Simbirsk Governorate Administration and under the Governor in particular.'

The establishment of the Stavropol Kalmyk Regiment was defined as follows:⁵¹ one colonel, 30 *esauli*, *sotniki* and *khорunzhi*, one quartermaster, 40 non-commissioned officers, 1,000 Kalmyk privates, two clerks, for a total of 1,074 all ranks.

The powers of the Ataman were limited, as in the Bug Force, that is, he 'cannot introduce or force the execution of any new resolution without prior notification by the entire Chancellery, through submissions to the Inspector of the Force and at the discretion and permission of the Military Collegium.'

Note: In the tables on the state of the army for 1802 to 1806 the total for the Kalmyk Regiment is not shown under irregular regiments, but the total for the Stavropol Kalmyk Force is given, which is close to the normal composition of the regiment.⁵² With this in mind, we have take this total as the strength of the regiment...

As at 1 [13] January 1805 the regiment was 1,158 all ranks, while as at 1 [13] January 1806, it was

46 This decree was in regard to 'assisting impoverished Kalmyks' regarding trade rights, regarding the establishment of 'state subsistence' and so on.

47 This decree was in regard to dividing the army into companies or *ulusy* [tribal territorial administrative units], and previous decrees on assignments for service, and so on.

48 This decree was in regard to carefully following orders such that nearby cantons sent labour to the closest point to them on the Orenburg Line; notes on the description of the Orenburg Line under Supreme orders dated 10 [21] April 1798.

49 Subsequent articles in the report: 3, 4 and 5 were regarding the Military Chancellery; 6 to 10 were regarding ranking and status, promotions, retirement and that officers should be from a Kalmyk background; 11 and 12 were regarding issues of gunpowder and lead, and weapons.

50 The Ataman, two permanent members, one assessor, a secretary, an interpreter with two assistants, a doctor and two medics (A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 89, the establishment dated 2 [14] November 1803). They were obliged to administer appointments according to the General Regulations and on the basis of the Decree by the Governing Senate of 28 April [9 May] 1797, addressing matters where necessary to the Governorate Procurator.

51 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 89, the establishment dated 2 [14] November 1803.

52 M.S.A. department I, No. 239 (see the table at the end of Part 26).

1,105 men.⁵³

Regarding The Chuguev Force⁵⁴ And The Chuguev Regular Cossack Regiment.

This force, made up of various personnel in service, was limited in the beginning and, due to the importance of the location they occupied, due to the nature of their service and the distinctions they received, they brought many benefits and advantages; increasing from time to time with additions from a variety of groups, Cossacks, baptized Kalmyks, *odnovortsy* [small holders] and townspeople, they finally grew to the point that they were now calculated to total 22,007 people. This total provided a single ten-squadron Cossack regiment. The treasury paid them a salary, provisions and fodder of 86,738 roubles and, moreover, by freeing these people from taxes, they lost 78,582 roubles, thus this regiment costs a total of 166,320 roubles in peacetime, 38,675 roubles more than a ten-squadron hussar regiment.

This force was controlled by a Chancellery, which for military matters was dependent upon the State Military Collegium, while for civil matters it came under the Governorate Authorities. The force received no budget. The force had arable land and pasture, but little practice in arable farming, subsisting on petty trade, and mostly, as Prince Tsitsianov put it, on attempted theft...⁵⁵

The unrest and abuses occurring in the administration of the force compelled an investigation, which was entrusted to General-of-Infantry Prince Tsitsianov. As a result of this, the force was divided into two elements and given a new structure on 23 June [5 July] 1803,⁵⁶ namely:⁵⁷

1. 'To establish one ten-squadron regiment designated the Chuguev Regular Cossack Regiment, classed as an hussar regiment from the Chuguev Cossacks, the townspeople of this same palace and military population, both living in Chuguev itself and in the villages assigned to it, and in the Malinova settlement living and expressing a desire to remain in the Cossack class and perform in service with a total population of 7,646...
2. The regiment is always to be manned from the above-mentioned total of 7,646.
3. We have decided that the colonel-in-chief of the regiment shall not be from the Chuguev population, so that there can be no nepotism in his administration.'
4. Officers may retire only once unable to serve on, while lower ranks are to perform at least 25 years of service.
5. The registered population of 14,361 shall be classed as State settlers.
6. In view of the fact that there are now 757 men in the service from among 'those converted into state settlers, those who have served 12 years shall be discharged from service, while leaving the remainder free to return to their homes, but without counting their service against future conscription, or to serve out their term in an hussar regiment.'

An establishment for the Chuguev Regular Cossack Regiment, consisting of two battalions, each with five squadrons, and a total of ten squadrons, was approved as follows:⁵⁸

53 M.S.A. department I, No. 239 (see the table at the end of Part 26).

54 Note: In 1801, the colonel-in-chief of the regiment, Major, General Gladkov, was already referring to its members as a regiment not a force, as with the villagers of the Chuguev *Uezd*. Subsequent information indicates that in reality there was a Chuguev Force that fielded a single regiment, and therefore, based on a most humble report by the Ministers, we consider it necessary to add that the force was merely mentioned. The reorganisation of the Chuguev Cossack Regiment is closely connected with the reorganisation of the force, which is why we are considering them together.

55 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 55, most humble report by the Minister of War for Land Forces and Minister of Internal Affairs, dated 8 [20] February 1803.

56 A.C.W.M. special listing report by the Minister of War for Land Forces, 1803.

57 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 55, from the decree to the Governing Senate of 23 June [5 July] 1803.

58 C.C.L. Vol. XLIII, part II to No. 23,239 for No. 20812, also notes 17, 18 and 19.

	Regiment	Squadron
Colonel-in-Chief (regular army general)	1	
Field Officers	4	
Subalterns	63 ⁵⁹	5/6
Non-Commissioned Officers	110	11
Cossacks	1200 ⁶⁰	120
Trumpeters	21	2
Support Personnel (subaltern status)	4 ⁶¹	
Support Personnel (lower ranks)	63 ⁶²	2
Total Combatants:	1399	138/139
Total Support Personnel:	67	2
Total Manpower:	1466	140/141

As at 1 [13] January 1805,⁶³ the Chuguev Regular Cossack Regiment had the following total present: 68 officers, 1,330 combatant lower ranks, six subaltern status support personnel and 63 lower ranking support personnel, giving a total in the regiment of 1,467 men and 1,441 horses, of which 140 were draught animals.

As at 1 [13] January 1806,⁶⁴ there were 1,541 men in the regiment and 1,682 horses, of which 372 were draught animals.

Regarding The Formation Of The Caucasus Cossack Regiment⁶⁵ From The Former Yekaterinoslav Cossack Force.

‘The Yekaterinoslav Cossack Force was formed in 1787 by Prince Potemkin-Tavrichesky, in case of war with the Ottomans, from the Bug Cossack Regiment, which consisted of 5,291 souls, of whom 1,495 were from Arpat [southern Crimea], Moldavians, Wallachs and others from that country, who had been settled along the [Southern] Bug River on land allocated to them between Nikolaev and Olviopol in the Kherson *Uezd*, totalling 120,000 *desyatina* [324,240 English acres]. Among them were those purchased by him (Prince Potemkin-Tavrichesky) from various landowners in the *Uezdi*: of Yelizavetgrad - 3,567 souls with land, 14,684 *desyatina* [39,676 acres], and Novomirgorod - 229 souls, also Old Believers settled on the right bank of the Dnieper, 6,305 souls, and summoned through manifestos from Poland and Moldavia and from the cities of Yekaterinoslav, Voznesensk and Kharkov governorates there were 15,709 souls from the bourgeoisie and tradesmen classes from Velikorussia and Malorussia, and from smallholders and Malorussians who paid the smallholders tax, which reached 23,898 souls. All the villagers and people of other classes who made up the Yekaterinoslav Force were 50,563 souls; of that total, 10,052 men were on active service during the most recent war with the Turks, divided into ten regiments.

On 3 [14] June 1796, by way of a directed Supreme rescript addressed to the former General-

59 Including an aide-de-camp, quartermaster and paymaster.

60 Mounted men, but also calculated on 100 dismounted Cossacks within the regiment, and ten in each squadron to hold the men's horses, ‘these dismounted Cossacks would be part of the regiment only at such times as they were on campaign.’

61 Including an auditor, chaplain, doctor and riding-master.

62 The C.C.L. shows four more men, which gives an incorrect total, also increasing it by four, so we have stuck to the return on the state of the army, which shows 63 permanent staff for this year (M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for 1804).

63 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for 1804.

64 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for 1805.

65 A.C.W.M 1803, minute No. 1/3.

Feldzeugmeister, governor general of Yekaterinoslav, Voznesensk and Tauride, chevalier and Prince Zubov, among other articles, was commanded:

2. Of those enlisted in the Yekaterinoslav Cossack Force, the smallholders and Malorussians who paid the smallholders tax, also the townspeople, tradesmen and Old Believers in Yekaterinoslav, Voznesensk, and some living in the Kharkov governorates, those who do not wish to remain in the Cossack class, are to be discharged from this service, allowing them to return to their former classes, or to enrol as merchants or peasants, at their own discretion, granting them, in respect of their current disrupted situation, a two-year exemption from paying taxes to the treasury, subject to them paying their taxes regularly and without arrears after these grace years.
3. Thereafter those who wish to remain in military service, and those who wish to join the Cossack population from one of the governorates of Kiev Chernigov, Novgorodseversk, Yekaterinoslav, Bratslav, Podolsk, Volhynia and Voznesensk, will be permitted to move to this latter governorate, and having assigned them to the Bug Cossack Regiment, and also adding all the serfs bought from Prince Lyubomirsky, to form a force from all these settlers under the designation Voznesensk Cossacks in six regiments, in accordance with the proposed establishment submitted by Prince Zubov for Supreme approval, providing them with an increase in these military settlement and, in accordance with the needs of the service, to form some ten regiments.
4. Just as there are also those who, having served with distinction, having received officer status from among the above-mentioned people of different classes who transferred into Cossack service, whereas it would therefore not be typical for their status to remain on an equal basis with other settlers, they shall be placed, if they wish, in regular regiments, or in the currently constituted Cossack regiments in established locations, and the rest will be allowed to settle between the Bug and the Dniester on the border lands, allocating land to each subaltern of 300 to 500 *desyatina* [621 to 1,035 acres], and field officers from 1,000 to 1,500 *desyatina* [2,070 to 3,105 acres].

The fulfilment of all of the above was Supremely entrusted to the said Prince Zubov, and from him it was delegated to Lieutenant General Horvath, which is how the regiments that made up the former Yekaterinoslav Force came to be disbanded. Regarding the newly proposed Voznesensk Force, a report from the honourable General-of-Infantry Count Kakhovsky⁶⁶ dated 27 September [8 October] 1798 reported that, apart from the preliminary orders regarding this force and the lists of those wishing to join collected from adjacent provinces, there really was no actual formation or deployment.⁶⁷

Thus, 'all these Cossacks enlisted in that force remained in their original situation and were registered as merchants, townspeople, smallholders and state settlers, on the basis of the above-mentioned decree of 5 [16] June 1796 and, from the second half of 1798, were subject to taxes relevant to their population class.'⁶⁸

In 1800, some of these former Cossacks asked 'to be made Cossacks again and settled on the Caucasus Line because in the *uezdi* of the Sloboda-Ukrainian Governorate, where they lived, there was a great shortage of land. Their petition, through Procurator General Obolyaninov, on 4 [16] September 1800, was delivered by Supreme order for consideration by the Senate. Consequently, the Senate, having collected information about the need for such an army to maintain cordons on the border with the Circassians from the Governor of the Caucasus via the Military Collegium, presented its report to the Sovereign Emperor in 1801 with the proposal to turn these smallholders into Cossacks and of moving them to the Caucasus Line.' This received Supreme confirmation and

66 The Novorossiysk military governor (report by the War Minister for Land Forces, April 1803).

67 From the presentation of the petition to the Military Collegium by the attorney for the former Yekaterinoslav Cossacks, *Esaul* Bulatov dated 26 March [7 April] 1803, No. 1493.

68 From General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov's most humble report.

on 28 October [9 November] 1801 a decree was issued to the Senate.⁶⁹

As a result of this, 3,300 souls were removed and settled 'near the Caucasus fortresses.'⁷⁰ Of these Cossacks, as stated in a report by Lieutenant General Knorring dated 28 November [10 December] 1802, 'in order that all the local (Caucasus) Cossacks who moved here would not be left out of service until a firm decision is made with regard to them, while this might turn to their advantage by next spring, it is my considered opinion to establish one five-*sotnia* Cossack regiment from them, in accordance with the situation and the Caucasus fortresses closest to their locations, with the designation Caucasus Cossacks, with an establishment, similar to the Kuban Cossack Regiment, of a regimental commander, five *esauli*, five *sotniki*, a quartermaster, a regimental clerk, 500 Cossacks, paid in cash, provisions and fodder as is the Kuban Cossack Regiment.'⁷¹

This proposal received Supreme confirmation on 29 June [11 July] 1803.

In 1803, the question was raised once again 'regarding the formation of a regiment from them,⁷² as before, on the model of Don Cossack service' but the Military Collegium decided: 'considering the actual number of irregular troops currently existing and the need to employ them on active service, the Military Collegium does not find it necessary to transfer the above-mentioned petitioners to Cossack status as before, but proposes to leave them in their current status, where they can bring more benefit to both the State and themselves through the cultivation of their own land.'

This decision by the Military Collegium was also followed by Supreme confirmation, but the Bug Force Ataman, Major General Krasnov 1st, who had taken part in the petition by the Cossacks who wished to transfer into the Bug Force, through His Imperial Majesty's decree to the War Minister for Land Forces, 'was issued a note that accepting such requests is not in your gift and that in future you should beware of entering into matters that are no concern of yours.'⁷³

As at 1 [13] January 1805, there were 516 all ranks in the regiment, while as at 1 [13] January 1806 there were 518 men.⁷⁴

Regarding The Restoration Of The Bug Cossacks And The Formation Of The Military Unit.⁷⁵

The formation and changes to the Bug Force⁷⁶ 'this force began in 1769 and was formed from foreign nationalities. During the Russo-Turkish War of that time, when the Russian Army was close to Khotyn, the Porte had assembled a regiment of Moldavians, Wallachs and other Christian peoples living beyond the Danube. These peoples, instead of fighting against Russia, fled their homeland and families and came to the Commander of the Army, General Field Marshal Count Rumyantsev-Zadunaisky, by whom they were accepted, and served with the colours at their own expense, throughout the entire duration of that war without pause.

Once the war had ended, Count Rumyantsev assured them that they could lead a peaceful life under the patronage of the Russian State and would be rewarded with land suitable for settlement and development, and a Manifesto was announced, promising them a 30-year exemption of duties. Which is how, having left their homes in Moldavia, Wallachia and beyond the Danube, they crossed the Russian border and settled along the Bug River, while in the same vicinity along this very river

69 See the two background notes from the same minute.

70 From the most humble report.

71 From the first background note.

72 The residents of several villages, former Yekaterinoslav Cossacks, had publicly asked for an extension of Cossack service.

73 Proposal by Major General Krasnov 1st dated 31 October [12 November] 1803, No. 432.

74 M.S.A. department I, No. 239, table on the state of the army for these years (see the table at the end of Part 26).

75 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 139 and special catalogue - reports by the War Minister for Land Forces, 1803 and 1804.

76 Minute No. 139; from the War Minister for Land Forces' and Minister for Internal Affairs' most humble reports to His Imperial Majesty dated 25 April [7 May] 1803; note: with regard to the Bug Force, this is presented in such detail because subsequently, in 1818, the regiments were re-classified as ulans and became part of the regular forces, and in order to give a more complete description of the reasons that prompted the restoration of this force.

another regiment was established, also formed during the war from a variety of foreigners, referred to at the time as the Novoverbovansky [Newly Recruited] Cossack Regiment. Due to the emptiness of the locations allocated for their settlement and its remoteness from the towns, they worked it with great hardship and only enjoyed the promised exemption from duty for eight years.

In 1783, by order of Prince Potemkin, the force was called up to serve and maintain cordons along the Bug River against the Ottomans.

In 1787, when hostilities were resumed once more by the Porte, these people were moved from the Bug 200 *versts* [133 miles] into the interior of the governorate by Prince Potemkin, to the villages of Krasnoselskoe which he owned, but once the Russian Army had returned to the border, the group were returned to their former homes, but they had suffered severe disruption as a result of these moves.

In 1788, they formed a 1,500 strong Cossack regiment which was in continuous action until the conclusion of peace and was involved in the assaults on the fortresses of Ochakov and Izmail.

Throughout the duration of this war, many of the men from the Bug had been disabled or disfigured from their wounds, while their widows and orphans had been left without sufficient welfare. During all this time, they were in many respects dissatisfied with the funds they were given for fodder and provisions.

In 1796, the late Sovereign Empress, with respect to those exhausted by the diligent service they had endured, most graciously commanded Prince Zubov to leave them in service in perpetuity, to include in their class the 3,796 souls bought by Prince Potemkin and various landowners, to provide them with a decent status, to assign them border lands on the Dniester River, officers were awarded promotions, granted the privileges of rank and received all previously earned allowances in full, but after the death of Her Majesty all this remained unfulfilled.

In 1797, the late Sovereign Emperor [Tsar Paul] ordered the dissolution of this regiment from service to their homes, moreover, there was no decree as to what situation they should remain in from now on. One element was dissolved at this same time, while the other remained to maintain the cordon along the Dniester and the Black Sea until 1800, and then it was disbanded, and all these men were reduced to serfdom. Their number, in addition to the 800 Bulgarian souls settled in their homesteads, was now 6,383 male souls, together with those calculated from the census, settled in three *uezdi* in Yelizavetgrad, Olviopol and Kherson; they had 1,545 household and 169,738 *desyatina* [351,357 acres] of workable land.

On 12 [24] September 1801, the Cossacks' attorney, Captain Khmel'nitsky, submitted a request to the Sovereign by name to transfer them from serfdom into the services...'

This request, together with a report by the former Novorossiysk Military Governor, General-of-Cavalry Mikhelson, was under Supreme orders to be submitted to the War Minister for Land Forces for consideration 'together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs.'

It stated in the most humble report:⁷⁷ 'Overall, our reasoning has taken into account:

1. That they, having moved to Russia from their homeland, and sacrificing all the rights thereof under the encouragement of their leaders at the time, and proved their outstanding diligence and loyalty in practice, serving us tirelessly throughout the war, at the very time when they were waiting attentively to be compensated for their devotion and rewarded for it, they were transferred against their will into serfdom, for which they had neither the background nor the aptitude.
2. That if they were granted their previous classification as Cossack troops, then they could, by remaining mostly at home, maintain a cordon guard at their own expense, which would be most reliable in every respect and would not only save the treasury from the costs that it

77 Most humble report by the War Minister for Land Forces, 1803.

would have to incur by bringing in distant forces and maintaining them in border locations, but could also serve for the internal security of the Novorossiysk *Kray*, where the *zemstvo* police often find themselves in need of military support due to its recent settlement and the intermingling of various nationalities, for which purpose entire regiments have had to be maintained at the treasury's expense.

We also consider it necessary for the benefit of the State to restore this force to its original state. Although in this case the treasury would lose some 15,000 in annual income, yet this should not be considered a loss, because, in accordance with the 30-year exemption of duties promised to them, they should have been free from new state demands at all times, or in accordance with the above-mentioned costs, should it be decided to bring in troops; furthermore, their restoration, having fulfilled a measure of justice, would set the standard for rewarding merit and thereby attract even more of their compatriots to the borders of Russia. To that end, I have shared this most humble report with the Minister of Internal Affairs,⁷⁸ indicating in it both the number of regiments and manpower required to form them, such that the model of military and civilian life for the force includes administration, good order, assignment of Cossacks to active service, selection and promotion of officers and retirement for both them and ordinary Cossacks and other procedures, with the calculation of their subsistence during wartime and when they are on active service further than 100 *versts* [67 miles] from home. Moreover, the adding of arrears of 15,191 roubles 12 kopeks incurred by them in recent years was also proposed, due to the disrupted state of their former settlement and the crop failures that have continued there for several consecutive years, and from collecting 360 silver roubles recruitment bounty for each man for the same reason, following the enforcement of the decree of 21 September [3 October] 1801...'

The most humble report by the ministers received Supreme confirmation on 28 April [10 May] 1803,⁷⁹ while in accordance with this, a decree was issued on 8 [20] May,⁸⁰ which already stated: 'Having restored the Bug Cossack Force, I command Major General Krasnov of the Don Force to be their force ataman.' The composition of the military element was done as follows:⁸¹

1. 'Having returned the Bug Cossacks to their original status with the addition of those 600 Bulgarians who subsequently settled on their lands and who wished to share their fate, to establish from them, under the command of the force ataman, three five-*sotnia* irregular regiments, designated the Bug Cossacks. One regiment should always on rotation to maintain the cordon guard along the border, and when the need arises, all three may be sent on active service.
2. The number of appointees in each regiment must be exactly the same as the Don and Black Sea Cossack regiments, namely: one colonel, five regimental *esauli*, five *sotniki*, five *khorunzhi*, one quartermaster, one clerk, 483 non-commissioned officers and Cossacks, giving 501 all ranks.
3. Appointments, the promotion of officers, the assignment of non-commissioned officers within regiments, pay and allowances, and so on, issues of gunpowder and lead, are to be similar to the regulations for the Don Force.'

It was permitted 'to increase their class with men from abroad, of similar nationalities, but in order to prevent possible abuses, to strictly forbid them from accepting native villagers as Cossacks, as well as from settling serfs on their lands.'

On 31 August [12 September] 1803, orders were issued that the Cossacks regiments of the Don Force be strengthened and to expand the Bug Force. In accordance with this provision, 'with any orders for active service by the troops of that regiment' the following number of ranks were to be in

78 Minute No. 139; from the War Minister for Land Forces' and Minister for Internal Affairs' most humble reports to His Imperial Majesty dated 25 April [7 May] 1803.

79 Minute No. 139.

80 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20754 and minute No. 139.

81 From the ministers' reports.

the regiment: one colonel, five *esauli*, five *sotniki*, five *khорunzhi*, a quartermaster, a clerk, ten non-commissioned officers and 550 Cossacks' for a total of 578 men.⁸²

On 12 [24] September 1803, the Force Ataman, Major General Krasnov, had also reported to the War Minister for Land Forces that⁸³ 'I surveyed every village belonging to the Bug Cossack Force, and found everywhere the most diligent zeal and total readiness of the lower ranks to serve His Imperial Majesty.' Attached to the report was information on 'what has been done regarding the lower ranks on the occasion of drawing up the composition of three five-*sotnia* regiments.'

This listing mentions:

1. The number of villages with their names, such as: in the Yelizavetgrad *Uezd* - 12 villages, in Olviopol - six, and in Kherson - nine.
2. The number of souls according to verbal revisions (by village), numbering 6,567 people.
3. The assignments from villages to the three regiments in total - 1,308 men.
4. Arrangements for cases of replacing men unfit for service and so on, also by village, for a total of 106 men.

The Bug Force, however, only began serving from 1804, as stated in the most humble report by the War Minister for Land Forces in 1804,⁸⁴ namely: 'The Bug Cossack Force, having been raised out of serfdom by the goodwill of Your Imperial Majesty and recently restored, although they received all the regulations for their training and establishment in 1803, yet a lack of time prevented them from appearing on active service that same year: only the Chancellery had been opened, which, having taken up the implementation of what was outlined in the Supreme Decree of 8 [20] May 1803, has completely prepared one regiment for departure as a guard force. This regiment, located along the Dniester, replaced one from the Don on another mission after the rotation, and Your Imperial Majesty, in commemoration of the Monarch's favour to this new force, deigned to bestow 15 standards, five to each regiment, having stated in your Supreme Rescript: 'are to serve the Fatherland with the diligence, zeal and courage characteristic of the united Russian forces.'⁸⁵

In the above-mentioned Decree of 8 [20] May 1803 regarding the appointment of the Chancellery the following had been decided:

'In order to maintain internal civil and economic order in the Force, a Military Chancellery is to be established...⁸⁶ The Chancellery, for military affairs, is dependent upon the Inspector of the Crimea Inspection, while for civil affairs they come under the department of the local governorate authorities and the Governor in particular.'

It must also be said that one of the 'first principles' established was:

'The force ataman must not introduce or enforce the execution of any new resolutions, without prior notification by the entire Chancellery, via the Inspector of Troops, for submission at the discretion of the Military Collegium.'

In September 1805, all three Bug Cossack regiments set off along issued march-routes 'as quickly as possible to their destination.'⁸⁷ They became part of the Moldavia Corps,⁸⁸ which was initially

82 C.C.L. Vol. XXVII, No. 20,921, decree to the Military Collegium of 31 August [12 September] 1803 (to the Don Force and forces modelled thereon).

83 A.C.W.M. 1803, minute No. 139, report No. 60, dated 12 [24] September 1803.

84 A.C.W.M. special catalogue, report of the War Minister for Land Forces, 1804.

85 A.C.W.M. special catalogue, rescript to the Bug Force dated 20 October [1 November] 1804.

86 A.C.W.M. minute No. 139, establishment dated 28 April [10 May] 1803, under the chairmanship of the Force Ataman, two permanent members, two assessors, the procurator and 'the necessary number of serving officials.'

87 A.C.W.M. 1805, minute No. 2, report by Force Ataman, Major General Krasnov, No. 963, dated 21 September [3 November] 1805.

88 M.S.A. department II, No. 1551, log of Count Lieven's despatches, despatch to General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov, dated 26 August [7 September]; the original despatch is in the above-mentioned minute No. 2 (1805), serial 341.

under the command of General-of-Cavalry Tormasov, and thereafter, General-of-Cavalry Baron Meyendorff.⁸⁹

According to the returns on the state of His Imperial Majesty's army, it was shown that the Bug Force 'consisted in total' as at 1 [13] January 1805 of 1,733 men, while as at 1 [13] January 1806 there were 1,738 men.⁹⁰

Thus, in accordance with the new regulations, the Cossack and irregular forces were to field the following number of regiments: Don Force - 80; Black Sea Force - ten foot and ten mounted; Orenburg Force - one; Ural Force - ten; Stavropol Kalmyk Force - one; Bug Force - three.

The remaining forces either fielded a set number of men, or formed independent regiments or commandos, as shown in the table.

The Strengths Of Cossack And Irregular Forces As At The Beginning And End Of 1805.

According to the returns on the state of the Army as at 1 [13] January 1805 and 1806, the following numbers of Cossack and irregular troops were shown:⁹¹

	1805	1806
Don Force	47,959	47,407
Black Sea Force	14,377	14,377 ⁹²
Orenburg Force	9,487	8,351 ⁹³
Ural Force	6,015	6,318
Terek Tribal Force	422	425
Terek Kizlyar Force	178	171
Greben Force	500	500 ⁹⁴
Siberia Force	6,074	5,926
Stavropol Kalmyk Force	1,158	1,105
Bug Force	1,733	1,738
Bashkirs & Mishari on summer service	5,519	5,519 ⁹⁵
Astrakhan Regiment	1,642 ⁹⁶	1,633 ⁹⁷
1 st & 2 nd Teptyar regiments	997	955
Volga Regiment	544	544 ⁹⁸

89 A.C.W.M. classified department, 1805, minute No. 2, General Meyendorff's report No. 389, dated 15 [27] December 1805.

90 M.S.A. department I, No. 239 tables for 1804, 1805, signed by the War Minister for Land Forces, General-of-Infantry Vyazmitinov (see the table at the end of Part 26).

91 This should be read as all officers and Cossacks 'serving' or 'fit for service.'

92 This figure of 14,377 is also found in the returns for 1803, and therefore its repetition three times raises some doubts about its reliability.

93 In addition, there was also the Orenburg 1,000 man Cossack regiment.

94 This total of 500 appears on returns for five years.

95 This figure of 5,519 appears on six annual returns and raises doubts about its accuracy.

96 In four commandos.

97 In five commandos.

98 This figure of 544 appears on six annual returns and raises doubts about its accuracy.

	1805	1806
Khopersk Regiment	549	536
Kuban Regiment	511	511
Mozdok Regiment	1,026 ⁹⁹	1,027 ¹⁰⁰
4 th Bratsk Regiment ¹⁰¹	3,747	3,842
Orenburg Regiment	1,074	1,080
Caucasus Regiment	516	518
Saratov Commando	202	¹⁰²
2 nd Mozdok Commando ¹⁰³	147	142
15 commandos in the Tobolsk Governorate ¹⁰⁴	2,005	2,005
Nine commandos in the Irkutsk Governorate ¹⁰⁵	624	624
The Greater Derbet Horde ¹⁰⁶	2,073	2,073 ¹⁰⁷
Grand Total:	109,179 ¹⁰⁸	107,327

Appendix 1 to Part 26.

Tsar's Decree To The Military Collegium.¹⁰⁹

Having considered the report and views presented to Us from this Collegium, on the number of field officers and subalterns in the Don Force, in accordance with the customs of their recruitment, an establishment is to be drafted, regarding the procedure for selection and promotion, theirs and lower ranks retirement from service and subsistence whenever the regiments of the Don Force are on active service seconded from their homes, we command:

1. Such that with every kind of duty and the rotation of regiments one after another there should be no difficulties due to a shortage of officers, the establishment of field officers and subalterns, who, according to the Directed Decree issued to the Military Collegium on 22 October [2 November] 1798, under Our predecessor, army appointments were assigned, to have a total of eighty, five-*sotnia* regiments in the Don Force, each with one colonel, five

⁹⁹ In three foot commandos.

¹⁰⁰ In three foot commandos.

¹⁰¹ In ten commandos, in the department of the Troitskosavsk Border Chancellery.

¹⁰² Not shown on the returns.

¹⁰³ One commando recruited from highlanders and the other from Don settlers.

¹⁰⁴ Located in the city.

¹⁰⁵ Located in the city.

¹⁰⁶ Note: The Greater Derbet Horde were Kalmyks who had returned from 'going abroad' and were granted back 'the territory where they had their nomadic pastures before leaving' (C.C.L. No. 19575, decree to the Senate of 27 September [9 October] 1800). Somewhat earlier, on 11 [23] August 1800, the following privileges had been granted to the 'representatives' of this Horde: to select their own chieftain; independence from the men of the Don; to be direct subjects of the Tsar; to correspond directly with His Majesty; to deal directly with the Foreign Collegium, as had been the case previously; and to have a similar relationship with the Procurator-General regarding land' (C.C.L. Vol. XXVI, No. 19511). In 1802, the Kalmyks of this Horde, already numbering 2,073 people, were involved in border service, as evidenced by the returns on the state of the army for 1802 to 1807 (M.S.A. department I, No. 239); it has not been possible to collect further information about this Horde.

¹⁰⁷ This figure of 2,073 appears on six annual returns and raises doubts about its accuracy.

¹⁰⁸ Note: According to the returns as at 1 [13] January 1805, two additional Nogai regiments are shown, but this is incorrect, as mentioned above, they were never formed, which is why the real total is 1,036 men fewer than shown on the returns, since these two regiments should be excluded. In addition, it must be borne in mind that the total strength of all irregular troops does not include about 14,000 men of the Bashkir-Mishari Force, therefore the total number exceeds 120,000 men.

¹⁰⁹ A.C.W.M. 1802, minute No. 20,

esauli, five *sotniki*, five *khорunzhi*, one quartermaster, for a total of 80 colonels, 400 *esauli*, 400 *sotniki*, 400 *khорunzhi*, 80 quartermasters, of whom those who are not on field service may be employed in the same manner as those who have retired, but who may carry out internal service, appointed to public places and other duties.

2. The selection of officers for the force is therefore the same as throughout the army, being dependent on Our own will, the submissions for this are to be made by the force ataman, or in wartime by the army commander, or corps commander, where Don regiments are located, by a general with the dignity of campaign ataman, or colonels, but only for vacancies, not exceeding the above total. In these deliberations, observe not only seniority, but the ability to serve and merits, and in wartime, most of all, respect the outstanding courage and efficiency shown in action in the face of the enemy; however, when, in the officers' submission for promotion, one or another senior officer is bypassed for poor execution of service, incompetence, or for any kind of vice, then precise reasons for being undeserving are to be reported in the same submission.
3. Whenever necessity suddenly requires the sending of a significant number of regiments from the Don, and there are insufficient officers due to various duties in the service, or illness at that time, then in this case, the force ataman, in unison with the military Chancellery, at their own discretion, are to mobilise those retired officers who are still able to serve, while thereafter a certain number of non-commissioned officers and Cossacks, who are capable and deserving of this trust, are to be appointed to the regiments as officers, and for this reason, of these non-commissioned servicemen who, in accordance with their seniority and their appointment, have shown the desired aptitude or outstanding courage and skill in the face of the enemy, are preferred for submission for promotion to vacancies in the post of *khорunzhi*, and not to present anyone through status, such that other officers on active service with them, should not feel resentment as a result.
4. In order that the Don Force, which has gained the favour of Our Monarch and Our predecessors through diligent service and brave deeds, does not suffer a shortage of fit, skilled and capable officers, while those who have only served for a short period of time do not leave the service as a burden to the force or their comrades, then, in consideration of retirement from service by officers, from those with officer status whom have not been on active service under command with their regiments more than 100 *versts* [67 miles] from their homes on various occasions over fifteen years, and are still capable of service, are not to be accepted for retirement nor may they submit pleas for it; the lower ranks are committed in accordance with the precise content of the directed decrees of 15 [26] May 1798 and of 22 December 1801 [3 January 1802] addressed to the force ataman, that is, after serving 30 years, and not less than 25 years, and such that in the event of necessity they may be sent on active service, which also applies to officers; but excluded from this are those officers and lower ranks who, due to wounds received in battle, old age, or serious illness, have become disabled or completely incapable of serving.
5. In general, when assigning regiments, officers and Cossacks to service and in discharging them, either temporarily in respect of pressing need, or permanently for the reasons explained above, the force ataman and the military Chancellery are to be guided by complete impartiality, observing benign equality and order between one and the other, as the very duty of the oath requires, as they will inevitably be held accountable for any act contrary to this.
6. We confirm that the regiments on active service, when they are detached from their homes, are to receive the following emoluments: field officers and subalterns are to be paid with cash and rations in accordance with the latest establishment for army hussar regiments, each according to their appointment, but they are not entitled to orderlies in kind; the regimental clerk is to receive a salary of 30 roubles per annum and the designated issue of rations. The

Cossacks are to receive 12 roubles a year in cash, and both clerks and Cossacks are to be issued with fodder for two horses each for the winter months, allotting six to eight months according to the climate, of which one is in kind, and the other in cash, at the prices that fodder costs the treasury when purchasing it.

7. Whenever the force ataman is on campaign against the enemy in person, then, for the sake of the privilege of his position, he is to have a 1,000 strong regiment, designated with the ataman's name, in which the total of all ranks is set at twice that of a typical five-*sotnia* regiment.

St Petersburg,

29 September [11 October] 1802.