

**A Century of The Russian Ministry of War
1802-1902
General Staff Historical Department
(translated by Peter Phillips)
The Reign of Emperor Alexander I Petrovich
1801 - 1805**



Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich by Borovikovsky

2. Establishment of the Military Commission.

Having noted these transformations, which destroyed some of the false innovations of the past reign, let us move on to a most important act, the establishment of the “Military Commission,”¹ which had an extensive remit - to present “everything necessary and useful for introduction,” and in contrast “for repeal.”

By Supreme Decree of 24 June [6 July], 1801,² a Military Commission was established “in order to review the situation of the forces and their organisation.” The establishment of this Commission was necessary in order to evaluate the results of previous reforms under Emperor Paul I, as well as to establish more positive foundations for the organisation of the army “for all seasons and eventualities.” In addition, it was extremely important to determine the size of the army, both in general and by arm of service.

The decree mentioned above was the expression of those ideas concerning the existence of the army that animated Emperor Alexander I, and therefore the decree is quoted verbatim: “In considering the present level of State expenditures and bringing them into balance with revenues, and desiring to

1 Similar Commissions had been established during the reigns of Emperor Peter III and Empress Catherine II.

2 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, Serial 19926.

finds means to relieve the burden on the people, We found, among other things, that the amounts allocated for the maintenance of military land forces have risen greatly, with a decrease in the number of troops since the end of 1796. In order to bring this department into due proportion and, therefore, in order to provide the resources for maintaining the most appropriate forces and for the benefits commensurate to the treasury, We acknowledge it as for the best to establish a Military Commission, towards the compilation of which, under the chairmanship of Our most kind Brother Tsarevich and Grand Duke Konstantin Pavlovich, with the appointment of the following generals-of-infantry: Prince Prozorovsky, Lamb, Tatishchev, Golenishchev-Kutuzov and Proviantmeister General Svechin; lieutenant generals; Tormozov, Prince Volkonsky and Prince Dolgorukov.

Being utterly convinced of their experience, knowledge and diligence, We trust without doubt that they will choose the most appropriate and the most timely means in order to fulfil the task assigned to them to its perfect completion.

With the following main subjects in mind:

1. Calculating the number of troops and their overall deployment. The establishment of military forces by all States is based on the need for external defence and the preservation of internal peace, and therefore, in determining the number of troops, they must take into account the situation on the borders with other Powers and the extent of the Empire.
2. Calculating the number of troops according to their various arms of service and the designation of each.

The arms of service are to be determined by the local situation of the State, the nature of the people, neighbouring forces and the means for internal upkeep.

3. The number of men in each type of regiment and company.

Without touching on the regulations for military drill and school of tactics, consideration should be given to whether it is necessary to strengthen regiments or companies, showing the reasons and benefits thereof.

4. Subsistence for the troops.

This includes the dispersal of the troops into permanent quarters, in accordance with the climate, the quality of the produce from each region, the resources for delivering provisions and fodder, and distance from the borders, such that they may assemble more easily and properly refreshed at their destination. This also includes provisions for pasture fodder and the use of the summer months consistent with the experience and benefits of the treasury.

5. The situation on prices for remount horses.

It is known that increased prices, without an improvement in the quality of horses, has merely inflicted an important increase in costs on the treasury, and therefore it is necessary to delve into the reasons for this price increase, and to give a measure of the benefits to the service and the treasury that is most appropriate to them.

6. Military uniform.

The purpose of all the considerations in this article is to give uniform the most soldierly appearance and durability at the lowest cost, and not merely the easiest for changes of service and for the preservation of the health and vigour of soldiers in general, but also the most presentable for each arm of service. According to these regulations, the Commission must consider and give its opinions on the samples which their fellow member, Lieutenant General Prince Dolgorukov, is to submit to them.

7. Armament of the infantry.

Each type in the force is to have weapons appropriate to their nature; the definition of this nature is the essential subject of the Commission as well as the application of the methods of supply and to

those institutions which Russia has of these types.

8. Armament of the cavalry.

In accordance with the second article on the number of heavy and light Cavalry, the Commission is to make the most appropriate provision and armament of each of its types.

9. Provision of saddlery and horse harness in general.

This article is a most valid subject both for cavalry and for draught horses.

10. Maintenance of the Horse Artillery.

Knowing from experience that Horse Artillery delivers great advantages to those Powers that possess it, the Commission must enter into consideration of the least burdensome ways to maintain it as possible, assuming that in peacetime a certain number of war horses should be available to accustom the rank and file in their skilled use.

11. With this internal structure of the troops, the Commission must not forget to consider and make provision for pensions for servicemen and their widows, and for the calculation of which there have hitherto been no permanent or detailed regulations.

In addition to these subjects, We leave to the consideration of the Commission everything that it finds necessary and useful to be introduced or abolished in the internal organisation of the forces, entrusting it with every element for their consideration, as appropriate, to draw up staffing for all departments and submit them to us for approval, with an indication of those benefits, which from their provision, might incur further costs for the treasury, in comparison with those hitherto.

However, in order to assemble a Chancellery for this Commission, we order the necessary officials to be seconded from the State Military Collegium, and for Major General Rusanov to be the director of that office.” This decree is eloquent testimony that Emperor Alexander I had decided to examine the army “from its foundations” and bring everything into proper proportion and order. The Commission received important powers - to submit “everything that it finds necessary and useful to be introduced or abolished in the internal organisation of the forces,” indicating the benefits.

Appendix to 2. Establishment of the Military Commission.

SCHEDULE DRAWN UP BY THE MILITARY COMMISSION ON THE PLACEMENT IN QUARTERS OF THE LAND FORCES UNDER HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY IN CONSIDERATION OF THE INSPECTIONS TO WHICH THEY ARE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED. 3 [15] JULY, 1801.³

UNITS	QUARTERING
1. FINLAND INSPECTION	
Velikie Lutsk Musketeers	Staff & three companies in Fredrikshamn [Hamina, Finland], one company in Skoba, one in Poyarva, one in Turkila, one in Gopalo, one in Igomaikoskis, one in Kituli, one in Mekelya, and the grenadier companies in Willmanstrand [Lappeenranta, Finland].
Neva Musketeers	Staff & three companies in Fredrikshamn, one company in Vogively, one in Yarvenkuly, one in Raviyarva, one in Ravioka, one in Alapigloe, one in Lammilo, one in Kyurkyubyull, and the grenadier companies in Davydov.
Ryazan Musketeers	One battalion in Vyborg, one company in Kiondalo, one in Voykola,

3 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 19951 and accompanying Atlas of “The Schedule of the Army of His Imperial Majesty, by Inspection” (Military-Science Archive of the General Staff, III, No. 355).

	one in Myukyullervi, one in Yukenya, one in Vetornero, one in Tovastil manor, grenadier companies in Willmanstrand.
1 st Jägers	In Serdobol [Sortavala].
2 nd Jägers	In the village of Rauttsel and surrounding area.
Essen 3 rd 's Garrison ⁴	Two battalions, in Vyborg, two battalions in Fredrikshamn.
Bolotnikov's Garrison	Three battalions in Rochensalm [Svensksund, Finland].
Plutalov's Garrison	One battalion in Willmanstrand, one in Kexholm [Priozersk], one in Nyslott [Savonlinna, Finland].

UNITS	QUARTERING
2. SAINT PETERSBURG INSPECTION	
His Majesty's Cuirassiers	In Staraya Russa.
Leib Grenadiers	In St Petersburg.
Pavlov Grenadiers	In Gatchina.
Yelets Musketeers	One battalion in Narva, the other in Yamburg [Kingisepp].
Kexholm Musketeers	In Porkhov.
Belozersk Musketeers	In Novgorod.
Tenginsk Musketeers	In Novaya Ladoga.
Lithuania Musketeers	In Pskov.
Ukolov's Garrison	Four battalions in Kronstadt
Vyubov's Garrison	One T.E. battalion each in Narva, Novgorod & Pskov. ⁵
Plutalov's Garrison	One battalion in Schlüsselburg.

UNITS	QUARTERING
3. LIVONIA INSPECTION	
Riga Cuirassiers	In Valka.
Kazan Cuirassiers	In Fellin [Viljandi, Estonia].
St Petersburg Grenadiers	In Reval [Tallinn, Estonia].
Taurida Grenadiers	In Riga.
Sevsk Musketeers	In Pernau [Pärnu, Estonia].
Sofia Musketeers	In Weisenberg.
Reval Musketeers	In Dorpat [Tartu, Estonia].
Tobolsk Musketeers	In Mitau [Jelgava, Latvia].
Dnieper Musketeers	In Tuckum [Tukums, Latvia].
Chernigov Musketeers	In Libau [Liepāja, Latvia].

⁴ Those regiments or battalions that were on territorial establishment are indicated T.E. according to the atlas, but those without indication were on field establishment. [Garrison regiments are shown named for their former colonels-in-chief].

⁵ See Atlas of "The Schedule of the Army" (Military-Science Archive of the General Staff, III, No. 355).

UNITS	QUARTERING
3 rd Jägers	In Polangen [Palanga, Lithuania] & Shkuda [Skuodas, Lithuania].
Bulakov's Garrison	Four battalions in Riga.
Balashov's Garrison	Three battalions in Reval, one in Pernau.
Prince Ghica's Garrison	One battalion in Dünamünde [Daugavgriva fortress].
Bolotnikov's Garrison	One battalion in Ahrensburg [Kuressaare, Estonia].

UNITS	QUARTERING
4. LITHUANIA INSPECTION	
Moscow Dragoons	In Slonim.
Alexandria Hussars	In Disna [Dzisna, Belarus] & Glubokoe [Hlybokaye, Belarus].
Lithuania Tatars	Submitted to the Inspector for discussion with the Governor in order to place this regiment in those villages from which it is recruited.
Yekaterinoslav Grenadiers	In Kovno [Kaunas, Lithuania], Janau [Jonava, Lithuania] and surrounding area.
Tula Musketeers	In Rossieny [Raseiniai, Lithuania] and surrounding area.
Pskov Musketeers	In Vilna [Vilnius, Lithuania].
Murom Musketeers	In Grodno.
Rostov Musketeers	In Minsk.
Nizov Musketeers	In Slutsk.
Arkhangelogorod Musketeers	In Shereshov [Šarašova, Belarus], Pruzhany and surrounding area.
4 th Jägers	In Yerakholakh and surrounding area.
5 th Jägers	In Oshmyany [Ashmyany, Belarus].
6 th Jägers	In Volkovisk [Vaūkavýsk].
7 th Jägers	In Volchin [Voŭčyn].

UNITS	QUARTERING
5. BREST INSPECTION	
Her Majesty's Cuirassiers	In Ostrog [Ostroh, Ukraine], Tulchin [Tulchyn, Ukraine] and surrounding area.
Kharkov Cuirassiers	In Lutsk.
Chernigov Cuirassiers	In Vladimir-Volynsky [Volodymyr, Ukraine].
Pavlograd Hussars	Staff & Leib battalion in Dubno, the other in Kremenets.
Poland Horse	In Berdichev [Berdychiv, Ukraine] & Zhitomir [Zhytomyr, Ukraine].
Staro Ingermanland Musketeers	In Kobrin [Kobryn, Belarus] and surrounding area.
Ryazhsk Musketeers	In Brest-Litovsk.
Vyborg Musketeers	In Kovno.

UNITS	QUARTERING
Apsheron Musketeers	In Rovno [Rivne, Ukraine].
Azov Musketeers	In Labun [Novolabun, Ukraine] & Polonne.
8 th Jägers	Vladimir & Lyuboml.

UNITS	QUARTERING
6. UKRAINE INSPECTION	
Tyr Cuirassiers	In Vinnitsa [Vinnytsia, Ukraine].
Mariupol Hussars	In Khmelnik [Khmilnyk, Ukraine] & Novy Konstantinov.
Malorussia Grenadiers	In Zaslav [Iziaslav, Ukraine] and surrounding area.
Kiev Grenadiers	In Belaya Tserkva [Bila Tserkva, Ukraine].
Smolensk Musketeers	In Sary Konstantinov [Starokostiantyniv, Ukraine].
Bryansk Musketeers	In Letichev [Letychiv, Ukraine].

UNITS	QUARTERING
7. DNIESTER INSPECTION	
Glukhov Cuirassiers	In Novomirgorod [Novomyrhorod, Ukraine].
Seversk Dragoons	In Boguslav [Bohuslav, Ukraine].
Olviopol Hussars	In Olviopol [Pervomaisk, Ukraine].
Yelisavetgrad Hussars	In Yelisavetgrad [Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine] and surrounding area.
Kherson Grenadiers	In Kherson.
Siberia Grenadiers	In Nikolaev [Mykolaiv, Ukraine] & Bogoyavlensk [Korabl'ny Raion, Mykolaiv, Ukraine].
Ladoga Musketeers	In Odessa.
Vladimir Musketeers	In Kamenets-Podolsky [Kamianets-Podilskyi, Ukraine] and surrounding villages.
Novo Ingermanland Musketeers	One battalion in Mogilev on the Dniester [Mohyliv-Podilskyi, Ukraine] & another in Yampol [Yampil, Ukraine].
Alexopol Musketeers	In Nemerov [Nemyriv, Ukraine].
Kozlov Musketeers	In Uman.
Yaroslavl Musketeers	In Tulchin [Tulchyn, Ukraine].
Nizhegorod Musketeers	In Tiraspol [Tiraspol, Moldova].
9 th Jägers	In Ladyzhin [Ladyzhyn, Ukraine].
10 th Jägers	In Olgopol [Olhopil, Ukraine].
11 th Jägers	In Dubossary [Dubasari, Moldova].
12 th Jägers	In Slobodze [Slobozie, Moldova].
13 th Jägers	In Ovidiopol.
Masse's Garrison	Two battalions in Kherson.

UNITS	QUARTERING
Prince Vyazemsky's Garrison	One battalion in Ochakov [Ochakiv, Ukraine] & Kinburn.

UNITS	QUARTERING
8. CRIMEA INSPECTION	
Smolensk Dragoons	In Karasubazar [Belogorsk, Crimea].
Belev Musketeers	In Kozlova, grenadier companies in Sudak.
Sevastopol Musketeers	In Akhtiar [Sevastopol], grenadier companies in Kerch & Yenikol.
Troitsk Musketeers	Nine companies and two of grenadiers in Akmechet [Simferopol], one in Zuya.
Vitebsk Musketeers	In Kefe [Feodosia, Crimea], grenadier companies in Fanagoria [Taman, Russia].
14 th Jägers	From Kopyl to the Fanagoria fortress.
15 th Jägers	In Yekaterinodar [Krasnodar, Russia].
Prince Vyazemsky's Garrison	Two battalions in Akhtiar & another in Perekop.

UNITS	QUARTERING
9. CAUCASUS INSPECTION	
Vladimir Dragoons & Taganrog Dragoons	One squadron in Ust-Labinsk fortress, one in Caucasus fortress [on the Kuban], one in Prochnookopskaya fortress, one in Grigoriopolsky fortress, one in Temnolesskaya entrenchments, two in Yekaterinogradskaya, two in Georgievsk & one in Stavropol.
Narva Dragoons & Nizhegorod Dragoons	Two squadrons in Tiflis [Tbilisi, Georgia], two in Telav, two in Signakh, two in Lora & two in Gora.
Caucasus Grenadiers	One battalion in Tiflis, three companies in Gora, one in Suram fortress & one in Tskhinvali, flank companies in Mozdok.
Suzdal Musketeers	One battalion in Ust-Labinsk fortress, one in Caucasus fortress, one grenadier company in Grigoriopolsky fortress, another in Prochnookopskaya fortress.
Tiflis Musketeers	In Georgia: one company each in; Zagarech, Khashim, Patarzeul, Liarkoba & Maniv; three companies in Kazakhiysky Province in Borchalisky; two companies in Shulaversky, grenadier companies in Prochnookopskaya fortress.
Kabardia Musketeers	One battalion in Telav, Velistsy, Korela & Shild, the other in Dzhugany, Sakabo, Mashnariakari, Anachi & Kardinag; grenadier companies in Kizlyar.
Kazan Musketeers	One battalion in Georgievsk, three companies in Yekaterinograd fortress, one in Naur Cossack station, one in Shelkozavod fortress, two grenadier companies in Kizlyar.
16 th Jägers	One battalion in Konstantinogorsk fortress, three companies in Temnolesskaya entrenchments, one in Borovskolessky redoubt & one

UNITS	QUARTERING
	in Kunskey starfort.
17 th Jägers	One battalion in Tiflis, two companies in Dushet, one in Khorela, one in Porsian & one in Kod.
Zavalishin's Garrison	Two battaions in Astrakhan, one T.E. battalion in Tsaritsyn [Volgograd].
Olvintsov's Garrison	One battalion in the fortress of St Dimitry [of Rostov], one T.E. battalion each in Azov & Taganrog.

UNITS	QUARTERING
10. SMOLENSK INSPECTION	
Pskov Dragoons	In Vyazma.
Kargopol Dragoons	In Toropets.
St Petersburg Dragoons	In Dorogobuzh.
Moscow Grenadiers	In Smolensk.
Fanagoria Grenadiers	In Mogilev.
Polotsk Musketeers	In Polotsk [Polatsk, Belarus].
Perm Musketeers	In Orsha.
Uglich Musketeers	In Porechye.
Kursk Musketeers	In Roslavl.
Voronezh Musketeers	In Rogachev [Rahachow, Belarus].
Prince Ghica's Garrison	One battalion each in Smolensk, Vitebsk & Mogilev.

UNITS	QUARTERING
11. KIEV INSPECTION	
Starodub Cuirassiers	In Glukhov [Hlukhiv, Ukraine].
Kiev Cuirassiers	In Lubny & Priluki [Pryluky, Ukraine].
Malorossia Cuirassiers	In Voronezh.
Ingermanland Dragoons	In Kozelets.
Kinburn Dragoons	In Pereyaslaavl [Pereiaslav, Ukraine].
Sumy Hussars	In Sumy.
Izyum Hussars	In Zmiev [Zmiiv, Ukraine].
Akhtyrka Hussars	In Ostrogozhsk.
Chuguev Cossacks	In Chuguev [Chuhuiv, Ukraine].
Moscow Musketeers	In Kiev [Kyiv, Ukraine].
Butyrsk Musketeers	In Bryansk.
Kolyvan Musketeers	In Starodub and nearby schismatic settlements.
Novgorod Musketeers	In Novgorod-Seversky [Novhorod-Siverskyi, Ukraine] and nearby

UNITS	QUARTERING
	settlements.
Vyatka Musketeers	In Kursk.
Narva Musketeers	In Romny.
Poltava Musketeers	In Poltava.
Masse's Garrison	Two battalions in Kiev.

UNITS	QUARTERING
12. MOSCOW INSPECTION	
Yekaterinoslav Cuirassiers	In Volokolamsk.
Military Order Cuirassiers	In Orël.
Astrakhan Grenadiers	In Kashira.
Navaginsk Musketeers	In Tver.
Tambov Musketeers	In Yaroslavl & Kostroma.
Ukraine Musketeers	In Pereyaslavl-Zalesskaya.
Schlüsselburg Musketeers	In Mozhaysk.
Nasheburg Musketeers	In Kaluga & Tula.
Orël Musketeers	In Serpukhov.
Saratov Musketeers	In Ryazan.
Staroskol Musketeers	In Bolkhov.
Olonetsk Musketeers	In Belëv.
Rechenberg's Garrison	Four battalions in Moscow.
Vyrubov's Garrison	One T.E. battalion in Tver.
Count Lieven 1 st 's Garrison	Two battalions in Arkhangelsk, one T.E. battalion each in Volodimir [Vladimir] & Nizhny-Novgorod.
Lebedev's Garrison	One battalion each in Tambov & Voronezh.
Korf's Garrison	One battalion in Saratov.

UNITS	QUARTERING
13. ORENBURG INSPECTION	
Orenburg Dragoons	Kazan Governorate: staff & one squadron in Starosheshminsk; one squadron each in Bilyarsk, Starosheshminsk, Novosheshminsk, Zainsk & Alexandrovka.
Rylsk Musketeers	In Orenburg, grenadier companies in Seytovsky foothills settlements.
Ufa Musketeers	In Ufa, grenadier companies in Zelair fortress.
Yekaterinburg Musketeers	Col-in-Chief's battalion in Yekaterinburg, three companies in Shartashsky, two in Berezovsky's factory, grenadier companies in Perm.
Lebedev's Garrison	Two battalions in Orenburg.

UNITS	QUARTERING
Pushchin 1 st 's Garrison	Two battalions in Kazan.
Korf's Garrison	One battalion each in Orskoy fortress, Kizilsky fortress & Zverinogolovsk fortress.
Barshchov's Garrison	One battalion each in Verkhneuralsk fortress and Troitsk fortress.
Zavalishin's Garrison	One T.E. battalion in Simbirsk [Ulyanovsk].

UNITS	QUARTERING
14. SIBERIA INSPECTION	
Siberia Dragoons	In fortresses: one squadron each in St Peter's, Poludennoy, Stanovoy, Kabaney & Presnogorkovskoy.
Irkutsk Dragoons	In outposts: one squadron each in Koryakovsk, Udinsk & Cherlakovsk. One squadron each in Yamyshevo fortress & Peshchany fort.
Shirvan Musketeers	Five companies in Omsk; one in Pokrovsk, one in Ochair outpost, one in Novy Derevno, one in Kalachinsk, one in Chernolutsk, a grenadier company in Melnishny redoubt, another in Nikolaev fortress.
Tomsk Musketeers	Seven companies in Barnaul; one in Chernovka, one in Beloyarsk, one in Povalikh, one in Kharykov & Davydov Lap, one in Kasmalinsk & Bykov.
Selenginsk Musketeers	Three companies in Ust-Kamenogorsk [Oskemen, Kazakhstan]; one in Praporshchikov, one in Verkhoulinsk, one in Sekisovsk, one in Bobrovskaya redoubt, one in Gluboky, one in Krasnoyarsk outpost; one grenadier company in Bukhtarm, another in Zevakino.
18 th Jägers ⁶	Two companies in Zhelezinsky fortress; one in Dolomsk, one in Seniyarsk, one in Lebyazhy, one in Chernoretsk, one in Chernoyarsk, one in Osmorizhsky outpost at Glukhovsky redoubt, one in Pyatoryzhsky fort.
19 th Jägers	Staff & two companies in Presnovsk fortress; one in Lebyazhy fortress at Ishim, one in Skopin, one in Gagarievsk, one in Sibirsk, one in Peshchany redoubt, one in Senzharsk, two in Presnogorkovsk.
Pushchin 1 st 's Garrison	Two battalions in Tobolsk.
Retyunsky's Garrison	One battalion each in Tara & Omsk. Two companies in Zhelezinsky fortress & three in Yamyshevsky fortress. Four companies in Biysk fortress & one in Kuznetsk.
Barshchov's Garrison	One battalion each in St Peter's fortress & Semipolatinsk fortress [Semey, Kazakhstan].
Lezzano's Garrison	Two battalions in Irkutsk; another at the textile mill near Irkutsk with two grenadier companies in Nerchinsk. Two battalions in Selenginsk.
Somov's Garrison	One battalion in Kamchatka.

6 18th Jägers quartering in the Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 19951 is incomplete - there are only nine companies in total. Assuming that this was a misprint, one company (the 10th) should probably be considered to have been in the Glukhovsky redoubt.

3. Compilation of the Initial Schedule of Forces by the Military Commission.

One of the first concerns of the Military Commission was, of course, “to deal quickly with the abhorrently cramped deployment of forces” which had been concentrated into three armies at the conclusion of the previous reign... Ten days after the establishment of the Commission, a schedule had already been issued and a most comprehensive report had been submitted. This schedule was the first in the reign of Emperor Alexander I,⁷ and therefore provided accurate data on the number of regular units.

In view of the fact that the most humble report by the Military Commission provides explanations for the schedule, and also indicates the need for some reforms, we quote it in full:⁸

“From the present disposition of Your Imperial Majesty’s forces which are located close to the borders, proposed by General-of-Infantry and Vice-President of the State Military Collegium, Lamb, the Commission, seeing in conjunction that the procurement of items necessary for provisioning reaches extortionate costs and is an obvious loss to the treasury, and without anticipating any specific requirement that such an approach to the borders by them might be necessary at the present time; having been guided by the duty of discovering the most convenient and most appropriate means for the service in general, it has been found necessary to deal quickly with the abhorrently cramped deployment of forces and, as a result, have the good fortune to submit the schedule on the assignment of quarters for both field and garrison units, according to the actual Inspections in which they are located, to Your Imperial Majesty for Supreme approval.

With this schedule, the Commission had in mind: firstly, such that the forward elements remain in decent locations on the borders and, if necessary, may be quickly and capably reinforced, or, depending on the circumstances and need, may be relieved by others; secondly, to reduce the costs required for provisioning through a wide dispersal of accommodation at this time, and to provide the Provisioning Department with the opportunity to make procurements at standardised prices, both in the appointed quarters and during the troop movements currently proposed, as may be convenient at the time. Thirdly, to provide a means to refresh the field force, placing only the headquarters of regiments or battalions in the cities, while companies are placed in their vicinity in villages, thus simultaneously relieving the cities from the billeting of entire regiments.

Notwithstanding, although the Caucasus, Orenburg and Siberia Inspections are included equally in the general schedule of quartering due to the convenience of protecting the borders and in the first of these, the forces accommodated in Georgia are assigned in accordance with a report from the State Military Collegium regarding their locations by their Lieutenant General Knorrning, however, agreeing with the opinion of His Imperial Highness the Sovereign Tsarevich Konstantin Pavlovich, taking courage from the most merciful discretion of Your Imperial Majesty, the Commission presents: would it not be pleasing to delegate authority for troop movements to the Inspectors in these three Inspections, in accordance with their best consideration for local convenience, and for the peaceful or restless behaviour of the various Tatar and Kirghiz-Kazakh hordes bordering the lines and their leaders, such that, according to anticipated need, they could either prevent their entry or swiftly evacuate the valuables that attract these uncivilised peoples, who suddenly race across Russian frontiers and abduct the inhabitants and their property.

With regard to the Garrisons, when listing them according to the Inspections, appropriate to the local situation, the Commission finds it prudent to leave only those that contain more than one battalion and are located in the same fortress or city as regiments, while the rest are re-designated as battalions on the assumption that their remoteness from the appointed regimental commanders might produce delay and nonsense in duty orders; and as a result of this, all garrison regiments and battalions, remaining in the locations they currently occupy, retain their place-names accordingly:

7 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 19951. See Appendix 3.

8 Archive of the Chancellery of the Ministry of War, Schedule of Supreme Decrees etc. Book No. 138, schedule No. 2. Most humble report by the Military Commission, dated 3 [15] July 1801.

excluding the battalion located in Nikolaev, which, in accordance with the opinion of His Imperial Highness, the Sovereign Tsarevich Konstantin Pavlovich in arguing for the placement of a field regiment there, has proposed to the Commission to transfer it to Ochakov, such that, while occupying this post, they could detach one or two companies to Kinburn, depending on need. The Arkhangelsk Regiment with its grenadier companies, which, due to their remoteness, cannot conveniently be assigned to any Inspection, the Commission proposes to leave the Arkhangelsk Military Governor in command, regardless of Inspection, and if Your Imperial Majesty, is pleased to honour this Most Humble Report with Supreme Confirmation, the Commission dares to ask for an order to the *Zemstvo* [territorial militia] authorities; such that they are to make advance orders in the preparation of quarters assigned to the troops and, on the occasion of their movement, to assist the Provisioning Department in the necessary preparation of rations and forage, in accordance with a liaison with the head of that department.”⁹

Thus, preparations “for a breach of friendly relations with Britain” were cancelled, and the troops, which made up the three armies, were to become subordinate to the Inspections.

In view of the fact that “the schedule issued on 3 [15] July”¹⁰ concerns only cavalry and infantry, then, in order to complete the picture of the distribution of troops by Inspections, we will add to it the information available on the maps “with the disposition of Your Imperial Majesty troops by Inspections.”¹¹

By July 1801, there were 14 Inspections in total, of which 11 had foreign frontiers, while three Inspections were, as it were, in the second line.¹² The areas of the Inspection and their relative positions are shown in Diagram No.1, and therefore let us move on to reviewing the composition of the Inspections, which is given in the table below:

In July

	cuirassiers	hussars	dragoons	cossacks	others	grenadiers	musketeers	jägers	garrison regt/bn	garrison bns
1. Finland							3	2	3/7	3
2. St Petersburg	1					2	5		1/4	4
3. Livonia	2					2	6	1	2/7	3
4. Lithuania		1	1		1	1	6	4		
5. Brest	3	1			1		5	1		
6. Ukraine	1	1				2	2			
7. Dniester	1	2	1			2	7	5	1/2	1
8. Crimea			1				4	2	1/2	1
9. Caucasus			4			1	4	2	2/4	3
10. Smolensk			3			2	5			3
11. Kiev	3	3	2	1			7		1/2	

⁹ The original report was signed by members of the Military Commission and received Supreme approval by the Emperor on 7 [19] July, 1801.

¹⁰ Note: for some reason in the P.S.Z. the schedule was dated 3 [15] July, the date it was submitted for Supreme Consideration, it would be more correct to refer to it as 7 [19] July - the day the report was approved, together with the subsequent schedule.

¹¹ Military-Science Archive of the General Staff, III, No. 355.

¹² Second Line Inspections comprised: Smolensk, Kiev and Moscow.

12. Moscow	2					1	9		2/6	6
13. Orenburg			1				3		2/4	6
14. Siberia			2				3	2	3/7	7
TOTAL:	13	8	15	1	2	13	69	19	18/45	37
									82 bns	

In October

	cuirsassiers	hussars	dragoons	cossacks	others	grenadiers	musketeers	jägers	garrison regt/bn	garrison bns	artillery bns	garrison arty coys	pioneer coys	pontoon depots
1. Finland							3	2	3/7	3		6		
2. St Petersburg	1					2	5		1/4	4	3		2	1
3. Livonia			2			2	6	1	2/7	3	2		1	1
4. Lithuania		1	1		1	1	6	4			2			
5. Brest	1	1	2		1		5	1						
6. Ukraine		1	1			2	2							
7. Dniester	1	2	1			2	7	5	1/2	1	1	2	3	1
8. Crimea			1				4	2	1/2	1		3		
9. Caucasus			4			1	4	2	2/4	3	1			1
10. Smolensk			3			2	5			3			1	1
11. Kiev	1	3	4	1			7		1/2		2		2	1
12. Moscow	2					1	9		2/6	6	1		1	1
13. Orenburg			1				3		2/4	6	1			1
14. Siberia			2				3	2	3/7	7	1			
TOTAL:	6	8	22	1	2	13	69	19	18/45	37	14¹³	11	10	8
82 bns														

We see that there was no cavalry in the Finland Inspection; two Inspections had one regiment of cavalry each, while three Inspections had two cavalry regiments each; in the Brest, Lithuania and Ukraine Inspections, there were no garrison troops; in six Inspections there were no pontoon depots, in three there was no artillery and in eight there were no pioneer companies; garrison artillery companies were present in only three Inspections; there was one Inspection with 55 squadrons of cavalry (Kiev), and one with five squadrons (Orenburg); there was one with 45 battalions of infantry (Dniester), while one had 12 battalions (Ukraine). Overall, the composition of the Inspections was very diverse.

The need for a redistribution of forces among the Inspections, as already cited in the most humble report, was driven by the Military Commission as follows:

1. “such that the forward elements remain in decent locations on the borders and, if necessary,

13 One horse artillery battalion, three siege artillery battalions and ten field artillery battalions.

may be quickly and capably reinforced, or, depending on the circumstances and need, may be relieved by others;”

2. to reduce food costs “through a wide dispersal of accommodation;”
3. “to provide a means to refresh the field force,” by placing companies in the villages, and only the headquarters of the regiments in the cities, while the latter will thereby be “relieved from billeting.”

It subsequently appeared that this disposition was quite definitely also based on a combination of political and strategic considerations,¹⁴ which were somewhat muted in the report by the Military Commission of 3 [15] July, 1801.

4. Disbandment of half of the Cuirassier Regiments.

In the table in the preceding article, we notice that by October 1801, the number of cuirassier regiments had decreased from 13 to six, and the number of dragoon regiments had increased by seven, from 15 regiments to 22 regiments.

Why did this increase in dragoons occur?

An explanation of this issue is of particular interest to historians of Russian cavalry, and a quite definitive answer is given in one ‘memo’ and a ‘report’ by the Military Commission.

The fact is that in order to supplement the original programme, the Commission dealt with various ‘memos,’ ‘arguments,’ and so on, related either to the 11 ‘main subjects’ of its activity, or in general regarding any other issue.

Among such ‘memos,’ we highlight one dated 1 [13] July, 1801, Privy Councillor Troshchinsky forwarded the memo to the Military Commission by Supreme Command,¹⁵ “containing comments on arming the troops, maintaining and clothing them according to three fundamental principles, that is, use to the service, benefit to the troops and savings for the State Treasury.”¹⁶

Of the ten articles that made up the note, the following articles should be taken into consideration:

1. Regarding the factors that prompted a reduction in the number of cuirassier regiments.¹⁷

“Although it is undeniable that cuirassier regiments are needed in the army; nevertheless, the calculation of their number and the type of armament should be consistent with the threat originating from neighbouring states; and while Russia in the past century has fought against Turkey more than against its other neighbours, where infantry and lightly armed cavalry are more common; besides, their most difficult and costly maintenance must be mentioned, it would not be excessive to reduce the original 13 cuirassier regiments to five, while converting the remainder into dragoons, by which means the State Treasury could save 60,950 roubles, 8 kopeks annually.”

2. On the role of dragoon regiments.¹⁸

“Experience has shown that a rapid deployment of troops during wartime in order to capture a favourable position, or to forestall the enemy in some defile, often also delivers victory in other eventualities, and to that end, the multiplication of the number of dragoon regiments, as mounted infantry, is apparently necessary, while noting that they are mounted on strong horses that can easily withstand long marches.”

3. Proposal for the establishment of mounted jägers.¹⁹

14 See subsequent article on Rusanov’s “piece” and the description on the event of military *opolchenie* (five assumptions).

15 This note was unsigned and the question of who the author was, due to a lack of information, has to be left open ended.

16 Archive of the Chancellery of the Ministry of War. Record 1st Supreme Decrees etc. Book No. 138, listing No. 3.

17 Memo, article 2.

18 Memo, article 5.

“In accordance with the content of article 5 (on the role of dragoons), it seems useful to acknowledge the introduction of horse grenadiers and mounted jägers; and selecting them for their skills and not simply through their designation alone, while training these latter most importantly in aimed fire.”

4. Division of cavalry into light and heavy.²⁰

“Since, in addition to the cuirassiers, cavalry could and should be more lightly armed, it is necessary for them to be seated on hussar saddles for their ease...”²¹

5. Guidelines for the quartering of forces.²²

“It is necessary to consider the quartering of regiments, and the cavalry even more so in the grain-growing governorates in order to make savings for the treasury: bearing in mind, however, their distance from the borders to which, at the first request, they might reach.”

6. Regarding the ‘multiplication’ of horse artillery.²³

“To what extent the sensible benefit that horse artillery brings in war has become known to the whole world from the ten-year war with the French, and therefore it seems it would not be excessive to multiply it in our army and form four battalions each of five companies, of which two battalions should be located on the Dniester, one in Volhynia and one in Lithuania.”

Indeed, the Military Commission took note of the articles on cuirassiers and dragoons, and on 20 July [1 August], 1801, the report was granted Supreme approval,²⁴ “in order to avert the excessive costs needed to maintain them to no particular advantage, 13 cuirassier regiments are to be reduced to just six, namely: the two Leib regiments, Military Order, Yekaterinoslav, Malorossia and Glukhov, regarding whose priority over the suitability of others in this arm of service, His Imperial Highness Sovereign Tsarevich Konstantin Palovich, as Inspector of the Cavalry, deigned to testify.” The remaining seven: Kazan, Riga, Starodub, Kiev, Chernigov, Tver and Kharkov were “amalgamated into the dragoons” (converted).²⁵ Thus, in just ten days part of the ‘Memo’ had been realised; the rest of the ‘articles’ served as guidance.

5. The work by the Military Commission on the drafting of new establishments.

Turning to consideration of the initial programme issued to the Military Commission, we note that in administrative terms, the first three ‘main subjects’ were of particular importance, namely: firstly, calculating the strength of the forces and their quartering, based to some extent on strategic considerations; secondly, calculating the number of troops according to their various arms and designations; thirdly, calculating the number of men in each military unit establishment and, “should these be increased?”

The work of the Military Commission was expressed through the publication of new Statutes, which had been compiled over several years, as well as through the consideration of planning for the eventuality of a military opolchenie, i.e. planning the nature of mobilisation.

In view of the fact that the planning was carried out in relation to the new Statutes, then we will consider the latter first.

19 Memo, article 10.

20 Memo, article 7.

21 Resulting in a saving of 10,163 roubles, 15½ kopeks.

22 Memo, article 2.

23 Memo article 9.

24 The original report to that book No. 138, listing No. 5.

25 This is also mentioned in the listing of regiments according to seniority of their formation in 1812. Archive of the Historical Museum of Artillery, business of the staff of the general feldzeug, serial No. 1091, dated 4 [16] July 1812, No. 8556.

On 31 July [12 August] 1801, the following Statutes were granted Supreme approval:²⁶

1. For cuirassier regiments.
2. For replacement squadrons in each cuirassier regiment.
3. For dragoon regiments.
4. For musketeer regiments.
5. For garrison battalions on field establishment.
6. For four-company battalions on territorial establishment.
7. For independent invalid companies.

On 2 [14] February 1802, came the Statutes for:²⁷

1. Hussar regiments.
2. A pair of replacement squadrons for each hussar regiment.
3. Jäger regiments.

On 30 April [12 May] 1802, came Statutes and establishment tables for: cuirassiers, dragoons, hussars, grenadiers, musketeers, jägers and independent garrison battalions on field or territorial establishments.²⁸

On 29 December 1802 [10 January 1803], came Statutes for Lifeguard regiments: Preobrazhensky, Semenovskiy, Izmailovskiy, Lifeguard Horse, Lifeguard Hussars, and the Lifeguard Jäger Battalion.²⁹ Thus, in 1½ years, 24 statutes had been drafted,³⁰ comprising those parts of the forces that made up the Regular Army, but in addition to this, other statutes were published, which we will touch on below.

26 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVI, No. 19960 and Vol. XLIII, Part II, Book of Statutes, of the same No.

27 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20135 and Vol. XLIII, Part II, Book of Statutes, of the same No.

28 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20252 and Vol. XLIII, Part II, Book of Statutes, of the same No.

29 Complete Collection of Laws, Vol. XXVII, No. 20570 and Vol. XLIII, Part II, Book of Statutes, of the same No.

30 Of which all those of 1801 were revised in 1802, some according to His Imperial Majesty's Supreme Amendments.