The Defensive Strength of Russia

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THE DEFENSIVE STRENGTH OF RUSSIA.¹

Compiled by Major MAURICE RECH, Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Army. Translated by Major C. E. DE LA POER BERESFORD, Wilts Regiment.

General Officers on Service at St. Petersburg.

War Minister: General (of infantry) Wannowski.

Adlatus and Private Secretary: General (of infantry) Durnovo.

Chief of the General Staff: General (of infantry) Obrutsheff.

Adlatus: Lieutenant-General Welitschko.

Inspector-General of the Artillery: H.I.H. Grand Duke Michael (Field Marshal).

Inspector-General of the Cossacks (Ataman): H.I.H. Grand Duke Nicholas Alexandrovitch (Czarewitch).

Director of Technical Administration: Major-General Saboltkin.

Inspector-General of Rifle Battalions: General (of infantry) von Nothbeck.

Inspector-General of Cavalry: H.I.H. Grand Duke Michael (Field Marshal).

Governors-General of the most important Governments.

Warsaw: General (of cavalry) von Gourko, also Commander-in-Chief of the Troops, and, in case of war, Presumptive Chief of the Forces in Russian Poland.

Moscow: H.I.H. Major-General Grand Duke Sergius.

Kieff: General (of infantry) Ignatieff.

Caucasus: General (of cavalry) Scheremetieff, also Commander-in-Chief of the Troops.

Military District Commanders (the most important).

St. Petersburg: H.I.H. Lieutenant-General Grand Duke Vladimir.

Warsaw: General (of cavalry) von Gourko.

Wilna: General (of infantry) Panetski II.

Kieff: General (of infantry) von Dragomiroff.

Moscow: General (of artillery) Kostanda.

¹ From the "Militär Zeitung," February 21, 1892.

Army Corps Commanders.

Guard Corps	St. Petersburg: Gen. (cav.) von Manse
Grenadier Corps	Moscow: Lieut.-Gen. Malachoff.
1st Army Corps	St. Petersburg: Lieut.-Gen. Daniloff.
2nd " "	Wilna: Gen. (cav.) Baron Driesen.
3rd " "	Riga: Gen. (inf.) Alchasoff.
4th " "	Minsk: Gen. (inf.) Petruschewski.
5th " "	Warsaw: Gen. (art.) Sviestunoff.
6th " "	Warsaw: Gen. (inf.) Kulgatschewski.
7th " "	Sevastopol: Lieut.-Gen. Janowski.
8th " "	Odessa: Gen. (of engineers) Röhrberg.
9th " "	Kieff: Lieut.-Gen. Övander.
10th " "	Charkoff: Lieut.-Gen. Winberg.
11th " "	Zitomir: Lieut.-Gen. Prince Schachovskoje.
12th " "	Uman: Lieut.-Gen. Sverjeff.
13th " "	Moscow: Lieut.-Gen. Igelström.
14th " "	Lublin: Lieut.-Gen. Krschivoblotski.
15th " "	Warsaw: Lieut.-Gen. Mirkoritsch.
16th " "	Vitebsk: Lieut.-Gen. Richter.
17th " "	N. Novgorod: Lieut.-Gen. Saljesoff.
Caucasus Army Corps	Tiflis: Lieut.-Gen. Count Tschavtschavadse.
Finland	{ Commander-in-Chief, Gen. (inf.) Count Heyden.
	{ Chief of the Staff, Maj.-Gen. Kaulbars.

Inspectors-General of Fortresses.

Group I: Lieutenant-General Anossoff; including the fortresses Bobruisk, Brest-Litovsk, Düna, Dünamünde, Gonioms, Ivanogorod, Kars, Kertsch, and Petshersk in Kieff.

Group II: Lieutenant-General Pavloff; including the fortresses Korno, Kronstadt, Michaelovo, Novo-Georgievsk, Odessa, Ossowez, Otschakov, Poti, St. Petersburg (St. Peter and St. Paul Fort), Sevastopol, Sveaborg, Wyborg.

Group III: Major-General Stepanoff. The fortified places Achal-zich, Alexandropol, Ardahan, Batoum, Bender.

DISTRIBUTION OF TROOPS.

1st Military District, St. Petersburg.

Commander, H.I.H. Grand Duke Vladimir, &c.

Guard Corps, consisting of—

1st Guard Cavalry Division (2 Guard Don Cossack regiments, 1 Ural Cossack sotnia, 4 Guard Cuirassier regiments), together 25 squadrons, of which 9 now in Warsaw.

2nd Guard Cavalry Division (7 regiments in 3 brigades), 42 squadrons.

Guard Rifle Brigade.

1st and 2nd Guard Infantry Divisions.

1st and 2nd Guard Artillery Brigades.

All the above, with the exception of 9 squadrons in Warsaw, in St. Petersburg.

1st Army Corps, St. Petersburg District :—

1 cavalry division at Twer. 4 sotnias of Kuban and Terek Cossacks, of which 2 sotnias at Gatschina as escort to the Emperor.

37th Infantry Division and the Guard Horse Artillery Brigade (St. Petersburg). 22nd Infantry Division, 22nd and 37th Artillery Brigades and 1st Reserve Artillery Brigade (Novgorod). 23rd Infantry Division and 23rd Artillery Brigade at Reval and Gatschina. 1st Sapper (Engineer) Brigade, and 11 infantry reserve battalions, St. Petersburg: together numbering

95 battalions,
62 squadrons,
6 horse artillery batteries,
36 field artillery batteries.

IInd Military District, Finland.

Commander, General Adjutant and Infantry General Count Heyden, &c.

19th Don Cossack Regiment, Abo.

24th Infantry Division

24th Artillery Brigade

4 cadre infantry battalions

9 rifle battalions: together numbering

29 battalions,
6 squadrons,
6 batteries.

IIIrd Military District, Wilna.

Commander, General (of infantry) von Ganetzki.

2nd Army Corps, Wilna: consisting of the 2nd Cavalry Division (Suwalki) at present in Wilna; 26th Infantry Division and 26th Artillery Brigade (Grodno); 27th Infantry Division and 27th Artillery Brigade (Wilna). 28th Infantry Division (Dünaburg) belongs now to the 3rd Army Corps (Riga). 28th Artillery Brigade (Witebsk) belongs now to the 3rd Army Corps (Riga).

3rd Army Corps (Riga): consisting of the 3rd Cavalry Division and 25th Infantry Division (Kovno), belongs now to the newly-formed 16th Army Corps. 29th Infantry Division and 29th Artillery Brigade in Riga. 25th Artillery Brigade in Wilkomir, belongs now to the newly-formed 16th Army Corps.

4th Army Corps (Minsk): consisting of the 4th Cavalry Division in Bijalstock, 5th Rifle Brigade (Wilna), transferred to Suwalki. 30th, 41st (belongs now to the 16th Army Corps), and 47th Reserve Infantry Divisions, 30th and 41st (now in 16th Army Corps) Artillery Brigade (Minsk). 16th Infantry Division (Mogileff), transferred to Bijalstock and Wolkovski. 45th Reserve Infantry Division (Dünaburg). 46th Reserve Infantry Division (Wilna). 16th Artillery Brigade (Gomely), transferred to Bijalstock and Wolkovski. 2nd Engineers and Railway Brigade (Riga), transferred to Wilna.

16th Army Corps (Witebsk): consisting of 25th Infantry Division and 25th Artillery Brigade (Dünaburg). 41st Infantry Division (Mogileff). 41st Artillery Brigade (Gomel).

This is a newly-formed Army Corps.

Strength of the whole military district, Wilna, in 1891 :—

70 squadrons,
156 battalions,
56 batteries.

IVth Military District, Warsaw.

Commander: General (of cavalry) von Gourko.

3rd Guard, Cavalry Brigade, Warsaw.

3rd Guard, Infantry Division, Warsaw.

3rd Guard, Artillery Brigade, Warsaw.

5th Army Corps (Warsaw): consisting of the 5th Cavalry Division (in Wloclavsk), 7th Infantry Division, 7th Artillery Brigade (Radom), 10th Infantry Division (Warsaw), 10th Artillery Brigade (Lodz).

6th Army Corps (Warsaw): consists of the Kuban Cossack Division of Warsaw. 6th Cavalry Division, 4th Infantry Division (Lomza). 6th Infantry Division (Plock). 8th Infantry Division, Warsaw (belongs since 1889 to the 15th Army Corps). 4th Artillery Brigade (Ostrog). 6th Artillery Division (Pultusk), transferred to Warsaw in 1889. 8th Artillery Brigade (Lodz), transferred to the 15th Army Corps in 1889.

14th Army Corps (Lublin): consisting of the 14th Cavalry Division (Censtochau), transferred to Kielzo in 1889. Don Cossack Cavalry Division (Zamosk), belongs to 15th Army Corps since 1889. 1st Rifle Brigade at Wloclavsk. 2nd Rifle Brigade (Censtochau). 17th Infantry Division (Siedlec), transferred to Lublin and Wlodova in 1889. 18th Infantry Division (Lublin). 17th Artillery Brigade (Bjela), transferred to Lublin and Wlodova. 18th Artillery Brigade (Lublin). 4th Engineer Brigade (Warsaw). 16 reserve infantry cadre battalions, which in case of war would form

The 48th Infantry Division at Warsaw,

49th	"	"	Novo-Georgievsk,
50th	"	"	Lublin, and
51st	"	"	Brest-Litovski.

15th Army Corps, Warsaw: lately formed from parts of the old 15th Corps (Kazan district) and the 6th Corps, consisting of—

The Don Cossack Division, Samostje.

13th Army Cavalry Division, Lublin.

2nd Infantry Troop Division, Brest-Litovski.

2nd Artillery Brigade, Bjela.

8th Infantry Troop Division, Warsaw.

8th Artillery Brigade, Lowitsch.

Grand total of the IVth Warsaw Military District; including the changes above noted, which constitute a reinforcement, since 1888, of 30 battalions, 278 squadrons, and 5 batteries:—

176 battalions.

6 technical battalions.

134 squadrons.

60 batteries.

Vth Military District, Kieff.

Commander: General-Adjutant and General (of infantry)
Radetzki.

9th Army Corps, Kieff. This corps has been lately formed from parts of the 9th Corps (Orel) and the 12th Corps, and moved to Kieff; it now consists of—

The 9th Army Cavalry Division, Romni.

5th Army Infantry Division, Tschernigoff.

5th Army Artillery Brigade, Nieschin.

33rd Army Infantry Division, Kieff.

33rd Army Artillery Brigade, Kieff.

3rd Engineer Brigade, Kieff.

4 reserve battalions (forming 55th Reserve
Division), Kursk.

10th Army Corps, Kharkoff. This corps has been lately formed from the old 10th Corps, and transferred to the Kieff Military District; it consists of—

The 10th Army Cavalry Division, Kharkoff.

9th Army Infantry Division, Poltawa.

9th Army Artillery Brigade, Poltawa.

31st Infantry Division, Kharkoff.

31st Artillery Brigade, Bielgorod.

4 reserve battalions to form 54th Reserve Division.

11th Army Corps, Zitomir, consisting of—

The 11th Cavalry Division, Dobno.

11th Infantry Division, Luck.

32nd Infantry Division, Zitomir.

11th Artillery Brigade, Rovno.

32nd Artillery Brigade, Berditscheff.

12th Army Corps, Kieff, consists of—

The 12th Cavalry Division, Staff in Kieff, now in Winniza; the 4 regiments of this Cavalry Division were moved so far back as 1888 to the Austrian frontier, between Troskuroff and Kameniec-Podolsk.

The 3rd Rifle Brigade, Tulcin.

12th Infantry Division, Miczibuzic.

19th Infantry Division, Uman.

8 reserve infantry cadre battalions, to form in war-time, the 52nd Infantry Division at Kieff, and the 53rd Infantry Division at Winniza.

The 12th Artillery Brigade, Winniza.

19th Artillery Brigade, Smiela.

3rd Engineer Brigade, Kieff.

Thus, the grand total of the Kieff Military District, which in 1888 was 76 battalions, 48 squadrons, and 4 horse and 24 field batteries, is now, 1891-92,

156 battalions,

70 squadrons,

63 batteries;

or has been nearly doubled.

Vith Military District, Odessa.

7th Army Corps, Sevastopol, consists of—

The 7th Cavalry Division, Elizabethgrad.

13th Infantry Division, Sineropol.

34th Infantry Division, Ekaterinoslav.

13th Artillery Brigade, Sevastopol.

34th Artillery Brigade, Kherson.

8th Army Corps, Odessa, formed of—

The 8th Cavalry Division, Kischeneff.

4th Rifle Brigade, Taganrog.

14th Infantry Division, Kischeneff.

15th " " Odessa.

Twelve infantry reserve cadre battalions, forming, in case of war four reserve divisions:—

The 50th Infantry Division, Odessa.

61st " " Nicholaieff.

62nd " " Sevastopol.

14th Artillery Brigade, Kischeneff.

15th " " Wosnosensk.

5th Reserve Artillery Brigade, Taganrog.

5th Engineer Brigade, Odessa.

Grand total Military District, Odessa—

86 battalions.
48 squadrons.
4 H.A. batteries.
30 field batteries.

VIIIth Military District, Kharkoff.

Broken up in 1889, and partially incorporated in the Vth, or Kieff, Military District.

9th Army Corps, Orel, consisted of—

The 9th Cavalry Division, Romni.
5th Infantry Division, Cernizoff.
36th " " Orel.
5th Artillery Brigade, Nieschin.
36th " " Mcensk.

10th Army Corps, Kharkoff, consisted of—

The 10th Cavalry Division, Kugnieff.
9th Infantry Division, Poltawa.
31st " " Kharkoff.
9th Artillery Brigade, Poltawa.
31st " " Bielgorod.
4th Reserve Artillery Brigade, Kursk.

Twelve infantry and reserve cadre battalions, forming, in case of war, the 57th, 58th, 59th Infantry Divisions, Charkoff, Kursk, Orel, respectively.

Grand total since the transfers and reduction of 1888:—

76 battalions.
48 squadrons.
4 H.A. batteries.
30 field batteries.

N.B.—Thus it will be seen that the increase in the Vth Military District, Kieff, has been chiefly carried out at the expense of the VIIIth Military District, Kharkoff.—[TRANSLATOR.]

VIIIth Military District, Moscow.

Commander H.I.H. Grand Duke Sergius, &c.

Grenadier Corps at Moscow, consists of—

The 1st Grenadier Division, Moscow.
2nd " " Kaluga, now in Moscow.
3rd " " Tambor, now in Moscow.

1st Artillery Brigade, Moscow.
 2nd " " Kaluga.
 3rd " " Rijazan.
 1st Cavalry Division, Moscow.

13th Army Corps, Moscow, consisting of—

The 13th Cavalry Division, Rijazan, now in Lublin with 15th Corps.

1st Infantry Division, Moscow.

3rd " " N. Novgorod, sent to 17th Corps.

35th " " Jaroslav, sent to 17th Corps.

1st Artillery Brigade, Moscow, now at Wiasma.

3rd " " Paulovski, sent to 17th Corps.

35th " " Rostov, sent to 17th Corps.

3rd Reserve Artillery Brigade, Smolensk.

2nd " " " Serpuchoff.

Twenty infantry reserve cadre battalions, forming, in case of war, the following reserve divisions, viz. :—

56th Division, Moscow; 57th Division, Vladimir; and the 58th Division, Orel.

17th Army Corps, Nishni-Novgorod, newly formed, commanded by Lieutenant-General Saljesoff, consists of—

The 3rd Infantry Division, N. Novgorod.

35th " " Jaroslav.

3rd Artillery Brigade, Paulovsk.

35th " " Rostoff.

Four reserve cadre battalions, forming, in war time, the 59th Reserve Division, Jaroslav.

N.B.—This army corps is nearly entirely formed of transfers from the 13th Moscow Army Corps.

Grand total VIIIth Military District, Moscow, in 1891 :—

132 battalions.

24 squadrons.

56 batteries.

IXth Military District, Kazan.

Commander, General-Adjutant, and General (of infantry)
 Meschtschérinoff.

15th Army Corps, Kazan, formed in 1888, but now mostly transferred to the IVth Military District, Warsaw, consists of—

The Astrakhan Cossack Cavalry Regiment, Kazan, now in Astrakhan.

Sixteen sotnias Orenburg Cossacks with two horse artillery Cossack batteries, Orenburg.

2nd Infantry Division, Kazan.

40th " " Ssaratoff.

Twelve infantry reserve cadre battalions to form, in case of war, the—

Kuban Artillery Brigade, Ekaterinodat.

Caucasus Engineer Brigade, Tiflis.

2 Cossack rifle battalions and 18 reserve battalions.

Grand total of the XIth Military District, Caucasus :—

Grand total, 1888 :—

120 battalions,	
102 squadrons,	
6 H.A. }	batteries,
40 field }	

and in 1891, after the reinforcement of the Vth Military District, Kieff, from the Caucasus :

100 battalions,
90 squadrons,
42 batteries.

Fortress Artillery for the whole Empire.

This force especially told off for the attack and defence of fortresses is thus distributed divided into battalions :

6	battalions in Kronstadt.
6	" " Modlin.
2	" " Sveaborg.
2	" " Wyborg.
1	" " Dünamünde.
4	" " Dünaburg (siege train).
4	" " Brest-Litovski (siege train).
4	" " Ivangorod (siege train).
3	" " Kieff.
2	" " Ostchakoff.
1	" " Bobruisk.
3	" " Warsaw.
1	" " Bender.
3	" " Kertsch.
1	" " Kars.
1	" " Batoum.
1	" " Alexandropol.
1	" " Daghestan.
1	" " Poti.
1	" " Michaelovsk.

—
Total 48 battalions.

XIIIth Military District, Turkestan.

Its establishment consists of—

46 Cossack Cavalry Sotnias: of these, however, 18 squadrons were sent to Europe in 1889, so there remain—

28 Sotnias Cossack Cavalry.

3 Brigades of Rifles, at Askabad and Merv.

20 Line Battalions, for Tashkend, Samarkand, and Kerki.

3 Local Battalions.

$\frac{1}{2}$ Engineer Battalion.

2 Railway Battalions, Tashkend, now at Kezil-Arvat and Samarkand.

2 Horse Artillery } Batteries.

1 Mountain

1 Turkestan Artillery Brigade.

Grand total:

32 battalions (the establishment being $34\frac{1}{2}$).

28 (of an establishment of 46) sotnias.

3 H.A. batteries.

10 field batteries.

N.B. From this district 18 squadrons and $2\frac{1}{2}$ battalions have been directed westwards.—[TRANSLATOR.]

SIBERIA.

XIIIth Military District, West Siberia.

16 Cossack Sotnias of Cavalry in Dscharkend and Wierni.

8 Line Battalions.

3 Local Battalions.

1 Company Engineers.

1 Mountain Mounted Battery.

1 West Siberian Artillery Brigade.

Total:

$11\frac{1}{2}$ battalions.

16 sotnias of cavalry.

4 field } batteries.

1 mountain

XIVth and XVth. Military Districts, Irkutsk and Amur.

9 Cossack sotnias of cavalry.

2 Brigades of Rifles (transferred to Europe in 1889).

2 Cossack infantry battalions.

6 infantry battalions.

2 sotnias Amur infantry.

- 6 infantry reserve cadre battalions.
- 1 East Siberian Artillery Brigade of 4 batteries.
- 2 Cossack H.A. batteries.
- 1 Company Engineers.

Total 12 battalions (the Rifles deducted).
 9 sotnias, cavalry.
 6 batteries.

Summary.—The whole length of the German and Austrian frontiers, from Libau to Kameniec-Podolsk, is watched by a continuous chain of Russian Cavalry Corps, belonging to the centres—Warsaw, Wilna, Kieff, which shelter Moscow and Odessa. Thus the enormous force of seventeen Russian Army Corps is grouped in a space more than twice as large as our whole Fatherland (Austria-Hungary).

There are now in the Military District of Wilna four Army Corps, as against three in the spring of 1888. In the Warsaw District, a portion of the Guard Corps, and behind this, four more Army Corps; so that the available force in this district is stronger by:

24 battalions,
 27 squadrons, and
 4 batteries,

than it was in 1888.

The reinforcement of the Vth Military District, Kieff, is most striking: until 1888 there were only 2 corps in it; now the VIIth Military District, Kharkoff, is incorporated with it, and 20 battalions and 12 squadrons have been transferred to it from the Caucasus; so that now the Kieff District comprises 4 Army Corps, which constitutes a reinforcement here alone of:

80 battalions,
 22 squadrons, and
 35 batteries.

The Military District of Moscow receives a new corps, and now numbers 24 battalions and 4 batteries more than in 1888; whilst 24 squadrons have been sent from it westwards.

From these statements it can be understood that the tendency of the Russian War Ministry since 1888 has been to bring successive bodies of troops from the eastern provinces, so as to strengthen very considerably the military districts which lie near the German and Austrian frontiers.