

ARMY LISTS

for
LION OF THE NORTH & HAIDUK AND RAJTAR
by Michael Peters

Anyone who claims to know the precise army organization of 17th Century armies seldom know what they are talking about. While the organization of units on the level of regiment, batallion and squadron and below as a rule was quite well regulated, larger corps and armies were always put together on a ad-hoc basis. So the variations were often large, with the tactical habits, economic resources and normal attrition of war together shaping the army more than the simple demands of the commander or the whims the military reformer. This does not mean that you are not able to discern national patterns and recurring proportions, to the contrary. It is simply a warning, not to look upon the organization of a 17th Century Army as you would on its 20th Century counterpart. These army lists should therefore not be treated as a rigid system. Instead they are supposed to be an aid for the gamer to build an army that in a reasonable way will resemble it's historical counterpart.

In these lists the armies are first divided into the subcategories of Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery, given as percentages of the total force. Each category is then further broken down into percentages of different unit types. The player can customize his army within the ranges given, but off course only as long as the total score - both in the army and in the subcategories - does not exceed 100%. Single percentage points "left over" may be transferred to another unit type within the same subcategory, but not to another subcategory (fractions of units are rounded up). The most common army Discipline Levels are also given, but the players may, using historical arguments, shift these one step up or down. All Armies have 1 Supply Train or Camp, and 1 General.

ARMY LISTS FOR THE THIRTY YEARS WAR 1618-1648

THE SWEDISH ARMY

During the Early stages of the Swedish intervention.

Discipline: Steady

40-60% Infantry

40-50% Pikes

50-60% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

80-90% Regular Cavalry

0-10% Reiters

10-20% Dragoons

10-20% Artillery

20-30% Heavy Guns

70-80% Medium or Regimental Guns

Comment: The Swedish Reiters - Cuirassiers really - were phased out pretty soon after the landing in 1631, and given lighter equipment and mostly converted into Regular Cavalry. This type of Cavalry fired off their pistols in the initial stage of the attack, but then used their swords in direct attack, which regularly defeated the German Reiters, who at this stage often were outgunned by the detachments of musketeers supporting the Swedish horse. (When it comes to esoterica like Laplanders riding raindeers, such units were never used in Germany, and not anywhere else for all that matters.)

THE SWEDISH ARMY

During the Later stages of the War.

Discipline: Steady or Regular

40-60% Infantry

30% Pikes

70% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

10-20% Regular Cavalry

50-60% Reiters

20-30% Dragoons

10% Artillery

Any combination of Medium or Regimental Guns

Comment: The proportion of horse to foot increased steadily as the War progressed. The reason was partly logistical: the generals soon found out - the hard way - that the mobile cavalymen could live off the land much more easily than the much more slowly moving infantry. In order to increase mobility, the number of heavy guns was also reduced in the Swedish Army. (Instead it relied on a sort of depot system, where most of the guns were stocked and later drawn, whenever a commander needed them. Commanders seldom took a full complement of guns with them on the march, which also reflects some of the warfare, which often degenerated into large scale raids.) But the guns were used in a more and more mobile manner. The shift from Regular Cavalry to Reiters may surprise some, but is a historical fact: more and more of the Swedish army consisted of German mercenaries, and they all the time preferred to fight with Pistols. Some national Swedish or Finnish units continued to charge with drawn swords, but it was actually regarded as something of an oddity by German Regiments towards the end of the War. The shifted proportions between pikemen and musketeers is a more well known fact.

THE IMPERIAL ARMY

During the Earlier stages of the War.

Discipline: Regular

40-60% Infantry

50% Pikes

50% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

20-30% Reiters

50-60% Dragoons

10-20% Light Horse

10-20% Artillery

Only Heavy Guns

Comment: This composition wants to reflect a tactical system that relied mainly on the Tercio type of Infantry formations, and whose cavalry was mainly equipped with arquebuses. So in a strict meaning, they were not Dragoon, as the majority of them never even contemplated fighting on foot.

THE IMPERIAL ARMY

During the Later stages of the War.

Discipline: Regular

40-60% Infantry

40-50% Pikes

50-60% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

60-70% Reiters

20-30% Dragoons
10-20% Light Horse

10-20% Artillery

40-60% Heavy Guns
40-60% Medium Guns

Comment: After the rough handling the Imperial Army received in the hands of the Swedes during the first years at Breitenfeld, it changed character quite a bit. The Tercios were more or less abandoned in favour of Brigade style of Linear formations, and after the battle of Lützen most of the cavalry equipped with arquebus was converted into Reiters.

THE BAVARIAN ARMY

During the Later stages of the War.

Discipline: Regular or Steady

40-50% Infantry

40-50% Pikes
50-60% Musketeers

50-60% Cavalry

60-70% Reiters
20-30% Dragoons

10% Artillery

Any combination of Light and Medium Guns

Comment: The Imperial Army was of course not the only force that confronted the Swedes, French and German protestants during the Thirty Years War. They always stood against an uneasy conglomerate of forces, of which the Imperial Army was but one, albeit the largest. The most important German ally of the Emperor was Bavaria, whose forces was said to be among the very best to be found in the Empire - especially the Bavarian cavalry was considered to be quite outstanding. Due to the geographical position of Bavaria, the bavarians were mainly involved in fighting the French, but especially during the later years they were also employed against the Swedes.

THE FRENCH ARMY

During the Later stages of the War.

Discipline: Regular

40-50% Infantry

40-50% Pikes
50-60% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

50-60% Reiters
20-30% Regular Cavalry
20-30% Dragoons

10-20% Artillery

20-30% Heavy Guns
30-40% Medium Guns
30-40% Light Guns

Comment: The stands of Regular Cavalry represent the so called "Bernhardines", German mercenaries originally commanded by the protestant prince Bernhard of Weimar, who fought with the French during the later years of the War. They were very good fighters, but notoriously unreliable, and they were involved in mass desertions and

troublesome mutinies. To simulate this, these stands are classed as "Unreliable", which means that the first time one of them is about to melee attack, roll 1d6: 1-2 = No stands of Regular Cavalry may melee attack for the rest of the game; 3-5 = All Stands of Regular Cavalry may melee attack as normal; 6 = All Stands of Regular Cavalry add 1d4 every time they melee attack until the end of the game.

ARMY LISTS FOR THE NORTHERN WAR 1648-1660

THE SWEDISH ARMY OF THE 1650's

During the Opening stages of the Invasion of Poland by Charles X Gustavus.

Discipline: Steady

40-60% Infantry

40-50% Pikes

50-60% Musketeers

40-50% Cavalry

80-90% Regular Cavalry

10-20% Dragoons

10-20% Artillery

20-30% Heavy Guns or Mortars

70-80% Medium or Regimental Guns

Comment: After the summer of 1655 the proportion of cavalry could be increased by 10%, and up to 20% of the total amount of Cavalry could then be be Pancerni or Cossacks, representing the Polish units that defected to the Swedes after their stunning initial successes (but who left later). This is a quite colourful alternative, representing an interesting mix of East and West.

THE SWEDISH ARMY OF THE 1650's

During the later stages of the War against Poland, Russia, Denmark and Brandenburg

Discipline: Steady or Regular

30-40% Infantry

50-60% Pikes

40-50% Musketeers

50-70% Cavalry

70-80% Regular Cavalry

20-30% Dragoons

10-20% Artillery

Medium or Regimental Guns in any combination

Comment: The changes reflect mainly two things. Firstly, that the independent use of Musketeers in support of the cavalry, in the style evolved during the Thirty Years War, was mainly discontinued, due to losses they suffered in the hands of the mobile Polish cavalry, and they were instead substituted for or converted into Dragoons. Secondly, that during the later stages of the war, the Swedish foot was more and more tied up in the defence of different fortresses.

THE POLISH ARMY OF THE 1650's

During the Ukrainian Revolution and during the earlier stages of the War against Sweden and Russia.

Discipline: Unruly

10-30% Infantry

20-30% Pikes and Musketeers in any combination (Foreign mercenaries)

20-30% Haiduks

40-60% Militia and Recruits in any combination

60-80% Cavalry

10-20% Winged Hussars

20-30% Rajtar and Dragoon in any combination

50-70% Tartar Pancerni or Cossack in any combination

10% Artillery

Only Heavy Guns

Comment: The small proportion of Winged Hussars may be a disappointment to some, but this is according to all historical sources: they were the very elite, they were very expensive and they were very rare. Anyone wanting to represent a Polish force during the guerilla war against the Swedes - say the one commanded by Czarniecki in April 1656 - should set up an army with no Artillery, 60-70% Cavalry (in the above proportion) 30-40% Infantry (Militia and Recruits in any combination). The Polish Royal Artillery was surprisingly well equipped, but poorly funded and manned.

THE POLISH ARMY OF THE 1650's

During the later stages of the War against Sweden and Russia.

Discipline: Unruly or Regular

30-40% Infantry

70-80% Pikes and Musketeers in any combination (Foreign mercenaries)

20-30% Militia and Recruits in any combination

50-70% Cavalry

10-20% Winged Hussars

30-40% Rajtar and Dragoon in any combination

40-60% Tartar, Pancerni or Cossack in any combination

10% Artillery

Light Guns only

Comment: The changes reflect the lessons paid dearly for by the Poles during the initial stages of the war against the Swedes. They mainly attempted to strengthen and reform their traditionally very weak infantry, mainly by recruiting foreign, i.e. German, mercenaries. The maximum number of pikes and muskets possible, represent both mercenaries and contingents of Brandenburg foot, that were attached to the Crown Army in 1659.

THE COSSACK ARMY OF KHMELNYTSKY

During the Ukrainian revolution and the War against the Poles.

Discipline: Regular

20-30% Infantry

10-20% Pikes

30-40% Recruits

50-60% Militia

70-80% Cavalry

50-60% Cossacks

40-50% Tartars

0-10% Artillery

Only Light Guns (captured from the Poles)

Comment: As all armies formed in the turmoil of a large popular rebellion, the Ukrainian Cossack under Khmelnytskyi was a hodge-podge of men and capabilities. The majority was irregular foot and horse, many were just armed rabble, but at the core some quite professional units could be found - the rebellion originally starting among the border troops on the edge of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The pike stands represents some of these. The higher Discipline Level is also a reflection of this, as well as the higher morale often seen in revolutionary troops.