

The Swedish Army in 1813

Last Updated: 12th July 2020

The following has been compiled by Keith McNelly.

Building a Swedish Army for the Campaign of 1813 provides an interesting project, in part because it is seldom seen on the wargames table. However, finding information on the Swedish Army can be challenging at best. The following I hope useful for those contemplating such a project with Volley & Bayonet.

The Crown Prince of Sweden in 1813 was of course Bernadotte. In 1813 he of course commanded the Army of the North, which comprised Swedish, Prussian and Russian troops. This article focusses only on the Swedish contingent. That said it does include those Russian troops specifically allocated to the corps at Leipzig.

Three organisations are provided. The first is that at the start of the campaign, while second is that for the Swedish Corps at Leipzig. Finally, I have included a Swedish Army calculated for Volley & Bayonet Road to Glory drawing from the two orders of battle. I hope will be useful for your fictional engagements in 1813.

The Swedish army that deployed for the campaign was, unlike many other armies in 1813, composed of long service troops that had been on a war footing for several years but had not been ravaged by recent campaigns. It comprised a core of drilled infantry supported by cavalry and artillery.

The infantry brigade was the basic organisational unit and prior to 1809 almost always included artillery and one or two cavalry squadrons. However, after 1809 this was not the case, these being now divisional or corps assets. The infantry brigade relied on various infantry battalions drawn from various regiments. The number of battalions drawn from the various regiments could vary considerably. These battalions typically fielded 500 to 600 men. Each battalion included a Jager contingent which in 1813 comprised 58 men. These were most often converged at brigade level, to act as skirmishers.

The cavalry comprised light, medium and heavy, though the light and medium cavalry comprised the bulk of the force. Sources indicate they were well mounted, especially the heavy and guard units. All were organised in squadrons of around 100 men.

In compiling this short article I have used as my primary reference Nafziger's "Napoleon at Dresden" and "Napoleon at Leipzig".

NOTES

The various brigades comprise battalions from various regiments. As a result, the same regiment is indicated in several brigades. As noted previously each battalion comprised 58 Jagers who were massed to support each brigade. Where specific Jager units are present, or when the brigade comprises 6 strength points, a skirmisher is noted.

Nafziger lists cavalry in a separate division, the commander is not stated so the commander above is speculative.

SWEDISH ARMY AT LEIPZIG

Swedish Army, Field Marshall Stedingk, (CC)

Corps Troops:

- Reserve Artillery M5 [] [] Hvy.
- Rebrejev Don Cossacks M4 [s] Lt, Lancer

1st Division, Generalllieutenant Skjoldebrand, (DC), Exhaustion = 10

- 1st Brigade: M6 [] [] [] [] [] [] [s] Shock
(Svea & 2nd Guard Regiments, Life Guard Grenadier & Lieb Grenadier
Regiments)
- 2nd Brigade: M5 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [s]
(Upland, Sondermanland, North Schonen Regts.)
- Guard Dragoon Regiment M6 [] Md
- Kouteinikov Cossack Regiment M4 [s] Lt, Lancer SKO
- Gotha Artillery M5 [] [] Fld.

2nd Division, Generallieutenant Sandels, (DC), Exhaustion = 8

- 3rd Brigade: M5 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [s]
(West Gotha, Westmanland & Nerike Regiments)
- 4th Brigade: M5 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [s]
(Skaraborg, Elfsdorg & Wermland Jager Regt.)
- 6th Brigade: M5 [] [] [] [] (Kronoborg &
Calmar Regiments)
- Divisional Artillery M5 [] [] Fld.

Cavalry Division, Generallieutenant Skjoldebrand, (DC), Exhaustion = 3

(The total strength of this formation was 1,753 men)

- Guard Cuirassier Regiment M6 [] Hvy
- Schonen & Morner Hussars M5 [s] [s] Lt.
- Horse Artillery M5 [] Fld.
- Horse Artillery M5 [] Fld.

NOTES

The 1st Division had a total strength of 6,557 men. The 2nd Division had a total strength of 9,060 men. Nafziger suggests the 6th Brigade is considerably smaller with just two battalions

The corps heavy artillery, comprising 8 guns has likely been supplemented by lighter pieces. Nafziger is silent on this.

Nafziger indicates the cavalry are massed as a brigade in 2nd Division. I have elected to retain them as a separate division.

The Cossacks are of course Russian and are rated as Skirmish Only.

SWEDISH ARMY IN 'ROAD TO GLORY'

The following provides a generic Swedish Army in 1813 for use with the "Road to Glory" scenario system. Using the lists below the forces at Leipzig would comprise around 1600 points. If you use the entire Swedish Field Army, as at the start of the campaign, the forces will be a closer to 2000 points depending on options. For fictional games in 1813 the army should be supported by other Prussian and Russian Corps all commanded by Bernadotte as the army commander.

SWEDISH FIELD ARMY

1st Infantry Division (1 only) [485]

[Exhaustion = 8]

1 division commander

1 guard brigade (6-6, Shock, 1 skirmisher) [220]

1 infantry brigade (6-5, 1 skirmisher) [145]

1 artillery battalion (2-5, field) [120]

Options

Add 1 additional strength point any morale 5 brigade [+0.5 exhaustion] [+15]

Add 1 additional strength point any morale 6 brigade [+0.5 exhaustion] [+15]

Add 1 Cossack regiment (1-4, light cavalry skirmishers) [+20]

2nd Infantry Division (1 only) [395]

[Exhaustion = 7]

1 division commander

1 infantry brigade (6-5, 1 skirmisher) [145]

1 infantry brigade (5-5, 1 skirmisher) [130]

1 artillery battalion (2-5, field) [120]

Options

Add 1 additional strength point detachable skirmisher to second infantry brigade [+30] OR

Add 1 infantry brigade (3-5) [+1 exhaustion] [+85]

3rd Infantry Division (1 only refer notes) [240] ¹

[Exhaustion = 7]

1 division commander

1 infantry brigade (6-5, 1 skirmisher) [145]

1 infantry brigade (6-5, 1 skirmisher) [145]

1 artillery battalion (2-5, field) [120]

Cavalry Division (1 only) [265]

[Exhaustion = 2]

1 division commander

1 hussar brigade (2-5, light cavalry, may skirmish) [100]

1 guard cuirassier regiment (1-6, heavy cavalry, linear) [70]

1 horse artillery battalion 1-6, field) [95]

Options

¹ If an additional brigade is added to the 2nd Division the 3rd Division cannot be used.

Add 1 converged dragoon brigade (2-5, medium cavalry) [+1 **exhaustion**] [+100] OR
Upgrade cuirassiers regiment to converged guard cuirassier & guard dragoon brigade (2-6, heavy cavalry) [+1 **exhaustion**] [+65]
Add 1 horse artillery battalion (1-6, field) [+0.5 **exhaustion**] [+95]

Corps Commander (1 at no cost)

1 corps commander

Options

Add 1 heavy artillery battery (1-5, heavy) [+80] OR

Add 1 heavy artillery battalion (2-5, heavy) [+155]

1 Cossack regiment (1-4, light cavalry skirmishers) [+25]

SWEDISH FORMATIONS ATTACHED TO WALLMODEN'S RUSSIAN CORPS ²

Pommerian Division (1 only) [215] ³

[Exhaustion = 4]

1 division commander

1 infantry brigade (6-5, 1 skirmisher) [145]

1 Carabinier regiment (1-6, heavy cavalry, linear) [70]

² Wallmoden's Russian Corps, along with other corps, were part of Bernadotte's Army of the North.

³ This division should only be used if the 3rd Infantry Division is used or if modelling the Swedish component of Wallmoden's Russian Corps. If the later they should be commanded by a Russian Corps commander.