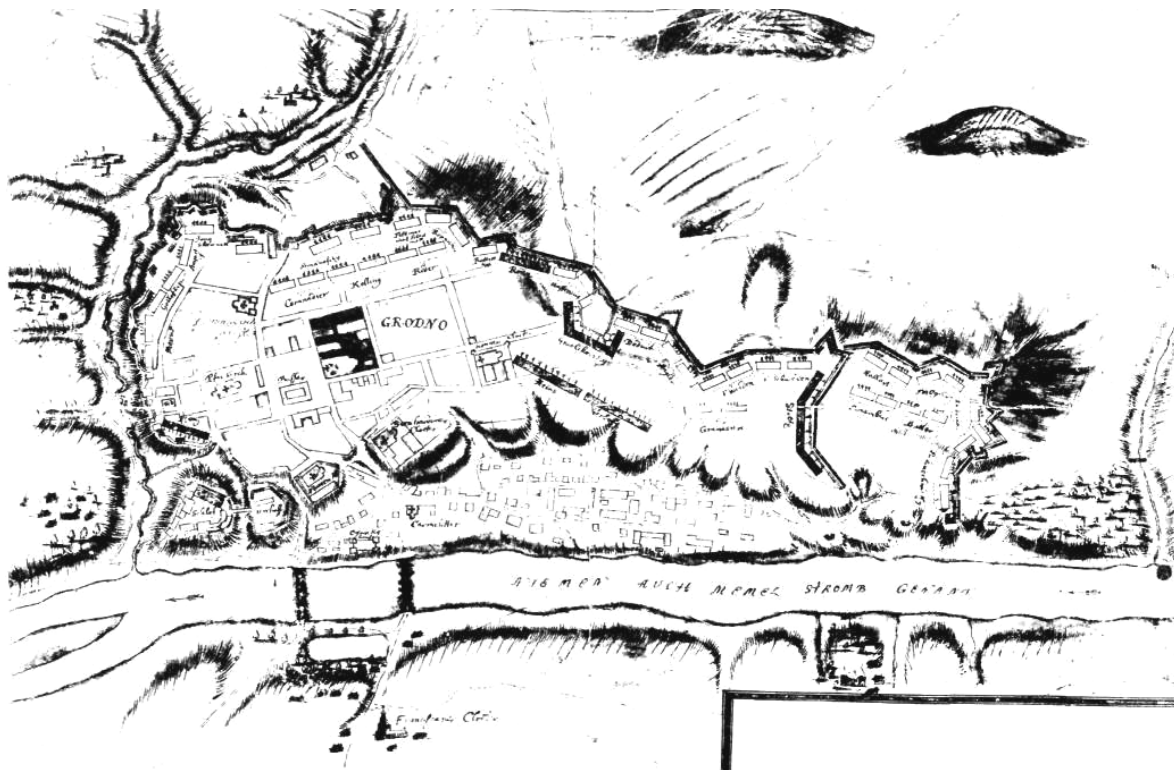


Russian Army at Grodno January-March 1706

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The strength and organization of the Russian Army in the camp at Grodno from January through March 1706 is one of the unclear points in the history of the Great Northern War. Most historians have used the data provided by N. Ustrialov in his "History of the Peter the Great's Reign". He found a table by O'Gilvy dated Nov 4, 1705. It includes 27 foot regiments: **Preobrazenskiy**, **Semenovskiy**, **Ingermanlandskiy**, **Brig Aigustov**, **I. Angler**, **F. Balk**, **Butyrskiy**, **B. Gafmler**, **P. Gassenius**, **G. Golovkin**, **K. Gulitc**, **A. Dedut**, **I. Deldin**, **A. Kelin**, **D. Kuper**, **I. Mevs**, **GFM G. O'Gilvy**, **V. Povish**, **Gen. A. Repnin**, **D. Rydder**, **Turner**, **GM I. Chambers**, **A. Sharf**, **W. Shweiden** (Lefortovskiy), **GFM B. Sheremetev**, **M. Sheremetev** (Sheremetev the younger), and **GL A. Shonbeck**. According to the 1704 Regulations, a Russian regiment of foot consisted of 1 grenadier and 8 fusilier companies (150 men each) in 2 battalions. The only exceptions were the **Semenovskiy** and **Ingermanlandskiy** Regiments of 3 battalions, and the **Preobrazenskiy** of 4 battalions. At the end of 1705, one battalion of the **Preobrazenskiy** Regiment was in Moscow with Tsar, so the total number of battalions at Grodno was 57. The total strength in the table is 35,063 men. It is close to the paper strength of these regiments. In fact, the number of troops stationed around Grodno in winter 1705-06 was less. O'Gilvy wrote to the Tsar on January 2, 1706 that "... 10 battalions remained in Courland". Also, at least 2 regiments mentioned in the table were outside Grodno that time. **Sharf's** Regiment was in Saint Peterburg and **Gamfler's** was in Smolensk or Polotck. Evidently the table found by Ustrialov is a list of troops that were supposed to be under O'Gilvy's command, but not a list of troops that were actually at Grodno. O'Gilvy wrote to Tsar on January 14, 1706 that there were 45 battalions of infantry in Grodno by that time.



Encampment of the Russian troops in Grodno in Jan-Mar 1706 (unfortunately not all regimental names are readable)

In 1892, D. Maslovskiy published O’Gilvy’s “The Journal of the March from Grodno to the Kiev March 23 till June 27”. There is a list of 21 regiments (43 battalions) in it: **Preobrazenskiy** (3)
Semenovskiy (3)
Ingermanlandskiy (3),
Brig Aigustov (1) (the second remained in Courland)
GL L. Hallart, November 1705 **I. Deldin** (2)
I. Angler (2)
Butler (2) (not mentioned in November 1705)
Butyrskiy (2)
GM N. von Verden (2) (not mentioned in November 1705)
P. Gassenius (2)
G. Golovkin (2)
A. Dedut (2)
A. Kelin (2)
I. Mevs (2)
GFM G. O’Gilvy (2)
GFM A. Repnin (2)
D. Rydder (2)
GM I. Chambers (2)
W. Shweiden (2) (regiment also called **Lefortovskiy**)
GFM B. Sheremetev (1) (second battalion remained in Courland)
M. Sheremetev (2)

Additionally there are 4 battalions of converged grenadiers. Total are 47 battalions.

The infantry was divided into 3 divisions (GFMs G. O’Gilvy & A. Repnin, GL L. Hallart) & 6 brigades (General-Majors I. Chambers, W. Bruce, N. von Verden, Biron, Zeidtitc, Belinck) but no distribution is available.

The exact troop strength is unknown. O’Gilvy wrote on January 2, 1706 that a “... *battalion’s strength hardly reached 390 men per battalion*”. This gives about 16,800 – 17,500 men in total. An unpublished document from Russian State Archive of Ancient Acts (RGADA) states that the actual strength of the regiments at the end of January (“*in various days of January*”) was 15,966 men. An additional 3,402 men were in various detachments and on assignments outside Grodno. This gives a total infantry strength of 19,368. This figure represents the strength at the start of the Swedish blockade, and does not include losses from illness etc. that occurred in February and March. When the Russians evacuated Grodno on March 24, they had 2 900 ill soldiers in the train. The number of dead and deserted is unknown, the same with the actual strength.

The dragoons of the main Russian Army were under the command of GL Karl Renne and consisted of 10 regiments in 2 brigades.

Brigade of GM Y. Genskin consisted of 5 dragoon regiments:

Genskin

Ostafiev

Volkonskiy

Shauenburg

2nd Ingermanlandskiy under Colonel Partes

Brigade GM G. Pflug also consisted of 5 dragoon regiments:

Renne

Pflug

Gorbov

Gerenk

Netlergorst

At the end of December 1705, Renne's troops were stationed near Pultusk and Ostrolenka, but by January 14, 1706 they arrived at Grodno. Their exact strength is unknown, but hardly exceeded 7-8,000.

The artillery in Grodno numbered 103 pieces: 6 "long" 12-pdr cannons, 6 "short" 12-pdr cannons, 6 6-pdr cannons, 82 3-pdr "regimental" cannons, 5 howitzers, and 2 small mortars.

So, total strength of the Russian Army at Grodno January-March 1706 was 24-26,000 men with 103 artillery pieces.

Note: all dates are in the old Russian/Orthodox style.