

Small Polish-English Dictionary of XVII Century Warfare

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Comments:

(S) – singular form,

(P) – plural form,

(F) – form used as description of type of formation, example:

dragon – dragoon (S)

dragoni - dragoons (P)

dragonia – dragoons (F)

[-]- English version unknown

I have avoided using Polish letters (ą,ć,ż,ó,etc) because with them the text will be much more difficult to read for non-Polish speakers.

- amunicja – ammunition
- arkabuzer/arkebuzer – harquebusier (S)
- arkabuzeria/arkebuzeria - harquebusiers (F)
- arkabuzerzy/arkebuzerzy - harquebusiers (P)
- arkebuz – harquebus/arkebus
- autorament – section of Polish/Lithuanian army to show difference between:
 - ‘narodowy autorament’ – ‘national autorament’ (Polish/Lithuanian cavalry and infantry)
 - ‘cudzoziemski autorament’- ‘foreign autorament’ (Western style troops – infantry, dragoons, reiters)
- bandolet – used by cavalry – arkebus, light musket, dragon
- berdysz – berdish-axe
- bitwa – battle
- bulawa - mace – symbol of Hetman’s rank
- buzdygan – mace – symbol of high officers rank
- brygada – brigade
- choragiew (see also rota)– banner:
 - 1. unit’s standard
 - 2. basic unit of organization of Polish/Lithuanian cavalry and infantry (except ‘foreign’ troops), usually between 50 and 200 horses (cavalry) or 100-300 portions (infantry)
- chorazy – standard bearer
- czeladz – servants and camp followers
- dezercja – desertion
- dezerter – deserter
- dragon – dragoon (S)
- dragoni - dragoons (P)
- dragonia – dragoons (F)
- dywizja – division

- dziala/armaty – cannons (F)
- dzialo/armata – cannon (S)
- forteca – fortress
- garnizon – garrison
- gwardia – guard (means Royal)
- haiduk – haiduk (S) – Hungarian infantry
- hajducy – haiduks (P)
- halabarda – halberd
- helm – helmet
- hetman – [-] highest commander of troops in Poland and Lithuania, there were two ranks:
 - Hetman Wielki – Grand Hetman
 - Hetman Polny – Field Hetman
 - so there was separate pair for Poland and separate pair for Lithuania
- husaria - winged hussars (F) but I prefer to use Husaria anyway ☺
- husarz – winged hussar (S)
- husarze – winged hussars (P)
- jazda kozacka – Cossack-style cavalry (F) (Polish type) in first half of XVII century fighting as a light and medium cavalry – with bows, carbines, pistols, spears
- jazda tatarska – Tatar cavalry
- jazda woloska – Wallachian cavalry
- jazda/kawaleria – cavalry
- kalkan – [-] Eastern type round shield
- kampania – campaign
- kapitan – captain – only in Foreign troops
- kapitulacja – surrender
- kolczuga – chainmail
- kompania – company
- koncerz- estoc/panzerstecher – additional weapon (long sword) used mainly by Husaria
- kornet – company (Foreign troops – cavalry and dragoons)
- komunik- [-] style of all-mounted army (for example the Tatars, and sometimes Poles or Lithuanians) marching fast without tabors and infantry
- kon – horse (S)
- konie – horses (P)
- kopia – lance (used as name for Husaria’s weapon)
- korpus – corps
- Kozacy (Zaporoscy, Dońcy) – Cossack (Zaporozhian, Don) – in Polish there is a difference between them and Polish cavalry by writing ‘free men of Ukraine’ with capital letter
- kusza – crossbow
- Litwa - Lithuania
- luk- bow
- muszkiet – musket

- niemiecka/cudzoziemska piechota – German/Foreign infantry
- oberszter – literally ‘colonel’ – commander of Foreign regiment (infantry, dragoons, reiters)
- obersztlejtnant – lieutenant colonel – second in command of Foreign regiment (infantry, dragoons, reiters), often he lead unit in battle when oberszter was only nominal
- oblezenie - siege
- Pancerni – [-] medium Polish cavalry, name started to be used for cossack style cavalry since 1648 to differentiate between them and Cossack’s rebels
- palasz – pallasch – additional hand weapon, popular amongst cavalry (especially Husaria)
- petyhorcy – [-] Lithuanian medium cavalry, used at the end of XVI century, beginning of XVII century, came into use again for Lithuanian forces after 1672
- piechota – infantry
- pika – pike
- pistolet – pistol (S)
- pistolety – pistols (P)
- poczet – retinue – basic subunit of cavalry banner, composed of one Companion and between one and five Retainers
- pocztowi – retainers (P)
- pocztowy – retainer (S)
- Polska (Korona) – Poland (Crown)
- polska piechota – Polish infantry
- porucznik – lieutenant – second officer in cavalry banner, often the real commander when ‘rotmistrz’ was only nominal
- pospolite ruszenie – levy, in Poland and Lithuanian we used almost exclusively Noble Levy
- potyczka – skirmish (small size fight ☺)
- pulk – literally ‘regiment’ but should be used as Polish version ‘pulk’ - ad hoc formation, composed from between 3 and 20+ ‘banners’. Main Polish tactical subunit that can fight as a independent force
- pulkownik – literally ‘colonel’ - commander of cavalry ‘pulk’
- rajtar – reiter (S)
- rajtaria - reiters (F)
- rajtarzy - reiters (P)
- regiment – regiment only to describe ‘foreign’ troops (Reiters, Dragoons, Infantry)
- regimentarz – deputy hetman, commander of army when Hetman was not present
- rekrut – conscript
- rohatyna – [-] approx 2.5 m long spear used by Petyhorcy
- rota – in XVI and first half of XVII century basic unit of organization of P-L cavalry and infantry (except ‘foreign’ troops), usually between 50 and 200 horses (cavalry) and 100-300 portions (infantry)

- rotmistrz – commander of cavalry and Hungarian/Polish/Lithuanian infantry banner, quite often only nominal and did not lead the unit in battle
- rusznica – caliver
- Rzeczypospolita Obojga Narodow – Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- sejm – parliament
- sejmik – district parliament
- siodlo – saddle
- skrzydla – wings (P)
- skrzydło – wing (S)
- straty – losses
- szabla – sabre
- szarża – charge (of cavalry)
- szwadron - squadron
- tabor – tabor
- tarcza – shield
- towarzysz – companion (S), noble that comprises the basic force of cavalry (usually 1/3 of banner force – see ‘poczet’)
- towarzysze – companions (P)
- węgierska piechota – Hungarian infantry
- weteran – veteran
- włócznia – spear
- woz taborowy – tabor wagon
- wojna – war
- wojewodztwo – district/palatinate, large territorial district in Poland and Lithuania
- wojewoda – voivode – governor of ‘województwo’
- wybraniecka piechota- literally ‘chosen’ but looking at quality it should be rather “drafted” or “conscripted” - peasant infantry, usually used as a pioneers, they lack training and good command
- zasadzka - ambush
- zamek – castle
- zbroja/pancerz – armour
- zold – soldier’s pay