

Men-at-Arms

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The Russian Civil War (2)

White Armies



Mikhail Khvostov • Illustrated by Andrei Karachtchouk

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Editor's note

This is the second of a two-volume study on the armies of the Russian Civil War. As well as the White Armies mentioned in the title, the book briefly covers foreign intervention forces, the Czechoslovak Legion; nationalist troops in the Ukraine, Finland, the Baltic and Transcaucasian states; together with a number of rebel, partisan and peasant armies. Not all of these necessarily fought against the Red Army.

Publishers' note

Readers may wish to consult this book in conjunction with the following Osprey publications:

- MAA 293 *The Russian Civil War (1) The Red Army*
- MAA 80 *The German Army 1914-18*
- MAA 81 *The British Army 1914-18*
- MAA 230 *The US Army 1890-1920*
- MAA 269 *The Ottoman Army 1914-18*
- MAA 286 *The French Army 1914-18*
- MAA 277 *The Russo-Turkish War 1877*
- MAA 216 *The Red Army of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-5*

Artist's note

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THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR (2)

WHITE ARMIES

THE WHITE CAUSE

The term 'White Guards' (belogvardeytsi) appeared only after the Bolsheviks had started to call their own troops the 'Red Guards' (krasnogvardeytsi). In all probability, the name was intended as a slander, since the colour white was connected with monarchist ideas. By calling their opponents 'Whites', the Reds implied that their goal was to restore the Tsar. Even though the great majority of anti-Bolsheviks had no such desire, they eventually accepted the name, not least because white was the traditional colour of law and order, whereas red symbolised rebellion and anarchy.

The White cause began to emerge in the spring and summer of 1917, soon after the February revolution and the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. At the time Russia seemed to be descending into chaos. In St Petersburg Kerensky's Provisional Government was rapidly losing its grip on power at the expense of the Bolsheviks. In August/September 1917 the supreme commander of Russia's armed forces, General Lavr Kornilov, attempted to restore order by marching on St Petersburg. His aims were misunderstood, he was arrested, and the Bolsheviks used his 'attempted coup' as a pretext to arm themselves – creating the Red Guards. The October revolution followed as a direct result.

From the start opposition to the Bolsheviks was never united – there was no single White Army that fought a co-ordinated war against its Red counterpart. The forces available to the Whites represented a spectrum of political factions. White monarchist military organisations (which had sprung up all over Russia even before the October revolution) were not always friendly to social-democratic Whites, and on several occasions came to blows. Many of the Cossack hosts sided with the Whites, seeing it as an opportunity to create their own independent states; others remained neutral or hostile to both sides. Everywhere the non-Russian peoples of the Russian empire seized their chance for independence; some, but not all, entered into alliances with White armies.

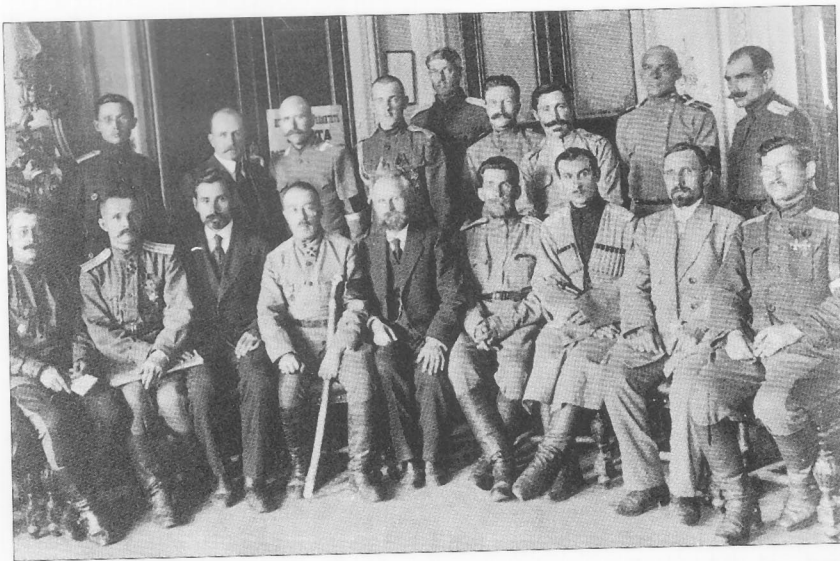
Volunteers, conscripts and turncoats

Many early Russian White formations were created from the remnants of the disintegrating Russian Imperial Army. But it was an uphill struggle. Most soldiers were sick of the war; they refused to obey orders, and some even threatened their own officers with firing squads. The Whites' biggest hope was to be found in new units of committed volunteers.

The heart of the volunteer White armies was at first represented by a handful of generals, officers, cadets and students. Few of them had aristocratic backgrounds, and most of what they had achieved had been due



General Mikhail Alexeyev, chief-of-staff of the Russian Imperial Army, 1916, and briefly supreme commander of all Russia's armies between April and June 1917. A brilliant military scholar and the son of a soldier, he was extremely popular among Russian officers. Monarchist to the core, Alexeyev was the leading organiser of the White Volunteer Army in south Russia.



The Cossack Congress of 1917, which was presided over by Colonel Alexander Dootov (4th from left in the front row). Nearly all the main Cossack uniforms worn in the Civil War are visible.

3,000–5,000 men, this army performed remarkable feats. One of the reasons for their success was undoubtedly the unusual composition of the units. The first detachments of the Volunteer Army were made up exclusively of officers and cadets and were known as ‘Officers’ (*Ofitserkiye*) units’. Such units also existed in other parts of Russia (eg the Kappellevsky Regiment, in Kolchak’s Siberian Army).

to their own ability and personal courage. Not all had the same aims: some were monarchists, others social-democrats. About the only thing many had in common was a hatred and fear of the Bolsheviks.

Undoubtedly the most successful of these volunteer organisations was the Dobrovolcheskaya (Volunteer) Army created in south Russia by generals Alexeyev and Kornilov (both ex-supreme commanders of the Imperial Army). With just

Table 1: Ranks

English Equivalent	Russian Army	Ukraine		Cossacks	Central Asia
	infantry (cavairy) [artillery]	Hetman's troops	Central Rada troops		
Cadet	yunker	—	—	—	—
Private	ryadovoy	strelok	strelets	cozzack	nefer or alaman
Private 1st Class	yofreitor	gurtnoviy	—	prikazniy	—
Junior NCO	mladshiy unterofitser [ml. feyerverker]	royeviy	royeviy	mladshiy uriadnik	—
Senior NCO	starshiy unterofitser [st. feyerverker]	chotoviy	chotoviy	starshiy uriadnik	daubashi
Sergeant-major	feldfebel (vakhmistr)	bunchuzhniy	bunchuzhniy	vakhmistr	chiragosi
Junior ensign	podpraporshnik	—	—	podhorunzhniy	—
Ensign	praporshnik	horunzhniy	—	praporshnik	—
Sub-lieutenant	podporuchik (kornet)	poruchik	pidsotenniyy	horunzhniy	yuz-bashi
Lieutenant	poruchik	sotnik	sotnik	sotnik	—
Staff Captain	shtabs-kapitan (shtab-rotmistr)	voiskovoy starshina	—	starshiy yesaool	dzhivagui
Captain	kapitan (rotmistr)	—	—	yesaool	karaul-begui
Lieutenant-colonel	podpolkovnik	pidpolkovnik	kurennoy	voiskovoy starshina	mirakhur
Colonel	polkovnik	polkovnik	polkovnik	polkovnik	toksaba
Major-general	General-Mayor	General-Horunzhniy	Ataman Brigadi	General-Mayor	Datkno
Lieutenant-general	General-Leytenant	General-Poruchik	Ataman Diviziyy	General-Leytenant	Parvangui
(Full) General	General-ot-Infanteriyyi/Kavaleriyyi/Artilleriyyi	General-Polkovnik	Ataman Korpusa	Voyskovoy Ataman	—
	—	—	Ataman Armiyyi	—	—
	—	—	Ataman Fronta	—	—



Horsemen advancing for a parley with the Reds in northern Russia, 1918. The outer figures are British officers - the one at right has the badge of the King's Own Rifle Corps on his fur hat, and a white flag of truce. The central figure in civilian clothing is identifiable as a Russian officer by the ribbon of the Order of St George on his lapel. In the early months of the Civil War, many White officers were reluctant to openly display their rank.

expansion of many Officers' regiments into divisions, so that by 1919 it was rare to find more than a single Officers' company in any battalion. The remaining companies were known as Soldiers' (*Soldatskiye*) companies. They had their normal complement of officers.

It was only in 1918, when the Bolsheviks embarked on the oppressive policies that were to become their trademark, that the number of White troops started to grow rapidly throughout Russia. The increase in numbers was assisted by the widespread introduction of conscription. The Whites were happy to draft Red Army deserters and POWs. During the first years of the Civil War whole units and even divisions swapped sides; some changed several times. In March 1919, for example, the Red Army's Tula Division, which was stationed near the town of Gomel, suddenly turned against the Soviets and marched towards Poland. They joined the Whites for two months, but then decided to return in June. All such turncoat units were given a probationary period to test their loyalty. (See commentary to Plate E4.)

Historians have distinguished three main phases to the Civil War. The first was what the Soviets have called the 'partisan warfare' phase, marked by fighting on rapidly shifting fronts; this lasted until the armistice with Germany in November 1918. The second stage saw White armies advancing from the north-west, south and east, converging on Moscow, until their defeat in November 1919. The third and final stage, in 1920, saw the flight to the Crimea of Wrangel's army, and its evacuation over the Black Sea. There were also a number of peasant revolts and national risings which are often treated as sideshows or epilogues to the main Civil War. In practice it is difficult to separate them from the terrible destruction that engulfed Russia in this period.

Officers' units were organised along standard Russian Army lines, but men recruited earlier were usually considered senior to later recruits: in some cases junior officers could be found commanding units where colonels served in the ranks or as NCOs.

Officers' units were considered elite, but unlike Napoleon's Old Guard were not spared from the hottest action. Losses were extremely heavy, not least because White officers were almost always executed if caught by the Reds; most chose to fight to the death. As the war took its toll, fewer officers were available to make up entire units. The introduction of conscription also led to the

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

One of the main problems of the Russian Civil War was distinguishing between friend and foe. At first Red and White armies were dressed in much the same uniform and had the same weapons, namely those left over from the Russian Imperial Army.

The field uniform of the Imperial Army had been established on 10 March 1909, and remained in use, almost unchanged, throughout the Civil War. It consisted of a single-breasted cloth tunic, greenish-grey in colour, with five leather or metal buttons 0.8in in diameter and a standing collar with two metal loops and two metal hooks. The upper button was located 1.3in from the lower collar hook. The lower button was stitched at waist level, and below it were two rectangular pockets with flaps. The sleeves had no cuffs. The length of the tunic from the lower part of the collar to the lower edge was 26-30in for the infantry and 2in shorter for cavalry.

Shoulder-boards (*pogoni*) were two-sided: one side in the regimental colour, the other in khaki. Both sides had insignia in the following colours:

yellow – infantry	orange – fortress troops
crimson – rifle regiments	brown – engineers
scarlet – foot artillery	white – train units
light blue – cavalry and horse artillery	black – commissary units

Shoulder-boards were up to 7in long and about 3in wide. Any badges, numbers or letters were to be fixed 0.9in from the lower end of the shoulder-board and on both its sides. They were to be 1.5in high if in one line, and 0.6in if in two lines, with a separation of 0.2in between the lines.

The summer shirt was the smock-like *gymnastorka* and was khaki in colour with similar buttons and without piping. Breeches (*sharovari*) were of khaki cloth for infantry, foot artillery and engineers, and grey-blue cloth for cavalry and horse artillery.

Basically all White Guard units, from Archangelsk to the Crimea and from Brest to Vladivostok, wore this uniform, at least until the intervention of foreign powers, when articles of British, German, Austrian, French, Japanese and American origin began to appear. Local adaptations and peculiarities are given in the description of each separate army.

Weapons and equipment

All the major weapons in use by White forces have been described in *MAA 293 The Russian Civil War (1) The Red Army*. The only difference for the White armies was that larger quantities of foreign-made weaponry were available thanks to supplies provided by the intervention powers. (See *MAA 80, 81, 245, 269 and 286*.)

The exact quantity of foreign equipment sent to the Whites is difficult to establish. At an educated guess, the British supplied about 50 per cent, the US about 30, the Germans 10 and the Japanese and French



Private, Kuperiyanov Partisan Battalion of the Estonian Army, 1919. The British cap has a white metal death's-head badge in place of the usual cockade; the same device appears on the black arm-shield (similar in form to those worn by regular army units). The battalion was later enlarged to become a regiment, and the death's-head emblem was retained until 1940.



Finnish White Guards, 1918. Their helmets are of Swedish pattern, while their armbands may be yellow over blue, rather than Finnish plain white, indicating Swedish volunteers. Weapons and bandoliers are Russian, the latter worn around the waist in Scandinavian fashion.

Waj. Gen. Bulak-Balakhovich and an orderly, summer 1919. The well-proclaimed 'Chief of Peasant and Partisan Detachments' and 'Legendary Warrior, the Liberator of North-Western Russia', he was a typical Civil War adventurer. After serving briefly with the Soviets, he switched to Nudenich's White Army, then to Estonian service and then to the Polish army. He took part in the invasion of Belorussia with Ukrainian troops, and was a close associate of Savinkov, the famous Russian terrorist. Bulak-Balakhovich was killed in Warsaw in 1940 by 'unknown persons'. Both men wear the national chevron and white cross of the North-Western Army. Unusually, neither wears a cockade.



about 5 per cent each. This flow of supplies was already under way in 1916, with the Allies supporting the Russian war effort against the Germans and Austrians.

By mid-1919, armies in north-west Russia and the Baltic states had received the following from the British: 40,000 rifles, 500 machine-guns (Vickers and Lewis) and a number of aircraft and artillery pieces. Britain's assistance to the Armed Forces of South Russia (AFSR) began on a large scale in February 1919. In that year Britain provided 198,000 rifles, 6,177 machine-guns, 1,121 artillery pieces, 62 tanks (Mark V, Medium A and Whippet), 168 aircraft, 460,000 greatcoats and 645,000 pairs of shoes – plus tons of ammunition. From the US the AFSR also received 100,000 rifles with ammunition, and 300,000 boots.

France supplied White armies in the south and east: the Army of the Don received 5,500 French rifles, 47 machine-guns and 1,600km of telegraph cable. The Germans supplied General Krasnov with 11,600 rifles, 88 machine-guns, 460 artillery pieces and copious amounts of ammunition.

The port of Vladivostok in the Russian Far East was a key landing point for supplies. According to the British Military Mission, between October 1918 and October 1919 British ships delivered: 600,000 rifles, 6,831 machine-guns, 192 artillery pieces, 200,000 sets of fur hats and winter coats, 400,000 sets of caps, pairs of boots and blankets. By March 1919 the US had supplied Admiral Kolchak with 200,000 rifles, 100 machine-guns and 22 artillery pieces; in July they added 12,000 Colt revolvers, 368,000 Mosin-Nagant rifles made by Remington and 100 aircraft.

It is anyone's guess as to the proportion of this matériel that reached the front lines. Transport was inefficient and corruption endemic. As early as December 1917 more than 600,000 tons of badly needed

supplies were sitting uselessly in Vladivostok, stockpiled all over the city. The need to protect this huge supply dump was even cited by the Americans as one of the reasons for landing troops in Siberia.

THE WHITE ARMIES

Within this volume it would be impossible to cover in detail all the units that fought against the Reds during the Civil War of 1917–22. For clarity the description has been arranged by geographical region. This is one of the first attempts to compile a list of White armies.

Table 2: White fronts of the Civil War

Northern front – 14 March 1918 to 13 February 1919
Western front – 8 April 1918 to 8 April 1919
Ukrainian front – 4 January 1919 to 4 June 1919
South-western front – 10 January 1920 to 31 December 1920
Southern front – 11 September 1918 to 9 October 1921
Caucasian front – 8 December 1918 to 29 May 1921
Turkestan front – 15 August 1919 to 4 June 1926
Eastern front – 13 June 1918 to 15 January 1920
Far Eastern front – 21 March 1920 to 24 January 1923

This list of military theatres as used by White troops is in geographical rather than chronological order. The word 'front' is rather a misnomer, for in the Civil War the front lines were multilayered and changed direction rapidly. Note that the Eastern front was termed the 'Western' by Kolchak's Siberian troops.

In effect, as far as the chief White armies were concerned, there were three main regions of conflict: north-west Russia, south Russia, and east Russia. These unfolded as virtually separate conflicts, with White troops seldom switching theatres. The commander of each theatre, as well as being a general, was a political figurehead, running a semi-independent state. In south Russia these leaders included: Kornilov, Alexeyev, Denikin and Wrangel. In north-west Russia Yudenich was the best known commander. In east Russia and Siberia Admiral Kolchak dominated the proceedings. After Alexeyev's death, Kolchak considered himself supreme commander of all White forces.

NORTH RUSSIA

On 2 March 1918 the Allies agreed with the local Russian administration to protect northern Russia, with the cities of Murmansk and Archangelsk, from the German threat. By August 1918 there were 8,000 British, 5,000 Americans, 700 French, 1,300 Italians, 1,200 Serbs, Czechs and Poles in the area. These troops, along with the local Russian forces, were governed by the British commander, Maj.Gen. F. Poole, and from October 1918 by the redoubtable Maj.Gen. Edmund Ironside.

The local Russian forces had become tired of fighting in World War I, and few volunteers came forward. By the summer of 1918 the Russian

RIGHT The German Army on parade in Pskov, 1918.



Red Army man wearing captured Polish uniforms of 1919. These pictures were prepared for a photo album called 'Uniforms of the Foreign Armies, 1921-22', which is now kept in a specialist uniform museum at Monino near Moscow. All the pictures show the same Red Army man dressed in the captured uniforms of various nations that were involved in the Civil War. The Polish infantry uniform (left) has blue collar patches, while the artillery uniform (right) has dark green ribbon on the greatcoat collar. The only detail missing is the Polish Eagle capbadge.



Army of the Northern Area, commanded by Maj.Gen. Marushevsky, had just five infantry companies, one cavalry squadron and an artillery battery. Attempts to form the Slavonic-British Legion and the Murmansk Volunteer Army failed due to lack of volunteers. The only option was to introduce universal military service. Some 10,000 men had been conscripted by mid-December 1918, and by July 1919 the forces of the area had reached 25,000 men (including 14,000 Red Army POWs) who were divided between six Northern Rifle Brigades.

A severe shortage of officers caused the collapse of discipline, so Russian troops were not considered reliable. The situation got worse when the foreign troops departed – the Americans left in June 1919 and all others by February 1920. By the latter date, despite a paper strength of 55,000 men, 160 cannon and 1,600 machine-guns, the Russian Army of the Northern Area effectively ceased to exist as a fighting force.

The first changes to Russian uniforms in northern Russia occurred in August 1918, when officers were prohibited from wearing the old pattern shoulder-boards. NCOs were authorised to wear red lace stripe distinctions on the cuffs to replace shoulder-boards: a single narrow stripe for a *yefreytor* (lance-corporal), two stripes for a junior sergeant, three stripes for a senior sergeant, and a single wide stripe for a *feldfebel*.

Some Russian soldiers still wore their old uniforms, but the majority had new ones provided by the British. Order No. 10 of 19 August 1918 introduced new distinctions, common to both Russian and British uniforms. These included the Russian Imperial cockade for headgear, and gold lace (for generals) or woollen braid on the cap crown and cuffs. The colours were as follows: infantry and cavalry – white for the first regiment



1st Chuguyevsky Mounted Regiment in Kiev celebrating Hetman Pavel Skoropadsky's namesday, summer 1918. They wear standard Russian Imperial cavalry uniform with the Ukrainian national cockade on the cap. The young cavalryman on the far right is the only exception: he appears to have a better quality, hand-made tunic with a standing collar and collar patches, and breeches with double yellow side-strips. Research shows that yellow often appears darker on old photos than colours like blue and green.

of a division, blue for the second and red for the third; artillery – black; engineers – green; labour battalions – yellow; and general staff – black velvet.

Officers were to wear chevrons on the right sleeve in the above colours. For junior officers these chevrons were 0.45in wide; for staff officers, 0.9in wide; and for generals 0.9in wide and in gold lace. Shoulder-boards were reintroduced but were to be made of tunic or greatcoat cloth.

On 25 September 1918 British uniforms became the only ones worn by Russian troops in the north, and ranks were now indicated by British black braid and six-pointed stars on both sleeves. In November 1918 it was ordered that all the distinctions worn on British uniforms were to correspond to those in the pre-1917 Russian Imperial Army. In January 1919 soldiers and officers who had taken part in even a single battle against the Reds were authorised to wear chevrons in Russian colours (white, blue and red) on the left sleeve.

From May 1919 British uniforms were worn with Russian shoulder-boards. The lettering was stencilled in oil paint for soldiers and NCOs, but made of metal or embroidered for officers. This lettering on shoulder-boards for Northern Army units was to be of the following colours: infantry reg-

iments – yellow; rifle regiments – crimson; dragoons – sky blue; artillery – red (howitzer batteries had the Cyrillic letters 'PB'; mortar batteries had 'MB' and trench batteries, 'TB'); field engineer companies – brown; automobile demi-regiment – green; and HQ of the Northern Area – orange.

NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

The Northern Corps

Commanders-in-Chief

- Maj.Gen. A. Gryshin-Almazov (13 June to 4 September 1918)
 Maj.Gen. P. Ivanov-Reenov (5 September to 24 December 1918)
 Maj.Gen. Dzerozhinsky (January to May 1919)
 Maj.Gen. Rodzianko (June 1919)

Formed by October 1918 near Pskov and Dvinsk, the Northern Corps was disbanded after the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with Germany had been declared void by the Soviet government, but was re-established in

January 1919 in Estonia. At first the Northern Corps consisted of dozens of small volunteer detachments (bodies of 90 men were considered large). These were soon organised into two infantry brigades which eventually expanded into divisions. On 19 June 1919 the Northern Corps was enlarged to become the Northern Army.

The Northern Army

In May 1918 the following units of 'People's White Troops' were under the command of General Yudenich: the Northern Corps (consisting of 5,800 men, 11 guns, two armoured trains and two tanks); 1st White Estonian Division (6,000 men with 30 guns); Colonel S. Bulak-Balakhovich's detachment; 2nd White Estonian Division (numbering about 4,000 men). Naval support on the Baltic was provided by a British squadron under Rear-Admiral Walter Cowan.

By June new formations had joined the army: the Volunteer Corps (Von der Goltz); New Latvian Army; Baltic Landwehr (Von Esert); Prince Liven's 'Russian Army'; Colonel Dibitch's Corps; a detachment under Colonel Plewe; and the 'Russian Corps' under Belmont-Avalov (formed of Russian POWs captured by the Germans). Little is known about these formations. Some remained independent, some joined Yudenich's army, while others even entered German service.

At the same time the North-Western Army under General Keller was forming at Pskov. In October 1918, it changed its name to the 'Pskov Volunteer Detachment' and became a detached corps of the Northern Army. After the defeat at Pskov, at the end of November 1918, remnants of the Northern Corps withdrew to Estonia where they became the 'Detached Corps' of the Northern Army under the command of Colonel von Neff, and later of Colonel Dzerozhinsky. By February 1919 this corps had two rifle divisions (1st and 2nd) and Maj.Gen. Rodzianko was its commanding officer.

In June 1919 the Northern Corps was reformed into the Army of the North. When Yudenich was appointed commander-in-chief of all anti-Bolshevik forces on the north-western front by Kolchak, the army's name was changed to the 'North-Western Army' to distinguish it from the force fighting further north around Murmansk and Archangelsk. At that time the army included the 1st and 2nd Rifle Corps and the 1st Rifle Division and totalled about 18,000 men, 57 artillery pieces, 500 machine-guns and four armoured trains.

In November 1919 Lt.Gen. Glazenappe was appointed commander-in-chief, followed soon after by Lt.Gen. Pallen. A series of defeats led to the army being disbanded in February 1920.

The North-Western Army

Commanders-in-Chief:

Maj.Gen. Rodzianko (July to October 1919)

Gen.-of-Infantry Yudenich (October to November 1919)

Maj.Gen. Glazenappe (November 1919 to January 1920)

Formed on 19 June 1919, on the basis of the Northern Corps, it was officially called the 'North-Western Army' on 7 July 1919 and consisted



Lt.Gen. Ivanov-Reenov, Ataman of the Siberian Cossacks and commander of the Siberian Cossack Corps, 1919. This uniform was introduced at approximately that date, and consisted of a black gymnasterka with silver piping, and cartridge-pockets for Mosin rifle clips copied from Caucasian fashion. The shoulder-boards are covered with silver lace and piped red.



Fyodor Shuss, chief cavalry commander of the Ukrainian Peasants' Insurgent Army and the right-hand man of the army's commander, Nestor Makhno, 1919. As a former sailor he still wears his old *beskozirka* peakless cap. The red sash was a typical feature in Makhno's army, as was the carrying of an enormous quantity of weapons of different kinds. The long hair, unusual in this period, was a symbol of anarchy.

initially of two corps: 1st Inf. Corps (2nd and 3rd Inf. Divs.); and 2nd Inf. Corps (1st and 4th Inf. Divisions).

By August 1919 the North-Western Army, generously supplied by the Allies, had expanded to three corps: 1st Corps (2nd and 3rd Inf. Divisions – including the Vyatsky, Volinsky and Danilovsky Inf. Regts); 2nd Corps (4th and 6th Inf. Divs.); and 3rd Corps (1st and 5th Inf. Divisions). All in, the army now included 26 infantry regiments and two cavalry regiments, plus smaller detachments, and numbered 17,800 infantry, 700 cavalry, 500 machine-guns, 57 artillery pieces, four armoured trains, six tanks and six aircraft.

By September 1919 the paper strength of the North-Western Army was 101,648 men, though contemporaries estimated its true strength at 56,600, with only 27,000 actually under arms. The North-Western Army was destroyed by the Reds in October and November 1919. Survivors escaped to Estonia, where they were disarmed and interned. The army was officially disbanded on 22 January 1920.

Uniforms in north-west Russia

The main insignia of the North-Western Army was a cloth sleeve badge consisting of a broad white-blue-red chevron, pointing upwards, with a broad white cross partly enclosed by the chevron.

In the early days old Russian uniforms, often very shabby, were worn by all men, but in August-September 1919 Britain supplied 40,000 uniforms. These were worn with Russian shoulder-boards and, when available, with Russian buttons. Some troops, such as Prince Liven's 'Russian Army', wore German uniforms, including German 1916 model helmets. These 'Liventsy', who were mostly former Russian guardsmen, also wore the German Feldmütze with a sky blue band. Their weapons were, however, all Russian-made.

Some volunteer units had their own outfits, but civilian dress was widely worn: by tradition recruits arrived in their worst clothing expecting to be issued with new uniforms. Even so, most volunteer detachments soon improvised their own insignia. For example, the Count Keller Corps and Colonel Vyrkolich Corps had an eight-pointed white cross stitched to the left sleeve below the elbow. The Colonel Dibitch Detachment had its own metal badge – a star covered by crossed swords. Lutzev's machine-gun team had a triangular shield badge with the letter 'L' above a machine-gun.

SOUTH RUSSIA

The Volunteer Army (*Dobrovolcheskaya Armiya*)

After the October revolution many opponents of the Bolsheviks converged on the Don region, hoping to gain the support of the Don Cossacks. Among them was General Alexeyev, who quickly set about raising troops. Before long, his force was 400 strong, consisting of a composite Officers' company of 200 men, a yunker battalion of 150 men and a company of bearers of the Order of St George. With these experienced

and well-motivated soldiers Alexeyev was able to exert a strong influence on the Don Cossack Council.

When, after escaping detention, the charismatic General Kornilov arrived on Don Cossack territory the White cause received a further boost. On 15 November 1917 Kornilov and Alexeyev jointly announced the creation of the Volunteer Army (*Dobrovolcheskaya Armiya*), although officially this name was not adopted until 7 January 1918. Alexeyev became its first commander-in-chief.

In January 1918 the Volunteer Army, already 2,000 strong, was transferred to Rostov, since Kornilov could not persuade the Don Cossack Ataman Kaledin to take joint action. By February 1918 Kaledin's Cossacks had been defeated by the Red Army, and the Volunteer Army withdrew behind the River Don. By this time the Volunteer Army's composition was as follows: Composite Infantry Officers' Regt (Gen. S. Markov); Kornilovsky Shock Inf. Regt (Colonel M. Nezhentsov); Partisan Inf. Regt (Gen. A. Bogayevsky); Special Cadet (Yunker) Battalion; 1st and 2nd Cavalry Detachments; two artillery batteries (one horse, one light). In total it numbered just 3,000 infantry, 400 cavalry and eight guns.

In March 1918 the Volunteer Army was strengthened by a detachment under General Pokrovsky and some Kuban Cossacks. At Ekaterinodar the army, now numbering 5,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry and 16 guns, was reorganised, as follows: 1st Bde (under Gen. Markov: Officers' Inf. Regt, Kubansky Rifle Regt, 1st Artillery Battery); 2nd Bde (Gen. Bogayevsky: Kornilovsky Shock Inf. Regt, Partizansky Inf. Regt, Platoon (scout) Battalion, 2nd Artillery Battery); Cavalry Bde (Gen. Erdeli: Cav. Regt, Cherkessky Cav. Regt, Kubansky Cav. Demi-Regiment; and one horse artillery battery).

In June 1918 a strong contingent under Colonel Drozdovsky joined the army and further reorganisation took place: 1st Inf. Div. (Gen. Markov; from 26 June, Kazanovich); 2nd Inf. Div. (Gen. Borovsky); 3rd Inf. Div. (Col. Drozdovsky); 1st and 2nd Platoon Bns.; 1st Cav. Div. (Gen. Erdeli; later Gen. Wrangel); 1st Kuban Cav. Bde (later a division) (Gen. Pokrovsky); 2nd Kuban Cossack Div. (Gen. Ulagay); Kuban Cossack Bde (Gen. Shkuro, from July 1918). In all, these forces comprised 9,000 infantry and 3,000 cavalry.

From November 1918 the Allies succeeded in supplying regular provisions to the White Armies, mainly through the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. This made it possible to organise many new units, though only with the help of conscription. Thousands of Kuban Cossacks also joined the Whites, bringing the Army's strength to 35,000 men by September 1918, and to 100,000 by December.

In November 1918 the Volunteer Army's structure was as follows: 1st Army Corps (Gen. Kazanovich; later Gen. Kutepov); 2nd Army Corps (Gen. Borovsky); 3rd Army Corps (Gen. Lyakhov; from March 1919, Gen. Shilling); 1st Cavalry Corps (Gen. Wrangel); plus several independent cavalry and infantry brigades and battalions.

The following year (8 January 1919) saw the creation of the Armed Forces of the South of Russia (AFSR), which encompassed many earlier formations. The Volunteer Army was renamed the Caucasian Volunteer Army and now included the 1st and 3rd Army Corps and 1st and 2nd Kuban Cavalry Corps. The original title was restored in May 1919. The



Afrikan Bogayevsky, last Ataman of the Don Cossack Host, 1919. He wears Russian field uniform with, at his neck, the Order of St Vladimir 3rd Class and, on his left breast, the Cross of St George and the medal for the Ice March (or 1st Kuban March).



Officers of the Kornilov Shock Division, 1920. The senior commander, Maj.Gen. Skoblin, is seated next to the regimental chaplain, Leonid Rosanov. Behind them stand (left to right) Lt.Col. Chelyadinov, regimental adjutant Capt. Kopetsky and Col. Gordiyenko.

army's composition was then: 1st Army Corps (Gen. Kutepov); 2nd Army Corps (Gen. Promptov; then Gen. Slushov); 5th Cav. Corps (Gen. Yuzefovitch); 3rd Kuban Cav. Corps (Gen. Shkuro); and Kiev Army Group (Gen. Bredov) – 50,000 men by September 1919. By that time several units of the Tsarist Army had sided with the Whites. Among them were the 13th, 15th and 34th Inf. Divs., and the 80th Kabardinsky, 83rd Samursky and 13th Belozersky Inf. Regiments.

Besides the Volunteer Army, the AFSR consisted of several previously independent formations: the Army of the Don; the Crimean–Azov Army; the Forces of the Northern Caucasus;

and the Army of Turkestan. In January 1919 it numbered 51,000 infantry, 34,000 cavalry, 204 guns, 682 machine-guns and six armoured trains. By July 1919 it had grown to 104,000 infantry, 56,000 cavalry, 600 guns, 1,500 machine-guns, 19 aircraft, 34 armoured trains, one cruiser, five destroyers, four submarines and 20 gunboats.

By October 1919, after heavy losses and the transfer of units to other armies, the army's strength fell to 20,000. In December 1919 the army's units were amalgamated to form the Detached Volunteer Corps – a force of 10,000 men. In April 1920 Denikin, commander-in-chief of the AFSR, delegated all authority to Wrangel, who took command of the so-called 'Russian Army', which included all units remaining from the AFSR after its defeat.

The most common type of insignia of the Volunteer Army (and of the AFSR) was a downward pointing chevron in national colours (white-blue-red) worn on the left sleeve. Various badges and embroidered designs on this chevron served to differentiate units. For example, a wolf's head badge was worn by Shkuro's cavalrymen, while a picture of an armoured train was worn by some armoured train crews.

The so-called 'Colourful' (*Tsvetniye*) units were named after generals Kornilov, Markov, Alexeyev and Drozdovsky. These units, which included infantry, cavalry and artillery, had their own colourful uniforms and insignia, which were a great contrast to the dull khaki of most White units.

The Kornilovsky units wore a black *gymnasterka* and breeches. These were piped white on the collar, breast and pocket flaps, cuffs, and outside trouser seams. Caps had a red crown and a black band, both piped white, and were peaked for officers and peakless for rank-and-file. Shoulder-boards were half red, half black. The uniform of Markovsky units was almost identical, except that the crown of the cap was white-piped-black and shoulder-boards were predominantly black. Alexeyevsky units wore the same black or white uniforms, but facings were light blue. The cap had a white crown, piped in light blue, and a light blue capband piped in white. Drozdovsky units had no black uniforms, preferring khaki *gymnasterkas* without piping and grey-blue breeches piped red.

Their caps had a crimson crown piped white and a white capband piped black.

After they had grown from regiments into divisions, only the original 'Colourful' regiments remained truly colourful; the other units of the divisions were usually clad in Russian or British khaki uniforms. If time permitted, the khaki *gymnasterkas* were sometimes given coloured piping. In some regiments only the 1st or Officers' companies had coloured capbands and shoulder-boards.

Not all members of the 'Colourful' regiments had the specified uniform, and many different combinations of *gymnasterka* and breeches were seen. As a rule Kornilov units did not wear white *gymnasterkas* and Markov units avoided blue breeches. Artillery and cavalry units belonging to 'Colourful' divisions usually had different combinations of colours on their caps and shoulder-boards. Officers often donned long Caucasian *cherkeska* tunics and tall *papakha* hats of black or white fur with the top in regimental colour.

Other 'Colourful' units worthy of note included the Composite Rifle Regiment and the commander-in-chief's Orderly Squadron. The former had a cap with a crimson crown piped white, a crimson capband, crimson shoulder-boards, and silver buttons (crimson and silver being the traditional colours of Russian rifle regiments); the latter had a cap with a light green crown which was piped white, and a white capband piped light green, white shoulder-boards with light green lace and silver buttons.

The Army of the Don

Commanders-in-Chief:

Gen. K. Polyakov (17 April to 25 April 1918)

Gen. P. Popov (25 April to 18 May 1918)

Gen. S. Denisov (18 May 1918 to 15 February 1919)

Gen. V. Sidorin (15 February 1919 to 27 March 1920).

This army was created on 17 April 1918. By 23 April it comprised seven infantry and two cavalry regiments, and one platoon (scout) battalion. It numbered 5,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, 30 machine-guns and six cannon. It was further reinforced on 25 April, with the arrival of a detachment under Ataman Popov.

In May the Army of the Don was broken into three parts: Northern Group (under Cossack Starshina Semiletov); Southern Group (Gen. S. Denisov); and Trans-Don (Zadonskaya) Group (Col. Bykadorov). On 12 May conscription was introduced and men who had never belonged to the Cossack estate were permitted to enlist as Cossacks.



Commander of the Drozdovsky Rifle Division Maj.Gen. Anton Turkul, 1920. One of the youngest White generals, he was renowned for his bravery and brutality. He wears the traditional Drozdovsky peaked cap with crimson crown and white band, khaki *gymnasterka* with white piping on breast and cuffs, and crimson shoulder-boards with black braid and white piping.

On 16 May a new Don Cossack Ataman, Petr Krasnov, was elected (to replace Kaledin, who had committed suicide). He received strong support, arms and equipment from the Germans, who by this time had occupied nearly the entire Ukraine. The Army of the Don at that time had 10,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry, 58 machine-guns and 21 cannon. By June 1918 it consisted of six Army Groups (a total of 39,000 men, 93 cannon and 281 machine-guns) and the so-called Young (Molodaya) Army (20,000 strong) made up of 17- and 18-year-old recruits. In July 30 infantry and cavalry regiments were formed out of the 45,000 men available, and on 8 January 1919 the Army of the Don was placed under the command of the commander-in-chief of the AFSR.

After severe fighting, by February 1919 only about 15,000 men remained of the original Army of the Don. In June 1919 they joined General Denikin's forces and the strength went up to 40,000. By the beginning of 1920 the Army of the Don could boast six infantry and nine cavalry divisions organised into four Don corps, and numbered 52,500 men, 930 machine-guns and 240 artillery pieces. In January and February 1920 the army was destroyed by the Reds in the Northern Caucasus. Surviving elements escaped to the Crimea to join Wrangel's Army.

Wrangel's 'Russian Army'

This army was created on 11 May 1920 by General Wrangel in the Crimean peninsula, the last stronghold of the Whites in south Russia. It was constructed out of the remnants of the White armies in the south. Initially it consisted of the following units: Crimean (Krymsky) Corps; Volunteer Corps; Donskoy Corps; Composite Cavalry Division; and Composite Kuban Brigade. In all it numbered 20,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry, 126 artillery pieces and 450 machine-guns.

As more men from defeated armies streamed into the Crimea, Wrangel's Army was reorganised in late May, and then comprised: 1st Army Corps (Gen. Kutepov: Kornilovskaya Inf. Div., Markovskaya Inf. Div., Drozdovskaya Inf. Div., 1st and 2nd Cav. Divs.); 2nd Army Corps (Gen. Slushyov: 13th and 34th Inf. Divs., Tersko-Astrakhanskaya Cav. Bde); Donskoy Corps (Gen. Abramov: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Donskaya Horse Divs.); and Composite Cavalry Corps (Gen. Pysarev: Kuban Cav. Div. and 3rd Cav. Division). The last corps was re-named the 'Horse Corps' in July 1920, with 1st and 2nd Cav. Divs., and the Kuban Cavalry Division under General Babiyev.

By July 1920 Wrangel's 'Russian Army' had at its disposal 25,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry, 270 guns, 1,200 machine-guns, 17 armoured trains, 13 tanks, 25 armoured cars, 40 aircraft, two battleships, three cruisers, 11 destroyers, four submarines and eight gunboats.

The final reorganisation of Wrangel's Army took place in September 1920. It then consisted of:

1st Army (Gen. Kutepov): 1st Army Corps (Kornilovskaya, Markovskaya and Drozdovskaya Inf. Divs.); Donskoy Corps (1st and 2nd Don Horse Divs. and 3rd Don Foot Division).

2nd Army (Gen. Dratzenko): 2nd Army Corps (13th and 34th Inf. Divs.); 3rd Army Corps (6th and 7th Inf. Divs., 2nd Kuban Cav. Div.,



Two young recruits to the Drozdovsky Division, 1919. Peakless caps were worn by most rank-and-file of the so-called 'Colourful' regiments. This studio photograph was evidently taken in Kharkov, where dozens of men joined the Drozdovsky Rifle Division. An enterprising Jewish tailor, on hearing that Kharkov was about to be liberated by the Whites, had manufactured caps and shoulder-boards for the 'Colourful' units. All were sold within a few days. The tailor had probably never seen the original Drozdovtzi caps, which had black piping on the capband. Here they are crimson and white.



French colonial troops in Odessa, 1918. The three main figures can be identified as (left to right): private, 129th Battalion of *Traillleurs Sénégalais*; and an officer and sergeant, 10th *Traillleurs Algériens* (nicknamed "Tomms" because of their red faces). Other colonial troops present in Odessa at the time were: 1st March African Regiment, 242nd and 19th Colonial Artillery regiments, 21st Regiment of *Chasseurs Sénégalais*, 4th Regiment of *Chasseurs à Cheval d'Afrique*, and the Battalion of *Chasseurs d'Indochine*.

Guards Detachment); Horse Group (Gen. Babiyeu: 1st Kuban Cav. Div., Tersko-Astrakhanskaya Cav. Bde); and Horse Corps (Gen. Barbovitch: 1st and 2nd Cav. Divisions).

By October 1920 Wrangel's forces consisted of 41,000 infantry, 17,000 cavalry, 1,000 machine-guns, 26 armoured cars, 19 tanks, 19 armoured trains, 249 cannon and 34 aircraft.

After the Red Army's final successful assault on the Crimean peninsula, the survivors of 1st Corps, Don Corps and Kuban Corps were evacuated to Istanbul on foreign ships. In 1921 they were transferred to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, where, finally, Wrangel's Russian Army was disbanded.

The Army of the Caucasus

This army began life as three corps: 1st Kuban (Gen. Pokrovsky); 2nd Kuban (Gen. Ulaguy; later Gen. Nahumenko); and 4th Kuban (Gen. Shatilov; later Gen. Toporkov). These were formed on 21 May 1919 and numbered a total of 25,000 men, 250 machine-guns and 60 artillery pieces.

In October 1919 the 2nd Kuban Corps was transferred to the Army of the Don, and later to the Volunteer Army. By November 1919 the Army of the Caucasus was left with a single corps, the 1st Kuban Corps, and two large detached formations – the Lower Volga Detachment (Astrakhan Cossack Div., 3rd Kuban Cossack Div. and 5th Kavkazsky Rifle Regt) and the Zavolzhsy (Trans-Volga) Detachment (Kavkazskaya Rifle Div. and 3rd Astrakhan Cossack Regiment). These now totalled 18,000 men, 315 machine-guns and 95 artillery pieces. On 8 February 1920, with the return of the 2nd Kuban Corps, the Army of the Caucasus was renamed the Kuban Army. In May 1920 it was destroyed by the Red Army. Survivors fled to the Crimea and Georgia.

The insignia of the Army of the Caucasus was a narrow, downward-pointing chevron in red, black and white.

The Army of Turkestan

Created on 22 January 1919, the Army of Turkestan was under the command of Lt.Gen. V. Savitsky. By 1 May 1919 it numbered 7,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry and three armoured trains, organised as follows: Zakaspiyskaya (Trans-Caspian) Composite Inf. Div. (Maj.Gen. Lazarev); Turkestanskaya Rifle Div. (Maj.Gen. Litvinov); Cavalry Division (Maj.Gen. Oraz-Khan Serdar); and an artillery brigade. The army was to all intents destroyed by the Reds by December 1919, and officially ceased to exist in February 1920. Throughout its existence the Army of Turkestan acted in concert with the 15,000 *Basmachi* (Muslim freedom fighters) of Djunaïd Khan.

The Army of the Urals

Formed as early as April 1918, in January 1919 this army was known as the Detached Army of the Urals. From November 1918 to July 1919 the army was subordinated to Admiral Kolchak, the self-appointed 'Supreme Ruler of Russia'. From then until January 1920, when it was defeated by Soviet troops, it was under the jurisdiction of General Denikin, commander of the AFSR.



The Kurbashi (chiefs) of several Turcoman Basmachi detachments. The fur hats and cloaks (of men in the rear rows) are typical for the Turkmenistan area in 1921.

The army's composition was relatively stable: 1st Uralsky Cossack Corps (1st and 2nd Uralsky Cossack Divs.); 11th Iletzky Cossack Corps and 3rd Uralskaya Cav. Division. The army's strength grew slowly, from 15,000 men in April 1918 to 21,000 men, 51 artillery pieces and 169 machine-guns in October 1918. It reached 25,000 men, 52 guns and 174 machine-guns in July 1919. It was then organised as follows: 1st Uralsky Corps (1st, 2nd and 6th Divs., 3rd Iletskaya Div., 1st Uralsky Inf. Regt, Nikolayevsky Inf. Regt, Semionovsky Regt and Tsarevsky Regt, partisan foot detachments and several armoured cars); 2nd Iletsky Corps (5th Iletskaya Div. and several detached units); and 3rd Uralo-Astrakhansky Corps.

The Army of the Urals was defeated by the Reds in the first months of 1920, and most survivors were taken prisoner.

Admiral Kolchak's Army of Siberia

The Army of Siberia was formed in the city of Novonikolayevsk (modern Novosibirsk) by June 1918 under the orders of the Provisional Government of Siberia. At first it was known as the West Siberian Army, but from July this was simplified to Siberian Army. It started as a force 7,600 men and 19 guns strong and consisted of the Novonikolayevsk Infantry Regiment, several volunteer detachments, one infantry company, the Uchinsk Partisan Cavalry Detachment and one military escort company.

By October 1918, the Siberian Army had grown into five corps: 1st Middle Siberian Corps (1st and 2nd Siberian Rifle Divs.); 2nd Stepnoy Siberian Corps (3rd, 4th and 5th Siberian Rifle Divs.); 3rd Uralsky Army Corps (7th Uralskaya Rifle Div., 2nd Czech Inf. Regt, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Orenburg Cossack Regts); 4th East Siberian Corps; and 5th Pryamursky Corps.

In December 1918 the Siberian Army was reorganised and rechristened as the 'New Siberian Army', with the following structure as of

Table 3: Uniforms of the Cossack Hosts

Cossack Host (<i>voisko</i>)	tunic	tunic piping	shoulder-boards & piping	capbands & crown piping	greatcoat collar patches	top of hat & side stripes
Don	dk blue	scarlet	dk blue/scarlet	dk blue with scarlet	scarlet	scarlet piping
Orenburg	dk green	sky blue	sky blue	sky blue	sky blue	sky blue
Astrakhan	dk blue	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow
Urals	dk blue	crimson	crimson	crimson	crimson	crimson
Siberian	dk green	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet
Semirechensk	dk green	crimson	crimson	crimson	crimson	crimson
Trans-Baikal	dk green	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow	yellow
Amur	dk green	yellow	dk green/yellow	dk green/yellow	yellow	yellow
Ussuriysk	dk green	yellow	yellow/dk green	yellow	yellow	yellow

Note: for all Cossack Hosts mentioned in this table, metal fittings were silver.

24 December: 1st Middle Siberian Corps (1st and 2nd Siberian Rifle Divs.); and 3rd Stepnoy Siberian Corps (3rd Irkutsk Siberian Rifle Div., 7th Uralskaya Rifle Div., 4th and 7th Stepnaya Siberian Rifle Divs., Votkinskaya Div. and Krasnoufimskaya Brigade).

The army was broken into three corps on 4 March 1919: 1st Middle Siberian Corps (1st and 2nd Siberian Rifle Divs., Permskaya Div., Shock (Udarnaya) Bde); 3rd Stepnoy Siberian Corps (4th and 7th Stepnaya Siberian Rifle Divs., Shock Bde); and Composite Corps (3rd Irkutskaya Siberian Rifle Div., 15th Omskaya Siberian Rifle Div., Votkinskaya Div. and Krasnoufimskaya Brigade).

On 22 July 1919 it was divided into three armies which made up the Eastern Front: 1st Army (which advanced on Tyumen); 2nd Army (which marched on Kurgun); and 3rd Army (the former West Siberian Army).

At first, Siberian White armies did not use ex-Russian Army cockades and shoulder-boards, since the socialist parties (Socialist Revolutionaries and Mensheviks) then in power in Siberia had no wish to reinstate Tsarist Army symbols. The absence of shoulder-boards, which had been hated by all ordinary soldiers since the 1917 February revolution, gave Siberians the opportunity to call on Red Army men to join them – ‘We’re like you: no shoulder-boards!’

From the last months of 1917 the Siberian Army adopted as its field sign the colours white over green, representing snow over Siberia’s forests. These colours were worn on headgear patches, chevrons and sometimes armbands. The similarity of Siberian headgear patches to those of the Czech Legion suggests a possible provenance.

In Siberia, as elsewhere in Russia, ex-Tsarist Army uniforms were in widespread use, but civilian clothing was often seen on soldiers and officers. Even after the Allies had poured in vast quantities of supplies things improved very little. On a visit to a forward area in spring 1919, one Russian officer wrote: ‘The soldiers were dressed very badly, some literally in rags. Only a few had boots, the majority were wearing bast [tree bark] shoes or had sacking wrapped around their feet. Some of them had bags sewn together in lieu of uniforms. The officers were also uniformed in tattered or washed-out khaki.’

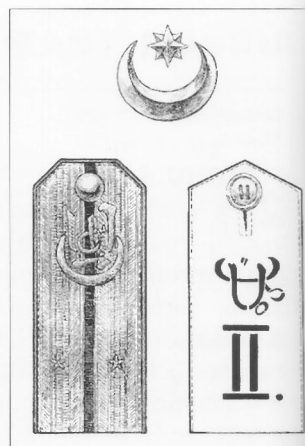
In July 1918 a special white and green sleeve patch – the Siberian field sign – was introduced. To distinguish ranks a system of four-pointed stars for junior officers and stars plus horizontal lace for senior officers was adopted which were located on the sleeve patches. The lower portion of the soldier's patch had the unit cipher stencilled in oil paint, while the upper portion was reserved for a branch-of-service or specialist badge, either an Imperial Army metal original or one simply stencilled in paint. (Officers invariably had metal badges.) The colours of these patches were as follows:

crimson	rifle units
dark blue	cavalry
black piped red	artillery and engineers
white	headquarters
black piped white	general staff
dark green	administrative services

There were several Cossack peoples in Siberia. Each Cossack Host (Voysko) was supposed to wear patches in its own colour, but in practice preferred to keep its traditional uniform, including shoulder-boards. The only other military men permitted to preserve their old-style insignia were the members of former shock detachments or 'death units', established during World War I. In August a lace in branch-of-service colour was ordered to be worn on the front of *gymnasterkas* and tunics for privates, and front and cuffs for officers, and also on greatcoat cuffs. In September 1918 Maj.Gen. Ivanov-Reenov officially re-introduced cockades, collar patches and shoulder-boards in the Siberian Army, but earlier versions of patches and badges could still be found until 1920.

The Orenburg Army

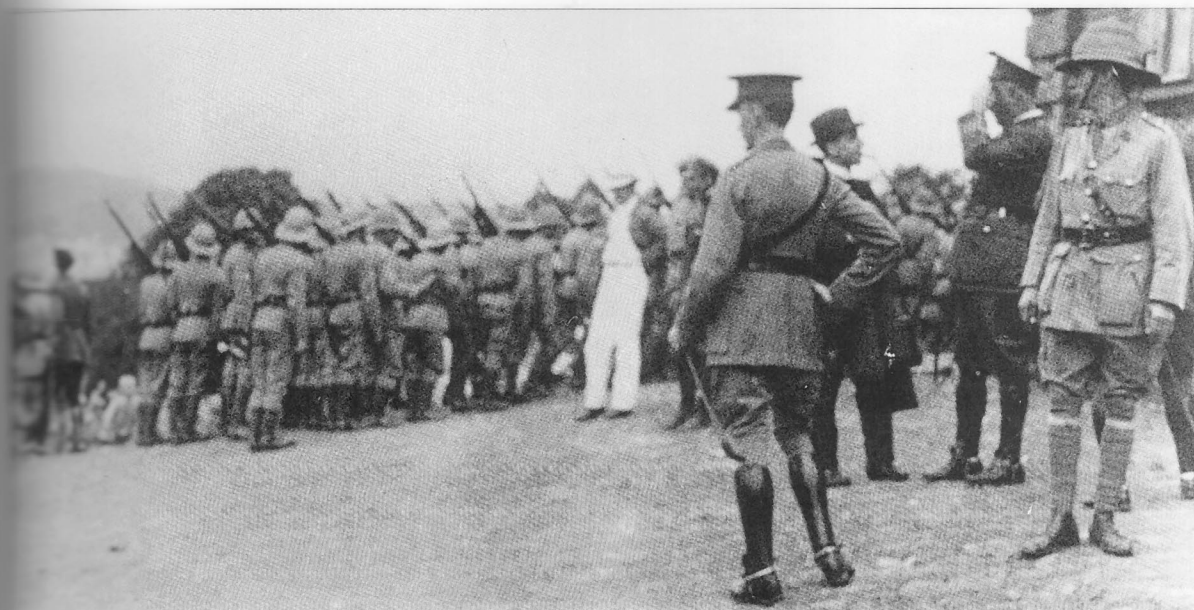
Formed in October 1918 and named the Detached Orenburg Army from 28 December, this formation became part of Admiral Kolchak's



Insignia of the Army of Azerbaijan, 1919. Yellow metal cap badge; officer's shoulder-board, in gold with Turkish inscription 'Azerbaijan' in silver; shoulder-board of a private of the 2nd Muslim Corps Regiment – with Arabic inscription reading simply, 'Muslim'.

An Uzbek *Basmachi* detachment in the Ferghana Valley, 1922.





forces (after November 1918). It was initially composed of two corps: 1st Orenburg Cossack Corps (1st and 2nd Orenburg Cossack Divs.); and 2nd Orenburg Cossack Corps (4th and 5th Orenburg Cossack Divisions).

On 23 May 1919 the Orenburg Army was re-formed and called the 'Southern Army', after acquiring two new corps: 4th Orenburg Cossack Corps (2nd Syzran Rifle Div. and 5th Rifle Div.); and 5th Sterlitamak Corps (9th Sterlitamak Div. and 10th Verkhne-Uralskaya (Upper Urals) Mountain Rifle Division).

On 18 September 1919 the name 'Orenburg Army' was restored. When joined by the 3rd Army Corps and the Stepnaya Army Group, the force became known as the Moscow Group of Armies on 10 October 1919, under the command of Lt.Gen. K. Sakharov. It now contained: 2nd Orenburg Cossack Corps (1st and 2nd Orenburg Cossack Divs.); 5th Sterlitamak Corps (composition as above); 4th Orenburg Corps (as above, with the addition of 1st Detached Orenburg Cossack Bde); and 9th Yaetsky Corps (21st Yaek Rifle Div. and 29th Orenburg Cossack Regiment).

Within a month of this reorganisation, however, the Moscow Group of Armies was destroyed by the Red Army. Its survivors joined Ataman Boris Annenkov's troops. At the end of 1919 Admiral Kolchak formed the Detached Semirechensk Army under Annenkov's command. This included the remnants of the Orenburg Army and Annenkov's own Partisan Division (10,000 men strong). After further defeats by Red troops in March–April 1920, this formation and its commander left Russia for China.

Annenkov's partisans had their own unique insignia dating back to 1915, when Annenkov had been fighting the Germans. At that time his detachment had a skull-and-crossbones device on their cockades, buttons and sleeve patches. Annenkov later had his men wear black chevrons on the right sleeve – one for each year of service, and black-over-red chevrons on the left sleeve (each regiment of his 'Partisan

British troops in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, in 1918, wearing tropical uniforms. The 39th Infantry Division arrived from Iran on 17 November and its commander, Maj.Gen. W.M. Thomson, proclaimed himself military governor of the city. The British presence in the Central Asian provinces was aimed at protecting India and investments in the oil industry in the Middle East.

A unit of Antonov's Partisan Army, 1921. Antonov's troops wore red identification signs. These were normally seen in the headgear and took the form of a ribbon, ribbon-bow or rosette, though in field conditions these often became untidy. According to a secret report by Red Army intelligence, the Antonovtsi had an extensive system of rank insignia based on red cloth shapes which were worn on the left sleeve. (For example: section commanders were to wear a single stripe; platoon commanders two stripes; regimental commanders three triangles; divisional commanders a single diamond; and army commanders two diamonds.) This is the only photo that may show one of these rank insignia - worn by the section commander (seated at the extreme right), who has a red stripe on his *papakha* fur hat instead of on his left sleeve.



Division' had these chevrons piped in regimental colour). Annenkov's personal bodyguard convoy wore a flamboyant hussar-style uniform consisting of a black peakless cap with white piping, a short black gymnasterka of hussar style, a white pelisse trimmed with black fur, and black leather breeches with silver hussar knots and silver side stripes. Their leather equipment was Caucasian in style.

The Army of the West

Commanders-in-Chief:

Lt.Gen. Khanzhin (1 January to 20 June 1919)

Lt.Gen. Sakharov (26 June to November 1919)

Lt.Gen. Kuppel (November to December 1919)

The Army of the West was formed out of elements of the Kama and Samara Army Groups. The 3rd Ural Corps was added in on 1 January 1919, in the Urals region. It consisted of: 7th Ufimsky Corps (Votkinskaya Div., Composite Ufimskaya Div.); 9th Volga Corps (4th Rifle Div., Volga Div.); 3rd Uralsky Corps (11th and 12th Uralskaya Rifle Divisions).

By March 1919 the Army of the West had grown to 39,000 infantry, 12,100 cavalry, 713 machine-guns and 113 cannon. It was now organised as follows: 3rd Uralsky Mountain Corps (6th and 7th Uralskaya Mountain Rifle Divs., Izhevskaya Bde, five regiments of cavalry and Cossacks); 2nd Ufimsky Corps (4th Ufimskaya Rifle Div., 8th Kamskaya Rifle Div., Ufimskaya Cav. Bde); 6th Uralsky Corps (11th and 12th Uralskaya Rifle Divs., 2nd and 3rd Orenburg Cossack Bdes); 4th Army Corps (Gen. Below: 2nd and 5th Rifle Divs., 1st Orenburg Cossack Bde); 5th Sterlitamak Corps - formerly a Composite Corps (Composite Uralskaya Div., Composite Orenburg Division).

In May 1919 the Army of the West was reinforced by 1st Volga Corps (1st Samara Rifle Div., 3rd Simbirsk Rifle Div., 13th Kazan Rifle Div., Volga Cav. Brigade). The army was now placed under the overall

command of General Dieterichs and was divided into three Army Groups: Volga Group (Gen. V. Kuppel); Ufimsk Group (Gen. K. Sakharov); and Urals Group (Gen. Golitsin).

THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

In January 1918 Grigoriy Semyonov, chief of the Special Manchurian Detachment, became Ataman of the Zabaikal, Amur and Ussuriysk Cossacks. Although subordinated to Admiral Kolchak, in January 1919 he set up the independent Mongol-Buryat Republic, and, after Kolchak's death, proclaimed himself its supreme ruler.

Baron Ungern, Semyonov's closest aide and commander of the Asian Cavalry Division, separated himself from Semyonov's troops in 1920 and went to Mongolia to become its *Vana*, or ruler. In May 1921 he attempted to invade the Soviet Far East but was defeated by the Red and the Revolutionary Mongolian armies. In a cruel twist of fate, he was betrayed by his own Mongolian troops, who handed him to the Reds. He was shot in Novonikolayevsk (now Novosibirsk) on 15 September 1921. Under pressure from the Red Army, Semyonov himself was forced to leave for China in September 1921. Much later, in September 1945, Semyonov was caught in Manchuria by the Soviet Army, and executed by firing squad on 30 August 1946.

Foreign troops began to arrive in the Russian Far East in August 1918. The first to land was a British unit, the 25th Bn. of the Middlesex Regiment, followed by a French infantry brigade, the 12th Japanese Infantry Division and the US Expeditionary Corps. By September 1919 there were 75,000 Japanese troops (5th, 12th and 14th Divs.), 9,000 Americans, 1,500 British, 1,500 Italians, 1,100 French soldiers, plus the Czechoslovak Legion some 60,000 strong.

Most foreign troops left Russia in March 1920; the Japanese stayed on, and from May 1921 supplied the so-called White Insurgent Army under General Dieterichs, sustaining a non-Soviet republic.

NATIONALIST FORCES

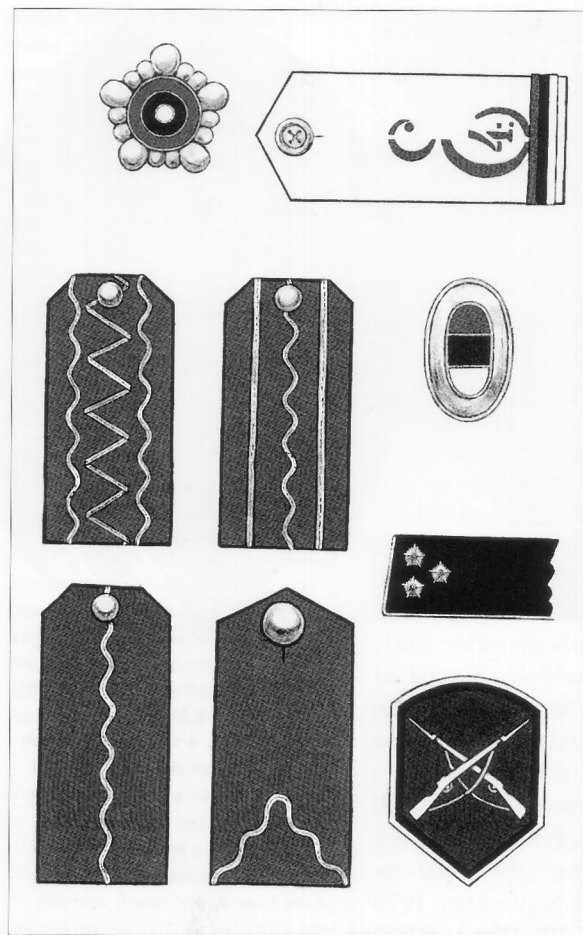
By January 1918 the Germans still had 50 infantry divisions and nine cavalry divisions and the Austrians 13 infantry and two cavalry divisions along their Eastern Front. The strong German presence in the Baltic states was prompted by a large pro-German populace and was connected with German attempts to advance on Petrograd. The Civil War period in the Baltic states was, however, extremely complicated. Both the Reds and Whites were hostile to Baltic independence. Even so Baltic troops ended up fighting on both sides.

Estonia

General Laidoner, the Estonian Army commander-in-chief, was also officially in charge of all White Russian forces operating close to Estonian borders. His army consisted of two divisions: 1st Div. (Col. Tenissonn) and 2nd Div. (Col. Puskar; later Col. Partz). These units were generally well equipped, well dressed and well disciplined.



Colonel Anatoly Pepelyaev, commander of the Middle Siberian Corps, 1918. A white-over-green oblique ribbon on the hat and a chevron of the same colours on the sleeve were the main insignia of the White Siberian Army. His decorations probably date from World War I, and are the Order of St George 4th Class and the Order of St Vladimir 4th Class with Swords and Bow.



Estonian Army insignia.

Top: cockade and shoulder-board of the first type, 1918. **Middle and bottom rows:** 1919 cockade and parade-wear dark blue shoulder-boards for general (middle left), staff-officer (middle right), junior officer (bottom left) and sergeant (bottom right). **Collar,** black with white stars and piping; infantry sleeve badge. **The 1919 pattern cockade** was silver metal with the central part divided horizontally into blue, black and white enamelled segments.

Until 1919 Estonian troops wore old Russian uniforms with armbands in Estonian colours (white-blue-black) and gold five-pointed stars with the same colours in a central medallion. From a distance these stars looked similar to Red Army stars, and so were promptly withdrawn. In March 1919 British uniforms were issued. The tunic collars (black cloth for officers) were altered to standing collars to give them a more Germanic appearance. The left sleeve was decorated with a blue cloth shield-badge with a black border, white piping and white central branch-of-service devices. Estonian rank distinctions had five-pointed pips similar to those worn by the Germans instead of stars both on collar and shoulder straps. All Estonian troops wore their own national headgear with an oval Estonian cockade. For parade wear a peaked cap was issued; this had a blue crown and black band, all piped white.

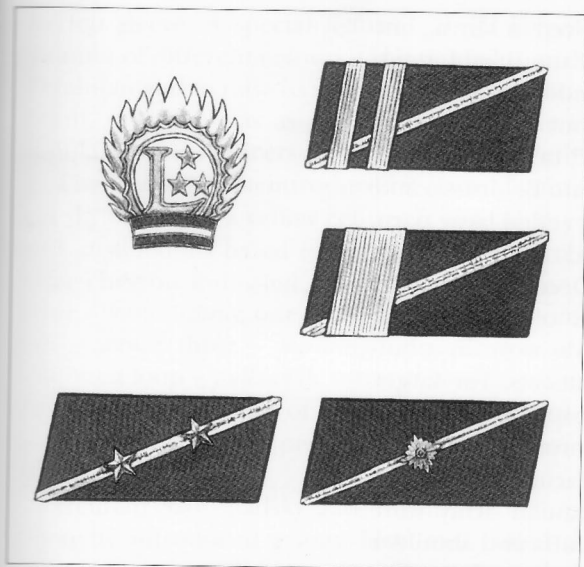
Latvia

After the creation of the Latvian Republic, a complex struggle developed between pro-German and pro-Allied factions, and between pro- and anti-Bolsheviks. The Latvian capital Riga was strongly opposed to the Soviets, but on one occasion made ready to repulse White troops who, at the time, were more openly hostile to Latvian independence.

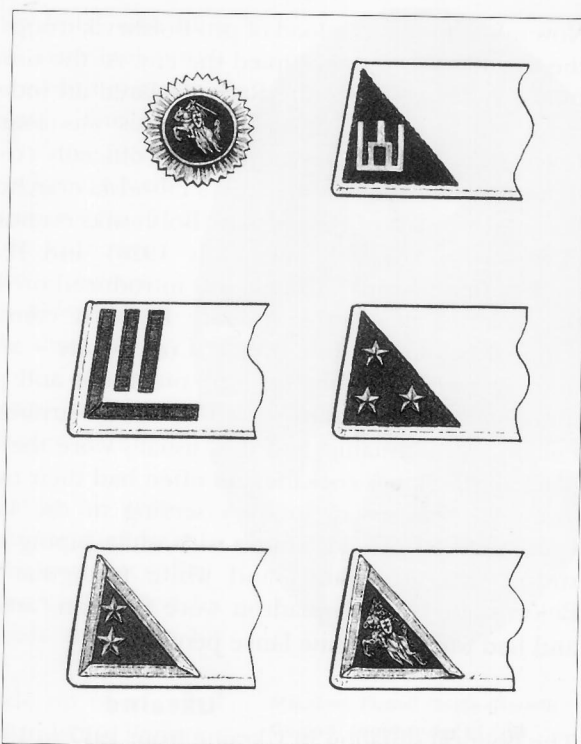
Among the first Latvian units was the Kaplak Battalion (named after its commander). This consisted of: Detached Officers' Company; Zesiss Company; Student Company; Lahtgal Detachment; and Detached Cavalry Section. In March 1918, after Kaplak had been killed in action, 1st Engineer/Sapper Company and 1st Detached Kurzem Squadron were added to the Kaplak Battalion, which was later reorganised into the 1st Latvian Brigade. Another important formation was the Baltic Landwehr, which consisted of 28 detachments, commanded by men with German-sounding names, such as Von Meden, Von Brandes and Von Weimah. In 1920 the Landwehr detachments were amalgamated to form the 13th Tukkum Infantry Regiment.

After independence the uniform of Imperial Latvian Rifle regiments continued to be worn. Caps were given oval silver cockades with a centre divided in the new red-white-red colours of Latvia; sleeve badges had red-white-red diagonal segments, and stripes in the same colours appeared on the lower ends of shoulder-boards.

From spring 1919 the British began to supply the Latvians with uniforms. Collars had red cloth patches with a white diagonal stripe. Ranks were denoted on collar patches and shoulder straps by gold bars for NCOs, five-pointed Russian stars for junior officers and four-pointed German pips for senior officers. Latvian cavalry favoured German hussar 'atila' jackets and peaked caps with capbands in squadron colours. But



ABOVE, LEFT Latvian Army insignia, 1919. Cap badge/cockade in white metal with gold letter 'L' for Latvia, standing on a red-white-red base. The collar patches are red with white braid: NCO (top), sergeant-major (middle), ober-leutnant (bottom left) and lieutenant-colonel (bottom right).



ABOVE Lithuanian Army cockade and collar patches, 1919. The cockade was of yellow metal with a red enamel centre on which was the Lithuanian Vytis or Rider - a charging medieval knight. The triangular collar patches were in facing colour, with devices in yellow metal; lace was of facing colour for NCOs and of gold for generals. Collar patches: private (top right); deputy platoon commander (middle left); deputy regiment commander; division commander (lower left); general.

the military High Command regarded this as extravagant and British tunics were soon introduced. All weapons were Russian.

Lithuania

In 1918 Lithuanian troops continued to wear Russian uniforms; the only national sign was a triangular badge in the Lithuanian colours worn on the right sleeve. It measured 71mm by 63mm and had a yellow top, a green central stripe and a red bottom stripe. Smaller badges of this type were sometimes worn on collars and hats. The year 1919 saw the introduction of British uniforms and Lithuanian peaked caps. New facing colours were also introduced: orange for infantry; white for cavalry; red for engineers; and black for artillery, automobile units and general staff.

Finland

The Army of Finland was born from the 27th (Finnish) Jäger Battalion of the German Army. The first Finnish White Guard detachments wore white armbands on the left sleeve. Occasionally these armbands also had the Finnish arms - a gold rampant lion on a scarlet shield. Similar badges were sometimes seen on steel helmets. Swedish uniforms were widely used by the Finns. On parade, Finnish officers favoured white fur hats.

Belorussia (White Russia)

By 1917 Belorussia was overrun by Germans, and saw widespread fighting and starvation. In July 1917 various Belorussian nationalist organisations combined to form an independent Central Rada (council), based in Minsk, which sympathised with the Provisional Government in Petrograd. Bolshevik rule was established on 15

NORTH RUSSIA

1: Private, 1st Severny (Northern) Infantry Regt, 1919

2: Corporal, United States 366th ('Polar Bears') Infantry Regt, 1918-19

3: Sotnik, White Sea Mountain-Horse Demi-Regiment, 1918



Александр Казанский

NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

1: Trooper, detached squadron of the Latvian 1st Kurzem Division, 1919

2: Senior NCO, 1st Platoon Regt, Bermont-Avalov's Detachment, Russia, 1919

3: Captain, 1st Pskov Inf.Regt, North-Western Army, 1918-19



UKRAINE AND POLAND

1: Strelets (Rifleman), 1st 'Blue Coat' Division of Secheviye Streltsi, Ukraine 1918

2: Rotmistra (Captain), 2nd Ulan Regt, Poland, 1919-20

3: Vistoon (Corporal), West Ukrainian Army, 1918-19



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Андрей Карачун 98

AFSR TROOPS, THE BATTLE FOR KIEV, AUGUST 1919

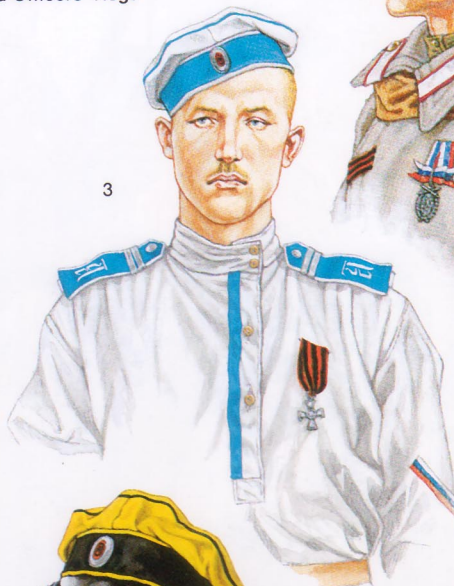
- 1: Private, Signals Team, 1st Composite Infantry Regt
- 2: Shtabs-Kapitan, Composite Guard Artillery Brigade
- 3: Rotmistr (Captain), 12th Akhtirsky Hussar Regt
- 4: Private, Composite Guard Infantry Regt



Андрей Карашун '88

'COLOURFUL' REGIMENTS, SOUTH RUSSIA, 1919

- 1: Captain, 1st 'Gen. Markov' Officers' Regt
- 2: Poruchik (Lieutenant), 2nd 'Gen. Drozdovsky' Rifle Regt
- 3: Junior Sergeant, 1st 'Gen. Alexeyev' Partisan Infantry Regt
- 4: Private, Samursky Infantry Regt
- 5: Lieutenant-colonel, 'Gen. Kornilov' Shock Inf. Division, 1920
- 6: Sleeve badge, 2nd 'Gen. Drozdovsky' Mounted Officers' Regt



Андрей Карашук '96

COSSACK TROOPS

- 1: Prikazniy, 19th Regt of Don Cossacks, Army of the Don, 1918–20
- 2: Horunzhiy (Sub-lieutenant), Ataman Kalmykov's Special Ussuriysk Detachment, 1919
- 3: Senior Uriadniy, General Shkuro's Wolves' Division, 1919

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Андрей Карачун-96

EAST RUSSIA AND SIBERIA

- 1: Junior Officer, 3rd Rifle Regt., Detached Czechoslovak Corps, 1918
- 2: Private, Detached Izhevsk Rifle Brigade, 1918-19
- 3: Private, Siberian Provisional Government troops, 1918
- 4: Starshiy Feyerverker (Sergeant), 2nd Artillery Brigade, Komuch People's Army, 1918



Андрей Карашук 96

INSURGENTS AND PARTISANS

1: Kulak peasant rebel, Central Russia, 1917–22

2: Nestor Makhno, Chief of the Revolutionary Insurgent Army of Ukraine, 1918–20

3: Uzbek Basmachi Rebel, 1918–24



November after a trainload of pro-Bolshevik troops arrived in Minsk, but the Germans soon reoccupied the city. At the time of the Brest-Litovsk treaty, in March 1918, the Rada declared an independent Belorussian state, but after the Germans left this was soon shut down by the Bolsheviks. The Belorussian SSR was officially created in December of that year. However, in March 1919 Pilsudski marched into Belorussia and declared it a part of Poland. The Bolsheviks eventually ceded large parts of Belorussia to Lithuania (July 1920) and Poland (March 1921).

The first national insignia was introduced on 11 December 1917 by the Belorussian Central Military Rada. It consisted of a ribbon in national colours – white over red over white – and was worn in a buttonhole (second from the top) on tunics and greatcoats. Far larger numbers of Belorussians served in foreign armies – especially those of Poland and Lithuania, and they usually wore the Belorussian ribbon in place of the state's cockade and often had their own facing colours. For example, Belorussian infantry serving in the Lithuanian army wore German M.1915 field blouses with white piping on cuffs and shoulder straps, white capbands and white triangular collar patches. The Belorussian Hussar squadron wore German 'atilla' jackets piped red, and had white-red-white lance pennants.

Ukraine

The political situation in Ukraine from 1917 to 1922 was complicated, to say the least. Towards the end of 1917 a group of nationalists in Kiev declared the Ukrainian Peoples' Republic. They were led by a Central Rada (council) led by Vladimir Vinnichenko, a writer, and Simon Petlyura, a journalist. Bolshevik troops invaded in January 1918 and set up their own Soviet Ukrainian government. This was short-lived: on 3 March 1918 the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk formally recognised a new Ukrainian state. The Soviets were replaced by German troops, who marched into Ukraine in force and appointed Pavel Skoropadsky as 'Hetman' (supreme chief) of Ukraine. With Germany's collapse at the end of World War I, the German grip on the Ukraine weakened. In December 1918 Skoropadsky escaped to Berlin disguised as a German officer. The nationalists again took control, with Petlyura as commander-in-chief and Vinnichenko as president of a 'Directoria' government. This lasted until September 1919 when the Armed Forces of South Russia took over, until they in turn were defeated by the Red Army.

With these rapid political changes there was never time to properly organise a united Ukrainian force. At least three Ukrainian armies took the field in the Civil War, fighting the Reds and the Whites and even each other.

One of the first accounts of the Ukrainian army controlled by the Central Rada was given by the German official Kolin Ross in a report to General Hoffmann, the chief of operations of the German eastern front (Ober-Ost) in May 1918:

'The Army consists of mercenary troops – former soldiers and officers, unemployed men and adventurers. There is no system of ranks, only unit posts for commanders who earn 15 percent more than soldiers – 400 roubles a month – and enjoy very little respect from their subordinates. Food, living quarters and uniforms are free. The strength is about 2,000 men. While some units differ in uniforms, the majority are dressed in old Russian uniforms with sky blue and yellow armbands on

the left sleeve. A special feature – high kolpaks [fur hats] with long flammes of different colours – is intended to make the Army look purely Ukrainian and to raise its morale. In accordance with revolutionary tradition, everyone has as many weapons as he can carry. The most popular general officers are Pressovsky and Petlyura.’

The Central Rada introduced its own Ukrainian cockade, which was sky blue with a yellow centre. It also adopted a new system of rank distinctions based on lace chevrons worn on the cuff: one silver chevron indicated *royoviy* (junior sergeant); two – *chotoviy*; three – *bunchuzhniy*; one chevron with a loop on top – *pidсотenniy*; two – *сотnik*; three – *kurimniy*; one chevron of wide silver lace without a loop – *pulkovnik*; two – *ataman brigadniy*; three – *ataman divisiyniy*; three stripes of wide lace with a loop on top – *ataman korpusu*; two higher stripes of broad lace – *ataman armiyi*; and three – *ataman frontoviy*.

Hetman Skoropadsky gave a different complexion to his army when he introduced a long blue coat called the *zhupan* and wide *sharovari* trousers. Ranks and regimental numbers were worn on collar patches, which were sky blue for infantry, yellow for cavalry, red for artillery, black for engineers, crimson for HQ officials and white for general staff.

The largest part of the Hetman's Army was made up of so-called ‘Secheviye Streltsi’ (Soldiers of the Sech), the exception being Petlura's army whose soldiers were known as *Guydamaki*. In the Ukraine all armed men fighting for their country's independence have been known by this name which is derived from the ‘Sech’ – the island fortress on which the Zaporozhian Cossacks of southern Ukraine had maintained their headquarters in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Hetman's own guard had *mazepinka* fur hats, and its members were called *serduks*. There were two



Maj.Gen. Rudolf Gajda (Radola Geidel), commander of 2nd Czechoslovak Division, 1918.

The emblems of the Czechoslovak Legion in Russian service were a red and white ribbon on the cap and a khaki sleeve shield with red piping and gold lace (see also Plate G1).



Ekaterinburg Commandant's Office, July 1918. The figures in the lower row are (left to right): artillery officer; lieutenant-colonel (aviation); infantry officer in Caucasian national dress; and HQ official.



Admiral Kolchak (centre) at Ekaterinburg, February 1919. The figures standing behind him are (left to right): adjutant of the Ural Cossacks; a Czechoslovak cavalryman in his characteristic headgear with white plume; and a Cossack from the Kirghizian Convoy of Ataman Dootov, wearing a red beshmet undercoat and a red topped fur hat.

other peculiar divisions: the 1st ('Blue-zhupaned'), who were mostly former Ukrainian POWs captured by the Germans; and the 2nd ('Grey-zhupaned'), with *zhupans* made of Austrian grey cloth and wearing peaked caps, who were recruited from Ukrainians captured by the Austrians.

The rank system was shown on shoulder straps of German design, with German four-pointed pips in place of Russian stars: a *gurtnoviy* had one stripe of narrow white lace; *royoviy* – two; *chotoviy* – three; *bunchuzhniy* – one wide stripe; *horunzhiy* – one pip on a plain shoulder strap; *poruchik* – two pips; *sotnik* – three pips; *voyskovoy starshina* (major) – one pip on a shoulder strap with two perpendicular stripes; *pidpulkovnik* – two pips; *pulkovnik* – three pips; *general-horunzhiy* – one pip on a shoulder strap with zig-zag lace; *general-poruchik* – two; and *general-pulkovnik* – three.

The third major regular Ukrainian force was the Ukrainian Army of Galicia (UGA). Its uniform was officially introduced on 30 April 1919, and was made of grey Austrian cloth with facings in the following colours: infantry – blue; cavalry – yellow; artillery – red; engineers – black; military police – crimson; and technical and automobile units – grey. These colours were present on the top of peculiar Galician hats and on *zoobchatka* (wolf's teeth) patches worn on the collar (see Plate C3).

The Caucasus

After the October revolution the three states making up the Caucasus region – Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan – proclaimed independence from Russia and established their own governments. With their overwhelmingly Christian populations, Georgia and Armenia turned for support to the Allies, while Muslim Azerbaijan co-operated with Turkey and its main Great War ally, Germany. The independence of these states was short-lived, and all were eventually annexed to the Soviet Union.

Georgia

By January 1921 the Georgian Army could boast: two Georgian divisions (1st Div. under Gen. Artmiladze and 2nd Div. under Gen. Sreselly); a mountain artillery division (with three field batteries and one anti-aircraft battery); two battalions of People's Guard; and two border-guard units under Col. Sumbatov: 1st Sukhumi Border Regiment, and 2nd Border Regiment. There were also some 400 civilian militia and a special punitive detachment of 150 infantry, 30 cavalry and six machine-guns.

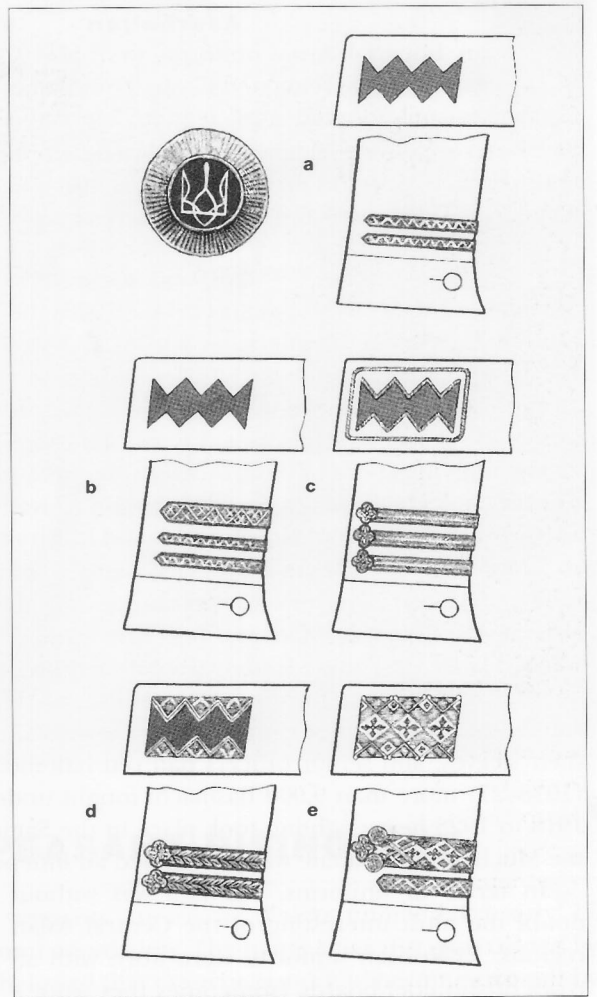
The Georgian infantry and artillery were dressed in Russian Imperial Army uniforms and had Russian equipment and weapons. Former Georgian rifle regiments continued to wear crimson shoulder-boards marked with the Cyrillic letter 'T' – for Georgia – stencilled in yellow paint. The Georgian cavalry was often seen in national Caucasian dress, with *papakha* fur hats, *burka* cloaks, long *cherkeska* coats, *beshmet* undercoats, soft leather breeches and boots without heels. Their favourite weapons were Caucasian sabres and long daggers. The Georgian Cavalry Regiment had crimson shoulder-boards with white piping and the yellow Cyrillic letters 'Tps.' (for Georgia).

Cockades often had the central part in Georgian national colours – dark red, white and black. (Several that exist in private collections are gold with a white centre and a dark red cross; these were probably worn by Georgian officers.)

The British presence in western Georgia lasted from September 1918 to September 1919. The troops were the 13th and 39th Infantry Divisions commanded by Major General W.M. Thomson, and numbered up to 30,000. Two battleships, six cruisers and eight destroyers remained in the Black Sea until July 1920. At the same time 25,000 Turks (7th Infantry Division under Lieutenant General Mehmed Vehib-Pasha) and some 30,000 Germans under Major General von Kressenstein were present in eastern Georgia from January 1918 to August 1919. The Germans entered the Georgian capital, Tiflis (Tbilisi), in June 1918, and the Turks (numbering four Turkish infantry divisions by the end of the occupation) even managed to form the 'Caucasian Muslim Army' of 13,000 men with 40 cannon.

Armenia

Little information is available on Armenian military formations in the Civil War period. It is certain that six Armenian rifle battalions, part of the former Imperial Army, were in existence. These were dressed in Russian uniforms but had small crosses in place of stars on their shoulder-boards. The Armenian nationalists or *Dashnaks* had their own armed units who were dressed in national costume.



Cockade (top left) and rank insignia of the Ukrainian Army of Galicia, 1919. The cockade was sky blue and yellow, with the silver trident device of Ukraine. Collars were decorated with *zoobchatka* (wolf's teeth) patches in branch colour with additional gold lace according to rank. The collar and cuff insignia here are from top right: (a) *vistoon*, (b) *bunchuzhnyi*, (c) *sotnik*, (d) *pid-pulkovnik*, (e) *poruchik-general*. Other ranks not shown had the following: *strelets* – no stripes; *starshiy strelets* – one; *desyatnik* – three; senior *desyatnik* – one broader stripe; *bulavnyi* – two; *chetar* – one narrow stripe and lace on the collar; *poruchik* – one broader lace on collar and cuffs (as for *sotnik*); *chetar-general* – one layer of special wide lace; and *sotnik-general* – three.

Azerbaijan

Ex-Russian Imperial Army uniforms were also standard in Azerbaijan. Russian rank insignia remained in use, but in place of the Tsarist cockade the Azerbaijanis adopted a yellow metal star-and-crescent capbadge; they had metal or painted badges of their own design for shoulder-boards. The newly created Muslim Corps had fur hats with a five-pointed star in white metal, *cherkeska* coats and *beshmet* undercoats.

Central Asia

Throughout the Civil War years and the 1920s the Reds were opposed in Central Asia by Turkic guerrillas known as *Basmachi* (derived from the Uzbeki word *basmak* – to attack). The Reds generally referred to them as ‘armed bands’, even though some detachments were well organised, with a semblance of uniform and their own insignia.

The major hotbeds of Basmachi fighting were the Ferghana, Alay and Arpin valleys, the Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva (or Khorezm) regions, and around the town of Krasnovodsk and in Kirghizia.

More than 200 Basmachi detachments operated in the Ferghana valley (1917–24). The most important among them were those of the rebel leaders: Yrgush; Madamin-bek; Kurshimat; Makhkum-Hadja; and Akbar-Ali. By 1921 these leaders were attempting to dress their warriors in similar outfits: typically black, white or khaki *gymnasterkas*. In Kurshimat’s detachment junior officers wore white full-moon badges on their sleeves, and senior officers had red half-moons. In Turkmenistan (1918–27) more than 9,000 Basmachi fought under Junaid-Khan. From 1918 to 1923 heavy fighting took place in the Samarkand region, where the Muchin-Bek Khanate was proclaimed an independent state.

In terms of uniforms, Bukhara was without doubt the most interesting of the Central Asian regions. Ex-Russian uniforms were worn with all types of shoulder-boards (sometimes they wore a different one on each shoulder). The Emir of Bukhara’s guard, which consisted of three *serkerde* (regiments), had special uniforms. The elite regiment was the Turkish regiment of 300 men, who were dressed in red British tunics with black braid, white breeches, and red fez hats with black tassels. They were armed with Lee Enfield rifles. The Emir’s own regiment had 1,000 men in red tunics and black Astrakhan fur hats. The Arabian regiment numbered 4,000 men who wore black Turkoman fur hats, drab olive greatcoats and tunics with red collar patches decorated with yellow metal stars and crescents.

The ‘Semembek’ militia (3,000 men under Rahman-Kul-Bek Ynkolonu titled *Topchi-Bashi*, or commander-in-chief) wore Russian uniforms dating back to Alexander III: green tunics with red facings, white linen trousers and black fur hats. The Army of Bukhara, under Ibrahim-Bek, fought on until 1926. The Soviets managed to fully suppress the Basmachi movement only in May 1933.

Buryat soldiers of Admiral Kolchak’s Army of Siberia, 1919. Buryats are one of the many peoples of Siberia, whose illiteracy, natural submissiveness and skill as hunters made them ideal cannon-fodder for both Red and White armies. Accustomed to spending long periods in Siberian forests, they preferred to carry as much ammunition as possible.





Japanese soldiers and an officer in the Russian Far East, 1920.

Although the original photo caption reads 'Russian railroad workers killed by the Japanese', it is hard to imagine such workers clad in expensive leather coats. The dead are probably Cheka officials or high-ranking pro-Soviet partisan commanders.

PEASANT RISINGS

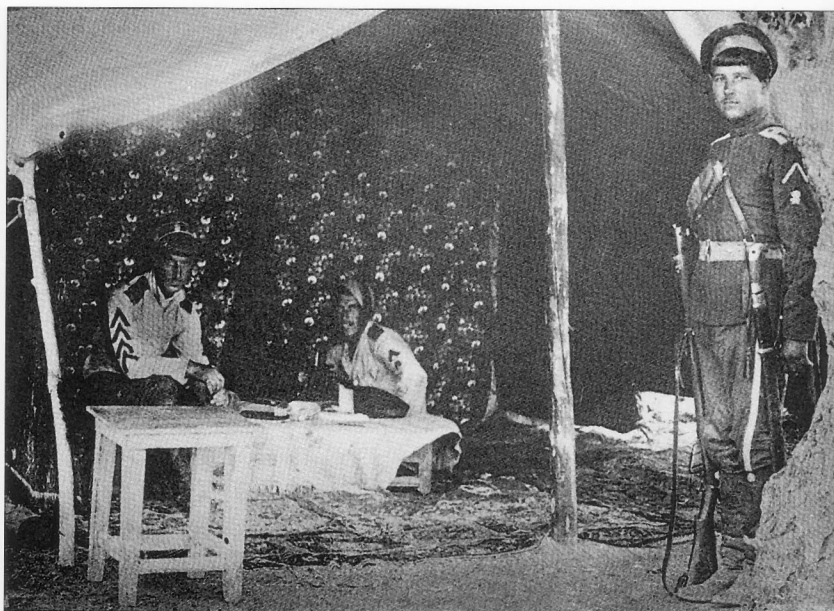
By 1917 well-to-do peasants known as *Kulaks* numbered nearly 17 percent of Russia's rural population. The name *kulak* (fist) was coined by the Bolsheviks, who believed that these peasants had become rich not by hard work but by hoarding food in their 'greedy mitts'. When Red food detachments began to confiscate surplus food, the Kulaks naturally began to fight back, usually formed in small groups from nearby villages, using whatever weapons were available.

Widespread discontentment among the peasants led to a number of larger scale peasant risings between 1918 and 1922. Of these, the one led by Alexander Antonov in 1920–21 in the Tambov region of central Russia proved the most troublesome to the Soviet authorities.

Antonov was a radical member of the Left Socialist Revolutionary party. He had sided with the Bolsheviks until their absurd farming policies came into effect in 1918. After a number of terrorist attacks he became something of a popular hero. By November 1920 Antonov was leading an army of 8,000 men, most of them mounted, on surprise raids against collective farms and railway junctions. He managed to clear Tambov province of Communist authority, but he had greater ambitions, and was determined to march on Moscow.

In January 1921, by resorting to conscription, Antonov had assembled two field armies consisting of 21 'regiments' with a total strength of between 20,000 and 50,000. In official correspondence, the Soviets referred to the *Antonovtsi* as 'bandits' or 'disorganised Kulak groups', despite knowing that Antonov's army had a structured organisation along

Maj.Gen. Boris Annenkov, officer and sentry, 1920. Annenkov was commander of the Detached Semirechensk Army. Even the Whites considered him sadistically cruel. The sentry is an *uriadnik* (NCO) of the Semirechensk Mounted Regiment. His *beskozirka* cap has the crimson band of the Semirechensk Cossacks and a dark-green crown. The coat is blue with crimson shoulderboards (with silver lace) and cuffs. *Sharovari* trousers are also crimson with silver hussar lace on the seams. His weapons are a Cossack *shashka* sword and a British rifle.



with its own uniforms and insignia. Field armies were organised much like regular formations: each had five brigades with two infantry or cavalry regiments, along with specialist signals, reconnaissance, medical, engineer and other units. Command functions were performed by the Major Operational HQ (MOHQ), which had its own logistical, political and legal departments as well as a separate security regiment.

The first insignia of Antonov's army was a red armband with the rank name, insignia and a regimental number painted in yellow; this was stitched to the left sleeve of shirts and *gymnasterkas*. These armbands may not have survived the first summer campaign, and they do not appear to have been worn on the outer layers of winter garments. The result was that most *Antonovtsi* were recognisable in winter only by a red ribbon or rosette worn in the headgear.

So great was the threat posed by Antonov's army that the Soviets treated it as a new front, and sent against it their best commanders, Tukhachevsky and Uborevich, with nearly 50,000 regulars as well as Hungarian and Chinese 'internationalists' and Cheka, ChON and VOKh units. In June 1921, after the most brutal campaign of repression to date, Tukhachevsky defeated the 2nd Army, commanded by Antonov himself, and, two weeks later the 1st Army, under Boguslavsky. Antonov escaped, but was tracked down by the GPU in June 1922 and killed.

Small-scale peasant rebellions continued well into the 1930s, when Stalin had the *Kulaks* transported to the Gulags or shot.

MILITARY DECORATIONS

Tsarist Russia had developed an elaborate system of military decorations. The best known was the St George Cross (also known as the 'Badge of the Military Order' – *Znak Voennogo Ordena*). This was worn on a ribbon in orange and black, colours that are believed to have represented fire and death. The awarding of this and other military decorations in a war



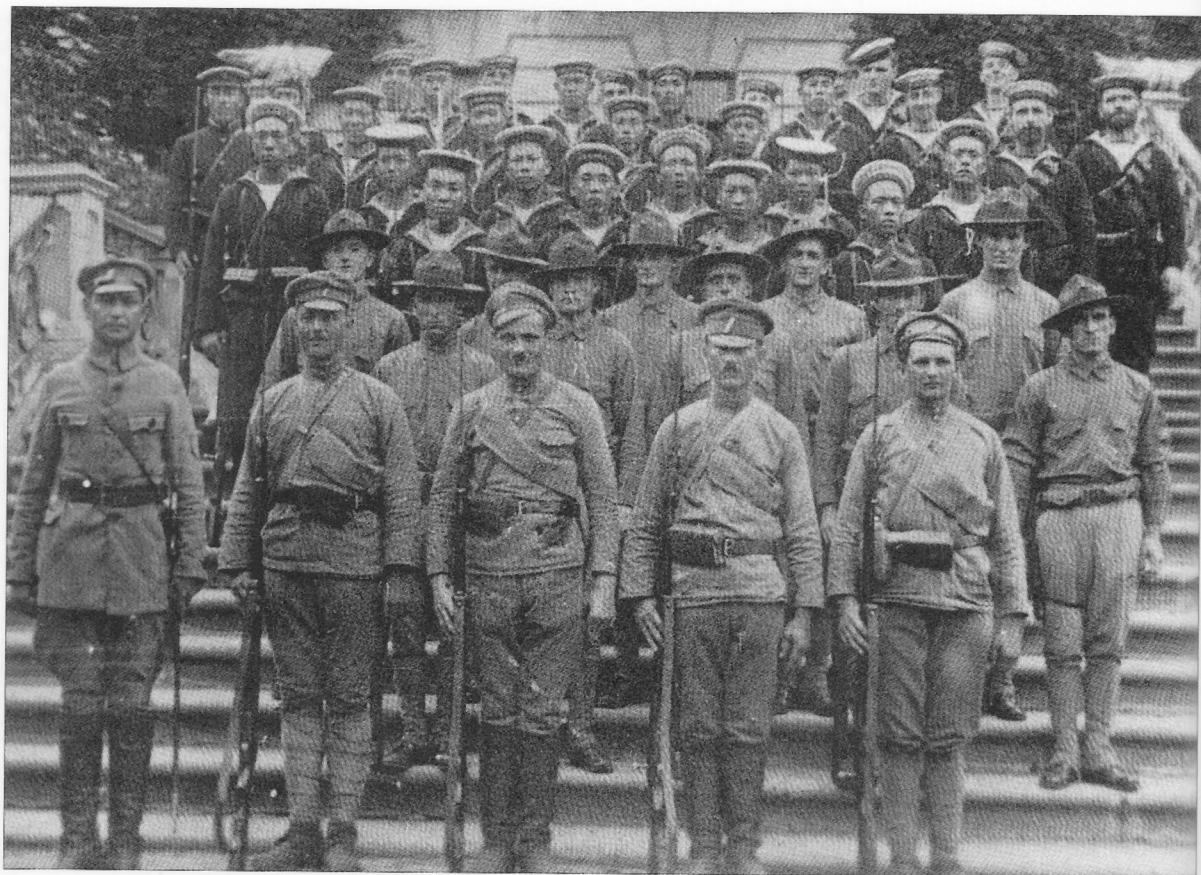
Lt.Gen. D. Horvat (centre), chief of the Chinese Eastern Railroad (which linked the Far East with the TransSiberian Railroad) and Admiral Kolchak's emissary in Kharbin, 1920. From left to right are officers from Japan, Romania, Great Britain, Czechoslovakia, France and Russia.

in which Russian killed Russian was seen by many White generals as the ultimate sacrilege.

In east Russia, however, the pragmatic Admiral Kolchak continued to award the St George, St Vladimir, St Anne, St Stanislas and other orders. The serial numbers on these awards were, however, restarted at 1. In the north-west, generals Miller and Yudenich followed Kolchak's lead, and issued all awards except the St George Cross – the sacred decoration which was never intended to be given for extinguishing the lives of fellow Russians.

In the south, Denikin and Wrangel refrained from awarding the old state decorations. Instead they issued special campaign medals to the participants of hard-fought actions. The most famous of these was the Badge (*Znak*) for the 1st Kuban March, more popularly known as the 'Ice March' medal, which depicted a sword on a crown of thorns. It was awarded to participants of the Volunteer Army's epic winter campaign of 1917/18. Other Volunteer Army decorations included the Medal for the Drozdovtsi, and the 'Cross for the March with General Bredov'. Heavy losses meant that few were issued – and though technically mere campaign medals, they were worn with as much pride as gallantry awards.

Denikin was notorious for preferring promotion to decorations. By the time Wrangel took over from him, there were so many young colonels and generals that Wrangel saw the need for a new decoration – the Order of St Nicholas the Miracle-Maker. Wrangel also conferred this



on entire units, breaking with long Imperial Army tradition in which unit awards normally took the form of banners, silver trumpets and kettle-drums.

In north-west Russia the most prominent of the new gallantry awards was the 'Cross of the Brave', issued by Bulak-Balakhovich to members of his corps. In north Russia, General Miller introduced the medal 'In Commemoration of the Liberation of the North Region from the Bolsheviks' on 18 June 1919.

Many more decorations were established in east Russia: the Ural Cossacks awarded the 'Cross of Archangel Michael' for heroism; the 'Order for the Liberation of Siberia' was issued by the short-lived Directoria government which Kolchak deposed; and Kolchak himself approved the 'Order for the Great Siberian March', for all White troops who had taken part in the retreat from the Volga to Lake Baikal.

Most White volunteer units also had their own unit badges, as a means of stressing their elite status. Many of these were miniature works of art, rivalling the intricate enamelled designs of Fabergé. Especially noteworthy are the badges of the 'Colourful' regiments in south Russia, of Bermont-Avalov's Western Volunteers, and the Cross of the Baltic Landwehr in the north-west. A number of commemorative regimental badges were issued by the Whites after their evacuation abroad – the Northern Army to Finland, the Siberian Army to China, and the AFSR to Turkey. Many of these can now be seen in the Museum of the Lifeguard Cossack Regiment, in Paris.

Unusual group photo of foreign troops in Vladivostok, 1920. From the front row backwards: Czechoslovak Legion, US Marines, Japanese sailors and British sailors. The Czechs wear Russian uniforms but are distinguishable by the lack of shoulder-boards (which remained in constant use in the Russian Far East) and the white-over-red Czech ribbon in their caps. The officer at left also has a Czech shield badge on his right arm. The photo is part of a large collection of Czech Legion material in the Prague archives.

THE PLATES

A: NORTH RUSSIA

A1: Private, 1st Severny (Northern) Infantry Regiment, 1919 This Russian volunteer is dressed in British uniform with Russian insignia. His equipment and weapons are also British. The blue chevron on the right sleeve is that of north Russia volunteers who joined up in August-September 1918, before conscription was introduced. Russian cockades were reintroduced in May 1919, but it was only with difficulty that commanders got their soldiers to wear them. The central part of the cockade is painted in the Russian colours: white within red within blue.

A2: Corporal, United States 366th ('Polar Bears') Infantry Regiment, 1918-19 This NCO wears typical US winter uniform and equipment. Even this proved inadequate for one of the coldest regions of Russia, where temperatures could drop to -50°C. Americans sometimes obtained additional kit from fellow British or Russian officers. A shoulder patch showing a polar bear was authorised in June 1919 (see MAA 230, *The US Army 1890-1920*).

A3: Sotnik, White Sea Mountain-Horse Demi-Regiment, 1918 With the outbreak of the Civil War, the peculiarly titled *Belomorsky Konno-Gorsky Divizion* (White Sea Mountain-Horse Demi-Regiment) found itself in the extreme north of Russia. There are almost no mountains in the White Sea area, and the unit name derived from the original home of most of the unit's men – the Caucasus mountains. The uniform, in particular the round fur hat and *bashlik* hood, had echoes of the Caucasus. The short jacket is that of the former 3rd Caucasian Rifle *Druzhina* (detachment), which was recruited from the Caucasian Gurian tribe. The *shashka* sword was, however, typical for cavalry of the Russian Army, not just Caucasian troops. Black braid was introduced in September 1919 to differentiate ranks. Russian shoulder-boards are worn, as are cavalry officers' boots, but in place of the Russian cockade is a unit badge showing two crossed *shashka* swords on a disk which the soldiers called the 'polar lights'. The same badge is pinned to the ribbon of the soldier's variant of the St George Cross.

B: NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

B1: Trooper, detached squadron of the Latvian 1st Kurzem Division, 1919 This Latvian horseman wears a mix of clothing and equipment: the hussar 'attila' tunic (M.1910 braided jacket), M.98 Carbine and holstered Luger M.1904 are German, while the cavalry breeches, dragoon sword, boots and leather equipment are Russian. The cap is Latvian-made and is worn pulled back in the fashion of the day, together with a Latvian cockade and collar patches. Shoulder knots are white and black, the colours of the Kurzem district of Latvia. The medal is the Order of Lachplešis (3rd Class) which was awarded for gallantry in battle.

B2: Senior NCO, 1st Platoon Regiment, Bermont-Avalov's Detachment, Russia, 1919 Platoons (scouts) first

appeared during the Crimean War. Their name probably derived from *lezat plastom*, meaning to lie flat. This is a former Russian guardsman captured by the Germans in the first months of World War I. Such units wore German clothing, usually with Russian shoulder-boards and Russian rank distinctions. Some men still wore Tsarist Russian decorations they had received in World War I (here in the form of ribbons). The Russian Orthodox cross in white worn on the left sleeve was a special feature of Bermont-Avalov's corps, as was the Black Cross army badge which was introduced by Bermont-Avalov on 4 March 1919 for all of his units. The three red stripes on the right cuff were awarded for wounds received in action. (For more on wound stripes, see the commentary to Plate E5.)

B3: Captain, 1st Pskov Infantry Regiment, North-Western Army, 1918/19 This is the typical White officer's uniform of the Civil War years. It consists of the regulation Russian Imperial Army uniform of 1912 with officer's *shashka* sword and map-case. The only Civil War feature is the field-sign of the North-Western Army: a chevron in Russian colours over a white cross, worn on the left sleeve. The breast badge is the 'Cross of 13 May 1919' worn on a rosette in Russian colours, this was issued to participants of the First March on Petrograd. The button-hole ribbon is that of the Order of St Vladimir, 4th Class. White officers normally wore their leather belt shoulder supports vertically on the chest and criss-crossed at the back; this distinguished them from Red commanders who wore them criss-crossed on chest and back.

C: UKRAINE AND POLAND

C1: Strelets (Rifleman), 1st 'Blue Zhupan' Division of Secheviye Streltsi, Ukraine, 1918 This unmistakably Ukrainian uniform was chosen by the government of independent Ukraine as a link to the military past. The long coat was called a *zhupan* in Ukrainian, and was derived from 17th century Ukrainian Cossack fashion. It gave its name to the two guard divisions of Hetman Skoropadsky's short-lived state: the *Sinezhupanniki* (Blue Zhupans) and the *Serozhupanniki* (Grey Zhupans). The baggy *sharovari* trousers are also as worn in the 17th century. The fur hat is shown here with the flamme secured to the front of the hat with a cockade (in Ukrainian colours), but the flamme could also be worn loose, as shown in the halftone figure in the background. The belt is German, but the pouches are Russian.

C2: Rotmistr (Captain), 2nd Ulan Regiment, Poland, 1919-20 In August 1920 the army of the reborn Polish state defeated the Red Army near Warsaw in the 'Miracle on the Vistula'. As well as inflicting a serious blow to Soviet morale, this event signalled the end of the Soviet dream of carrying the revolution to Berlin and on to Western Europe. The medal is the Military Cross of Virtuti Militari, the highest Polish military award, while the chest badge is that of the Pulawy Legion, a memento of Russian service in World War I. The horse furniture is the standard version for Russian officers.

C3: Vistoon (Corporal), West Ukrainian Army, 1918/19 The first units of the West Ukrainian Army (UGA, Ukrainian Galician Army) derived from units raised in Austria in 1914,

when areas of Ukraine were part of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia. Its members were also called Secheviye Streltsi. The western Ukrainians had long sought autonomy, and were prepared to fight the more Russified eastern Ukrainians to obtain it. Dressed entirely in Austrian grey, this soldier wears a Galician cap and a *zoobchatka* (wolf's teeth) patch on the collar, both in the blue branch colour of the infantry. His rank of *vistoon* (corporal) is denoted by two pointed lace stripes worn just above the cuff. The Austrian badges on the left of the cap and the 1914 Cross of the Secheviye Streltsi (established in September 1914) both indicate service in the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I. The metal flask marked '1917' is standard Austro-Hungarian issue.

D: AFSR TROOPS, THE BATTLE FOR KIEV, AUGUST 1919

D1: Private, Signals Team, 1st Composite Infantry Regiment The White Army in south Russia attempted to preserve the traditions of former Tsarist regiments. In practice many regiments were reduced to battalions which retained the name of the regiment; these were usually combined to form composite divisions. This soldier is a member of the Tsarist 75th Sevastopolsky Infantry Regiment which was reduced to battalion strength in the Civil War and found itself as part of the 1st Composite Regiment of the 5th Infantry Division. Large shipments of British supplies reached the White forces of south Russia, including many thousands of uniforms. This soldier could be mistaken for a British Tommy, but for the Russian shoulder-boards, red-cloth lightning bolts badge (of the Imperial Signals unit) and the chevron in Russian colours on his left sleeve.

D2: Shtabs-Kapitan, Composite Guard Artillery Brigade Most Imperial Guard regiments had been decimated in the opening months of World War I, in plodding, Napoleonic-style attacks on entrenched German machine-gun posts. Despite this, many surviving guardsmen still chose to join the White Guards. The number of these ex-guardsmen was so small by the end of World War I that only one Composite Guard Regiment and one Composite Guard Artillery Brigade could be formed. This officer has red braid on his collar and white braid around the cuffs, which identifies him as a former member of the 1st Lifeguard Artillery Brigade. The capband is made of black velvet. Guard artillery officers traditionally wore dark green breeches piped red with their field tunics, unlike infantry officers who wore field breeches.

D3: Rotmistr (Captain), 12th Akhtirsky Hussar Regiment Members of former Tsarist regiments, especially cavalry, tried to preserve their World War I uniforms. Over time, however, most were forced to accept that a new British tunic looked better than a worn-out Russian one. Russian belts are worn here in the English manner, as are medal ribbons. The smallish national chevron was of a type favoured by general officers. The cross worn on the chest is a regimental badge, while the orange and black sword knot indicates the award of the St George *Weapon* for gallantry.

This regiment fought as part of the 1st Cavalry Division of the AFSR. Reduced to a single *divizion* (demi-regiment), it

became part of the 'General Kaledin' Composite Cavalry Regiment which was created out of shrinking units of the former 12th Cavalry Division. Besides the Akhtirsky Regiment, several other former Imperial cavalry units (often no more than a few dozen men each) took the field against the Soviets; among them were the Ingermanland Hussars, the Petrograd and Belgorod Lancers, His Majesty's Own Cuirassiers, and the Life-Cossacks.

D4: Private, Composite Guard Infantry Regiment Each company of this regiment represented one of the former Tsarist lifeguard regiments. In the Civil War these were grouped in battalions, reflecting the composition of Tsarist guard infantry divisions. This soldier belongs to the remnants of the Lifeguard Grenadier Regiment, as indicated by the sky blue braid on his *gymnasterka* front, the piping on his shoulder-boards and collar patches, and the red (divisional) braid on his cuffs.

PLATE E: THE 'COLOURFUL' REGIMENTS, SOUTH RUSSIA

E1: Captain, 1st 'General Markov' Officers Regiment, 1919 Lt.Gen. Sergei Markov, the former chief-of-staff of the south-western front, was one of the leading organisers of the Volunteer Army. Among his men he was known as 'General Forwards' – always leading his troops to the front in his famous white fur hat.

Formed at first as an 'Officers' regiment (ie one consisting only of officers), the regiment was known for its severe discipline and the austere behaviour of its members. They abstained from women, alcohol and gambling. Considering themselves Russian crusaders, they pledged to fight to the death, a determination reflected in the black and white colours of their uniform. After Markov's death the letter 'M' was added to shoulder-boards, and his name was given to the regiment and, later, the entire division. On his dyed black *gymnasterka* this officer wears the officer's St George Cross and the famous 'Ice March' medal commemorating the first winter campaign of the Volunteer Army in 1918.

In July 1919 the regiment liberated a convent near Belgorod without causing damage to the building or its occupants. The mother superior blessed the troops and presented the officers of the 1st Battalion with wooden rosary beads which, from then on, became a symbolic attribute of officer's uniform.

E2: Poruchik (Lieutenant), 2nd 'General Drozdovsky' Rifle Regiment, 1919 In February 1918 Colonel Mikhail Drozdovsky organised a detachment from officers and soldiers of different Russian units and in so doing started the famous 1,000-mile march from Romania to the Don River. All were later awarded the special commemorative medal shown here.

E3: Junior Sergeant, 1st 'General Alexeyev' Partisan Infantry Regiment, 1919 The sky blue facing colour of this regiment symbolised the youth of its members: it was the colour of cadets and students in Tsarist Russia. In 1918 General Alexeyev was already 60 years old, and the young men of the regiment referred to themselves as 'Alexeyev's grandsons'. Russian Army *beskozirka* (peakless caps) were

worn by nearly all the rank-and-file of the 'Colourful' White Guard regiments.

E4: Private, Samursky Infantry Regiment, 1919 At the end of 1918, 500 Red Army men were taken prisoner by the Drozdovsky Regiment. Claiming that 'they were sick and tired of their Commissars', all of them expressed the desire to join the Whites. As a test of their loyalty (and 500 men was an important addition to the fledgling Volunteer Army), the regimental commander, Colonel Turkul, ordered them to fight in front of his officers' company in the next battle. After destroying their opponents with some panache, the unit of former 'krasnoarmeyski' was renamed the Soldiers' Battalion of the Drozdovsky Regiment. In the battles that followed, the battalion continued to behave well, and, as a reward, was given the colour of the former Samursky Regiment, along with its title.

Dressed in the standard Russian uniform, the *Samurtsi* received yellow shoulder-boards with the Cyrillic letter 'С' (for Samursky) and caps with yellow crowns and black bands. In Russia yellow was considered as the colour of treason, but the *Samurtsi* saw it rather as a reminder that there was no way back.

E5: Lieutenant-Colonel, the 'General Kornilov' Shock Infantry Division, 1920 This unit took its name from Lavr Kornilov, one of the most popular of Russia's World War I generals, and in August 1917, the supreme commander of all Russian forces. He was killed in battle near Ekaterinodar on 13 April 1918, when a shell hit the farmhouse he was using as his headquarters. His name was given to one of the best White Guard regiments and later passed to the whole division.

The officer depicted here has all the hallmarks of 'Kornilovsky' troops. His tunic (unlike the one on Plate E1) is evidently hand-made. The six stripes on the left arm indicate six battle wounds, according to the system introduced in the Russian Army in 1916. Privates and NCOs had red woollen-braid wound stripes, while officers had silver or gold lace depending on their regimental button colour. Wound stripes received during the Civil War were in reverse colours. The medals are the Order of St Vladimir (4th Class) with swords and bow, the Order of St Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, and the 'Ice March' medal. Above these on a chain is the regimental badge (*jetton*) of the Kornilovsky Shock Regiment.

E6: Sleeve badge, 2nd 'General Drozdovsky' Mounted Officers Regiment, 1919 The badge was made of black and white enamel, shaped like a hussar sabretache, and bore initials standing for the unit name '2-y Ofitser'skiy Konnyi Generala Drozdovskogo Polk'.

F: COSSACK TROOPS

In the background, from left to right, are an Orenburg Cossack trooper, a soldier of the Gundarevski Cossack Regiment and a Kuban Cossack.

F1: Prikazniy, 19th Regiment of Don Cossacks, Army of the Don, 1918–20 This is a typical Don Cossack in World War I uniform. During the Civil War, Cossacks of the Don preferred to be clearly recognised from afar: in place of the wartime khaki shoulder-boards and caps, they usually wore

dark blue shoulder-boards and caps with red bands and dark blue crowns. The weapons are an M.1910 Cossack rifle, a *shashka* sword and a *nagayka* whip.

F2: Horunzhiy (Sub-Lieutenant), Ataman Kalmykov's Special Ussuriysk Detachment, 1919 Members of this detachment had small grey fur hats with a yellow top, and wore a yellow sleeve badge with the letter 'K' for Kalmikov. The saddle furniture was of typical Cossack style. The 'Annensky sword knot' indicates the foremost officer's award, the Order of St Anne, 4th Class.

As Ataman (chief) of the Ussuriysk Cossacks, Kalmykov had ambitions to be the sole ruler of this large area, but could do nothing without the support of the Japanese, so he had to fight the Chinese as well as the Reds. This alliance was not to bode well. In 1920 Kalmykov's detachment was forced to retreat into Manchuria; his men were taken prisoner and he was shot by the Chinese.

F3: Senior Uriadnik, General Shkuro's Wolves' Division, 1919 General Shkuro's real name was Shkura (skin), which he changed because 'Shkuro' sounded better. He became famous in 1915 when his 'wolf pack' fought a partisan war behind German lines. In place of a standard the unit carried a wolf skin with wolves' tails attached to the staff. Another special feature of the unit was a tall wolf-fur *papakha* hat. During the Civil War a white ribbon was added to this hat. A triangular cloth sleeve patch was also introduced, showing a wolf's head with bared teeth. The *gaziri* breast pockets had white lining and a white central stripe. On them he wears the Crosses of St George, 4th and 3rd Class and a St George Gallantry Medal. His full dress *cherkeska* would be black. In 1920 the Wolves' *Divizion* (demi-regiment of two squadrons) was expanded into a regiment-sized formation.

G: EAST RUSSIA AND SIBERIA

G1: Junior Officer, 3rd Rifle Regiment, Detached Czechoslovak Corps, 1918 Men of the famous Czechoslovak Legion wore ordinary Russian field uniform with the characteristic Czech cap. The cockade was replaced by a red and white ribbon which could be attached to the capband in several ways. The sleeve patch was made of khaki cloth with a red border. Rank badges took the form of chevrons – gold for senior officers, silver for junior officers and red for NCOs. The regimental number below the chevron was either an old Russian metal number or was stencilled directly onto the cloth in yellow paint. The decoration is the Cross of St George.

The background figure is a junior NCO of the 2nd Regiment of the Detached Czechoslovak Corps, wearing a 'Russian' Adrian helmet.

G2: Private, Detached Izhevsk Rifle Brigade, 1918–19 This unit belonged to Admiral Kolchak's Western Army. Together with the Votkinsk Rifle Division, it was raised among metal workers in the Urals. By Russian standards these workers were relatively wealthy, and at first had nothing against Soviet rule. But after several workers' representatives had been shot by local Chekists for their 'bourgeois attitude' there was an uprising – on such a scale that the Reds had to send their best troops to suppress it. The Red soldiers found them-

selves up against crowds of armed workers, in civilian dress, attacking them to the sound of Russian accordions.

Having defeated the Red troops under Tukhachevsky, the workers created the Izhevsk People's Army, an egalitarian organisation in which the normal form of address was 'tovarish' – comrade. They still favoured the system of Soviets (councils) but 'free of Jews and Communists'. The blue of the unit's shoulder-boards and piping symbolised the metal they had once produced. Officers also wore blue shoulder-boards as the workers objected to gold ones. A peculiar feature of the Izhevsk Division was that all members had home-made hunting knives, worn on waistbelts.

In 1920, when the Whites were in retreat, the Izhevsk and Votkinsk divisions were the only ones to maintain discipline, even though their families – women, children and old men – were accompanying them. Most of them eventually settled in Manchuria.

G3: Private, Siberian Provisional Government troops, 1918 The only insignia worn by these troops were the ribbons on the cap and right sleeve, in white and green – the colours of the Siberian Army. The greatcoat is rolled up and worn over the left shoulder to give some protection against sabres and bayonets. These troops never wore shoulder-boards.

G4: Starshiy Feyerverker (NCO), 2nd Artillery Brigade, Komuch People's Army, 1918 A self-governing region run by the Committee for Constitutional Assembly (Komuch) was established with the help of the Czechoslovak Legion, in Samara on the Volga River. It lasted from June to November 1918, when, despite their anti-Bolshevik views, many Komuch members were shot by Admiral Kolchak's troops.

The Komuch People's Army was even more short-lived, since it was raised only in August 1918. Even so, it had enough time to acquire special sleeve badges in branch-of-service colours along with its own rank insignia. The ribbon on the cap – in the colours of the St George military award – was specific to Komuch forces. This artillery NCO is equipped with an Arisaka carbine and wears the black breeches introduced for artillery units by Komuch.

H: INSURGENTS AND PARTISANS

H1: Kulak peasant rebel, Central Russia, 1917–22 The young Kulak shown here is dressed in the typical peasant costume of middle Russia: a *kosovorotka* shirt, loose sharovari trousers, fur-trimmed *polushubok* coat and leather boots. His weapon is an *obrez* ('cut-off'), a Mosin rifle with sawn-off barrel and butt. Highly effective, it was also easily concealed under peasant garments. Red soldiers learned to fear even the most innocent looking youngsters, who would whip out an *obrez* and put a bullet in their back as soon as they lowered their guard.

H2: Nestor Makhno, Chief of the Revolutionary Insurgent Army of Ukraine, 1918–20 The Ukrainian guerrilla leader Nestor Makhno (1889–1934) was one of the most controversial figures of the Civil War. An anarchist who had been convicted in 1909 for terrorist attacks, he fought in the Civil War for the interests of Ukrainian peasants, and against everyone who opposed them: Reds, Whites, Germans, Austrians, Poles and even the Ukrainian governments of

Petlyura and Skoropadsky. In practice this meant keeping on the move and regularly switching alliances.

In 1918–20 Makhno's forces fluctuated between 2,000 and 40,000 men, who were divided into 'groups' of between three and ten regiments. Makhno's HQ was usually at his birthplace, the village of Guliy Pole; it was made up of operations and reconnaissance departments and the 'Batkova Chortova Sotnia' – the Chief's Hell Squadron. Makhno's soldiers were dressed in a mixture of military and civilian clothing, although, in true anarchist tradition, uniformity was avoided. Makhno himself preferred a fur *papakha* hat, a British or Russian officer's tunic, red *galife* breeches and soft leather cavalry boots. He liked to carry as many weapons as possible, especially a decorative *shashka* sword and the German K-96 Mauser in its wooden 'broom handle' holster.

In 1921 Makhno escaped from Russia and settled in Paris, where he died in mysterious circumstances in 1934.

H3: Uzbek *Basmachi* rebel, 1918–24 In essence, the *Basmachi* were the Central Asian equivalent of Kulaks. Being Muslims, their fight against the Reds also had a religious dimension. Whereas Kulak detachments rarely exceeded 200–300 men, the *Basmachi* sometimes fielded 20,000–30,000. Of the many peoples of Central Asia, the main human source for *Basmachi* detachments were the Uzbeks, Turkomans, Tadjiks, Kazakhs and Kirghizes. Each wore national costume militarised with items left over by the Tsarist Army or supplied by interventionist powers. This Uzbek warrior has Afghan ammunition belts, a Russian Mosin rifle and British officer's breeches worn with Uzbeki *chuvyaki* sandals.

US infantry march into Vladivostok, 1918. These are the soldiers of 8th Infantry Division (previously based in California) which, together with 27th and 31st regiments of Marines (shipped from the Philippines) made up the 7,000-strong US Expeditionary Group under General Graves. The winter fur hats and fur-lined mackinaw coats were no doubt put to good use in the Far East.

