

White Troops in the Crimea and Taurida 1919

The following, mostly from Volkov, gives an outline of the organisation of the troops in the Crimea and Northern Taurida. For completeness I have included some of their other history as well.

Note that names have little bearing on size. In early 1919, "regiments" might only be a couple of hundred men, whereas by later in that year they were many times larger.

Crimean Centre of the Volunteer Army.

Formed 24 December 1917 to work on the formation of units in the army in the Crimea.

From 10 October 1918, it included the following areas: Sevastopol-Balaklava, Simferopol-Evpatoria, Feodosia-Kerch, Yalta and its surrounding area, Alushta and its surrounding area.

From 6 November 1918, the head of the centre was representative of the Commander-in-Chief, and from 15 November he was entrusted with the command of all units of the Volunteer Army in the Crimea.

Commander: Major General Bar. de Bode

Chief of Staff: Colonel K.K. Dorofeev (until November 29, 1918), Lt-General N. D. Parkhomov

Crimean-Azov Corps.

Formed in the AFSR on 27 December 1918 on the basis of units that had that entered the Crimea on 10 November 1918 or had been formed by the Crimean Centre (the South-Western Detachment, Composite Guards Company, Guard Horse Artillery Battery, 9th Plastun battalion, etc.).

It included the:

- 3rd Infantry Division, and troops operating in the Taurida and Yekaterinoslav provinces:
- Crimean Division (later 4th ID)
- Melitopol Detachment
- Independent Perekop Battalion
- Berdyansk Infantry Regiment
- Sevastopol fortress

Commanders: Major General Bar. de Bode (until January 6, 1919), Lt-General A.A. Borovski

Chief of Staff: Lt-General N. D. Parkhomov.

Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army

Formed 10 January 1919 on the basis of the Crimean-Azov Corps at the time the AFSR organised into the Volunteer Army and Caucasian Volunteer Army. (The Melitopol Detachment units went to become the 5th ID, in 2nd Corps.)

On 15 May the 3rd ID went to 1st Corps.

This left the:

- 4th Infantry Division
- Independent Cavalry Brigade

Commander: Lt-General A.A. Borovski.

Chief of Staff: Lt-General N. D. Parkhomov (until 12 May 1919).

On 22 May 1919, it became the 3rd Army Corps.



3rd Army Corps

Formed on 22 May 1919 from the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army.

It included the

- 4th Infantry Division
- Independent Cavalry Brigade (later Division)

On 5 July 1919 it had 7,693 men (including 751 officers, 4,497 combatants, 980 auxiliary and 1,465 non-combatant lower ranks).

On 9 July the Cavalry Division was removed, except for the 2nd Taman and Composite Dragoon Regiments.

On 20 August 1919, the Troops of the Novorossiysk Region were deployed on its basis.

Commanders: Lt-General S. K. Dobrorolski (acting to 10 July), Lt-General N. N. Schilling

Chief of Staff: Major-General V. V. Chernavin

Component Divisions and Brigades

3rd Infantry Division

Formed in the Volunteer Army in early June 1918 as the 3rd Division.

It included the:

- 2nd Officer Rifle Regiment
- 2nd Officer Cavalry Regiment
- 3rd Engineering Company
- 3rd Independent Light, Horse-mountain and Howitzer Batteries

On 1 July it added the Samurski Regiment.

It took part in the 2nd Kuban campaign. In July 1918, in 10 days of fighting, the division lost 30% of its composition. By 16 August after a month of fighting it had lost about 1800 men, i.e. more than 75% of its composition.

On 11 November 1918 the 1st and 2nd Rifle Regiments of the disbanded 4th Division were transferred to it.

From 15 November 1918, it was part of the 2nd Army Corps. Then from 27 December it was part of the Crimean-Azov Corps.

It included the:

- 2nd Officer Rifle Regiment
- Samurski Regiment
- Czechoslovak Infantry Battalion
- Petropavlovsk, Aleksandrovsk and Romanovskii Detachments
- 2nd Officer Cavalry Regiment
- Ingermanland Cavalry *Divizion*
- Chuguevsky and Belgorod Horse Squads
- 3rd Engineering Company
- 3rd Light Artillery *Divizion*
- Reserve Battalion
- 3rd air squadron

Commander: Lt-General V.Z. May-Mayevsky (acting), Major General V.K. Vitkovski (from January 1919).

Chief of Staff: Colonel Erofeev, Colonel Korenev (from 6 Dec 1918), Colonel B.A. Steifon (from April 1919)

Brigade commanders: Colonel V.K. Vitkovski, Major General N.N. Khodakovski (until March 21, 1919).



On 17 January 1919 , the Composite Regiment of the 9th Cavalry Division was transferred to it.

On 15 May 1919 it was included in the 1st Army Corps. It was renamed the 3rd Infantry Division on 22 May.

In the Summer of 1919, it included the:

- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Drozdovski Regiments
- Samurski Regiments
- Composite Rifel Regiment
- Belozersk Regiment
- Reserve Battalion (Colonel Enkov
- 3rd Artillery Brigade ,
- 31st Reserve Artillery Division and

Commander: Major General V.K. Vitkovski

Chief of Staff: Colonel B.A. Steifon, Colonel F.E. Bredov (from 22 July 1919).

On 14 October 1919, it was reorganized into the Drozdovski Division.

4th Infantry Division (Crimean Division)

Formed on 19 November in the Crimea as the Crimean Division.

At 31 December 1918 it included the:

- Simferopol Officer Regiment
- Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Taman Regiment
- Reserve Cavalry Regiment
- Independent Cadre Squadron.

Commander: Major-General A.V. Korvin-Krukovski (until 28 May 1919)

Brigade Commanders: Major-General P.K. Pisarev (until 10 April 1919), Major General Ya.A. Slashchev (until 2 August 1919).

On 19 January 1919 it was renamed the 4th Division, part of the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army.

It included

- Simferopol Officer Regiment
- Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment
- Tatar Rifle Regiment
- 1st Artillery *Divizion* (from the Crimean Regt)
- 2nd Artillery *Divizion* (from 13th Division Regt)
- 3rd Artillery *Divizion* (from 34th Division Regt)
- 4th Artillery *Divizion* (from Perekop Regt)
- Squadron of the Crimean cavalry regiment
- 2nd Taman Regiment

On 21 May 1919 it became the 4th Infantry Division as part of the 3rd Army Corps.

It included the:

- Simferopol Officer Regiment
- Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment
- Composite Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division
- 4th Artillery Brigade
- 4th Independent Engineering Company (Colonel Borodin; formed 13 March)

Commander: Lieutenant-General. S.K. Dobrorolski (May 28 - August 2, 1919),

From August to October 1919 it was part of the Troops of the Novorossiysk region.



Major General Ya. A. Slashchev was commander for this period.

It included the:

- Simferopol Officer Regiment
- Composite Regiment of the 13th Infantry Division
- Composite Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division
- Reserve Battalion (Colonel Borisenko from 30 September 1919)
- 4th Artillery Brigade
- 4th Engineering Company

On 23 September 1919 it became the Consolidated Regiment of the 14th Infantry Division. At that time it had 5,857 bayonets, 66 MGs, 27 guns. The engineering company had 470 men.

On 1 October 1919, it numbered (including the artillery brigade) 7,994 men, including 1,744 officers and 102 officials.

On 10 November 1919, it was disbanded and the men became the Composite 13th, Composite 34th and Composite 1st Divisions.

5th Infantry Division

Formed on 19 January 1919 in the AFSR as the 5th division

It included the:

- Composite Guards Regiment
- Melitopol Infantry Battalion (from the Melitopol detachment)
- Berdyansk Infantry Battalion (from the Berdyansk detachment)
- Perekop Infantry Battalion (from the Perekop detachment)
- 1st Artillery *Divizion* (previously 1st Guards)
- 2nd Artillery *Divizion* (previously 2nd Guards)
- 3rd Artillery *Divizion* (previously Guards Composite Heavy)
- Independent Horse-Mountain Battery
- Reserve Cavalry Regiment

From February 26 it added the Composite Regiment of the Guards Cuirassier Division.

From 21 May it entered the 2nd Army Corps as the 5th Infantry Division, losing the Composite Cuirassiers to the Independent Cavalry Brigade (3rd Corps) and reorganising the remainder.

It included the:

- Composite Guards Regiment
- 1st Composite Regiment
- Composite Guards Artillery Brigade
- Guards Engineering Company
- Reserve Battalion

In the summer of 1919 it included the:

- 1st and 2nd Composite Guards Regiments
- Composite Regiment of the 19th Infantry Division
- Composite Regiment of the 20th Infantry Division
- 80th Kabardian Infantry Regiment
- Composite Guards Artillery Brigade
- Independent Artillery *Divizion* (formed 2 July, Colonel Shpigel')
- Independent Guards Heavy Howitzer Battery (Colentl Kazachinski)
- Guards Engineering Company (Colonel Belyi)
- Reserve Battalion

On 16 July a detachment under Major General Vinogradov was added .



At the end of July 1919 it was a member of General Promtov's Group .

On 20 September 1919 it had 3,085 men, with 48 MGs and 35 guns.

On 14 October 1919, the Consolidated Guards were made a Division and separated out, leaving:

- 80th Kabardinsky Regiment
- Composite Regiments of the 19th Infantry Division
- Composite Regiments of the 20th Infantry Division
- 5th artillery brigade
- Engineering company
- Reserve battalion

From 11 November the infantry was renamed as the 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th and 80th Regiments.

Took part in Bredov March and was interned in Poland.

In July/August 1920 it was transported to the Crimea and disbanded.

Commanders: Lt-General N.N. Schilling, Major-General M.N. Vinogradov (from 28 May 1919), Major-General P.S. Ossovsky (from 16 July 1919).

Chiefs of Staff: Colonel B.N. Sergeevsky, Colonel. A.M. Shkelenko (May - June 1919), Colonel. K.Z. Akhatkin (October 1919 - March 1920).

Independent Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Army Corps

Formed 22 May 1919 as part of the 3rd Army Corps.

It included the:

- Composite Regiment of the Guards Cavalry Division
- Composite Regiment of the Guards Cuirassier Division
- 2nd Cavalry Regiment
- 2nd Taman Cossack Regiment
- Composite Regiment of the Caucasian Cavalry Division
- Guards Horse-artillery Battery

On 19 June 1919, it was reorganized into the 2nd Cavalry Division.

Commander: Colonel Miklashevski, Colonel I.G. Barbovich (acting from 5 June 1919).

2nd Cavalry Division

Formed 19 June 1919 from the Independent Cavalry Brigade as part of 3rd Army Corps.

It included the:

- 1st Guards Composite Cuirassier Regiment
- 2nd Guards Composite Regiment
- 2nd Cavalry Regiment (2nd Taman Cossack)
- 3rd Cavalry Regiment
- Composite Regiment of the Caucasian Cavalry Division
- Composite Dragoon Regiment
- Guards Horse-artillery *Divizion* (2 batteries)
- 7th Cavalry Battery

On 9 July 1919 it was moved to the 5th Cavalry Corps, except the 2nd Cavalry and Composite Dragoons, which stayed with 3rd Corps.

Commander: Colonel Miklashevski

Chief of Staff: Colonel B. M. Iordan

Brigade commanders: Colonel M. F. Danilov, Colonel L. K. Pritsvits

Component Regiments and Detachments

Simferopol Officer Regiment

Began to form under Staff-Captain Orlov on a volunteer basis in Simferopol in the autumn of 1918 as part of the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army. Officially created on 5 November 1918 from two companies (more than 200 men) as the Simferopol Officer Battalion (mainly from local officers), two companies were formed simultaneously in Yalta (became the 2nd Battalion, Captain B. Gattenberger) and Sevastopol (became the 3rd Battalion, Captain Kotter).

With the arrival of the Yalta companies in mid-December 1918, they were deployed as a three battalion regiment, in the Crimean Division, soon renamed the 4th Division. The commander was Staff-Captain N. Orlov until December 1918, then Colonel P.G. Morilov.

From 11 April to 22 May 1919, it was temporarily reorganised as the Independent Simferopol Officer Battalion. Colonel S.S. Gvozdakov was appointed commander. (April 11, 1919 or July 13, 1919)

The 3rd battalion, after the battles at Perekop, operated separately from the regiment.

On 22 May 1919 it had 575 men. In July 1,225 men.

On 12 August 1919 a new 3rd battalion was formed in Kherson.

On 7 September it numbered 1,475 men.

In fighting against Makhno it lost 635 men in August and September, with 208 killed (87 officers), 416 wounded (178 officers) and 11 missing (5 officers). By 20 September it has 591 men and 11 MGs.

On 1 October 1919 the 133rd, 134th and 135th Infantry Regiments were spun off from the Simferopol Officer Regiment. It was 1,470 men, incl. 621 officers (of which 464 are in military positions) and 37 officials.

Participated in the Bredov March.

Upon arrival in the Crimea on 2 August 1920 there were 426 men (including 196 officers and 23 officials) and on 23 August 1920 the remains of the regiment were placed in the 49th Infantry Regiment (as the 2nd and 3rd battalions and Officer Company) with 50 officers transferred to the 52nd Infantry Regiment.

Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment

Formed at the beginning of December 1918 in the Crimea from the personnel of the 13th and 34th Infantry Divisions of the Imperial Army, which were part of the Yekaterinoslav detachment.

The Composite Regiments of the 13th and 34th Infantry Divisions were its core units.

On 19 January 1919 was included in the 4th Infantry Division.

Commander - Major General G.B. Andguladze (from February 8 , 1919), Colonel S.S. Gvozdakov (until July 13, 1919).

Consolidated Regiment of the 13th Infantry Division

Formed in the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army on 23 November 1918 in Simferopol on the basis of the 49th Brest, 50th Bialystok, 51st Lithuanian and 52nd Vilna Infantry Regiments that were in the Crimea before the war. Initially each Tsarist regiment was represented by a company.

In February 1919 it was also called the Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment. Part of the 4th Infantry Division.

Later split into two regiments. On 20 September 1919 the 1st Regiment had 1,125 men and 16 MGs, the 2nd Regiment had 950 men and 15 MGs.

In the Russian Army in May 1920. The 13th Infantry Division was deployed on its basis.

Commander: Major-General G.B. Andguladze

Consolidated Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division

Formed on 22 May 1919 on the basis of the infantry units of the Yekaterinoslav Detachment (which had a lot of officers from the Tsarist Division of that number), which were originally part of the Crimean Composite Infantry Regiment.

The Melitopol and Berdyansk Infantry Regiments and the Independent Perekop Battalion, disbanded on 11 April, were placed in it. Part of the 4th Infantry Division.

Later deployed as two regiments. On 20 September 1919 the 1st Regiment had 955 men and 14 MGS, and the 2nd Regiment had 2,236 man and 10 MGs.

In the Russian Army in May 1920. The 34th Infantry Division was deployed on its basis.

Melitopol Detachment.

Formed on 10 November 1918 as part of the Volunteer Army, in the Crimean-Azov corps and the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army.

By 31 December 1918, it included the:

- Composite Guards Regiment
- Independent Melitopol Battalion,
- 1st, 2nd and Independent Light and Heavy Guards Artillery *Divizioni*
- one sotnia of the 2nd Taman Regiment

Commander: Major-General P.E. Tillo.

2nd Taman Regiment

A regiment of the Imperial Army, revived in the Volunteer Army, technically as part of the Kuban Cossack Army.

On 19 January 1919 included in the 4th Infantry Division of the Crimean-Azov Volunteer Army.

On 22 May 1919 it was assigned to the Independent Cavalry Brigade of the 3rd Army Corps.

Participated in the Bredov March.

Commanders: Colonel Chernov (27 November 1918 to 28 January 1919), Colonel B.I. Zakrepa (from 28 January 1919).

Composite Guards Regiment

Formed in Volunteer Army in October in the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division. Initially it consolidated all the Guards officers, but soon the cavalry split out in separate formation. In September 1918 it had 1,000 men in five companies. But at Armavir in October, it lost half its men, including 30 officers killed.

On 19 January 1919 it was placed the 5th Infantry Division

From 6 March to July it was part of General Vinogradov's Detachment. In May/June it reached 2,180 men.

On 8 August 1919 it expanded to become the Composite Guards Brigade.

Commander: Major-General P. Tillo (October 1918 to May 1919)

