

Ukrainska Halytska Armia

The army of the West Ukrainian People's Republic (ZUNR) was a disciplined force that provided the Polish Army with stiff opposition. The bulk of the material below was kindly supplied to me by Boguslaw Goscieniecki (nsz45@poczta.onet.pl) with additions from the *Ukrainian Encyclopedia* and *Ukrainian Armies 1914–55*.

The initial core of the army were the Sich Riflemen and other units from the former Austro-Hungarian Army. These were joined by spontaneous worker and student detachments and then conscription commenced by November 1918. By the start of December 1918 there were 30,000-odd men, but only half were properly ready for combat. Early in 1919 the assortment of regular and irregular units was formed into a regular army of three corps.

Organisation and doctrine were essentially Austrian.

Theoretical Unit Structures

Corps

- 4 brigades
- Independent sapper company
- 2-5 field hospitals and sanitary trains

Infantry Brigade

- 6 infantry battalions, in 2 regiments
- Cavalry squadron
- Field artillery regiment, of 6 batteries
- Sapper company
- Various communications and auxiliary units.

Infantry Battalion (Ukr. kuren) – 1,364 soldiers

- 3 infantry companies (Ukr. sotnia) [NB: some authorities say 4 companies]
- 3 infantry platoons (Ukr. choty)
- Light machinegun platoon – LMGs
- Heavy machinegun company
- 4 platoons – 2 x “Maxim” each
- Reconnaissance platoon
- Engineer platoon

Independent Cavalry Squadron (Ukr. sotnia) – 161 soldiers

- 3 cavalry platoons
- Heavy machinegun platoon – 2-3 Schwarzlose



UHA Order of Battle — April 1919

I Corps – Colonel O. Mykytka

5th “Sokal” Brigade – Captain P. Petryk

3 infantry battalions

2 artillery batteries

cavalry squadron

armoured train

technical company

6th “Rava” Brigade – Captain W. Stafaniak

4 infantry battalions

2 infantry companies

3 artillery batteries

cavalry squadron

heavy machinegun platoon

technical-engineer company

9th “Uhniv” (later “Belz”) Brigade – Captain B. Shashkievich

4 infantry battalions

3 artillery batteries

cavalry squadron

technical platoon

military police company

engineer company

10th “Yaniv” Brigade – Major A. Dolud

4 infantry battalions

cavalry squadron

artillery battalion (2 artillery batteries)

II Corps – Colonel M. Tarnavsky

1st “Sichovykh Striltsi” (i.e. Sich Riflemen or USS) Brigade – Maj S. Bukshovany

2 infantry battalions

reserve battalion

1 artillery battery [6 guns]

cavalry squadron

engineer company

2nd “Kolomyya” Brigade – Major F. Tinkl

4 infantry battalions

assault company

infantry company “Huculsk”

Field Artillery Regiment No 2 (2 artillery batteries and mortar battery)

technical company

armoured train

3rd “Berezhany” Brigade – Colonel A. Wolf

4 infantry battalions

6 artillery batteries

cavalry squadron

4th “Zolochiv” Brigade – Major S. Shukhevych

5 infantry battalions

infantry company

Field Artillery Regiment No 4 (6 artillery batteries)

military police platoon

2nd Sich Artillery Regiment (2 batteries) [3 x 122mm + 1 x 152mm howitzers, 2 x 106.8mm]



III Corps – General M. Gembachiv

7th “Stryy” (later “L’viv”) Brigade – Major A. Bizanz

7 infantry battalions

4 artillery batteries

armoured train

8th “Sambir” Brigade – Colonel A. Kraus

I Group “Rudki” (“Hoffman”) – Captain K. Hoffman

6 infantry battalions

“Dnieper” heavy artillery Brigade [24 x 106.8mm type 1910 guns]

II Group “Krukenitsa” – Colonel Szepel

4 infantry battalions

II Group artillery [13 guns]

III Group “Hlyboka” – Captain M. Fedyk

4 infantry battalions

assault battalion

artillery group [15 guns]

armoured train

2 infantry battalions – reserve 8th Brigade

1st Mountain Brigade – Major O. Chersky

I Group “Staryy Sambir”

2 infantry battalions

demi-battery mountain howitzers [2 x 100mm type 1916 mountain howitzers]

cavalry squadron

II Group “Lutoviska”

9 infantry companies

demi-battery field artillery [2 x 75mm type 1915 guns]

Air troops

1 Air field company HQ – Duliby (Stryy) [1x Nieuport17, 1x Brandenburg C, 2 x LVG]

2 Air field company HQ – Krasnoye

3 Air field company HQ – Ternopil'

Technical battalion

Notes:

- ◆ the Sich Rifles had added another infantry regiment by June 1919. It was the best unit of the UGA.
- ◆ the Hlyboka and Krukenychi Groups of the 8th Brigade were to form the basis of the 11th “Stryy” Brigade in June 1919.
- ◆ IV and V Corps were also organised in June, but due to lack of manpower were soon dissolved.



Numbers

as at 15.03.1919

	officers	soldiers	guns	infantry	guns mortars	MGs	horses
Staff of the Armed Forces	73	305	-	-	-	-	51
I Corps	227	14,025	39	6	-	118	2,074
II Corps	406	13,044	70	6	10	124	1,696
III Corps	467	19,362	77	-	-	207	3,369
Siczovi Striltsi	136	4,245	8	8	16	41	781
Air troops	36	294	-	-	-	22	10
Total	1,396	51,274	192	20	26	512	7,981

Notes:

- ◆ The UHA reached its greatest size in June 1919, when it had 70–75,000 men (including reserves). About 65,000 men crossed the Zbruch (others being forced into Czechoslovakia).
- ◆ Its proportion of officers to men was very low, requiring the recruitment of Ukrainians from the UNR Army (Directory Ukraine) and former Austro-Hungarian army specialists.
- ◆ Cavalry was initially very limited, with the few squadrons only being 40-50 men and only about 600 sabres in March 1919.
- ◆ On the advice of General Hrekov a cavalry brigade was formed in June and July 1919, with a total of 1,340 sabres.
- ◆ Artillery was largely ex-Austrian pieces, including some heavy pieces with each brigade. It was the greatest strength of the UHA.
- ◆ Armoured cars were fielded around L'viv. It seems that the UGA reached a total of 8 cars.
- ◆ II and III Corps had an armoured train each.
- ◆ The air arm reached 40 planes, ex-Austrian and Russian. Until April 1919 it had the advantage in the air but then Polish strength grew rapidly.

Commanders

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Colonel D. Vitovsky	29 October to 5 November 1918
Colonel H. Kossak	to 9 November 1918
Colonel H. Stefaniv	to 10 December 1918
Brigadier General M. Omelianovych-Pavlenko	to 9 June 1919
Major General O. Hrekov	to 5 July 1919
Brigadier General M. Tarnavsky	to 7 November 1919

Chiefs of the General Staff

Colonel M. Marynovych	to 5 November 1918
Major S. Goruk	to 10 December 1918
Colonel Ye. Myshkivsky	to 12 February 1919
Colonel V. Kurmanovych	to 7 June 1919
Colonel A. Schamanek	to 7 November 1919

