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## The History of the Markovtsy

### The History of Formation and Deployment of the General Markov Units

The history of the units that later received the patronage of Lieutenant-General S.L. Markov dates back to the beginning of the White Movement in the south of Russia.

The date of formation of the first unit – which would become the 1st Officer General Markov Regiment – is considered to be 4 (17) November 1917. Following General M. V. Alekseev's visit to Novocherkassk Infirmary No. 2 on 39 Barochnaya Street, the Composite Officer Company was formed from the first volunteers. The growth in numbers of the company allowed the allocation of about half of the personnel to the Junker Company on 15 (28) November. In early December 1917, after the occupation of Rostov by the Volunteers, the Army command, counting on a significant influx of volunteers, mainly from Rostov, formed the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Officer Companies, which later served as the basis for the formation of the Composite Officer Regiment. On 13 (26) December the 5th Officer Company was renamed the 1st, and on 15 (28) December it was formed as the 1st Officer Battalion. In mid-December, the 2nd and 3rd Officer Companies were also turned into battalions.

In November 1917 an artillery unit was also formed, which later received General Markov's patronage. On 19 (29) November the 2nd Platoon of the Junker Company was reformed as the Composite Mikhailov-Konstantinov Battery, which was formed from cadets of the Mikhailov and Konstantinov Artillery Schools and later served as the nucleus for the General Markov Artillery Brigade. In mid-December it joined the 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion* as the 1st Cadet Battery.

The Volunteer Army was re-formed at the beginning of the 1st Kuban campaign 11-13 (24-26) February 1918 in Olginskaya. Numerous small units were merged into larger formations. Among them was the Composite Officer Regiment, which later received the name of its first commander General S. L. Markov. It was formed around the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Officer Battalions, into which were merged the Rostov Officer Company, the remnants of the 3rd Kiev Warrant Officer School, the Naval Company and the Shock *Divizion* of the Caucasian Cavalry Division. The Cadet Battery, as part of the 1st Independent Light *Divizion*, was named the 1st Officer Battery.

During the 1st Kuban Campaign the newly formed Composite Officer Regiment became known as simply the Officer Regiment. From the middle of March 1918 it was part of the 1st Infantry Brigade, command of which was assumed by General Markov. During the reorganisation of the Volunteer Army in Novo-Dmitrievskaya on 27 May (9 June) 1918 the regiment was formally renamed the 1st Officer Regiment.

During the 1st Kuban campaign, the future "Markov" artillery was formed: the 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion* was disbanded at the end of March (early April). The 1st Officer Battery, which had been part of it, merged with the 4th Battery of the Division, to become known as the 1st Independent Battery within the 1st Infantry Brigade.

In addition to these two main units associated with General Markov's name, in mid-March the 1st Engineer Company was formed on the basis of the Technical Company (formed as early as December 1917). It also became part of the 1st Brigade (later Division). Later, on 8 (21) December 1919 it received General Markov's patronage.

After the reorganisation of the Volunteer Army in early June 1918, before the 2nd Kuban Campaign, the 1st Officer Regiment became part of the 1st Infantry Division. After the division's commander, General Markov, died from wounds received in the battle at Shablievskaya Station,<sup>1</sup> the regiment was renamed the 1st Officer General Markov Regiment by the order of the Volunteer Army commander on 13 (26) June 1918. It took part in the 2nd Kuban campaign as part of the 1st Infantry Division. In January-April 1919 it was invariably sent to the most difficult parts of the front in the Donbas, and suffered heavy losses.

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<sup>1</sup> Near modern Shablievka.



On 8 (21) July 1918, during the 2nd Kuban Campaign, the Markov artillery was again reorganised. The 1st Independent Battery was reformed as the 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion* (its second formation in the Volunteer Army) as part of the 1st Infantry Division. On 7 (20) August the 1st Battery received General Markov's patronage and was renamed the 1st Officer General Markov Battery. On 4 (17) April 1919, by order of the Commander-in-Chief of the AFSR, the 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion* was reformed as the 1st Artillery Brigade, still in the 1st Infantry Division.

In May 1918, before the start of the 2nd Kuban Campaign, another unit was formed which later became a Markov unit. At General Markov's request, while commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, a Kuban Cossack *sotnia* was allocated from the Horse Brigade, which was named the Independent Horse *Sotnia* of the 1st Infantry Brigade (later the 1st Infantry Division, then Markov Divisions). The *sotnia* was unofficially called "Markov", and wore black Markov shoulder-boards by order of the brigade commander.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army of 21 August (3 September) 1920, the General Markov Cavalry *Divizion* was formed on the basis of the division's Independent Horse *Sotnia*.

With the beginning of the "March on Moscow" the Markov formations began to grow, which ended with the formation of a division of the same name.

At the beginning of August 1919 the 2nd Officer General Markov Regiment was formed in Kharkov.<sup>2</sup> Previously, an order of the 1st Infantry Division of 8 (21) July had added a 4th Battalion to the 1st Regiment, which included the training units. On 7 (20) August that battalion was separated from the 1st Regiment and redeployed as the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Officer General Markov Regiment. Its date of formation, based on the order, was considered to be 1 (14) August. That regiment's 2nd Battalion was formed from part of the division's 1st Reserve Battalion and the 3rd Battalion formed around a cadre of the 1st Regiment. The battalions were filled with both volunteers and conscripts.

On 3 (16) October 1919 the 3rd Officer General Markov Regiment was formed in Kharkov. It had been forming since September on the basis of the 9th Officer Company of the 1st Regiment.

On 14 (27) October 1919 the Commander-in-Chief of the AFSR dissolved the 1st Infantry Division, which included all three Markov regiments, forming in its place the Kornilov Shock Division and Officer General Markov Infantry Division. In addition to the infantry regiments, the newly formed division included the General Markov Artillery Brigade, which had been formed on 15 (28) October 1919 on the basis of the 1st Artillery Brigade, and the 1st Independent General Markov Engineer Company. The division was part of the 1st Army Corps.

In spring-autumn 1919 reserve battalions were created for the Markov Division – one for the whole division and one for each regiment, which were used to replenish the combat units. These battalions were disbanded in early 1920.

On 8 (21) December 1919 the Commander-in-Chief of the AFSR turned the railway platoon of the 1st General Markov Engineer Company into the 1st General Markov Railway Company and attached it to the 4th Railway Battalion. Subsequently, on 9 (22) April 1920, when all the railway units were consolidated into a single railway battalion, the company was merged into it with the name of the 1st General Markov Company.

On 18 (31) December 1919, during the AFSR's retreat, the Markov Division was defeated in the Donbas, near Alekseevo-Leonovo. After regaining its strength in January 1920, it was again defeated on 16 (29) February in a battle near Olginskaya, after which on 17 February (1 March) the division was re-formed as the Officer General Markov Regiment. The artillery brigade was reduced to the Independent General Markov Artillery *Divizion*, and the horse *sotnias* to the Horse *Divizion*.

Before the evacuation of the Markov units from Novorossiysk to the Crimea, on 13 (26) March 1920, the units were restored to a division. In the Crimea it became part of the reformed 1st Army Corps.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Pavlov, the 1st Corps order for the creation of the 2nd Officer General Markov Regiment was issued on June 25 (August 8).



On 28 April (11 May) 1920, after General P. N. Wrangel renamed the AFSR the Russian Army, the Officer General Markov Division was renamed the General Markov Infantry Division (in line with this, the division's infantry regiments and artillery brigade were also renamed). In the summer of 1920 reserve battalions were once again created for the regiments and the division (the latter was intended to be deployed as the 4th Regiment, the formation of which was started in October).

As part of the 1st Army Corps, the Markov Division took part in the battles in Northern Taurida, the Trans-Dnieper Operation, and the last battles before the abandonment of Crimea.

At the beginning of November 1920 the division, together with the other units of the Russian Army, were evacuated from the Crimea. In Gallipoli the remnants of the division were consolidated into the Markov Regiment and the Markov Artillery *Divizion* on 14 (27) November.



**Formation of the Volunteer Army Units  
4 (17) November 1917 to 12 (25) February 1918**

*I am not translating the sections of this book which refer to before the 2nd Kuban Campaign at this time.*

**Reformation of the Volunteer Army Units and their Participation in Hostilities:  
Novocherkassk – Rostov (November 1917 - January-February 1918)**

*I am not translating the sections of this book which refer to before the 2nd Kuban Campaign at this time.*



## Strengths and Compositions of the Markov Units: 1918 - 1920<sup>3</sup>

### Composite Officer Regiment

(25 February 1918<sup>4</sup> – beginning of April 1918)

Numbers as of 25 February 1918

1st Company: more than 200 bayonets, 4 machine guns  
2nd Company: more than 200 bayonets, 4 machine guns  
3rd Company: more than 200 bayonets, 3 machine guns  
4th Company: about 110 bayonets, 4 machine guns  
Communications and Demolition Team: 28 men  
Five mounted officer orderlies; combat and supply carts; mobile infirmary.

Total in the regiment: about 800 bayonets, 11 machine guns

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### 1st Independent Light Artillery Division

(Mid December 1917 – end of March 1918)

Numbers as of 25 February 1918.

1st Officer Battery:<sup>5</sup> 2 guns  
2nd Officer Battery: 2 guns  
3rd Battery: officers and volunteers, 2 guns  
4th Battery: 53 officers and volunteers, 2 guns

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### Officer Regiment<sup>6</sup>

(Beginning of April –beginning of June 1918)

Numbers as at the beginning of April (Reformation of the Volunteer Army in Novo-Dmitrievskaya)

1st Battalion: 3 companies  
2nd Battalion: 3 companies<sup>7</sup>

Total in the regiment: about 800 bayonets, 12 machine guns

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<sup>3</sup> If not cited numbers and other information are from:

- Pavlov's "The Markovtsy in Battles and Campaigns for Russia in the War of Liberation 1917-1920"
- The list of official orders ("Ukaz") for the formations, or
- when referring to the artillery, the book "Markovtsy Artillerymen: 50 years of Service to Russia",

The rest are from RGVA, the Russian State Military Archive. They may be Soviet estimates or from captured papers (which would explain why the numbers are noticeably less rounded and tend to be for periods of Red victories).

The original usually includes totals, but when this is just the sum of the numbers shown I have excluded them.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of clarity, this section will only have modern dates. The original includes "Old Style" dates.

<sup>5</sup> Previously the 1st Cadet (*Junker*) Battery (and before that, the Composite Mikhailov-Konstantinov Battery)

<sup>6</sup> Or Composite Officer Regiment.

<sup>7</sup> The regiment included the Cadet Battalion, numbering about 200 bayonets, which made up the regiment's 5th and 6th Companies.



### **1st Independent Battery**

(Beginning of April – 21 July 1918)<sup>8</sup>

Numbers as at the beginning of April (Reformation of the Volunteer Army in Novo-Dmitrievskaya)

1st Independent Battery: 4 guns<sup>9</sup>

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### **Officer Regiment<sup>10</sup>**

Numbers for the middle of April 1918 (the end of the battles near Ekaterinodar)

1st Battalion: about 240 bayonets

2nd Battalion: about 130 bayonets

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### **1st Officer Regiment**

(9 June – 26 June 1918)

Numbers at the start of reinforcement in Novochoerkassk at the beginning of June 1918

1st Battalion: 3 companies

2nd Battalion: 3 companies

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Total in the regiment: about 500 bayonets

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

(26 June 1918 – 11 May 1920)

Numbers at the start of reinforcement in Novochoerkassk at the beginning of June 1918

1st Battalion: 3 companies, about 450 bayonets

2nd Battalion: 3 companies, about 450 bayonets

3rd Battalion:<sup>11</sup> 3 companies, about 600 bayonets

Machine-gun *Komand*: 15 machine-guns<sup>12</sup>

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at 5 July 1918

1st Battalion: about 450 bayonets

2nd Battalion: about 450 bayonets

3rd Battalion:<sup>13</sup> about 750 bayonets

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Total in the regiment: about 1,650 bayonets, a large number of machine-guns

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<sup>8</sup> Previously the 1st Officer Battery of the 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion*.

<sup>9</sup> After the retreat from Ekaterinodar, the number of guns was reduced to two. On 19 May it returned to four.

<sup>10</sup> Or Composite Officer Regiment.

<sup>11</sup> From this point forward the regiment has three battalions, each of three companies. The 7th, 8th and 9th Companies were officer companies.

<sup>12</sup> There are also company machine-guns, but their number is not given.

<sup>13</sup> The 7th, 8th and 9th Companies of the regiment are officer companies, each with 250 bayonets.



### **1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion***

(21 July 1918 – 17 April 1919)

Numbers are at formation on 21 July 1918

1st Battery: 4 guns  
2nd Battery:<sup>14</sup> 2 guns<sup>15</sup>

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at the time of the entry into Ekaterinodar on 16 August 1918

Total in the regiment: about 800 bayonets

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers after reinforcements in Ekaterinodar

1st Battalion: 4 companies, over 800 bayonets, 8 MGs<sup>16</sup>  
2nd Battalion: 4 companies, over 850 bayonets, 8 MGs  
3rd Battalion: 4 companies, over 850 bayonets, 8 MGs  
Machine Gun *Komand*: 12 machine-guns  
Horse *Sotnia*: about 100 sabres

Total in the regiment: 2,500-3,000 bayonets

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### **1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion***

(from 30 August 1918)

1st General Markov Battery: 4 guns  
2nd Battery: 4 guns  
3rd Guards Battery:<sup>17</sup> –  
Horse Gun:<sup>18</sup> 1 gun

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers before the Armavir battles in October 1918<sup>19</sup>

Total in the regiment: about 2,500 bayonets

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<sup>14</sup> The 2nd battery began forming on 16 July. It then merged with the 1st Independent Battery to form the *divizion*. This is the second formation with this name in the Volunteer Army.

<sup>15</sup> A third gun was mounted on a platform to fight on the railways.

<sup>16</sup> From this point forward the battalions are four company. The machine-guns were evenly distributed across the companies.

<sup>17</sup> Formed from former officers of the Guards.

<sup>18</sup> The formation of a separate horse gun under the command of Colonel Aivazov began on 30 August 1918. The gun was intended for joint actions with the 1st Officer Horse Regiment.

<sup>19</sup> The data was obtained by taking the losses during the Armavir battles from the regiment's strength indicated later by Pavlov.



### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers after the Armavir battles at the beginning of November 1918

Total in the regiment: about 1,500 bayonets<sup>20</sup>

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers after the Stavropol' battles in mid-November 1918<sup>21</sup>

1st Battalion: about 260-280 bayonets  
2nd Battalion: about 120-160 bayonets  
3rd Battalion: about 120-160 bayonets  
Horse *Sotnia* —

Total in the regiment: 500-600 (700) bayonets, 20 machine-guns

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### **1st Independent Light Artillery Division**

Numbers as at 18 November 1918.

1st General Markov Battery: 4 guns  
2nd Battery: 4 guns  
3rd Battery:<sup>22</sup> 4 guns  
1st Independent Light Howitzer Battery:<sup>23</sup> 4 guns  
Single Horse Gun: 1 Gun

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers after reinforcement in Stavropol' starting 22 November 1918<sup>24</sup>

1st Battalion: about 400 bayonets  
2nd Battalion: about 500 bayonets  
3rd Battalion: about 500 bayonets  
Horse *Sotnia*: —

Total in the regiment: about 1,400 (1,500) bayonets, over 20 machine-guns

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<sup>20</sup> The regiment's losses during the Armavir battles were said to be 2,000 bayonets, with reinforcements of 1,000 bayonets. Pavlov says the companies numbered 40 to 120 bayonets.

<sup>21</sup> The fighting ended on 22 November 1918. The 7th and 9th Companies were officer companies.

<sup>22</sup> On 4 December almost all the officers of the 3rd Guards Battery were transferred to the Crimea, to join the Guards Detachment. Officers from the General Markov Battery were assigned it, changing its red shoulder-boards to black Markov ones.

<sup>23</sup> On 18 November the 1st Light Howitzer Battery was added to the 1st Infantry Division, originally with two howitzers. It was soon reinforced with about 100 officers and on 28 November 26 conscripts arrived.

<sup>24</sup> Pavlov states that reinforcements in Stavropol' arrived on the fourth or fifth day of rest (starting from 22 November). The 7th and 9th Companies were officer companies.





### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers during the fighting around Stavropol' on 3 January 1919

Total in the regiment: about 300 bayonets<sup>25</sup>

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers in the middle of January 1919

1st Battalion: about 230-260 bayonets

2nd Battalion: about 300-330 bayonets

3rd Battalion: about 300-330 bayonets

Total in the regiment: about 830-920 (800) bayonets, 20 machine guns<sup>26</sup>

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at the of January / beginning of February 1919

Total in the regiment: about 1,500 bayonets, about 30 machine guns<sup>27</sup>

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### **1st Artillery Brigade**

Formed 17 April 1919<sup>28</sup>

1st *Divizion* – 1st General Markov and 2nd Battery

2nd *Divizion* – 3rd and 4th Batteries

3rd *Divizion*<sup>29</sup> – 5th and 6th Batteries

4th *Divizion* – 7th and 8th Batteries

Reserve *Divizion*<sup>30</sup> – 1st and 2nd Batteries

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### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at 2 August 1919<sup>31</sup>

Total in the regiment: 1,712 bayonets, 20 machine guns

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<sup>25</sup> In some companies of the regiment there were no more than 15 bayonets left; the available strength of the 7th Officer Company and 8th Company was 47 bayonets.

<sup>26</sup> The total strength of the regiment is given by Pavlov as 800 bayonets. The 7th and 9th Companies were officer companies.

<sup>27</sup> A battalion of 400 bayonets from the Kabardin and Siberian Regiments was added to the regiment (forming the 4th Battalion).

<sup>28</sup> Based on the former 1st Independent Light Artillery *Divizion*. Initially its 3rd *Divizion* was still being formed. The 7th battery was renamed the 1st Independent Howitzer Battery.

<sup>29</sup> Formed 2 August 1919.

<sup>30</sup> Formed 11 August 1919.

<sup>31</sup> From RGVA.



### **1st Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at 7 August 1919

Officers:	479
Infantry bayonets:	1,712
Other combatants:	474
Non-combatants:	374
Total in the regiment:	3,039 men, 20 machine guns

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### **2nd Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers in August 1919

Total in the regiment:	about 1,800 bayonets <sup>32</sup>
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### **General Markov Units**

Numbers on 18 September 1919<sup>33</sup>

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	1024 bayonets, 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	500 bayonets, ? machine-guns
1st Independent General Markov Engineer Company:	401 Sappers

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### **2nd Officer General Markov Regiment**

Numbers at 20 September 1919

Total in the regiment:	up to 3,500 bayonets, 40 machine-guns <sup>34</sup>
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### **General Markov Units**

Numbers in the Kursk – Orël battles at 3 October 1919<sup>35</sup>

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	809 bayonets, 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	1,166 bayonets, 27 machine-guns <sup>36</sup>
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	459 bayonets, 5 machine-guns <sup>37</sup>
1st Independent General Markov Engineer Company:	420 sappers

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<sup>32</sup> This number is obtained by adding up three battalions of four companies, each with strengths given of 150 bayonets in the soldier companies and 100 bayonets in the officer companies.

<sup>33</sup> From RGVA.

<sup>34</sup> Pavlov gives the total numbers for the regiment. The composition of soldier companies (four companies in three battalions) was around 250 bayonets, while the officer companies had 200-plus bayonets.

<sup>35</sup> From RGVA.

<sup>36</sup> From RGVA. Pavlov, for the end of September, gives around 2,200 bayonets.

<sup>37</sup> Pavlov, for the end of September, gives 1,440-1,470 bayonets. The companies each had 120-190 bayonets.



### General Markov Units

Numbers at the beginning of October 1919

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	more than 2,100 bayonets <sup>38</sup>
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	more than 1,000 bayonets <sup>39</sup>
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	—

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### General Markov Units

Numbers at the beginning of November 1919

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	up to 1,200 bayonets
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	up to 1,400 bayonets
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	up to 1,400 bayonets <sup>40</sup>

Horse <i>Sotnia</i> of the 1st Regiment:	150 sabres
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### General Markov Units

Numbers at 14 October 1919<sup>41</sup>

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	882 bayonets, 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	1,174 bayonets, 24 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	618 bayonets, 24 machine-guns
1st Independent General Markov Engineer Company:	563 sappers

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### 1st Artillery Brigade

Numbers at 18 October 1919<sup>42</sup>

4 <i>divizioni</i> :	8 batteries
Reserve <i>divizion</i> :	2 batteries
Light Guns:	14
Howitzers:	11

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<sup>38</sup> This is for the end of the fighting at Livny. It was obtained by adding the 700 bayonets mentioned by Pavlov to each of the three battalions. In addition, the regiment had platoons of 5-6 machine-gun in each battalion, a commander's company and a reconnaissance *komand*, each of 200 bayonets. The numbers for the horse *sotnia* were not given.

<sup>39</sup> The figure of "little more than 1,000 men" given by Pavlov for the strength of the 2nd Regiment is at variance with the data he also gives that the companies had 120-150 bayonets. With three-company battalions the regiment's strength would have been 1,080-1,350 bayonets, while with four-company battalions it would have been 1,440-1,800 bayonets.

<sup>40</sup> Pavlov gives data for the end of the fighting at Orël, saying that the regiment was reduced to 1,000 bayonets and received reinforcements of 400 bayonets.

<sup>41</sup> From RGVA.

<sup>42</sup> From RGVA.



### Officer General Markov Infantry Division

(formed 27 October 1919)

Numbers as 2 November 1919<sup>43</sup>

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	882 bayonets, 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	674 bayonets, 24 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	455 bayonets, 19 machine-guns

General Markov Artillery Brigade:<sup>44</sup> 26 light guns, 4 howitzers

1st *Divizion*: 1st General Markov and 2nd Batteries

2nd *Divizion*: 3rd and 4th Batteries

3rd *Divizion*: 5th and 6th Batteries

4th Howitzer *Divizion*: 7th and 8th Batteries

Reserve *Divizion*: 1st and 2nd Batteries

1st Independent General Markov Engineer Company: 596 sappers

Reserve battalion of the division: 2,466 bayonets, 7 machine-guns

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### Officer General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers as at 18 November 1919<sup>45</sup>

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	1,000 bayonets	733 bayonets, 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	—	674 bayonets, 24 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	over 500 bayonets	832 bayonets, 23 machine-guns

General Markov Artillery Brigade: 25 light guns, 4 howitzers

8 batteries in 4 *Divizioni*

1st Ind. General Markov Engineer Company: 794 sappers

Reserve Battalion of the Division: 1,132 bayonets

Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment: 127 bayonets

Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment: 20 bayonets

Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment: 289 bayonets

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<sup>43</sup> From RGVA.

<sup>44</sup> Formed on 28 October 1919 on the basis of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th and two Reserve Batteries of the 1st Artillery Brigade. (The 5th, 6th and 8th Batteries went to the newly formed Kornilov Artillery Brigade.) The new Markov 5th, 6th and 8th Batteries were formed from cadres from the 1st, 3rd and 8th Batteries.

<sup>45</sup> The numbers in the left column are from Pavlov; in the right column from the RGVA.



### Officer General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers at the time of the retreat to the Donbas, on 25 December 1919

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	800 bayonets, about 20 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	up to 550 bayonets, about 20 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	up to 550 bayonets, about 20 machine-guns

Horse <i>Sotnia</i> :	50-60 sabres
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Horse <i>Divizion</i> : <sup>46</sup>	200 sabres
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General Markov Artillery Brigade:	14 guns
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Reserve Battalion of the Division:

Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment:

Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment:

Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment:

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### Officer General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers before the defeat at Alekseevo-Leonovo, on 31 December 1919

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:

2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:

3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:

General Markov Artillery Brigade:	13 guns
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2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Batteries<sup>47</sup>

Reserve Battalion of the Division:

Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment:

Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment:

Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment:

Total for the division:	up to 1,500 bayonets
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<sup>46</sup> In the process of formation.

<sup>47</sup> The other batteries of the brigade did not take part in the battle at Alekseevo-Leonovo. The 1st General Markov Battery retreated independently along the Kharkov – Slavyansk rail line and arrived in Rostov on 4 January 1920. The 4th and 7th batteries, in connection with the general withdrawal on 30 December had set out from N. Khanzhenskovo. The 8th Battery was transferred to reinforce the Kornilov Division on 26 December and arrived in Nakhichevan on 6 January. The 2nd Reserve Battery (becoming from 22 December the 4th Battery and forming a *divizion*) had 7 guns, moved separately through Bakhmut and arrived in Rostov on 30 December. The batteries remaining with the division lost 12 of their 13 guns.



### **Officer General Markov Infantry Division**

Numbers after the defeat at Alekseevo-Leonovo, on 31 December 1919

1st Officer General Markov Regiment:	about 300 bayonets, 5-6 machine guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment:	250 bayonets, 10 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	300 bayonets, 4-5 machine-guns

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### **Officer General Markov Infantry Division**

Numbers at the end of January 1920

1st, 2nd and 3rd Officer General Markov Regiments:	641 officers, 1,367 soldiers
General Markov Artillery Brigade: <sup>48</sup>	282 officers and soldiers, 5 light guns, 6 howitzers

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### **Composite Officer General Markov Infantry Regiment**

(1 March – end of March 1920)

Numbers after the defeat near Olginskaya on 29 February 1920

Composite Officer General Markov Regiment:	about 500 bayonets
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Independent General Markov Artillery *Divizion*

General Markov Horse *Divizion*

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### **Composite Officer General Markov Infantry Regiment**

(1 March – end of March 1920)

Numbers after the defeat near Olginskaya on 29 February 1920<sup>49</sup>

1st Battalion:	about 400 bayonets
2nd Battalion:	about 300 bayonets
3rd Battalion:	about 250 bayonets
Total in the regiment:	around 950 bayonets, 68 machine-guns
Artillery:	14 guns
Horse:	up to 200 sabres, about 30 machine-guns

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<sup>48</sup> These numbers are for 14 January 1920. There were 33 officers and 150 soldiers in the 4th Battery (formerly the 2nd Reserve Battery), which absorbed the previous 4th Battery.

During January the brigade reformed with: 1st General Markov (4 light guns), 2nd (2 light guns), 3rd (2 light guns), 4th (4 light guns), 7th (2 British howitzers) and 8th (2 British howitzers) Batteries. The 5th and 6th Batteries were in the process of being broken up. Men from the 9th Artillery Brigade we used to fill up the brigade.

<sup>49</sup> This is from Pavlov, before the regiment's reformation back into a division in Novorossiysk.



### Officer General Markov Infantry Division

(from end of March 1920)

Numbers no later than 1 April 1920

1st Officer General Markov Regiment: <sup>50</sup>	about 450 bayonets, 15 machine-guns
2nd Officer General Markov Regiment: <sup>51</sup>	up to 650 bayonets, 25 machine-guns
3rd Officer General Markov Regiment:	about 350 bayonets, 12 machine-guns
General Markov Artillery Brigade: <sup>52</sup>	246 officers and officials, about 500 soldiers, 2 light guns, 2 howitzers, 16 machine guns
General Markov Engineer Company: <sup>53</sup>	150 sappers
General Markov Railway Company	
General Markov Telegraph Company	
Total in the division:	1,450 bayonets, 42 machine guns, 4 guns

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### General Markov Artillery Brigade

Numbers at the end of May 1920.

1st <i>Division</i> :	1st General Markov and 2nd Batteries
2nd <i>Division</i> :	3rd and 4th Batteries
3rd <i>Division</i> :	7th Howitzer and 8th Batteries
Total in the brigade:	8 light guns, 4 howitzers

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### General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers in mid-June 1920

1st General Markov Infantry Regiment:	1,000 bayonets
2nd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	900 bayonets
3rd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	800 bayonets
General Markov Artillery Brigade:	16 guns

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<sup>50</sup> The regiments each had three battalions.

<sup>51</sup> This includes 400 bayonets from the addition of the Siberian Battalion. RGVA has a record of 9 April that the regiment had 250 officers and 500 soldiers.

<sup>52</sup> This is at the time of arrival in Novorossiysk. During the evacuation 10 guns were left behind. As a result of a lack of equipment the ranks of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 8th Batteries were formed into an Independent Foot Artillery Battalion with up to 200 bayonets and 8 machine guns, under the command of Colonel F. A. Izenbek. On 29 April the 3rd *Division* was disbanded, and the 2nd was re-formed from the 2nd and 3rd *Divisions* of the Alekseev Artillery Brigade.

<sup>53</sup> Not part of the division.



Reserve Battalion of the Division<sup>54</sup>

Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment<sup>55</sup>

Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment

Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment

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### **General Markov Infantry Division**

Numbers at the beginning of September 1920

1st General Markov Infantry Regiment: about 500 bayonets, about 20 machine-guns

2nd General Markov Infantry Regiment: about 500 bayonets, about 20 machine-guns

3rd General Markov Infantry Regiment: about 500 bayonets, about 20 machine-guns

General Markov Artillery Brigade: 16 guns

Reserve Battalion of the Division

Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment

Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment

Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment

Total in reserve battalions: about 300 bayonets

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### **Artillery General Markov Brigade**

Officer numbers in Aleksandrovsk at the start of the Trans-Dnieper operation, 28 September 1920<sup>56</sup>

Brigade staff: 13 officers

1st *Divizion* Staff: 4 officers

2nd *Divizion* Staff: 5 officers

3rd *Divizion* Staff: 4 officers

1st General Markov Battery: 44 officers

2nd Battery: 25 officers

3rd Battery: 34 officers

4th Battery: 33 officers

7th Battery: 35 officers

8th Battery: 36 officers

Ammunition depot:<sup>57</sup> 16 officers

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<sup>54</sup> This was intended to become the 4th Markov Infantry Regiment, rather than a source of reinforcements.

<sup>55</sup> The regimental reserve battalions were intended as a source of reinforcements for the regiments.

<sup>56</sup> The officers included: 1 major-general, 11 colonels, 9 lieutenant-colonels, 16 captains, 76 staff-captains, 43 lieutenants and 93 ensigns. Numbers for other ranks is not given.

<sup>57</sup> I'm not sure what this word (огнесклад) means.





### General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers as at 14 October 1920<sup>58</sup>

1st General Markov Infantry Regiment:	400 bayonets, 45 machine-guns
2nd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	300 bayonets, 45 machine-guns
3rd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	400 bayonets, 30 machine-guns

General Markov Artillery Brigade:	15 light guns, 7 heavy guns
Independent squadron	25 sabres

Markov Cavalry <i>Divizion</i>	150 sabres, 6 machine guns
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### General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers at the beginning of the battles in Northern Taurida, 27 October 1920

Total in 1st, 2nd and 3rd General Markov Infantry Regiments: about 3,500 bayonets

General Markov Artillery Brigade:

Reserve Battalion of the Division:	about 1,000 bayonets
Reserve Battalion of the 1st Regiment:	about 1,000 bayonets
Reserve Battalion of the 2nd Regiment:	about 1,000 bayonets
Reserve Battalion of the 3rd Regiment:	about 1,000 bayonets

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### General Markov Infantry Division

Numbers at the end of the battles in Northern Taurida, 3 November 1920

1st General Markov Infantry Regiment:	about 400 bayonets
2nd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	about 200 bayonets
3rd General Markov Infantry Regiment:	about 300 bayonets
Total in the four reserve battalions:	about 2,000 bayonets

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### General Markov Units and Emigrés

Numbers in Gallipoli, 27 November 1920

Markov Regiment (3 battalions, MG and orderly teams):	1,100 men, 15 machine guns
Markov Artillery <i>Divizion</i> (3 batteries):	500 men
Markov Horse <i>Divizion</i> :	160 men
Markov Engineer Company:	120 men
Markov Railway Company:	150 men
Grenadiers and <i>Millerovtsy</i> placed in the regiment:	100 men

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<sup>58</sup> From RGVA



### Losses of Markov Units<sup>59</sup>

Time and place of action	Units	Losses
Before the First Kuban Campaign	Composite Officer Company, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (main) and Officer Battalions	about 300
	Naval Company	about 35
	Shock <i>Divizion</i>	about 40
	Junker Battalion	about 80
<i>Total in the units that formed the Composite Officer Regiment in February:</i>		<i>up to 500</i>
	Technical company	about 12
	1st Battery	70
	Missing in action	21
<i>Total future Markovtsy:</i>		<i>about 600</i>
<hr/>		
1st Kuban campaign (Feb-Apr 1918)	Officer Regiment and Junker Battalion	about 1,100 <sup>60</sup>
	1st Battery	35
	Technical Company	40
<i>Total:</i>		<i>about 1175</i>
<hr/>		
2nd Kuban Campaign		
Battles at Ekaterinodar (Jun-Jul 1918)	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	about 2,400
Battles at Armavir (Sep-Oct 1918)		up to 2,000
Battles at Stavropol' (Oct-Nov 1918)		up to 500
Battles at Stavropol' (Nov-Dec 1918)	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	over 2,200 <sup>61</sup>
	1st Ind. Light Artillery <i>Divizion</i>	up to 40
<i>Total for 1918:</i>		<i>about 7,000-8,000<sup>62</sup></i>
<hr/>		
Battles in the Coal District (Jan-Apr 1919 )	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	up to 2,000
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Battles in the Belgorod area (May-Jul 1919) <sup>63</sup>	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	about 750
	Engineer Company	up to 100

<sup>59</sup> These are from Pavlov. The total for losses takes into account the number in the ranks out of action during the battles (including the wounded and sick), many of whom later returned to their units. [Some of the men may well be counted as "lost" multiple times in a campaign as a result.]

<sup>60</sup> In just one battle on 8 July 1918, near Kagalnitskaya, the Markov regiment lost 216 men.

<sup>61</sup> Killed, wounded, frostbitten, missing (about 60) and sick.

<sup>62</sup> According to Pavlov, the losses of all the "Markov" units from the beginning of the 2nd Kuban campaign to the beginning of 1919 amounted to more than 10,000 men. At 25 February 1919, on the anniversary of the creation of the regiment, the *Markovtsy* estimated their losses as 11,000 men.

<sup>63</sup> Around Gotnya and Koroichi Stations.



<b>Time and place of action</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Losses</b>
March on Moscow <sup>64</sup> (Aug-Oct 1919)	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	about 2,380
	2nd Officer General Markov Regiment	about 2,600
	3rd Officer General Markov Regiment	up to 500
<i>Total:</i>		<i>about 5,480</i>
Autumn-winter retreat <sup>65</sup> (Oct-Dec 1919)	1st Officer General Markov Regiment	over 2,200
	2nd Officer General Markov Regiment	over 1,100
	3rd Officer General Markov Regiment	up to 500
<i>Total:</i>		<i>about 3,800</i>
Defeat near Alekseevo-Leonovo (31 Dec 1919)	Officer General Markov Division	up to 900 <sup>66</sup>
<i>Total for 1919:</i>		<i>about 13,030<sup>67</sup></i>
Battles in early 1920 <sup>68</sup> (Jan-Feb 1920)	Officer General Markov Division	about 1,500 <sup>69</sup>
Battles in Northern Black Sea (May-Jun 1920)	General Markov Infantry Division	about 1,100
Battles in Northern Black Sea (Jul-Sep 1920)	General Markov Infantry Division	up to 2,000
Trans-Dnieper Operation (4-15 Oct 1920)	General Markov Infantry Division	up to 500
Last battles in Northern Taurida (Oct 1920)	General Markov Infantry Division	up to 1,850 <sup>70</sup>
<i>Total for 1920:</i>		<i>over 6,000</i>
<b><i>Total losses for 1918-1920:</i></b>		<b><i>26,000-27,000<sup>71</sup></i></b>

<sup>64</sup> The battles in the Orël province, for Livny, and around Elets.

<sup>65</sup> The retreat from Elets, the defence of Livny, battles in the Kursk Province, retreat to the Donbas.

<sup>66</sup> Including about 500 killed or heavily wounded and about 400 captured (67 officers and around 300 soldiers).

<sup>67</sup> Summing up in the two years after the 1st Kuban Campaign, Pavlov estimates the Markov losses for 1919 as over 10,000 men. Counting by approximate data of losses for 1919 gives the figure shown here, [but that will include double counting].

<sup>68</sup> In the area of Yeisk and Rostov, then the defeat of the division at Olginskaya on 29 February 1920.

<sup>69</sup> About 60 for the suppression of the Eysk uprising. About 1,000 for the defeat at Olginskaya (275 of them officers – being half the officers in the division – and about 500 wounded).

<sup>70</sup> 800 near Dneprovka, 200 near B. Belozerka, 100, near N. Grigor'ev, 750 in Genichesk.

<sup>71</sup> Pavlov "roughly" estimates the total losses for the war at 30,000 men, of whom killed was up to 20%, or 6,000 men. In addition there were 1,000-2,000 deserters, several hundred missing and several thousand taken prisoner.



### Losses of Markov Artillery Units<sup>72</sup>

Killed or died of wounds	4 colonels
	5 captains
	2 staff-captains
	18 lieutenants
	16 2nd-lieutenants
	21 ensigns
	30 junior officers and cadets
	2 sisters of mercy
	59 lower ranks

Total: 157

Died of illness	2 colonels
	3 captains
	5 staff-captains
	5 lieutenants
	10 2nd-lieutenants
	4 ensigns
	1 doctors
	6 soldiers

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<sup>72</sup> The data on the losses of Markov artillerymen is incomplete (especially for lower ranks) and so is given mainly for officers.



## Recruitment Sources and the Social Composition of the Markov Regiments

P. G. Gagkuev

The sources of recruitment and changes in the social composition of the Markov regiments went through several periods in their evolution during the Civil War, as with all the White armies of southern Russia. The three most pronounced of these can be singled out. During the first period officers prevailed as the main source of recruitment (end of 1917 to the end of 1918); during the second period the officer cadre gradually lost its numerical predominance and the bulk was made up of recruits, mainly peasants (end of 1918 to 1919); and during the third period the officer cadre finally lost its prime role and the bulk of the regiment was made up of conscripts and captured Red Army soldiers (1920). These periods correspond, in general terms, to the changing social composition of most White units in southern Russia.

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Almost the entire first period was one of volunteer recruitment. This was while the White Movement in the south of Russia was forming, with its most difficult moments: the 1st and 2nd Kuban Campaigns.

Changes in the composition of the Composite Officer (the future 1st Officer General Markov's) Regiment had already begun during the 1st Kuban Campaign. Having started the campaign almost entirely made up of officers, the regiment began to receive Cossack volunteers as reinforcements, which was very rarely the case before. Their inflow began to increase at the end of the 1st Kuban Campaign, and during the 2nd Campaign it became one of the main sources of recruitment. The huge losses incurred by the regiment during the 1st Campaign, and especially during the assault on Ekaterinodar, were compensated mainly by these Cossacks, the percentage of which steadily increased. The Cossack element by this period clearly constituted the bulk of the regiment. By the end of the 1st Kuban campaign, the regiment "to a large extent" was "not of officer, but of Cossack composition".

When the Officer Regiment endured its heaviest battles during the 2nd Kuban Campaign, it began to be reinforced through conscription. The "volunteer" units, which had suffered huge losses, could no longer be replenished solely with volunteers. This was also required as a solution to what was a problem across Russia. The first Volunteer Army mobilisation was announced on 2 (15) August 1918 in the Stavropol', Medvezhenskiy and Blagodarny districts of Stavropol' province, and then later in all the districts of the province occupied by the White units during the offensive. The mobilisation applied to the conscripts of 1916, 1917 and 1918 (so born in 1895, 1896 and 1897). By on 30 October (12 November) that mobilisation was extended to the 1914, 1915, 1919 and 1920 conscripts (born in 1893, 1894, 1898 and 1899). From 5 (18) January 1919, conscripts of the Chernomorsk and Stavropol' provinces and *inogorodny*<sup>73</sup> of the Kuban region of 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913 conscription years (born in 1889-1892) were called up for military service. Later on, mobilisation became widespread and became the main source of recruitment.

The first major additions to General Markov's 1st Officer Regiment arrived in Ekaterinodar, taken on 3 (16) August 1918. The regiment was filled with volunteers from the southern provinces of Russia, *inogorodny* from the liberated regions of the Kuban and some prisoners. In less than a month the regiment added over 2,600 men, mostly Cossacks. It is noteworthy that for the first time the regimental history mentions the inclusion of prisoners in the regiment. After the reorganisation the regiment had twelve companies, of which only the 7th and 9th Companies remained purely officer companies, with a total of about 500 officers. Adding officers from other units, we get no more than a third of the total of the regiment.

The above information from V. E. Pavlov is also confirmed by archival data<sup>74</sup> of orders for the 1st Markov Regiment for 1918. The time period from 17 (30) July (the beginning of the 2nd Kuban campaign) to 10 (23) October 1918 was taken for the study.

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<sup>73</sup> A legal status for those of certain non-Russian racial groups, who were traditionally not conscripted into the Tsarist Army. In this area it would include Chechens, Circassians, Ossetians, Dagestanis, Kalmyks, etc. These groups tended to be relatively sympathetic to the Whites, even if it was just because they opposed the Bolsheviks' atheism quite strongly.

<sup>74</sup> In RGVA.



The orders for reinforcements consistently mention the source of those arriving in the regiment. Interestingly, the proportion of those in the ranks directly included in the regiment lists is extremely high. Of the 1,787 men, 1,765 were permanently in the regiment (99%) and only 22 men were seconded to the regiment (less than 1%). The difference between these categories is that those who were seconded did not immediately become full-fledged members of the regiment. They did not have the right to wear its uniforms and were deprived of a number of other rights enjoyed by those directly included in the lists. Thus, secondment to the regiment was a kind of probationary period.

It appears that most of those who joined the regiment were conscripted. 1,563 persons (87%) who joined the regiment are listed without specifying the method of recruitment, but since conscription is not specified separately (only two are listed thus), it can be assumed that they were involuntarily mobilised. There were 48 gentlemen volunteers<sup>75</sup> (3%) and 174 volunteers (10%). It is interesting that in the “arrival questionnaire” for the regiment, in addition to the category of volunteers, there is a column for conscripted and fugitives.

The total number of conscripts and volunteers of non-Cossack origins who joined the regiment was 1,132 men, or 64% (of them 230 volunteers, 373 privates, 1 sapper, 1 gunner, 18 lance corporals, 51 corporals, 45 sergeants, 1 sergeant-major, 117 ensigns, 84 2nd-lieutenants, 86 lieutenants, 20 captains, 48 staff-captains, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 20 colonels). The total number of Cossacks in the ranks was 633, or 36% (of them 433 Cossacks,<sup>76</sup> 120 *plastuns*,<sup>77</sup> 11 lance-corporals, 38 corporals, 20 sergeants, 5 sergeant-majors, 2 second-lieutenants, 1 lieutenant, 3 staff-captains). The total number of Cossack in the ranks was 1,786 men, i.e. Cossacks formed was about one third of the total recruitment for the period.

Those from the lower ranks totalled 1,360 men, or 78% (of them 230 volunteers, 986 privates, 1 sapper, 1 gunner, 18 lance corporals, 89 corporals, 65 sergeants, 6 sergeant-majors, and 25 unspecified<sup>78</sup>)<sup>79</sup>. For the officer ranks of all levels<sup>80</sup> there 386 men, or 22% (of them 117 ensigns, 86 second-lieutenants, 87 lieutenants, 20 captains, 51 staff-captains, 5 lieutenant-colonels, 20 colonels). So officers of all levels made up less than a third of the total replenishment of the regiment.

The recruits going directly to the regiment's officer companies (1st General Markov, 7th and 9th) were only 50% of all officers (out of the total of 90 recruits, 15 were lower ranks, 30 Cossacks, and the rest were officers of different levels).

The orders also contain information about those who left the unit. Out of 65 men who left the regiment, 47 were privates (30 volunteers, 2 gentlemen volunteers, 7 privates, 1 prisoner of war, 5 Cossacks, 1 corporal, 1 sergeant) and 18 officers (1 cadet, 9 ensigns, 1 2nd-lieutenant, 4 lieutenants, and 3 staff-captains).

Summarising the first period, we can conclude that initially the volunteer principle was the main method of recruitment. From the second half of 1918 conscription gradually spread. During 1918, the bulk of the 1st General Markov Officer Regiment was officers, though a considerable share was made up of military and civilian students, as well as Cossacks.

These components determined the social composition of the regiments. During the first period, the officer units underwent an evolution, starting from about 50% in the first to 30% in the second half of 1918. The loss of numerical predominance was due to many reasons, which include the huge [battle] losses, the transfer of officers to other units of the Volunteer Army, and the outflow of officers to the Don Army. Officer companies became a minority in the 1st Markov and other “coloured” regiments, whereas previously officers made up the majority in all companies. By the end of 1918, most of the regiment's companies did

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<sup>75</sup> This was a separate category for volunteers with higher education, who were entered as basically officers in training, as distinct from those with officer rank from previous military service. Unless specified, I shall lump them together.

<sup>76</sup> That is, privates who had been cavalry.

<sup>77</sup> That is privates who had been infantry.

<sup>78</sup> Of the unspecified, 14 went into non-combatant ranks, including 4 officials, 1 clerk, 1 orderly, and 1 nurse.

<sup>79</sup> In this paragraph have merged the non-Cossack and Cossack ranks with the same grade, so “lieutenant” means both infantry *poruchik* and Cossack *sotnik*.

<sup>80</sup> That is ensigns etc, who had started officer training but not yet formally made it to officer rank.



not differ substantially from those of other regiments.<sup>81</sup> The remaining 50-70% of the regiments' personnel were volunteers, students and Cossacks (mainly Kuban).

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The general trend in the Markov regiments in the second period can be considered to be the formal transition from the volunteer principle of recruitment to conscription – the construction of the army on a regular basis. The end of 1918 – beginning of 1919 was marked for the 1st Markov Regiment by its participation in intense battles in the Donetsk Basin, during which it suffered significant losses. These were compensated for mainly by conscription in the newly occupied areas and, to a lesser extent, by volunteers. Here the Markov Regiment was joined for the first time by labourers, with several dozen men. The transition to a “regular” basis in recruitment is also shown by the creation of a system of reserve battalions, the first of which appeared in the 1st Markov Regiment in the spring of 1919.

In the second half of 1919, during the “March on Moscow”, the Markov units began to increase in number, resulting in the summer and autumn with the formation of 2nd and 3rd Regiments of the same name, and then a division.

The change in the social composition of the original and newly formed regiments can be seen in the recruits coming into their ranks. There are fewer and fewer references to volunteers and more to conscripts and ex-prisoners. The ratio of officers among them decreased compared to 1918.

The main sources of recruitment were: centralised (through the division HQ and reserve battalions) and independent. From the 1st Infantry (then Markov) Division HQ there came mainly officers. Private cadres, who made up the bulk of the recruits, came from the district military commanders of the towns near which the units were stationed, from whom the replenishments were sent either to the reserve battalions (in most cases) or directly to the unit. This peculiarity can be traced both in regimental history and in archival sources.

The available orders for the 1st Markov Regiment for 1919 allow us to trace the change in the composition of the “coloured” units compared to 1918. The data cover the period from 5 (18) July to 13 (26) August 1919 (orders Nos. 116-155).

Attention is drawn to the increase in the number of those seconded to the regiment – the cadre subject to initial verification. According to the research, in 1918 the number of seconded men was less than 1%, but in 1919 it had reached 15% (280 men). Only 85% were included in the regiment lists directly (1,597 people). This certainly indicates the unreliability of some of the incoming recruits. Among those seconded there were rank and file as well as officer cadres, who came both by conscription and as volunteers. Those seconded would later be included in the regimental rolls for their combat merits. Among the orders for 1919 there is a sample of such an order.

Conscription was dominant during this period: out of 1,877 men, 1,524 or 81% (1,356 direct and 168 seconded). Despite the fact that the regimental histories often mention the inclusion of prisoners, their share according to the orders studied is not large – only 21 men (18 direct and 3 seconded), which is about 1%. The share of defectors from the Red Army is also small – only 29 men (25 and 4 respectively), or 2%. The share of volunteers was rather large – 186 men (142 and 44), i.e. 10%, and gentlemen volunteer gave 7 men (all direct), or less than 1%. In addition, 110 men, or 6%, were volunteers transferred from other units (49 and 61).

Compared to 1918, the ratio of other ranks to officers increased. Out of 1,877 men, the lower ranks make up 1,544 men, or 82% (in 1918 it was 78%): 1,372 privates, 18 Cossacks, 26 lance-corporals, 79 corporals, 40 sergeants, 3 sergeant-majors, 6 warrant officers. There were 330 officers of all levels, or 18% (in 1918 it was 22%): 15 gentlemen volunteers, 18 cadets, 170 ensigns, 66 second-lieutenants, 40 lieutenants, 18 staff-captains, 18 captains. Thus, the share of reinforcements with officer rank was about a quarter of the total and less than 1918.

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<sup>81</sup> S. V. Volkov has written about the change in the number and role of officer companies in his “The White Movement in Russia”.



Most of the replenishment of the regiment was from district military commanders – 1,379 men out of 1,877 (81 from Bakhmut, 29 from Belgorod, 1,170 from Kupyansk, 99 from Kharkov). If we include those from other military districts and the commandant's offices of various cities, that number reaches 1,546 men. So the bulk of the recruits came to the regiment centrally, mainly by conscription.

The mechanism of the regiment's recruitment is clearly visible if we compare the distribution of the regiment's recruitment by its units: a total of 536 men were distributed to the regiment's combat units and 1,312 men to the training battalion and the machine-gun training *komand*. Obviously, due to the untrained and unreliable nature of the recruits, they were first sent to the training units, where they underwent appropriate training and "processing", and only then were included in the regiment. This is confirmed by the data that during the same period that 536 men were sent directly to the regiment, 601 men were transferred from the training units to the combat units, constituting 47% and 53% respectively. That is, most of the replenishment came via the training units, having already undergone some training. The recruits transferred via the training units were mainly rank and file: 564 privates, 2 lance-corporals, 1 corporal, 1 sergeant, 1 sergeant-major, 1 volunteer, 1 cadet, 6 ensigns, 1 second-lieutenant, 2 lieutenants, 1 staff-captain.

The unreliability of the incoming replenishment is also evidenced by the data on desertion. During the period under study 50 men deserted the combat units, while the training units lost 70. Of the total number of those who left the regiment, 116 were lower ranks and only 4 were junior officers.

The orders also give information about the birth years of those who were conscripted (data on this is not given in all orders): 40 from the 1915 cohort, 228 for the 1916 cohort, 340 for the 1917 cohort, 259 from the 1918 cohort, 274 from the 1919 cohort, 47 for other years. Thus, the age of the conscripts ranged from 21 (1919 year) to 24 (1916).

From the autumn of 1919 the number of prisoner incorporated increased. This was due to the stretched supply lines and the consequent difficulty of replenishment from the reserve battalions, as well as heavy losses, because of which the reserve battalions did not have time to replenish and prepare a reserve. The regiments had to recruit on their own initiative during this time, which undoubtedly affected their combat effectiveness.

The formation of the 2nd Officer General Markov Regiment began with the allocation of the 4th Battalion of the 1st Regiment to it, a unit for which we have quite detailed information in the regiment's orders for 1919. This then gives us information about the initial composition of the 2nd Regiment. In total the 4th Battalion had 759 men, of whom there were 622 were privates, 5 lance corporals, 37 corporals, 17 sergeants, 4 sergeant-majors, 6 warrant officers alongside only 69 officers (3 cadets, 31 ensigns, 20 second-lieutenants, 12 lieutenants, 3 staff-captains). Most of the regiment consisted of those transferred from training units, 712 men, compared to only 47 from the combat companies of the 1st Regiment (mostly officers). During the summer-autumn offensive, the 2nd Regiment, like the 1st, was repeatedly replenished with conscripts and prisoners.

The formation of the 3rd Officer Regiment, unlike the 2nd, cannot be traced on the basis of archival sources. Nevertheless we know its composition was predominantly rank and file on the basis of its regimental history.

So in this second period regiments were mostly filled with conscripts. In fact there is a transition to a regular system of recruitment in the AFSR. The sources were both centralised and independent: the first including replenishment from the new reserve battalions, with recruits coming from the division HQ. There were also the cadre of smaller units added (for example, units of the Southern Army<sup>82</sup>); while the second includes the inclusion of Red Army prisoners, which constituted a large percentage, especially from the autumn of 1919.<sup>83</sup> There were also small numbers of Red Army defectors and local volunteers during this period.

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<sup>82</sup> Formed in the Hetman's Ukraine, it then moved to become part of the Don Army, before being incorporated into the AFSR at the beginning of 1919.

<sup>83</sup> The regimental history for the period from the end of June to the end of 1919 notes taking over 7,000 Red Army prisoners of war on no less than 14 occasions. Some of these prisoners were sent directly to the reserve units.





The social composition of the regiments during 1919 appears to be quite varied. Officers make up at most about a third, and in most of the studied units about a quarter of the total number. The reason for the reduction of their number was the huge losses, the decrease in the recruitment of officers, as well as an outflow to the large number of new White units forming in the south of Russia.

The number of young students dropped to almost zero. This was due to losses, their partial exclusion from the regiments and the reduction in recruitment. The number of Cossacks significantly decreased due to them leaving to formations in their own army and moving away from Cossack regions. The biggest group of the regiments' personnel were peasants, mainly conscripted in the occupied regions and captured Red Army soldiers. In 1919, for the first time, workers were included in the regiments. It should be noted that there was no clear distinction in the category of volunteers or conscripted between the strata of the population. Volunteers and conscripted were found among officers, peasants and workers alike. Even the officers, who previously supplied a large percentage of the volunteers, by 1919 were increasingly conscripted, i.e. not only does their ratio in the regiment drops, but also the nature of their recruitment changes.

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The third stage of the evolution of the composition of the Markov regiments coincides with the last period of the White Movement in the south of Russia – with General Wrangel's "Russian Army".

The main source of recruitment in 1920 was captured Red Army soldiers, which again changed the social composition of the regiments. Once in the Crimea, the Markov Division received a number of reinforcements through the inclusion of smaller units. These replenishments were not large in total number, and they happened at different times, but their difference and advantage lay in their combat value, as they had a fairly large percentage of officers – for example, the 3rd Markov Regiment absorbed the Composite Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division, the 2nd Markov Regiment included the 650 bayonets of the Siberian Battalion (which had formed as early as April 1919 from officers who had served in Siberian units) and in August a small number of *Bredovtsy*<sup>84</sup> were added.

But to a very large extent, as can be seen both in the Markov regimental history and other sources, that the units of the Russian army were recruited from prisoners. This was due to the limited possibilities of conscription in the Crimea, where it was carried out with difficulty. Major-General G. K. Gravitsky, the last commander of the 2nd Markov Regiment, wrote about the resistance of the peasants in the Crimea and the Northern Black Sea coast to conscription in his memoirs:

The peasants were extraordinarily firm and persistent in evading participation in the civil war; no punishments could halt the mass flight of those conscripted from the regiments.

Here we should mention the mechanism of adding reinforcements into the units. Until June 1920, when the reserve battalions were re-established, it was mainly direct. With the appearance of the reserve units the reinforcements followed the system already described in summer-autumn 1919, with the difference that the reserve battalions were filled mainly with prisoners and only a few conscripts, while there were practically no volunteers. Replenishments sent from the army HQ and smaller units were directly merged into the regiments. Another difference between the reserve battalions of the 1920 model and those of 1919 was the much shorter time taken to prepare the cadres and, as a consequence, the poor quality of reinforcements received.

To summarise the third period, the following main points can be highlighted. The primary difference was that the main source of reinforcements was the inclusion of prisoners who passed through the reserve battalions, due to the need to train them, as well as to "process" and "screen" them. As a consequence, the social composition of the regiments was changed, becoming overwhelmingly formed of rank and file soldiers (mainly peasants), with a shortage of middle and lower ranking officers.

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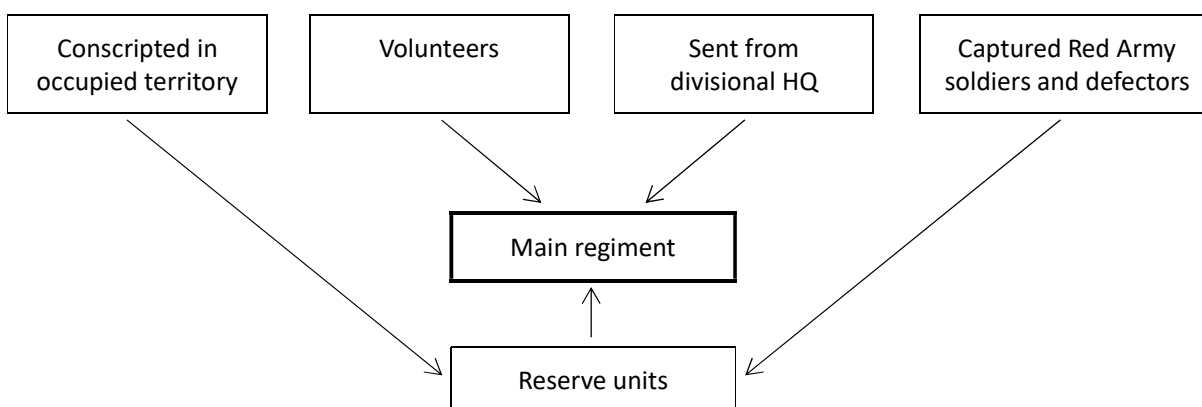
<sup>84</sup> Some 23,000 men had marched with General Bredov northwest into Poland once cut off by the Red Army in the Odessa area. Only 7,000 made it to the Crimea. The rest died of typhus, emigrated or joined the Polish or Ukrainian armies.



The social composition of the regiments in the period from the end of 1919 to the autumn of 1920, as compared to the second period, did not undergo significant changes and also appears to be quite heterogeneous. The officers finally lost their numerical importance within the regiments and at most constitute quarter, and sometimes less than a quarter of the total numbers in the regiments. The reduction in the percentage of officers was due to the same reasons as in 1919. The bulk of the regiments' men were peasants – mainly prisoners of war and conscripts from the regions occupied by the Russian Army.

To summarise, it can be said that the Markov regiments went through a long evolutionary path during the war. The changes that took place in them are generally characteristic of all the White units of southern Russia, with possible reservations for some specific units formed at specific times (Cossack, national and other such formations). These changes were both in numbers and in quality. By the end of the Civil War, the 1st Markov Regiment little resembled its original form from the first half of 1918, although officers continued to be its core – the most capable element, around which the bulk of the personnel was formed.

#### Scheme for Replenishing the “Coloured” Regiments in the Summer and Autumn of 1919



The bulk of the recruits were conscripts and former prisoners. Most of them were included in the “coloured” regiments only after serving in the training (reserve) units.

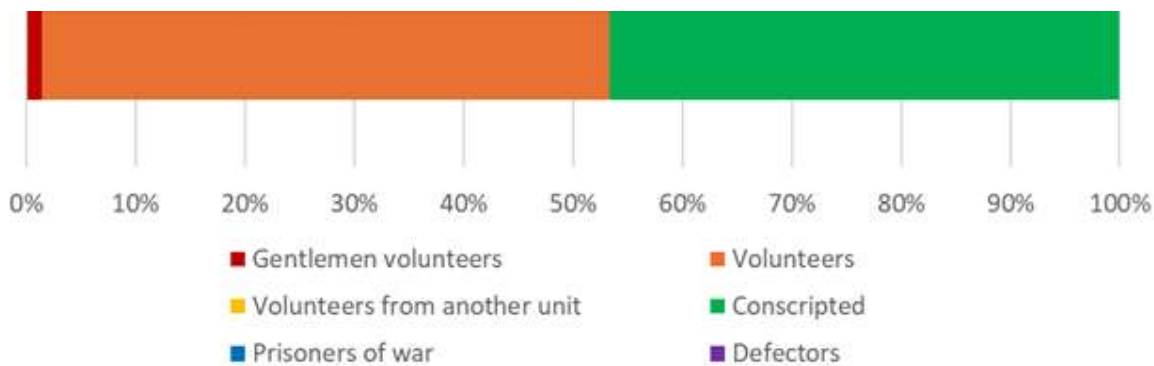
Volunteers were mostly included directly in the regiments, but a certain number also passed through training units.

Those sent to the regiments from the 1st Infantry Division HQ were usually included directly in the regiments.

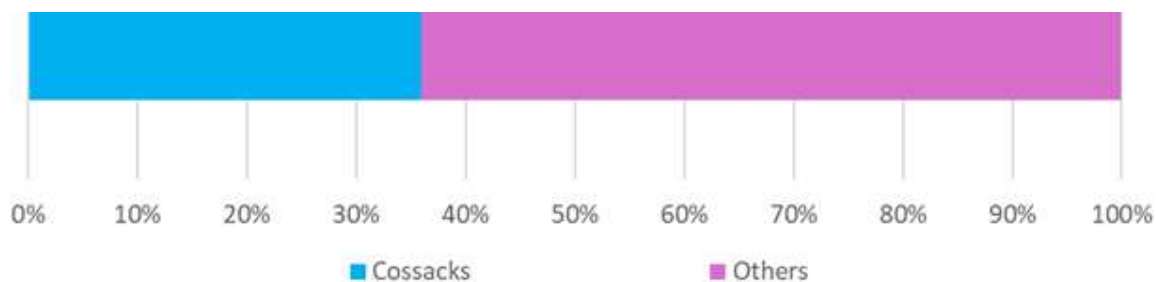


## Nature of the Recruitment into the 1st Officer General Markov Regiment in the Summer and Autumn of 1918

Nature of Recruitment

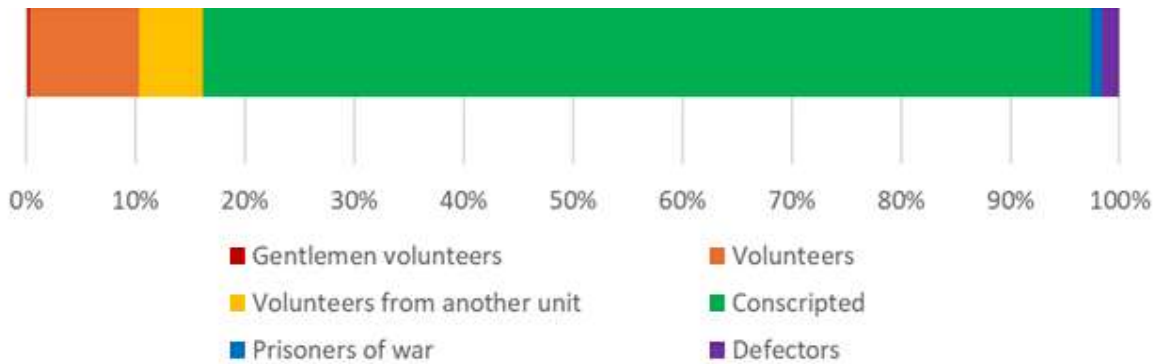


Proportion of Cossacks in the Ranks

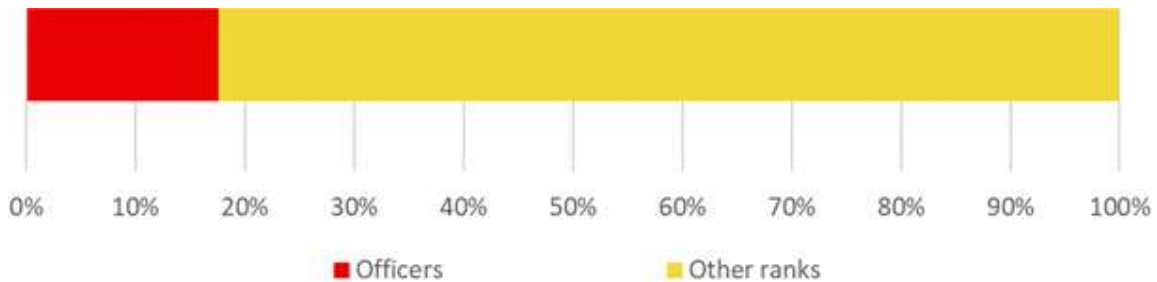


## Nature of the Recruitment into the 1st Officer General Markov Regiment in July-August 1919

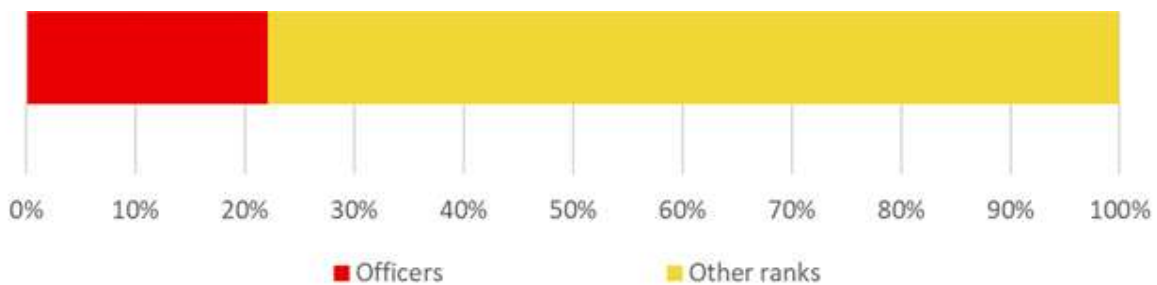
**Nature of Recruitment**



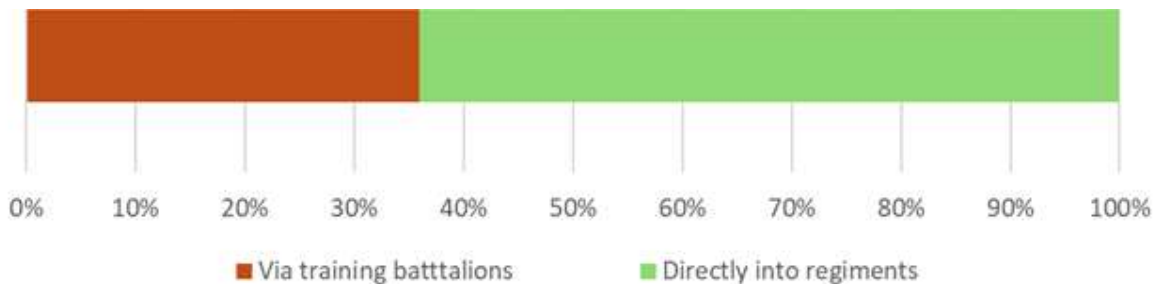
**Proportion of Officers and Other Ranks Recruited**



**Proportion of Officers to Other Ranks**

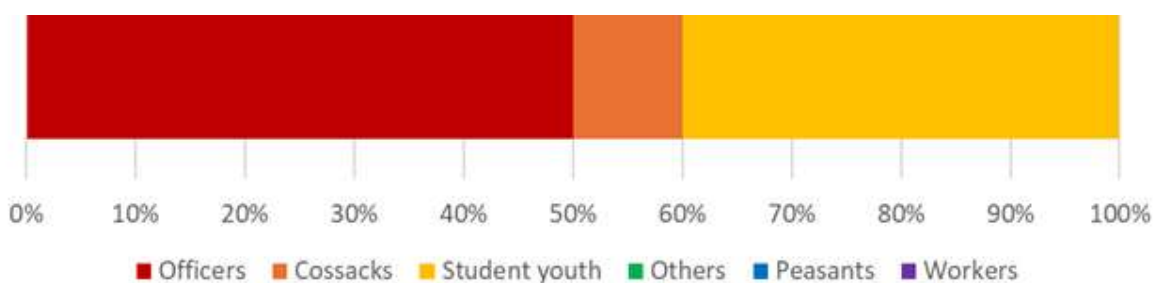


**Reinforcement Directly or through Training Units**

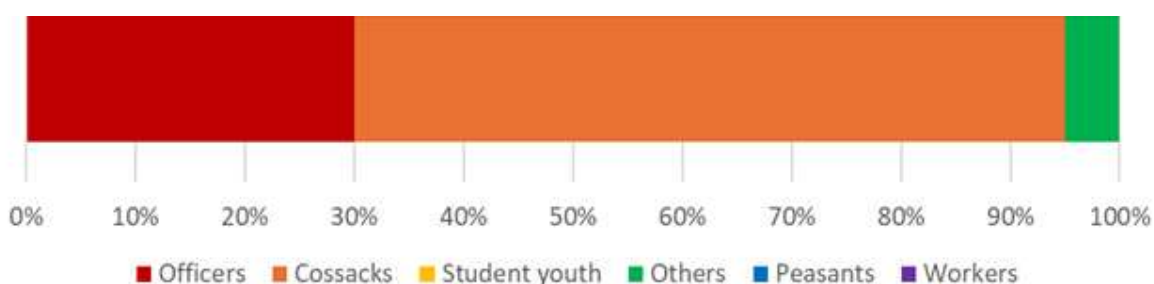


## Social Composition of the White Armies in Southern Russia over Time, Using the Example of the “Coloured” Regiments

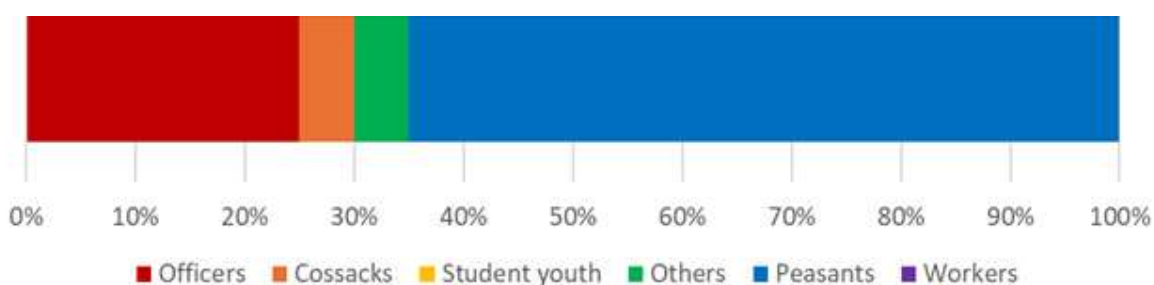
Early 1918



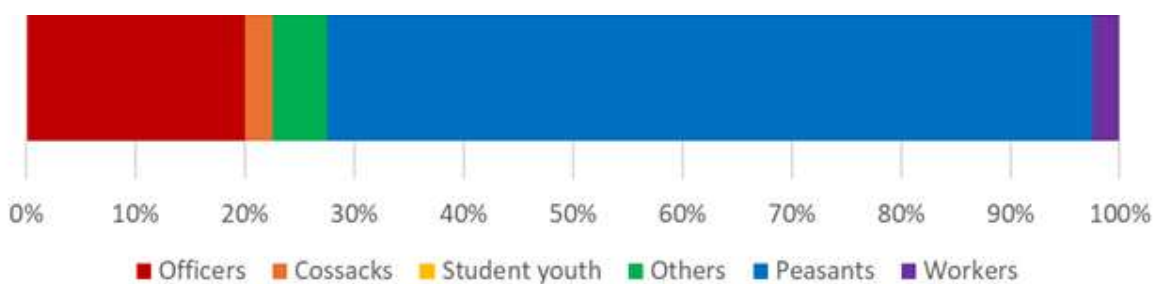
Late 1918 – Early 1919



1919



1920



## The Commanders of the Markov Regiments

R.G. Gagkuev

Three main periods can be distinguished in the evolution of the command of both the Markov and other “coloured” units in southern Russia. In the first period (late winter–summer–autumn 1918), the combat units were predominantly led by professional military men who had risen to prominence both before and during the First World War. In the second period (autumn 1918–first half of 1919), the cadre was dominated by junior officers who had ended World War I with the ranks of colonel and lieutenant colonel. In the third period (second half of 1919–1920), regimental commanders who had distinguished themselves directly in the theatres of the civil war in the second half of 1918–1919 predominated, many of whom had ended the World War with the rank of ensign, lieutenant, captain or staff captain.

The first period coincides with the formation of the White movement in southern Russia and its organisational development. This time saw the most heroic episodes in the history of the “White South” – the 1st and 2nd Kuban Campaigns. Already by this period, we need to note the internal continuity in the appointment of regimental commanders (in the Officer Regiment, out of nine regimental commanders and five acting commanders, five were *Markovtsy*), which would later become decisive in appointments to command positions. The second feature is that these commanders were officers who had already proven themselves before and during World War I, who already had experience commanding regiments and higher, and who subsequently moved past regimental commander, occupying higher positions.

The next period coincided with the White armies of southern Russia leaving the Donets Basin and beginning the “March on Moscow”. The regiments were now led by officers who had not distinguished themselves during the World War, but had gained fame directly in the civil war – the so-called “first marchers”, with lower ranks than the commanders of the previous period. The regiments became “closed” to the appointment of commanders “not from their midst”. Starting from the second period, they were headed almost exclusively by “true” *Markovtsy*, often lacking the necessary military training, better known as combat commanders, always on the front lines. This applies not only to the Markov regiments, but also to other “coloured” regiments. The example of Colonel Salnikov, a regimental commander who was not accepted by the officers of the 1st Officer General Markov Regiment, shows the rejection by the “coloured” regiments of commanders appointed from “outside”.

The command structure of the regiments during this period was weakened, in addition to combat losses, by the allocation of the most prominent officers to form new Markov regiments (a “dispersion” of the officer pool), as well as other units of the Armed Forces of South Russia. The commanders of the Markov Division, formed in the autumn of 1919, were also *Markovtsy*, which emphasises the promotion of lower and middle-ranking officers to senior command positions during the civil war. However, the appointment of such commanders, whose main distinction was valiant participation in battle, was not always justified. Their lack of proper education and experience in commanding units led to some failures. This is particularly evident in the example of Colonel Naumov, commander of the 3rd Markov Regiment, who unsuccessfully led a detachment in the autumn of 1919.

It is noteworthy that officers from lower social strata – peasants and petty bourgeoisie – were sometimes promoted to regimental commanders. Most of the mid-level commanders in the civil war were officers of lower ranks who received their first officer posting after the start of World War I and, as already mentioned, only rose to high command positions during the civil war.

In this light, the information provided by Levitov, author of a Kornilov Regiment history, about the replenishment of officers in Kharkov and the composition of the officer corps of another “coloured” regiment, the 1st Kornilov Regiment, is indicative:

Many officers were such as former teachers, surveyors from the Kharkov Land Commission, artists from the Korsh Theatre, students, technicians, local government officials, seminarians... They had all obtained officer rank during the First World War after the first bloody year, during which the peacetime officer corps had been destroyed. All these young Russians ... drafted into



the army beginning in 1914, had graduated from ensign schools and military academies, before the war ended ... and formed what was called the White Army during the revolution.

There are many similar testimonies and statements.

The third period is associated with the greatest success of the AFSR in its advance towards Moscow and the final stage of the White movement in southern Russia – the battles of General Wrangel's Russian Army. There was a further dilution of the officer corps, due to the isolation of the “coloured” regiments. Moreover, the regiments' officer pool was so depleted by losses and so closed that there was not a single officer above the rank of colonel left in the three Markov regiments.<sup>85</sup> Major-Generals Gattenberger and Gravitskiy, appointed to the 2nd Markov Regiment, are exceptions here, as they came to the regiment “from outside”. The main criterion for appointment to a position was having been in the regiments since their formation and participation in the 1st and 2nd Kuban Campaigns.

In summary, it should be noted that the command structure of the Markov regiments underwent major changes during the war. The evolution of the social composition of the Russian officer corps, which began during the World War, continued during the Civil War. The promotion of officers from different social strata to lower and, more importantly, middle-level command positions changed the overall picture of the Russian officer corps towards its democratisation.

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<sup>85</sup> This is also due to a reluctance of the White armies to give promotions without what they considered legal basis, given that Russia had no legal government in their eyes that could sanction such appointments.



## Command Staff of the General Markov Units

(reference materials)

During the war years the General Markov units – regiments, battalions, companies, divisions, batteries – were headed by about 200 officers from the rank of ensign through to lieutenant general. It is not possible to reconstruct even a brief biography for all of them, or even to establish a complete list of the commanders. The fullest data is available only for the command staff of the regiments. For most of the personnel, only fragmentary information is available. The data presented below is part of an attempt to compile a biographical reference book on the individual White units.

*I have not translated this section at this time because most of the material can be found elsewhere.*

## Appendices

The appendices section contains documents and publications about the life and career of S. L. Markov and military formations that subsequently received his personal patronage.

Most of the documents relating to the general's life (mainly about the Russo-Japanese War and the First World War) is taken from the archives relating to the general stored in the Russian State Military Historical Archives. Other materials come from periodicals of the Civil War and the Russian diaspora.

*I have not translated this section at this time, although it contains some relevant Russian Civil War material, because it relates to the period before the 2nd Kuban Campaign.*

