



The Ukrainian People's Army

By Marja Erwin

The Ukrainian People's Army formed from several irregular forces, which had supported the revolt against the Hetmanate, as well as the regular army, which had been divided. Aside from the Sich Riflemen and the Zaporozhian Corps, most of the regular army was below strength. Not all units supported the Directory, and some units, especially at Odesa, Katerynoslav, and Sevastopol, went over to the Whites.

The Ukrainian People's Army sustained several defeats in the winter of 1918 and the spring of 1919. They reorganized their forces in May 1919. The West Ukrainian People's Army joined them in July 1919, and aggressively attacked the Bolsheviks in July-August 1919, but was reluctant to fight the Whites in September-November 1919.

The Ukrainian People's Army and West Ukrainian People's Army divided in the fall of 1919. On November 6th, the West Ukrainian People's Army reached an armistice with the Armed Forces of South Russia. The Ukrainian People's Army was unable to hold out without its allies. At the beginning of December, the army divided into pro-Bolshevik and anti-Bolshevik forces, while Symon Petliura, facing mutiny, left Ukraine to head a government in exile.

The Ukrainian People's Army, January 1919

By the end of December 1918, the Ukrainian People's Army was organized into the Right-Bank, Dnestr, Southern, and Left- Bank Fronts, as well as the Siege Corps at Kyiv:

Right-Bank and Dnestr Fronts (January 1919) (Or the Kholm-Galician Front)

Ukrainian People's Army forces

30,000 bayonets (after Tinchenko)
few or no sabres
372 machine guns
77 artillery pieces

about 39,000 combat troops

1st Active Division
2nd Active Division
1st Cadre Division
2nd Cadre Division
2nd Horse Division

West Ukrainian People's Army forces

16,500 bayonets
few or no sabres
219 machine guns
76 artillery pieces

about 22,000 combat troops

Southern Front (January 1919)

10,500- bayonets (after Tinchenko)
regimental strengths may be exaggerated
machine guns and artillery pieces are not listed

5th Republican Division
6th Republican Division (reduced)
Allied Division (Grigoriev's)
Katerynoslav Kish

Left-Bank Front (January 1919)

13,000- bayonets (after Tinchenko, excluding reserve units)
500 sabres
36+ machine guns
28+ artillery pieces
some units' regimental strengths may be exaggerated
some units' machine guns and artillery pieces are not listed

1st Zaporozhian Division
2nd Republican Division
1st Cossack Rifle Division
9th Cadre Division
10th Cadre Division
11th Cadre Division
12th Cadre Division
Slobidska Kish

Siege Corps and Rear Areas (January 1919)

11,000- bayonets (after Tinchenko, excluding reserve units)
no sabres
60+ artillery pieces
some units' regimental strengths may be exaggerated
some units' machine guns and artillery pieces are not listed

Division of Sich Riflemen
Dnibr Division
(Zeleny's) Black Sea Division

The Ukrainian People's Army, August 1919

The Ukrainian People's Army reorganized their forces in the spring of 1919. The West Ukrainian People's Army joined forces with them in the summer of 1919. As their forces approached Kyiv, they included 4 corps of the Ukrainian People's Army and 3 corps of the West Ukrainian People's Army:

Western Group (August 1919)

Group of Sich Riflemen

2,139 bayonets
507 sabres
82 machine guns
56 artillery pieces
10th Sich Division
11th Sich Division
4th Horse Brigade

2nd Halitskyy Corps

strength not listed
3rd Halitskyy Brigade
4th Halitskyy Brigade
7th Halitskyy Brigade
18th Halitskyy Brigade (?)
21st Halitskyy Brigade (?)

Central Group (August 1919)

1st Halitskyy Corps

strength not listed

about 5,000 combat troops

5th Halitskyy Brigade

6th Halitskyy Brigade

9th Halitskyy Brigade

10th Halitskyy Brigade

3rd Halitskyy Corps

strength not listed

2nd Halitskyy Brigade

8th Halitskyy Brigade

Kyiv Group

1,143 bayonets

about 2,000 combat troops

138 sabres

24 machine guns

5 artillery pieces

5th Peasant Division

12th Peasant Division

1st Podolian Insurgent Division

The 2nd Zaporozhian Sich Division had been disbanded, and some of its personnel were transferred to this corps.

Eastern Group (August 1919)

Zaporizka Group

1,642 bayonets

about 4,000 combat troops

518 sabres

91 machine guns

31 artillery pieces

6th Zaporozhian Division

7th Zaporozhian Division

8th Zaporozhian Division

3rd Horse Brigade

Independent Units

strength not listed

3rd Iron Rifle Division

1st Halitskyy Sich Rifle Brigade

11th Halitskyy Brigade

Other Units (August 1919)

Volynska Group

1,181 bayonets

172 sabres

82 machine guns

14 artillery pieces

1st Northern Division

4th Grey Division

Independent Units

strength not listed

9th Railroad Division

14th Halitskyy Brigade

Major Sources

- Tinchenko, *Ukrains'ke Ofitserstvo; Shlyakhy Skorboty ta Zabuttya, 1917-1921*.
- Udovychenko, *Ukraina u Vyni za Derzhavnist'*.