

The Russian Army of the Napoleonic Wars

The Russian Army at the beginning of the Napoleonic Wars was, like so many other states in Europe, still trained to fight in the measured, linear formations of the previous century, with a great emphasis on parade drill and with slow, ponderous volley fire as its primary method of combat.

Like many of its neighbours, Russia was to suffer many defeats at the hands of the French, even losing Moscow to the invading *Grande Armée* in 1812. However, Russia was nothing if not resilient. Shrugging off defeats, in the same way that her predominantly serf soldiers shrugged off staggering losses, the Russians emerged by 1812 as a well-equipped Army forged in battle.

The four forces presented here trace the development of the Russian Army of this period.

Line Infantry Force to 1806
Leader Status II
Leader Status I
Three Groups of 8 Musketeers
Leader Status II
Two Groups of 8 Musketeers
Leader Status I
One Group of 6 Line Infantry Skirmishers
Points Value: 52

The second force represents a force after the reorganisations which occurred after Jena and serving with the French during the invasion of Russia.

Jäger Force to 1806
Leader Status II
Leader Status I
Four Groups of 8 Jäger
Leader Status II
Leader Status I
Two Groups of 6 Jäger Skirmishers
Points Value: 56

The following force represents a body defending Russia in 1812, such as defending the Grand Battery at Borodino.

Patriotic War of 1812
Leader Status III
Four Groups of 8 Musketeers
Leader Status II
One Groups of 8 Grenadiers
Leader Status II
One Group of 6 Jäger Skirmishers
Points Value: 59

The last force represents the Russians advancing into Prussia and Poland following the remains of the Grand Armée.

Wolves from the East
Leader Status III
Two groups of 8 Musketeers
Leader Status II
Two Groups of 8 Opolchenie
Leader Status I
One Group of 6 Jäger Skirmishers
Leader Status II
One Groups of 8 Cossacks
Points Value: 57

Special Characteristics:

- **Stoic Serfs** – The Russian Army were noted for their ability to stoically accept casualties which other nations would find unacceptable. When two Command Cards are played, without need for the Unit to be activated or a Leader present, a Russian Unit may remove 1D6 Shock.
- **Controlled Fire:** Russian Line troops up to 1806 will only fire controlled volleys where this is shown as being Obligatory.
- **Ancien Régime:** Trained in the drill of a bygone age, the Russians cannot form Attack Columns before 1810.

Russian Line Infantry to 1806					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Obligatory	3	3	2	Poor Shots, Stoic Serfs
Russian Line Infantry, 1807 onwards					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	3	2	2	Stoic Serfs
Second Rate Line Infantry					Type	Conscripts & Volunteer
Points Value	3	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	3	3	Poor Shots
Line Jäger					Type	Regulars
Points Value	6	Weapon	Muskets		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	3	3	2	Stoic Serfs, Sharp Practice
Line Grenadiers to 1806					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Obligatory	3	3	2	Aggressive, Stoic Serfs
Line Grenadiers, 1807 onwards					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	2	2	2	Aggressive, Stoic Serfs
Opolchenie Infantry					Type	Militia
Points Value	2	Weapon	Musket		Size	10
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
No Shock	No	No	-	-	-	Poor shots. Hearth & Home
Guard Infantry to 1806					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Obligatory	2	3	2	Stubborn, Stoic Serfs

Guard Infantry, 1807 onwards					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	2	2	2	Stubborn, Stoic Serfs
Guard Grenadiers					Type	Elite
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Aggressive, Stoic Serfs
Guard Jäger					Type	Elite
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Stoic Serfs, Sharp Practice
Line Jäger Skirmishers					Type	Skirmishers
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice
Guard Jäger Skirmishers					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	9	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	No	-	2	-	Sharp Practice, Stoic Serfs
Line Infantry Skirmisher					Type	Irregular Skirmishers
Points Value	4	Weapon	Muskets		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Never	No	No	-	-	-	Weedy Coves
Cuirassier					Type	Impact Cavalry
Points Value	9	Weapon	Sabre		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	2	Tally Ho!, Cuirass
Dragoons					Type	Dragoons
Points Value	8	Weapon	Sabre and Carbine		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	-	Tally Ho!

Hussars					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	5	Weapon	Sabre		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	-	
Uhlans					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	5	Weapon	Lance		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	-	
Cossacks					Type	Irregular Cavalry
Points Value	4	Weapon	Lance and pistol		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
No Shock	No	No	-	1	-	Tactical, Mobile D.P., Plunderers
Cossacks of the Guard					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	7	Weapon	Lance		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	2	Tactical, Tally Ho!
Russian Artillery to 1805					Type	Artillery
Points Value	5,6,8	Weapon	Gun		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
No Shock	No	No	-	-	-	
Russian Artillery, 1806 to 1810					Type	Artillery
Points Value	6,7,9	Weapon	Gun		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	-	2	-	
Russian Artillery, 1811 onwards					Type	Artillery
Points Value	8,9,11	Weapon	Gun		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	Sharp Practice