

# 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
<b>Points Value:</b>

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
Four Groups of 8 Jäger
Leader Status II
Leader Status I
Two Groups of 6 Jäger Skirmishers
<b>Points Value:</b>

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
Three Groups of 8 Musketeers
Leader Status II
One Groups of 8 Grenadiers
Leader Status II
One Group of 6 Jäger Skirmishers
<b>Points Value:</b>

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
<b>Points Value:</b>

## 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.

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

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

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