

# The Habsburg Army in 1848-1849 Organization and Terminology\*

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**B**EFORE 1848, the military forces of the Habsburg Empire formed Europe's second largest land army. According to a reliable Russian source,<sup>1</sup> the total head count of 410,000 Austrian soldiers, including 42-43,000 military border guards, was divided into the following arms or branches: infantry (320,000 men), cavalry (49,000 men), artillery (25,000), military engineers (7,000), military logistics (9,000). They were organized in 58 infantry regiments, 18 border infantry regiments, 2 cordon infantry battalions in Bukovina, 1 Czaikist battalion, 1 Tirol hunters regiment, 8 cuirassier regiments, 6 dragon regiments, 7 *cheveaux-legers* regiments, 12 hussar regiments, 4 ulan regiments, 5 garrison battalions, 5 field-artillery regiments, 1 cannon corps, 1 rocket corps, 1 engineers corps, 1 sapper corps, 1 pioneer- pontoneer corps, 1 regiment of Lombard gendarmes, 1 military transportation corps.

These forces were dramatically diminished during the 1848–1849 military campaigns in Italy and Hungary. Radetzky's troops counted in March 1849 a total of 120,000 men, but in reality the famous Habsburg general commanded on the battle field only 73,000. Historiography appreciates that, in June 1849, the war events in Hungary confronted 162,000 Hungarians with the joint forces of the Austrians (176,000 men) and Russians (190,000).<sup>2</sup> The Habsburg army operating on various fronts in 1849 counted apparently about 300,000 soldiers, although it seems that over a third of the infantry (21 Hungarian regiments) and more than a quarter of the cavalry (10 hussar regiments)<sup>3</sup> turned themselves on the side of the enemy in Hungary, while changing sides in Italy was even more overwhelming. According to a source from 1869, "almost all among Austria's Hungarian and Italian regiments" left the imperials, "half of the army" joined the revolution and fought against the Habsburg troops.<sup>4</sup>

Based on unedited documents from the War Archive (Kriegsarchiv) in Vienna,<sup>5</sup> on 1848-1849 and mid 19<sup>th</sup> Austrian and Russian printings with military character,<sup>6</sup> and

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on researches of military history,<sup>7</sup> our study offers an analytical approach concerning the structure of the Austrian army in the above-mentioned years. We emphasize the glossary of the Habsburg military institutions and units, as their specific technical, tactical and organizational features are largely reflected by their names and terminology.

At the same time, we try to understand how it was possible for such a big imperial military force to prove so little efficiency during the revolutions of 1848–1849 in the Habsburg Monarchy. What were the strong and what were the weak points of Austria's army? Did it draw a lesson from the war events of those years?

Eventually, the circumstantial analysis of the Habsburg military organization can offer the answers to the questions above.

**T**HE AUSTRIAN military authorities, the recruitment units and stations, the military general commands and the deployment of the Habsburg army in February 1848 are indicated in a map,<sup>8</sup> printed at the Military Geography Institute from Vienna. Nevertheless, the most enlarged and detailed view upon the Austrian military organization was presented by the *Militär-Schematismus des österreichischen Kaiserthumes* (1848).

The general army structure was composed of the following branches with their subdivisions:

## Infantry [Infanterie]

### I.1. INFANTRY<sup>9</sup>

Among the 58 ordinary infantry regiments [Infanterie-Regimente], bearing the numbers 1–63 (no. 5, 6, 46, 50 and 56 were free), there were 2 Transylvanian regiments (no. 31, 51), 3 Illyrian (no. 7, 17, 22), 13 Hungarian (no. 2, 19, 32–34, 37, 39, 48, 52, 53, 60–62) and 13 Galician regiments (no. 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 24, 30, 40, 41, 56–58, 63).

Most of the infantry regiments were not deployed in the areas indicated by their names, but in various places of the monarchy. Their staff stations [Stabs-Stationen] didn't always match with their recruitment districts [Werbbezirke].

According to older Austrian rules from 1794, 4 platoons [Züge] were grouped in a company [Kompanie], 2 infantry companies formed a division [Division] and 3 divisions made up a battalion [Bataillon]. So, excepting the grenadiers, which we'll recall right away, the entire Austrian infantry regiment comprised 8 divisions, 16 companies or 64 platoons.<sup>10</sup> In early 1848, a Habsburg infantry regiment had 3 battalions; there were 6 field companies in battalion 1 and 6 field companies in battalion 2, while battalion 3 had 4 field companies and 2 grenadier companies, i.e. 18 companies in all.<sup>11</sup>

### I.2. LANDWEHR

Each infantry regiment had 3 field-battalions [Feld-Bataillon]. Among them there were 2 *Landwehr* battalions [Landwehr-Bataillon]; the first *Landwehr* battalion was completely equipped and the second served as a reserve.

### I.3. GRENADIERS

Each infantry regiment had 2 grenadier companies [Grenadierkompagnien], that formed a grenadier division. The grenadier divisions were tactically organized in grena-

dier battalions [Grenadier-Bataillon]. But this was rather a theoretical organization, as in practice, during the 1848-1849 war, the grenadier divisions were useful operative units, fighting together with the infantry troops. Only one grenadier-battalion submitted to the orders of the Hungarian ministry and turned against the Habsburgs.<sup>12</sup>

Resuming the above notices, there were 6 companies in 2 of the infantry field-battalions, while the third was made up of 4 field companies and 2 grenadier companies. In peacetime the field company, together with the officers, counted 218 men; a grenadier company included 175. Thus, a Habsburg infantry regiment consisted of more than 3,900 soldiers, and a Hungarian one of 3,800, according to the Russian magazine *Военный журнал* (1849),<sup>13</sup> and 5,656 respective 4,356 men, according to recent historiography.<sup>14</sup> But as the latter figures are far too exaggerated, they cannot be accepted as realistic.

#### I.4. HUNTERS<sup>15</sup>

The elite troops of the hunters or rangers, with superior training and better endowment, included a Tirol hunter regiment [Tiroler Jäger-Regiment] and 12 hunter battalions [Jäger-Bataillon], among those one from Galicia (no. 12).

#### I.5. GARRISONS

A battalion [Garnisons-Bataillon] was made up of 6 fortress garrisons, including garrison no. 2 in Arad.

#### I.6. CORDON AND GENDARMERY

In Lombardy there functioned a sole gendarmerie regiment [Gendarmerie-Regiment].

In Bukovina there were 2 border cordon battalions [Gränz-Cordon-Bataillon], no. 1 in Suceava and no. 2 in Cernăuți (Czernowitz), the latter being created in 1844 by transformation of garrison battalion no. 1.

#### I.7. MILITARY BORDER INFANTRY<sup>16</sup>

There were 18 border regiments of national infantry [k.k. National-Gränz-Infanterie-Regimenter], namely 4 Carlstadt regiments, 2 Warasdin regiments, 3 Slavonian regiments, 2 Banal regiments, 3 Banat regiments (1 Romanian, 1 Illyrian, 1 German), 4 Transylvanian regiments (2 Romanian, 2 Szekler) and the Czaikist battalion. The border regiments had following numbers, areas and names, formation years and staff stations:

THE NATIONAL BORDER INFANTRY REGIMENTS (NATIONAL-GRÄNZ-INFANTERIE),  
WITH A TOTAL OF 18 BORDER INFANTRY REGIMENTS AND A CZAIKIST BATTALION, 1848-1849

| Regiment no. | Regiment area | Regiment name [Benennung des Regiments] | Formation year [Errichtungsjahr] | Staff station [Stabs Station] |
|--------------|---------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1            | Karlstädter   | Liccaner                                | 1746                             | Gospic [Gospich]              |
| 2            |               | Ottochaner                              | 1746                             | Ottochasz                     |
| 3            |               | Oguliner                                | 1746                             | Ogulin                        |
| 4            |               | Szluiner                                | 1746                             | Karlovac [Carlstadt]          |

| Regiment no. | Regiment area               | Regiment name [Benennung des Regiments] | Formation year [Errichtungsjahr] | Staff station [Stabs Station]    |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5            | Warasdiner                  | Kreuzer                                 | 1746                             | Belovar [Bellowar]               |
| 6            |                             | St. Georger                             | 1746                             | Belovar [Bellowar]               |
| 7            | Slawonien                   | Brooder                                 | 1750                             | Vinkovci [Winkowczer]            |
| 8            |                             | Gradiscaner                             | 1750                             | Nova Gradiška [Neu-Gradiska]     |
| 9            |                             | Peterwardeiner                          | 1750                             | Mitrovica [Mittrowitz]           |
| 10           | Banal                       | 1stes Banal                             | 1745                             | Glina                            |
| 11           |                             | 2tes Banal                              | 1746                             | Petrina                          |
| 12           | Banat                       | Deutschbanater                          | 1767                             | Pančevo [Pancsowa]               |
| 13           |                             | Romanenbanater                          | 1767                             | Caransebeș [Caransebes]          |
| 14           | Transylvania [Siebenbürgen] | 1tes Szekler                            | 1762                             | Miercurea Ciuc [Csik-Szereda]    |
| 15           |                             | 2tes Szekler                            | 1762                             | Târgu Secuiesc [Kezdy Vásárhely] |
| 16           |                             | 1tes Romanen                            | 1762                             | Orlat                            |
| 17           |                             | 2tes Romanen                            | 1762                             | Năsăud [Naßod]                   |
| 18           |                             | Banat                                   | Illyrisch-Banater                | 1845                             |
| 19           | Czaikist in Banat           | Czaikisten Bataillon                    | 1764                             | Titel                            |

SOURCE: ÖStA in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Akten, carton 6, no. 126.

The Austrian military border, with a length of 1,800 km from the Adriatic Sea to North Transylvania, had a population of over 1 million inhabitants, including the border guards and their families. The area of the first Romanian border regiment no. 16 in Orlat was populated by merely 32,000 inhabitants (1845) and that of the second border regiment no. 17 in Năsăud by 40,000 Romanians living in 44 communes, while the area of the German-Banater no. 12 was inhabited by 104,000 people.<sup>17</sup>

### 1.8. CONTUMACY

Also worth to be mentioned are the contumacy institutions [Contumaz-Anstalten], depending directly of the army, too. They were organized along the military border, in smaller stands [Rastell] or bigger receive points [Contumaz], as follows: on the Carlstädter border there were 2 contumacies and 2 stands; on the Banal border 1 contumacy; on the Slavonian border 2 contumacies and 3 stands; in Banat 2 contumacies in Schuppanek, Pančevo [Pancsowa]; in Transylvania 8 contumacies in Vulcan [Vulkan], Turnu Roșu [Rothenthurm], Bran [Törtzburg], Timiș [Tömös], Boian/Sibiu [Bodzan], Oituz [Oytos], Ghimeș [Csik-Gymes], Tulgheș [Tölgyes]; in Galicia 2 contumacies in Boian/Cernăuți [Bojana], Bosanze and 2 stands in Sinăuți [Sinouz], Brăiești [Brajestie].

## Cavalry [Cavallerie]<sup>18</sup>

The cavalry was formed of:

- C.1. *Cuirassiers*, counting 8 cuirassier regiments [Kürassier-Regiment];
- C.2. *Dragons*, respective 6 dragon regiments [Dragonerregiment], among that 2 Galician (no. 1, 3);
- C.3. *Chevaux-legèrs*, including 7 *chevaux-legèrs* regiments [Chevaux-legers-Regiment], among that 2 Galician (no. 3, 6);
- C.4. *Hussars*, 12 regiments [Hus[s]arenregiment], among that regiment no. 2 in Ujpécs (Banat) and the Transylvanian Szekler border regiment (no. 11) in Sfântu Gheorghe (Sepsi Szent György); 3 Galician regiments (no. 6, 8, 10); 2 Italian (no. 5, 7) and 1 Hungarian (no.3);
- C.5. *Ulans* in 4 regiments [Uhlenenregiment], among that no. 2 in Arad and no. 3–4 also in Hungary.

As the squadron [Escadron] is the cavalry equivalent of the infantry battalion, the heavy cavalry regiments of the cuirassiers and dragons had each 3 squadrons or 6 divisions (2 squadrons/division) of 165 horsemen each, that made a total of 1,000 riders and about 900 horses. The *chevaux-legèrs* were an intermediary category. The light cavalry of the ulans and hussars comprised regiments of 4 squadrons or 8 divisions of 184 men each, i.e. about 1,500 riders and 1,400 horses in all per regiment. During the 1848-1849 military events, Habsburg cavalry proved its special qualities and value.<sup>19</sup>

## Artillery [Artillerie]

In 1848 the artillery consisted of:

- A.1. *field artillery* [Feld-Artillerie];
- A.2. a *bombardment* corps [Bombardierkorps];
- A.3. a *rocket* corps [Feuerwehr-Corps];
- A.4. *garrison artillery* [Garnisonsartillerie]
- A.5. *munition supplying administration* [Feldzeugamt].

There were 5 field artillery regiments [Artillerieregiment], with staff stations [Stabsquartiere] in Prague, Vienna, Olmütz, Graz and Pest (the latter belonged to artillery regiment no. 5).

A field artillery regiment was made up of 18 companies, the bombardment corps in Vienna of 5 companies and the rocket corps in Wiener Neustadt of 4 companies, namely 2 field companies [Feldkompanien] and 2 munition supplying companies [Feldzeugskompanien].

The garrison artillery implied 4,000 persons working in 14 garrison artillery districts [Garnisonartilleriedistrikte], among that Timișoara, Alba Iulia, Lvov etc..

The “Feldzeugamt”, literally meaning “the office for the field stuff”, administered the field artillery supplying with munition. Its commands [Feldzeugkommandos] were in 7 important locations and several secondary stations [Nebenposten], “Filialen” all over the Austrian Monarchy.<sup>20</sup>

### Sappers, pioneers, transportation

#### [Genie und Bauwesen, Pionier- und Flotillenkorps, Militärfuhrwesen]

This branch included:

- G.1. the *military engineers*, forming an engineer corps [Ingenieur-Corps], that planned and drafted the fortification works and other military buildings;
- G.2. the *mines*—a mining corps [Mineurkorps];
- G.3. the *sappers*—a sapper corps [Sappeurkorps], having the mission to dig siege and defence ditches [Sappen]. In 1848 it was organized in 4 battalions with a total of 24 companies.
- G.4. the *pioneers*—a pioneer corps [Pionnier-Corps] of 6 fieldcompanies, melted in 1843 with the pontoon battalion, in order to accomplish the main task of realizing the land and water communications. The pioneer and flotilla corps [Pionier- und Flotillenkorps] consisted of 2 battalions with 6 companies each, a battalion of 4 companies, and a reserve battalion for emergency cases.
- G.5. the *military transportation corps* [Militärfuhrwesen], with attributions of war supplying and battery transportation for artillery.

### War navy [Kriegs-Marine]

The Austrian war navy included:

- M.1. *marine infantry*, composed of a sailor corps [Matrosen-Corps] and a marine infantry battalion [Marine-Infanterie-Bataillon];
- M.2. *marine artillery*, a corps [Marine-Artillerie-Corps] and
- M.3. *marine sappers*, another corps [Marine-Genie-Corps].

### Volunteers

As irregular troops, during the revolution, 7 *volunteer battalions* were created: 3 in Vienna [Wiener Freiwilligen-Bataillone] in April 1848, 3 Styrian riflemen [Steiermärkische Freiwilligen-Schützen-Bataillone] in June-August 1848, and a Transylvanian Saxon battalion of rangers [Siebenbürgisches Jäger-Bataillon] in early autumn 1848. In March 1849 they were joined by further 3 volunteer corps of the Welden riflemen [Welden Freiwilliges Scharfschützen-Corps], the Ruthenian mountain-riflemen [Ruthenisches Berg-Schützen-Corps], the Istrian volunteers [Istrianer Freiwilligen-Corps].<sup>21</sup>

**I**N 1848-1849, the efficiency or rather the inefficiency of the Austrian army was proved on the field and in the fire of the battles. The outburst of national wars among the Romanians,<sup>22</sup> Serbians, Croatians, all of them fighting on the side of the emperor, served the cause of the Habsburg army. And yet the latter was not prepared to confront itself neither with the Italian freedom fighters, nor with the Hungarian *honvéds* [home-land defenders] and *önkéntes* [volunteers]. It was especially Kossuth's military in Transylvania, led by Polish revolutionary general Józef Bem,<sup>23</sup> that provoked a great deal of troubles to the imperials, beginning with December 1848 and culminating in March and

April 1849. This situation, so unpropitious to the Vienna cabinet, inspired the Russians to propose and impose their military help to the Austrians in summer 1849.

The peace was reestablished through the joint Tsarist-Habsburg military effort, but with a certain fade of the Austrian glory and blurring the image of its military vigour.

Nevertheless, the Habsburg Empire forgot too soon the recent events, mistreating its faithful nations that had made huge human and material sacrifices during the revolutionary years. It was ungrateful especially towards the Romanians and Croats, as the Serbians had at least obtained the recognition of the new created territory of the Serbian Vojvodina and Timișan Banat (1849–1860). To this fault, a few years later, in 1853, the imperial Austrians also added their “armed neutrality” (Adam Wandruszka, Helmut Rumpler)<sup>24</sup> in the Crimean War, which meant nothing else than betraying the former ally, Russia itself.

It is no wonder that the dezastrous state of war determined, as soon as the peace was reset, initiatives for rapid reorganization of the Habsburg army. Austria badly needed a military reform, but the measures taken at the highest level and with Franz Joseph’s support were not called like that, as had been the case with sultan Abdülmecid’s *Tanzimat* (Reorganization), which included a thorough reform and the Westernization of the Ottoman army.<sup>25</sup> Instead, the Habsburg military measures post 1849 were mild, little invasive, rather formal than structural, reflecting a “Redression” (recovery), not a “Reform”<sup>26</sup> of the Austrian army.

By army order of 16 October 1849, the reorganization of the Austrian army was put into practice. In November it was registered by captain Franz Müller from the second battalion of the Vienna volunteers [2. Bataillon Wiener Freiwilligen], chevalier of the Austrian imperial Order of the Iron Crown 3. class (Ritter des österreichisch. kaiserl. Ordens der eisernen Krone 3ter Klasse), in a *Table of the First New Ordre de Bataille of the General Imperial Army* [Tabelle der ersten neuen Ordre de bataille der k.k. Gesamtarmee].<sup>27</sup>

The *ordre de bataille* had nothing to do with the state of war, as its name suggested; it merely denominated and described the new structure of the whole Habsburg military forces. They were reorganized in 4 armies [Armeen] with 4 army commands [Armeekommanden]. The units composing armies no. I–IV counted 2/6 358 batteries, 281 squadrons, 766 cannons. For a better comprehension, we draw the following diagram concerning the November 1849 military reorganization:

### **The New Ordre de Bataille of the Austrian Imperial Army, November 1849**

#### **ARMY NO. I [ARMEE NR. I]**

Main head-quarters Vienna [Hauptquartier Wien]

Included crownlands Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, the Archduchy of Austria, Salzburg, Styria, North Tirol, Vorarlberg<sup>28</sup> [Umfassende Kronländer: Böhmen, Mähren, Schlesien, Erzherzogtum Österreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Nord Tirol, Vorarlberg]



|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Military command   | <p>General commander: cavalry general count Eugen Wratislav [Ober-Commandanten: Gen. der Cavallerie Eugen Graf Wratislav] <i>Ad latus</i><sup>29</sup>: cavalry general baron von Böhm [Adlatus: General der Cavallerie Freiherr von Böhm]</p> <p>Adjutant general: lieutenant-colonel von Burdina [General-Adjutant: Oberst Lieutenant von Burdina]</p> <p>Flank adjutants<sup>30</sup>: lieutenant-colonel Mertens, major baron Weigelsberg [Flügel-Adjutante: Oberst Lieutenant Mertens, Major Baron Weigelsberg]</p> <p>Corps adjutants: majors Scudier, von Boyer, von Gondrecourt, von Wachter [Corps-Adjutanten: Majors Scudier, von Boyer, von Gondrecourt, von Wachter]</p>  |
| Army corps         | <p>No. 1 (headquarters in Vienna) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Clam<sup>31</sup> with 33 batteries, 28 squadrons, 36 cannons [Nr. 1 (Quartier Wien) Commandant FML<sup>32</sup> Graf Clam mit 33 Batterien, 28 Escadron, 36 Geschützen]</p> <p>No. 2 (headquarters in Brünn) commander cavalry general count Schlick and <i>ad latus</i> general-major Jenchert, with 27 batteries, 61 squadrons, 21 cannons [Nr. 2 (Quart. Brünn) Cmdt General der Cavallerie Graf Schlick, u. <i>ad latus</i> GM<sup>33</sup> Jenchert, mit 27 Batt., 61 Escad., 21 Geschützen]</p> <p>No. 3 (headquarters in Terezín) commander his imperial highness fieldmarshal-lieutenant archduke Albrecht, with 24 batteries, 15 squadrons, 88 cannons [Nr. 3 (Quart. Theresienstadt) Cmdt Se kais. Hoheit FML Erzherzog Albrecht, mit 24 Batt., 15 Escad., 88 Gesch.]</p> <p>No. 4 (in Vorarlberg) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Legeditsch, with 24 batteries, 15 squadrons, 88 cannons [Nr. 4 (in Vorarlberg) Cmdt FML von Legeditsch, mit 24 Batt., 15 Escad., 88 Gesch.]</p> |
| Mil. land commands | Military land commands [Landes-Militär-Commanden] of the army corps no. 1–4 in: Linz, Brünn, Troppau, Prague, Graz, Innsbruck   |
| Total units        | Total units composing army corps no. 1–4:<br>108 batteries, 117 squadrons and 233 cannons   |

## ARMY NO. II [ARMEE NR. II]

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Main head-quarters | Verona   |
| Including          | The “states of Lombardy and Venice” [lombard-venetianischen Staaten], Illyria and South Tirol  |
| Military command   | General commander [Ober Commandant]: fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Radetzky de Radetz, governor general and <i>locum tenens</i> of the kingdom of Lombardy and Venice [General Gouverneur u. Statthalter des lombard-venezianischen Königreichs] <sup>34</sup> |



|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | <i>Ad latus</i> : fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Gerhardi   |
|                    | Adjutant general: colonel von Schlitter  |
|                    | Flank adjutants [Flügel-Adjutante]: lieutenant-colonel baron Leikam, major baron Hiller  |
|                    | Corps adjutants: lieutenant-colonel Pils and majors Baltin, von Suppanczich, von Zapleta, von Langer   |
| Army corps         | No. 5 (headquarters in Milano) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant prince [Fürst] Carl Schwarzenberg, with 21 batteries, 6 squadrons, 42 cannons |
|                    | No. 6 (headquarters in Piacenza) commander artillery general [FZM] <sup>35</sup> baron d'Aspre, with 22 batteries, 6 squadrons, 42 cannons     |
|                    | No. 7 (headquarters in Bergamo) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant baron Appel, with 29 batteries, 6 squadrons, 63 cannons                      |
|                    | No. 8 (headquarters in Bologna) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Thurn, <sup>36</sup> with 27 batteries, 6 squadrons, 54 cannons        |
|                    | No. 9 (headquarters in Gorizia [Görz]) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Woche, with 32 batteries, 6 squadrons, 27 cannons                 |
| Mil. land commands | Military land commands [Landes-Militär-Commanden] of army corps no. 5-9 in: Laibach, Trieste, Verona, Milano                                   |
| Total units        | Total units in army corps no. 5-9: 128 batteries, 30 squadrons, 228 cannons  |

### ARMY NO. III [ARMEE NR. III]

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Main head-quarters | Buda [Hauptquartier Ofen]  |
| Including          | Hungary and Transylvania [Umfassend Ungarn u. Siebenbürgen]  |
| Military command   | General commander: artillery general baron von Haynau [Ober Commandant FZM Freiherr von Haynau] <sup>37</sup>                                |
|                    | <i>Ad latus</i> : fieldmarshal-lieutenant (FML) von Knöhr  |
|                    | Adjutant generals: fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Susan, colonel [Oberst] von Pokorny   |
|                    | Flank adjutants [Flügel-Adj.]: majors von Andrassy and von Hanfstein   |
|                    | Corps adjutants: majors Demuth and Zailler, captain Zagitschek   |
| Army corps         | No. 10 (headquarters in Oradea [Großwardein]) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Wallmoden, with 22 batteries, 32 squadrons, 54 cannons |
|                    | No. 11 (headquarters in Bratislava [Preßburg]) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Schulzig, with 20 batteries, 24 squadrons, 42 cannons   |
|                    | No. 12 (headquarters in Timișoara [Temeswar]) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant von Ramberg, with 2/6 27 batteries, 22 squadrons, 57 cannons |

No. 13 (headquarters in Pest [Pesth]) commander fieldmarshal-lieutenant prince Franz Liechtenstein, with 25 batteries, 40 squadrons, 78 cannons

Mil. land commands Mil. land commands of army corps no. 10-13: Buda [Ofen], Timișoara [Temeswar], Sibiu [Hermannstadt]

Total units Total units composing army corps no. 10-13: 2/6 94 batteries, 118 squadrons, 231 cannons

#### ARMY NO. IV [ARMEE NR. IV]

Main head-quarters Lvov [Lemberg]  
 Including Galicia and Bukovina [Galizien u. Bukowina]  
 Military command General commander: fieldmarshal-lieutenant baron von Hammerstein<sup>38</sup>  
*Ad latus*: fieldmarshal-lieutenant Vogel  
 Adjutant general: [keiner]  
 Flank adjutant [Flügel-Adj.]: major Krausenberg  
 Corps adjutant: major Auch

Army corps No. 14 (headquarters in Lvov [Lemberg]) without commander or manpower  
 [28 batteries, 16 squadrons, 74 cannons]

Mil. land commands Military land commands in Cracow [Krakau], Lvov, Cernăuți [Czernowitz]

Total units Total units composing army corps no. 14: 28 batteries, 16 squadrons, 74 cannons

#### Army no. V [Armee Nr. V]

Including The military border [an der Grenze]  
 Military command General commander [Ober-Commandant]: artillery general ["FZM"] baron von Jellačić<sup>39</sup>  
*Ad latus*, adjutant general, flank adjutants, corps adjutant: none

Army corps "The troops of the military border form army no. V."  
 [Die Truppen der Militärgränze bilden die 5. Armee.]

SOURCE: ÖStA in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Akten, carton 6, no. 126.

Until 1848, the tactical commands of the Habsburg army were held by 12 general commands [General-Commanden] with their subordinated military commands. There had been only one exception, general Radetzky's army corps in Italy. As can be seen, in fall 1849, the military was organized in 4 armies, each of them led by a general commander, assisted by 5–6 generals as *ad latus*, adjutant generals, flank adjutants, and corps adjutants. Each army was divided in army corps, with their own commanders and staff. Austrian army no. I, composed of the first 4 army corps, encompassed the largest territory and sphere of action. This circumstance disregarded the tactical division of the troops, which caused many practical problems.<sup>40</sup> Army no. II included army corps

no. 5–9; army no. III the army corps no. 10–13, while army corps no. 14 belonged to army no. IV.

Infantry and cavalry reorganization was necessary, as many Hungarian and Italian regiments had left the Habsburgs and changed sides during the 1848-1849 war. The first Vienna volunteer battalion and the Transylvanian Saxon ranger battalion, that had been formed in 1848, as early as February 1849 were declared regular field ranger battalions and after the revolution they were maintained as light infantry elite troops.

Although the Habsburg military border was not abolished immediately after the war and in October 1849 it was declared to form army no. V, in 1850 not only that the 2 Szekler infantry border regiments were transformed into infantry line regiments no. 5 and 6 and the Szekler border Hussar regiment became a regular cavalry regiment no. 11, but also the loyal Romanian infantry of both Transylvanian border regiments was reorganized in ordinary line infantry regiments no. 46 and 50.

Thus the whole Transylvanian border of the former regiments no. 14–17 was eliminated until 1851. The last 2 border cordon battalions in Bukovina, that had fought in 1848–1849 together with the Austrian regular troops, were erased, too, in 1855.<sup>41</sup>

The Hussar volunteer regiment set up by banus Jellačić during the revolution was also transformed in the Ulan regiment no. 5. As a matter of fact, field-marshal Radetzky's proposal was accepted, and in 1851 all Austrian light cavalry regiments became Ulan regiments. The 1848 events had led to the conclusion that Ulans had fought best, that light cavalry lances had proved superior to swords, and so the imperial military leadership gave up the former principle of raising Ulan regiments exclusively from Galicia.

During the 1849 war the Austrian artillery system did not stand the fire test. Field artillery regiment no. 5 in Hungary partly took the enemy side. The lack of personnel determined the creation of an artillery battalion [Landwehr-Artilleriebataillon] and of depot companies [Depotkomapnien]. In 1850 each field artillery regiments was endowed with 24 batteries, namely 12 6pound batteries and 12 12pound batteries, plus a new reserve battalion formed of 4 companies. The mounted artillery had 6 batteries per regiment, each battery with 6 6pound cannons [Kanonnen] and 2 7pound howitzers [Haubitzen]. Thus, the battery became “in fact the tactical artillery unit” (Adam Wandruszka, Helmut Rumppler). In November 1849 the unworkable bombardment corps was moved from Vienna to Olmütz and finally abolished in 1851. The garrison artillery was invigorated and the rocket corps was increased from 2 to 12 rocket field companies.

The basic reorganization of the artillery was due to the initiative and accomplishment of artillery general [Feldzeugsmeister] Augustin, who became the general artillery director. Augustin aimed to force “the rapid ability of intervention in case of war” (Adam Wandruszka, Helmut Rumppler),<sup>42</sup> which had certainly been a general military problem for the Habsburgs during the war. If the period 1800-1848 had barely registered modifications of the artillery, its technical and organizational dynamic character is visible in the following years 1849-1860.<sup>43</sup>

The experience of the 1848-1849 campaigns, when 2 new sapper companies and the fourth sapper reserve battalion were improvised on the spot, had taught that both the sappers and the pioneers, as auxiliary units of great importance for the vanguard, needed supplementary forces. In November 1849 each of the 13 army corps got an extra

pioneer company, and each of the 4 armies had 3 pioneer companies. Later, in January 1851, the technical troops were formed, starting from the premise that, among the 4 armies and 14 army corps, only a half actually mobilized at war and only 1/6 of the 62 fortifications were properly equipped.<sup>44</sup>

The military transportation corps had proved deficient in 1848 and remained like that, as regards the difference between the state of peace and the state of war. It was confronted with functional difficulties and lack of qualified high ranks.

**I**N CONCLUSION, the analysis of the structure and tactical composition of the Habsburg army during and after the 1848–1849 wars shows that it was high time for its military leadership to go over to a substantial reorganization. Austria's tactical units, so petrified and immobile until 1848, suffered several changes beginning with October–November 1849, in order to increase their capacity of action in case of war. Even if the technical endowment and arming of its military branches were good and very good, at least in comparison with other European armies, the Habsburg Monarchy could not really lean on its army. The Austrian military system was conservative and stationary, bureaucratic and bushy, but not efficient. The Habsburg army was fit for peacetime, yet it was unprepared and unable to react promptly in times of crisis and war.

The same cold equidistance and immobility led the Austrians to disregard the loyal nations that had shared their blood for the emperor during the revolution and war, for example, by abolishment of the valuable Romanian legions in autumn 1849<sup>45</sup> and of the Romanian border regiments in Transylvania (1851), instead of transforming them into a sustainable military force in the state service. In between, the unfaithful Hungarian troops and lower ranks were reintegrated in the Habsburg regular army, while among the 4,600 trials judged in Vienna (November 1849–1850) there was a single death sentence! Moreover, reemployments were made of compromised Austrian officers, who did not even hide their reluctance, but declared it openly.<sup>46</sup> In other words, it could hardly be noticed any difference between the reward of the loyal and the punishment of the unloyal.

In spite of the frequent amendments, regroupings and reorganizations of the Habsburg military that followed in 1850, 1851, 1853, 1857, 1860,<sup>47</sup> the inner contradictions, the conflicts regarding the actual division of the military power, the deficient coordination and limited competence persisted. Communication and prompt reactions in the frame of the operative army had doubtfully improved. All that determined before long the unlucky Austrian campaign in Italy (1859) and the imperials' defeat in the Prussian war (1866).



## Notes

1. *Статистическое обозрение Австрийской Империи*, in *Военный журнал*, magazine published by the Scientific Military Committee with the consent of the tsar, no. III (St. Petersburg, 1849): 144–161. Republished in: *Armatele imperiale și români la 1848–1849. Docu-*

- mente militare/The Imperial Austro-Russian Armies and the Romanians. Military Documents*, vol. 1 *Descrieri generale și militare/General and Military Descriptions*, critical edition coordinated by Ela Cosma, editors: Ela Cosma, Daniela Deteșan, Angela Stîcalin-Colin, Tatiana Onilov, English translations by Horia Cosma (Cluj-Napoca/Romania: Editura Argonaut, Gatineau/Canada: Symphologic Publishing, 2012), 112–141 (doc. 2).
2. *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, vol. 5 *Die bewaffnete Macht*, editors Adam Wandruszka and Helmut Rumpler (Vienna: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1987), 333, 335.
  3. *Ibid.*, 28.
  4. “In the years 1848 and 1849, almost all of Austria’s Hungarian and Italian regiments were on the side of the revolution, half of the army had joined the movement and fought with armed hands against the imperial troops.” (Im Jahre 1848 und 1849 waren beinahe alle ungarischen und italienischen Regimente Oesterreichs auf Seiten der Revolution, die halbe Armee hatte sich der Bewegung angeschlossen und kämpfte mit Waffen in der Hand gegen die kaiserlichen Truppen) *Österreichs Heeresmacht. Ein Beitrag zur neuesten Geschichte des österreichischen Heerwesens* (Vienna, Cassel und Leipzig: Carl Luckhardt’sche Buchhandlung, 1869), 9.
  5. General information about the army structure and commands is to be found at the Österreichisches Staatsarchiv (ÖStA) in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Akten (1778–1849), carton 6, no. 101–126; *id.*, Armeeschemata-Bücher (1843–1849), vol. 68; about the high military ranks in *id.*, vol. 80 (until 1840).
  6. *Militär-Schematismus des österreichischen Kaiserthumes* (Vienna: kais. kön. Hof- und Staats-Druckerei, 1848); *Военный журнал* (St. Petersburg, 1849–1850).
  7. Older, but essential bibliography refers to Alphonse von Wrede, *Geschichte der k. u. k. Wehrmacht. Die Regimenter, Corps, Branchen und Anstalten von 1618 bis Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts*, vol. 1–5, edited by the Direction of the imperial War-Archive (k.k. Kriegs-Archiv) (Vienna: Verlag von L. W. Seidel & Sohn, 1898–1903); *Der Winterfeldzug 1848–1849 in Ungarn, unter dem Kommando des Feldmarschalls Fürsten zu Windisch-Grätz*, im Auftrage Sr. Durchlaucht des Feldmarschalls, nach offiziellen Quellen bearbeitet und herausgegeben (Vienna: Druck von Leopold Sommer, 1851). Among the newer references, we quote the most exhaustive synthesis of the military history of the Habsburg Monarchy between 1848 and 1918, that is vol. 5 *Die bewaffnete Macht* of the collection *Die Habsburgermonarchie*, printed in Vienna in 1987 (see note 2), as well as the best Romanian analysis, colonel Vasile Tutula, *Organizarea militană a Principatului Transilvaniei în perioada 1691-1774* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Neremia Napocae, 2003); Ela Cosma, Personalul forurilor oficiale transilvane și al națiunii săsești (1849), in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Cluj-Napoca* 37 (București: Editura Academiei Române, 1998): 239–266, includes the organization and staff of the Austrian General Command in Sibiu and a glossary of Austrian military terms.
  8. The photo-litography of the map printed at the Military Geography Institute from Vienna has been processed and edited in *Die Habsburgermonarchie 1848–1918*, vol. 5 *Die bewaffnete Macht*, after page 204, and republished in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848–1849*, vol. 1.
  9. Статистическое обозрение Австрийской Империй, in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848–1849*, vol. 1, 135; *Militärschematismus 1848*, 99–240.
  10. *Das oesterreichische Militaer betreffende Schriften*, vol. 2 *Dienst- und Exercierreglement fuer die saemmtliche kayserl. koenigliche Infanterie* (Frankfurt und Leipzig: Druck bei Gotthelf Immanuel Klimbt, 1794), 342–343.
  11. Статистическое обозрение Австрийской Империй, in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848–1849*, vol. 1, 135.
  12. Alphonse von Wrede, vol. II, 368.

13. Статистическое обозрение Австрийской Империй, in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848-1849*, vol. 1, 135.
14. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 203.
15. *Militärschematismus 1848*, 276–290 (hunters), 352–355 (garrisons), 415–417 (cordon), 241–276 (border infantry), 469–474 (contumacy). The garrisons and their commands, as well as especially the fortresses and castles in Transylvania, Banat and Bukovina, in ÖStA in Vienna, *Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Bücher (1843–1849)*, vol. 68, 338 (Arad), 343 (Alba-Iulia/Carlsburg), 345 (Cluj/Clausenburg), 347 (Cernăuți/Czernowitz, Brașov/Cronstadt), 348 (Deva), 351 (Făgăraș/Fogarasch), 352 (Sibiu/Hermannstadt), 356 (Lvov/Lemberg), 357 (Lugoj/Lugos), 359 (Târgu Mureș/Marosvásárhely), 366 (Turnu Roșu/Rothenthurm), 372 (Timișoara/Temeswar). See also Alphons von Wrede, vol. 2, 574–579.
16. *Militärschematismus 1848*, 241–276 (border infantry), 469–474 (contumacy).
17. Ioan Bolovan, Demographic Aspects in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Romanian Frontier Guard Regiment (19<sup>th</sup> century), in: *The Austrian Military Border: Its Political and Cultural Impact/Graanița militară austriacă. Impactul ei politic și cultural*, editors: Liviu Maior, Nicolae Boșcan, Ioan Bolovan, Centrul de Studii Transilvane din Cluj-Napoca, Muzeul de Istorie din Bistrița-Năsăud (Iași: Glasul Bucovinei, 1994), 41. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 184.
18. *Militärschematismus 1848*, 291–352 (cavalry), 356–393 (artillery), 394–408 (sappers), 409–414 (war navy).
19. Статистическое обозрение Австрийской Империй, in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848-1849*, vol. 1, 135; *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 206–209.
20. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 212.
21. Alphonse von Wrede, vol. 2, 532–537.
22. The national war of the Transylvanian Romanians in 1848–1849 was conducted by the legions of Motz (*moți*), inhabitants of the Western Carpathians, led by Avram Iancu, the famous Romanian hero. See the newest historical reconstitution in Bogdan Briscu, *Moții și luptele lor la 1848–1849*, with appendix (biographies, glossary, bibliography, indexes), edited by Ela Cosma (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Argonaut, 2012), 6, 328 p.
23. About Józef Bem and his campaign in Transylvania, see Ela Cosma, *Nouă luni în Transilvania (decembrie 1848–august 1849). Generalul Józef Bem în corespondență, proclamații, documente* (Cluj-Napoca: Editura Argonaut, 2011), collection “Biografii Istorice Transilvane” (BIT), vol. 5, 456 p. + 1 map.
24. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 341.
25. The Tanzimat system of reforms was started by the Turkish government’s *hâtîşerif* from Gülhane (3 November 1839), including 3 articles of crucial importance relating to: 1) ensuring the security of life, honor and property of Ottoman subjects, 2) proper distribution and collection of taxes, as well as the abolition of *iltizam*, i.e. the system of leasing to individuals the right to collect state taxes, 3) improving the recruitment and clarifying the terms of the military service and recruitment. Piotr Alexandrovich Chihachev, Военно-статистические сведения Турецкой империи, in *Военный журнал*, no. I (St. Petersburg, 1850), 145–164, republished in Romanian translation, with English *regestum* in *Armatele imperiale și românii la 1848–1849*, vol. 1, 33–35, 70–72, 239–240, 251–253.
26. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 28.
27. ÖStA in Vienna, *Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Akten (1849)*, carton 6, no. 126. Description: “Bezeichnung: XI. [November], Tabelle der ersten neuen Ordre de bataille der k.k. Gesamtarmee. [Inhalt:] Enthält nach Armeen u. Korps Namen der Divisionäre u. Brigaden, Truppen (samt Artillerie, Landwehr etc.); Zahl der Einheiten; Hauptübersicht der Armeekommanden (Nro., Hauptquartier, Kronländer, Oberkommandant, Adlatus, Adjutanten),



- der Korpskommandanten (Nro., Quartier, Kommandant); Sitze der Landes-Militärkommanden; Grenadierbataillone (Nro., aus welchem Reg., Name und Charge des Kommandanten, Garnisonsort); Jäger (Ergänzungs-Bezirk, Errichtungsjahr, Zuteilung zu den Korps, Freiwilligenbataillone); Extrakorps (Mineure, Sappeure, Pioniere, Fuhrwesen, Gendarmerie in Lombardei u. Ungarn); besondere Bataillone. Dann regimenterweise Nummer, Inhaber, Errichtungsjahr, Werbbezirk, Farbe, u. zwar für Infanterie, Kavallerie, Grenzer u. Artillerie.“
28. Vorarlberg, the westernmost part of Austria.
  29. *Ad latus* (Lat. “by side], assistant general by side of the general commander of each of the first 4 Habsburg armies.
  30. There were 2 flank adjutants (“Flügel-Adjutante], one responsible with the field artillery, the other with the field sappers.
  31. Fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Eduard von Clam Gallas (1805–1857) replaced the old general commander of the Austrian army in Transylvania, fieldmarshal-lieutenant baron Anton von Puchner (June 1849), subsequently taking the lead of the first army corps of army no. I. Ela Cosma, *Sași, austrieci, slavi în Transilvania și Banat (Biografii de secol XIX și din vremea revoluției pașoptiste)* (București: Editura Academiei Române, 2009), 70.
  32. FML (“Feld-Marschall-Lieutenant], fieldmarshal-lieutenant, general of the Habsburg infantry.
  33. GM (“General Major], general-major.
  34. Fieldmarshal count Johann Joseph Wenzel Anton Franz Karl Radetzky von Radetz (1766–1858), Czech aristocrat and gifted leader of the Austrian army in Italy, won the battles of Custoza (25 July 1848) and Novara (23 March 1849). *ÖStA* in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Bücher 81 (1843–1850), doc. Rangschemata Generale u. Stabsoffiziere (Name, vorheriger Rang u. Anstellung, jetzigen Rang u. Anstellung, mit Index.
  35. FZM (Feldzeugmeister), artillery general in the Habsburg army.
  36. Fieldmarshal-lieutenant count Thurn, one of fieldmarshal Radetzky’s most valuable commanders, took part in the 1848–1849 Austrian campaign in Italy. In autumn 1849 he was put in charge with the command of army corps no. 8 of army no. II. *ÖStA* in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, *MKSM-SR* (Militär-Kanzlei Seiner Majestät – Sonder-Reihe) 1849, carton 2, file 2/4, doc. “Schilderung der bei der Armee von Italien befindlichen Generale und Obersten“.
  37. Artillery general baron Julius Jacob von Haynau (1786–1853) liberated the Timișoara fortress from the Hungarian occupation (9 August 1849) as Austrian division general, then he became general commander of the Austrian military in Hungary, a function similar to a military and civil governor. Haynau’s biography in: Ela Cosma, *Sași, austrieci, slavi*, 143–145.
  38. Fieldmarshal-lieutenant baron Wilhelm von Hammerstein-Ecquord (1785–1861) was in 1848–1849 general commander of the Austrian troops in Galicia. His biography in: Ela Cosma, *Sași, austrieci, slavi în Transilvania și Banat*, 139–140.
  39. Baron Josip Jellačić (1801–1859), Austrian colonel (19 October 1842–1848), since 1848 artillery general (“Feldzeugmeister] became banus of Croatia (23 March 1848–19 May 1859), and in 1849 titular holder of the Banal border regiments no. 10 and 11. (The other Banat and Transylvanian border regiments had no titular holder.) *ÖStA* in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Bücher 68 (1843–1849): 117, 119. Jellačić’s biography, emphasizing the years 1848–1849, in: Ela Cosma, *Sași, austrieci, slavi*, 159–162.
  40. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 167, 169, 170, 204, 207.
  41. *ÖStA* in Vienna, Kriegsarchiv, Armeeschemata-Bücher 68, 149–151; id., Erstes Walachen, ab 1849 Erstes Romanen Grenz Regiment, 151–152; id., Zweites Romanen Grenz Regiment, 143–148; id. Erstes und Zweites Szekler Grenzregiment, 289–292; id., Istes und 2tes Buccowiner Cordons Bataillon; *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 240.
  42. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 213–214, 222.



43. Alphonse von Wrede, vol. 2, 1898, 590–591.
44. *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 222–235.
45. The lack of gratitude on the Austrian side and the Romanians' disappointment, in Bogdan Briscu, 216–219.
46. "Thus the army was actually filled up with elements 'blown by the spirit of the time'; even in the German and Bohemian regiments there were many compromised officers, as well as squads, who didn't feel embarrassed at the beginning of the reaction period to speak out loudly their unwillingness against the government practice." (So wurden die Reihen des Heeres thatsächlich mit Elementen gefüllt, die "vom Geiste der Zeit angeweht"; selbst in den deutschen und böhmischen Regimentern befanden sich viele Offiziere sowohl, wie Mannschaften, welche compromittirt waren und sich selbst in der ersten Zeit der Reaktionsperiode noch nicht scheuten, offen ihren Widerwillen gegen die Regierungspraxis auszusprechen.) *Österreichs Heeresmacht*, 10.
47. About the postrevolutionary trials and the successive reorganizations of the Habsburg army 1849–1867), see *Die bewaffnete Macht*, 338, 147–155.

### **Abstract**

#### **The Habsburg Army in 1848–1849: Organization and Terminology**

Based on unedited documents from the War Archive in Vienna, on 1848-1849 and mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Austrian and Russian printings with military character, as well as on researches of military history, our study offers an analytical approach concerning the structure of the Austrian army in the above-mentioned years. We emphasize the glossary of the Habsburg military institutions and units, as their specific technical, tactical and organizational features are largely reflected by their names and terminology. At the same time, we try to understand how it was possible for such a big imperial military force to prove so little efficiency during the revolutions of 1848–1849 in the Habsburg Monarchy. The circumstantial analysis of the Habsburg military organization offers the answer to questions regarding the strong and the weak points of Austria's army. Its military system was fit for peacetime, yet it was unprepared and unable to react promptly in times of crisis and war. Austria's tactical units, so petrified and immobile until 1848, suffered several changes beginning with October-November 1849, in order to increase their capacity of action in case of war. Eventually, the military measures post 1849 were mild, little invasive, rather formal than structural, reflecting a "Redression" (recovery), not a real "Reform" of the Habsburg army.

### **Keywords**

Habsburg army, 1848-1849, Austrian military glossary