

Army of the Duchy of Warsaw: 1808-13

by Phil Karecki and Sam Mustafa

The Polish soldiers of the Duchy of Warsaw were among the staunchest and most loyal supporters of Napoleonic France. In every theater, in every period, and even in his exile, Polish soldiers could be found in loyal service to Napoleon. Arguably no other French ally served with greater zeal, competence, or frequency.

In 1795 the Third Partition between Russia, Prussia, and Austria finally dissolved the Polish kingdom and set the stage for many Polish ex-patriots to find service with France or her satellite states in the (perhaps misguided) hope that Napoleon would restore their homeland under Polish rule. Polish troops served admirably in the consular period, ultimately influencing Napoleon to create the Duchy of Warsaw in 1807. He was motivated by a desire to dismantle Prussia and to keep an eye on Russia, by placing a reliable French ally in eastern/central Europe. Although technically under the aegis of the Kingdom of Saxony, in reality, as with all of Napoleon's satellite states, the Duchy was inextricably tied to the French military machine.

The Polish army was formed under the guidance of two rival commanders: Prince Josef Anton Pontiatowski, the only foreigner to hold a French Marshal's baton, and Jan Henry Dombrowski, who had formed the Polish Legions in 1796. While the two leaders disliked each other intensely, they shared a common goal of seeing a Polish Kingdom reestablished. With French supervision, they created a self-supporting army capable of independent action. Unlike most nations, but in keeping with Polish tradition, theirs was a very "horsey" army. The Poles maintained a nearly 1-to-1 relation of infantry to cavalry regiments in service, with the majority being lancers. Like the British, the Poles numbered their regiments in order of establishment, rather than restarting each unit type at "one." Thus we see the 1st, 4th, and 5th Chasseurs and the 2nd and 3rd Uhlans (lancers), for example

This Army Builder supplement for *Lasalle* allows you to create an army for tournament play representing the period from 1809 to 1813, when the Poles fielded large independent or semi-independent corps. The list therefore spans two theatres: **Empire** and **Liberation**. In the interest of simplicity and clarity, Polish troops may not ally with certain historical partners with whom they were theoretically capable of cooperation. For example, Empire-theatre Poles may not take an Austrian allied brigade since they were at war with them in 1809, but allied to them in 1812.

Obviously, Polish forces could be found at every extremity of the Napoleonic empire, usually in smaller units, throughout the era. Thus, if you are designing an historical scenario involving a few Polish units in Spain, Italy, or elsewhere, or if you wish to represent the troops of Vistula Legion or other separate Polish forces, you may draw upon these lists or those in the *Lasalle* rulebook, but ultimately you will have to make your own decisions.

If playing in a tournament, the organizers may decide whether or not to accept this list as legitimate. If they do, all unit compositions and values listed here supersede those found on page 121 of *Lasalle*.



NIECH ZYJE POLSKA! 15mm Poles by Juan Marcos

Polish Army Lists

Empire		Liberation	
Infantry Division no modifier		Infantry Division no modifier	
6 Infantry	1 Foot BTY	2 Infantry	4 Conscript Infantry
2 <i>Infantry</i>		1 Foot BTY	1 Reserve BTY
		3 <i>Conscript Infantry</i>	
Organic Brigades			
Infantry		Infantry (1813)	
Lancer		Lancer (1813)	
Light Cavalry			
Allied Brigades			
French Veteran Inf		French Conscript (1813)	
French Elite Inf			
Saxon Infantry			
Reserve Allied Bdes			
French Cuirassier		French Cuirassier (1813)	
French Dragoon			
French Light Cavalry		French Lt Cavalry (1813)	
Westphalian Cuirassier			
Saxon Cavalry			

Special Rules for this Army

“Reserve Allied” Brigades:

This army has both allied brigades and “reserve allied” brigades. The latter will always be reserves, and thus enter as reinforcements.

Allied and reserve allied brigade compositions are defined by the *Lasalle* rulebook. For instance, if you choose a Saxon Cavalry Brigade, you will find its stats on page 125.

The Polish Cuirassiers

The one Polish Cuirassier regiment was normally brigaded with allied French, Saxon, or Westphalian cuirassiers. Now, I know better than to forbid hard-core Polish fans from having their cuirassier, so if you want to replace a French or Saxon cuirassier unit with a Polish one in your reserve allied brigade, you may do so. The stats are identical: Valiant / Experienced / Shock.

Polish Subcommanders

Vigor		Tactics	
Roll		Roll	
1	-1	1	¶
2-3	-	2-5	-
4-6	+1	6	*

Polish Compositions

Infantry Brigade

4 Infantry
1 Foot BTY

Infantry Brigade (1813)

1 Infantry
4 Conscript Infantry
1 Foot BTY

Lancer Brigade

2 Lancer (+)
1 Horse BTY

Lancer Brigade (1813)

3 Lancer
2 Horse BTY

Light Cavalry Brigade

4 Hussar or Chasseur
1 Horse BTY

Polish Unit Values

	Empire	Liberation
Unit Values		
Infantry	Reliable/Experienced/SK2	
Conscript Infantry		Reliable/Amateur/SK1
Hussar or Chasseur	Reliable/Experienced/Pursuit	Reliable/Amateur/Pursuit
Lancer	Valiant/Experienced/Pursuit/Lance	

Polish Artillery Values				
Artillery	Type	Cannon	Weight	+ How.
Reserve BTY	Foot	3	Hvy	1
Foot BTY	Foot	3	Med	1
Horse BTY	Horse	2	Med	1