

MEN AT WAR

1914-1945

48

WHITES OF THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

Private, Don Cossacks: 1918-20



MEN AT WAR

1914-1945

Publisher:

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Osprey Publishing

Filmset and reproduction by:

FCM

Printed by:

Graficas Almudena

For this edition:

© Del Prado Publishers/Ediciones del Prado, 2000

Cea Bermúdez, 39 - 5°

28003 Madrid (Spain)

© 1996 Osprey Publishing Limited

Extract from: The Russian Civil War (2) White Armies

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First published by Osprey Publishing, Elms Court, Chapel Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LP

ISBN: 84-8372-516-9

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COMAG Magazine Marketing

The price of each issue is £5.49 (with the exception of No. 1 at £2.50 and No. 2 at £3.99).

The binders will be priced at £4.95 each.

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NORTH RUSSIA

1: Private, 1st Severny (Northern) Infantry Regt, 1919

2: Corporal, United States 366th ('Polar Bears') Infantry Regt, 1918-19

3: Sotnik, White Sea Mountain-Horse Demi-Regiment, 1918



NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

1: Trooper, detached squadron of the Latvian 1st Kurzem Division, 1919

2: Senior NCO, 1st Platoon Regt, Bermont-Avalov's Detachment; Russia, 1919

3: Captain, 1st Pskov Inf.Regt, North-Western Army, 1918-19



WHITES OF THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

THE WHITE CAUSE



Commander of the Drozdovsky Rifle Division Major General Anton Turkul, 1920. One of the youngest White generals, he was renowned for his bravery and brutality. He wears the traditional Drozdovsky peaked cap with crimson crown and white band, khaki *gymnasterka* with white piping on breast and cuffs, and crimson shoulderboards with black braid and white piping.

The term 'White Guards' appeared only after the Bolsheviks had started to call their own troops the 'Red Guards'. In all probability, the name was intended as a slander, since the colour white was connected with monarchist ideas. By calling their opponents 'Whites', the Reds implied that their goal was to restore the Tsar. Even though the great majority of anti-Bolsheviks had no such desire, they eventually accepted the name, not least because white was the traditional colour of law and order, whereas red symbolised rebellion and anarchy.

The White cause began to emerge in the spring and summer of 1917, soon after the February revolution and the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. At the time Russia seemed to be descending into chaos. In St Petersburg, Kerensky's Provisional Government was rapidly losing its grip on power at the expense of the Bolsheviks. In August/September 1917 the supreme commander of Russia's armed forces, General Lavr Kornilov, attempted to restore order by marching on St Petersburg. His aims were misunderstood, he was arrested and the Bolsheviks used his 'attempted coup' as a pretext to arm themselves – creating the Red Guards. The October revolution followed as a direct result.

From the start, opposition to the Bolsheviks was never united – there was no single White Army that fought a co-ordinated war against its Red counterpart. The forces available to the Whites represented a spectrum of political factions. White monarchist military organisations (which had sprung up all over Russia even before the October revolution) were not always friendly to social-democratic Whites, and on several occasions came to blows. Many of the Cossack hosts sided with the Whites, seeing it as an opportunity to create their own independent states; others remained neutral or hostile to both sides.

Everywhere the nationalist non-Russian peoples of the Russian empire from the Baltic States to Central Asia seized their chance for independence; some, but not all, entered into alliances with White armies.

VOLUNTEERS, CONSCRIPTS AND TURNCOATS

Many early Russian White formations were created from the remnants of the disintegrating Russian Imperial Army. But it was an uphill struggle. Most soldiers were sick of war; they refused to obey orders, and some even threatened their own officers with firing squads. The Whites' biggest hope was to be found in new units of committed volunteers. The heart of the volunteer White armies was at first represented by a handful of generals, officers, cadets and students. Few of them had aristocratic backgrounds, and most of what they had achieved had been due to their own ability and personal courage. Not all had the same aims: some were monarchists, others social-democrats. About the

only thing many had in common was a hatred and fear of the Bolsheviks.

Undoubtedly the most successful of these volunteer organisations was the Volunteer Army created in south Russia by generals Alexeyev and Kornilov (both ex-supreme commanders of the Imperial Army). With just 3,000–5,000 men, this army performed remarkable feats. One of the reasons for their success was undoubtedly the unusual composition of the units. The first detachments of the Volunteer Army were élite units made up exclusively of officers and cadets and were known as 'Officers' units'. Losses were extremely heavy, not least because White officers were almost always executed if caught by the Reds so most chose to fight to the death.

It was only in 1918, when the Bolsheviks embarked on the oppressive policies that were to become their trademark, that the number of White troops started to grow rapidly throughout Russia. The increase in numbers was assisted by the widespread introduction of conscription. The Whites were happy to draft Red Army deserters and PoWs.

During the first years of the Civil War whole units and even divisions swapped sides; some changed several times. In March 1919, for example, the Red Army's Tula Division, which was stationed near the town of Gomel, suddenly turned against the Soviets and marched towards Poland. They joined the Whites for two months, but then decided to return in June. All such turncoat units were given a probationary period to test their loyalty.

Historians have distinguished three main phases to the Civil War. The first was what the Soviets have called the 'partisan warfare' phase, marked by fighting on rapidly shifting fronts; this lasted until the armistice with Germany in November 1918. The second stage saw White armies advancing from the north-west, south and east, converging on Moscow, until their defeat in November 1919. The third and final stage, in 1920, saw the flight to the Crimea of Wrangel's army, and its evacuation over the Black Sea. There were also a number of peasant revolts and national risings which are often treated as sideshows or epilogues to the main Civil War. In practice it is difficult to separate them from the terrible destruction that engulfed Russia in this period.

THE WHITE ARMIES

As far as the chief White armies were concerned, there were three main regions of conflict: north-west Russia, south Russia, and east Russia. These unfolded as virtually separate conflicts, with White troops seldom switching theatres. The commander of each theatre, as well as being a general, was a political figurehead, running a semi-independent state.

NORTH AND NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

On 2 March 1918 the Allies agreed with the local Russian administration to protect northern Russia, with the cities of Murmansk and Archangelsk, from the German threat. By August 1918 there were over 16,000 Allied troops in the area. The local Russian forces had



General Mikhail Alexeyev, chief of staff of the Russian Imperial Army 1916, and briefly supreme commander of all Russia's armies between April and June 1917. A brilliant military scholar and the son of a soldier, he was extremely popular among Russian officers. Monarchist to the core, Alexeyev was the leading organiser of the White Volunteer Army in south Russia.



Afrikan Bogayevsky, last Ataman of the Don Cossack Host, 1919. He wears Russian field uniform with, at his neck, the Order of St Vladimir 3rd Class and, on his left breast, the Cross of St George and the medal for the Ice March (or 1st Kuban March).

UKRAINE AND POLAND

1: Strelets (Rifleman), 1st 'Blue Coat' Division of Secheviye Streitsi; Ukraine, 1918

2: Rotmistr (Captain), 2nd Ulan Regt; Poland, 1919-20

3: Vistoon (Corporal), West Ukrainian Army, 1918-19



AFSR TROOPS, THE BATTLE FOR KIEV, AUGUST 1919

- 1: Private, Signals Team, 1st Composite Infantry Regt
- 2: Shtabs-Kapitan, Composite Guard Artillery Brigade
- 3: Rotmistr (Captain), 12th Akhtirsky Hussar Regt
- 4: Private, Composite Guard Infantry Regt



Андрей Карашун '98



Fyodor Shuss, chief cavalry commander of the Ukrainian Peasants' Insurgent Army and the right-hand man of the army's commander, Nestor Makhno, 1919. As a former sailor he still wears his old naval peakless cap. The red sash was a typical feature in Makhno's army, as was the carrying of an enormous quantity of weapons of different kinds. The long hair, unusual in this period, was a symbol of anarchy.

become tired of fighting in World War I and few volunteers came forward. A severe shortage of officers caused the collapse of discipline and the situation got worse when the foreign troops departed. By February 1920 the Russian Army of the Northern Area had effectively ceased to exist as a fighting force.

At first the Northern Corps consisted of dozens of small volunteer detachments. These were soon organised into two infantry brigades which eventually expanded into divisions. On 19 June 1919 they became the Northern Army. When Yudenich was appointed commander-in-chief of all anti-Bolshevik forces on the north-western front, the army's name was changed to the 'North-western Army' to distinguish it from the force fighting around Murmansk and Archangelsk. A series of defeats led to the army being disbanded in February 1920.

SOUTH RUSSIA

After the October revolution, many opponents of the Bolsheviks converged on the Don region, hoping to gain the support of the Don Cossacks. Among them was General Alexeyev, who quickly set about raising troops. When, after escaping detention, the charismatic General Kornilov arrived on Don Cossack territory the White cause received a further boost. On 15 November 1917 Kornilov and Alexeyev announced the creation of the Volunteer Army.

From November 1918 the Allies succeeded in supplying regular provisions to the White Armies, mainly through the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. Thousands of Kuban Cossacks also joined the Whites, bringing the Army's strength to 100,000 by December. January 1919 saw the creation of the Armed Forces of the South of Russia (AFSR), which encompassed many earlier formations. By October, after heavy losses, its strength had fallen to 20,000 men. The so-called 'Colourful' units were named after generals Kornilov, Markov, Alexeyev and Drozdovsky. These units had their own colourful uniforms and insignia, which were in contrast to the dull khaki of most White units.

The Army of the Don was created on 17 April 1918. They received strong support, arms and equipment from the Germans, who by this time had occupied nearly the entire Ukraine. By the beginning of 1920 the Army of the Don had reached a peak of 52,000 men. During January and February 1920 the army was destroyed by the Reds in the Northern Caucasus. Surviving elements escaped to the Crimea to join Wrangel's Army.

Wrangel's 'Russian Army' was created on 11 May 1920 in the Crimean peninsula, the last stronghold of the Whites in south Russia, out of the remnants of the White armies which streamed into the Crimea. By July it had at its disposal 30,000 men and by October 58,000. After the Red Army's final successful assault on the Crimean peninsula, the survivors of 1st Corps, Don Corps and Kuban Corps were evacuated to Istanbul on foreign ships. In 1921 they were transferred to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia where, finally, Wrangel's Russian Army was disbanded.

The 9,000 strong Army of Turkestan was created on 22 January 1919. It was to all intents destroyed by the Reds by December 1919. Throughout its brief existence, it acted in concert with the 15,000 Muslim freedom fighters of Djunaid Khan.

EAST RUSSIA

Formed as early as April 1918, this army was known as the Detached Army of the Urals, and from November 1918 it was subordinated to Admiral Kolchak, the self-appointed 'Supreme Ruler of Russia'. It was defeated by the Reds in the first months of 1920 and most survivors were taken prisoner. Both the Army of Siberia and the Orenburg Army became part of Admiral Kolchak's forces after November 1918. After defeat by the Red Army, survivors joined Ataman Boris Annenkov's partisan troops. (Even the Whites considered Annenkov sadistically cruel.) After defeats by Red troops in March-April 1920, Annenkov's Detached Smirechensk Army and its commander left Russia for China.

THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST

In January 1919 Grigoriy Semyonov set up the independent Mongol-Buryat Republic and, after Kolchak's death, pronounced himself its supreme ruler. Under pressure from the Red Army, Semyonov was forced to leave for China in September 1921. Twenty-five years later, in 1946, he was caught in Manchuria by the Soviet Army and executed by firing squad.

Foreign troops from the European Allies, Japan and the USA began to arrive in the Russian Far East in August 1918. Most had left Russia by March 1920, but the Japanese stayed on and from May 1921 supplied the so-called White Insurgent Army under General Dieterichs, sustaining a non-Soviet republic.

PEASANT RISINGS

By 1917 well-to-do peasants known as Kulaks numbered nearly 17 per cent of Russia's rural population. The name kulak (fist) was coined by the Bolsheviks, who believed that these peasants had become rich not by hard work but by hoarding food in their 'greedy mitts'. Of all the many peasant uprising, the one led by Alexander Antonov in 1920-21 in the Tambov region of central Russia proved the most troublesome to the Soviet authorities. By January 1921 Antonov had assembled two field armies with a total strength of up to 50,000 men. So great was the threat that the Soviets treated it as a new front, and sent against it their best commanders. Antonov was duly defeated, tracked down and killed. Small scale peasant rebellions continued well into the 1930s when Stalin had the Kulaks transported to the Gulags or shot.



1st Chuguyevsky Mounted Regiment in Kiev celebrating Hetman Pavel Skoropadsky's namesday, summer 1918. They wear standard Russian Imperial cavalry uniform with the Ukrainian national cockade on the cap. The young cavalryman on the far right is the only exception: he appears to have a better quality, hand-made tunic with a standing collar and collar patches, and breeches with double yellow side-stripes.



The *Kurbashi* (chiefs) of several Turcoman Basmachi detachments. The fur hats and cloaks are typical of the Turkmenistan area in 1921.

'COLOURFUL' REGIMENTS, SOUTH RUSSIA, 1919

- 1: Captain, 1st 'Gen. Markov' Officers' Regt
- 2: Poruchik (Lieutenant), 2nd 'Gen. Drozdovsky' Rifle Regt
- 3: Junior Sergeant, 1st 'Gen. Alexeyev' Partisan Infantry Regt
- 4: Private, Samursky Infantry Regt
- 5: Lieutenant Colonel, 'Gen. Kornilov' Shock Inf. Division, 1920
- 6: Sleeve badge, 2nd 'Gen. Drozdovsky' Mounted Officers' Regt



Андрей Карашук.96

COSSACK TROOPS

1: Prikazniy (Private), 19ty Regt of Don Cossacks,
Army of the Don, 1918-20

2: Horunzhiy (Sub-lieutenant), Ataman Kalmykov's
Special Ussuriysk Detachment, 1919

3: Senior Uriadnik (NCO), General Shkuro's Wolves
Divizion, 1919

2



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Анатолий Карацун 96

COLOUR PLATES

A: NORTH RUSSIA

A1: PRIVATE, 1ST SEVERNY (NORTHERN) INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1919

This Russian volunteer is dressed in British uniform with Russian insignia. His equipment and weapons are also British. The blue chevron on the right sleeve is that of north Russia volunteers who joined up in August-September 1918, before conscription was introduced. Russian cockades were reintroduced in May 1919, but it was only with difficulty that commanders got their soldiers to wear them. The central part of the cockade is painted in the Russian colours: white within red within blue.

A2: CORPORAL, UNITED STATES 366TH ('POLAR BEARS') INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1918-19

This NCO wears typical US winter uniform and equipment. Even this proved inadequate for one of the coldest regions of Russia, where temperatures could drop to -50°C. Americans sometimes obtained additional kit from fellow British or Russian officers. A shoulder patch showing a polar bear was authorised in June 1919.

A3: SOTNIK (LIEUTENANT), WHITE SEA MOUNTAIN-HORSE DEMI-REGIMENT, 1918

With the outbreak of the Civil War, the peculiarly titled Belomorsky Konno-Gorsky Division (White Sea Mountain-Horse Demi-Regiment) found itself in the extreme north of Russia. There are almost no mountains in the White Sea area, and the unit name derived from the original home of most of the unit's men – the Caucasus mountains. The uniform, in particular the round fur hat and *bashlik* hood, had echoes of the Caucasus. The short jacket is that of the former 3rd Caucasian Rifle Druzhina (detachment), which was recruited from the Causasian Gurian tribe. The *shashka* sword was, however, typical for cavalry of the Russian Army, not just Caucasian troops. Black braid was introduced in September 1919 to differentiate ranks. Russian shoulder-boards are worn, as are cavalry officers' boots, but in place of the Russian

cockade is a unit badge showing two crossed *shashka* swords on a disk which the soldiers called the 'polar lights'. The same unit badge can be seen pinned to the ribbon of the soldier's variant of the St George Cross.

B: NORTH-WEST RUSSIA

B1: TROOPER, DETACHED SQUADRON OF THE LATVIAN 1ST KURZEM DIVISION, 1919

This Latvian horseman wears a mix of clothing and equipment: the hussar 'atila' tunic (M.1910 braided jacket), M.98 Carbine and holstered Luger M.1904 are German, while the cavalry breeches, dragoon sword, boots and leather equipment are Russian. The cap is Latvian-made and is worn pulled back in the fashion of the day, together with a Latvian cockade and collar patches. Shoulder knots are white and black, the colours of the Kurzem district of Latvia. The medal is the Order of Lachplēsis (3rd Class) which was awarded for gallantry in battle.

B2: SENIOR NCO, 1ST PLASTOON REGIMENT, BERMONT-AVALOV'S DETACHMENT, RUSSIA, 1919

Plastoons (scouts) first appeared during the Crimean War. Their name probably derived from *lezat plastom*, meaning to lie flat. This is a former Russian guardsman captured by the Germans in the first months of World War I. Such units wore German clothing, usually with Russian shoulder-boards and Russian rank distinctions. Some men still wore Tsarist Russian decorations they had received in World War I (here in the form of ribbons). The Russian Orthodox cross in white worn on the left sleeve was a special feature of Bermont-Avalov's corps, as was the Black Cross army badge which was introduced by Bermont-Avalov on 4 March 1919 for all of his units. The three red stripes on the right cuff were awarded for wounds received in action.

B3: CAPTAIN, 1ST PSKOV INFANTRY REGIMENT, NORTH-WESTERN ARMY, 1918/19

This is the typical White officer's uniform of the Civil War years. It consists of the regulation Russian Imperial Army

uniform of 1912 with officer's *shashka* sword and map-case. The only Civil War feature is the field-sign of the North Western Army: a chevron in Russian colours over a white cross, worn on the left sleeve. The breast badge is the 'Cross of 13 May 1919' worn on a rosette in Russian colours, this was issued to participants of the First March on Petrograd. The button-hole ribbon is that of the Order of St Valdimir, 4th Class. White officers normally wore their leather belt shoulder supports vertically on the chest and criss-crossed at the back; this distinguished them from Red commanders who wore them criss-crossed on chest and back.

C: UKRAINE AND POLAND

C1: STRELETS (RIFLEMAN), 1ST 'BLUE ZHUPAN' DIVISION OF SECHEVYI STRELTSI, UKRAINE, 1918

This unmistakably Ukrainian uniform was chosen by the government of independent Ukraine as a link to the military past. The long coat was called a *zhupan* in Ukrainian, and was derived from 17th century Ukrainian Cossack fashion. It gave its name to the two guard divisions of Hetman Skoropadsky's short-lived state: the Sinezhpunniki (Blue Zhupans) and the Serozhupunniki (Grey Zhupans). The baggy *sharovari* trousers are also as worn in the 17th century. The fur hat is shown here with the flamme secured to the front of the hat with a cockade (in Ukrainian colours), but the flamme could also be worn loose, as shown in the halftone figure in the background. The belt is German, but the pouches are Russian.

C2: ROTMISTR (CAPTAIN), 2ND ULAN REGIMENT, POLAND, 1919-20

In August 1920 the army of the reborn Polish state defeated the Red Army near Warsaw in the 'Miracle on the Vistula'. As well as inflicting a serious blow to Soviet morale, this event signalled the end of the Soviet dream of carrying the revolution to Berlin and on to Western Europe. The medal is the Military Cross of Virtuti Militari, the highest Polish military

award, while the chest badge is that of the Pulawy Legion, a memento of Russian service in World War I. The horse furniture is the standard version for Russian officers.

C3: VISTOON (CORPORAL), WEST UKRAINIAN ARMY, 1918-19

The first units of the West Ukrainian Army (UGA, Ukrainian Galician Army) derived from units raised in Austria in 1914, when areas of Ukraine were part of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia. Its members were also called *Secheviye Streitsi*. The western Ukrainians had long sought autonomy, and were prepared to fight the more Russified eastern Ukrainians to obtain it. Dressed entirely in Austrian grey, this soldier wears a Galician cap and a *zoochatka* (wolf's teeth) patch on the collar, both in the blue branch colour of the infantry. His rank of *vistoon* (corporal) is denoted by two pointed lace stripes worn just above the cuff. The Austrian badges on the left of the cap and the 1914 Cross of the *Secheviye Streitsi* (established in September 1914) both indicate service in the Austro-Hungarian army during World War I. The metal flask marked '1917' is standard Austro-Hungarian issue.

D: AFSR TROOPS, BATTLE FOR KIEV, AUGUST 1919

D1: PRIVATE, SIGNALS TEAM, 1ST COMPOSITE INFANTRY REGIMENT

The White Army in south Russia attempted to preserve the traditions of former Tsarist regiments. In practice many regiments were reduced to battalions which retained the name of the regiment; these were usually combined to form composite divisions. This soldier is a member of the Tsarist 75th Sevastopolsky Infantry Regiment which was reduced to battalion strength in the Civil War and found itself as part of the 1st Composite Regiment of the 55th Infantry Division. Large shipments of British supplies reached the White forces of south Russia, including many thousands of uniforms. This soldier could be mistaken for a British Tommy, but for the Russian shoulder-boards, red-cloth lightning bolts badge (of the Imperial Signals unit) and



Buryat soldiers of Admiral Kolchak's Army of Siberia, 1919. Buryats are one of the many peoples of Siberia, whose illiteracy, natural submissiveness and skill as hunters made them ideal cannon-fodder for both Red and White armies. Accustomed to spending long periods in Siberian forests, they preferred to carry as much ammunition as possible.

the chevron in Russian colours on his left sleeve.

D2: SHYABS-KAPITAN, COMPOSITE GUARD ARTILLERY BRIGADE

Most Imperial Guard regiments had been decimated in the opening months of World War I in plodding, Napoleonic-style attacks on entrenched German machine-gun posts. Despite this, many surviving guardsmen still chose to join the White Guards. The number of these ex-guardsmen was so small by the end of World War I that only one Composite Guard Regiment and one Composite Guard Artillery Brigade could be formed. This officer has red braid on his collar and white braid around the cuffs, which identifies him as a former member of the 1st Lifeguard Artillery Brigade. The capband is made of black velvet. Guard artillery officers traditionally wore dark green breeches piped red with their field tunics, unlike infantry officers who wore field breeches.

D3: ROTMISTR (CAPTAIN), 12TH AKHTIRSKY HUSSAR REGIMENT

Members of former Tsarist regiments, especially cavalry, tried to preserve their World War I uniforms. Over time, however, most were forced to accept that a new British tunic looked better than a

worn-out Russian one. Russian belts are worn here in the English manner, as are medal ribbons. The smallish national chevron was of a type favoured by general officers. The cross worn on the chest is a regimental badge, while the orange and black sword knot indicates the award of the St George Weapon for gallantry. This regiment fought as part of the 1st Cavalry Division of the AFSR. Reduced to a single *divizion* (demi-regiment), it became part of the 'General Kaledin' Composite Cavalry Regiment which was created out of shrinking units of the former 12th Cavalry Division. Besides the Akhtirsky Regiment, several other former Imperial cavalry units (often no more than a few dozen men each) took the field against the Soviets; among them were the Ingermanland Hussars, the Petrograd and Belgorod Lancers. His Majesty's Own Cuirassiers, and the Life-Cossacks.

E: THE 'COLOURFUL' REGIMENTS, SOUTH RUSSIA

E1: CAPTAIN, 1ST 'GENERAL MARKOV' OFFICERS REGIMENT, 1919

Lt.Gen. Sergei Markov, the former chief-of-staff of the south-western front, was one of the leading organisers of the Volunteer Army. Among his men he was known as 'General Forwards' – always leading his troops to the front in his famous white fur hat. Formed at first as an 'Officers' regiment (i.e. one consisting only of officers), the regiment was known for its severe discipline and the austere behaviour of its members. They abstained from women, alcohol and gambling. Considering themselves Russian crusaders, they pledged to fight to the death, a determination reflected in the black and white colours of their uniform. After Markov's death the letter 'M' was added to shoulder-boards, and his name was given to the regiment and, later, the entire division. On his dyed black *gymnasterka* this officer wears the officer's St George Cross and the famous 'Ice March' medal commemorating the first winter campaign of the Volunteer Army in 1918. In July 1919 the regiment liberated a convent near Belgorod without causing damage to the building or its occupants. The mother superior blessed the troops and presented the offi-

EAST RUSSIA AND SIBERIA

- 1: Junior Officer, 3rd Rifle Regt., Detached Czechoslovak Corps, 1918
- 2: Private, Detached Izhevsk Rifle Brigade, 1918-19
- 3: Private, Siberian Provisional Government troops, 1918
- 4: Starshiy Feyerverker (Sergeant), 2nd Artillery Brigade, Komuch People's Army, 1918



INSURGENTS AND PARTISANS

1: Kulak peasant rebel; Central Russia, 1917-22

2: Nestor Makhno, Chief of the Revolutionary Insurgent Army of Ukraine, 1918-20

3: Uzbek *Basmachi* Rebel, 1918-24



cers of the 1st Battalion with wooden rosary beads which, from then on, became a symbolic attribute of officer's uniform.

E2: PORUCHIK (LIEUTENANT), 2ND 'GENERAL DROZDOVSKY' RIFLE REGIMENT, 1919

In February 1918 Colonel Mikhail Drozdovsky organised a detachment from officers and soldiers of different Russian units and in so doing started the famous 1,000-mile march from Romania to the Don River. All were later awarded the special commemorative medal shown here.

E3: JUNIOR SERGEANT, 1ST 'GENERAL ALEXEYEV' PARTISAN INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1919

The sky blue facing colour of this regiment symbolised the youth of its members: it was the colour of cadets and students in Tsarist Russia. In 1918 General Alexeyev was already 60 years old, and the young men of the regiment referred to themselves as 'Alexeyev's grandsons'. Russian Army *beskozirka* (peakless caps) were worn by nearly all the rank-and-file of the 'Colourful' White Guard regiments.

E4: PRIVATE SAMURSKY INFANTRY REGIMENT, 1919

At the end of 1918, 500 Red Army men were taken prisoner by the Drozdovsky Regiment. Claiming that 'they were sick and tired of their Commissars', all of them expressed the desire to join the Whites. As a test of their loyalty (and 500 men was an important addition to the fledgling Volunteer Army), the regimental commander, Colonel Turkul, ordered them to fight in front of his officers' company in the next battle. After destroying their opponents with some panache, the unit of former '*krasno-armytsi*' was renamed the Soldiers' Battalion of the Drozdovsky Regiment. In the battles that followed, the battalion continued to behave well, and, as a reward, was given the colour of the former Samursky Regiment, along with its title.

E5: LIEUTENANT COLONEL, THE 'GENERAL KORNILOV' SHOCK INFANTRY DIVISION, 1920

This unit took its name from Lavr Kornilov, one of the most popular of

Russia's World War I generals, and in August 1917, the supreme commander of all Russian forces. He was killed in battle near Ekaterinodar on 13 April 1918, when a shell hit the farmhouse he was using as his headquarters. His name was given to one of the best White Guard regiments and later passed to the whole division. The officer depicted here has all the hallmarks of 'Kornilovsky' troops. The six stripes on the left arm indicate six battle wounds, according to the system introduced in the Russian Army in 1916. Privates and NCOs had red woollen-braid wound stripes, while officers had silver or gold lace depending on their regimental button colour. Wound stripes received during the Civil War were in reverse colours. The medals are the Order of St Vladimir (4th Class) with swords and bow, the Order of St Nicholas the Miracle-Maker, and the 'Ice March' medal. Above these on a chain is the regimental badge of the Kornilovsky Shock Regiment.

E6: SLEEVE BADGE, 2ND 'GENERAL DROZDOVSKY' MOUNTED OFFICERS REGIMENT, 1919

The badge was made of black and white enamel, shaped like a hussar sabretache, and bore initials standing for the unit name '2-y Ofiterskiy Konniy Generala Drozdovskogo Polk'.

E: COSSACK TROOPS

In the background from left to right are an Orenburg Cossack trooper, a soldier of the Gundarevski Cossack Regiment and a Kuban Cossack.

F1: PRIKAZNIY (PRIVATE), 19TH REGIMENT OF DON COSSACKS, ARMY OF THE DON, 1918-20

This is a typical Don Cossack in World War I uniform. During the Civil War, Cossacks of the Don preferred to be clearly recognised from afar: in place of the wartime khaki shoulder-boards and caps, they usually wore dark blue shoulder-boards and caps with red bands and dark blue crowns. The weapons are an M.1910 Cossack rifle, a *shashka* sword and a *nagayka* whip.

F2: HORUNZHIY (SUB-LIEUTENANT) ATAMAN KALMYKOV'S SPECIAL USSURIYSK DETACHMENT, 1919

Members of this detachment had small

grey fur hats with a yellow top, and wore a yellow sleeve badge with the letter 'K' for Kalmikov. The saddle furniture was of typical Cossack style. The 'Annensky sword knot' indicates the foremost officer's award, the Order of St Anne, 4th Class.

F3: SENIOR URIADNIK (NCO), GENERAL SHKURO'S WOLVES' DIVIZION, 1919

General Shkuro's real name was Shkura (skin), which he changed because 'Shkuro' sounded better. He became famous in 1915 when his 'wolf pack' fought a partisan war behind German lines. In place of a standard the unit carried a wolf skin with wolves' tails attached to the staff. Another special feature of the unit was a tall wolf-fur *papakha* hat. During the Civil War a white ribbon was added to this hat. A triangular cloth sleeve patch was also introduced, showing a wolf's head with bared teeth. The *gaziri* breast pockets had white lining and a white central stripe. On them he wears the Crosses of St George, 4th and 3rd Class and a St George Gallantry Medal. His full dress *cherkeska* coat would be black. In 1920 the Wolves' Divizion (demi-regiment of two squadrons) was expanded into a regiment-sized formation.

G: EAST RUSSIA AND SIBERIA

G1: JUNIOR OFFICER, 3RD RIFLE REGIMENT, DETACHED CZECHOSLOVAK CORPS, 1918

Men of the famous Czechoslovak Legion wore ordinary Russian field uniform with the characteristic Czech cap. The cockade was replaced by a red and white ribbon which could be attached to the cap band in several ways. The sleeve patch was made of khaki cloth with a red border. Rank badges took the form of chevrons – gold for senior officers, silver for junior officers and red for NCOs. The regimental number below the chevron was either an old Russian metal number or was stencilled directly onto the cloth in yellow paint. The decoration is the Cross of St George. The background figure is a junior NCO of the 2nd Regiment of the Detached Czechoslovak Corps, wearing a 'Russian' Adrian helmet.

G2: PRIVATE, DETACHED IZHEVSK RIFLE BRIGADE, 1918-19

This unit belonged to Admiral Kolchack's Western Army. Together with the Votkinsk Rifle Division, it was raised among metal workers in the Urals. By Russian standards these workers were relatively wealthy, and at first had nothing against Soviet rule. But after several workers' representatives had been shot by local Chekists for their 'bourgeois attitude' there was an uprising – on such a scale that the Reds had to send their best troops to suppress it. The Red soldiers found themselves up against crowds of armed workers, in civilian dress, attacking them to the sound of Russian accordions. Having defeated the Red troops under Tukhachevsky, the workers created the Izhevsk People's Army, an egalitarian organisation in which the normal form of address was 'tovarish' – comrade. They still favoured the system of Soviets (councils) – but 'free of Jews and Communists'. The blue of the unit's shoulder-boards and piping symbolised the metal they had once produced. Officers also wore blue shoulder-boards as the workers objected to gold ones. A peculiar feature of the Izhevsk Division was that all members had home-made hunting knives, worn on waistbelts. In 1920, when the Whites were in retreat, the Izhevsk and Votkinsk divisions were the only ones to maintain discipline, even though their families – women, children and old men – were accompanying them. Most of them eventually settled in Manchuria.

G3: PRIVATE, SIBERIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT TROOPS, 1918

The only insignia worn by these troops were the ribbons on the cap and right sleeve, in white and green – the colours of the Siberian Army. The greatcoat is rolled up and worn over the left shoulder to give some protection against sabres and bayonets. These troops never wore shoulder-boards.

G4: STARSHY FEYERVERKER (NCO), 2ND ARTILLERY BRIGADE, KOMUCH PEOPLE'S ARMY, 1918

A self-governing region run by the Committee for Constitutional Assembly (Komuch) was established with the help of the Czechoslovak Legion, in Samara on the Volga River. It lasted from June to



Admiral Kolchak (centre) at Ekaterinburg, February 1919. The figures standing behind him are (left to right) adjutant of the Ural Cossacks, a Czechoslovak cavalryman in characteristic headgear with white plume, and a Cossack from the Kirghisian Convoy of Ataman Dootov, wearing a red topped fur hat.

November 1918, when, despite their anti-Bolshevik views, many Komuch members were shot by Admiral Kolchak's troops. The Komuch People's Army was even more short-lived, since it was raised only in August 1918. Even so, it had enough time to acquire special sleeve badges in branch of service colours along with its own rank insignia. The ribbon on the cap – in the colours of the St George military award – was specific to Komuch forces. This artillery NCO is equipped with an Arisaka carbine and wears the black breeches introduced for artillery units by Komuch

H: INSURGENTS AND PARTISANS

H1: KULAK PEASANT REBEL; CENTRAL RUSSIA, 1917-22

The young Kulak shown here is dressed in the typical peasant costume of middle Russia: a *kosovorotka* shirt, loose *sharovari* trousers, fur trimmed *polushubok* coat and leather boots. His weapon is an *obrez* ('cut-off'), and is a Mosin rifle with sawn-off barrel and butt. Highly effective, it was also easily concealed under peasant garments. Red soldiers learned to fear even the most innocent looking youngsters, who would whip out an *obrez* and put a bullet in their back as soon as they lowered their guard.

H2: NESTOR MAKHNO, CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INSURGENT ARMY OF UKRAINE, 1918-20

The Ukrainian guerrilla leader Nestor Makhno (1889–1934) was one of the most controversial figures of the Civil War. An anarchist who had been convicted in 1909 for terrorist attacks, he fought in the Civil War for the interests of Ukrainian peasants, and against everyone who opposed them: Reds, Whites, Germans, Austrians, Poles and even the Ukrainian governments of Petlyura and Skoropadsky. In practice this meant keeping on the move and regularly switching alliances. In 1918–20 Makhno's forces fluctuated between 2,000 and 40,000 men who were divided into 'groups' of between three and ten regiments. Makhno's HQ was usually at his birthplace, the village of Guliyi Pole; it was made up of operations and reconnaissance departments and the 'Batkova Chortova Sotnia' – the Chief's Hall Squadron. Makhno's soldiers were dressed in a mixture of military and civilian clothing, although, in true anarchist tradition, uniformity was avoided. Makhno himself preferred a fur *papakha* hat, a British or Russian officer's tunic, red *galife* breeches and soft leather cavalry boots. He liked to carry as many weapons as possible, especially a decorative *shashka* sword and the German K-96 Mauser in its wooden 'broom handle' holster. In 1921 Makhno escaped from Russia and settled in Paris, where he died in mysterious circumstances in 1934.

H3: UZBEK BASMACHI REBEL, 1918-24

In essence, the Basmachi were the Central Asian equivalent of Kulaks. Being Muslims, their fight against the Reds also had a religious dimension. Whereas Kulak detachments rarely exceeded 200–300 men, the Basmachi sometimes fielded 20,000 – 30,000. Of the many peoples of Central Asia, the main human source for Basmachi detachments were the Uzbeks, Turkomans, Tadjiks, Kazakhs and Kirghizes. Each wore national costume militarised with items left over by the Tsarist Army or supplied by interventionist powers. This Uzbek warrior has Afghan ammunition belts, a Russian Mosin rifle and British officer's breeches worn with Uzbeki *chuvyaki* sandals.