

Polish 5th Army

About 16 August 1920

The numbers on this page are taken from Sikorski's *Nad Wisłą I Wkrę*. The date given is "mid-August" but from the units listed they cannot be more than a day or two from the 16th.

The unit organisations that follow are largely taken from the same book, but were sometimes difficult to decipher because of the low-resolution copy of I have of the relevant graphical display. Some details are corrected or clarified from Wikipedia, specifically from the page for the 5th Army at [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/5_Armia_\(II_RP\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/5_Armia_(II_RP)), and other publications.

In any case the extremely rapid changes of the time and the absence of an established Army administration mean that there will inevitably be errors.

	Eaters			Combatants				
	Officers	Men	Horses	Officers	Bayonets	Sabres	MGs	Guns
Karnicki Cavalry Division	88	1 755	1 841	52	--	1 110	30	9
18th Infantry Division	125	7 300	2 046	30	5 000	144	49	29
Siberian Brigade	132	4 760	1 560	47	2 850	190	23	8
Volunteer Division	216	7 538	1 584	122	4 800	275	78	21
9th Infantry Division	250	6 500	2 000	160	3 400	50	102	20
17th Infantry Division	169	6 223	2 801	63	2 400	50	39	22
Dreszer Group	76	2 653	1 857	62	650	844	43	4
Modlin Group	90	3 600	2 000	65	1 160	--	30	39
Lower Vistula Group	105	4 546	2 570	95	1 650	803	50	16
Habicht Group	--	--	--	--	100	360	8	4
Total for Army	1 251	44 875	18 259	696	22 010	3 826	452	172

The 7th Reserve Division was added on 17 August.

The 10th Infantry Division and 11th Infantry Division were added about 20 August.

Army commander: Lt-Gen Władysław Sikorski
Chief of Staff: Lt-Col. Romuald Wolikowski
Head of Division III: Maj. Stanisław Rostworowski
Quartermaster: Lt-Col. Antoni Jakubski

Army Assets

Two staging battalions

Trains "Halleryczyk" and "Kaniów"

Aviation

Head of aviation: Lt-Col. Buckiewicz

1st reconnaissance squadron

12th reconnaissance squadron

13th fighter squadron



Karnicki Cavalry Division

Commander: Gen. Karnicki
Chief of Staff: Lt [?] Łebkowski

8th Cavalry Brigade
Lt-Col. Stablewski

- 2nd Ulan Regiment
 - 4 lancer squadrons
 - MG squadron
 - Technical squadron

- 108th Ulan Regiment (1st *divizion* only)
 - 2 lancer squadrons
 - MG squadron

- 115th Wielkopolska Ulan Regiment
 - 4 lancer squadrons
 - MG squadron

Other Cavalry

- 203rd Volunteer Ulan Regiment
 - 4 lancer squadrons
 - MG squadron
 - Technical squadron

- 1st *divizion*, 18th Ulan Regiment (Volunteer)
 - 2 lancer squadrons

- 2nd Border Rifle Regiment
 - 1 squadron

8th Horse Artillery *Divizion*
1st and 3rd batteries,

Armoured *Divizion*, attached on 16 August
9 Cars

Notes

While shown as a division in this order of battle, it was generally referred to simply as the 8th Cavalry Brigade.

On 17 August, these units were placed in the Combined Cavalry Division of Colonel Dreszer.

Karnicki was sent to start forming another cavalry division, based on the 211th, 212th and 214th Volunteer Ulan Regiments and 9th and 11th Border Rifle Regiments, based largely on units of the Lower Vistula Group, but it was not ready for some time.

The Technical squadrons probably fought in the line, as the shortage of men was too great.

The MG squadrons were probably taczanki (tachankas).



18th Infantry Division

Commander: Gen. Krajowski
Chief of Staff: Maj. Arciszewski

35th Brigade

42nd Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

49th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

36th Brigade

144th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

145th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

18th Artillery Brigade

18th Field Artillery Regiment
8 batteries (2nd to 9th) with 26 guns

18th Heavy Artillery *Divizion*
2 batteries, with 3 guns

Attached Cavalry

1st Squadron, 6th [?] regiment
2nd Squadron, 3rd Mounted Rifle Regiment

18th Sapper Battalion

1st Company

Tank Regiment, attached 18 August

46 tanks, on railway wagons

Notes

Supply issues meant that the tanks were on railway carriages.



Siberian Brigade

Commander: Col. Rumsza

Chief of Staff: Maj. Kozaryn Okuliez

1st Siberian Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

2nd Siberian Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

Artillery *Divizion*

3 field artillery batteries

Siberian Cavalry *Divizion*

2 squadrons



Volunteer Division

Commander: Lt-Col. Koc
Chief of Staff: Maj. Dojan-Surówka

1st Volunteer Brigade
Lt-Col. Błaszczński

201st Volunteer Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

205th Volunteer Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

2nd Volunteer Brigade
Lt-Col. Kopa

202nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

[101st Reserve Infantry Regiment in Modlin]

Attached Infantry (former Kopa Group and Baranowski/Zarzycki Group)

Lida Battalion
5th Battalion, 157th Reserve Infantry Regiment
2nd Battalion, 109th Reserve Infantry Regiment

Wilno Volunteer Battalion
Gorgosz [?] Company
1st Battalion, 46th Infantry Regiment
3rd and 4th Companies, 108th [?] Reserve Infantry Regiment

Artillery

4th to 6th Batteries, 201st Volunteer Field Artillery
Battery of 21st [?] Field Artillery Regiment
Battery
Heavy Battery

18th Heavy Artillery *Divizion*
2 batteries, with 3 heavy guns

18th Sapper Battalion

1st Company

Notes

This is sometimes numbered the 201st Volunteer Division.

The 101st Reserve Infantry Regiment was resting in Modlin at this time, having fought heavily at Pułtusk.

The Lida Battalion was the remains of the 76 Lida Infantry Regiment, which was severely reduced during the retreat.

Wikipedia has the Volunteer Horse Rifle Squadron (Królikowski squadron and a Volunteer Border unit). Given the number of sabres given, they would appear to have been present.

It also lists as artillery the 201st Field Artillery Regiment, plus attached the 2nd Divizion (4th to 6th Batteries of the 17th Heavy Artillery Regiment (75 mm M1897 guns) and 4th Divizion (11th and 12th Batteries) of the 14th Field Artillery Regiment.



9th Infantry Division

Commander: Col. Łuczyński
Chief of Staff: Lt. [?] Rudnicki

17th Brigade

15th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

22nd Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

18th Brigade

41st Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

35th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

9th Artillery Brigade

9th Field Artillery Regiment
1st to 3rd Batteries

16th [?] Field Artillery Regiment
2nd and 3rd Batteries

9th Sapper Battalion

1st Company

Attached Cavalry (not arrived)

2 squadrons

Notes

The brigades were combined as a division on 15 August. It finished reorganising on 16 August.

The 18th Brigade had originally had the 34th IR, but it was destroyed in the retreat and had been replaced by the 41st by this time.

The Artillery had French 75mm guns.

Wikipedia has the Chief of Staff as Cap. Ciałowicz.



17th Infantry Division

Commander: Gen Osiński

Chief of Staff: Maj. [?]

33rd Brigade

67th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

68th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

34th Brigade

69th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

70th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

17th Artillery Brigade

Division of 17th Field Artillery Regiment
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Batteries

Division of 2nd Legion [?] Field Artillery Regiment
1st to 4th Batteries

2nd Horse Rifle Regiment

1st Squadron

1st Company, 17th Sapper Battalion

Notes

17th ID figures are after reorganising and reinforcements.



Dreszer Group

Commander: Col. Dreszer
Chief of Staff: Maj. Bogusz

9th Cavalry Brigade
Maj. Głogowski

1st Light Horse Regiment

201st Volunteer Ulan Regiment

Infantry

4th Pomeranian Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

Sailor Battalion

Company of 37th Infantry Regiment

Company of 43rd Infantry Regiment

8th Infantry Brigade

18th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

14th Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

7th Battery, 9th Field Artillery Regiment

Notes

The Dreszer Group was in the process of forming, and only ready by 17 August. It absorbed the Karnicki Cavalry Division (8th Cavalry Brigade) from that date.

The units above are largely poorly trained volunteers.

Soon after it became the Northern Cavalry Division, with the structure:

8th Cavalry Brigade

*2nd Ulan Regiment
108th Ulan Regiment
115th Wielkopolska Regiment
8th Horse Artillery Division*

9th Cavalry Brigade

*1st Cavalry Regiment
203rd Volunteer Ulan Regiment
201st Light Horse Regiment
9th Horse Artillery Division*

The 1st Cavalry unit went through a number of name changes, from the 1st Ulans, to 1st Light Horse (which is how it appears on Sikorski's order of battle) but was apparently the 1st Cavalry Regiment by this time. It was often known as the "Józef Piłsudski".

The Pomeranian Regiment and Sailor Battalion were the garrison of Płońsk, and operated separately.



Modlin Group

Commander: Col. Malewicz

Chief of Staff: Lt-Col. Świątorzecki

Infantry

3 companies, 13th [?] Infantry Regiment

Battalion 137th [?] Infantry Regiment

Wilno Battalion

Company, 29th [?] Infantry Regiment

Mountain Battalion

4th Lwów [?] Stage Battalion

Artillery

1st Battery, 21st Field Artillery Regiment

2nd Battery, 18th Field Artillery Regiment

4th Battery, 19th [?] Field Artillery Regiment

6th [?] Battery, 13th [?] Field Artillery Regiment

3 batteries, 18th [?] Heavy Artillery Regiment

1st Division, 13th [?] Heavy Artillery Regiment
3 batteries

Battery Fortress [?] Artillery

Battery [?] 18th [?] Heavy Artillery Regiment

Bridging Battalion

Technical Squadron

3rd Company, 4th Sapper Battalion

4th Company, 14th Sapper Battalion

Vistula Flotilla

101st Reserve Infantry Regiment
3 battalions

Notes

The group had 11 light and 28 heavy guns, but many were effectively useless, especially the heavy ones, which were museum pieces in the fort.

At times it also included two armoured trains.

The 101st Reserve Infantry Regiment (which included the 1st Battalion of the 57th IR) was part of the Volunteer Division, but was resting at this time in Modlin. It was quite large, approx 1,500 men, so the strength given for the Modlin Group would appear to not include that regiment.



Lower Vistula Group

Commander: Gen. Osikowski
Chief of Staff: vacant

Wyszogród Detachment

Battalion [possibly emergency battalion of Vilno Regiment]

Two companies of 18th Infantry Regiment

Company

Squadron

Battery field artillery [possibly of 7th Horse Artillery *Divizion*, 6 guns]

Płock Detachment Maj. Mościcki

4 separate battalions

6 separate companies

Train "Lis-Kula"

211th Volunteer Ulan Regiment

Tatar cavalry squadron

Dismounted cavalry squadron

3 field batteries

Włocławek Detachment

2 companies Wilno stage Battalion

Company of 22nd Volunteer *Divizion*

Independent company

4th Regiment (possibly the 212th Volunteer Ulan Regiment)

10th Regiment (possibly the 214th Volunteer Ulan Regiment)

Notes

This was attached to the 5th Army on 16 August.

histmag.org/Obrona-Plocka-1920-r.-w-cieniu-bitwy-warszawskiej-21131 gives for the Battle of Płock, the Poles having 2,998 soldiers and officers, 12 field guns and 22 HMGs. It lists the Polish troops as: a reserve battalion of the 6th Legion IR, six emergency companies (two from the 10th and 37th IRs and one from the 28th and 31st IRs), a squadron of the Tatar Cavalry Regiment and a battery of the 15th Heavy Artillery Regiment. They were reinforced by the 4th Horse Artillery Divizion with four 76 mm guns, the batteries of the 10th Heavy Artillery Regiment, the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Kovno IR, the 211st Volunteer Ulan Regiment, the 9th Telegraph Company and a platoon of field police. The combat value of the Polish forces was not high. The infantry were disorganised, the Tatars' tired, and the artillery had worn out equipment.



Habicht Group

Commander: Col. Habicht

3rd Border Rifle Regiment

3 squadrons

1 MG squadron

4th Battery, 16th Field Artillery Regiment

Assault Company

Notes

Wikipedia calls this group the "Działdowo group". At the beginning of August it numbered some 1,500 men

It gives the 3rd Border Horse Regiment as having two squadrons (ex 1st and 4th training) and a horse platoon and a combined MG squadrons, for 580 men and 16 HMGs. After the fighting in Mława, the regiment had 7 officers, 500 infantry and 116 lancers, with 10 operational HMGs.

There was also a platoon of the 5th Horse Rifle Regiment with one officer and 64 cavalymen which joined the group before Działdowo.

The assault force was 250 volunteers from Grudziądz prison, probably largely deserters rather than criminals.

There was a 4-company volunteer battalion of the 265 Infantry Regiment, originally 423 soldiers men, but by the time of battles for Działdowo it had only 9 officers and 225 privates

There was a company of the 10th Border Rifle Regiment with 2 officers and 72 men that arrived before Działdowo, and a MP platoon from 8th Gendarmerie Squadron in Grudziądz of 41 gendarmes.

The 16th Field Artillery Regiment battery had 6 guns.

The armored train "Wilk", with 3 armoured wagons, 1 field gun and 1 infantry gun operated with the group, but did not take part in the battles for Działdowo as the guns were damaged.

The group took massive losses, including many captured, and was reduced to 400-600 men by 15 August.

Aleksandrowicz Group

Col. Aleksandrowicz

2nd Battalion, 362nd Infantry Regiment

2nd and 3rd Battalions, 359th Infantry Regiment

Assault Company (80 bayonets)

Remnants of Major Krudowski's battalion (55 soldiers)

Miscellaneous Border Guard platoons (100 soldiers)

3rd Border Horse Regiment, 3 squadrons, 1 HMG squadron (270 soldiers, 2 HMGs)

215th Ulan Regiment, 4 squadrons, 1 HMG squadron (originally 330 men with horses, 550 on foot)

Horse platoon of the 5th Horse Rifle Regiment (18 soldiers)

Horse Squadron (50 men) and 1 HMG (15 soldiers)

2nd and 3rd Batteries, 214th Field Artillery Regiment

4th Battery, 16th Field Artillery Regiment

Armoured train "Wilk", 1 field gun, 1 infantry gun and assault company (80 men)

Improvised train "Wilczek" with 4 HMGs

Several planes (from a training school)

Hastily formed in Pomerania. It started with 2,500 men (80% untrained), 30 HMGs, 14 guns formed from untrained volunteers and what remained of the Habicht Group.

