

Small Polish-English dictionary of 17th century warfare
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Comments:

(S) – singular form,

(P) – plural form,

(F) – form used as description of type of formation, example:

dragon – dragoon (S)

dragoni - dragoons (P)

dragonia – dragoons (F)

[-]- English version unknown

First Polish version, including Polish letters (ą,ć,ż,ó,etc), if any of those letters is used then in brackets version without them as well, then English version and sometimes explanation of term

- amunicja – ammunition
- arkabuzer/arkebuzer – harquebusier (S)
- arkabuzeria/arkebuzeria - harquebusiers (F)
- arkabuzerzy/arkebuzerzy - harquebusiers (P)
- arkebuz – harquebus/arkebus
- autorament – section/contingent of Polish/Lithuanian army to show difference between:
 - ‘narodowy autorament’ – ‘national autorament’ (Polish/Lithuanian cavalry and infantry)
 - ‘cudzoziemski autorament’- ‘foreign autorament’ (Western style troops – infantry, dragoons, reiters)
- bandolet – used by cavalry – arkebus, light musket, dragon
- berdysz – berdish-axe
- bej - bey
- bitwa – battle
- bojar – boyar (S)
- bojarzy – boyars (P)
- buława (bulawa) - mace – symbol of Hetman’s rank
- buzdygan – mace – symbol of high officers rank
- brygada – bridage
- chan – khan
- Chanat Krymski – Crimean Khanate
- chorągiew (chorągiew) (see also rota)– banner:
 - 1. unit’s standard/flag
 - 2. basic unit of organization of P-L cavalry and infantry (except ‘foreign’ troops), usually between 50 and 200 horses (cavalry) and 100-300 portions (infantry)
- choraży (chorazy) – standard bearer
- czeladź (czeladz) – servants and camp followers

- dezercja – desertion
- dezerner – deserter
- dragon – dragoon (S)
- dragoni – dragoons (P)
- dragonia – dragoons (F)
- dywizja – division
- działa (działa)/armaty – cannons (F)
- działło (działło)/armata – cannon (S)
- forteca – fortress
- garnizon – garrison
- gwardia – guard (like in Royal Guard – so elite units and King's bodyguards)
- haiduk – haiduk (S) – Hungarian infantry
- hajducy – haiduks (P)
- halabarda – halberd
- hełm (helm) – helmet
- hetman – [-] highest commander of troops in Poland and Lithuania, there were two ranks:
 - Hetman Wielki – Grand Hetman
 - Hetman Polny – Field Hetman
 so there was separate pair for Poland and separate pair for Lithuania
- husaria - winged hussars (F) but I prefer to use husaria anyway ☺
- husarz – winged hussar (S)
- husarze – winged hussars (P)
- janczar – janissary (S)
- janczarzy/janczarowie – janissaries (P,F)
- jazda kozacka – cossack style cavalry (F) (Polish type) in first half of XVII century fighting as a light and medium cavalry – with bows, carbines, pistols, spears
- jazda tatarska – Tatar's cavalry
- jazda wołoska (wołoska) – Wallachian cavalry
- jazda/kawaleria – cavalry
- kałkan (kalkan) – [-] Eastern type round shield
- kampania – campaign
- kapitan – captain – only in Foreign troops
- kapitulacja – surrender
- karakol – caracole
- kirasjer – cuirassier (S)
- kirasjerzy – cuirassiers (P)
- kirys – cuirass
- kirysownicy (kirysownicy) – [-] name sometimes used to describe both cuirassiers (for example Swedish in first half of century) and better equipped husaria units (P, F)
- kirysownik (kirysownik) – [-] see above, (S)
- kolczuga – chainmail
- kompania – company
- koncerz- estoc/panzerstecher – additional weapon (long sword) used mainly by Husaria
- kornet – company (Foreign troops – cavalry and dragoons)

- komunik- [-] style of all-mounted army (for example Tatars, sometimes Poles or Lithuanians) marching fast without tabors and infantry
- komputowa armia – [-] Crown army since 1652. ‘Komput’ was size of standing army set by ‘Sejm’ (see) for each year
- kontrmarsz – countermarch
- koń (kon) – horse (S)
- konie – horses (P)
- kopia – lance (used as name for Husaria’s weapon)
- korpus – corps
- Kozacy (Zaporoscy, Dońcy) – Cossack (Zaporozhian, Don) – in Polish we make difference between them and Polish cavalry by writing ‘free men of Ukraine’ with capital letter
- kusza – crossbow
- kwarciane wojsko/armia – ‘Quarter troops/army’, standing army in Poland, in service between 1560s and 1652. It was maintained by a quarter (‘kwarta’) of revenues from king’s estates. Replaced by ‘komputowa armia’ (see)
- Litwa - Lithuania
- łuk (luk)- bow
- muszkiet – musket
- muszkieter – musketeer (S)
- muszkieterzy/muszkieterowie – musketeers (P)
- niemiecka/cudzoziemska piechota – German/Foreign infantry
- oberszter – literally ‘colonel’ – commander of Foreign regiment (infantry, dragoons, reiters)
- obersztlejtant – lieutenant colonel – second in command of Foreign regiment (infantry, dragoons, reiters), often he lead unit in battle when oberszter was only nominal
- obleżenie (oblezenie) – siege
- ordyńcy (ordyncy) – [-]
- pancerni – [-] medium Polish cavalry, name started to be used for cossack style cavalry since 1648 to make difference between them and Cossack’s rebels
- pałasz (palasz) – pallasch – additional hand weapon, popular amongst cavalry (especially Husaria)
- petyhorcy – [-] Lithuanian medium cavalry, used at the end of XVI century, beginning of XVII century, come back to Lithuanian forces after 1672
- piechota – infantry
- pika – pike (S)
- piki – pikes (P)
- pikinier – pikeman (S)
- pikinierzy – pikemen (P)
- pistolet – pistol (S)
- pistolety – pistols (P)
- poczet – retinue – basic subunit of cavalry banner, composed of one Companion and between one and five Retainers
- pocztowi – retainers (P)

- pocztowy – retainer (S)
- Polska (Korona) – Poland (Crown)
- polska piechota – Polish infantry
- porucznik – lieutenant – second officer in cavalry banner, often real commander when ‘rotmistrz’ was only nominal
- pospolite ruszenie – levy, in Poland and Lithuanian we used almost exclusively Noble Levy
- potyczka – skirmish (small size fight)
- porcje – portions (P), it was used to describe ‘paper strenght’ of Commonwealth’s infantry unit. See describe of unit’s system at the bottom
- porcja – portion (S)
- pułk (pulk) – literally ‘regiment’ but should be used as Polish version ‘pulk’ - ad hoc formation, composed from between 3 and 20+ ‘banners’. Main Polish tactical subunit that can fight as a independent force
- pułkownik (pulkownik) – literally ‘colonel’ - commander of cavalry ‘pulk’
- rajtar – reiter (S) raitar
- rajtaria - reiters (F) raitars
- rajtarzy - reiters (P) raitars
- regiment – regiment - only to describe ‘foreign’ troops (Reiters, Dragoons, Infantry)
- regimentarz – deputy hetman, commander of army when Hetman was not present
- rekrut – conscript
- rohatyna – [-] approx 2.5 m long spear used by Petyhorcy
- rota – in XVI and first half of XVII century basic unit of organization of P-L cavalry and infantry (except ‘foreign’ troops), usually between 50 and 200 horses (cavalry) and 100-300 portions (infantry)
- rotmistrz – commander – of cavalry and Hungarian/Polish/Lithuanian infantry banner, quite often only nominal and didn’t lead unit in battle
- rusznica – caliver
- Rzeczypospolita Obojga Narodow – Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- sejm – parliament
- sejmik – district parliament
- siodło (siodlo) – saddle (S)
- siodła (siodła) - saddles (P)
- skrzydła (skrzydła) – wings (P)
- skrzydło (skrzydło) – wing (S)
- skwadron- squadron, unit of two-four companies of reiters or dragoons
- straty – losses
- spisa – [-] 3-3.5 meters-long spear used by Cossacks (both foot and mounted)
- spiśnik (spisnik) – [-] name sometimes used to describe either pikeman or soldiers with spears (S)
- spiśnicy (spisnicy) – [-] as above, (P)
- sułtan (sultan) - sultan
- szabla – sabre
- szarża (szarza) – charge (of cavalry)

- szwadron – squadron
- Szwecja - Sweden
- tabor – tabor
- tarcza – shield
- towarzysz – companion (S), noble that make basic force of cavalry (usually 1/3 of banner force – see ‘poczet’)
- towarzysze – companions (P)
- węgierska (wegierska piechota) – Hungarian infantry, other name used for it was ‘haiduks’
- weteran – veteran
- wezyr - vizier
- włócznia (wlocznia) – spear
- wóz (woz) taborowy – tabor wagon
- wojna – war
- województwo (województwo) – district/palatinate, large territorial district of Poland and Lithuania
- wojewoda – voivode – governor of ‘województwo’
- wybraniecka piechota- literally ‘chosen’ but looking for quality it should be rather ‘drafted’ - peasants infantry, usually used as a pioneers, they lack training and good command
- wypiszczycy – [-] Zaporozhian Cossacks removed from Register (P)
- wypiszczyk – [-] see above (S)
- zasadzka - ambush
- zamek – castle
- zbroja/pancerz – armour
- żołd (zold) – soldier’s pay

System of cavalry and infantry units in Commonwealth:

Units (banners in cavalry, rota/company/regiment in infantry) was always known under name of its commander.

Strength of unit in sources is usually given in ‘paper strength’ – in ‘horses’ for cavalry and in ‘portions’ for infantry. Some part of such ‘paper strength’ were so called ‘ślepe porcje’ (literally ‘blind portions’) that were used to pay officers wages. In national cavalry it was between 10 and 15% of unit strength, in reitars up to 30 %, in Polish/Hungarian infantry between 3 and 5 %, in ‘Foreign’ infantry and dragoons usually between 10 and 15 %. So for example:

- banner of husaria with 200 horses had in fact between 170 and 180 men (of course that’s just ideal situation, without losses...)
- skwadron of reitars with 200 horses could be in fact only 140 men strong
- rota of haiduks with 100 portions would be 95-97 men
- regiment of dragoons with 400 portions would be between 340-360 men

Town's names in Livonia and Prussia (mostly places of battles and main towns...) – it could be useful when comparing Swedish and Polish relations from 1600-1660 period.

First Polish name as it was used in XVII century or current name, than German, Swedish, Latvian or Estonian name

I. Inflanty – Livonia, Livland; Kurlandia - Courland, Estonia - Estland

- Biały Kamień – Paide
- Dorpat – Tartu
- Dyneburg - Daugavpils
- Dynemunt (Dyjament) – Daugagriva
- Fellin (Felin) – Viljandi
- Fikelmojza – Vigala
- Kieś – Wenden, Cesis
- Kircholm- Salaspils
- Kokenhasuen (Konehazuen) – Koknese
- Kremon – Krimulda
- Lemsel – Limbazi
- Mitawa - Mitau
- Onikszta – Angkesiai
- Parnawa – Parnau, Parnu,
- Rakiszki – Rokiskis
- Rewel – Tallinn
- Ryga – Riga
- Trejden – Turaida
- Walmozja – Wallhof
- Wolmar – Valmiera
- Zygwolt – Sigulda

II. Prusy Książęce – Herzogtum Preussen (Ducal Prussia) and Prusy Królewskie (Königlich-Preußen)

- Braniewo – Braunsberg
- Brodnica – Strasburg
- Czarne – Hammerstein
- Dobre Miasto – Guttstadt
- Frombork – Frauenbrug
- Gdańsk – Danzig
- Głowa Gdańska – Danziger Höfft, know version is also Danziger-Haupt
- Gniew – Mewe
- Górzno – in English sometimes version ‘Gurzno’ can be find
- Grudziądz – Graudenz
- Kiezmark - Kasemark
- Malbork – Marienburg
- Orneta – Wormditt
- Ostróda – Osterode

- Puck – Putzig
- Starogard – Stargard
- Stary Targ – Altmark
- Sztum – Stuhm
- Tczew – Dirschau
- Torun – Thorn
- Trzciana – Honigfelde