

Thomas Årnfelt
Illustrations by Ulf Årnfelt

Army Lists for Gå På 2nd edition

Armies in the Age of Marlborough, Eugene, and Charles XII

Vol I

English version 1.0

Årnfelts förlag

2009

Also available from Årnfelts förlag

Gå På 2nd edition – Wargames rules for the age of Marlborough, Eugene and Charles XII. 2008

Previous publications

Gå På – Wargames rules for the age of Marlborough and Charles XII. 2005

Armies of the War of the Spanish Succession and the Great Northern War – Army lists for Gå På. 2005

Gå På – Règles de jeu d'histoire avec figurines pour la période de Marlborough et Charles XII. 2006

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info@arnfelts.com

www.arnfelts.com

Printed by Årnfelts förlag, Dublin

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INTRODUCTION

This book contains army lists for the armies involved in one or more of the major European conflicts of the early 18th century. The focus in this book lies on the Great Northern War, but several of the forces also fought in other wars, such as the War of the Spanish Succession and the Russo-Turkish War of 1711. The lists are designed for use with the Gå På 2nd edition wargames rules, which you need to have in order to use them fully.

The Great Northern War

The Great Northern War raged between 1700 and 1721. Sweden had become a major power during the 17th century at the expense of its Baltic neighbours, particularly Denmark and Russia. Poland and Germany had also seen more than their share of Swedish armies. In 1697 the Swedish king, Charles XI, died and was succeeded by the boy king Charles XII. Denmark saw this as an opportunity to regain lost territory and status. The Saxon Elector August was also king of Poland, and felt that he might gain more support and influence in Poland if he could reclaim Livonia for Poland. With the aid of a disaffected Livonian nobleman Denmark and Saxony formed an alliance which they invited Tsar Peter of Russia to join.

Hostilities broke out in 1700 when a Saxon army invaded Livonia and laid siege to Riga. Denmark used their dispute over border fortifications with the Swedish ally Holstein as an excuse to send an army there. Holstein's independence was guaranteed by a number of states. A combined Anglo-Dutch-Swedish fleet covered a Swedish landing outside Copenhagen, at Humlebaek, while an allied army opposed the Danes in Holstein. With their capital threatened and no army to protect it, Denmark agreed to leave the alliance with Saxony and to accept Holstein's independence once more. The Swedish King wanted more from the peace, but did not go against wishes of the maritime powers.

Only now did the Russian intentions become clear, as their army invaded Swedish Estonia and laid siege to the fortress of Narva. With Denmark out of the war Sweden's attention turned to Saxony. The army was sent to Livonia and in the face of this threat the Saxon army lifted their siege of Riga and withdrew to the other side of the Düna.

With Riga safe for the moment the Swedish King led his army towards the Russian army at Narva. After a forced march through a wintery Estonia the army approached the besieged fortress. Peter felt unsure of the quality of his army and did not want to risk being captured. He therefore decided to return to Moscow, leaving command to the Frenchman De Croy. The Swedes attacked in a blizzard, more or less immediately after arriving, catching the Russians by surprise. The battle of Narva was a massive Swedish victory where almost all Russians who were not killed in the action or drowned trying to get away were captured. The victors could not deal with so many prisoners, so most were sent home.

With Russia humiliated the Swedes turned south. The war dragged on, fought on several fronts over the next 20 years.

The War in Poland

After Swedish forces had entered Polish soil, the Commonwealth declared war on Sweden. It was a divided nation however and some nobles sided with the Swedes, hoping that they would gain more from a Swedish victory and a change of monarch. The Swedish goal was to replace August on the Polish throne with a pro-Swedish regent. This resulted in a long war of manoeuvre where the Swedes attempted to get a decisive victory over the Saxons; while both also tried to convince the locals that support for the other side was useless. The Swedes did this in a very brutal manner, and in return had to fight a savage war against the Polish peasants, as well as against August's armies. Against the latter they at least they won in the end. The Swedish problem was to bring the Saxon Elector to his knees without becoming involved in a war with the Holy Roman Empire as well, since imperial territory had to be crossed to reach Saxony. Because of this, after each defeat in the field (Düna, Kliszow, Pultusk to name a few), the Saxon army could reform safely inside Saxony. Meanwhile the Russians tried to distract the Swedes in north-eastern Poland as well, while making their main effort in the Baltic area.

In 1706, after the Swedish victory at Fraustadt, Charles decided the time was right to invade Saxony, marching through Austrian Silesia to do so. August abdicated his Polish crown to Stanislaw and pulled out of the coalition against Sweden, for the time being...

Sweden

Provincial Army – Finland 1700-1721

Invasion Value: 1

Tactical Aggression: 4

Maximum size: 50 steps

Regions:

	Basic	#	Compulsory	Additional features
Ingria, and southern Finland	Opn	4-8	Vil	Cst, Fld, Hls, Rvr, Str, Swp, Wds
Forest areas	Wds	5-8	Opn, BrG	Fld, Hls, Rvr, Str, Swp, Vil
Northern Finland	Opn	5-8	BrG, Hls	Riv, Str, Swp, Vil, Wds

Commanders

Name	Rank	Ld	In	Log	Abilities	Pts
1-24 1710-1712 : Carl Nieroth	MG 1700, LG 1704, G 1710	4	4 ⁻¹			38
25-31 before 1703 : Abraham Cronhjort	MG 1700	2	1 ⁺¹	-1		17
32-55 1704-1707 : Georg Johan Maidel	MG 1700, LG 1703, G 1706	4	3			35
56-63 1706-1712 : Georg Lybecker	MG 1706, LG 1710	2	1	-1	Cautious, Passive	10
64-71 From 1711 : Carl Gustaf Armfelt	MG 1711, LG 1713	4	4	1		38
72-79 From 1713 : Reinhold Johan De la Barre	MG 1713, LG 1717	3	4 ⁻¹			31
80-85 From 1713 : Otto Reinhold Yxkull	MG 1713	3	4 ⁻¹			31
86-92 From 1719 : Otto Johan Maidel	MG 1719	3	3			28
93-100 <i>Generic</i>	<i>Col</i>	3	3			28

Infantry (30 - 55%) 1-40

Unit		Max	Type	TQ	Stp	Size	FP	CC	Move	Range	Pts
Before 1710 : Finnish indelt infantry 1-6	a	2	AI ^P	Veteran	2	100p	3/2	5/4	150p	150p	18
Before 1710 : Finnish m�nning infantry 7-37	b		AI ^P	Trained							
600 man unit 1-50	b1				2	150p	4/3	8/6	150p	150p	15
400 man unit 51-100	b2				2	100p	3/2	5/4	150p	150p	13
Estonian and Ingrian regiments 38-42	c	1/6b	AI ^P	Trained	2	100p	3/2	5/4	150p	150p	13
1707-1708 : Saxon battalions 43-54	d	1/2a,b	LI	Rabble	2	125p	5/4	5/4	150p	150p	8
From 1710 : Re-raised indelta regiments 55-77	e		AI ^P	Green	2	100p	3/2	5/4	150p	150p	9
From 1710 : Finnish militia levy 78-82	f	1/4e	Levy I	Green	2	125p	2/2	5/4	100p	150p	7
From 1710 : Sharpshooters / Foot dragoons 83-85	g	1/2f	SI	Trained							
150 man unit 1-50	g1				1	100p	2	1	[200p]	200p	6
75 man unit 51-100	g2				1	50p	1	1	[200p]	200p	5
In 1718 : Swedish indelt or m�nning infantry 86-100	h	5	AI ^P	Trained	2	150p	4/3	8/6	150p	150p	15
Infantry options											
Re-raised regiments, all musket		<i>Any e</i>	LI	Green	2	100p	4/3	4/3	150p	150p	8

Cavalry (30 - 60%) 41-86

Unit		Max	Type	TQ	Stp	Size	FP	CC	Move	Range	Pts
<i>Before 1710: Finnish manning cavalry</i> 1-38	i		SH	Trained	1	2*50p	1	5	250p	50p	13
<i>Before 1711: Drottningens Livregemente till häst</i> 39-49	j	3	SH	Trained	1	2*50p	1	5	250p	50p	13
<i>From 1710: Re-raised indelta regiments</i> 50-90	k		SH	Green	1	2*50p	1	5	250p	50p	7
Dragoons 91-95	l	1/5h,j	SH ^D	Trained							
<i>4 squadron unit</i> 1-50	l1				2	4*50p	4/3	8/5	250p	100p	19
<i>2 squadron unit</i> 51-100	l2				1	2*50p	2	4	250p	100p	14
<i>In 1718: Jämtlands kavallerikompani</i> 96-100	m		SH	Trained	1	1*50p	1	3	250p	50p	12

Cavalry options

Dismounted dragoons			LTI	Green							
<i>4 squadron unit</i>	l1				2	100/200p	4/3	2/1	150p	150p	-
<i>2 squadron unit</i>	l2				1	50/100p	2	1	150p	150p	-

Artillery (5 - 35%) 87-100

Unit		Max	Type	TQ	Stp	Size	FP	CC	Move	Range	Pts
3-pound guns 1-44	n	1/3a-e,h	VLA	Trained	1	25-50p	5/1	1	100/200p	300/500p	13
6-pounders 45-63	o	1/6a-e,h	LA	Trained	1	50p	6/2	1	50/200p	300/900p	14
12-pounders 64-68	p	1/12a-e,h	MA	Trained	1	50p	6/3	1	- /200p	300/1200p	17
16-pounders 69-87	q	1/8a-e,h	HA	Trained	1	50-75p	6/4	1	- /200p	300/1200p	20
Heavy mortars and howitzers 88-100	r	1/8a-e,h	HA ^m	Trained	1	50-75p	-/4	1	- /200p	300/1200p	17

Allies

None

May Cooperate with

None

May Combine with

None

Special Rules

All SH in this list charge at the gallop.

A flying corps can be created from the cavalry section using the normal rules.

Notes

This list represents the armies that operated in Finland and Ingria during the Great Northern War. Almost all of the first line units had been transferred to the Royal army, or to the Baltic armies, so the army was mostly made up of reserve units. This didn't stop the Swedish high command ordering it to take offensive action on several occasions. However, as the readiness of the army was relatively low, reinforcement requests were more often than not ignored, these rarely succeeded. In particular, Lybecker's attack on St. Petersburg in 1708 turned into a disaster. The army failed in its attempt, and then - harassed by the vastly numerically superior Russians - retreated into Estonia, from where it had to evacuate over the sea back to Finland. During the evacuation the army had to leave all the horses behind, killing these so that the Russians wouldn't be able to use them, and the rearguard made up of Saxon POW regiments were totally annihilated by the Russian units.

When the Russians launched their major offensives at Finland, the army desperately tried to hold them off, but it was heavily defeated at Pälkäne in 1713, and then again at Storkyro the following year, despite fighting with valour. The army then retreated into northern Sweden, and defended the Swedish borders.

In 1718 the army formed the base for the force that was to assault Trondheim. An attack that was abandoned when the news of the king's death reached them, resulting in a retreat across the mountains in the dead of winter. This death march by "Armfelt's karoliner" has over time become a legend in itself, being probably as well known by the Swedish public today as the victory at Narva and the defeat at Poltava.

Sweden

Battles & Campaigns

Systerbäck 1703, Campaign in Ingria/Estonia in 1708, Pälkäne 1713, Storkyro 1714, Trondheim campaign 1718.

Unit guide

- a) Only a single regular infantry regiment remained with the army in Finland, or rather returned in 1703. This was the Tavastehus regiment. When they returned they wore blue coats with yellow facing, and a blue karpus hat. The regiment was rather small, thus no option for the "standard" 600 man battalions.
- b) The *männing* units were the second line reserve units of the regular national units, raised by combining the recruitment areas yet again. All were single battalion regiments. These include, e.g. Åbo läns fördubblingsbattaljon, Björneborgs fördubblingsbattaljon, Tavastehus fördubblingsbataljon, and Nylands fördubblingsbattaljon. Most of these would be wearing grey uniforms. The first line reserve, *tremänning*, regiments went to the Baltic provinces never to return.
- c) These are enlisted (*värvade*) regiments that were incorporated into the army that defended Finland. These are Wellingks/Hastfehns Ingermanländska infanteriregemente, and one battalion of de la Gardies Estländska infanteriregemente.
- d) These units were raised in 1707 from Saxon prisoners of war. They were relatively well dressed in new blue uniforms (to encourage them) - but they were unused to the poor food, and their living conditions were miserable. Regiments/battalions include: Sachsiska infanteriregementet, Boijes Sachsiska infanteribataljon, and Seulenburgs Sachsiska infanteribataljon. All of these were lost during the Ingrian and Estonian campaign in 1708, when they formed the rearguard that got cut down by the Russians.
- e) More or less all of the old national regiments were re-raised in 1710, using the remnants of the reserve regiments as a base, together with major recruitments.
- Option:* Some regiments most likely did not get pikes when re-raised.
- f) At the battle of Storkyro (1714) Finnish militia was called into action. These would be armed with a variety of weapons, at least some with firearms.
- g) The better of the Finnish peasant militia, led by army officers, using guerrilla tactics.
- h) The Swedish foot regiments included for the Trondheim campaign. These are the Jämtland (unmounted) dragoon regiment, the re-raised Hälsinge regiment and the Hälsinge *tremänningsbataljon*.
- i) The reserve units, recruited from the same areas as the regular national units. Including units such as Åbo läns fördubblingsregemente, Nylands fördubblingsregemente, and Karelska fördubblingsregementet. They formed the base for the re-raised cavalry units in 1710.
- j) This regiment, also known as Estländska kavalleriregementet was an Estonia based enlisted (*värvat*) regiment. It took part in Lybecker's 1708-09 campaign in Ingria and Estonia.
- k) In 1710 a new army was created in Finland. More or less all of the old regiments were raised again. However, men were in short supply, as was horses and equipment.
- l) This is the Ingermanländska dragonregimentet.
- m) The Jämtland kavallerikompani (and its mother regiment above) had both spent the war guarding the Norwegian border, but participated in the Trondheim campaign.
- n) The "regimental" guns of the Swedish/Finnish army. Gunners mostly likely dressed as in the Swedish artillery regiment, i.e. grey coat faced blue.
- o-r) Uniforms as above.



Åbo läns fördubblingsbattaljon
1702 (b)



de la Gardies Estländska
infanteriregemente 1707 (c)



Viborgs kavalleriregemente
1715 (k)