

ODESSA MARCH 1919: MAPS AND NOTES

Mark Plant

The *Les Armées alliées en Orient après l'armistice de 1918*,... is very thorough with respect to the coming and goings of the units but lacking almost completely in decent maps. I have thus prepared my own maps to show the basic outline of the deployments planned.

A severe difficulty was lack of access to small scale maps from the period. Since then the Ukraine has seen famines and repressions severe enough to wipe out small villages, collectivisation which transplanted entire communities, plus name changes away from Tsarist and German colonist forms to Soviet ones – and sometimes back again. Recently, spellings have been altered to reflect Ukrainian orthography. I was thus unable to find some of the smaller villages, and some attributions are only provisional.

My main source was the map published by J. L. E. Bujac in his *Les campagnes de l'armée hellénique 1918-1922*. This is unfortunately an incomplete, and inaccurate, sketch map. This was added to with a couple of Ukrainian maps from various periods and compared to the Microsoft Encarta Atlas, which sometimes gives former names.

“French” name	Encarta name
Andriewka	Andreyevka but see later notes
Bender	Tighina
Bielajewska	Belyayevka
Bol Buylik	Blagoyevo NB there are other two other
Cerbka	Serbka Blagoyevo's nearby
Dalnik	Velikiy Dal'nik NB not the plain Dal'nik slightly south
Fort Kimburn	– off map, across the Dniepr mouth,
Fort National	– off map, an island in Dniepr mouth
Gradenfeld	Neykovo actually Gnadenfeld
Kapri	– modern Kapri
Koblievo-Troitkoie	Koblevo
Krasnia	Krasnoye off map, to east
Kremidovska	– perhaps Volkovskoye
Marewska	– region of modern Kotovskogo
Lubianka	Lubyanka off map, to east
Otchakov	Ochakiv off map, to east, along coast
Peressip –	now Peres'ip, a suburb of Odessa
Pocrovskoie	Petrivka was also known as Ismailo
Poniatowka	Ponyatovka
Popovca –	I can't read my map! modern K????ovka
Razdelnaia	Rozdil'na
Strasburg	Kuchurgan actually Strassburg
Tartarka	Prilimanskoye
Tchernogorka	Chernogorka
Ustowa	Usatovo

Chimiotowka (Chervonoznamenka seems likely), Cozlo, Gevanova, Krasnogorka, Liebenthal (the one in the Berezovka region), Novodlagodatnaya and Savnia (Sychavka?) are all unlocated

The Limans are called the Kuyal'nitskiy, Tilgul'skiy and Khadzibeiskiy.

The attribution of Andriewka is speculative, since it is not where Bujac locates it on his map (near Cerpka). However, this location does not fit the criteria properly, since it must be on a road, should be a decent size town and should be in the line of Gadjibielsky Liman. Nor does it make sense militarily to make the division of sectors along the line of expected attack, being the rail line from Berezovka! I suspect that the Andriewka that formed the dividing line is modern Andreyevka, and is different from the village that was the centre of much fighting.

Notes on the Orbat

The Orbat published is a direct translation, but there appear to be several errors in it:

The battalion of machine-guns noted in the cavalry of the eastern sector is almost certainly the platoon that appears in the intermediate line (the “Bton” should be “Pton”). Since there were armoured cars in the sector a few days later, I strongly suspect that they are “auto-mitrailleuses” rather than plain “mitrailleuses”, and quite probably were attached to the Chasseurs.

The half-company of engineers in the eastern sector would appear to be French (the 5/15th), not Greek. The other half-company is missing from the Orbat: it was in Odessa, probably.

The 1st Regiment de Marche Africain is missing from the Orbat. It had just fled from the battle of Berezovka, and was in no state to fight, so may be omitted for this reason.

The remainder of the Poles in Odessa appears to be: 3 companies, Engineers, Aviation and 15 guns. The remainder of the VA in Odessa is the HQ, Aviation and Engineers, and perhaps a couple of squadrons that fled at Berezovka.

The Greek regiments listed are somewhat odd. Where a “regiment” appears in Odessa and the inner line of the western sector, this represents either three battalions from different regiments, or only two battalions of a regiment. The battalion detached from the inner line of the eastern sector appears to have been in addition to the two in that line, rather than one of them, and was quite possibly in support of Koblievo at Gregorieva. Information is conflicting on whether the Evzones had two or three battalions: if, as likely, they had three then another Greek battalion would appear to be in the intermediate line of the eastern Sector.

The artillery is even worse. A group of the French 156th ID (the 242nd Field Regiment) appears to be missing completely. Perhaps it is the group listed in the western sector as belonging to the Greek 13th ID, which appears to be superfluous, since their artillery never arrived. I am not sure where it should go, nor the Divisional Artillery of the 30th ID listed for the western sector (although one battery was probably in Razdelnaia). Many of the batteries may not have existed on paper in any event: the French infantry were at less than a third strength, so the artillery was likely as badly affected.

I would love to have any additions or corrections, especially those based on contemporary Russian maps or documents. I am also looking for White Russian or Polish accounts of the Intervention at Odessa. Please send them to me at: mark-and-alison@wanadoo.fr.

Eastern Sector late March 1919



