

**French Infantry Company,  
Battalion and Regiment  
Table of Organization  
1914**

Establishments

Higher (Peace)	Lower (Peace)	
1	1	Captain (mounted)
2	2	Subalterns
1	1	Adjutant
1	1	Sergeant-major
1	1	Quartermaster-Sergeant
11	9	Sergeants
12	9	Corporals
2	2	Drummers
172	117	Privates
<u>Totals</u>		
3	3	Officers
200	117	Enlisted

Chasseur à pied Company

3 Officers  
11 Sergeants  
12 Corporals  
4 Buglers  
170 Privates

Zouave Company

3 Officers  
11 Sergeants  
12 Corporals  
4 Buglers  
170 Privates

Native Infantry Company:

White Troops

1 Captain  
2 Subalterns  
1 Adjutant  
1 Company Sergeant Major  
1 Quartermaster Sergeant  
6 Sergeants  
1 Quartermaster Corporal

Native Troops:

1 Subaltern or Adjutant  
4 Sergeants  
12 Corporals  
2 Buglers  
150-170 Private

Native Tirailleur Companies

175 privates

Foreign Legion:

At war strength

A French infantry company is divided (in peace time) into two pelotons, each with two sections, each of 2 "escouades" (squads).

The peloton (1/2 company) is not a tactical unit, but an administrative unit. No commander is permanently allotted to it.

In peace one subaltern is placed in administrative charge of each peloton and directly commands one section when in the field. The other sections are commanded by attached reserve officers, when present, the adjutant, and the sergeant major (who commands the 2nd Section).

In companies with the higher peace establishment have 12 squads. When the number of squads is eight, they are numbered from 1 to 15 within the company, even if numbers are omitted.

In peace time corporals command squads and sergeants replace section commanders.

War Establishment of a French Infantry Company

- 1 Captain
- 3 Subalterns
- 11 NCOs
- 17 Corporals
- 222 Privates (including a Cyclist)
- 3 2-Horse Wagons (1 for baggage & supplies;  
1 for ammunition; & 1 field kitchen)

Battalion & Staff, Metropolitan Line Regiment:

- 1 Chef de bataillon (major)
- 1 Capitaine Adjudant Major (battalion adjutant)
- 4 Companies (see above)

Chasseur à pied Battalion (in peace)

- 1 Chef de bataillon (Lt. Colonel or Major)
- 1 Capitaine Adjudant Major (Adjutant)
- 1 Capitaine Major (in charge of administration)
- 1 Subaltern (paymaster)
- 1 Subaltern (in charge of material)
- 1 Subaltern (in charge of mobilization & acts as  
battalion supply officer)
- 3 Captains (Complimentary Cadre)
- 6 Companies & a section "hors-rang" (outside the line)

Hors-rang troops:

- 2 Adjudants chefs
- 1 Adjudant
- 1 Chief Armorer
- 1 Fencing Instructor
- 1 Adjudant chef of the battalion
- 1 Sergeant Bugler (sergeant major or adjutant)

6 Quartermaster Sergeant, Orderly Room Sergeant  
Paymaster Clerk, etc (sergeants)  
8 Corporals  
26 Privates

Total: in peace 1,253, excluding the cyclist group.

In War a Chasseur à pied Battalion the following occur:

Capitaine major, paymaster & officer in charge of material remain in the depot.  
Capitaine adjudant major goes to a reserve formation, as do the captains of the complimentary cadre.

A lieutenant adjoint takes command of the administration and another subaltern commands the details not with companies.

The "hors-rang" section rises to 50 in wartime, including NCOs and privates to act as shoeing smiths, clerks, harness makers, cooks, drivers and mounted scouts (the last named having 2 NCOs and 3 men).

In wartime the 6-company chasseur battalion, with two machine gun sections, is approximately 32 officers and 1,626 other ranks (total 1,648 men), 19 saddle horses, 67 draft animals, 47 pack animals and 32 vehicles.

The last named consist of 1 1-horse medical cart, 29 two-horse vehicles and 2 four-horse wagons. Company vehicles are included as in the infantry company. Battalion vehicles include:

2 Supply & Baggage Wagons (headquarters)  
6 Supply Wagons (1 per company)  
1 Medical Cart  
1 Tool Wagon  
1 Meat Wagon  
1 Field Kitchen  
2 Machine-Gun Ammunition Wagons (4- horse)

#### Cyclist Groups:

The cyclists groups were detached from the 10 Chasseurs à pied battalions. They are an integral part of the cavalry divisions, but for administrative purposes and training facilities, they are attached to the chasseurs or infantry regiments who garrison with them.

The group is directly under the command of the regimental or battalion commander of the *corps de rattachement* for command and discipline, and questions on these subjects are sent through the cavalry division commander via the brigade commander.

A cyclist group probably consisted of 320 men in war time of all ranks, divided into three pelotons. Their ranks are those of the chasseurs.

#### Colonial Infantry:

Colonial infantry battalions range from 500 to 600 strong, varying on the colony from which they come. Those in metropolitan France have generally been under strength because of detachments sent to Morocco.

#### The Regiment:

The French metropolitan infantry regiments consist of three battalions each, except the 157th, 158th, 159th, 164th, 165th, 166th, 170th and 173rd Infantry Regiments. These eight regiments each have four battalions. In addition, every infantry regiment

has a company *hors-rang*, except those in the colonial army. The peacetime structure of a regimental headquarters is as follows:

État Major (general staff)

- 1 Colonel (Commanding Officer)
- 1 Lt. Colonel (Executive Officer)
- 1 Major (a field officer in charge of administration)
- 1 Captain (regimental adjutant)
- 1 Captain (paymaster)
- 1 Captain (in charge of material)
- 1 Subaltern (assistant material officer)
- 1 Subaltern (assistant paymaster)

Cadre Complémentaire

- 1 Lt. Colonel
- 2 Majors
- 6 Captains

In Zouave and Native Tirailleur Regiments the "Cadre complémentaire" consists of:

- 3 Adjudants-chefs
- 3 Adjudants
- 1 Adjudant-chef (in charge of quarters)
- 1 Adjudant (chief armorer)
- 1 NCO (fencing master)
- 1 Band Sergeant
- 1 Sergeant-Major (vaguemestre) (baggage master)
- 1 Drum Major
- 15 Sergeants, corporals, clerks, pioneers, armorers, drummers, band, etc.
- 41 Privates (clerks, cyclists, in workshops, etc.)

IR with 3 or 4 Bns of 4 cos		IR with 5 or more Bns of 4 cos		
<u>Men</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Horses</u>	
1	2	1	-	Colonel
1	2	1	2	Lt. Colonel
1	1	1	1	Major
1	1	1	1	Captain (Asst to colonel)
1	-	1	-	Captain (paymaster)
1	-	1	-	Captain (material officer)
1	-	1	-	Lieutenant (asst paymaster)
1	-	1	-	Lieutenant (asst material officer)
(a)	-	(a)	1	Doctors
(a)	-	(a)	1	Bandmaster
<u>Cadre complémentaire:</u>				
1	2	1	2	Lt. Colonel
2	2	2	2	Chefs de bataillon
6	6	6	6	Captains
<u>Battalion HQ:</u>				
1	1	1	1	Chef de bataillon
1	1	1	1	Captain (adjudant-major)
<u>Company:</u>				
1	1	1	1	Captain

2	-	2	-	Lieutenants or sous-lieutenants
<u>Company hors rang</u>				
Cadre complémentaire de sous-officiers				
3	-	3	-	Adjudant-chefs
3	-	3	-	Adjudant
3(b)	-	(b)	-	Adjudant-de chefs de bataillon
1	-	1	-	Adjudant-chef (in charge of barracks)
1	-	1	-	Adjudant-chef (asst. to mat'l capt)
1	-	1	-	Adjudant (chief armorer)
1	-	1	-	Fencing Master (adjudant or sergeant)
(a)	-	(a)	-	Asst Bandmaster
1	-	1	-	Sergeant-Major Baggage-master
1(c)	-	1(c)	-	Drum Major
1	-	1	-	Sergeant-Major
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (clerk to Colonel)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (clerk to Major)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (clerk to paymaster)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (clerk to (material capt)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (clerk to ordnance commission)
1	-	-	-	Sergeant (storekeeper)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (transport)
1	-	1	-	Sergeant (infirmary)
(a)	-	(a)	-	Sergeant (band)
1	-	1	-	Corporal (clerk to paymaster)
1	-	1	-	Corporal (clerk to material capt)
1	-	1	-	Corporal (pioneer)
1(d)	-	1(d)	-	Corporal (armorer)
1	-	1	-	Corporal (gymnastic)
3(a)	-	(b)	-	Corporal (buglers & drummers)
1	-	1	-	Corporal (band)
1(e)	-	1(e)	-	Corporal (Master tailor)
1(e)	-	1(e)	-	Corporal (Master shoemaker)
2(f)	-	2(f)	-	Privates (clerk to colonel)
2	-	2	-	Privates (clerk to major)
1	-	1	-	Privates (clerk to paymaster)
2	-	2	-	Privates (clerk to mat'l capt)
(a)	-	(a)	-	Privates (cyclists)
4(b)	-	4(b)	-	Privates (storemen)
12(c)	-	12(c)	-	Privates (pioneers)
6(d)	-	6(d)	-	Privates (armorers)
6(c)	-	6(c)	-	Privates (tailors)
6(c)	-	6(c)	-	Privates (shoemakers)
(e)	-	6(e)	-	Privates (infirmary)
(f)	-	(f)	-	Privates (band)
-	-	(g)	-	Privates (1 driver per 1-horse cart or pack horse)
<u>Company</u>				
1	-	1	-	Adjudant
1	-	1	-	Sergeant-major
1(h)	-	1(h)	-	Sergeant-Fourrier
9(i)	-	9(i)	-	Sergeants
9(j)	-	10(m)	-	Corporals
2	-	2	-	Buglers or drummers
117(k)	-	136(n)	-	Privates

Totals

59	34	73	40	Officers, not including doctors
168	-	217	-	Non-commissioned officers
118	-	171	-	Corporals
1469	-	2261	-	Privates
1814	34	2722	-	Regimental Total

(a) Number varies according to local requirements, but does not exceed 4 for a 3-battalion and can be augmented by 1 for every battalion in excess of 3.

(b) In principal belongs to the auxiliary service.

(c) distributed as required when regiment is broken-up in detachments.

(d) 3 from auxiliary service.

(e) 1 combatant and 1 from auxiliary service per battalion; one of the combatants may be a corporal.

(f) Not fixed as of outbreak of war.

(g) 4 horses or mule per machine gun section.

(h) In special cases may be a corporal.

(i) 11 in companies on the higher establishment

(j) 12 in companies on the higher establishment.

(k) 172 in companies on the higher establishment.

(l) 7 if unit stationed in France.

(m) 8 if unit stationed in France.

(n) 98 if unit stationed in France.

## War

Establishment

in Infantry

Regiment

Men Horses

Regimental HQ

1	2	Colonel
1	1	Capitaine adjoint
1	1	Lieutenant de détails
1	1	Lieutenant (supply officer)
1	-	Subaltern for colors
1	2	Surgeon
1	-	Bandmaster

Compagnie hors rang

1	-	Adjutant (asst to supply officer)
1	-	Chief armorer
1	-	Sergeant-major (train)
2	-	Sergeants (train)
1	-	Sergeant-butcher
3	-	Sergeant (postal service)
1	-	Sergeant-major (artificier)
1	-	Sergeant (clerk to lt. de détails)
1	-	Sergeant Fourrier
1	-	Sergeant Major
1	-	Corporal (shoeing smith)
1	-	Corporal (clerk to Lt. de détails)
1	-	Corporal (clerk to colonel)

1	-	Privates (clerk to capitaine adjoint)
1	-	Privates (clerk to supply officer)
1	-	Privates (3rd clerk to lt. de détails)
3	-	Privates (butchers)
1	-	Privates (cooper)
2	-	Privates (asst shoeing smiths)
3	-	Privates (armorers)
8	-	Privates (cooks)
7	-	Privates (orderlies)
21	-	Privates (transport drivers)
4	-	Privates (cyclists)
2	2	NCO (Mounted scout)
2	2	Corporal (Mounted scout)
8	8	Privates (Mounted scout)
1	-	NCO (?) (Assistant band leader)
1	-	Privates (Drum-major)
38	-	Privates (bandsmen)
1	-	Corporal (pioneer corporal)
12	-	Privates (pioneers)
total		
133		men
13		saddle horses
44		draft horses
19		2 horse wagons

Battalion Headquarters:

1	2	Major
1	1	Lieutenant-adjoint
1	1	Medical Officer
1	-	Adjutant
1	-	Assistant Surgeon
1	-	Transport Sergeant
1	-	Sergeant artificier
2	-	Corporals (bugler & infirmier)
3	-	Orderlies
1	-	Drivers
	1	1-horse wagon (medical cart)
	1	2-horse wagon (special meat wagon, 1 per bn)
total		
	9	officers
	30	men
	12	saddle horses
	9	draft horses
	3	1-horse wagons
	3	2-horse wagons

Company:

1	1	Captain
1	-	Lieutenant or Sous-lieutenant
1	-	Adjutant
1	-	Sergeant-major
1	-	Quartermaster Sergeant
8	-	Sergeants
1	-	Caporal fourrier
16	-	Corporals
4	-	Drummers & buglers

1	-	Hospital Orderlies
4	-	Stretcher Bearer
210	-	Privates
3	-	Drivers
1	-	Cyclist
	3	2-horse wagons
Total		
	48	Officers
	3012	Men
	12	Saddle Horses
	72	Draft Horses
	36	2-horse vehicles

Machine Gun Section:

1	-	Lieutenant
1	-	NCO
4	-	Corporals
24	-	Privates
	1	4-horse wagon
	18	Pack horses

Total:

	2	Officers
	58	men
	18	4 draft horses
	1	4-horse wagon

The two Foreign Legion Regiments have a special organization since they have no linked reserve and they do not have a *cadre complémentaire*. However, they have a strong supplementary cadre of officers to provide for officer casualties. In addition to the infantry battalions, the legion includes a variable number of machine gun sections and mounted infantry companies, each with 259 men. In addition, each regiment has two depot companies and an additional company ("hors-rang").

Summary

The peacetime strength of a three battalion, metropolitan line regiment is 1,851 men of all ranks in the interior and 2,571 the case of *troupes de couverture*.

The *compagnie hors rang* in war includes 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, and 8 privates, plus mounted regimental scouts.

Regimental transport

3	1-horse vehicles (battalion medical carts)
19	HQ vehicles (1 baggage & supplies, 13 supply, 2 tool, 1 forge, & 1 field kitchen)
1	4-horse (machine gun ammunition) wagon

Total: 44 riding horses, 127 draft horses, 18 pack horses, 61 vehicles.

Peacetime Establishment of a Colonial Regiment:

9th &	11th	
10th Rgts	Regt	
1	1	Colonel

1	1	Lt. Colonel
4	5	Majors
3	4	Medical Officers
3	4	Officers for pay & material
3	4	NCOs for band and buglers
19	19	Bandsmen
13	17	Pioneers
2	2	Armorer-Sergeant & Lance-Corporal
1	1	Adjutant baggage-master
10	13	NCO clerks & storekeeper
2	2	Quartermaster-sergeant & corporal
4	5	Hospital Orderlies
5	5	Armorers
14	18	Tailors and shoemakers
3	4	Drivers
3	-	Reserve of men to form a nucleus of train.

Approximate strength 1,300 of all ranks and 135 horses and mules.

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