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# *THE PLACE OF HUSSARS WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF THE LITHUANIAN ARMY in 1600–1635*

## *Abstract*

The article is devoted to the number of hussars within the army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1600–1635, it is based mainly on military and treasury source material. After its thorough analysis, the author argues that only once in the discussed period – during the Khotyn and Livonia campaigns in 1621 – the number of 2,000 horses was exceeded in the Lithuanian army, reaching its largest number of around 3508 pays. In a few cases, it was possible to gather slightly more than or about 1,500 horses in a camp. Sources most often mention the number of 800–1250 horses, which would suggest that the Grand Duchy was able to raise about 800 to 1500 hussars in the period in question. Winged horsemen constituted from about 50 per cent (1600–1601) to 15 per cent of the total Lithuanian forces, forming, however, the core of the cavalry forces. Usually, the ratio of hussars to other cavalrymen ranged from one in three to one in two soldiers. It is therefore justified to state that the place of the hussars within the entire Lithuanian Army evidently changed. While their number stayed mainly the same, their share in the structure of the forces gradually decreased, especially during operations in Livonia in 1621–1629 and at the beginning of King Władysław IV's rule, while the importance of this formation within the Lithuanian cavalry remained basically unchanged.