

Cossack patrol

Diagram of a hand on a guitar neck showing the fretting for the first line of music. The notes are e, e, e, H, H.

e e e H H

Po - lyu - shko, po - lye,

Diagram of a hand on a guitar neck showing the fretting for the second line of music. The notes are e, H, e, H, e, H, H.

e H e H e H H

po - lyu - shko shi - ro - ko, po - lye,

Diagram of a hand on a guitar neck showing the fretting for the third line of music. The notes are C, G, D, G, D, G, C, H, H, H.

C G D G D G C H H H

ye - dut, ey, po po - lyu gye - ro - yi,

Diagram of a hand on a guitar neck showing the fretting for the fourth line of music. The notes are C, C, G, D7, G, D, G, C, H, H.

C C G D⁷ G D G C H H

ey, da ru - skoi ar - mi - yi gye - ro - yi.

Polyushko, polye,
polyushko shiroko, polye ...
 Yedut, ey, po polyu gyeroyi,
 ey, da ruskoi armiyi gyeroyi.

Dyevushki platshut,
 dyevushkam sivodnya grustno:
 Milý da v armiyu uyekhal,
 ey, da milý v armiyu uyekhal.

Dyevushki, gliantye,
 dyevushki, utritye slyozý!
 Pust' po silnyeye grianyem pyesnyu,
 ey, da nasha pyesnya boyevaya.

Tol'ko my vidyim,
 vidyim my syeduyu tutshu:
 Vrazhya da sila iz za lyesa,
 ey, da vrazhya sila slovno tutsha.

Field, my field
 my wide field ...
 There the heroes ride, hey, over the field,
 hey, the heroes of the Russian army.

The girls are crying,
 the girls are sorrowful today:
 Their darling went away to the army,
 hey, their darling went away to the army.

You girls, look here,
 girls, wipe off your tears!
 The louder let us sing our song,
 hey, our pugnacious song.

We only see
 a grey cloud:
 The army of the enemy behind the forest
 hey, the enemy's army like a cloud.

Words and music from the Russian civil war, 1918-1922

Pronunciation:

a as in "bar", *e* as in "bed", *i* as in "bid", *o* as in "bore", *u* as in "blue"

y = as in "yellow" / *ý* = dull *i*, as in "bill"

s = always voiceless, as in "son" / *z* = voiced, as in "zone"

sh = voiceless, as in "mesh" / *zh* = voiced, like the *s* in "measure"

kh = mostly rough, like the *ch* in Scotch "loch", but smooth when "e" or "i" follows

a, e, i, o, u, y = the underlined vowel signifies the stressed syllable of a word.

Arrangement for balalaika, musical notation, transcription and analogous translation: Kai Kracht

Comment:

Like the well-known song of the "Amur partisans", also this is a song of the Russian civil war. Apparently it was sung by the "white" army first but soon by the "reds" also – the thrilling song had jumped over the front, and so both sides sang of the vague hope to see nothing but a grey dust cloud of the enemy who made off behind the forest.

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