

*Khapers* (literally grabbers) were, “Jews who caught their brethren of any age and of any status and handed them to conscription centers.... Jews who were 18 years of age and older were distributed to navy and army regiments, while children were sent to some 25 cantonist battalions (schools).... For all cantonists, the 25-year term of service began after the soldiers reached age 18 and were distributed into the army.”

—YIVO Encyclopedia