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THE FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD

1. THE FOOT SOLDIERS, 1804-1815



OFFICERS and SOLDIERS of

**THE FRENCH
IMPERIAL GUARD
1804-1815**

Volume I
The Foot Soldiers

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HISTOIRE & COLLECTIONS

The CORPS of GRENADIERS

This little book is not going to tell you the story of this legendary unit, neither does it claim to give details of every item of uniform and equipment. All it wants to do is give the reader a clear, logical and pictorial summary of what the French Imperial Guard was.

It is a nice practical tool for figurinists, an amateur's Imperial history vade-mecum, to be carried around every- and anywhere. It is not intended to compete with the specialists who are to be consulted for further study. They are to be thanked and tribute must be paid to them for allowing us to know and love those heroic times.

So, make way for the Immortals, the Emperor's old Grenadiers!

The Corps of Grenadiers was made up first of the different groups of Foot Grenadiers, Fusilier-Grenadiers seconded to the Corps, the Conscript-Grenadiers, the Tirailleurs and the Flanker-Grenadiers of the Middle and the Young Guard, to which must be added the Company of Veterans.

The Foot Grenadiers

Although the Consular Guard had been in existence since February 1799, the decree organising this elite unit was actually dated 3rd January 1800 (13 Nivôse Year VIII). The Foot Grenadiers Corps was made up at first of two six-company battalions with a total of 1 264 men, including the corps' Headquarter Staff.

In November 1801, the battalions were joined by two new companies (increasing from six to eight) of 110 men each.

In January 1804, a five-company battalion of Velites was attached to the Corps, with the responsibility of training the future cadres of the battalions. Young people attracted by this formation had to pay one hundred francs in order to get into it.

In 1804, the corps was made up of two battalions of eight companies of 102 men each (*see table on page 5*).

In 1806, the Emperor created a new unit and the corps then consisted of two regiments of eight companies of 122 men each. The Velites battalion kept its five companies but became a regiment.

In 1808, the two regiments were amalgamated; numbers did not change but a lot of cadres left in order to shape the future tirailleur-grenadier regiments of the Young

Guard. On the 13th September 1810, the men of the Royal Dutch Guard became the second regiment of Foot Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard; it kept its company of veterans to guard the Dutch Royal Palace.

On the 18th May 1811, a decree created the second regiment of foot grenadiers, identical to the first. The Dutch took the third place until they were disbanded on 15th February 1815.

In 1814, the two regiments formed the Royal Corps of the French Grenadiers under the First Restoration.

In 1815, when the Hundred Days began, the Royal Corps was divided again into two regiments and as such, was joined to the Guard. A third and a fourth regiment were created respectively the 8th April and the 9th May 1815. These last two were disbanded on 1st October 1815; the two oldest regiments were also disbanded, on the 11th October of the same year.

The Fusilier-Grenadiers

The regiment of fusilier-grenadiers was created by Imperial Decree on 15th December 1806, two months after the regiment of fusilier-chasseurs and was disbanded on 12th May 1814, on the same date as its compagnon regiment. This regiment consisted of two four-company battalions. The first battalion was mainly made up of the first Velite-Grenadiers and the Velite-Chasseurs. The second battalion was made up of conscripts coming from the departmental companies. The total strength was 1 800 men from the ranks. The battalions were made up of five companies on January 1811 and then six on 26th December 1813.

Although created after the fusilier-chasseurs, from the outset this regiment appeared to be the strongest and this difference in the worth of the first and the second battalions would no doubt explain why the two units' dates of creation were often confused; the fusilier-grenadiers were often given as earlier than the fusilier-chasseurs.

The Tirailleur-Grenadiers

At the time when the Emperor decided to organise his guard, after three years of campaigning across Europe, the fusilier-grenadiers became as precious to him as the grenadiers themselves. Wanting as usual to economise, he reduced the number of elite regiments and created a

real light infantry unit, responsible for taking the first shocks, thus saving the blood of his older comrades, whom he cherished like the apple of his eye. It was thus that the first regiment of tirailleur-grenadiers was levied on 16th January 1809, the second on the 25th April of the same year.(1).

The Conscrit-Grenadiers

On 29th March 1809, as a stable mate for his nice new tirailleur-grenadiers, the Emperor decided to create the first regiment of conscrit-grenadiers of the Imperial Guard with battalions of six companies. On 31st March, a second regiment, identical to the first, was created.

The NCOs were veterans of the fusilier-grenadiers under arms since at least 1807. The officers came from throughout the Guard, the Ecole St-Cyr and from the Velites. The men were levied from throughout the Empire, four from each department.

The Tirailleurs

The Tirailleurs were the Grenadiers' light infantry and had to intervene first and keep their elders away from the rougher fighting. After all, they cost less, being paid the same rate as the infantry of the Line. The first two regiments of tirailleurs were created by transforming them from the two tirailleur-grenadier regiments, on 30th December 1810. On 10th February 1811, the first and second conscrit-grenadiers became respectively the third and fourth tirailleur regiments. A fifth regiment was raised on 11th March 1811, then a sixth on 28th August of the same year. The seventh was formed on 17th January 1813, by transforming the Pupils' regiment into tirailleurs. An eighth was created on 23rd March 1813, and the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth were raised on the 6th April 1813, the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth on the 11th January 1814. The seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth were raised on the 21 January 1814. The fourteenth and the fifteenth tirailleur regiments were formed by men coming from the Spanish Royal Guard, like the voltigeurs.

The Flanqueur-Grenadiers

The Flanqueur-Grenadier regiment was created by Imperial Decree on 4th September 1811 and was disbanded in 1814 (2).

The Veterans' Company

The company was created on 29th July 1804. It went on to last well after the fall of the Empire.

THE FOOT GRENADIERS COMPANY, 1804

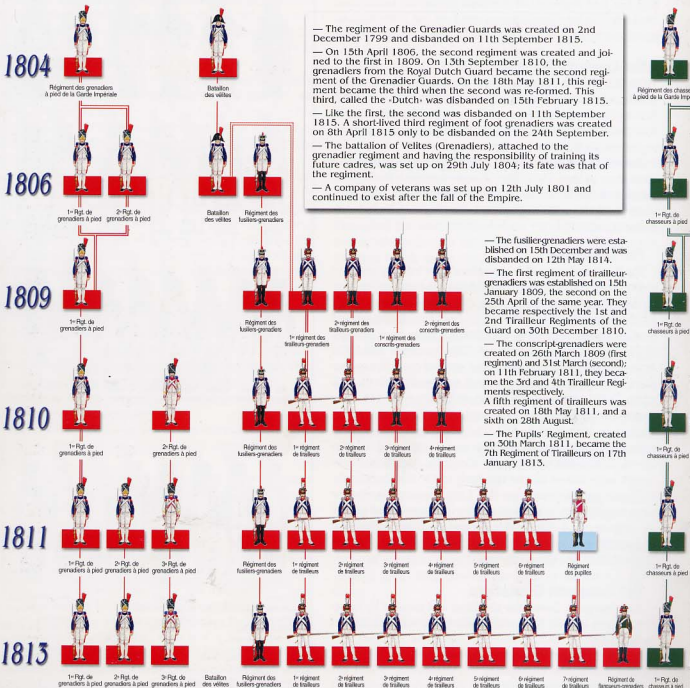


- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Captain
in command of the
company | 5. Sergeant | 10. Foot Grenadiers.
In 1804, there were
80 grenadiers
in the company. In 1806,
there were 100 men
in the Company . |
| 2. First Lieutenant | 6. Quartermaster
Corporal | |
| 3. Second-Lieutenant. | 7. Corporals. | |
| 4. Sergeant-Major | 8. Sapper | |
| | 9. Drummer | |

- See page 41 for the recruitment sources, identical to those of the tirailleurs-chasseurs.
- See page 42 for recruitment sources identical to those of the *Tirailleurs-flanqueurs*.

The DEVELOPMENT of the INFANTRY CORPS

The CORPS of GRENADIERS



— The regiment of the Grenadier Guards was created on 2nd December 1799 and disbanded on 11th September 1815.

— On 15th April 1806, the second regiment was created and joined to the first in 1809. On 13th September 1810, the grenadiers from the Royal Dutch Guard became the second regiment of the Grenadier Guards. On the 18th May 1811, this regiment became the third when the second was re-formed. This third, called the 'Dutch' was disbanded on 15th February 1815.

— Like the first, the second was disbanded on 11th September 1815. A short-lived third regiment of foot grenadiers was created on 8th April 1815 only to be disbanded on the 24th September.

— The battalion of Velites (Grenadiers), attached to the grenadier regiment and having the responsibility of training its future cadres, was set up on 29th July 1804; its fate was that of the regiment.

— A company of veterans was set up on 12th July 1801 and continued to exist after the fall of the Empire.

— The fusilier-grenadiers were established on 15th December and was disbanded on 12th May 1814.

— The first regiment of tirailleu-grenadiers was established on 15th January 1809, the second on the 25th April of the same year. They became respectively the 1st and 2nd Tirailleu Regiments of the Guard on 30th December 1810.

— The conscript-grenadiers were created on 26th March 1809 (first regiment) and 31st March (second); on 11th February 1811, they became the 3rd and 4th Tirailleu Regiments respectively. A fifth regiment of tirailleurs was created on 18th May 1811, and a sixth on 28th August.

— The Pupils' Regiment, created on 30th March 1811, became the 7th Regiment of Tirailleurs on 17th January 1815.

of the IMPERIAL GUARD from 1804-1813

The CORPS of CHASSEURS

— The Regiment of Chasseurs was created on 2nd December 1799 as the light infantry of this famous unit. It only became the regiment of Chasseurs à pied of the Consular Guard in 1801; it was disbanded on 11th October 1815.

— A second regiment was formed on 15th April 1806 and was amalgamated with the first in 1809 only to be re-formed on 11th May 1811. It was disbanded, like the first on 11th October 1815.

— A third regiment was formed during the Hundred Days (8th April - 1st October 1815).

— A fourth regiment was formed on 9th May 1815, and was disbanded on 1st October of the same year.

— The battalion of the Veille-chasseurs was created on 29th July 1804.

— The fusilier-chasseurs were created, contrary to the legend, before the fusilier-grenadiers, on 19th October 1816 and were disbanded on 12th May 1814.

— The flanker-chasseurs were created on 4th September 1811.

— The tirailleur-chasseurs were created in 1809, on 29th March for the first regiment and 25th April for the second. On 30th December 1810, they became the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Voltigeurs.

— The two regiments of conscript-chasseurs who became the 3rd and 4th Voltigeur Regiments on 10th February 1811, were created on 31st March 1809.

— The National Guard of the Guard, created on 1st January 1810 became the 7th Regiment of Voltigeurs on 13th February 1813.

— The 5th and 6th Voltigeur Regiments were formed on 18th May and 26th August 1811.



2- Fig. de chasseurs à pied



Régiment des fusiliers-chasseurs



Régiment des veilleurs-chasseurs



1er régiment des tirailleurs-chasseurs



2e régiment des tirailleurs-chasseurs



1er régiment des conscrits-chasseurs



2e régiment des conscrits-chasseurs



Régiment des fusiliers-chasseurs



1er régiment de voltigeurs



2e régiment de voltigeurs



3e régiment de voltigeurs



4e régiment de voltigeurs



Régiment des gardes nationales



Régiment de fanqueurs-chasseurs



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence



2- Fig. de chasseurs à pied



Régiment des fusiliers-chasseurs



1er régiment de voltigeurs



2e régiment de voltigeurs



3e régiment de voltigeurs



4e régiment de voltigeurs



5e régiment de voltigeurs



6e régiment de voltigeurs



Régiment de gardes nationales



Régiment de fanqueurs-chasseurs



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence



Régiment des fusiliers-chasseurs



1er régiment de voltigeurs



2e régiment de voltigeurs



3e régiment de voltigeurs



4e régiment de voltigeurs



5e régiment de voltigeurs



6e régiment de voltigeurs



Régiment de gardes nationales



Régiment de fanqueurs-chasseurs



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence

OTHER UNITS



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence



Compagnie des vétérans



Bataillon des marins



Ville de Turin



Ville de Florence

— The Naval battalion of the Guard was formed on 17th September 1803. It was disbanded on 23rd April 1813, only to be re-created on 8th April 1815 and then finally disbanded on 4th September 1815.

The two battalions of Veilles, Turin and Florence, responsible for the protection of Elisa (Florence Veilles), the Emperor's sister and of Prince Borghese (Turin Veilles) were created in March 1809 and disbanded in February 1814.

FULL DRESS



**Grenadier
in full dress
1804-1805**

**Corporal in full
dress on picket duty
with the Emperor.**



**Full dress
1807-1812.
The turnbacks
have been
sewn up and
shortened.**



**Full Dress
1812-1815.
The turnbacks
have been
sewn up and
cut straight.**



**Full dress
1804-1815.
The turnbacks
were hooked up,
the jacket was
still full.**



**Velite Battalion
1804-1805**



**Velite Battalion
1804-1805
according to
Hoffmann.**

The uniform of the Grenadiers, whether the first or second regiment, was identical. The two units had the same rules, followed the same training and went through more or less the same risks.

The first regiment is the one which has remained the most legendary, the incarnation of the glorious unit and the archetype for Napoleon's Grande Armée, capable of winning battles almost by itself.

TOWN and BARRACK DRESS

Winter town dress



Summer town dress



Off-duty Barrack dress



Regular trousers



Corporal wearing breeches and gaiters

Grenadier wearing boots and breeches



Fatigue dress

Waistcoat and trousers.

White twill fatigue dress



The OVERCOAT

The Old Curl Guard was present with its four battalions: two grenadiers and two chasseurs, at the battle of Wagram, in July 1809.

The Young Guard, under the command of Dorsenne had fusiliers, grenadiers with tirailleurs and tirailleurs-chasseurs. In all, 8 battalions, which fought well at Essling.



During the 1806-1807 Campaign, according to the Otto Manuscript



Summer marching uniform, 1804-1809



Exercise dress 1804-1809



Summer marching dress from 1809



Dress worn for the inspection of 27th April 1806



Velites Battalion 1804

MARCHING and CAMPAIGN DRESS



Marching dress,
1807 Campaign,
according to Boersch



Marching dress,
from the rear: the
plume was placed in
its holder secured to
the sheath of the
light sabre.



Marching dress
1804-1812



Marching dress
September 1812
as seen by
Albert Adam
during the
Russian
Campaign.



Campaign dress with
blue trousers,
worn in winter.



Campaign dress during
the Battle of Ligny, June 1814,
worn by the 4th Regiment.

Legend has it, according to Jean-Roch Coignet's mémoires, that the Grenadiers, crossing the Danube on 21st May 1809, were in a hurry to put on their bearskins and manoeuvre. Not having the opportunity to stash these hats away in their blue-striped white cotton bags, they threw their bicorne hats into the river. It was thus that they came to wear the bearskins, even as part of the marching uniform.

CLOTHING

Grenadier's cap, 1806. The Eagle appeared on the cockard in about 1808 and the rear bore a grenade



Hat, 1804-1811. In about 1809, it was only worn off-duty.



Hat 1811-1815

NCO's hat

NCO's hat

Ranks (from left to right):
 Soldier with ten years' service
 Soldier with 10 to 20 years' service
 Corporal with more than 20 to 25 years' service
 Quartermaster
 Corporal
 Sergeant
 Sergeant-Major



NCO and soldier's epaulette



Jacket

Guard's uniform button



Greatcoat, specially for the Guard with a double row of buttons. The coat was split up the back in the middle and had two uniform buttons sewn at the waist.



Full dress jacket

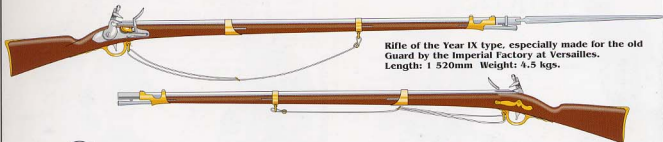
Overcoat



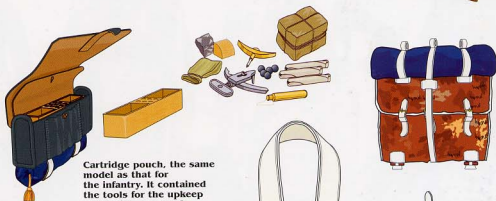
Breeches

White cloth trousers, worn over the pants and the gaiters. In winter the trousers were blue.

EQUIPMENT

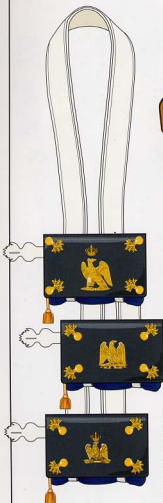


Rifle of the Year IX type, especially made for the old Guard by the Imperial Factory at Versailles.
Length: 1 520mm Weight: 4.5 kgs.

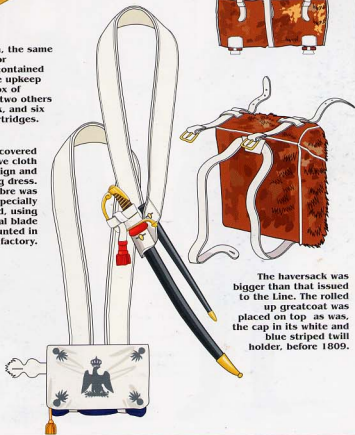


Cartridge pouch, the same model as that for the infantry. It contained the tools for the upkeep of the rifle, a box of cartridges with two others in the haversack, and six ready-to-use cartridges.

Pouch strap covered with its protective cloth for campaign and marching dress. The light sabre was created specially for the Guard, using a Kilgenthal blade mounted in the Versailles factory.



Strap adornments on the Grenadier Guards' pouches. The eagles were not always looking in the same direction, nor were the grenades always facing the same direction, inwards or outwards. It is impossible to put these pouches in chronological order



The haversack was bigger than that issued to the Line. The rolled up greatcoat was placed on top as was the cap in its white and blue striped twill holder, before 1809.

The NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

The Decree of 8th April 1815 organised the grenadier regiments into two battalions with 150 men, 200 in wartime. A soldier had to have 12 years' service, including campaigns to be able to join these grenadier regiments.



Sergeant in full dress



Sergeant-Major in summer town dress



Sergeant in exercise dress



Sergeant wearing a town dress and summer quarters overcoat



Sergeant in winter town dress



Sergeant in marching dress 1813-14



Sergeant in campaign dress

The DRUMMERS

Drummer in
full dress
1804
front and rear
views



Drummer in full
dress about
1810,
front and rear
views



Drummer
wearing an over-
coat about
1806, according
to the «Otto-
Manuscript



Drum-Master
about 1810



Drummer-boy



The DRUMMERS



Drummer in town dress overcoat about 1810



Drummer in full summer town dress uniform about 1810



Drummer wearing a great-coat during the Belgian Campaign, 1815



Drummer during the French Campaign, 1814



Drummer's full dress jacket, 1804



Drummer's overcoat, 1810



Drummer's full dress jacket, 1810



Drummer's light dress jacket, 1814



Drummer cadet's jacket, 1813

The DRUM-MAJORS

Drum-Major in full uniform, 1804, according to Hoffmann



Drum-Major in full uniform, 1810, according to Martinet



Drum-Major in town dress, 1808



Drum-Major in full uniform, 1813



Drum-Major during the French Campaign, 1814



Drum-Major in full uniform, 1815, according to Charlet



The MUSICIANS



Bandmaster. Another source gives his hat without plumes. After 1810, the plume was white with a scarlet base.



Oboist



Bass drum. Other sources give a bass drum with the Arms of the Empire on a crimson mantle and white interior. The edge of the drum was tricolour.



Cymbal-player. A variation gives a gold and pearl white turban, a white plume and gloves with white wristlets.



Jingling Johnnie. In 1810, the first regiment had two chinese pavilion in its band.

After the Russian campaign, the musicians like the rest of the Armée, were decimated and the regiment did its utmost to reconstitute the old unit. It was on this occasion that Friant had the white lapels of his drummers replaced by red ones which went better with the other musicians of the corps. In less than three months, the regiment was on its feet again, its sumptuous music in the forefront.

The musicians of these two regiments comprised two serpents, two Jingling Johnnies, a bass drum, two trombones, four Bassoons, four oboes, twelve clarinettes in C and two in F, four wind bands, two trumpets, a caisse roulante and two pairs of cymbals.

The MUSICIANS



Fife-player, 1815. According to Rigo: « There were no fifes in the Grenadier regiments. This job was given over to children.»



Musician in town dress wearing an overcoat, about 1810

Musician in town dress wearing an overcoat, about 1810



Musician in town dress wearing an overcoat, about 1815. This is from a series of naïve drawings made by an unknown Saxon in Meissen. On the drawing reproduced by Rigo, the musician seems to wearing his hat back to front: was the original artist being facetious at the expense of the French, whose presence was not appreciated by his compatriots at that time ?



Fife-player's full uniform jacket



Musician's full uniform jacket



Musician's overcoat



Musician's light uniform jacket

The SAPPERS

Sapper wearing full dress about 1810, according to Martinet



Sapper wearing an overcoat about 1807, according to the Otto manuscript



Sapper wearing full dress about 1811



Sapper wearing full dress about 1805



Sapper Sergeant in full dress about 1810. In place of the axe, the sergeant is equipped with a pair of pistols and a sapper's saw-tooth edged sabre, whose mounting was identical to that of the sappers.

The Consular Guard had two sappers per company which brought their number to 32 in 1800. They were reduced to 16 in November 1801, going back up to 32 in 1802. In 1806, when the second regiment was created, the number of sappers was divided in two...but the sergeant and the corporal remained with the HQ of the first regiment.



Sapper wearing a town dress overcoat, about 1808

Sapper in marching dress, 1809

Sapper in winter marching dress, 1810

Sapper wearing a marching dress overcoat, 1814-15



Full uniform jacket, 1810-14



Overcoat 1810-1814



Overcoat 1815

Cavalry Musket, axe scabbard



The OFFICERS

Subaltern
in full uniform,
1810-1814



Subaltern's fringeless
gold contra-epaulette
and epaulette



Subaltern in summer
town dress,
1810-1814



Subaltern
wearing
an overcoat,
1810-1814



Subaltern
in service
dress,
1810-1814



Lieutenant
in campaign
dress, 1814



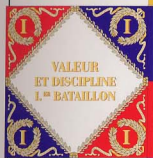
Lieutenant in
winter quarters
dress, 1810



Officer wearing a
coat



The FLAGS



1804-type flag,
reverse side



The eagle of the first
Regiment.



1804-type flag,
obverse side. Handed over on the Champs de Mars on the 5th December 1804. The flag represented the emblem of the Corps of the Grenadier Guards, when the new regiments of Fusiliers and Tirailleurs were formed.



1812-type flag,
obverse side

1812-type flag,
reverse side



1815-type flag of the Napoleon Battalion, made up of some 400 Foot-Grenadiers



1815-type flag for the Guard handed over on the Champs de Mars, renamed the *Champs de Mai* for the occasion, on the 1st June 1815. This also bore an eagle, a tricolor tie and a blue shaft.

The DUTCH GRENADIERS



Corporal in full dress

When the regiment of the Royal Dutch Grenadier Guards was incorporated into the Guard, it kept its own uniform for a while before taking up that of the Guard. Several sources give rounded facings, then bunched facings with straight pads and with, finally the three points of the Guard. The tails of the jacket were without embellishments, others bore an eagle or a grenade, the troopers' stripes were yellow or aurora like the 1st Grenadiers. The same can be said of the Vanguard in white and crimson which was changed to blue and crimson on the eve of the Russian Campaign: The musicians very likely developed in the same way taking care to be the same as the rest of the Guard.



Sergeant in full dress,
1810



Veteran, 1810



Soldier
in town dress,
1810-1811

The DUTCH GRENADIERS

1804-type flag given to the Dutch Grenadiers who became the third in the Guard. On the reverse side, the inscription «Valeur et Discipline N° Battalion» (Valour and Discipline N° Battalion). The two flags were received from the Emperor on 30th June 1811.



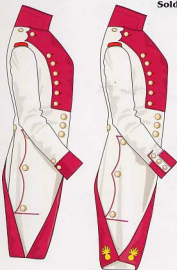
Soldier
in Barracks
dress,
1810-1811



Soldier in marching
dress



Officer
in full service dress,
1810-1811



Full dress jacket.
The model on the
left has been kept
in the Museum of
the Dutch Army at
Delft. That on the
right is given in
sources but with
rounded facings.



Officer wearing a
coat, 1811-1812

The DRUMMERS and SAPPERS of the 3rd REGIMENT



**Drummer
in full dress, 1812,
according to the
regimental records**

**Sapper in full dress,
1810-1811**

**Drum-Master
in full dress, 1812,
according
to the records**

**Drummer in full
dress, 1810-1811**

**Sapper Sergeant
in full dress, 1812,
according
to the records**

The DRUM-MAJORS and the MUSICIANS



Drum-Major,
1810-1811

Musician,
1810-1811

Jingling Johnnie,
1810-1811

Drum-Major,
1812,
according
to the regimental
records

Band-master
in full dress,
1812, according
to the
regimental
records

The FUSILIER-GRENADIERS



**Fusilier-Grenadier
in full dress,
1806-1807**



**Fusilier-Grenadier
in full dress,
1809-1813**



**Soldier wearing
marching dress,
1806**



**NCO in full dress,
1809-1813**



**Corporal wearing a
greatcoat,
1809-1813**

The 15th December 1806 decree changed the Guards' Veltte regiment, which was made up of the first battalions of veltte chasseurs and grenadiers, into the second regiment of fusiliers, attached to the grenadiers. It had the same make-up as the first regiment of fusilier-chasseurs, i.e. two battalions of four companies each. Total numbers went up however to 1 800 men in theory. In 1811, a fifth company was created and a sixth on 26th December 1813.

The FUSILIER-GRENADIERS

Epaulette 1806-1808



Epaulette 1810-1814



Soldier
in town dress.
1809-1813



Soldier
in exercise
dress. 1809-
1813



Full uniform
jacket



With turnbacks
from 1810

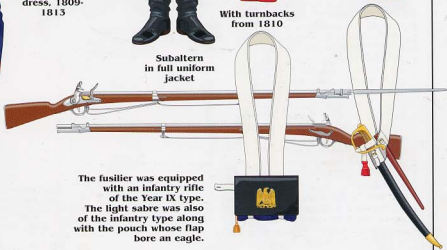


Overcoat



Soldier in
marching dress
during the Saxon
Campaign. 1813.
NB He is holding a
Grenadier rifle.

Subaltern
in full uniform
jacket



The fusilier was equipped
with an infantry rifle
of the Year IX type.
The light sabre was also
of the infantry type along
with the pouch whose flap
bore an eagle.

The VANGUARD of the FUSILIER-GRENADIERS



Drummer
in full uniform,
1809-1813



Musician
in full uniform,
1809-1813



Drum-Major
in full uniform,
1809-1813



Fife-player in
full uniform,
1809-1813



Sapper
in full uniform,
1809-1813

The SKIRMISHERS (*TIRAILLEURS*)



Conscript Grenadier, 1809.
According to Martinet, the uniform was identical except for the lapels which were white and pointed: the facings were laced with scarlet and the piping was white.



Skirmisher in full summer uniform, front view, 1809-1812



Skirmisher in full uniform, rear view, 1809-1812



Skirmisher in full summer uniform, 1809-1812

Corporal in full uniform, 1809-1812



The first conscript-grenadiers originated with the taking over of 1 600 men from the conscripts' general depot. They had been put into the grenadiers' train by the extra cadres of the second grenadier regiment at the time when in 1809, Napoleon wanted to have only one grenadier regiment as an economy measure. As the term -conscript- seemed pejorative, it was replaced by -tirailleur-. But in March of the same year, the Emperor created two new regiments definitively called the Conscript-Grenadiers and the Conscript-Chasseurs. The conscript-grenadier regiment was made up of two battalions of four companies each with a total of 200 men, for a total strength of 1 600 soldiers. Half the men came from the Guards conscripts, the other half of the conscripts from the 1810 reserve.

CAMPAIGN DRESS



Skirmisher wearing a greatcoat, 1809-1812



Skirmisher wearing marching dress, Spain 1811

Skirmisher wearing marching dress, Spain 1811. Faced with a shortage of cloth and supply difficulties, the Spanish stores were used to re-stock.



Skirmisher wearing marching dress, Spain 1811

Corporal wearing marching dress during the Belgian Campaign, 1815



Skirmisher wearing marching dress, Russia 1812. The brown overcoat was supplied in Spain before the Fusilier regiment came up from Spain to the Banks of the Niemen.

The COMMISSIONED and the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS



Sergeant
in full uniform,
1809-1813



Sergeant
Pennant-Bearer,
1809-1813



Lieutenant
1809-1813.
Only the first rank
of officers wore
the same uniform
as the soldiers,
with a finer cloth
and longer coat
tails.



Sergeant
Pennant-Bearer,
1809-1813



Captain,
1809-1813. From
this rank upwards,
the officers wore
the uniform
of the Fusiliers

The VANGUARD of the SKIRMISHERS



**Drummer
in full uniform,
1809**



**Drummer
in full uniform,
1812**



**Sapper in full
uniform, 1809.**
According
to the war archives,
taken up
by H. Boisselier,
the uniform was
identical except for
the plume, which
was entirely red,
the scarlet collar
and the blue piping.
The coat was rolled
up into a blue
striped twill bag.



**Drum-major
in full uniform,
1810**



**Drum-major
in full uniform,
1812. According
to the war
archives,
taken up by
H. Boisselier.**



**Musician
in full uniform,
1809-1813**

The SKIRMISHERS

Lieutenant,
1813-1815. The
officers had longer
Turnbacks
than the soldiers
with gold skirt
ornaments.



Skirmisher,
1813-1815.
From 1813,
the Young Guard
received the uniform
and equipment
ordained by the 1812
Regulation.



Skirmisher
in marching
dress during
the Belgian
Campaign, 1815.



Sergeant
in
marching
dress,
1813-1815



Sergeant-Major
Pennant-Bearer,
1813-1815.
The pennant measured
0.56 x 0.65m.

The stars do not
appear on the first
version and were
white or yellow on the
second. The front and
rear were
identical. A copper
heel has been added
to the bottom
of the shaft.



Drummer,
1813-1815



ARMAMENT and EQUIPMENT

Tiraille-Grenadier Shako, 1813-1815



Shako for the Conscript Grenadiers



Tiraille-Grenadier Shako

Shako pompoms (left to right)

1. 1st Regiment
2. 2nd Regiment
3. 3rd Regiment
4. 4th Regiment
5. 5th Regiment
6. 6th Regiment



Conscript jacket



Tiraille's jacket



Tiraille's jacket respecting the 1812 Regulation



Officer's tails and epaulette

Rank stripes (from left to right):

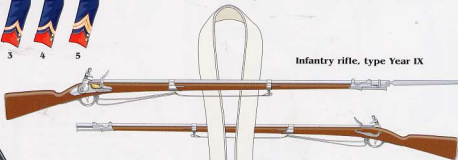
1. Soldier with one stripe for five year's service
2. Corporal with two long-service stripes
3. Sergeant
4. Quartermaster-Sergeant
5. Sergeant-Major



Tunic



Infantry model light sabre with or without knot, according to the sources



Infantry rifle, type Year IX



Infantry type pouch

The FLANQUEUR-GRENADIERS (*FLANKERS*)



Flanqueur-Grenadier
in full dress, 1813



Corporal
in full dress, 1813



Corporal
in full dress,
1813



Sergeant-Major
in full dress,
1813



Lieutenant
in full dress, 1813.
From
the rank
of Captain upwards,
the officers wore the
uniform
of the Fusiliers.



Flanqueur-Grenadier
in full dress, 1813,
according to other
sources.

The VANGUARD



Sapper in full dress,
1813



Drummer
in full dress, 1813



Sapper Corporal
in full dress,
1813



Drum-Major
in full dress,
1813



Drum-Major
in full dress, 1813,
according
to Commandant
Bucquoy's set
of cards

CAMPAIGN DRESS and EQUIPMENT



Quartermaster
Corporal
Pennant-Bearer



Flanker wearing
a greatcoat

Lieutenant.
From Captain
upwards,
the officers
wore the
uniforms of
the Fusiliers.



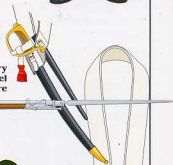
Havresac.



Uniform Button
attributed to the Guard



Infantry
model
light sabre



Rifle of the Year IX type



Flanker's jacket (According to another source, the decoration of the tail was yellow; the crow's foot which was sewn into the embroidery had only one button.



Forage cap



Tunic.

Rank stripes (from left to right):
1. Corporal
2. Corporal
Quartermaster
3. Sergeant
4. Sergeant-Major



Infantry-type
pouch

The VETERAN'S COMPANY



Soldier
in full dress,
1808-1810



NCO in town dress
in summer,
1808-1810

Soldier's full
uniform jacket



NCO and soldier's
epaulettes



Hat



Uniform button



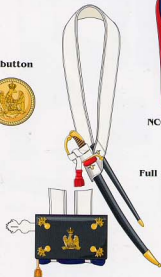
NCO's jacket tail

Grenadier type
haversack



Tunic

Full equipment



Infantry rifle attributed to
the Grenadiers of the Guard

The CORPS of CHASSEURS

The Chasseurs' Corps was naturally made up of the two regiments of foot chasseurs of the Imperial Guard and the Velite battalion. To these, over the years and throughout the various events and re-organisations must be added the fusilier-chasseurs, the tirailleur-chasseurs, then the voltigeurs and finally the flanker-chasseurs.

This originally light infantry corps followed the same development almost exactly like the grenadiers above.

The Chasseurs à pied

The first regiment of chasseurs à pied was created on 13th Nivôse, Year VII (3rd January 1800) from a 94-man light infantry company attached to the two battalions of the Consular Grenadier Guards. Nine months later, the 8th September (21 Fructidor, Year VIII), the company became an eight-battalion company with 102 men. A second battalion was created on 23 Brumaire Year IX (19th November 1801), bringing the corps to the same level as its compagnon regiment, the Grenadiers.

As with the grenadiers one (on 1 Pluviose Year XII, 21st January 1804) then two (on 10th Brumaire Year XIV, 1st March 1805) 5-company velite battalions were created (1). In 1806, the corps of Chasseurs à pied was made up of two chasseur regiments and one velite regiment with two battalions each.

At the end of 1808, the two chasseur regiments were made into one, which became two regiments again on 18th May 1811. These units were disbanded once and for all on 11th October 1815 by Royal Decree.

At the time of the First Restoration in 1814, the two regiments were amalgamated into the French Royal Corps of Chasseurs à pied.

During the Hundred Days, the Guard consisted of four regiments of chasseurs à pied: the two older ones, the third created on 8th April 1815 and the fourth, levied on 9th May. These two units were disbanded on 1st October of the same year.

The Fusilier-Chasseurs

The fusilier-chasseur regiment had a much quieter existence than its illustrious predecessors. It was crea-

ted by Imperial Decree on 19th October 1806, it was disbanded on 12th May 1814. This regiment consisted of two battalions of four companies each.

The first battalion consisted of the second battalions of grenadier-velites and chasseur-velites. The second had conscripts on its roll coming mainly from the departmental companies. Its strength was 1 200 rank and file. The battalions comprised five companies in January 1811, then six on 26th December 1813.

These fusilier-chasseurs were used, as were all the units of the Young and the Middle Guard, principally to preserve the veterans of the old Guard, who were so precious at for example Heilsberg or in Spain (Madrid, Medina or Guadaljara) were they covered themselves in glory.

The Tirailleur-Chasseurs

The first regiment of tirailleur-chasseurs was created on 29th March 1809, after the tirailleur-grenadiers and at the same time as the conscript-grenadier regiment. With a strength of two 6-company battalions, it had a theoretical strength of 2 000 men (a few months later, this fell back down to 1 600). The second regiment was formed on 25th April 1806.

The officers and the NCOs of these two regiments came partly from the cadres of the second chasseur à pied regiment which had just disappeared, and from Saint-Cyr. Like the tirailleur-grenadiers, the tirailleur-chasseurs and the conscript-chasseurs could go over to the fusilier-chasseurs after two years; then, after four years and with the help of an Imperial Decree, the tirailleur could enter one of the Old Guard regiments.

A new and very real elite had been created within the Guard.

The Conscript-Chasseurs

Finding the term «conscript» too trite for designating the «cannon fodder» of the less prestigious regiments of his Guard, the Emperor preferred to use the words «tirailleurs» and «voltigeurs». This did not prevent him from creating two regiments of conscript-chasseurs on 31st March 1809, light infantry regiments attached to the chasseurs à pied.

More than 6 000 young conscripts from all the depart- 41

RANK of REGIMENTS and BATALLIONS in the IMPERIAL GUARD

The Old Guard



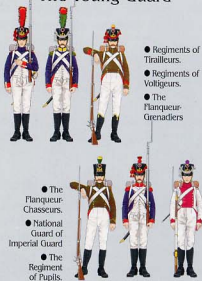
- First regiment of Grenadiers à pied.
- First regiment of Chasseurs à pied.
- The Veterans' Company
- Battalions of velites.
- The Battalion of Scamen of the Guard.
- Officers (from Captain to Colonel) of Voltigeurs, Tirailleurs, Flanqueurs and National Guard Regiments
- NCOs of Second Regiments of Grenadiers and Chasseurs of the Guard

The Middle Guard



- 3rd Regiment of Grenadiers à pied, (Dutch) and its Veterans' Company
- Corporals, Foot Grenadiers and men of second regiment of Grenadiers and second Regiment of Chasseurs
- The Fusiliers-Chasseurs.
- The Fusilier-Grenadiers.
- The Velites of Turin
- The Velites of Florence.

The Young Guard



- Regiments of Tirailleurs.
- Regiments of Voltigeurs.
- The Flanqueur-Grenadiers
- The Flanqueur-Chasseurs.
- National Guard of Imperial Guard
- The Regiment of Pupils.

ments entered the depots of the Guard to make up these regiments and to make up the strength of these fusilier regiments which had lost more than 450 men to these new units. The officers came from the subalterns of the other regiments of the Imperial Guard.

After the tremendous increase in numbers in 1812, Courtois, who was responsible for the Guards' rolls, decided upon three great units: the Old, the Middle and the Young Guards. The table below illustrates the distribution of the regiments, battalions and companies for the infantry.

The Voltigeurs

Within their respective corps, the voltigeurs or tirailleurs were used as light mobile infantry for the older regiments.

The first two regiments of voltigeurs were created by transforming the two tirailleur-chasseurs regiments, on 30th December 1810. On 10th February 1811, the first and second conscript-chasseurs became respectively the third and fourth regiments of Voltigeurs. A fifth was levied on 18th May 1811, then a sixth on 28th August of the same year. The seventh was formed on 15th February 1813 by changing the National Guard Regiment of the Imperial Guard.

Then after a series of creations, doubling-ups and amalgamations, there were no longer seven but seven-

teen voltigeur units (eighth on 23rd March 1813, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth on 6th April 1813, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth on 11th January 1814, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth on 21st January 1814). The fourteenth and fifteenth regiments were formed with men coming from the Spanish Royal Guard.

Napoleon was not mistaken when he said that he had enough cadres in the regiments of his old Guard to create over one hundred battalions.

The Flanqueur-Chasseurs/Flanker-Chasseurs

In September 1811, the flanker-chasseur regiment was created by recruiting the sons and nephews of the Imperial Domain and Forest guards and officers. After five years' service, these recruits could take up the positions of their parents.

Their green uniform was supposed to represent their origins. They were disbanded during the First Restoration in 1814.

(1) In the Guard, the velites had the same role as the Ancien Régime cadets: to be used as officer replacement material as and when needed for the guards' regiments. Velite is a more Roman term and therefore more Republican.

The SOLDIERS and the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS



Chasseur
in full dress,
1804-1815



Chasseur
in town dress



Chasseur
in campaign dress
in 1807,
according to the
Otto Manuscript



Full dress
1812-1815.
Turnbacks are
stitched.



Wearing
a greatcoat,
with Souvarov-style
boots



Wearing a
greatcoat. Note
that the facings
and the collar
were edged with
piping.



Dress worn
during the Belgian
Campaign,
1815

The SOLDIERS and the NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Sergeant
in marching dress



Reverse

Obverse

Sergeant
Pennant-bearer



Sergeant-Major in full dress. The NCOs were distinguishable by their gold stripes, by their both golden and coloured epaulettes and by the cord and the flounder of the cap, green and red and threaded with gold. The knot of the light sabre was mixed red and green. The Sergeant-Major had more gold in the epaulettes and in the decorations of the cap.



Sergeant
in town dress



Sergeant
in a greatcoat

DRESS, EQUIPMENT and WEAPONS

Chasseur Bearskin.
It was the same size
as that of the
Grenadiers, without
a plate or back



Soldiers' hat



NCO's hat

The chasseurs' rifle
was the same as the
Grenadiers'



Guards' Haversack,
identical to the
Grenadiers'.



Guard model
light sabre with
the Chasseurs' knot



Guards button



Sleeve stripes



(from left to right)
Soldier with 5 years' service
Corporal with 15 years' service
Sergeant

Quartermaster-Sergeant
Sergeant-Major with 15 years' service

Soldier's full dress jacket. The
overcoat was identical to that of
the NCOs with light orange mar-
kings on the coat tails.



Guard model
light sabre with
the Chasseurs' knot



NCO's overcoat and jacket.
In about 1810, the tails
were sewn up and the tri-
angle formed by the
hitches disappeared, and
the tails were shortened.



Top to bottom:
Chronological evolution
of the pouch flaps and
canvas pouch covers

The DRUMMERS and the FIFE-PLAYERS



Drummer in full dress, about 1808



Drummer during the Belgian Campaign, 1815



Fife-Player during the Belgian Campaign, 1815



Full dress jacket and epaulette about 1810



Fife-Player in full dress, about 1810



The Drum-Major of the Regiment

The SAPPERS



Sapper wearing
an overcoat,
according to
the Otto
Manuscript



Sapper
in full dress,
according
to Martinet



Sapper during
the Belgian
Campaign, 1815



Sapper NCO
in full dress

Sapper NCO
in an overcoat



The MUSICIANS, the OFFICERS



Musician wearing full dress, about 1810



Cymbal player



Musician during the Belgian Campaign, 1815



Chasseur subaltern epaulette and contra-epaulette.

As Rigou has noted, the Guards epaulettes of rank did not follow the rules established in 1786 exactly. Indeed, the Guard had the rank immediately above that of the Line. Without wishing to confirm this, it will be noticed that the lieutenants wore captain's epaulettes. At the same time, it is worth noting that on Rigou's plate of General Dorseenne, who was Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, the general had three stars on his epaulettes à la graine d'épinard



The silk from an 1812-type flag.

Like the Grenadiers, the Chasseurs had an 1804-type flag with the golden eagle. This flag was carried by a lieutenant. The shoulder-belt was green embroidered with red and most likely developed into something more elaborate.

The FUSILIER-CHASSEURS

Dress when the Fusiliers were first formed up, in 1807



Fusilier, 1809-1810



Fusilier in 1810-1814



Fusilier in campaign dress



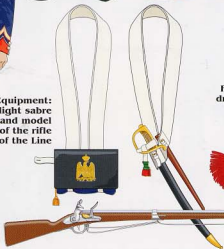
Button of the Guard



Sergeant in full dress



Equipment: light sabre and model of the rifle of the Line



Fusilier full dress jacket



NCO full dress jacket



The VANGUARD of the FUSILIER-CHASSEURS



**Drummer in
full dress,
1809-1810**



**Sapper in full
dress, 1809-
1810**



**Musician,
about 1810**



Drum-Major



**Subaltern
(First or Second-Lieutenant)**

The CONSCRIT-CHASSEURS

Conscript
in full dress,
1809



Campaign dress



Sergeant.
The light sabre
was worn
by soldiers
and
non-
commissioned
officers.



Jacket and
equipment



Drummer,
1809



Second-
Lieutenant
and Lieutenant,
the higher ranks
wore the uniform
of the Fusiliers



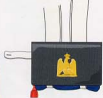
Sapper

The TIRAILLEUR-CHASSEURS

Equipment:
light sabre and
a rifle
of the Line



Tirailleur-Chasseur,
1809



NCO. Apart
from the
shako,
the NCOs
wore the
epaulettes
of the
infantry
NCOs.

Drum-Major



Jacket
and uniform
button



Sapper and
Lieutenant.
Like the other
regiments of the
Young Guard,
the senior
officers came
from the
Fusiliers.



Drummer

The VOLTIGEURS (*LIGHT INFANTRY* of the GUARD)



Light infantryman
(voltigeur) in full
dress, 1811



Quartermaster
Corporal
in marching
dress



Sergeant
Pennant-Bearer



Sergeant
in full dress



Soldier
in campaign
dress



Equipment
of the line



Jacket and
uniform
button



The VOLTIGEURS (*LIGHT INFANTRY* of the GUARD)

Drummer
in full dress



Musician
(oboist)



Drum-Major



Sapper

Lieutenant. The higher
ranks wore the uni-
form of the Fusiliers
of the Guard



The VOLTIGEURS, 1813-1815



Subaltern wearing an overcoat

Light infantryman in campaign dress

NCO in marching dress

Light infantryman (voltigeur) in marching dress. From 1813, the light infantrymen of the Young Guard wore their uniform according to the 1812 Regulations

Two types of jackets worn by the light infantry, towards the end of the Empire. The one on the left has shoulder straps

Drummer in marching dress

Sapper wearing marching dress

The FLANQUEUR-CHASSEURS (FLANKERS)



Flanqueur-Chasseur
1811



Corporal in full dress.
The rank markings were
the same as for the
Flanqueur-Grenadiers



Drummer in full dress.
Note the stripes of the
Imperial Livery. Other
sources give square
yellow and green
stripes.



Jacket. Different
sources give
different coat tail
ornaments and
scarlet or green
facings



Subaltern



Cartridge pouch
and forage cap.
The flap of the
pouch had either
an eagle or
nothing.



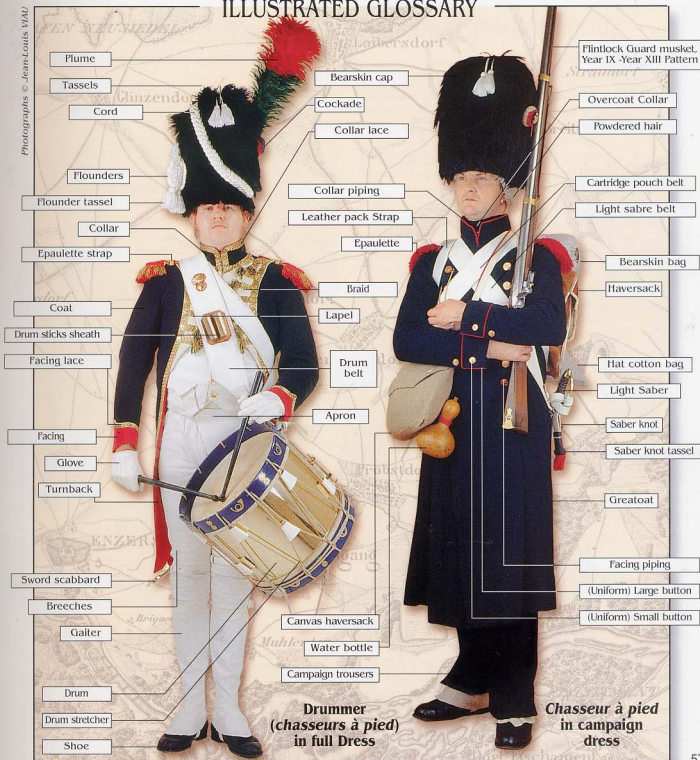
Rank stripes (from left
to right):
1. Corporal
2. Corporal
Quartermaster
3. Sergeant
4. Sergeant-Major



Flankers'
weapons



ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY



**Drummer
(chasseurs à pied)
in full Dress**

**Chasseur à pied
in campaign
dress**

The GUARD'S FOOT ARTILLERY, the ENGINEERS

The Foot Artillery

Until 12th April 1808, the artillery of the Guard only consisted of heavy companies. On that date, the Emperor created a light artillery regiment with six companies and one company of pontooneers. The heavy regiment therefore lost two companies.

On 9th June 1809, an Imperial Decree created new companies called the Young Guard, the New Guard or the Conscript-artillerymen. In October, the 7th Company was attached to the conscript-chasseurs and grenadiers, the 8th company to the tirailleur brigade and the 9th to the fusilier brigade.

On 12th December 1811, a fourth company of artillery of the Young Guard was created; two new companies of this type joined the Guards in January 1813. In April 1814 eight new companies were created, followed later by two others which brought the total number of companies to sixteen in what was called the Young Guard. The number of companies in the Old Guard did not change between 1808 and 1814. At the time of Elba, there were 22 companies of artillery and pontooneers.

The artillery of the Guard was re-organised during the Hundred Days, and included six companies of the Old Guard, a company of workers and a company of Young Guards hastily organised on 28th May 1815, which was not able to take part in the fighting in June.

The Engineers of the Imperial Guard

It is after the appointment of General Kirgener de la Planta on 10th January 1810, that the creation of the Corps of Sappers of the Guard can be dated. In his Decree of 10th July 1810, the Emperor gave his subordinates until the 1st January 1811 to set up an Engineer's sapper company, responsible for the fire-fighting pumps in the Imperial palaces.

Since 10th Thermidor Year XII, within the HQ of the Guard, there was a battalion commander and an Engineer Captain, in charge of maintenance work in the barracks occupied by the Guard. Two further officers joined them in 1806.

The newly-created company commanded by a captain had a strength of 139 men. It had eight horse-drawn pumps and a caisson. Part of the company never

left the Emperor and was on duty in all the places where he stayed.

On 8th February 1812, an Engineer Major was appointed, just before the decision to attach an Engineer company to each division of the Young Guard. The Engineer company of the Imperial Guard was attached to the division of the Old Guard. The Guards' sapper company was organised like an army company.

On 8th March, 129 men including officers joined the company. These men were taken from amongst the mason and carpenter conscripts. They were considered as being Young Guard as were the hundred new second sappers who joined them a few weeks later.

On 13th January 1814, the company became a two-company battalion. The first was made up of veterans and was Old Guard, the second, (the famous Second) sappers was Young Guard. The third and the fourth companies came from the sapper battalions of the Line (respectively the 2nd and 3rd Companies of the 7th Battalion).

The battalion was disbanded on 6th August 1814. Its men were turned over to the First Engineer Regiment. The Decree of 8th April 1815 created a new company of 125 Sappers of the Guard, only to be disbanded on 16th October. It included a miners' section which was something new.

The Guards' Engineers on campaign were responsible for levelling and preparing the ground where the General Headquarters were to be installed.

The Artillery Company of the Old Guard was incorporated in 1808

- 1 Captain, commanding the company.
- 1 Captain, second-in-command.
- 1 First-Lieutenant.
- 1 Second-Lieutenant.
- 1 Sergeant-Major.
- 4 Sergeants.
- 1 Quartermaster.
- 4 Corporals.
- 4 Artificers.
- 20 Artillerymen, first-class.
- 48 Artillerymen, second-class.
- 2 Drummers.

ARTILLERYMEN and NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Artilleryman when the regiment was created



Sergeant



On 11th May 1811, an Imperial Decree gave the Artillery the following guns:

- 6 **Light Artillery batteries** with 8 pieces each:
- 2 batteries with 2 long-range howitzers and six 12-pounders.
- 4 batteries of two howitzers and six 6-pounders.

— 3 **light batteries** of six 6-pounders served by artillerymen from the Young Guard (one company per battery).

A total of 96 guns of all calibres.

In 1815, the number of guns rose to 120, then 196 in April 1815 for 16 batteries, i.e. one battery per infantry brigade, four reserve batteries and six heavy artillery batteries.



Artilleryman First Class in marching dress



Gunner in full dress, 1810-1811



In full dress, the artillerymen, like the grenadiers and the chasseurs, powdered their hair.



Full dress

ARTILLERYMEN and NCOs



Artilleryman
in summer dress




Sergeant



Pontoon Sergeant
in full dress.
The company
was only
distinguishable
from the
artillerymen
by its scarlet
lapels.



Gunner
in exercise
dress



Greatcoat in iron grey
cloth. Towards
the end of the
Empire, the artillery
wore dark blue
greatcoats with
two rows of buttons.



Gunner
in exercise
dress



Gunner
First Class
in town dress

DRESS, EQUIPMENT and WEAPONS



Sleeve stripes



Shako worn by the Old Guard from its creation, and then given to the Young Guard to replace the "bonnet d'oursin".



Soldier and NCO's full dress

(Below) Tunic, breeches and trousers



(from left to right)
 — Soldier with more than 5 years' service
 — Corporal with 15 to 20 years' service or Gunner First Class if the stripes were only worn on the left sleeve.
 — Sergeant with more than 5 years' service
 — Sergeant-Major with more than 15 years' service



Trooper's hat



Guards' uniform button



Guards-model light sabre



The Guards' rifle was the same model as that of the Grenadiers. The Young Guard was equipped with the line infantry rifle.

The VANGUARD of the ARTILLERY OF THE GUARD



**Drummer
in full dress,
about 1811**



**Musician (Fife-player),
about 1811**



**Sapper,
about 1808**



**Drum-Major,
about 1811-1814**

An earlier uniform
has been attested with
fewer stripes with
a tri-colour hat plume

**Sapper,
about 1811-1814**



The OFFICERS



Subaltern,
about 1808



Subaltern,
about 1813



Mounted officer, attached
to the Headquarters staff,
hence the aiguillette



Wearing
an overcoat



Town dress



Full
dress
jacket



A pair of
subaltern's
epaulettes and
contra-epaulettes

When it was formed up
the regiment did not have
a flag, it got one together
with an eagle during the
100 days. This 1815-model
flag was destroyed
at Bourges after
the disbanding of
the regiment.

Mounted
officer's
sabre



Senior officer's
equipment

The YOUNG GUARD ARTILLERY



Gunner in full dress, about 1812



Gunner First Class



Wearing a greatcoat 1813-1815



Drummer, 1812-1813



Gunner in full dress, 1813-1815

Jacket and button



Equipment of the Young Guard

The SAPPERS of the GENIE of the GUARD



Full dress
at the time
of the creation of
the regiment in
the year 1811
(Front and rear
views)

Sergeant
in marching
dress

Sapper
wearing
a greatcoat

Exercise
dress

Dress during
the "Hundred
Days"

THE ENGINEER SAPPERS



Engineer
Driver



Sapper Third Class
of the Young Guard



Drummer
in summer dress



Drum Master
according
to the Alsation
Collections



Musician, according
to the Alsation
Collections

The Sapper Company of the Engineers in 1811

- 1 Captain, in command of the Company
- 1 Captain, second-in-command
- 1 First-Lieutenant
- 1 Second-Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant-Major
- 4 Sergeants
- 1 Quartermaster
- 8 Corporals
- 6 Craftsmen (Tailors, cobblers)
- 4 Workmen (pump and equipment maintenance)
- 32 Sappers, first-class
- 72 Sappers, second-class
- 10 Mounted drivers
- 2 Drummers

The OFFICERS, ARMAMENT and EQUIPMENT

Engineer Officer.
Note that the officers of the battalion bore the aigullette and were mounted. It is likely that they used the French-style artillery saddle.



Sapper's coat



(from left to right)
— Sapper with more than 5 years' service
— Corporal with 15 to 20 years' service, or Sapper First Class if the stripes were worn on the left sleeve only.
— Sergeant with more than 5 years' service
— Sergeant-Major with more than 15 years' service.



Musician's full-dress jacket



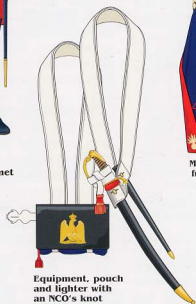
Drummer's full-dress jacket



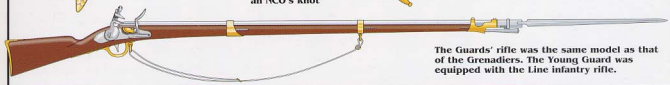
Drum-Master's full-dress jacket



Engineer's helmet for the First Company



Equipment, pouch and lighter with an NCO's knot



The Guards' rifle was the same model as that of the Grenadiers. The Young Guard was equipped with the Line infantry rifle.

OTHER CORPS

The National Guard

On 1st January 1810, the Emperor included in his Young Guard four battalions recruited from the cohorts of the National Guard from the north of France. On 15th February 1813, this National Guard Regiment became the 7th Regiment of voltigeurs, attached to the Corps of chasseurs à pied.

The initial four 4-company battalions were reduced to two on 29th May 1810. Each of its battalions numbered six companies. On 1st April 1810, the regiment marched through Lille, its cantonnement, before its departure for Spain. Unfortunately for the commander of the corps, desertions were very frequent.

The Turin Velites

The Turin Velite Battalion was created in March 1809 and was responsible for the defence of the palace of Prince Borghese, the Governor. It was attached to the corps of foot grenadiers which explains why its cadres came from the foot grenadier regiment, whereas its rank and file was Italian; the battalion included four companies of 124 men, including officers. The battalion was presented with a flag in July 1810, whereas some of the more prestigious regiments had not yet received theirs. The battalion was disbanded in February 1814.

The Florence Velites

The battalion of the Florence Velites was created on the same date and was responsible for the protection of the Emperor's young sister, Elisa, Grand-Duchess of Tuscany. Its cadres came mainly from the corps of the chasseurs à pied. The organisation was similar to that of the Turin Velite Battalion, but it did not have a flag.

The Fontainebleau School Battalion

The Fontainebleau School Battalion existed to train the NCOs of the Young Guard; it was created by Decree in 1812. These men supplied, for example, the first officers for the Pupils' Regiment.

The Pupil's Regiment

The Pupils Regiment of the Imperial Guard was re-created on 30th August 1811 from the former legion

of Dutch velites. Whereas the recruitment of these battalions concerned originally the children whose fathers had died on the battlefield, the Emperor extended it to include all children more than fifteen years old who were inmates of the Empire's orphanages. On 30th March 1811, the regiment joined the Guard but it was only in August that the regiment received its own administration.

At first a regiment with two six-company battalions, it eventually had up to nine four-company battalions (of which one was in the depot at Versailles). In 1813 they were the victims of the creation of the sixth (departure of the cadres), seventh (the first and seventh battalions) and ninth (all the pupils aged 19 or more) tirailleurs of the corps of grenadiers, and were left with only four battalions. The one which was stationed in Versailles took an active part in the defence of the Porte de Clichy in 1814, whereas the first battalion fought in Brittany.

In 1811, the young Dutch orphans were joined quite quickly by their French, Italian, and German brothers. The Emperor even encouraged the old Grogards to replace fathers whom these children had lost. As a general rule, when they reached eighteen, or more often, seventeen, the pupils joined their fighting corps in the Young Guard.

The Battalion of Seamen of the Guard

The battalion of sailors of the Guard was formed on 17th September 1803 (17 Fructidor Year XI) by decree. Initially composed of five crews (-companies- in naval terminology) with a total strength of 742 men.

The decrees of 29th July and 30th August 1804 raised the total of the battalion to 818 men organised into a headquarters, five crews and a depot.

In 1808, during the Spanish campaign, in Andalusia, the battalion was annihilated and the Emperor, by decree on 27th March 1809, re-organised the battalion into a crew of five squads with a strength of 148 men.

On 16th September, the crew was increased by three squads which became companies. The eight companies and their headquarters made 1 136 men.

The battalion was finally disbanded in 1814 after a further re-organisation in 1813. When it was disban-

ded it only had 350 men. For the Sailors of the Guard, Lobau Island and the Austrian campaign, after the disaster of Baylen, remain the important episodes of their history. An ensign and twenty-one sailors accompanied the Emperor to the Island of Elba, in 1814.

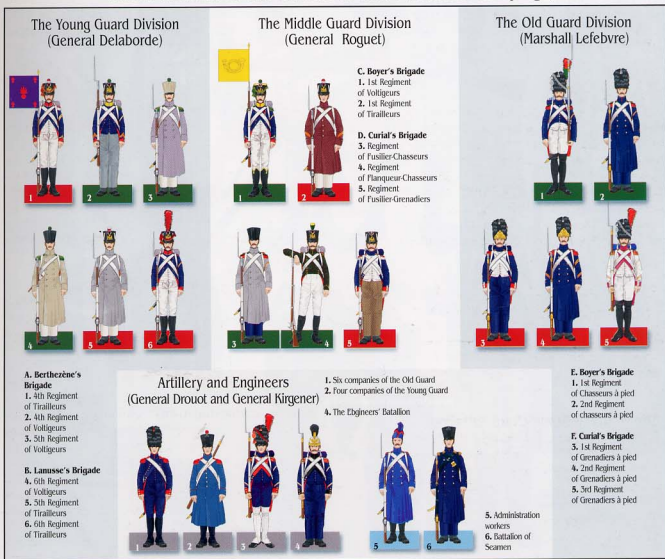
The Administration Workers

Like any other campaigning unit, the Guard needed an administration and troops for its logistics. This is why the Guard had several units of this type from 1806.

The first company of administration workers was that of the bakers, with 10 officers and 253 men. The second was the butcher's, with thirty officers and 125 men. The third company was the medical male nurses' company with thirty officers and 149 men.

To these must be added the inspecteurs aux revues, the commissionnaires-ordonnateurs, the sub-inspecteurs des revues, the war-commissioners and the medical service: doctors, chief-surgeons, majors etc.

FOOT TROOPS of the GUARD in 1812 (Russian Campaign)



The NATIONAL GUARD of the IMPERIAL GUARD

Fusilier,
1st Company



Blue: 2nd Company
Yellow: 3rd Company
Violet: 4th Company



Cartridge
pouch and belt



Grenadier



Non-commissioned
officer



Chasseur and
Grenadier's
Sabre-lighter.
The Fusiliers
had a white knot



Chasseur



National Guard's
short jacket.
The ornaments
on the Coat tails
varied from company
to company.



Subaltern



The TURIN VELITES

Corporal



Drummer



Campaign dress



Subaltern

Sergeant



Equipment and forage cap. The uniform had the Guards' button. The pouch flap bore the eagle.



Full dress and drummer's uniform. The white epaulette distinguished the Velite, the red the corporal.



1804-type flag with on the reverse side
 • GARDE IMPERIALE
 VALEUR
 ET DISCIPLINE •

The PUPILS



Pupil from the 7th Battalion, 1st Company. The 2nd Company had sky-blue distinctives.



Pupil, 5th Battalion, 1812



Pupil in full dress, 9th Battalion



Quartermaster-Segeant, 1st Battalion. The 1st and the 7th Battalions formed the 7th Regiment of the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers.



Corporal in full dress, 9th Battalion



Pupil Wearing an overcoat

The PUPILS



Pupil wearing exercise dress, 6th Battalion



Pupil wearing exercise dress, 9th Battalion



Subaltern, 6th Battalion



Adjutant NCO, 9th Battalion



Adjutant NCO's epaulette and contra-epaulette

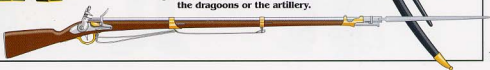


Full dress jacket



A drawing appeared in the *«Passepoils»* at the beginning of the 20th Century showing a cartridge pouch flap for the cadets of the Guard. However, M. Pétard in his treatise on equipment went for the eagle. The question remains.

Pupils' equipment and weapons. They were armed with the shorter light infantry rifle, or even that of the dragoons or the artillery.



The PUPILS' VANGUARD



Drummers

Left, according to Commandant Bucquoy's card collection, June 1812.



Right, at the end of the Empire, given by Rigo in an article on the Pupils of the Guard



Musician,
according to Commandant
Bucquoy's card collection,
September 1811-June 1812.

*Note the strange stripe above
the facing: it could
a musician's rank.*

**Drum-Major according to
Bucquoy's card collection,
June 1812.**
In an article on the Pupils of
the Guard, Rigo gives a
drum-major in a jacket which
buttoned up straight, wearing
Imperial livery, with gold
striped hat, white plume,
green raised satin stitching,
bright yellow collar, white
trousers with pick and gold
striping on the seams,
Souvarov-style boots, crimson
strap with gold stripes, gloves
with black wristlets.



**Drum-Master, according
to Commandant Bucquoy's card
collection, in September
1811- June 1812**



The BATTALION of SEAMEN of the GUARD



Full dress,
1805



Full dress,
1805



Campaign
dress



Fatigue
dress



Campaign
dress with
an overcoat

Campaign dress
in caracot,
(this jacket is similar
to the overcoat without
turnbacks) 1807



The BATTALION of SEAMEN of the GUARD

Chief Petty Officer,
Pennant-Bearer.

The Alsatian Collections show a smaller and squarer pennant. Bucquoy's card collection gives a pennant of this size. The shaft was topped with an eagle although another source shows a point.

NCO in full dress,
1811-1814

Quartermaster
in off-duty dress.



1804-type flag of the Seamen
Battalion of the Guard
from 1804 to 1813.



The DRUMMERS of the BATTALION of SEAMEN



Drummer according to the Alsatian Collections and Valmont, 1810.



Bugler and trumpeter in full dress, 1810-1814



Musician, about 1810. The tails were embellished with a sailor's anchor. The Alsatian Collections show a jacket with a square lapel.



Bugler in caracot campaign dress, front and back views, 1810-1814.



UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT

First model of the shako with the visor mounted above the lower edge of the hat.



Third model of Shako, 1809-1814.
Note that the second model was identical to the third with the visor mounted as for the first.



NCO and trooper's dolman



Vanguard and NCO's shako with, below, the NCO's town dress hat.



Clover-leaf epaulette replaced later on by the trooper's scaled epaulette.

In the Guard, the drummers and buglers were dressed in light blue with crimson braid; however, as L. Rousselot explains on Plates 31 and 32 of the *Armée Française*, the inventories do not mention any crimson stripes.

They were worn in the same position as the other sections of the Guard



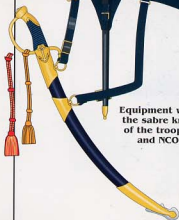
Subaltern's jacket and pocket and collar decoration



Rank stripes (left to right)
— Sailor with a long service chevron
— Quartermaster
— Petty Officer with a long service chevron
— Officer



Equipment with the sabre knot of the trooper and NCO



BATTALION of SEAMEN. OFFICERS



Lieutenant,
about 1810



Ensign,
about 1805



Ensign
in campaign
dress,
about 1807

Ensign,
about 1810



Captain, about 1810,
according
to Bucquoy's cards.
This was the dress
for officers at the time
of the reorganisation
after the capitulation
of Baylen.



Ensign wearing
a frock coat,
about 1807

The ADMINISTRATION



Full dress,
about 1806



Wearing a greatcoat,
1806-1810



Full dress,
1813-1815.

NB. Different sources give different colours for the coat tails.



NCO, 1813-1815.

For this period, this profile is based on the drawings of H. Boisellier, according to the war archives and the inventory following xxxxxx- their dismissal.



Corporal wearing a greatcoat,
1813-1815



Subaltern in full dress,
1813-1815

The ADMINISTRATION



Drummer,
full dress,
Imperial Livery,
1813-1815



1812-style jacket



Detail of the
Commissaries'
embroidery

Mounted NCO,
about 1811



Driver,
about 1811.
It is possible
that the troopers
wore the same
jacket between
1810 and
1813.



Chief Commissaire Ordonnateur
in full dress.
Those affected
to the Guard wore
a silver aiguillette
on the right shoulder.



Trooper's
and driver's
light sabres

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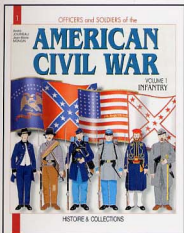
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OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

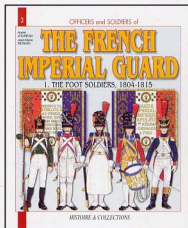
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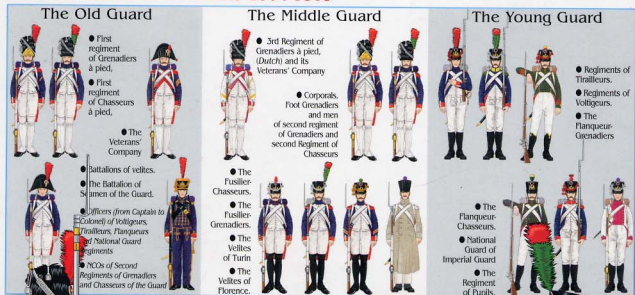
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OFFICERS and SOLDIERS of THE FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD

Volume 1. THE FOOT SOLDIERS 1804-1815



This little book is not going to tell you the story of this legendary unit, neither does it claim to give details of every item of uniform and equipment. All it wants to do is give the reader a clear, logical and pictorial summary of what the French Imperial Guard was.

It is a nice practical tool for figurinists, an amateur's Imperial history vade-mecum, to be carried around every- and anywhere. It is not intended to compete with the specialists who are to be consulted for further study. They are to be thanked and tribute must be paid to them for allowing us to know and love those heroic times.

So, make way for the Immortals, the Emperor's old Grenadiers!



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