

# FLAGS OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (2)

COLOURS, STANDARDS AND GUIDONS OF AUSTRIA, BRITAIN, PRUSSIA & RUSSIA



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## Introduction

Throughout this book the various parts of the flags are referred to by their correct terms; i.e. the part nearest the pole is known as the hoist, the opposite edge being the fly. A canton is a square or corner of a flag, and always that corner next to the top of the pole. When the pole appears on the left edge of a flag, you are viewing the front or obverse of that flag; when it appears on the right edge you are seeing the rear or reverse of the flag. The pole is known as the stave, the metal 'spearhead' as the finial, and the metal shoe at the bottom end as the ferrule. The cords ending in tassels and tied beneath the finial are simply called cords, and the wide ribbons similarly placed are known as cravats. The main part of a flag is its field, and the various designs or devices are placed upon that field. The placing of devices on the field is sometimes described heraldically; the top left and bottom right are referred to as 1 and 4, the top right and bottom left as 2 and 3.

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## Austria

From 1768 Line Infantry regiments carried two flags per battalion, the 1st Battalion having one Leibfahne or King's Colour and one Ordinärfahne or Regimental Colour, other battalions having two Ordinärfahnen. As the grenadier companies were detached to serve in combined Grenadier Battalions, some 1st Battalions did not have their Leibfahne, this being carried by their grenadier company. However, it seems likely Grenadier Battalions only carried two flags, one Leib- and one Ordinärfahne, the Leibfahne probably being from the senior regiment represented. The Grenz Regiments had the same number of flags, but the Leibfahne was not carried in the field. The number of flags was reduced to one per battalion (the 1st



1. Austria: 1792 pattern Ordinärfahne (yellow field). The reverse of the 1792 Leibfahne bore the same device on a white field.

Battalion having the Leibfahne) in 1808; Grenz battalions were probably reduced to one flag in 1806.

During the 1804–15 period all flags were painted on silk, embroidery being abandoned in 1766 (1769 for cavalry) and not reintroduced until later in the 19th century. The basic patterns for the 1804–15 period were established in 1781 by the Emperor Josef II and remained unchanged until 1804. (Leopold II, 1790–92, issued a proclamation on 17 March 1790 informing the War Council that for reasons of economy all flags were to remain unchanged.) The sudden death of Leopold in 1792, with Franz II taking over the regency, resulted in a minor adjustment which created a flag now known as the 1792 pattern, in which the initials FII replaced JII. There was no other change.

Although new patterns were authorised in 1804 and 1806, regiments continued to carry their old flags until they were worn out, these older flags frequently being 'up-dated' by having alterations painted on the originals. Thus we find that in the 1805 campaign, flags dating back to 1792 were amongst those captured by the French, and it is therefore necessary to start the description of the various patterns with the 1792 one.

The 1792 Leibfahne for all regiments was white with a border in the colours of Austria and the Holy Roman Empire: see Plate A1. The reverse is shown by Fig 1. The arms on the eagle's breast are (in the centre) those of Austria, Habsburg and Lorraine, under the Archduke's coronet, and surrounded by the arms of Hungary Ancient and Modern, Burgundy, Castile, Leon, Aragon, Sicily, Lombardy, Flanders and Bohemia. Around the shield are the chain and cross of the Order of St Stephen of Hungary and the ribbon and cross of the Order of Maria Theresa. The whole was surmounted by the red and gold crown of Austria. The detail of these arms and their arrangement was subjected to a number of changes during the 1792–1815 period and these are listed under the Ordinärfahne and illustrated by Plates A2 and A3.

The 1792 Ordinärfahne for all regiments was yellow, with the same border design as the Leibfahne, but both obverse and reverse carried the double-headed eagle design as shown by Fig 1.

On 10 August 1804 the arrangement of the arms on the eagle's breast was changed because Franz II had become Franz I, the first Emperor of Austria: see Plate A2. All other details of the Ordinärfahne and Leibfahne remained unchanged.

The political and territorial changes resulting from the defeat of 1805, and Napoleon's dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, meant that drastic changes had to be made to all flags, but it was not until the end of the following year that an order (Hofkriegstats-Verordnung of 6 December 1806) was issued for a new pattern. The new pattern is illustrated by Plate A3. The obverse of the Leibfahne remained unchanged but the reverse of the flags of the Hungarian regiments may now have borne the arms of Hungary on the breast of the eagle instead of the arms of Austria, Habsburg and Lorraine.

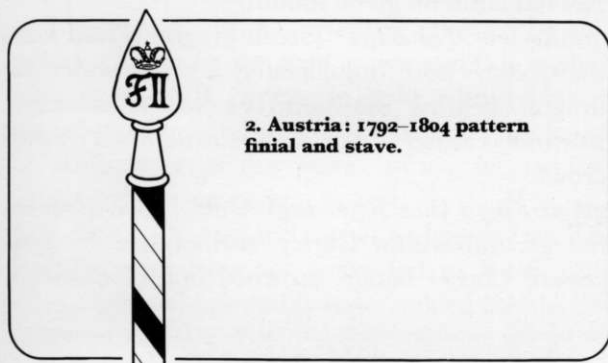
The year 1806 also saw the introduction of a regimental identification system whereby small oblongs of yellow silk were added to the top corners of the flags, each oblong bearing an abbreviation of the arm of service above the number of the regiment: for example, L. I<sup>nf</sup> R<sup>gt</sup>/N<sup>ro</sup> 14. for Line Infantry Regiment N<sup>o</sup> 14: Gr. I<sup>nf</sup> R<sup>gt</sup>/N<sup>ro</sup> 6. for Grenz Infantry Regiment N<sup>o</sup> 6.

From this date regiments may also have been awarded cravats as battle honours. The Leibfahne

of the Hungarian regiment N<sup>o</sup> 39 (Duka) is shown by *Heer & Tradition* Plate N<sup>o</sup> 88 as having a white cravat, edged and fringed in red, in the 1806–15 period. On the same plate Line Infantry Regt N<sup>o</sup> 14 (Klebek) is shown as having a white cravat edged and fringed in gold for the 1798–1809 period. The author has seen no other source which confirms such a system.

It should be pointed out here that fine detail on all Austrian flags varied somewhat, as in all hand-made flags. For example, on the Leibfahnen surviving at Vienna and Paris, the serpent appears on different flags as red, green, white or black. Some confusion can also arise because of loss of paint, or changes in the shade or even colour of the paint over the years. However, there is no truth in the statement made in recent years that from 1805 the border had only yellow 'flames' pointing inwards. According to all the surviving flags this is completely untrue, the usual pattern being displayed on all models. It is possible that this error has crept in due to the surviving 1856 and 1859 patterns having (apparently) no white flames, all inward-pointing flames being yellow.

Almost all surviving staves are bare wood, with a few painted dark blue. However, these may not be the originals, or may have lost their paint, and it is generally accepted that the staves were originally painted with a spiral design, probably black/yellow/red/white, though some may have been in two colours or only one. The finials, like the flags, were not always replaced each time the Emperor's cypher changed, and therefore during the 1804–15 period a number of different types appear, primarily gilt spearheads bearing the Emperor's crowned cypher on both sides, or gilt, lime leaf-shaped heads which were either plain or bore the cypher. Fig 2 illustrates a staff and finial



of the 1792–1804 period: some of this pattern remained in service after 1804. The size of the infantry flags carried on these staves was approximately 140 by 168cm until 1805, approximately 140 by 176cm for the later patterns.

The cavalry had one Leibstandarte per regiment, carried by the 1st Squadron, with an Ordinärstandarte for every other squadron. Heavy regiments carried all these standards in the field; light regiments sometimes, but not always, left theirs at home. Three standards of the 3rd Regiment of Light Dragoons, captured at Neswiecz on 20 September 1812 by the Russian Alexandria Hussars, appear to have been those given to the regiment by the Emperor Charles VI (1711–40), though the finial bears the cypher of Franz I. Four cavalry standards taken in the 1805 campaign also dated back to pre-1768, and had MT embroidered each side of the central shield on the eagle's breast. It is probable that, as in the infantry, regiments continued to carry old standards long after new patterns had been introduced.

The Leibstandarte for all regiments was white, with a border and obverse (Madonna) exactly as on the infantry Leibfahne: see Plate A1. The reverse

bore the eagle. For the 1792–1804 period this was as Fig 1; for the 1806–16 period it was as illustrated by Fig 3. The Ordinärstandarte was yellow with the border as the Leibstandarte and the double-headed eagle on both sides. The changes to the eagle were governed by the same factors as on the infantry flags.

From 1806 the regiment's name was painted in the top corner on both sides next to the stave, probably on an oblong of yellow silk.

The size of these standards was approximately 80cm square, and they were carried on staves painted as for the infantry. The finials were gilt but, unlike those of the infantry, seem to have been more uniform, of spearhead shape, with a double-headed eagle welded on each side, sometimes surmounted by the Emperor's crowned cypher.

## Britain

Throughout the 1804–15 period Line Infantry regiments were authorised to carry two Colours per battalion and normally carried both in the field. The King's Colour for all battalions consisted of the Union flag with the regimental number or badge in the centre; the Regimental Colour was in the regiment's facing colour with the regiment's number or badge in the centre and a small Union flag in the canton. The regulations which governed the individual central designs for each regiment, as well as the basic overall design, were set out in the 1768 Royal Warrant, and it is worth quoting the relevant section in full here, as it clearly defines the basic pattern for Line Infantry Colours:

'The King's, or First Colour of every Regiment, is to be the Great Union throughout.

'The Second Colour to be the Colour of the Facing of the Regiment, with the Union in the Upper Canton; except those Regiments which are faced with Red, White or Black. The Second Colour of those Regiments which are faced with Red or White, is to be the Red Cross of St George in a White Field, and the Union in the Upper Canton. The Second Colour of those which are faced with Black, is to be St George's Cross throughout; Union

in the Upper Canton; the Three other Cantons Black.\* In the Centre of each Colour is to be painted, or embroidered, in Gold Roman characters, the Number of the Rank of the Regiment within the Wreath of Roses and Thistles on the same Stalk; except those Regiments which are allowed to wear any Royal Devices, or ancient Badges; on whose Colours the Rank of the Regiment is to be painted, or embroidered, towards the upper Corner. The size of the Colours is to be six Feet six Inches flying, and six Feet deep on the Pike. The length of the Pike (Spear and Ferrule included) to be nine Feet ten Inches. The Cords and Tassels of the whole to be Crimson and Gold mixed.'

The other details of this warrant remained unaltered during the period covered by this book. (There are unpublished 1802 Regulations concerning the Colours but they are essentially the same as those of 1768.)

The royal devices or ancient badges referred to were carried in the centre of the Colours; most regiments having such badges also had secondary badges, which were usually painted on the corners of the Regimental Colour only, though some were also painted on the King's Colour. The central badges were not normally surrounded by a wreath, but from circa 1803 wreaths began to be used. The badges listed in the 1747–51 regulations were:

*1st or Royal Regt.* Gold GR cypher on blue field within green girdle of St Andrew, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, a thistle. (The King's Colour also carried this badge on all four corners.) Until 1812 the thistle pointed towards the centre, thereafter it was upright.

*2nd or Queen's Own Royal Regt.* Gold CARA cypher on red ground within blue belt of the Garter, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, white paschal lamb on green mount.

*3rd Regt. or The Buffs* Green dragon. From 1807 the Colours bore (unofficially) a scroll under the dragon, bearing the motto VETERI FRONDESCIT HONORE. Corner badge, a rose surmounted by gold crown.

*4th or King's Own Royal Regt.* Gold GR cypher on red ground within Garter, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, crowned lion of England.

\*In fact this was never put into effect, the Regimental Colour of regiments with black facings being as those with red and white facings.

The Regimental Colour also carried a plain white scroll beneath the central emblem.

*5th Regt.* St George in white armour, on a brown horse, slaying a green dragon. Corner badge, a rose surmounted by gold crown.

*6th Regt.* White antelope on green mount. Corner badge, as 5th.

*7th Regt. or Royal English Fusiliers* A rose on red ground within the Garter, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, white horse on green mount.

*8th or The King's Regt.* White horse on red ground within the Garter, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, gold crown and GR cypher.

*18th Regt. The Royal Irish* Gold harp and crown, shown correctly on a blue field. In fact on the King's Colour it is placed on the red of the cross; on the Regimental Colour on the blue field. Corner badge, gold lion of Nassau surrounded by gold billets, on blue circular shield.

*21st Regt. or Royal North British Fusiliers* Thistle on blue ground within green girdle of St Andrew, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, gold crown and GR cypher.

*23rd Regt. or Royal Welch Fusiliers* Three white Prince of Wales' feathers issuing from gold coronet (without Ich Dien motto). Three different corner badges were used: top right, gold sun on blue sky rising from behind green hills: bottom right, three white feathers issuing from gold coronet, on red field: bottom left, red dragon on blue field. On the 1807 colours the white horse of Hanover replaced the feathers, although this was not authorised until 1835.

*27th or The Inniskilling Regt.* White castle with three turrets, and flying St George's colours, on blue field, with name Inniskilling over it.

Subsequent warrants recognised the following badges:

*41st Regt.* Rose and thistle conjoined on one stalk on red ground within Garter, surmounted by gold crown. Corner badge, gold crown and GR cypher.

*42nd Regt.* GR cypher in gold within Garter, surmounted by gold crown, and beneath this badge St Andrew with the motto NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT. Corner badge, as 41st.

*60th Regt.* Central and corner badges as 41st. The 2nd Battalion was not converted to Rifles until 1824 and would probably have carried colours. No information on 3rd and 4th Battalions; all others

were Rifles and did not carry colours.

Interpretation of these regulations was in the hands of the colonels, whose duty it was to provide the colours, and though most followed the correct design, there was an occasional variant.

Towards the end of the century the neatness and regularity of the Adams style became fashionable and inevitably had its effect on military flags. Consequently circa 1795 the regimental number was most generally to be found upon a heart-shaped shield or cartouche (first used on Colours circa 1785), a form of cartouche which was now being used on furniture, silver, book plates etc, and continued to be fashionable for the next two decades. (See Plates B1 and B2) This cartouche became so pre-eminent on Colours that it could almost be said to have been 'regulation'. The Scottish regiments were an exception to this, and seldom adopted the cartouche, using instead a variety of distinctive designs: see Fig 5.

The wreath surrounding the cartouche had also, from c. 1785, become more simplified, with only two roses at each side, and those in regular positions. This form of central cartouche and wreath remained the most common until circa 1815. Royal regiments at this date did not normally bear a wreath round the Garter badge.

The first alteration to this pattern came in 1801 with the union with Ireland. Henceforth the Union flag included the red saltire of St Patrick and the Union wreath round the regimental number was adjusted to include the shamrock. Some of the old Colours were replaced by new ones bearing these additions, but most Colours were merely altered.

In 1806 the York Herald, Mr George Naylor, was appointed inspector of regimental Colours, apparently with the task of approving the designs for all new Colours. One of his first actions was to send to all regiments for details of the existing colours and the returns from this enquiry, mostly dated mid-1807, showed that the majority of Colours were painted, that the pattern of the wreath frequently varied from Colour to Colour, and that while most Colours bore the cartouche, there were still variations, even on occasions within a regiment.

The first 'battle honour' for a Line Infantry regiment had been recognised in the 1747 regulations when granting the motto VIRTUTIS

NAMURCENSIS PROEMIUM to the 18th Regt. (carried below the central badge) for bravery at Namur in 1695. However, the first battle honour as we now know it was GIBRALTAR, awarded to the 12th, 39th, 56th and 58th Regiments in 1784. A castle, key and the motto MONTIS INSIGNIA CALPE were added to these regiments' Regimental Colours just below the central device, the word GIBRALTAR on a scroll above the same device.

The next honour to be granted was MINDEN (1759) in 1801 to the 12th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 37th and 51st Regiments (usually added above the wreath) and in the same year EGYPT and the sphinx badge were authorised as an honour for over 40 regiments which had fought in the Egyptian campaign. The white sphinx badge on a red field within a wreath of gold immortals was at first added immediately beneath the central device, on the Regimental Colour only. However, this made the Colours too heavy to be practical and from circa 1803 the honour was embroidered directly on the flag. The word EGYPT on a blue scroll was placed above the central device. the 79th, 90th and 2nd Battalion, 92nd Foot carried the sphinx badge in the corners of their Regimental Colour, the Coldstream Guards on the corners of their royal standard.

The honour MAIDA (1806) was granted in 1807 to the 20th, 27th, 58th, 78th and 81st Regiments, and during the 1808–14 period various Peninsula honours were awarded to the regiments concerned, and carried on the King's and Regimental Colours.

During the Napoleonic Wars there were a number of Swiss and Hanoverian regiments in the British service. The Swiss mostly served outside Europe, and Figs 7 and 8 and Plate C1 show that while their flags usually followed the basic British pattern, they sometimes maintained the distinctive wavy divisions of the field characteristic of Swiss military flags. The Hanoverians served in Europe and their Colours followed the British pattern more closely: see Figs 9, 10 and 18 and Plate C4.

From 1756 each regiment of Foot Guards carried crimson flags with the following devices: *1st Foot Guards*: Colonel's, gold crown in centre; Lt Colonel's, gold crown over royal cypher in centre, small Union in canton; Major's, as Lt Colonel's but with gold flame issuing from bottom corner of the

Union, see Fig 11. *Coldstream Guards*: Colonel's, eight-pointed star in centre of Garter with crown over, see Fig 13; Lt Colonel's, as Colonel's but with small Union in the canton; Major's, as Lt Colonel's but small gold flame issuing from bottom corner of Union. *3rd Foot Guards*: Colonel's, crowned arms of Scotland in centre with white scroll below, See Fig 15; Lt Colonel's, crowned Union badge in centre with scroll beneath as Colonel's and small Union in canton; Major's, as Lt Colonel's but gold flame issuing from bottom corner of Union and centre device of star of Order of Thistle surmounted by gold crown, and below a white scroll bearing NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT. The captains' Colours for all regiments were the Union with the appropriate company badge in the centre and company number in the canton in gold Roman capitals. Cords were crimson.

In 1756 the regiments had the following Colours: *1st Foot Guards*: one King's or Royal standard (carried only on state occasions), two Colonel's, two Lt Colonel's, two Major's, and 21 captains' Colours. *Coldstream Guards* and *3rd Foot Guards* each had two Colonel's, two Lt Colonel's, one Major's and 13 captains' Colours. The field officers' Colours were identical pairs, possibly because Colours were frequently needed at different ceremonial duties at the same time, or because their constant use at such duties caused them to wear out before the next issue, which was every seven years. There was no change in the number of Colours possessed by the regiments until 1807, but only two Colours were carried at any one time during the 1804–15 period by each battalion, the Colonel's Colour normally being regarded as the 1st or 'King's' Colour of the 1st Battalion, the Lt Colonel's as that of the 2nd Battalion, and the Major's as that of the 3rd Battalion, although these allocations were not actually made firm until 1855. The Regimental Colour for each battalion was one of the original company Colours, used in rotation. This practice probably originated from the weekly duty of the Captain of the Week, when the duty captain's company Colour would have been carried, and this rotation system was confirmed in 1803 when the field officers relinquished their companies. The full list of company badges was:

### 1st Foot Guards

#### Company

- 1st Crowned lion standing on large crown, all in gold.
- 2nd Red Tudor rose with white centre.
- 3rd Gold fleur-de-lys.
- 4th Gold portcullis with chains.
- 5th White rose surrounded by gold rays of sun.
- 6th Thistle, stalked and leaved proper.
- 7th Gold harp.
- 8th Red dragon on green mount.
- 9th White greyhound with red collar on a green mount.
- 10th Sun bearing human face.
- 11th White unicorn passant with gold coronet, collar and chain, on a green mount.
- 12th White antelope statant, as 11th.
- 13th White hart couchant, as 11th.
- 14th White falcon with wings extended, perched on barrel of a closed golden fetterlock.
- 15th Red rose with green stalk and leaves.
- 16th White swan, as 11th, beak and legs red.
- 17th White falcon, crowned and with sceptre in right talon, standing on tree stump from left side of which issues a branch bearing a white rose between two red ones.
- 18th Gold tree stump with three leaves issuing from each side.
- 19th Golden sceptre and sword proper crossed saltirewise.
- 20th Oak tree with crowned head of Charles II emerging from centre of foliage.
- 21st Sun issuing from clouds.
- 22nd Beacon or cresset with flames.
- 23rd Two silver ostrich feathers crossed saltirewise.
- 24th White hart with golden antlers springing from the gate of a golden castle with three turrets, all on a wreath of gold and blue.

### Coldstream Guards

#### Company

- 1st White lion sejant guardant on green mount, surmounted by gold crown.
- 2nd Prince of Wales' feathers and coronet.
- 3rd White panther guardant, spotted black, blue and red, flames issuing from mouth and ears, on a green mount.
- 4th Two swords proper, crossed saltirewise.
- 5th St George and the dragon proper.
- 6th Red rose, seeded green, within the Garter.
- 7th Centaur on a green mount.
- 8th Two gold sceptres, crossed saltirewise.
- 9th Golden knot of the collar of the Garter within the Garter.
- 10th Gold escarbuncle.
- 11th White boar passant, tusked and bristled gold, on green mount.
- 12th White bull passant on green mount.
- 13th Red and white rose impaled with golden pomegranate with green stalk and leaves.
- 14th White galloping horse on green mount.
- 15th Golden crown of Charlemagne.

### 3rd Foot Guards

#### Company

- 1st Royal Crest of Scotland on silver shield; motto IN DEFENSIO.
- 2nd Bomb with lighted fuse; motto TERROREM AFFERO.

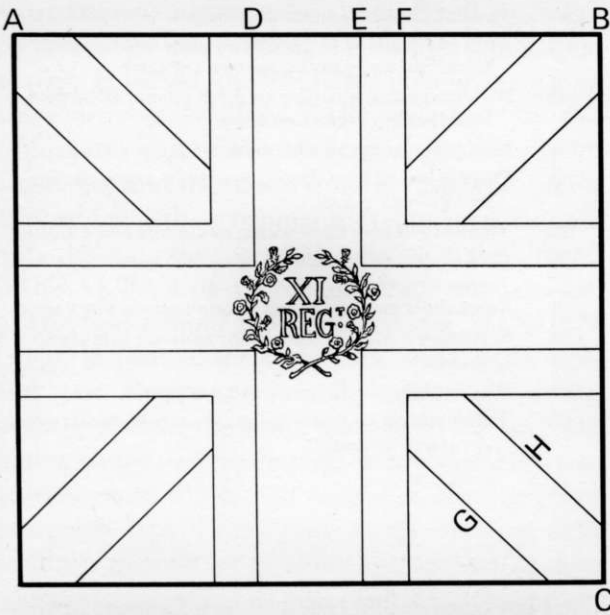
- 3rd Red lion rampant; motto INTREPIDUS.
- 4th Cross and figure of St Andrew on silver star and under a thistle; motto NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT.
- 5th Red lion passant guardant on green mount, all on gold shield; motto TIMERE NESCIUS.
- 6th Blue griffin on gold shield; motto BELLOQUE FEROX.
- 7th Phoenix issuing from flames, on a green mount; motto PER FUNERA VITAM.
- 8th Thunderbolt with silver wings; motto HORROR UBIQUE.
- 9th Gold cannon firing, on a green mount; motto CONCUSSAE CADENT URBES.
- 10th Salamander amongst flames; motto PASCUA NOTA MIHI.
- 11th St Andrew's cross on blue shield; motto IN HOC SIGNO VINCES.
- 12th War trophies; motto HONORES PRAEFERO.
- 13th Talbot passant on green mount, all on gold shield; motto INTAMINATA FIDES.

The Foot Guards had received new Colours in 1800 and therefore these had to be altered for the 1801 union with Ireland. New Colours were issued in 1807, and again extra Colours are listed, as there were not 'sufficient red colours (including the Duties at St James's) to last seven years.' The 1st Guards had four extra Major's Colours; the Coldstream and 3rd Guards each had an extra Colonel's and Lt Colonel's. According to the Nayler returns of 1807, at this date the regiments in fact had the following Colours: 1st Guards two Colonel's, three Lt Colonel's and five Major's Colours (between three majors.) Coldstream and 3rd Guards each had three Colonel's, three Lt Colonel's and two Major's Colours (for two majors). The captains' Colours were as listed above.

The honours carried on these Colours during the 1804-15 period were: EGYPT and the sphinx badge awarded to Coldstream and 3rd Guards in 1802. These appeared on the extra Colours of 1807 and may have been on the other Colours: they were certainly on those of the 1814 issue. LINCELLES, awarded June 1811 to all three regiments. CORUNNA and BARROSA awarded October 1811 to 1st Guards. TALAVERA and BARROSA awarded February 1812 to Coldstream and 3rd Guards. These honours were probably not added to existing Colours, appearing for the first time on the 1814 issue. Honours were not borne on the royal standard of the 1st Guards.

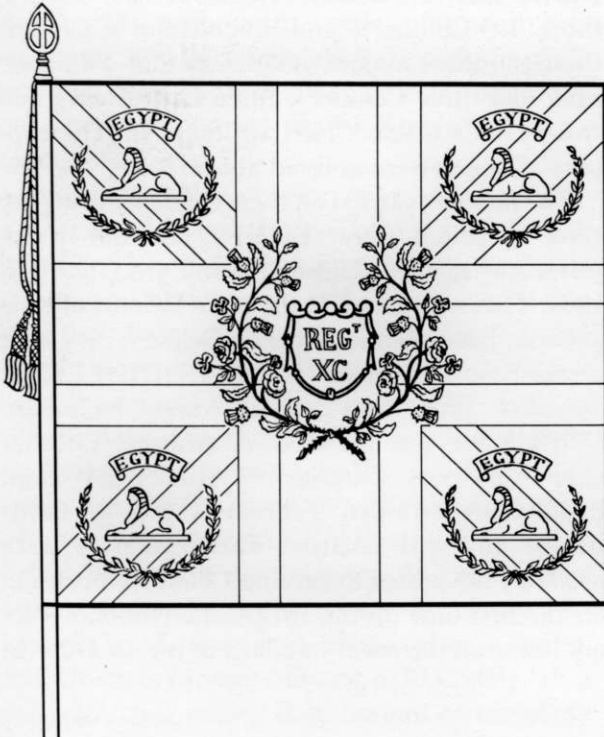
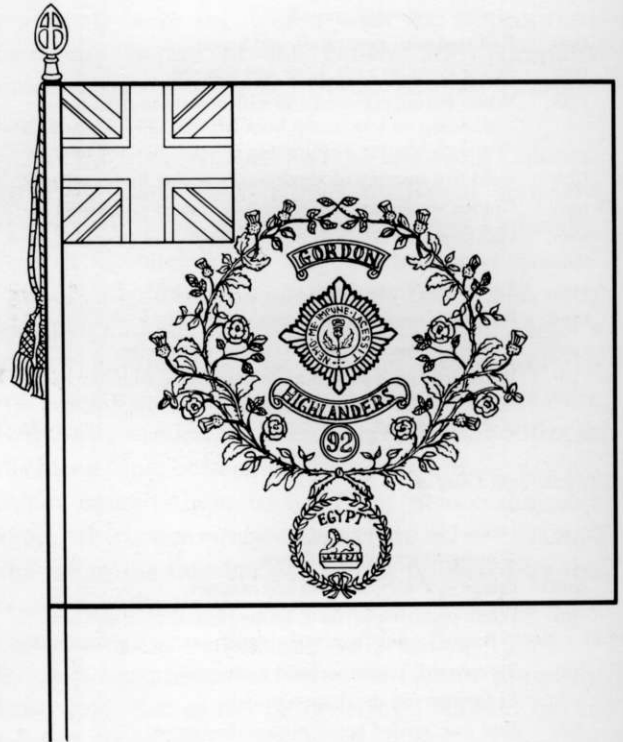
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4. Britain: King's Colour, 11th Foot, illustrating proportions for Union flags as given in 1747 Warrant: A to B = 6ft 6ins; B to C = 6ft 2ins (6ft in 1768 Warrant but 1747 measurement may include sleeve); D to E = 13ins; E to F = 5ins; G to H = 9ins. On the Regimental Colour the canton was 21ins on the staff by 23ins.

5. Britain: Regimental Colour, 92nd Highlanders, c. 1798-1807, altered in 1801.

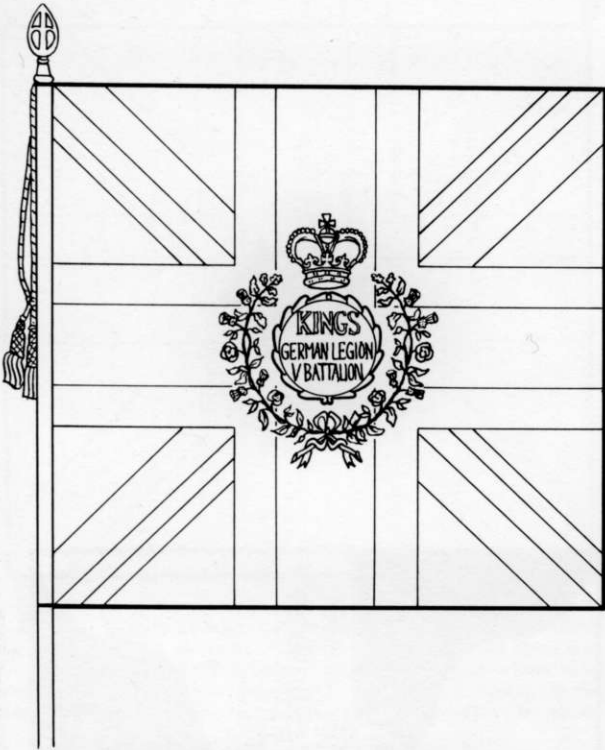


6. Britain: King's Colour, 90th Light Infantry, 1795-1816, altered in 1801.

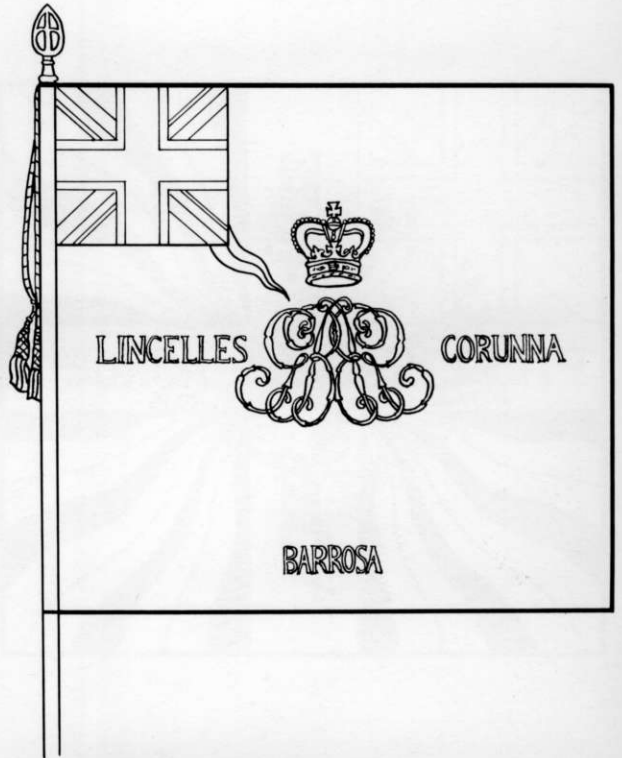
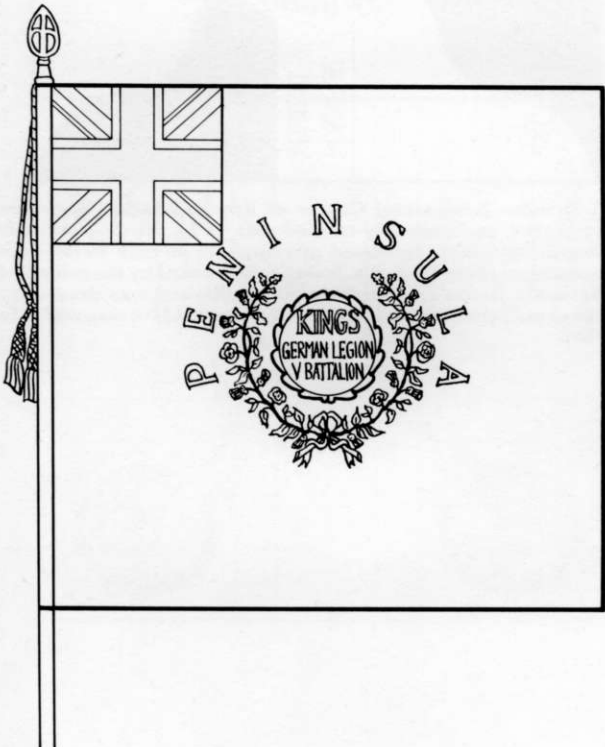
7. Britain: Regimental Colour of de Meuron's Swiss Regiment, c. 1795-1801. The same pattern, but with St Patrick's saltire added, was used after 1801.



8. Britain: Regimental Colour of Rovera's Swiss Regiment 1799-1801, and probably carried 1801-16 by the de Watteville Regiment, which consisted of remnants of four Swiss regiments including Rovera's. It was commanded by the colonel of Rovera's, Baron Frederick de Watteville, and was dressed in spare uniforms of Rovera's. The honour MAIDA was added in 1807.

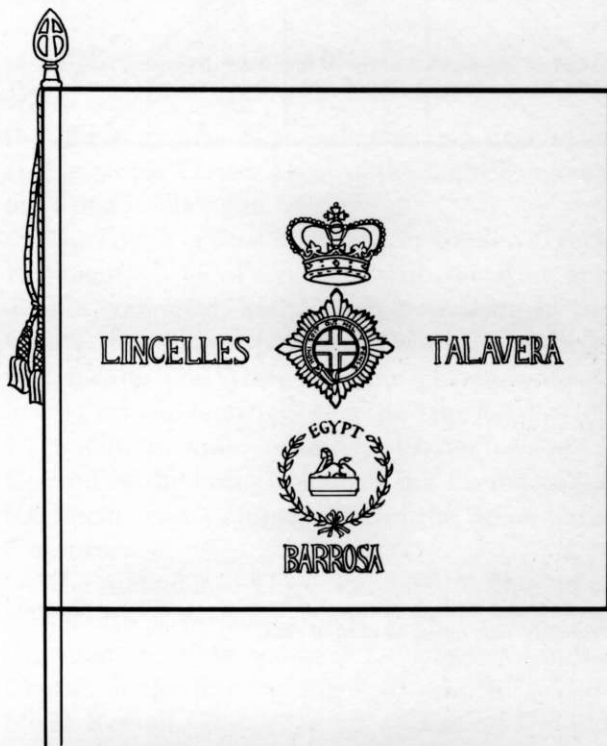
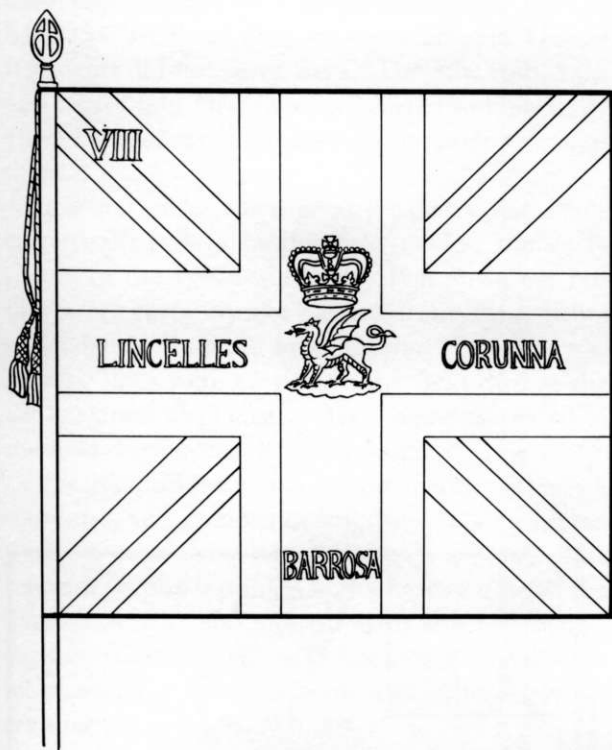


9 and 10. Britain: King's and Regimental Colours, 5th Bn., King's German Legion. There were eight Line and two Light Battalions in the K.G.L.; only the Line carried Colours, at a scale of two per battalion. All were exactly as illustrated, with the exception of the battalion number.

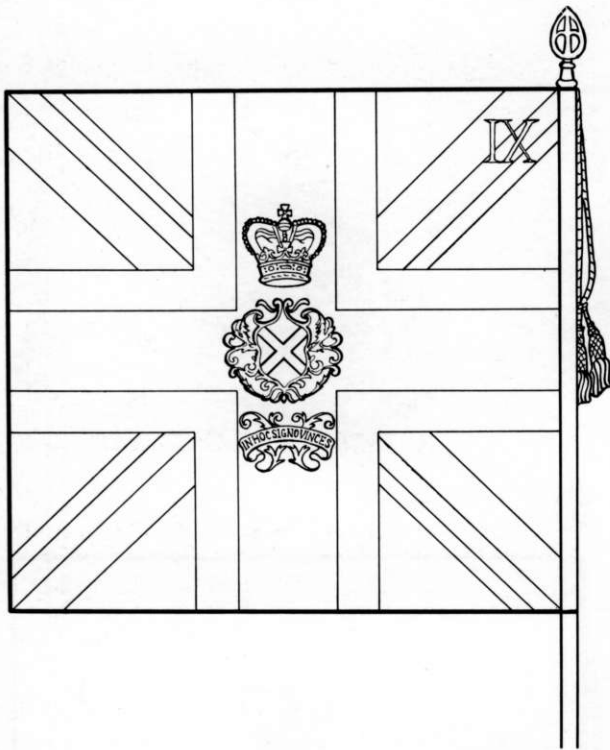


11. Britain: King's (Major's) Colour, 3rd Bn., 1st Foot Guards, as carried at Waterloo. 1814 issue.

12. Britain: Regimental (8th Company's) Colour, 3rd Bn., 1st Foot Guards, as carried at Waterloo. 1814 issue.

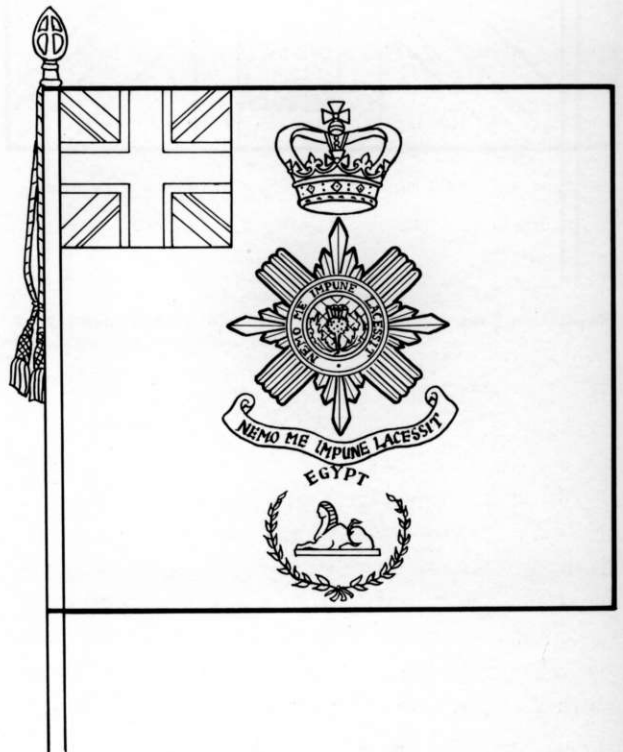


13. Britain: King's (Colonel's) Colour, 2nd Foot Guards, carried by the 2nd Bn. at Waterloo. 1814 issue.



14. Britain: Regimental (11th Company's) Colour, 3rd Foot Guards. Probably 1800 issue, altered in 1801. The reverse is shown with the company numeral reversed as on the surviving Colour.

15. Britain: King's (Major's) Colour, 3rd Foot Guards. Probably 1800 issue, altered in 1801.



The number of standards and guidons carried by cavalry regiments varied according to the strength of each regiment, but as a general rule there were four flags per regiment in the early 19th century, the regiments having on average eight troops. When the establishment was increased to ten troops, by circa 1807, the number of flags was increased to five; the 1st Dragoon Guards, which had 12 troops, carried six flags.

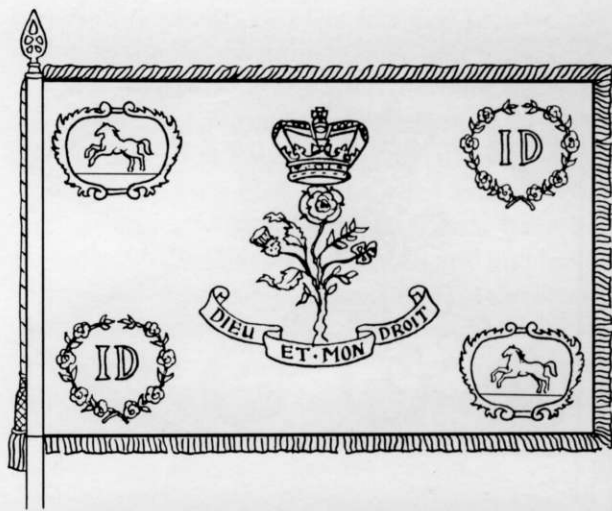
Dragoon Guard regiments carried one standard as 'Guards' and the appropriate number of guidons as dragoons; Dragoon regiments carried guidons only. Light Dragoon regiments appear normally to have carried three guidons per regiment. Hussar regiments did not carry flags. (The 7th, 10th, 15th and 18th Light Dragoons, converted to Hussars in 1807, kept some of their guidons but no longer used them.)

It is not clear whether any cavalry regiments carried their flags in the field during the early phases of the Peninsula War (1808 onwards) but they were certainly not carried from 1812, being either left in England or at Lisbon. (It is likely *no* cavalry flags were carried in the field during the 1804-15 period.) Cavalry flags were not carried in the field during the 1815 campaign.

The regulations which governed the pattern of standards and guidons during the 1804-15 period were set out in the Royal Warrant of 1768. The relevant section is quoted in full here as it states the details clearly, and if used with the regimental variations listed below provides ample information to reconstruct the standards and guidons of all regiments:

'The Standard and Guidons of the Dragoon Guards, and the Standards of the Regiments of Horse,\* to be of Silk Damask embroidered, and fringed with Gold or Silver. The Guidons of the Regiments of Dragoons and of the Light Dragoons to be of Silk. The Tassels, and Cords of the whole, to be of Crimson Silk and Gold mixed. The Lance of the Standards and Guidons (except those of the Light Dragoons) to be nine Feet long (Spear and Ferril included.) The Flag of the Standard to be two Feet five Inches wide without the Fringe, and two Feet three Inches on the Lance. That of the Guidons to be three Feet five Inches to the end of

\*The Regiments of Horse were re-designated Dragoon Guards in 1788.



16. Britain: Standard, 1st Royal Dragoons. Probably issued in 1793, altered 1801, and not replaced until after the Napoleonic Wars.

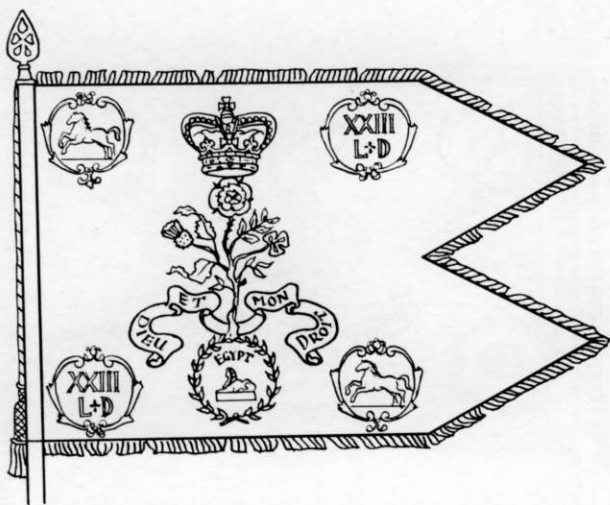
the Slit of the Swallow-tail, and two Feet three Inches on the Lance. Those of the Light Dragoons to be of a smaller size.\*\*

'The King's or First Standard, or Guidon of each Regiment, to be of Crimson, with the Rose and Thistle conjoined, and Crown over them in the Centre. His Majesty's Motto Dieu et mon Droit underneath. The White Horse, in a Compartment, in the First and Fourth Corner; and the Rank of the Regiment, in Gold or Silver Characters, on a Ground of the same Colour as the Facing of the Regiment, in a Compartment in the Second and Third corners.

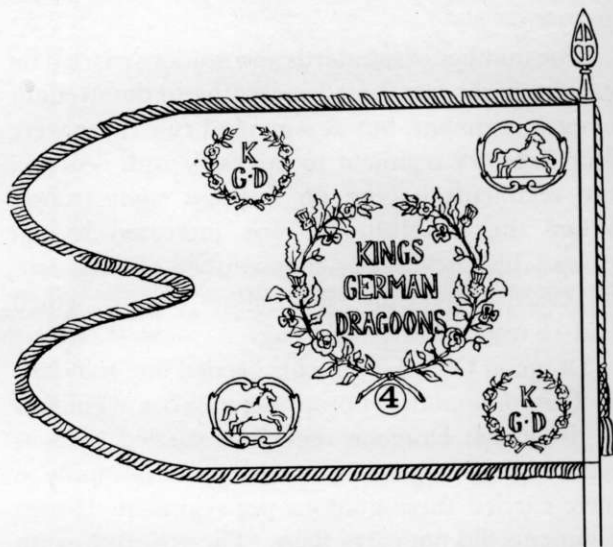
'The Second and Third Standard, or Guidon of each Corps, to be of the Colour of the Facing of the Regiment, with the Badge of the Regiment in the Centre, or the Rank of the Regiment in Gold or Silver Roman Characters, on a Crimson Ground within a Wreath of Roses and Thistles on the same stalk. The Motto of the Regiment underneath, the White Horse on a Red Ground, to be in the First and Fourth Compartments, and the Rose and Thistle conjoined upon a Red Ground, in the Second and Third Compartments. The Distinction of the Third Standard or Guidon to be a Figure 3 on a circular ground of Red, underneath the Motto.

'Those Corps which have any particular Badge, are to carry it in the centre of their Second and Third Standard, or Guidon, with the Rank of the Regiment on a Red Ground, within a small Wreath

\*\*No dimensions for the Light Dragoons were ever given but a guidon of the 21st Light Dragoons (1760-63) which has survived measures two feet ten inches by two feet four inches on the lance, including a two-inch fringe.



17. Britain: 1st Guidon, 23rd Light Dragoons, c. 1803-16.



18. Britain: Guidon of 4th Squadron, 1st King's German Dragoons, 1805-15.

of Roses and Thistles, in the Second and Third Corners; except those of the Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards and Light Dragoons.\*\*\* The Rank of those two Regiments to be under the Plume of Feathers.'

Few new flags were issued to the cavalry on union with Ireland, most existing flags being altered to incorporate the shamrock.

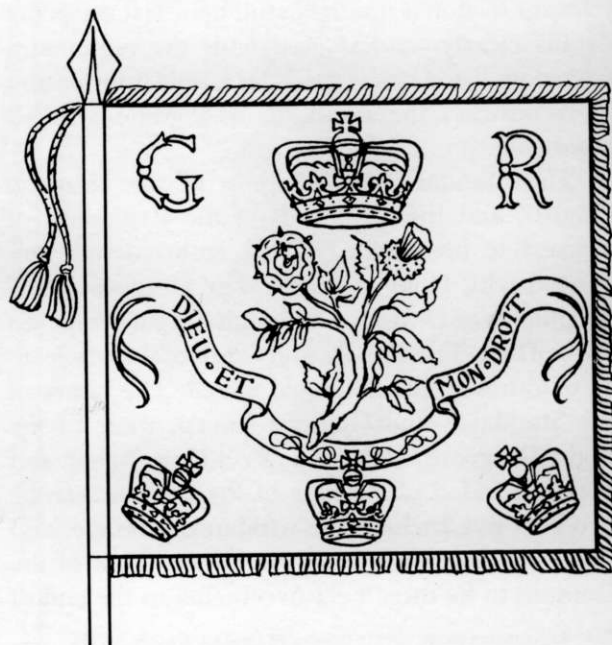
The only cavalry regiment to carry a battle honour on its guidons whilst these were still carried in the field, was the 15th Light Dragoons, raised in 1759. In the 1768 warrant this regiment was granted the honour EMSDORF (1760).

In 1805 there was one regiment of heavy and one of light dragoons in the King's German Legion and this was increased by 1806 to two heavy and three light regiments. Each Heavy Dragoon regiment had one red regimental standard and a guidon for each squadron. Both standard and guidons followed the basic British patterns: see Fig 18 and Plate C4. Guidons were of dark blue for the 1st Regiment, black for the 2nd. The number of the squadron appears immediately below the central badge.

There is no record of the Light Dragoons carrying guidons. In 1812 the heavy regiments were converted to light, and the light to hussars; the old heavy regiments probably continued to carry their original flags.

The 1st and 2nd Regiments of Life Guards each received one new standard and one new guidon in 1791. All flags were crimson and bore identical designs for both regiments: the Union badge with the motto on a gold scroll, three small crowns beneath, the outer ones titled inwards, and in each of the upper corners the cypher GR in Roman capitals: see Fig 19. Fringes and cords were gold.

19. Britain: Pattern of standard used by both regiments of Life Guards 1791-1801. From 1801 the three small crowns were removed, and the shamrock added to the Union badge.



\*\*\*3rd Dragoon Guards; 12th Light Dragoons.



20. Britain: Devices as carried on the standards of the R.H.G. from 1758 (4th Sqdn from 1794) until 1815. A, 1st Sqdn. B, 2nd Sqdn. C, 3rd Sqdn. D, 4th Sqdn.

The standard was two feet three inches in the hoist, two feet five and seven-eighth inches in the fly. The guidon was two feet three inches at the hoist, three feet five inches in the fly, with the slit ten and a quarter inches long and four inches wide at the fly. The lance was ten feet overall.

In 1800 each regiment received a second standard of the same pattern but in 1801 the shamrock was added to the Union badge and the three small crowns removed. The Union badge now had the rose in the centre, shamrock to the right, thistle to the left. In 1803 the 1st Regiment received a Sovereign's standard bearing the royal arms with the royal cypher in each of the top corners. Fringes were three and a half inches deep except at the fork of the guidon, where they were one and three-eighths. These flags may have been carried in the Peninsula, where both regiments served.

The Royal Horse Guards in 1794 had four standards, one per squadron. These were all crimson and bore: 1st standard, royal arms and supporters surmounted by a crown. 2nd, Union badge without scroll or motto. 3rd, royal cypher reversed and interlaced, surmounted by a crown. 4th, not known at this date but probably the regiment's RHG monogram instead of the royal cypher: the squadron's standard was of this design in the 1807 returns. All standards had the GR cypher in the upper corners in Roman capitals. Fringes and cords were gold, the former three and three quarter inches long. Size was two feet three

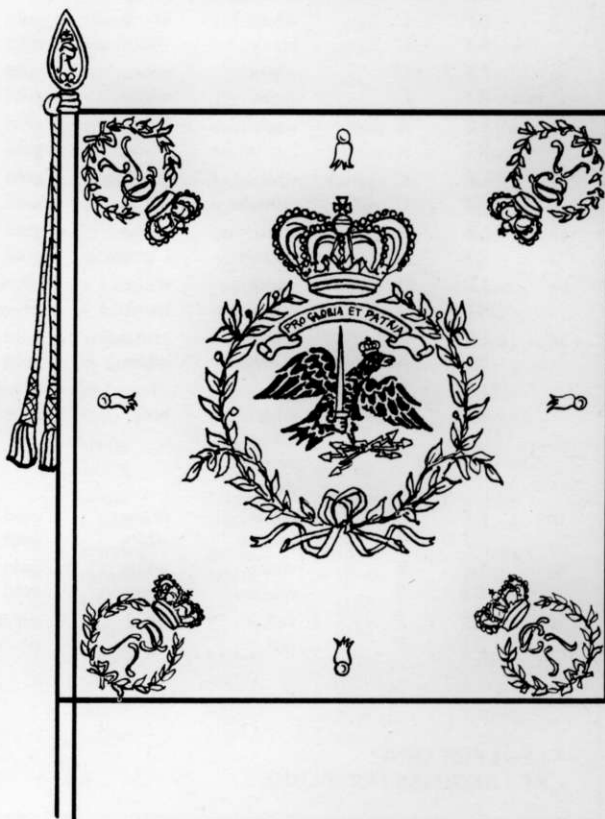
inches in the hoist, two feet five and seven-eighth inches in the fly, excluding sleeve and fringes.

These standards were altered where necessary (the Union badge) in 1801 to conform to the union with Ireland. Fig 20 shows the devices of the four standards as portrayed in the 1807 returns. Note the 3rd and 4th Squadrons' standards have had their designs exchanged and the 1st and 2nd have a letter of the royal cypher to each side of the central device, otherwise they remain as described for the earlier period. These standards were probably carried until 1812. The only surviving standard of the period (RHG, 2nd Squadron, circa 1801-15) confirms the 1807 sketches are correct.

## Prussia

Any study of the flags of the Prussian Army is punctuated by that army's disastrous defeat by Napoleon in 1806 and the radical reorganisation which followed in 1807. Until 1806 the regiments carried flags which conformed to patterns laid down

21. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type A.





during the reign of Frederick the Great and we will therefore deal with this era as a separate entity.

Prior to 1807 each infantry regiment had two flags per battalion, the first flag of the 1st Battalion being the Leibfahne, the battalion's second flag and both flags of the 2nd Battalion being Regimentersfahnen. The basic design of all infantry flags of this period is illustrated by Fig 21. Regimental distinction was by colour but obviously only a limited number of regiments could be distinguished thus, and therefore a series of crosses

was superimposed on the basic pattern to give a greater number of variations. These crosses were the *keilenkreuz*, Fig 22, which obscured most of the field so that it showed only in the form of 'corner rays'; the *flammenkreuz*, Fig 23; a combination of *flammenkreuz* and *keilenkreuz*, Fig 24; the *Johanniterkreuz*, Fig 25; the *keilenkreuz* with wavy edges, Fig 26; a plain narrow cross, Fig 27; and a cross with curved sides, Fig 28. Other variants of the basic pattern are shown by Figs 29 and 30, and Plate D2.

**Prussia:** Table A Line Infantry c. 1740-1807

Regt	Flag*	Pattern	Field	Centre	Embroidery	Cross	Regt	Flag*	Pattern	Field
1	LF	A	white	orange	silver	—	19	LF	E	white
	RF	A	orange	white	silver	—		RF	E	crimson
2	LF	A	white	black	gold	—	20	LF	A	white
	RF	A	black	white	gold	—		RF	A	turquoise
3	LF	A	white	yellow	silver	—	21	LF	} see Pl. D1	white
	RF	A	yellow	white	silver	—		RF		yellow
4	LF	C	white	crimson	gold	yellow	22	LF	C	white
	RF	C	crimson	white	gold	yellow		RF	C	blue
5	LF	C	white	yellow	gold	red	23	LF	A	white*
	RF	C	yellow	white	gold	red		RF	A	white*
6	LF	} see Pl. D2	white	white	gold	—	24	LF	C	white
	RF		white	sky blue	gold	—		RF	C	green
7	LF	B	crimson	blue	silver	white	25	LF	B	yellow
	RF	B	crimson	white	silver	blue		RF	B	yellow
8	LF	C	white	black	gold	black	26	LF	C	white
	RF	C	black	white	gold	white		RF	C	yellow
9	LF	C	white	green	gold	crimson	27	LF	C	white
	RF	C	green	white	gold	crimson		RF	C	blue
10	LF	A	white	l. green	gold	—	28	LF	B	blue
	RF	A	l. green	white	gold	—		RF	B	blue
11	LF	C	white	crimson	gold	crimson	29	LF	B	yellow
	RF	C	crimson	white	gold	white		RF	B	yellow
12	LF	B	white	white	gold	l. green	30	LF	B	black
	RF	B	l. green	l. green	gold	white		RF	B	black
13	LF	B	white	white	silver	black	31	LF	B	white
	RF	B	crimson	black	silver	white		RF	B	blue
14	LF	A	white	crimson	gold	—	32	LF	D	red
	RF	A	crimson	white	gold	—		RF	D	red
15	LF	} I	white	silver	silver	—	33	LF	A	white
	RF		with silver vertical stripes	blue	silver	—		RF	A	blue
16	LF	C	white	orange	gold	orange	34	LF	G	white
	RF	C	orange	white	gold	white		RF	G	blue
17	LF	B	white	white	gold	crimson	35	LF	A	white
	RF	B	crimson	crimson	gold	white		RF	A	l. blue
18	LF	F	red	blue	silver	white	36	LF	A	white
	RF	F	red	white	silver	blue		RF	A	lilac
37	LF	A	white				37	LF	A	white
	RF	A	lime green					RF	A	lime green
38	LF	A	white				38	LF	A	white
	RF	A	red					RF	A	red

\* LF = LEIBFAHNE  
RF = REGIMENTERSFAHNE

\*but blue background to corner cyphers

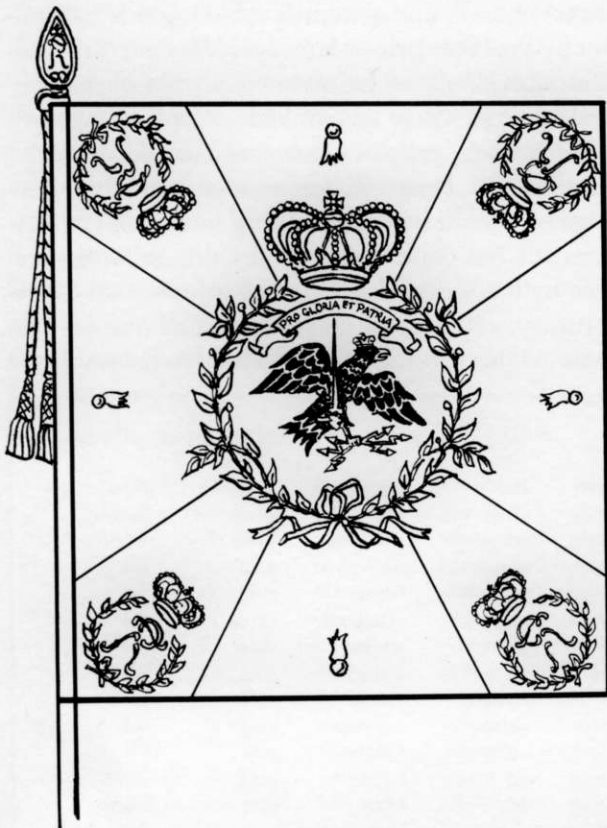
In all cases the eagle was black with gold beak, crown, claws, sword hilt and lightning, and a silver sword blade. The scroll above the eagle was usually in the field colour and the inner bottom edge of the central and corner crowns was red with the field colour showing through the arches of the crowns. Full details of the colour variations for field, crosses, cyphers and wreaths are listed in Table A.

The majority of sources consulted state that the Leibfahne was of the same design as the Regimentsfahne but with the colours of the field and

cross reversed, and generally speaking this is borne out by the table below. However, *Heer und Tradition* Plate XXIV shows Leibfahnen carried during the period 1740–1806 which have a spiky, possibly palm branch, type of central and corner wreath: see Plate D2. Pengel makes no mention of different form of wreath when describing mid-18th century flags: he has consulted several German works not seen by this writer. Lacking any information to the contrary, at present it may be assumed that at least some of the pre-1808 issue Leibfahnen may have

Centre	Embroidery	Cross	Regt	Flag*	Pattern	Field	Centre	Embroidery	Cross
crimson	gold	crimson	39	LF	B	white	white	silver	yellow
white	gold	white		RF	B	yellow	yellow	silver	white
turquoise	gold	—	40	LF	} see Fig 30	white	deep pink	gold	—
white	gold	—		RF		white	white	gold	—
crimson	silver	yellow	41	LF	A	white	yellow	silver	—
crimson	silver	white		RF	A	yellow	white	silver	—
blue	gold	red	42	LF	B	white	white	gold	orange
white	gold	red		RF	B	orange	orange	gold	white
white	silver	—	43	LF	A	white	l. green	gold	—
blue	silver	—		RF	A	l. green	white	gold	—
green	gold	green	44	LF	B	red	l. blue	gold	white
white	gold	white		RF	B	red	white	gold	l. blue
green	gold	white	45	LF	B	orange	blue	gold	white
white	gold	green		RF	B	orange	white	gold	blue
yellow	silver	yellow	46	LF	H	black	yellow	gold	white
white	silver	white		RF	H	black	white	gold	yellow
blue	gold	yellow	47	LF	?				
white	gold	yellow		RF	?				
black	gold	white	48	LF	B	l. blue	crimson	silver	white
white	gold	black		RF	B	l. blue	white	silver	crimson
blue	gold	white	49	LF	A	white	beige	silver	—
white	gold	blue		RF	A	beige	white	silver	—
green	gold	white	50	LF	B	crimson	blue	gold	white
white	gold	green		RF	B	crimson	white	gold	blue
white	gold	blue	51	LF	B	l. blue	yellow	silver	white
blue	gold	white		RF	B	l. blue	white	silver	yellow
blue	gold	white/black +	52	LF	C	white	d. green	silver	poppy red
		blue/black +		RF	C	d. green	white	silver	poppy red
white	gold	—	53	LF	B	red	l. green	silver	white
		—		RF	B	red	white	silver	l. green
blue	silver	—	54	LF	C	white	black	gold	red
white	silver	—		RF	C	black	white	gold	red
blue	silver	blue	55	LF	C	white	l. blue	silver	yellow
white	silver	white		RF	C	l. blue	white	silver	yellow
l. blue	silver	—	56	LF	F	crimson	green	silver	white
white	silver	—		RF	F	crimson	white	silver	green
lilac	gold	—	57	LF	} see Fig 31	white	—	gold	—
white	gold	—		RF		deep pink	—	gold	—
lime green	gold	—	58	LF	B	yellow	yellow	silver	white
white	gold	—		RF	B	yellow	yellow	silver	l. blue
red	gold	—	59	LF	B	white	white	gold	l. blue
white	gold	—		RF	B	l. blue	l. blue	gold	white
			60	no flags issued					

+ cross in 1st colour, saltire in 2nd.



22. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type B.

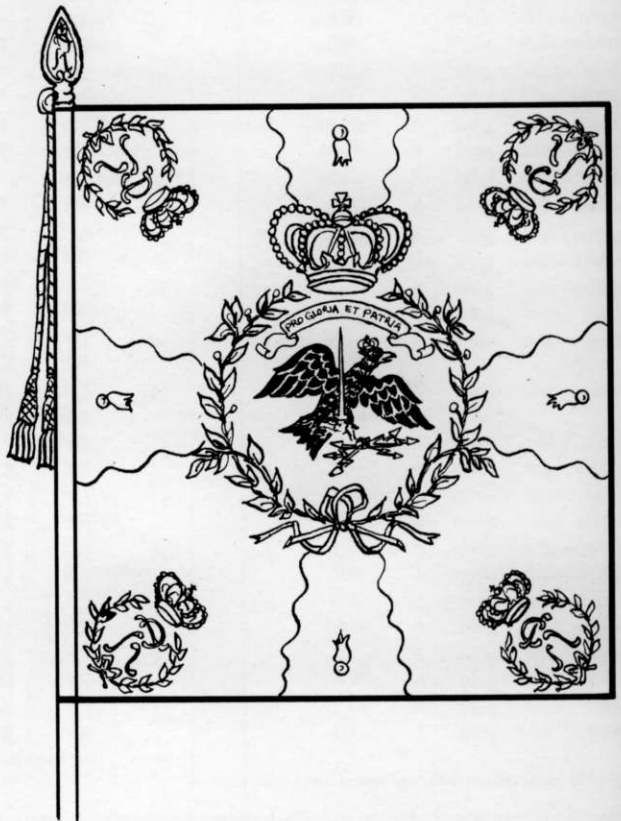
The great majority of the flags described above were lost in the 1806 campaign (some 340 infantry and cavalry flags were taken) and the new pattern of 1808 was therefore predominant in the later years, although some of the pre-1807 issue which had been saved were reissued. Under the regulations of 27 November 1807 the new issue was two per musketeer battalion, but no flags were issued to grenadier or fusilier battalions. However, by 1812 grenadier battalions were carrying flags and the fusiliers of the Garde-Grenadiers received flags in 1814.

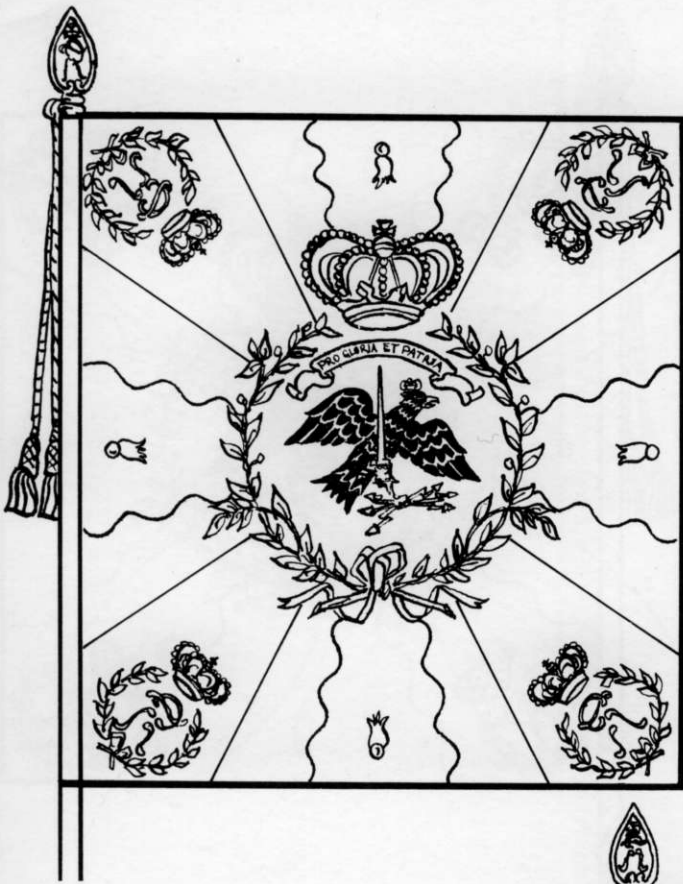
*continued on page 25*

had such wreaths. (*Heer und Tradition* Plate VI also shows this type of wreath on the flag of I.R. N° 15, 1st Battalion Leibgarde; see Fig 29.)

The flags were 140cm on the staff, 120cm in the fly and were carried on a staff three metres long with a spearhead-shaped finial which was normally gilt. The finial was pierced by the crowned royal cypher, exactly as it appears on the corners of the flags but minus the wreath. There was no cravat, but silver cords with black threads intermingled were knotted below the finial and ended in tassels. It would appear the majority of staves were of unpainted wood (they are variously described as light brown, bright brown, reddish brown etc.) Exceptions were I.R. N° 6, yellow; I.R. N° 15, white; I.R. N° 45, black. According to Pengel, in the 1756–86 period a number of regiments had black or white staves. In fact, from his list (based on an article by Dr Bleckween) it would seem that Regiments 1–10 may all have had light brown staves; 11–20 dark brown; 21–30 black; and at least 31–49 white, though this is mostly guesswork on the author's part.

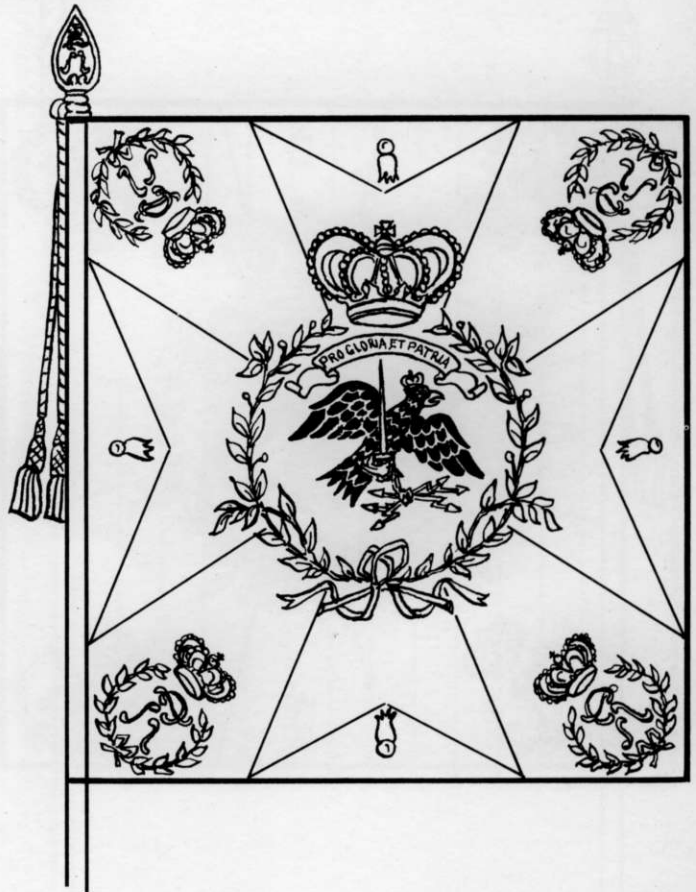
23. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type C.



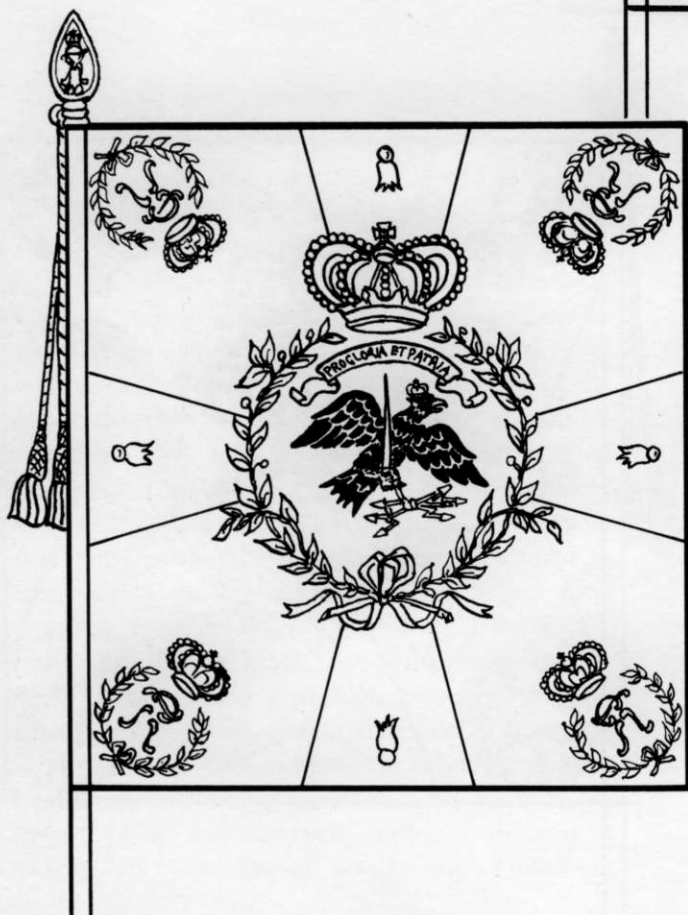
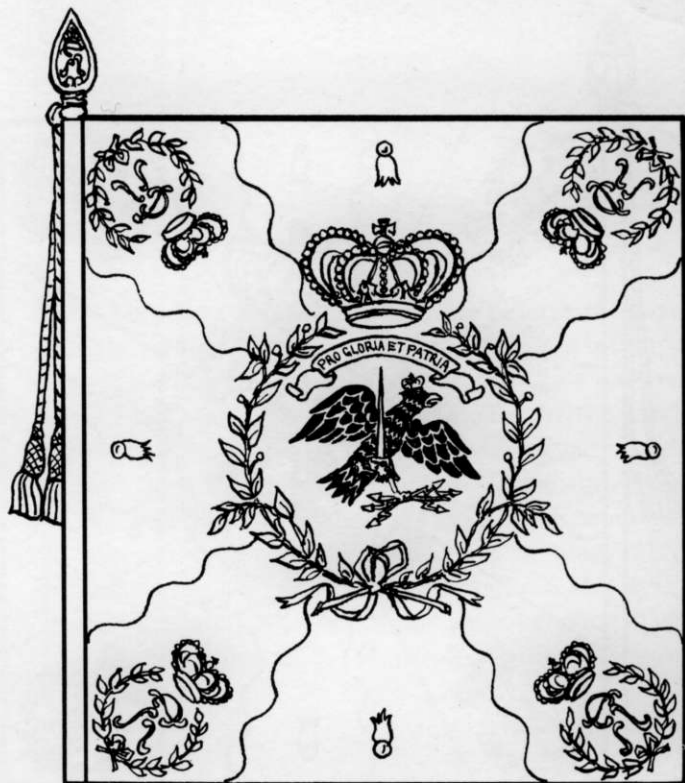


24. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type D, unique to I.R. N° 32.

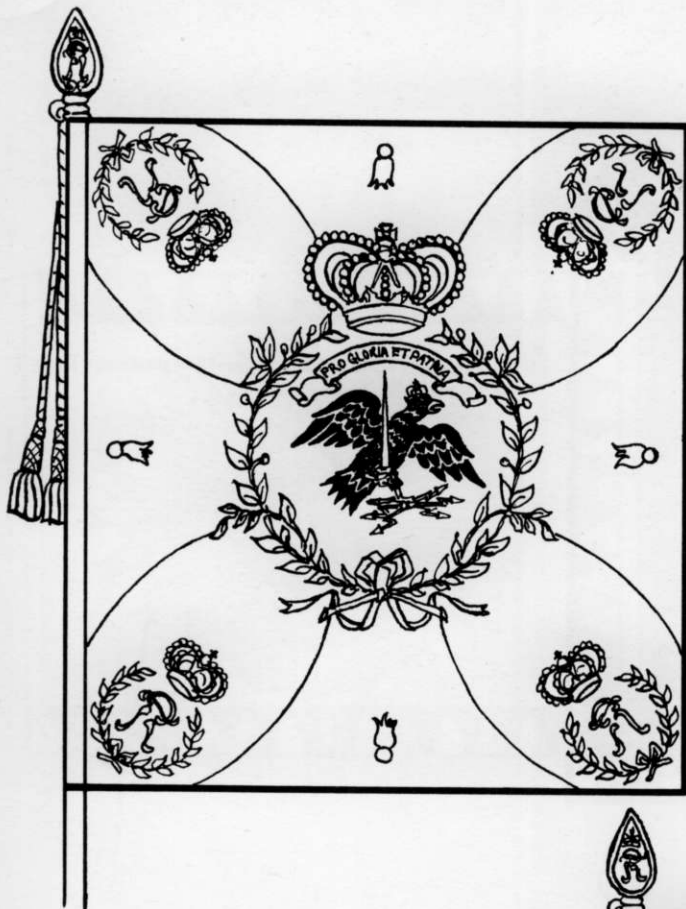
25. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type E, unique to I.R. N° 19.



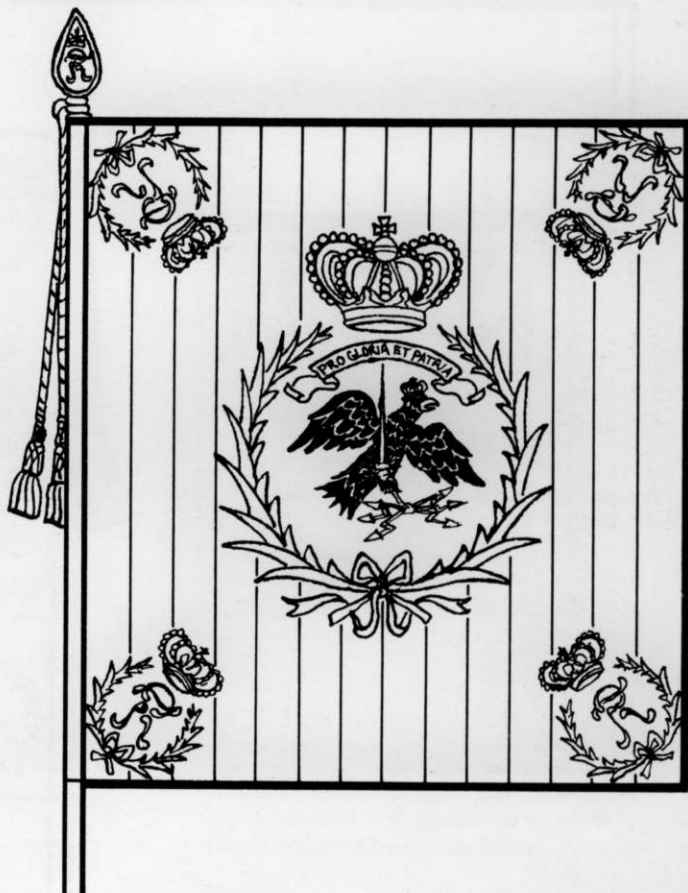
26. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type F, carried only by I.R. N°s 18 and 56.



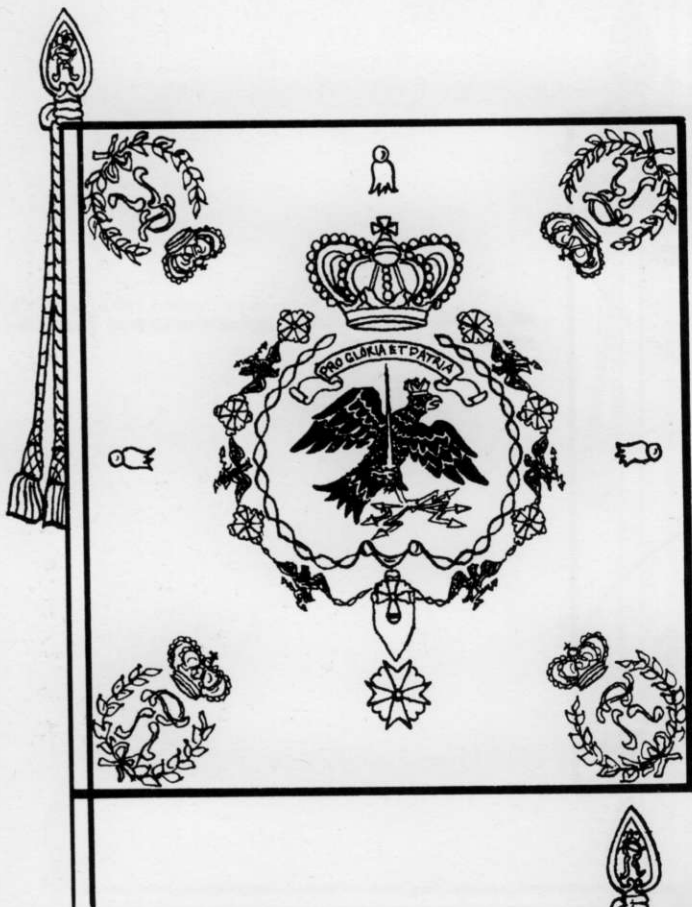
27. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type G, unique to I.R. N° 34.



28. Prussia : Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type H,  
unique to I.R. N° 46.



29. Prussia : Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type I,  
unique to I.R. N° 15.



30. Prussia: Line Infantry pre-1806 pattern: Type J, unique to I.R. N° 40.



31. Prussia: Line Infantry pattern pre-1806, unique to I.R. N° 57.

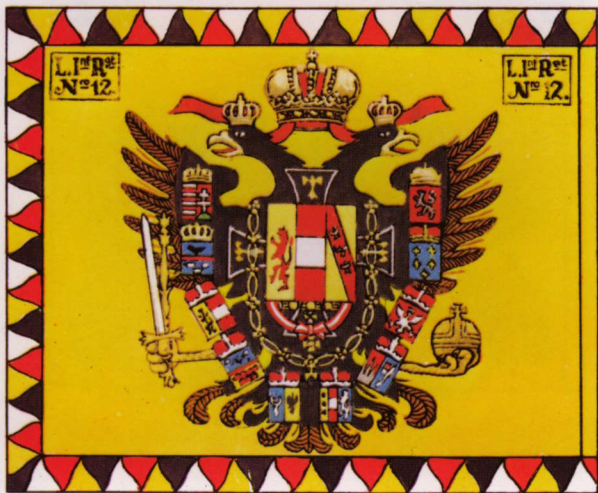


1



2

3



4



- 1 Austria: 1792 Leibfahne (obverse)
- 2 Austria: 1804 Ordinarfahne (obverse)
- 3 Austria: 1806 Ordinarfahne (reverse)
- 4 Austria: 1814 Ehrenstandarte





1



3

2

4



1 & 2 Britain: King's & Regimental Colours,  
33rd Foot, 1815

3 & 4 Britain: King's & Regimental Colours,  
3rd Foot, 1807



1



2

3



4



- 1 Britain: Regimental Colour, De Rolls Regiment, 1812-14
- 2 Britain: 8th Company's Colour, 3rd Battalion, 1st Foot Guards, 1815
- 3 Britain: 1st Royal Dragoons' guidon
- 4 Britain: King's German Legion, Heavy Dragoons, 1805-16



1



2



3



4

- 1 Prussia: Leibfahne to 1806
- 2 Prussia: Regimentsfahne to 1806
- 3 Prussia: Retirierfahne 1808-15
- 4 Prussia: Landwehr Battalion Sagun, 1813



1



2

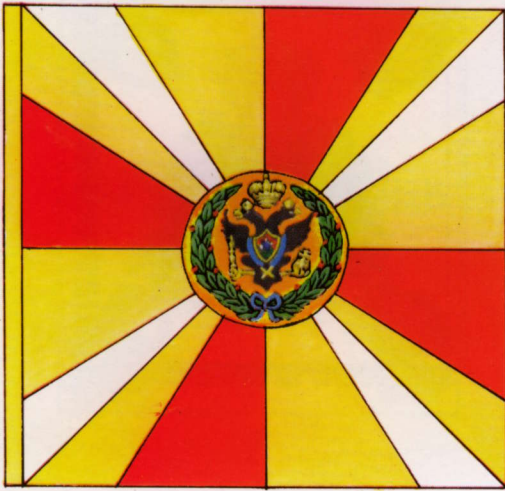
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4



- 1 Prussia: Cuirassier standard to 1806
- 2 Prussia: Leibstandarte, Garde du Corps
- 3 Prussia: Guidon, pre 1807
- 4 Prussia: standard of the Hanseatic Legion, 1813



1

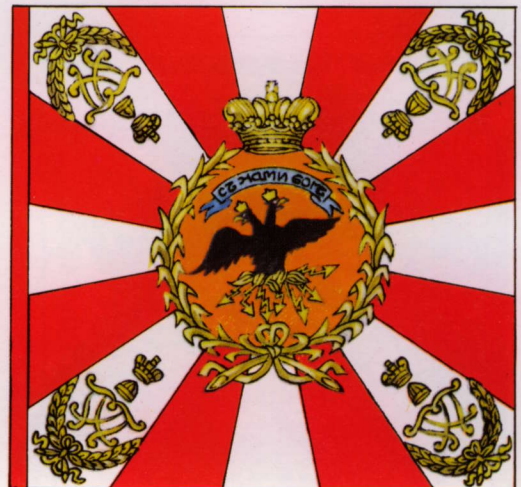


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4



- 1 Russia: 1797 Infantry pattern
- 2 Russia: 1803 Infantry pattern
- 3 Russia: 1813 Guard Infantry pattern
- 4 Russia: 1800 Guard Infantry pattern



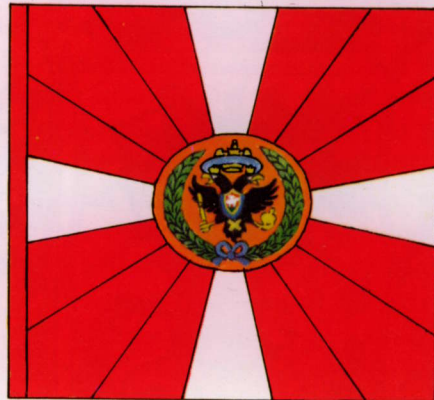
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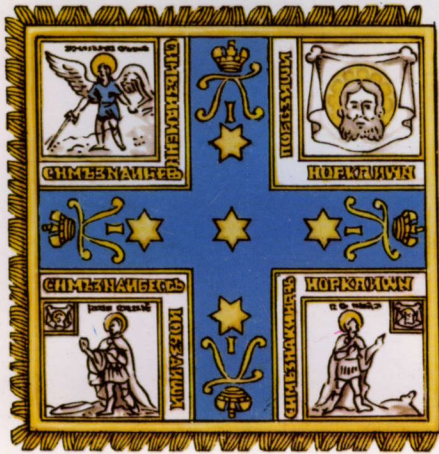


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4

- 1 Russia: Moscow Militia, 1812
- 2 Russia: 1806 Standard of St George
- 3 Russia: 1799 standard, Garde à Cheval
- 4 Russia: 1799 standard, Life Guard Ural Cossacks



1



2

3



4



1 Russia: standard of the Cossacks of the Urals  
2 Russia: 1811 standard of the Don Cossacks

3 Russia: banner of the 2nd Kalmuck Regiment, 1812-14  
4 Russia: standard of the 10th Canton of Bachkirs, 1805

The first flag of each battalion was now known as the *Avancierfahne*, the second as the *Retirierfahne*. The *Avancierfahne* of the 1st Battalion was also still referred to as the *Leibfahne*. As in the previous issue, both flags of the 2nd Battalion were normally of the same pattern and in the same colours as the *Retirierfahne* of the 1st Battalion, and the *Leibfahne* was of the same pattern but with the colours of field and cross reversed. The basic patterns were as pre-1806 but most of the new flags bore a different style of eagle and corner cyphers: these are illustrated in Plate D<sub>3</sub>.

From 1813 onwards only the *Avancierfahne* of each battalion was carried in the field. Grenadier battalions normally carried a *Retirierfahne* of the senior regiment from which their companies were drawn: exceptions to this general rule were the West Prussian and Silesian Grenadier Battalions, which carried a *Retirierfahne* of the junior regiment. The *Retirierfahne* which had not been issued to the grenadier battalions were later issued to new units as their *Avancierfahnen*, and this means one flag could have belonged to several units. For example, the *Retirierfahne* of the 1st Battalion, I.R. N<sup>o</sup> 4 (E.Prussia), issued in 1812, was later passed to the 2nd E.Prussian Grenadier Battalion and in 1814, when this unit became a fusilier battalion of the Kaiser Alexander Garde-Grenadier Regiment, the flag thus passed to a third regiment.

The problem of which regiment carried which flag and when is compounded somewhat by the renumbering of regiments in June 1813 caused by the elevation of I.R. N<sup>o</sup> 8 to the Guard. From this date I.R. N<sup>os</sup> 9–12 were renumbered 8–11. The 2nd Brandenburg Regiment, raised to fill the N<sup>o</sup> 12 slot, did not receive flags until after Waterloo. Also from this date the reserve regiments (N<sup>o</sup> 13 onwards) were included in the Line numbering. Table B (see p. 26) gives some indication of the flags carried by the various regiments during this second period. Eagle and crown detail are as listed previously.

The size of these flags remained unchanged, as did the length of the stave and the pattern of the finial. The 1st and 2nd Battalions of N<sup>o</sup> 1 Garde Regiment zu Fuss and 1st Battalion N<sup>o</sup> 2 Garde Regiment zu Fuss had silver finials; all others remained gilt. Cravats were silver with black

stripes. Staves were now white except for I.R. N<sup>os</sup> 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 2nd E.Prussian Grenadier Battalion and Leib-Grenadier Battalion, which had black staves. The staves of those Guard regiments with silver finials were changed from white to yellow from 13 January 1813.

The Reserve and Landwehr units did not have flags according to official regulations but nevertheless there is some evidence that many of these units did carry flags. These flags were either made privately or in some cases may have been provided by the local or provincial authorities. A simple black flag bearing a large white Landwehr cross was a popular pattern, but some quite intricate designs were produced. Two examples of surviving flags are shown in Plates D<sub>4</sub> and E<sub>4</sub>. Many of the Silesian Landwehr units are believed to have carried sky blue flags bearing the red and white checkered and gold crowned heraldic eagle of Silesia, and a similar flag was popular with the East Prussian Landwehr units, many of which carried the traditional white flag of the Grand Elector bearing the large red heraldic eagle of Prussia.

Prior to the 1807 reorganisation mounted regiments carried one flag per squadron; a square standard for the cavalry regiments and a swallow-tailed guidon for the Dragoons and Hussars. The author regrets his inability to provide full details of the guidons (but see post-1807 details below: Hussars followed the same basic style as Dragoons in the pre-1807 period) and can list here only those details for the Cuirassier regiments.

As with the infantry, the basic patterns dated from the time of Frederick the Great. In all cases the eagle was black with gold beak, crown, claws and where applicable lightning and sword hilt; the sword blade was silver. The central wreath was a mixture of green and gold foliage with red berries and was tied at the base with red ribbon; the corner wreaths were green. The scrolls and backgrounds to the corner cyphers were in the colour of the field unless otherwise stated.

Only the infantry patterns A and B were employed, but the Cuirassiers also had two distinctive centre emblems, shown by Plates E<sub>1</sub> and E<sub>2</sub>. In E<sub>1</sub>, referred to in Table C as 'I', the eagle is in flight without sword and with the scroll to its left; in E<sub>2</sub>, referred to in the table as 'II', the eagle is as for pre-1807 infantry flags but the scroll above its head



**Prussia: Table B**  
Line Infantry *c.* 1808–1815

<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Embroidery</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Variations</i>
1/1 GRzuF*	A	white	silver	silver	—	} pre 1807 but cyphers as Plate D3
2/1 GRzuF	A	white	orange	silver	—	
1/2 GRzuF	A	white	orange	silver	—	RF of 1/1 GR
2/2 GRzuF, ex Colberg Regt 1st Bn	B	black	orange	gold	white	22/6/1813 Colberg†
1/1 1st E. Prussia	A	white	black	gold	—	pre 1807, scroll gold
2/1	A	black	white	gold	—	pre 1807, scroll deep pink
1/2 1st Pomm.	C	white	black	gold	black	white scroll gold eagle
2/2	C	black	white	gold	white	black scroll
1/3 2nd E. Prussia	B	black	orange	gold	white	—
2/3	B	white	orange	gold	black	—
1/4 3rd E. Prussia	B	black	orange	gold	white	—
2/4	B	white	orange	gold	black	—
1/5 4th E. Prussia	C	white	white	gold	orange	orange scroll
2/5	C	orange	white	gold	white	orange scroll
1/6 1st W. Prussia	C	white	white	silver	red	red scroll
2/6	C	green	white	silver	red	green scroll
1/7 2nd W. Prussia	B	lemon	lemon	silver	white	pre 1807, red scroll
2/7	B	lemon	lemon	silver	l. blue	pre 1807
1/8 Leib Regt	B	black	orange	gold	white	Colberg
2/8	B	white	orange	gold	black	Colberg
1/9 Colberg Regt	B	black	orange	gold	white	Colberg later 2/2 GR zu F
2/9	B	white	orange	gold	black	Colberg
1/10 1st Silesia	A	deep pink	white	gold	—	pre 1807, scroll deep pink
2/10	A	deep pink	white	gold	—	pre 1807, scroll deep pink
1/11 1st Silesia	A	l. blue	white	silver	—	pre 1807
2/11	A	l. blue	white	silver	—	pre 1807
Pomm. Gren. Bn	C	black	white	gold	white	black scroll
W. Prussia Gren Bn	B	lemon	lemon	silver	l. blue	pre 1807
1st E. Pr Gren Bn	A	black	white	gold	—	pre 1807, black scroll
1st Silesian Gr Bn	A	l. blue	white	silver	—	pre 1807
2nd E. Pr Gren Bn	B	white	orange	gold	black	—
Leib-Gren Bn	B	white	orange	gold	black	Colberg

\*Grenadier Regt zu Fuss (1/1 = 1st Bn 1st Regt. 2/1 = 2nd Bn 1st Regt etc)

†Colberg, honour borne just below central wreath, see Plate D3.

is in a more extended form. In Table C the pattern for each regiment is therefore indicated by the letter 'A' or 'B' (see Figs 21 and 22 respectively) followed by either 'I' or 'II' (see Plates E1 and E2 respectively).

After the 1807 reorganisation only the Cuirassier and Dragoon regiments were allowed to carry flags, at first one per squadron, but from 1 October 1811 only one per regiment in the field, that one being the Leibstandarte of the 1st Squadron. As before the

Cuirassier pattern was square, the Dragoon one swallow-tailed, but when the old flags were reissued in 1807 one Cuirassier regiment (the 2nd) received a guidon which had previously belonged to the Dragoon Regiment Auer. The other three heavy cavalry regiments had standards: see Plates E1 and E2.

Known details of the flags carried are set out in Table D. Colour details for the eagle and wreaths remain unchanged.

**Prussia: Table C**  
Cuirassiers pre-1807

<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Fringe &amp; Embroidery</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Variations</i>
1: Buddenbrock*	AI	yellow	white	gold	—	—
2: Prinz v. Preussen	BII	mauve	silver	silver	yellow	—
3: Leibregt zu Pferde	AI	white	silver	gold	—	—
4: Gessler	AI	mauve	silver	gold	—	—
5: Markgraf Friedrich Wilhelm	BII	l. blue	silver	gold	white	white scroll
6: Schonaich	AII	m. blue	silver	gold	—	—
7: Driesen	AII	red	silver	gold	—	—
8: Rochow*	AI	black	white	gold	—	—
9: Schonaich-Carolath	AII	green	silver	gold	—	—
10: Gendarmes	AI	gold	silver	gold	—	white scroll
11: Leib Karabiniers	AI	m. blue	silver	gold	—	—
12: Kynau	AI	orange	white	gold	—	—
Garde du Corps	AII	white	silver	gold	—	silver fringe

\*Only the Regimenterstandarten are listed for all regiments, but the two regiments indicated thus had Leibstandarten in colours reversed for field and centre emblem background.

Uhlan and Hussar regiments were granted permission to carry standards towards the end of the wars, but these were not presented until after Waterloo, and the same applies to those regiments raised in 1815 for the 100 Days campaign.

## Russia

The flags of Line Infantry regiments followed a similar system to that used by the Prussians, the basic design consisting of a central eagle and wreath device, crowned cyphers at each corner, and a cross overall, with variation provided by the use of different colours and divisions of the cross and/ or corners. This basic pattern was used

**Prussia: Table D**  
Cavalry Post-1808

<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Embroidery</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Garde du Corps	AII	white	orange	gold	—	orange scroll & cypher backgrounds
2: E. Prussia Cuirassier Regt	BII*	red	white	gold	l. blue	Previously Drgn Regt Auer guidon
1: Drgn Regt Konigin	HII	white	black	gold	—	—
2: Drgn Regt W. Prussia	BII	red	white	gold	l. blue	Previously Drgn Regt Auer guidon
3: Drgn Regt Litthauisches	BII	poppy red	silver	gold	black	black scroll
5: Drgn Regt Brandenburg	A	black	white	gold	—	Previously Drgn Regt Konigin

\*guidon form

throughout the 1804–15 period with comparatively minor changes to individual details such as the cyphers and form of eagle. However, because earlier flags continued to be used in the 1804–15 period, it is necessary to start with the flags issued by Paul I (1796–1801).

In 1797 Paul authorised new patterns for the army's flags and during the next two years each regiment received one 'white' flag, corresponding

to the Austrian or Prussian Leibfahne or British King's Colour, and one 'coloured' flag per company, corresponding to the battalion or regimental flags of the other armies covered by this book. In the Line Infantry regiments this meant one white and nine coloured flags per regiment.

These flags were 1.42 metres square and were carried on staves 3.15 metres long, with 14cm brass ferrules and 14cm gilt finials in the shape of a flat

**Russia:** Table E Line Infantry: 1797 pattern (The cross on all white flags was white)

Regiment	Pattern		White Flag	Coloured Flags		Issued	Regiment	Pattern		White Flag
	W	C	Corners	Cross	Corners			W	C	Corners
Leib Grenadier	A	A	sky blue	sky blue	white	?	Koursk	C	A	d.green/red
Gren Astrakhan	A	A	apricot	apricot	white	1798	Ladoga	C	A	d. brown/ l. green
Gren Ekaterinoslav	C	C	blue/apricot	apricot	white/blue	30/7/1797	Moscow	C	A	yellow/blue
Gren Caucasus	C	A	apricot/violet	violet	apricot	21/1/1799	Mourom	C	A	turquoise/ pink
Gren Kiev	C	B	red/blue	grey/blue	red	30/10/1798	Narva	C	A	bronze/ l. blue
Gren Malorossii	C	A	black/pink	black	pink	30/10/1798	Nachebourg	A	A	grey
Gren Moscow	C	A	orange/ turquoise	turquoise	orange	15/9/1798	Neva	A	A	red
Gren Pavlov	A	A	orange	orange	white	?	Nijegorod	C	A	black/ l. green
Gren St Petersburg	A	D	red	white/red	white/red	22/9/1798	Nizov	C	A	grey/red
Gren Siberia	C	B	black/green	green/pink	black	15/11/1798	Novgorod	C	A	d. brown/ sky blue
Gren Tauride	C	B	yellow/coffee	coffee/yellow	white	25/4/1798	New Inkerman- land	C	D	yellow/d. red
Gren Fanagoria	C	A	green/pink	pink	green	15/9/1798	Orlov	C	A	puce/green
Gren Kherson	C	A	green/violet	violet	green	15/11/1798	Perm	C	A	l. brown/green
<i>Musketeer Regts</i>							Polotsk	C	A	d. brown/pink
Azov	C	A	pink/puce	pink	puce	5/11/1798	Pskov	C	C	l. green/pink
Alexopol	C	B	brown/pink	green/brown	pink	15/11/1798	Revel	C	A	pink/green
Apsheron	C	A	pink/l. blue	pink	l. blue	30/7/1797	Rostov	C	A	l. green/black
Arkangelogorod	C	A	green/brown	green	brown	15/9/1798	Rialsk	C	A	green/ turquoise
Briansk	C	B	yellow/violet	white/yellow	violet	30/10/1798	Riazsk	A	A	green
Boutyrski	C	D	red/grey- green	grey-green/ red	white/red	5/7/1798	Riazan	A	A	strawberry
Bielev	C	A	green/pink	green	pink	1/2/1799	Sevastopol	C	A	sky blue/ brown
Bielosersk	C	A	l. blue/yellow	l. blue	yellow	8/2/1798	Selenguinsk	C	A	red/black
Velik-lutsk	C	A	yellow/black	yellow	black	28/9/1797	Smolensk	C	A	bronze/green
Vitebsk	C	A	pink/blue	pink	blue	1/2/1799	Sofia	C	B	red/green
Vladimir	C	C	turquoise/red	turquoise	red/white	15/11/1798	Old Inkerman- land	C	B	l. green/ pink
Voronesh	C	A	d.red/turquoise	d. red	turquoise	15/9/1798	Staroskol	C	A	yellow/red
Viborg	C	A	yellow/red	red	yellow	5/4/1798	Souzdal	C	D	red
Viatska	C	A	l. blue/violet	l. blue	violet	27/10/1798	Sievsk	C	B	l. green/black
Dniepr	C	C	yellow/black	yellow	black/white	8/3/1798	Tambov	C	E	blue/red
Ekaterinbourg	C	A	turquoise/red	turquoise	red	9/1/1798	Tiflis	C	C	red/grey-green
Yeletz	C	E	l. green/ strawberry	strawberry/ l. green	white	6/9/1798				
Kabardinsk	C	A	violet/pink	violet	pink	21/1/1799				
Kazan	C	D	violet/yellow	yellow/violet	yellow/violet	21/1/1799				
Kexholm	A	A	pink	pink	white	1/11/1797				
Koslov	C	A	pink/black	pink	black	7/12/1797				

spearhead, normally bearing a crowned double-headed eagle either painted on or in a pierced design: Fig 32. The staves were painted either black, white, coffee brown or straw yellow: there does not appear to have been any regulation governing allocation of colour at this date.

The basic pattern for these new flags, Type A, is illustrated by Fig 33: the five smaller diagrams show the division of cross and/or field to provide

sufficient variations to distinguish all regiments. Note that in Type A the flag's field colour appears only in the 'corner rays' and the cross is the part shown here in black. Because the field is so obscured, it is usually referred to as the 'corners'. Full details of the colours and designs for all Line Infantry regiments appear in Table E. Where cross and/or corners are halved, the colours are always given in a clockwise order; see Plate F1 for an example.

<i>Coloured Flags</i>			<i>Regiment</i>	<i>White Flag</i>		<i>Coloured Flags</i>			
<i>Cross</i>	<i>Corners</i>	<i>Issued</i>		<i>W</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>Corners</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Corners</i>	<i>Issued</i>
d. green	red	15/9/1798	Tobolsk	C	A	strawberry/ sky blue	sky blue	strawberry	2/7/1798
d. brown	l. green	15/11/1798	Tomsk	C	A	red/green	red	green	21/1/1799
blue	yellow	30/10/1798	Troitsk	C	A	violet/green	violet	green	1/2/1799
turquoise	pink	30/7/1797	Tula	C	C	red/l. blue	red	l. blue/white	30/7/1797
bronze	l. blue	30/10/1798	Ouglich	C	B	red/blue	blue/white	red	30/10/1798
grey	white	28/2/1797	Oufa	A	A	violet	violet	white	9/1/1798
red	white	10/8/1798	Tchernigov	C	A	l. green/ violet	violet	l. green	3/7/1798
black	l. green	15/11/1798	Shirvan	C	A	brown/red	brown	red	1/1/1799
red	grey	15/11/1798	Schlusberg	C	A	l. green/pink	pink	l. green	3/5/1798
d. brown	sky blue	15/11/1798	Yaroslav	C	C	strawberry/ black	strawberry	black/white	28/2/1797
yellow/d. red	yellow/white	15/11/1798	Arkharov (General)	C	A	green/pink	pink	green	?
puce	green	15/11/1798	Berg (General)	C	F	pink/ turquoise	pink/white/ pink	turquoise	?
l. brown	green	15/11/1798	Brandt (General)	A	F	green	green/white/ green	white	?
d. brown	pink	15/11/1798	Leitner (General)	C	F	pink/green	green/white/ green	pink	?
l. green	pink/white	30/7/1797	Marklov (General)	C	F	d. green/apricot	d. green/white/ d. green	apricot	?
green	pink	3/9/1798	Miller I (General)	A	F	violet	violet/white/ violet	white	?
black	l. green	5/9/1798	Pavlour (General)	C	F	pink/black	black/white/ black	white	?
green	turquoise	9/1/1798	Ouchakoff I (General)	C	D	orange/black	white/orange	white/black	?
green	white	20/11/1798	<i>Repts added by Paul I</i>						
strawberry	white	21/8/1798	Tenguinsk	C	A	green/pink	pink	green	18/12/1797
sky blue	brown	1/2/1799	Navajinsk	C	B	pink/black	black/white	pink	22/2/1799
red	black	21/1/1799	Olonetz	C	B	green	green/white	white	22/2/1799
bronze	green	15/9/1798	Saratov	C	B	pink/green	green/white	pink	22/2/1799
red/green	white	31/8/1798	Kolyvan	A	B	violet	violet/white	white	22/2/1799
l. green/ pink	white	20/11/1797	Poltava	C	B	d. green/ apricot	d. green/ white	apricot	22/2/1799
red	yellow	30/7/1797	Ukraine	C	B	pink/blue	pink/white	blue	22/2/1799
red/violet	red/violet	21/1/1799	Lithuania	C	D	orange/black	white/black	strawberry/ black	22/2/1799
l. green/black	white	13/8/1798	Lithuania	C	A	black/red	black	red	2/4/1800
white/blue	red	30/7/1797							
red	apricot/grey- green	21/1/1799							



32. Russia: 1797 pattern finial.

In 1800 Paul replaced the divisional organisation of his army with military districts called Inspections and authorised a new, more Prussian type of flag: Fig 34. The main changes were the design of the eagle, which was now flying and held thunderbolts and lightning; the addition of corner cyphers; and the widening of the basic cross so that the corners were now very narrow. On the obverse the motto over the eagle's head read GOD WITH US, and on the reverse BLESSED (also translatable as THANKS BE TO GOD.) A second scroll was sometimes added below the eagle and bore a battle honour inscription.

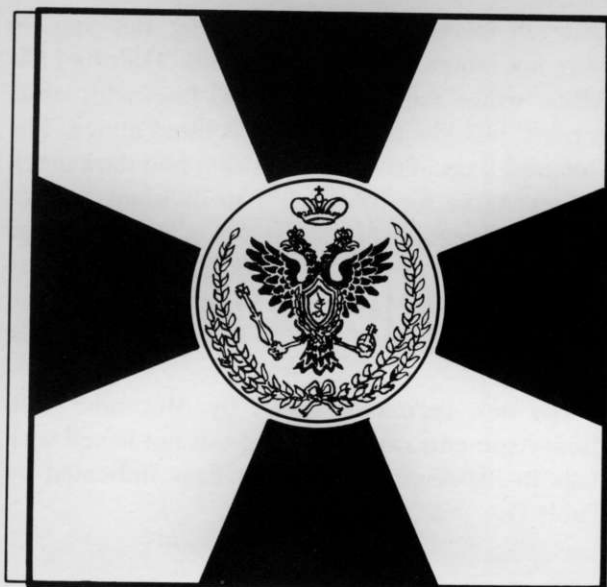
These flags were now coloured according to the regiment's Inspection, see Table F for details. However, very few of these flags seem to have been issued, and most regiments continued to carry the 1797 pattern. The only regiments known by the author to have received new flags in 1800 were: Arkangel on 28/2/1800; Moscow and Siberia on 6/3/1800; Smolensk on 7/3/1800; Tauride on 30/3/1800; the new regiment Lithuania on 2/4/1800; and Kabardinsk on 17/12/1800. Most of the new regiments raised by Paul do not appear to have received flags until 1805 at the earliest.

The 1800 pattern was carried on staves with a gilt finial of the form shown in Fig 35 and the stave

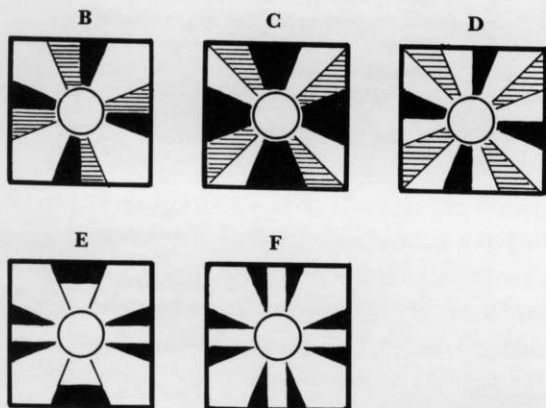
**Russia: Table F**  
Line Infantry: 1800 Inspection colours

Regiment	Pattern		White Flag		Coloured Flags		Embroidery
	W	C	Cross	Corners	Cross	Corners	
Moscow	C	G*	white	white/red	red/white/ red*	white	gold
St Petersburg	C	G*	white	white/red	red/white/ red*	white	gold
Finland	C	A	white	blue/black	blue	black	gold
Lithuania	C	A	white	red/black	black	red	silver
Smolensk	C	A	white	red/black	black	red	silver
Brest	C	A	white	red/black	black	red	silver
Livonia	C	A	white	red/black	black	red	silver
Ukraine	C	G*	white	white/yellow	yellow/white/ yellow*	white	gold
Dniestr	C	G	white	white/yellow	yellow/white/ yellow*	white	gold
Crimea	C	G	white	white/yellow	yellow/white/ yellow*	white	gold
Caucasus	C	G	white	white/yellow	yellow/white/ yellow*	white	gold
Orenburg	C	A	white	green/yellow	green	yellow	gold
Siberia	C	A	white	green/yellow	green	yellow	gold

\* a thin white cross was imposed over the coloured one, thus creating a coloured border to a white cross.



A

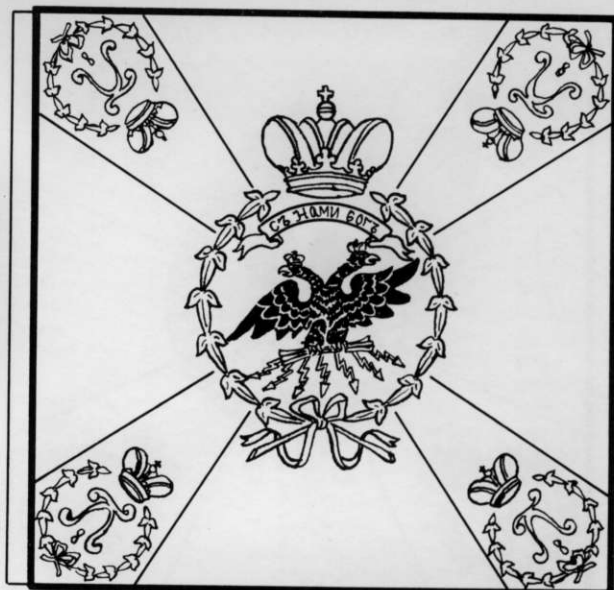


33. Russia: 1797 Line Infantry pattern, Types A-F. Black eagle on orange centre, gold chain, sceptre, orb, beaks, claws and crowns, green wreath, arms of Moscow on eagle's breast.

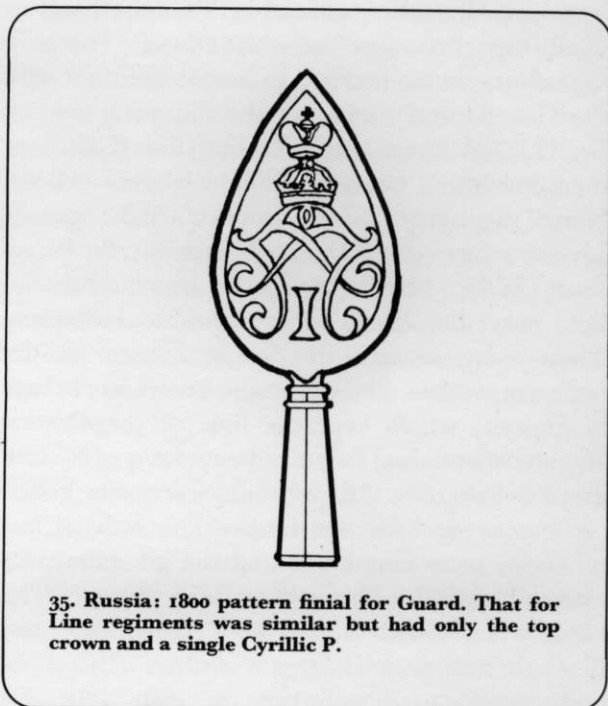
colours seem now to have been used as a means of identifying regiments within the Inspections. Silver cords, ending in tassels, were knotted just below the finial. Size of stave and flag remained unchanged.

Alexander I came to power in 1801 but at first made no changes to the army's flags apart from reducing their number to one white and five coloured per regiment in 1802. This meant there were now two flags per battalion, the white and one coloured for the 1st Battalion, two coloured for each of the other two battalions.

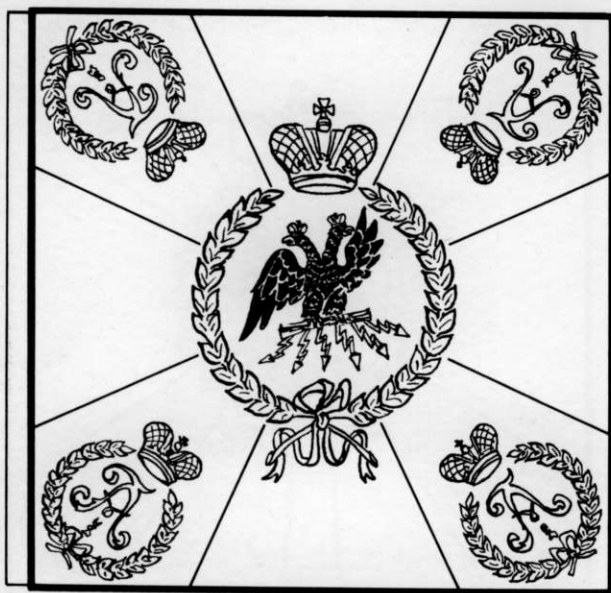
Alexander authorised a new pattern for all regiments in 1803 and the first of these were issued on 10 June 1803. The basic pattern for all flags of this issue is illustrated by Fig 36: see also Plate F2.



34. Russia: 1800 Line Infantry pattern. Black eagle on orange centre, gold crowns, lightning, claws and beaks; corner and main crowns gold for all regiments.



35. Russia: 1800 pattern finial for Guard. That for Line regiments was similar but had only the top crown and a single Cyrillic P.



36. Russia: 1803 Line Infantry pattern. Orange centre, eagle and crown details as 1800 pattern.

The main changes were a new cypher, wider corners again, modifications to the eagle, central wreath and crown, and the omission of the scroll above the eagle. The new pattern was issued at the previous rate of one white and five coloured per regiment. The white flag was now all white, including the stitching, so that cross and corners were virtually indistinguishable. The coloured flags of all Inspections now had white corners (except St Petersburg which had red to avoid confusion with the Guard) and a cross of the following colour: Brest Litovsk, straw yellow; Dniestr, lilac; Caucasus, medium blue; Crimea, buff; Finland, yellow; Kiev, raspberry red; Lithuania, light green; Livonia, turquoise; Moscow, orange; St Petersburg, black; Orenburg, Camel brown; Siberia, light grey; Smolensk, white; Ukraine, rose pink. These were in fact the facing colours of the regiments within the Inspection, except in the case of Dniestr, which kept the lilac of the Dniestr Regiment's original facing colour, changed to dark green before 1803. All embroidery was now gold.

The stave and flag size remained unchanged, but all staves were now black and the gilt finial was almost identical to the 1797 pattern (Fig 32). The cords were still silver, but now had orange and black threads woven in.

According to Zvegintsov the 16th, 17th and

18th Divisions, although following this system, were not reorganised as Inspections. They had all-white 'white' flags, and coloured flags with white corners, just like the Inspections listed above. The coloured flags of the 18th Division had dark green crosses; those for the other two divisions are not given by Zvegintsov. The marines' coloured flags had dark blue crosses and also followed the 1803 pattern (1st-4th Marines received these colours on 31 March 1804, the Caspian Marine Battalion in April 1806).

The new regiments raised by Alexander, and those regiments raised by Paul but not issued with flags in his reign, carried the flags indicated by Table G.

**Russia:** Table G  
New Regiments' Inspections

Regiment	Title received	Flags issued	Inspection	
Estonia	29/8/1805	April 1806	Ukraine	} <i>New Regiments raised by Paul I</i>
Odessa	"	"	Dniestr	
Brest	24/6/1806	21/3/1807	Siberia	
Kremenchug	"	"	"	
Minsk	"	"	"	
Libau*	"	"	Caucasus	
Neshlot*	"	"	? dark green cross	
Pernov*	"	"	Lithuania	
Yakutsh*	"	"	? dark green cross	
Okhotsk*	"	"	? dark green cross	
Kamchatka*	"	"	Caucasus	} <i>New Regiments raised by Alexander</i>
Mingrelia*	"	"	"	
Vilmanstrand*	"	"	Siberia	
Kurin	29/2/1802	20/10/1803	Moscow	
Petrovsk	26/5/1803	21/10/1803	St Petersburg	
Koporsk	"	"	Livonia	
Volhynia	"	"	Lithuania	
Podolia	"	10/10/1803	Brest	
Galich	"	20/10/1803	Ukraine	
Crimea	"	"	Caucasus	
Vologda	"	"	"	
Kaluga	29/8/1805	April 1806	Livonia	
Mohilev	"	"	Lithuania	
Kostroma	"	"	Livonia	
Vilna	"	"	Lithuania	
Penza	"	"	Brest	

\* denotes formed from Garrison battalions.

All white flags were white; coloured flags had white corners, cross in Inspection colour.

The Moscow Regiment was issued with flags on 7/10/1804 of Type C with a black cross and red corners, i.e. following the older style.

In 1806 was awarded the first Colour of St George (see Plate F2). This was basically the 1803 pattern with an inscription in gold lettering round the outer edges of the cross, with the bases of the letters pointed inwards, to commemorate some



37. Russia: 1806 St George pattern finial.

deed of valour. Colours of St George were a great honour and only a limited number of regiments ever received them. Known awards are: (six flags per regiment unless otherwise stated) Kiev on 13 June 1806; Schlüsselberg on 18 July 1806; Pernov on 20 September 1809; Fanagoria on 18 September 1810; Grouzin on 18 January 1812; Troitsk in 1812; Kexholm (on promotion to the Guard), Tiflis and Tobolsk on 13 April 1813; Okholsk\* and Kamchatka\* on 3 May 1814; Riazsk\* (one flag only) on 30 August 1814; Tambov\* in 1815.

Colours of St George were of the usual size and were carried on the usual stave, but the finial (Fig 37) bore the white cross of the Order of St George and had an orange cravat with three black stripes (the ribbon of the Order) knotted below it.

In 1807 the system of Inspections was abolished and divisions reconstituted. However, all the old issues of flags continued to be carried irrespective of this. When replacements were issued, or flags granted to new regiments, the 1803 pattern was normally used, but there does not seem to have been any proper control and for some years a variety of flags was carried, although 'white' flags

\*These regiments had flags of the 1813 pattern; see later.

remained of Type A and all white. Table H sets out details of those flags known to have been issued during this period.

**Russia: Table H**  
Infantry Flag Variants 1807-13

Regiment	Pattern	Issued	Cross	Corners
Azov	A	8/1/1810	pink	puce
Narva	A	22/5/1810	bronze	sky blue
Dniepr	C	13/6/1810	yellow	black/white
Troitsk*	A	1812	violet	green
Perm	A	13/6/1813	l. brown	green
Schlüsselberg*	A	18/7/1806	pink	green
Fanagoria*	A	18/9/1810	pink	green
Grouzinski*	A	18/1/1812	violet	apricot
Mohilev	A	13/4/1813	l. green	white
Bielostock	A	28/11/1808	blue	red
Vilna	C	21/3/1807	white	blue/violet
<i>New regiments</i>				
Sveaborg	A	15/11/1810	green	yellow
Odessa	C	1811	lilac	white/black
Vilna	A	1811	white	red
Tarnopol	A	1811	yellow	red
Simbirsk	A	1811	green	red

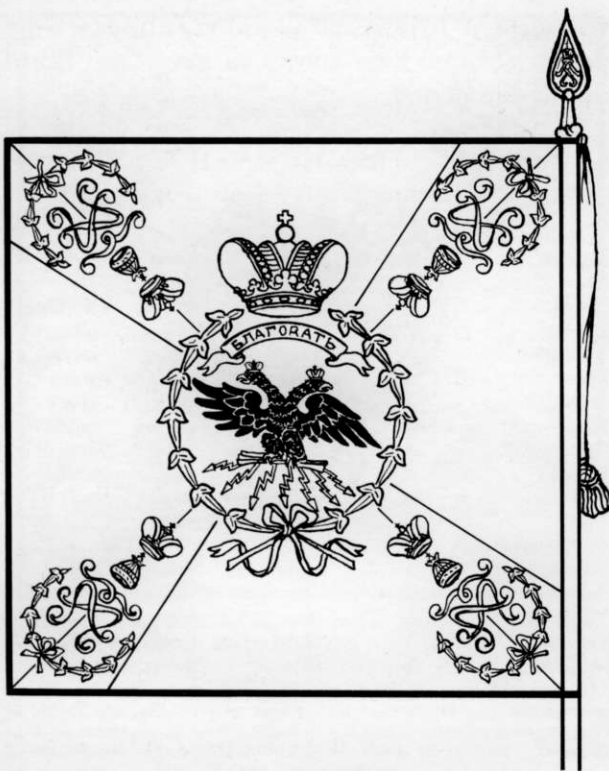
\* Colours of St George. All details listed above are for the coloured flags. Siberia received new flags on 20/10/1805; Voronezh on 9/11/1810; and Pavlov on 13/4/1813 on entering the Guard, but no details of their colours are known to the author.

On 21 March 1807 a system of identifying regiments within a division by the stave colours was introduced. The first regiment in a division now carried its flags on white staves, the 2nd on pale yellow, 3rd on coffee brown, and 4th on black. From 5 December 1808 these colours were changed to 1st and 4th yellow, 2nd and 5th black, 3rd white.

In 1811 the following regiments were raised by amalgamating fifty-two garrison battalions: Voronezh, Briansk, Lithuania, Podolsk, Estonia, Orel, Galich, Veliki-Lutsk, Penza and Saratov on 17 January; Sofia on 12 March; Odessa, Vilna, Tarnova and Simbirsk on 6 November. It is possible that some of these regiments took the flags of the original regiments of these names, the original regiments having been converted to jägers in 1810 and therefore no longer officially entitled to carry flags.

In 1813 a new pattern flag was produced, see Plate F3. However, the 1803 and 1800 pattern flags continued in service and few of the new pattern appear to have been issued, partly because the 1803 and St George (on the 1803 pattern) flags were still being used *and* (apparently) issued, and partly because new regiments received new flags between 1813 and 1815. In fact the 1813 pattern was





38. Russia: 1800 pattern for Guard Infantry white flags.

probably little more than a transitional one. Regiments known to have received flags after 1813 were Pernov on 13 April 1813 (new flags issued when it became a Guard regiment); Kaluga on 27 March 1814; Okhotsk and Kamchatka on 3 May 1814; Riazski on 30 August 1814; and Tambov in 1815. Only coloured flags were issued to these regiments; all flags had green crosses with white corners and all were Colours of St George. From 17 August 1814 there was now officially only one flag per battalion, but it is unlikely the regiments with old flags and two per battalion surrendered their surplus within the period covered by this book, although the white flags were probably all recalled, being abolished from the same date.

On 16 March 1813 the Marine regiments came under the control of the Ministry of War; their flags dated from 1804-6 and followed the Inspection system. Colour detail was given earlier. Jäger regiments did not normally carry flags during the 1804-15 period but may have received them as a special distinction, i.e. Colours of St George. A flag alleged to have belonged to the Life Guard Jäger Regiment was taken at Austerlitz.

The three ancient regiments of the Foot Guards

received new flags from Paul I in 1800 and carried them until 1813. These flags were basically as those of the Line Infantry 1800 pattern but the corner cyphers had two Cyrillic Ps interlaced instead of one and the cypher was topped by two crowns, the Imperial one and beneath that the crown of the Grand Master of the order of Malta. The patterns for all three Guard regiments' flags were therefore as illustrated by Fig 38 (white flags) and Plate F4 (coloured flags.) The flags were issued on the scale of one white per regiment and one coloured per company. Thus in 1800 the Preobrajenski Regiment (four battalions) had one white and nineteen coloured; Semenov and Ismailov (each three battalions) receiving one white and fourteen coloured flags each. The flags were of the same size as for Line Infantry and were carried on the same type of staves. Stave colours were: Preobrajenski, coffee brown for the white flag, pale yellow for the others; Semenov, all black; Ismailov, all white. The colour detail of the flags was the same for all regiments: the white flags had white crosses and white/red corners; the coloured flags red crosses with a narrow white cross superimposed (see Plate F4) and white corners. Regimental distinction was therefore entirely by stave colour. The number of flags was reduced in 1802 to two per battalion.

On 10 December 1810 the Lithuanian Life Guard Regiment was formed, from 4th Battalion Preobrajenski, and granted one white and five coloured flags of the 1803 pattern: the white flag had a white cross and black/yellow corners, the coloured flags yellow crosses and black/white corners.

On 10 February 1811 the Litov Life Guard Regiment received one white and five coloured flags of the 1803 pattern (Type B, i.e. with corners halved) the white flag having a white cross and yellow/black corners, the coloured ones having yellow crosses and white/black corners.

From 13 April 1813 new flags were issued to all the Guard regiments, including those which had entered the Guard in recent years and had been carrying their old flags. The new flags were of the 1803 pattern and all were Colours of St George. One white and one coloured flag was carried by the 1st Battalions, two coloured flags by each of the other battalions. Full colour details are set out in Table I.

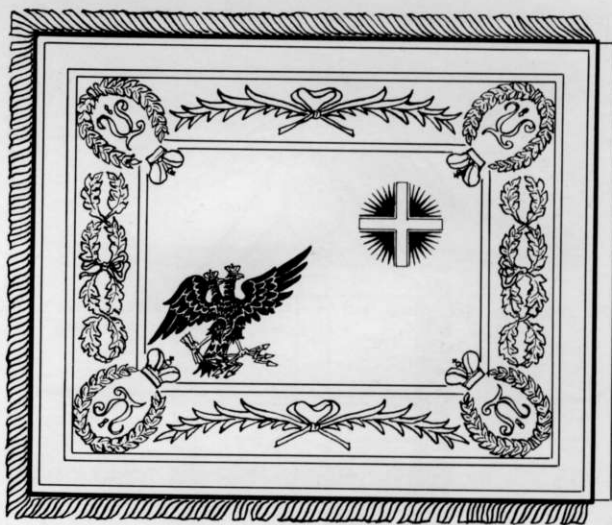
**Russia:** Table I  
1st 1813 Guard Issue

<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Pattern</i>	<i>Cross</i>	<i>Corners</i>	<i>Issued</i>
Leib Grenadiers	C	yellow	blue/black	13/4/1813
Preobrajenski	A	yellow	red	26/8/1813
Semenovski	A	yellow	blue	"
Ismailovski	A	yellow	white	13/4/1813
Ieguerski	C	yellow	green/black	"
Litov	C	yellow	white/black	"
Pavlov	C	yellow	blue/white	"
Finland	A	yellow	green	"

Only coloured flags are listed here: white flags were all white except possibly that of Litov, which may have had yellow/black corners. All white flags were of Type A, with the possible exception of Litov.

On 24 December 1813 the Guard regiments received yet another issue of flags, this time the transitional pattern with the eagle as shown by Plate F3. This time white flags were not issued and there was probably only one flag per battalion. All these flags were Colours of St George, and all had yellow crosses. Most corners were halved, the colours being Preobrajenski red/white; Semenov blue/white; Ismailov white; Ieguerski green/white; Litov red/black; Life Guard Grenadiers blue/black; Pavlov white/black; Finland green/black; Equipage yellow.

In 1803 all regiments of Cuirassiers and Dragoons were issued with new standards of the design illustrated by Fig 39. These were approximately 50cm in the hoist, 57.5cm in the fly, with 20mm fringes, and were issued at the rate of one white and four coloured standards per regiment (except the Kiev and Kharkov Dragoons, which had only three coloured standards each). The staves were green with gold fluting and had a gilt finial of the infantry type. Silver cords and cravat, the latter with black threads, were tied beneath the finial. The colour details were the same for all regiments, the white standards having a white field and green corner medallions, the coloured ones green fields and white corner medallions. The eagle, radiance, cyphers and crowns were gold for all regiments; the braid, corner wreaths, and border decoration being gold for all regiments except those listed below, which had silver: Emperor's Leib, Empress's Leib, Gloukov, Ekaterinoslav, Kiev, Starodubov, Kharkov, Tchernigov and Nepuieva Cuirassier Regiments; Astrakhan, Kargopol, Moscow, Narva, Nijegorod, Rostov, Siberia, Severski and General Hastatova Dragoon Regiments.

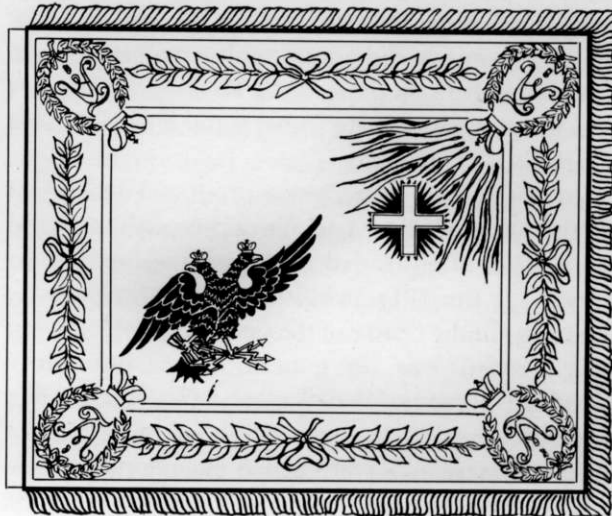


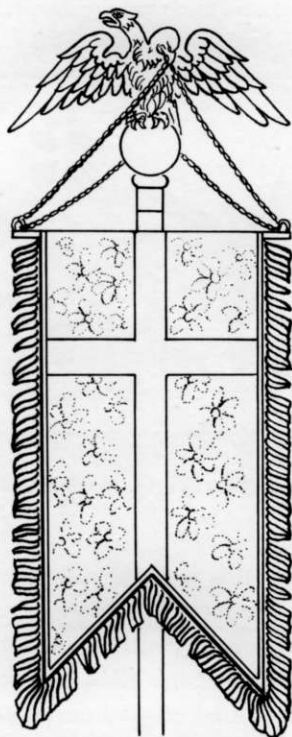
**39. Russia: 1803 pattern for Cuirassier and Dragoon regiments.**

Exceptions to this general rule were the Mitau and Finland Dragoon Regiments, which on 15 November 1804 each received one white and four coloured standards of the 1803 pattern but with a Latin cross at the outer edge of the radiance: Fig 40.

Standards of St George were awarded from 1806 onwards and these are set out below. All used the 1803 pattern and Plate G2 shows a typical St George inscription in the border, replacing the branches. The only other difference to the ordinary standard was the St George finial (Fig 37) and the cravat with orange and black threads. Gloukov, Ekaterinoslav and Malorossia Cuirassier Regiments, one white and five coloured each on 13 April

**40. Russia: 1804 variant for Mitau and Finland Dragoon Regiments.**





41. Russia: Vexillum carried by the Regiment des Chevaliers-Gardes 1800-15.

1813. Tchernigov Dragoons, one white and four coloured on 13 June 1806. St Petersburg Dragoons, one white and four coloured on 28 November 1808. Starodubov Dragoons, one white and four coloured on 8 September 1810. Pavlovgrad Hussars, one white and nine coloured on 15 November 1807. Hussar regiments did not normally carry standards. The inscription on those of the Pavlovgrad Hussars was the same as for the Tchernigov Dragoons: see Plate G2.

In 1814 a new pattern was produced which was as the 1803 one but had no corner radiance and bore the double-headed eagle, with a shield on its breast (as the 1814 transitional infantry pattern, Plate F3) in the centre of the field. It is not known if this pattern was on general issue, but white standards were not issued after 4 November 1814 and from possibly as early as mid-1813 only three coloured standards were issued per regiment. The following regiments received standards of St

George in 1814, but several of these regiments are known to have received 1803 pattern standards: New Russia Dragoons, 30 August 1814; Riask Dragoons, 19 November 1814; Achtyrsk Hussars, 3 May 1814; Isum Hussars, 1814; Sumsk Hussars, 30 August 1814. All except those of the Isum Hussars appear to have been handed into depots soon after issue.

The Regiments des Chevaliers-Gardes received in 1800 three standards of the vexillum type illustrated by Fig 41. These were of rose pink floral brocade, with white cross and silver fringe. These vexilla were carried throughout the 1804-15 period.

The Regiment de la Garde à Cheval initially carried one white and nine coloured standards issued in 1799. These were of similar appearance and size to the 1800 Line Cavalry pattern, but had inscriptions in the border instead of branches: see Plate G3.

New standards were issued on 28 September 1807, one white and five coloured of the 1803 Line pattern, but again with an inscription (GOD WITH US) in the border in place of the branches. Beneath the eagle was a blue scroll bearing an honour inscription, awarded for capturing an enemy flag at Austerlitz. The coloured standards were green with white corners and the white standards were the reverse. In 1813 the Austerlitz honour was moved to the upper border and a new inscription appeared on the other three edges: 'For distinction in the defeat and expulsion of the enemy from the lands of Russia in 1812'.

The Life Guard Dragoons, raised in 1809, received on 26 November 1809 one white and five coloured (i.e. green with white corner medallions) standards of a pattern similar to the 1807 one issued to the Garde à Cheval, the only difference being there was no honour scroll below the eagle. These were the same size as Line Cavalry standards.

The Life Guard Cossacks received in 1799 one white and two coloured swallow-tailed guidons measuring 107cm long by 25cm wide: Fig 42. The white guidon had a gold fringe and crimson cross on gold radiance. The coloured guidons were crimson with white cross on silver radiance. Fringes were all silver. For the Life Guard Ural Cossacks see Plate G4.

All Guard Cavalry staves were green with small

gold fluting and were topped by finials of the Line pattern except where otherwise stated.

The flags carried by the Irregular Cavalry Regiments followed a different, more haphazard system and were an assortment of standards, banners and guidons. It is not possible to list all issues, types and changes for all regiments in the space available, and what follows is a brief outline only of the main types:

The Ural Army was issued with five standards of the pattern illustrated by Plate H1 on 19 April 1798. As far as is known, no others were issued and these five were probably carried throughout the period covered by this book.

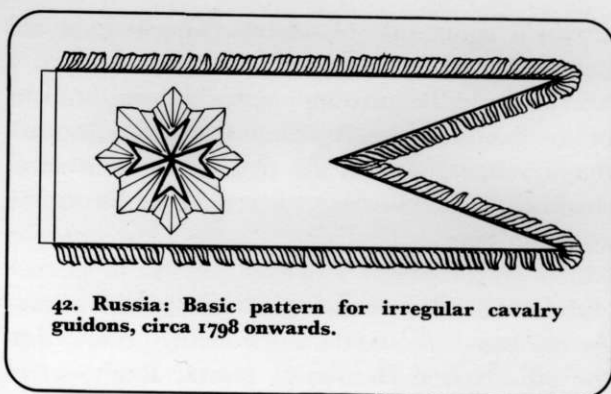
The 1st and 2nd Tchougouiev Cossack Regiments had one white and five coloured guidons each, presented on 10 August 1798, of the pattern illustrated by Fig 42. The 1st Regiment's white guidon had red cross, gold fringe and radiance; that of the 2nd Regiment a red cross, silver fringe and radiance. The coloured guidons were light blue with red cross, gold fringe and radiance for the 1st; light green with red cross, silver fringe and radiance for the 2nd. All cords were silver, staves green, fluted with gold, and the gilt finial bore a double-headed eagle.

The Army of the Don had one standard issued in 1800 as well as individual flags for the various regiments. A similar standard was issued in 1811 (Plate H2) and banners and guidons were also issued at various dates, including standards of St George. Cords and cravat were silver, stave details as above.

The Black Sea Army had one white and fourteen coloured guidons (of the pattern illustrated by Fig 42) issued in 1801, and twelve in 1803. All bore red cross on gold radiance, but the fields of the 1803 issue were divided horizontally, six guidons being orange over blue, six blue over orange. Fringes were gold, cords silver and staves white.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Regiments of the Cossack Army of the Bug each received one white and four coloured guidons on 30 June 1804. These were as Fig 42 with red cross on gold radiance, gold fringes, silver cords, white staves and gilt finials bearing the Imperial cypher. Colours of the coloured guidons are not known. No other Cossack division had flags.

The Lithuanian Tartars received one white and nine coloured guidons (as Fig 42) in 1798, as did the



42. Russia: Basic pattern for irregular cavalry guidons, circa 1798 onwards.

Polish Light Horse Regiment. Those of the Lithuanians had added to the bottom right of the obverse a gold eagle of the form illustrated in Fig 39. On the reverse the eagle still faced the stave and 'pointed' towards the radiance with the nearest wing. The coloured guidons of the Tartars were light blue with gold radiance; those of the Poles were red with gold radiance. Both regiments' guidons had silver fringes, gilt finials with the eagle, silver cravats and green staves with gold fluting.

## The Plates

### A1 Austria: 1792 Leibfahne (obverse)

This pattern dates from 1754 and was carried throughout the 1804-15 period. The reverse is illustrated by Fig 1 and was subject to the various changes shown by Plates A2 and A3.

### A2 Austria: 1804 Ordinärfahne (obverse)

The arrangement of the arms on the breast of the eagle was changed from August 1804 when King Franz II became France I, first Emperor of Austria. The central shield now bore the Habsburg eagle with the arms of Austria on its breast, and was surrounded by the arms of the various parts of the Empire. There are now no ribbons behind the eagle's heads and the crown above them is the golden Imperial one of the German Emperor, not of Austria.

### A3 Austria: 1806 Ordinärfahne (reverse)

In the 1806 pattern the ribbon reappears behind the eagle's heads but it is now red; the gold medallions behind the heads are omitted; and the

crown is again that of Austria. The main shield bears (tierced in pale) 1 Habsburg, 2 Austria, 3 Lorraine and the surrounding shields bear the arms of the lands of the Austrian monarch. Another major innovation was the placing of the central shield over the white-edged cross of the Deutsches Ritterordens.

*A4 Austria: 1814 Ehrenstandarte*

An *ehrenstandarte* (standard of honour) presented to the 4th (Hessen Homburg) Hussar Regiment in 1814 by Pope Pius VII because a squadron of the regiment had escorted him from Savona, near Genoa, where he had been held under house arrest by Napoleon.

*B1 & B2 Britain: King's and Regimental Colours, 33rd Foot, 1815*

Example of the colours carried by a regiment with red facings. These Colours were issued in 1813 and carried at Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

*B3 & B4 Britain: King's and Regimental Colours, 3rd Foot, 1807*

These Colours were probably issued in 1807 and were carried throughout the Peninsula War until 1814, although badly damaged at Albuera. Both are as shown in the 1807 returns, and provide an example of a regiment entitled to bear an ancient badge as well as secondary or corner badges. The oval bearing the regiment's number is unusual, and most regiments carried their numbers directly on the pattern of the Union flag.

*C1 Britain: Regimental Colour, De Rolls' Regiment, 1812-14*

This regiment's facing colour was sky blue throughout its history (1794-1816) and the Colour illustrated was probably therefore the one carried by the De Rolls-Dillon Provisional Battalion in Spain from 1812-14: it is in the facing colour of Dillon's Regiment but bears the devices of De Rolls'. Another pair of colours, probably carried by the regiment from 1801-16, had a King's Colour of the Union with the belt of the Garter surrounded by a wreath in the centre, a crown over, and the sphinx badge below. Within the belt was a golden pentalpha. The Regimental Colour was dark blue with the same central devices except within the belt

was a square and compasses, the square containing the letter G. There was the normal Union in the canton, and in the other three corners the gold crown and GR cypher.

*C2 Britain: 8th Company's Colour, 3rd Battalion, 1st Foot Guards*

The Regimental or second Colour of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Foot Guards, which was carried at Waterloo and at that date bore the badge of the 8th Company. The King's or first Colour for this battalion was the Major's, a crimson flag with the Union in the canton and a gold flame issuing from its bottom corner, a gold crown over the royal cypher in the centre, and the honours CORUNNA, LINCELLES and BARROSA to each side of and below the cypher: see Fig 11.

*C3 Britain: 1st Royal Dragoons' guidon*

This guidon was probably pre-1801 but was altered on union with Ireland. The regiment's crimson standard was rectangular and bore emblems as Plate C4 except the white horse appeared in 1 and 4, the regimental number in 2 and 3. The second guidon was as the guidon illustrated but with the number three in a disc beneath the central device. The motto had been carried by the regiment since the time of the 3rd Duke of Marlborough (who became colonel of the regiment in 1739) and was his family's motto. It was not officially recognised until 1856.

*C4 Britain: King's German Legion, Heavy Dragoons*  
King's standard of the 1st Heavy Dragoons: there is no regimental number because when it was issued in 1805 only the one regiment existed, the 2nd not being formed until 1806. It is interesting to note that the regiment's designation appears in 1 and 4, the reverse of the British pattern.

*D1 Prussia: Leibfahne to 1806*

Leibfahne carried by 1st Battalion, Infantry Regt. N° 21 (Herz von Braunschweig) between 1802 and 1806. The Regimentersfahnen followed the same basic pattern but had a white *keilenkreuz* on a yellow field.

*D2 Prussia: Regimentersfahne to 1806*

This unique pattern was carried by the Grenadier-

Garde Battalion (I.R. N°6) between 1740 and 1806. The Leibfahne was of the same pattern but with a white field behind the eagle.

*D3 Prussia: Retirierfahne 1808-15*

Retirierfahne carried by 1st Battalion I.R. N° 9 (Colberg) until 22 June 1813, when the battalion became 2nd Battalion, 2nd Grenadier Regiment zu Fuss. The battalion continued to carry this flag, though the 1st Battalion of the regiment had an Avancierfahne of a different pattern.

*D4 Prussia: Landwehr Battalion Sagun*

In the source consulted this flag appears as a light coffee colour but the original may have been white. This source also shows a considerable number of inscriptions in black Gothic lettering on the field of the flag, parallel to the stave and with the bases of the letters pointing towards the fly. Unfortunately it is not possible to read all the inscriptions and they cannot therefore be included in the illustration. They appear to read: 'Unter der zutun (ruuy?) des braven/General von Dobschulz/tochtruh invoff(?)/ unter diesem fahne/das Tapfer Sagun/Landwehr/Bataillon/Giensdorf Denewitz ...' followed by several other battle(?) names.

*E1 Prussia: Cuirassier standard to 1806*

Regimentersstandarte of Cuirassier Regt. N° 12 (Kynau), carried between 1740 and 1806. The Leibstandarte was similar but with a white field and orange background in the centre.

*E2 Prussia: Leibstandarte, Garde du Corps*

Leibstandarte carried by this regiment from 1798 to 1807. The Regimentersstandarte is not known.

*E3 Prussia: Guidon, pre-1807*

Regimental guidon carried by Dragoon Regt. Auer until 1806. The Leibstandarte would probably have been light blue with a red cross. This guidon was carried post-1808 by the 2nd Dragoon Regt. and an identical guidon, also originally belonging to Auer, was carried from 1808 by the 2nd Cuirassier Regt.

*E4 Prussia: standard of the Hanseatic Legion*

A standard carried by the volunteers of the Hanseatic Legion of Lubeck in 1813. The finial

was spear-shaped and gilt.

*F1 Russia: 1797 Infantry pattern*

One of nine coloured flags presented to the New Inkermanland Regt. on 15 August 1798. It illustrates how the cross and corners of the basic pattern were often halved to provide greater variety of designs, and how the colouring system was carried out in a clockwise direction. The white flag of this regiment had a white cross and yellow/red corners.

*F2 Russia: 1803 Infantry pattern*

One of the coloured flags of St George (1803 pattern) presented to Pernov Regt. on 20 September 1809. The green cross indicates the regiment belonged to the Lithuanian Inspection. The first flag of St George for infantry was awarded to the Kiev Grenadier Regt. on 13 June 1806. The flags of this regiment had a unique feature; the eagle bearing on its breast a circular shield of red edged gold with St George on a white horse slaying a green dragon (the arms of Moscow).

*F3 Russia: 1813 Guard Infantry pattern*

On 24 December 1813 the Guard Infantry regiments received new flags: all were Colours of St George and had yellow crosses with different coloured corners. A flag of the Preobrajenski Guards is shown here.

*F4 Russia: 1800 Guard Infantry pattern*

Basic pattern carried by Guard Infantry from 1800 to 1813. Note the corner devices bear two Cyrillic Ps (for Paul I) interlaced, and are surmounted by two crowns; Line regiments had a single P and only the Imperial crown. The flag illustrated is a coloured one of the Preobrajenski Guards, but those of the Semenov and Ismailov Regiments were identical.

*G1 Russia: Moscow Militia, 1812*

One of two very similar banners issued to the Moscow Militia and carried by them in 1812. The flag was suspended from a horizontal bar which in turn hung from a vertical stave by chains, the whole topped by a finial in the form of a cross. The scene represents the Lord's Ascension and the Assumption of the Mother of God. The second flag bore a

scene of the Transfiguration of the Lord and St Nicholas.

*G2 Russia: 1806 Standard of St George*

One of the coloured standards of St George awarded to the Tchernigov Dragoons on 13 June 1806 and presented on 15 November 1807. The St George inscription reads 'For heroism at Schöengraben on 4th November 1805, when 5000 men of the Corps did battle with 30,000 of the enemy.'

*G3 Russia: 1799 standard, Garde à Cheval*

Coloured standard of the Regiment de la Garde à Cheval, issued in 1799 and carried throughout the 1804-15 period. The white standard of the regiment was of similar design but with a white field and crimson corner medallions. The inscription reads 'God is with us': it is repeated twice. The reverse was identical except the cross was next to the stave, the eagle still 'pointing' towards it, and had the inscription 'Blessed'.

*G4 Russia: 1799 standard, Life Guard Ural Cossacks*

A single flag, of the pattern illustrated, was issued to this regiment on 4 January 1799 and probably carried throughout the 1804-15 period. The flag is of the 1797 infantry pattern, apart from a ribbon over the eagle's heads, but was probably of a reduced size. The corners were distinguished from the edges of the cross only by the stitching.

*H1 Russia: standard of the Cossacks of the Urals*

Five flags of this pattern were issued to the Cossacks of the Urals on 19 April 1798. There is no record of other flags being issued and the pattern illustrated was probably carried throughout the Napoleonic Wars. The inscription reads 'Conquering with this flag.'

*H2 Russia: 1811 standard of the Don Cossacks*

Obverse of a brocade banner issued to the Cossacks of the Don River on 30 August 1811. The inscription reads 'To the loyal subjects of the army of the Don for service rendered during the campaign against the French in 1807.' It is on a ribbon in the colours of the order of St George. The reverse was similar but instead of the central cross bore the double-headed eagle, with the arms of Moscow on its breast, and an Imperial crown over the heads.

*H3 Russia: banner of the 2nd Kalmuck Regt.*

This traditional Kalmuck flag was carried by the 2nd Regiment of the Kalmuck Army between 1812 and 1814. The rider is Daiachi Tengri, the Kalmuck god of war and warriors.

*H4 Russia: standard of the 10th Canton of Bachkirs*

Standard issued to the 10th Canton of the Bachkir Army on 31 May 1805. The stave was white, cords silver, and the gilt finial bore the Czar's cypher.

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- 46 Roman Army:  
(1) Caesar-Trajan
- 93 (2) Hadrian-Constantine
- 129 Rome's Enemies:  
(1): Germanics & Dacians
- 158 (2): Gallic & British Celts
- 175 (3): Parthians & Sassanids
- 180 (4): Spain 218-19 B.C.
- 154 Arthur & Anglo-Saxon Wars
- 125 Armies of Islam, 7th-11th C
- 150 The Age of Charlemagne
- 89 Byzantine Armies 886-1118
- 85 Saxon, Viking & Norman
- 75 Armies of the Crusades
- 171 Saladin & the Saracens
- 155 Knights of Christ
- 200 El Cid & Reconquista 1050-1492
- 105 The Mongols
- 222 The Age of Tamerlane
- 50 Medieval European Armies
- 151 Scots & Welsh Wars 1250-1400
- 94 The Swiss 1300-1500
- 136 Italian Armies 1300-1500
- 166 German Armies 1300-1500
- 195 Hungary & E. Europe  
1000-1568
- 140 Ottoman Turks 1300-1774
- 210 Venetian Empire 1200-1670
- 111 Crécy and Poitiers
- 144 Medieval Burgundy 1364-1477
- 113 Armies of Agincourt
- 145 Wars of the Roses
- 99 Medieval Heraldry

#### 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES

- 191 Henry VIII's Army
- 58 The Landsknechts
- 101 The Conquistadores
- 14 English Civil War Armies
- 110 New Model Army 1645-60
- 203 Louis XIV's Army
- 97 Marlborough's Army
- 86 Samurai Armies 1550-1615
- 184 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (1)
- 188 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (2)

#### 18TH CENTURY

- 118 Jacobite Rebellions
- 48 Wolfe's Army
- 228 American Woodland Indians
- 39 Brit. Army in N. America

#### NAPOLEONIC PERIOD

- 79 Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign
- 87 Napoleon's Marshals
- 64 Nap's Cuirassiers & Carabiners
- 55 Nap's Dragoons & Lancers
- 68 Nap's Line Chasseurs
- 76 Nap's Hussars
- 83 Nap's Guard Cavalry
- 141 Nap's Line Infantry
- 146 Nap's Light Infantry
- 153 Nap's Guard Infantry (1)
- 160 Nap's Guard Infantry (2)
- 43 Nap's German Allies (2)
- 90 Nap's German Allies (3)
- 106 Nap's German Allies (4)
- 122 Nap's German Allies (5)
- 199 Nap's Specialist Troops
- 211 Nap's Overseas Army
- 227 Nap's Sea Soldiers
- 88 Italian & Neopolitan Troops
- 176 Austrian Army (1): Infantry
- 181 Austrian Army (2) Cavalry

- 223 Austrian Specialist Troops
- 152 Prussian Line Infantry
- 149 Prussian Light Infantry
- 192 Prussian Reserve & Irregulars
- 162 Prussian Cavalry 1792-1807
- 172 Prussian Cavalry 1807-15
- 185 Russian Army (1): Infantry
- 189 Russian Army (2): Cavalry
- 84 Wellington's Generals
- 114 Wellington's Infantry (1)
- 119 Wellington's Infantry (2)
- 126 Wellington's Light Cavalry
- 130 Wellington's Heavy Cavalry
- 204 Wellington's Specialist Troops
- 167 Brunswick Troops 1809-15
- 206 Hanoverian Army 1792-1816
- 226 The American War 1812-14
- 96 Artillery Equipments

#### 19TH CENTURY

- 173 Alamo & Texan War 1835-6
- 56 Mexican-American War 1846-8
- 63 American-Indian Wars 1860-90
- 170 American Civil War Armies:  
(1): Confederate
- 177 (2): Union
- 179 (3): Staff, Specialists, Maritime
- 190 (4): State Troops
- 207 (5): Volunteer Militia
- 37 Army of Northern Virginia
- 38 Army of the Potomac
- 163 American Plains Indians
- 186 The Apaches
- 168 US Cavalry 1850-90
- 193 British Army on Campaign:  
(1): 1816-1853
- 196 (2): The Crimea, 1854-56
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