

EMIGRÉ & FOREIGN TROOPS IN BRITISH SERVICE (2) 1803–15



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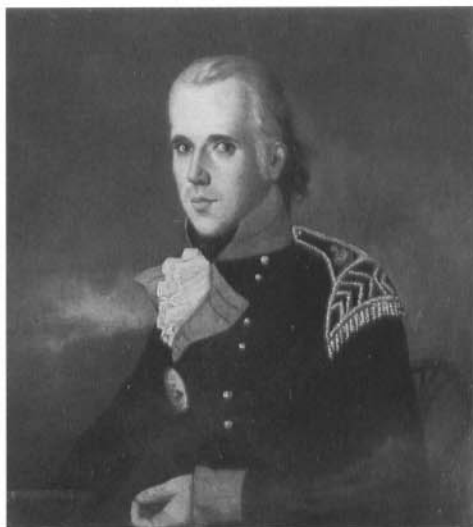


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Dedication

To Christophe

Author's note

The British forces mobilised against Revolutionary and Napoleonic France throughout nearly twenty years of what was virtually a world war from 1793 to 1815 included a number of French Royalist 'émigré' units, as well as many foreign corps of various other nationalities. As will be seen in this and the previous volume (MAA 328, covering the period 1793-1802), many of these units served not only in Europe – particularly southern Europe – but also in the West Indies, Africa and Asia. This second volume deals with the period from the resumption of hostilities in 1803 to the final exile of Napoleon in 1815. Many formations from this period are little known, and are presented here for the first time.

With regards to the hues of the uniform colours described, blue and green were meant to be very dark shades. Red ranged from the brick red of the common soldiers to a fine scarlet for officers. White, especially for waistcoats and breeches, could assume a creamy colour.

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Artist's note

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OPPOSITE There could hardly be a more suitable example to dramatise the wide range of troops paid by the British government than this officer of the 1st Regiment, Greek Light Infantry, in 1812. He wears a red skull cap with a black tassel under a white and yellow headband tied on the right. His short red oriental jacket has red cuffs and is decorated with yellow or gold lace and many small silver buttons, worn open over a red waistcoat with yellow/gold lace. He has a crimson sash (perhaps the British officers' type?) over his right shoulder, and a waist sash coloured here a more scarlet shade. The white *fustanella* kilt is worn over white breeches - note the gold or yellow knee bands and disks. Red stockings trimmed with yellow or gold are worn with short black boots with yellow trim or top fringes; the gilded sabre is carried in a crimson scabbard with gilt fittings. See also Plate D. (Print after Goddard)

ÉMIGRÉ & FOREIGN TROOPS IN BRITISH SERVICE (2) 1803-15

BRITAIN'S FOREIGN ARMY

FROM 1803 TO 1815 foreign corps represented a sizeable proportion of the British forces. It is difficult to arrive at reliable statistics; compilers of the time did not include the 60th, the 97th, nor the King's German Legion artillery as foreign troops, but did include Canadian Fencible units – which had very few foreigners in the ranks. While not precise, however, the numbers below probably evened out in a general way. In January 1804 the so-called foreign units amounted to some 17,000 men or about 11% of the army. In 1808 this had grown to some 35,000 men or 18% of the army. By September 1813 it reached a peak of nearly 54,000 foreigners, representing more than one man in five in the British army. Thereafter their numbers decreased rapidly until the end of the Napoleonic Wars. In terms of losses, between June 1803 and January 1814 the foreign corps suffered 16,000 deaths in battle or by sickness; 11,600 lost by desertion; and another 10,000 men discharged, many of them invalided out.

There were striking differences in the type of corps and the nationalities of foreign soldiers in the British forces during the period 1803-1815. The French émigré units described in Men-at-Arms 328 all but disappeared; only the Chasseurs Britanniques remained, although now mostly recruited from deserters from the French army. Many French émigré officers were now found scattered in various foreign regiments. Another feature was the near absence of cavalry units, so numerous in the pre-1802 period.

Most noticeably, between 1803 and 1814 new sorts of 'émigré' refugees came to the British forces from the Mediterranean. The Calabrian, Sicilian, Italian, Maltese and Greek levies were foreign units with distinct national characters. Their officers and men were often patriots hoping to oust Napoleon's troops from their native lands with British help. The interior management of units was usually carried on in the corps' dominant language, but key commands and drill orders were given in English in order to avoid confusion as much as possible when foreign units were brigaded with British regiments on campaign.

Readers may be surprised to encounter in these pages many so-called 'colonial' units, but they were equally foreign. Captured territories were by no means certain to remain British. Indeed, one of the reasons for the declaration of war in 1803 was Britain's reluctance to hand back Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to Holland. The Cape of Good Hope was taken in 1806, La Réunion in 1809, Mauritius in 1810, Java in 1811 – all places where the British immediately raised units.





The most spectacular attempt by fanatical Royalists to assassinate First Consul Napoleon Bonaparte was George Cadoudal's 'infernal machine', which barely missed the future emperor in December 1800. These sorts of incidents were generally believed by Napoleon to have been sponsored with British money. (Print after JOB)

later raised, with some Croat units late in the war.

British line infantry units which had a high proportion of foreigners, such as the 60th, the 97th and the Royal African Corps, are also listed. We have favoured here the lesser known units while referring readers to other studies on corps such as the King's German Legion, wishing to use our limited space to give as much previously unpublished data as possible.

REGIMENTS AND CORPS 1803-1815

The units existing between 1803 and 1815 are listed below in alphabetical order, each with a short account of its history and notes on its uniforms, where known. In some cases further information is given in the previous volume of this study (MAA 328, on the corps active in 1793-1802), or will be found in other existing Men-at-Arms titles cited:

60th Regiment of Foot The 60th was considered as something of a 'foreign legion' in the British infantry. All of its battalions had always

As can be seen by the many units listed below, the contribution of foreign units would seem to be more important than previously believed. The King's German Legion and the Brunswick-Oels Corps have justly become well known due to their distinguished service with Wellington's army in the Peninsular and Waterloo campaigns. However, it will be seen that the contribution of Italian troops in the Mediterranean has certainly been somewhat overlooked by historians. There were five Italian regiments, and several other units – such as the Royal Corsican Rangers – with high proportions of Italian officers and enlisted men. Similarly, the many units in Malta and Ceylon stood guard in key stations, thus allowing more British line regiments to be deployed elsewhere. Recruiting in the Balkans produced rather unequal results, as will be seen from the entry on Froberg's Regiment, but two Greek regiments were

contained strong foreign elements, particularly Germans and Swiss. The first four battalions consisted of line infantry, were armed with muskets, wore red coatees and had white accoutrements. Each had a green-clad rifle company.

The *1st Battalion* was in Jamaica from 1800 to 1810, thence to England and on to the Cape of Good Hope from 1811 to 1819. It was noted as being made up entirely of foreigners except for nine men when inspected at the Cape in July 1815. The *2nd Bn* was in Barbados, Tobago and St Vincent from 1800 to 1807; in Jersey and Spain in 1808, leaving Coruña for Guernsey and on to Barbados in 1809, Guadeloupe and Martinique from 1810 to 1812, and Barbados from 1813 to 1817. The *3rd Bn* was in Tobago, Barbados and Grenada from 1795 to 1809, and in Antigua, Martinique and Guadeloupe from 1810 to 1815. The *4th Bn* was in the West Indies from 1788 and in Jamaica from 1803 to 1805, when it was sent to Lymington, England. Shipped to the Cape of Good Hope from 1806 to 1808, it returned to Barbados, Martinique and Guadeloupe from 1808 to 1810; to Lymington again in 1811, then out to Dominica from 1812 to 1816.

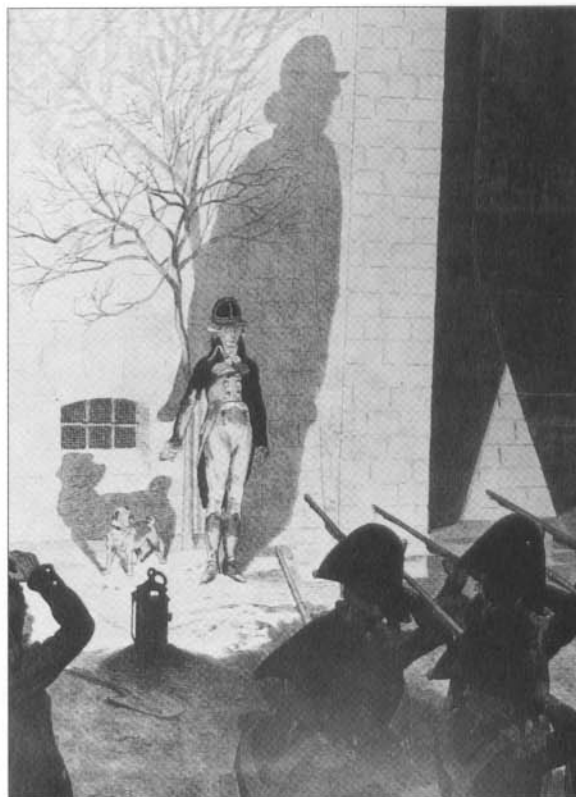
The last four battalions were light infantry, armed with rifles for the 5th and muskets for the 6th, 7th and 8th Bns, each of the last three battalions also having two rifle companies.

The *5th Bn* went from Surinam to Halifax, Nova Scotia, from 1803 to 1805. When reviewed in Halifax during September 1804 it was reported with a strength of 585 foreigners and one lonely Irishman. It was shipped to Portsmouth and thence to Cork, Ireland, from 1805 to 1808; to Portugal and Spain from 1808 to 1814, where it served with distinction with Wellington's army; into France, and back to Cork in 1814.

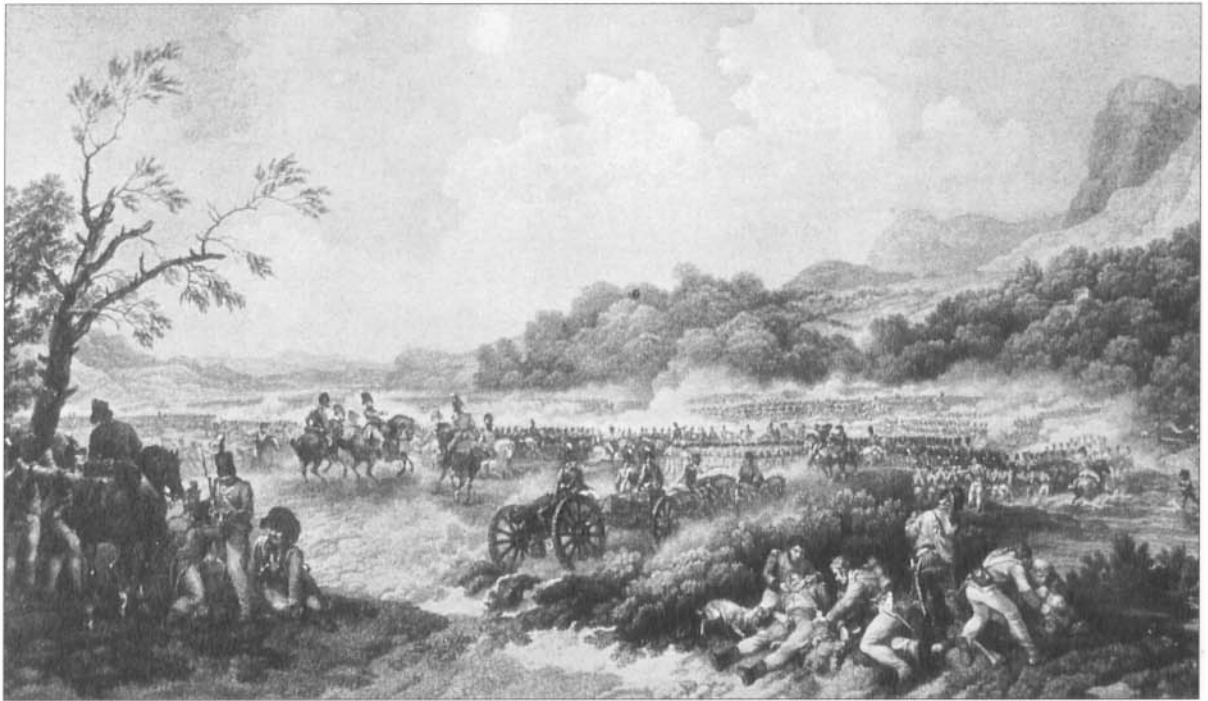
The *6th Bn*, raised in 1799 on the Isle of Wight, was sent to Jamaica in 1800, where it remained until 1817 and was disbanded at Portsmouth the following year. The *7th Bn* was raised in Guernsey in September 1813 from German prisoners of war; sent to Halifax and on to the present American state of Maine in 1814; back to Halifax in 1815, until disbanded in 1817. The *8th Bn* was formed at Lisbon in November 1813 from the Foreign Recruits Battalion (qv); sent to Gibraltar in 1814, it was disbanded in 1816.

Uniform: See illustrations. 7th Bn: same as 5th Bn. The bayonet belts were to be worn around the waist, as the 5th Bn, instead of over the shoulder. 8th Bn: a 'green rifle uniform' probably the same as the 5th Battalion.

Bourbon Regiment Shortly after the capture on 8.7.1810 of the French island of La Réunion, which had been named Île de Bourbon until the French Revolution, the British authorities raised a local infantry regiment of two battalions under LtCol Henry Keating, 56th Foot. It was intended to recruit the 1st Bn from the white inhabitants



There was great outrage in England and other European courts at the kidnapping of the Duke of Enghein by a party of French dragoons in Germany, but their protests were to no avail. The duke was suspected of involvement in a Royalist conspiracy; Napoleon had him brought to Vincennes castle near Paris, where after a quick 'trial' he was executed by firing squad at 4a.m. on 21 March 1804. For many, this act of judicial murder was the incident which opened their eyes to the true nature of Napoleon's regime. (Print after JOB)



Following the execution of the Duke of Enghein in the moat of Vincennes castle, it was Napoleon who had this sombre monument put up on the spot where he died. It consisted of a pillar with the top cut off – a clear warning signal to those who plotted against his regime.

and the 2nd amongst the free blacks. With the fall of Mauritius (called Île de France by the French) to the British on 3.12.1810 recruiting was extended to that island, but it was found that few whites and free blacks wished to join. The original plan was altered to raise both battalions with purchased slaves, most of whom came from Madagascar; thus the Bourbon Regt was recruited from East African blacks. The officers were mostly British with four others bearing French names (but one of these, Jacques Dupéron Baby, was actually a French-Canadian). In April 1812 the 1st Bn had only three officers and 64 men while the 2nd had 24 officers and 598 men. The regiment was taken on the British establishment from 25.1.1812 as a single battalion unit with an official strength of 34 officers and 642 other ranks in eight companies. It was erroneously named the 'Bourbon Rifle Regiment', but only its light company was armed with rifles. It was not really a light infantry unit either, as it was trained in line infantry manoeuvres.

From 1810 the regiment was stationed on La Réunion. In February 1811 a detachment participated in obtaining the surrender of the French post at Tamatave on Madagascar. In November a slave insurrection occurred at St Leu on La Réunion, but was quickly put down by the planters. Detachments of this black regiment were later used to escort the ringleaders to their execution – a message to the slave populace. In the middle of 1812 the corps moved to Mauritius. In May 1815 the regiment embarked for Barbados in the West Indies.

On 4.4.1816 orders were given for its disbandment, the officers to be sent home and the men to be incorporated into the 1st West India Regiment. However, on 14 April a slave revolt broke out in the parish of St Philips and troops were immediately sent off to the area; two companies of the Bourbon Regt, including the Light Company, formed part of the columns, acting as forward skirmishers. On the evening of the

OPPOSITE The battle of Maida on 4 July 1806, won by Sir John Stuart over a large French force under Gen Reynier, put an end to French efforts to occupy Sicily. It was the first victory by British arms over a French army on the Continent, and thus brought great encouragement to Napoleon's foes. (Print after De Louthembourg)

BELOW British troops charge the French at Maida. Among the British force were a large contingent of foreign troops including the Sicilian Regiment, the Royal Corsican Rangers, Watteville's Swiss and three companies of the Chasseurs Britanniques. (Period print)

15th they came in contact with some 400 insurgents, who were under the impression that black troops would not fight them; nevertheless the insurgents fired, killing a private and wounding a sergeant. The Bourbon Regt fired a volley and charged the rebels, killing about 40, capturing 70 and scattering the rest, which ended the rebellion. The Bourbon Regt was then disbanded on 24.4.1816. *Uniform:* See Plate F.

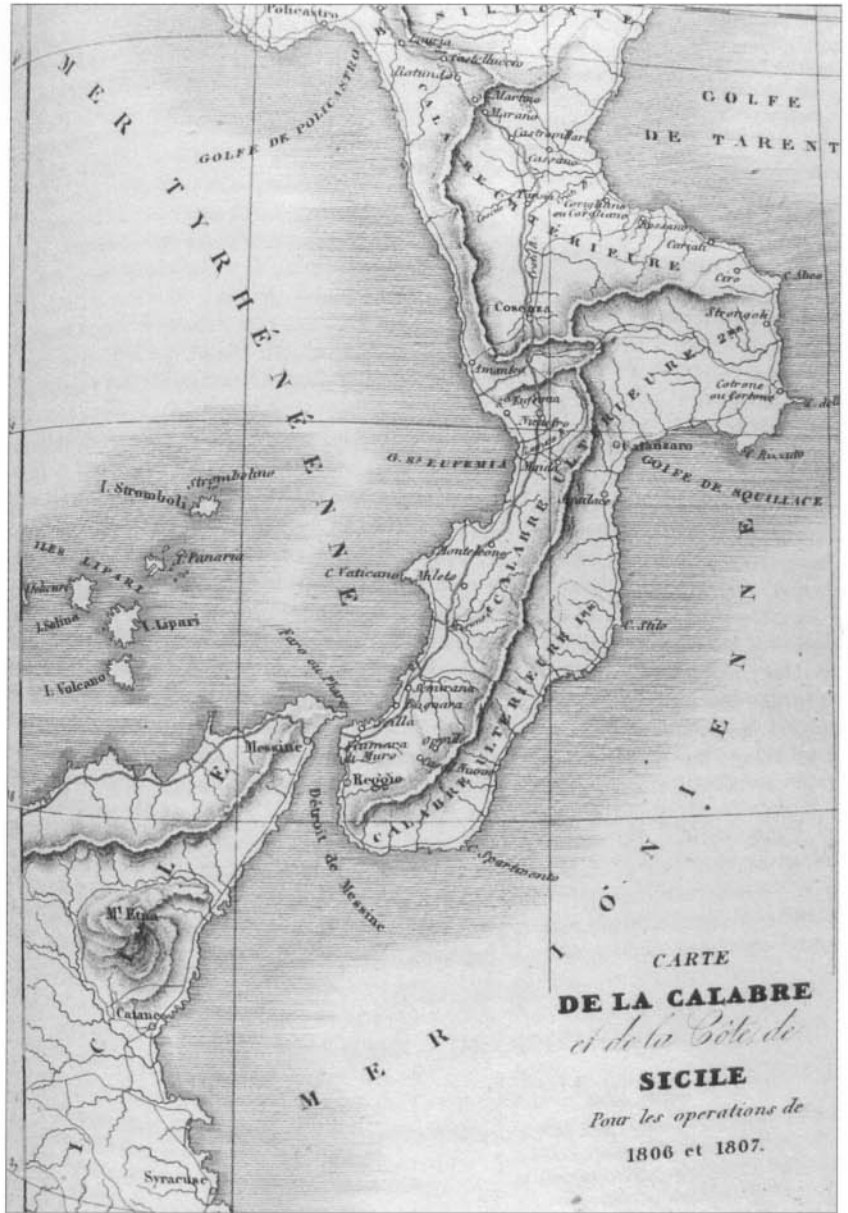
Brunswick-Oels Corps See MAA 167 *Brunswick Troops 1809-15.*

Calabrian Free Corps Raised from early 1809 with Italian refugees from Calabria, some 400 having gathered in Sicily by February in 'centuries' under their own chiefs. At the end of June the corps participated in the raid on Naples, a detachment of about 40 men distinguishing itself in a charge on landing. It participated in the capture of Ischia and Scilla. Back in Sicily, regulations were drafted for the unit's better organisation and discipline. The centuries were re-organised into company-size 'free corps' of three officers, eight sergeants and 120 privates each, and there was a staff of British officers. The company officers, NCOs and privates were to be Calabrian or of the Kingdom of Naples.

On 22.3.1810 some 316 men – after initially wavering – participated with distinction in the attack on the Ionian island of Santa Maura. From December 1812 two divisions of the corps were in eastern Spain, and fought well at Castalla and Biar (April 1813). Consequently, Lord William Bentinck considered the Calabrians to be perhaps the best light infantry in the Mediterranean, in spite of having some 'low-bred, bad Calabrese officers'. At that time the strength reached 1,450 men; six



Map of Calabria and northern Sicily. This area became one of Britain's toeholds in a Europe dominated by Napoleon. The Kingdom of Naples or of the Two Sicilies had been taken over by Napoleon in 1806; he first installed his brother Joseph as king, then Marshal Murat from 1808 when he transferred Joseph to the throne of Spain. Naval superiority allowed the British to secure Sicily and they often operated on the Calabrian mainland. Sicily remained an important base of operations for Anglo-Italian troops until the end of the Napoleonic Wars.



companies were in Spain, six in the Ionian Islands, and three in Sicily. Two companies from the Ionian Islands took part in the siege and capture of Trieste in October 1813, distinguishing themselves by their bravery. The companies in Spain, 579 strong, saw further action at Ordal (12-13 September). In April 1814 these six companies embarked at Tarragona, landed 618 strong at Leghorn, and took part on the British attack on Spezzia on 25-26 March; the garrison surrendered on the 30th. On 14 April the Calabrian Free Corps was part of the force investing Genoa. On the 16th, with the 1st Greek Light Infantry (qv), the regiment carried the high ground above forts Richelieu and Tecla which led to Genoa's surrender later that day. With the war ending, the corps was disbanded from the middle of 1814.

Uniform: The corps' regulations of 1809 specified that each soldier was to be issued every year a jacket of blue cloth with lining throughout, a blue waistcoat, a pair of pantaloons of good strong cloth, a pair of black three-quarter gaiters, a felt shako and a blue cloth forage cap lined with leather. The clothing was to be in the style of light infantry and rifle corps. See page 44 and Plate D.

On 19.10.1811 suits of clothing and greatcoats for 1,240 rank and file and 100 sergeants were shipped from England to Sicily. The suits consisted of jackets, pantaloons, half-gaiters, shakos with plates and plumes constituting the 1812 issue. There were also 20 shoulder knots of gold for staff sergeants and 10 yards of gold lace for chevrons. A Goddard print published in 1812 showed a private in what has sometimes been interpreted as a blue-green jacket, but which must have been meant to be blue, with a yellow collar and cuffs, three rows of pewter buttons on the breast merging into one row at the bottom and edged with white piping, white pantaloons, black half-gaiters, black cylindrical shako with brass bugle horn plate and green plume, musket with black accoutrements and brass belt plate. The uniform style may have changed in about 1813. In a manuscript notation to his printed schematic uniform charts of 1814 Charles Hamilton Smith added the 'Calabrese Corps' in a blue coat with yellow collar and cuffs, white buttons in two rows on the chest connected by white tape, and blue pantaloons. An inspection of May 1813 mentions that the men wore old pantaloons of 'different colours, viz blue, green &c' as new ones had not been sent (PRO, WO 27/118).

For the buglers, the 1811 shipment included 60 jackets consisting of 83 yards of green cloth (1.38 yards per jacket), 66 yards of grey cloth (1.1 yards per jacket, probably for the lining), 276 dozens of buttons (55 buttons per jacket), 6 gross of lace (presumably 144 yards of lace to a gross, giving 14.4 yards of lace per jacket), and 1 gross (2.4 yards per jacket) of green braid (PRO, WO 1/885).

According to Goddard's 1812 print, the officers wore scarlet jackets with yellow collar, cuffs and turnbacks, three rows of gold buttons on the chest connected by flat gold lace, crimson sash, white pantaloons, black boots, black cylindrical shako with small gilt plate and green feather. The scarlet jacket is very unusual and was probably eventually changed to the same colour as the men's.

Cape Regiment Raised from late January 1806 at the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa following its capture from the Dutch. The regiment had ten infantry companies of 58 officers and men each; formed with Hottentots, many of whom had been in Dutch service, it was now led by British officers. The Hottentots were considered 'perfect as Light Infantry', being 'used to the bush', noted LtCol Graham, adding that they were a good and cheerful set of men who were 'fond of music' (PRO, WO 1/635). A troop of light cavalry was later raised and attached to the regiment. The bulk of the regiment was disbanded on 24.9.1817 except for a small force of infantry and the cavalry being retained to patrol Cape Colony's eastern frontier. It was eventually re-organised as the Cape Mounted Rifles in 1827.

Uniform: See Plate B. Its regular uniform, first received from 1808, was green jacket with black collar and cuffs, three rows of pewter buttons on



ABOVE Brass plate for the 1800 stovepipe shako. This type of plate was worn by most foreign units from 1803, few if any having gone to the expense of having a special regimental pattern made. (Private collection)

BELOW Officer's gilt plate for the 1812 shako, the basic pattern with the double GR cipher. Some foreign regiments added a scroll bearing the name of the unit below the cipher. (Mr & Mrs Don Troiani Collection)



the breast, green pantaloons, shako with white metal bugle horn and green plume – generally the same dress as the 95th Rifles. The black facing cloth was not included in the 1809 issue but was sent later on. A notation of c.1816 by Pearse mentions for the ‘Cape Natives... infantry’ 2½ yards of broad lace, 7 yards of cord and 12 hooks and eyes, ‘Great Coats Regulation Gray’. The ‘musick suit’ for the 20 buglers had 15 yards of ‘midlin royal braid’ and 20 yards of narrow braid. Accoutrements were black, and said to be very good and the muskets in good repair in 1809 (PRO, CO 48/3 and 5; WO 27/ 92 and 97). The officers’ uniform was the same as the 95th Rifles. The troop of light cavalry had a green dolman with black collar and pointed cuffs, three rows of pewter buttons on the chest, black cords, green pantaloons with black stripe, green sash at waist with two black stripes, black shako with white band at top, green plume and indistinct round white-black-white cockade, plain black sabretache, and green housings edged with a wide black lace. In 1816 Pearse further mentions for the ‘Cape Natives’ a ‘dress jacket’ apparently for cavalry with 2½ yards of broad lace, 9 yards of cord, 12 hooks and eyes and 4 black buttons. There were also ‘Cloaks Regulation’¹.

Ceylon Infantry Regiments (See also MAA 328). Regiments raised in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) were on the British regular army establishment, not the local colonial establishment. By the end of 1804 they stood at 5,401 men – which was more than the King’s German Legion, or all eight West India regiments at the same date. However, this was reduced after the end of the war with Kandy in 1805. There were eventually four regiments, numbered from 1805, and each was quite distinct in its character, largely due to the varied origins of the recruits.

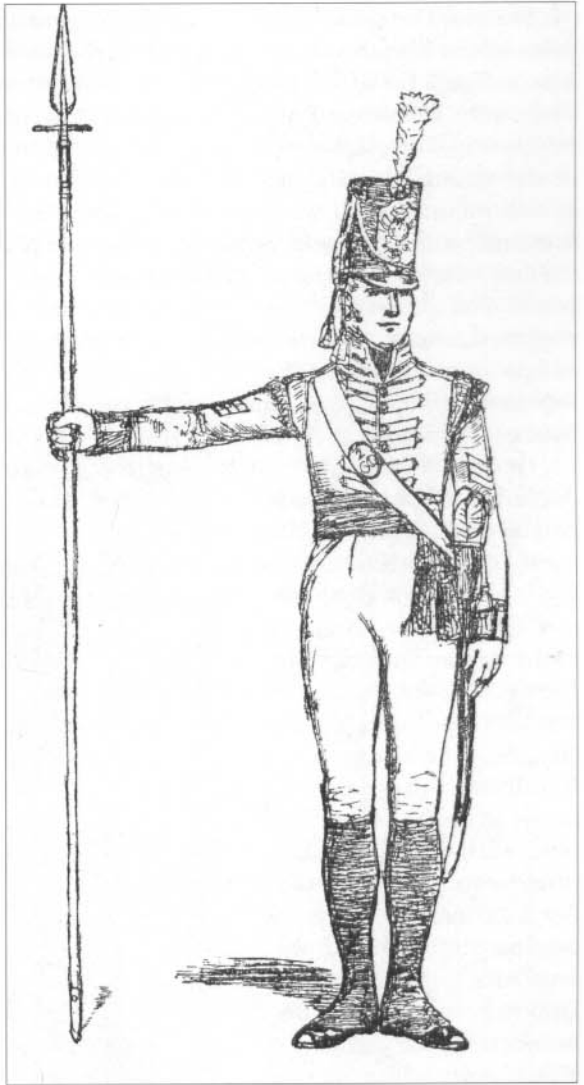
The *1st Ceylon Regt* was commanded by Josiah Champagné, a French émigré officer who had served in the 60th Foot. It had 20 British officers, 22 native officers, two warrant officers and 1,087 native enlisted men, largely Malays, in ten companies including one of rifles. It was thus named ‘HM Malay Regiment’. The regiment was intensely engaged in the bloody 1803-05 war against the kingdom of Kandy in the centre of the island, and suffered heavy casualties. From June 1814 it became a light infantry corps and adopted light infantry drill. On 10.1.1815 war broke out again against Kandy; this time the British moved in with eight mixed columns of British and Ceylon troops and finally brought the whole island under their rule. The rifle company did especially well, as it captured the King

OPPOSITE **Capt John Robertson**, Rifle Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, c.1800-1806. This battalion spent most of the period in the West Indies, with a brief interlude in Spain in 1808. The rifle companies of the 60th’s line battalions had green uniforms. The officers, as shown by this portrait, wore the standard coatee rather than a dolman. Green coatee with scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; silver buttons; green wings and shoulder straps edged with scarlet lace having silver beading at the centre, silver fringes to the wing, and a gilt bugle on a scarlet patch on the shoulder strap; black shoulder belt with silver belt plate with gilt bugle horn. (Chateau de Ramezay Museum, Montreal)

BELOW Britain’s foreign troops were often involved in naval landing operations in collaboration with the Royal Navy, especially in the Mediterranean. Although some special craft were occasionally used, landings were usually made from ships’ longboats manned by sailors, probably much as in this evocative later print by R.Caton Woodville.



¹ There is an 1807 illustration of a soldier of the regiment in PRO, CO 48/3, in a fancy light grey uniform braided black hussar-style with a ‘tigerskin’ shako and armed with a rifle. It was a proposal by LtCol Graham which was never adopted.



of Kandy on 19 February. The unit became the Ceylon Rifle Regt in 1827.

The *2nd Ceylon Regt* was raised in 1802 by Col William Ramsay and was 1,200 strong in ten companies including one of rifles. Initially it recruited among the Sinhalese, but later accepted numbers of sepoys from Madras; it was known as the 'Ceylon Native Infantry'. An inspection at Colombo on 21.6.1814 found the corps 'very favorable' and noted that 'colours given out to [the] Regt in 1813 [were] totally worn out' already (PRO, WO 27/132). It participated in the 1815 and 1818 campaigns against Kandy, and was subsequently disbanded in 1821.

The Caffre Corps was raised in 1803 from blacks from east Africa. It was disbanded in 1805 and its men transferred to the new 3rd Ceylon Regiment.

The *3rd Ceylon Regt* was raised in early 1805 from recruits obtained in Molucca and Penang and was organised as a regiment under the command of Col Charles Baillie. The black soldiers of the Caffre Corps were incorporated into the 3rd and, by 1814, it was reported to be composed entirely of blacks. This ten-company regiment took part in the 1815 campaign against Kandy, and was disbanded in 1817.

The *4th Ceylon Regt* was raised in 1810 and put on the establishment from January 1811 under the command of Col John Wilson. It had 400 men, nearly all blacks except for a Malay company. The Africans were taught English and many also became Roman Catholics. The regiment took part in the 1815 campaign against Kandy and was disbanded later that year, its men being incorporated into the 3rd Regiment.

Sergeant, Grenadier Company, 2nd Bn, 60th Regiment of Foot, c.1803-1811. (Print after a sketch by P.W.Reynolds from a German engraving)

Uniform: The uniforms of the Ceylon regiments generally resembled those of the British infantry, but their red coatees had unlined sleeves. The enlisted men had white pantaloons and white undress jackets. They were bare-footed and had no issues of shoes, although sandals were worn. The rifle companies were clothed in green. The headdress of the enlisted men varied early on, the 1st, 3rd and 4th having the British infantry shako and the 2nd turbans. The officers' lace for the 3rd and 4th Regts was given in Hamilton Smith's charts as silver (or left blank), but Herbert's lace books show actual orders of gold lace and buttons for officers' uniforms of all four regiments. Accoutrements were white except for the flank companies which had black. The regimental details were as follows:

1st: See Plate F.

2nd: Red coatee, green collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace square-ended and single-spaced, pewter buttons. Light green material was used in 1803 for the facings but became dark green later on. The sepoy's being Buddhists, they refused to wear shakos and had blue turbans with yellow ornaments. Gold buttons for officers; turnback ornaments, gold double crow's-foot on dark green. Did not receive clothing between 1810 and 1814. Worn out white accoutrements replaced by black ones in 1812 (PRO, WO 27/118, 123 and 128). The regimental facings were changed to bright yellow in 1818. For the Rifle Company see Plate F.

The Caffre Corps of 1803-1805 was issued with blue cloth, smaller quantities of red cloth and also red with yellow cloth (PRO, CO 54/16).

3rd: Red coatee, yellow collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace square-ended and single-spaced, pewter buttons.



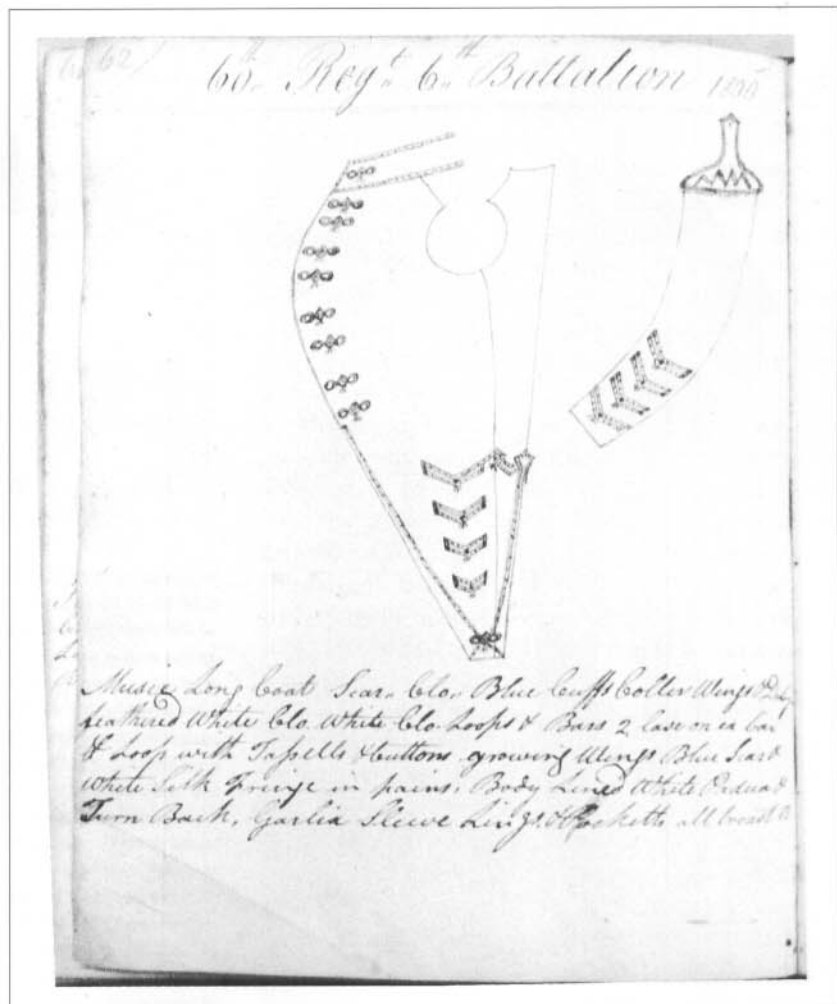
Gold buttons for officers. Between 1808 and 1815 uniforms were received only for 1811. Reported in white jackets, white and blue pantaloons, black accoutrements in 1814 (PRO, WO 27/123).

4th: Red coatee, white collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace with a red line square-ended and single-spaced, pewter buttons. No issues between 1811 and 1814. Gold buttons for officers; turnback ornaments, gold double crows-foot on scarlet.

Ceylon Light Dragoons Organised from October 1803, having a cadre of British officers, NCOs and a dozen native troopers with another dozen from the Madras Governor General's Body Guard. By 1805 it was up to 40 British and 87 natives, taking part in raids against Kandy in 1804-05 and later patrolling the area. The corps was much reduced in numbers, having only 3 officers and 21 men in 1818; but it was not disbanded until October 1832. *Uniform:* This appears to have been a blue jacket or dolman with yellow cuffs and collar (PRO, CO 54/16).

Ceylon Lascars From late 1801, three companies of 'gun lascars' – natives who were essential for the transport and service of artillery in Asian countries – were to be raised in Ceylon. The local Sinhalese were not too enthusiastic; recruiting was slow and by 1804

OPPOSITE **Private and officer, 6th Light Infantry Bn, 60th of Foot, c.1800-1811.** The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th battalions wore red coatees with blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, square-ended white lace with two blue lines set in pairs, and pewter buttons; officers had silver buttons and lace set in pairs. The 2nd Bn had blue pantaloons when inspected at St Lucia in 1811. A c.1810 entry in Buckmaster's tailoring book notes the 1st to 4th and 6th Bns' officers' dress as being scarlet with blue facings, silver laced button 'holes in pairs 10 in lapel, 4 in pointed flap, cuffs & back, hole & button in collar, edged with white [piping] all over. White waistcoat and breeches.' The 6th Bn, being light infantry, wore the bugle horn and green plume on the shako, and wings on the coatee; note the officer's light infantry sash and sabre. (Print after P.W.Reynolds)



RIGHT **Pattern of a musician's coat, 6th Bn, 60th Regiment, 1800.** The notes with this drawing describe it as a scarlet long coat with blue collar, cuffs and wings edged with white and white fringes, white buttonhole loops and tassels at the centre of each loop, pewter buttons, white turnbacks. (Canadian War Museum, Ottawa)



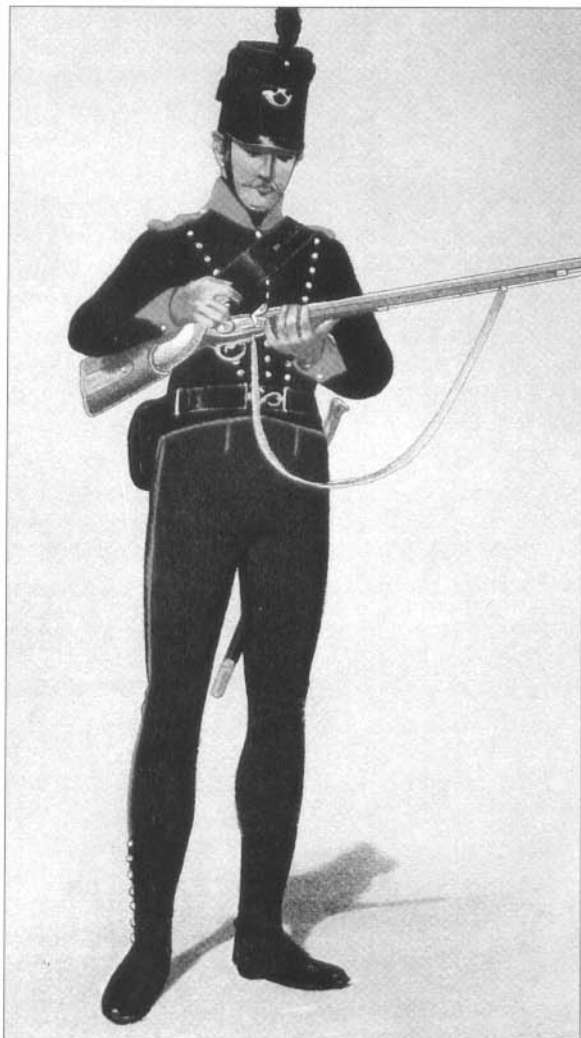
Officer's silver plated and engraved shoulder belt plate, 60th Regiment of Foot, c.1812-1815.

about 400 had been raised in Bengal and sent out to Ceylon. That year 'jackets and turbans for the Gun lascars attached to the Royal Artillery' were made (PRO, CO 55/35). Three companies of Pioneer Lascars raised at about the same time were issued emerald green cloth and equipped with picks, axes and other tools.

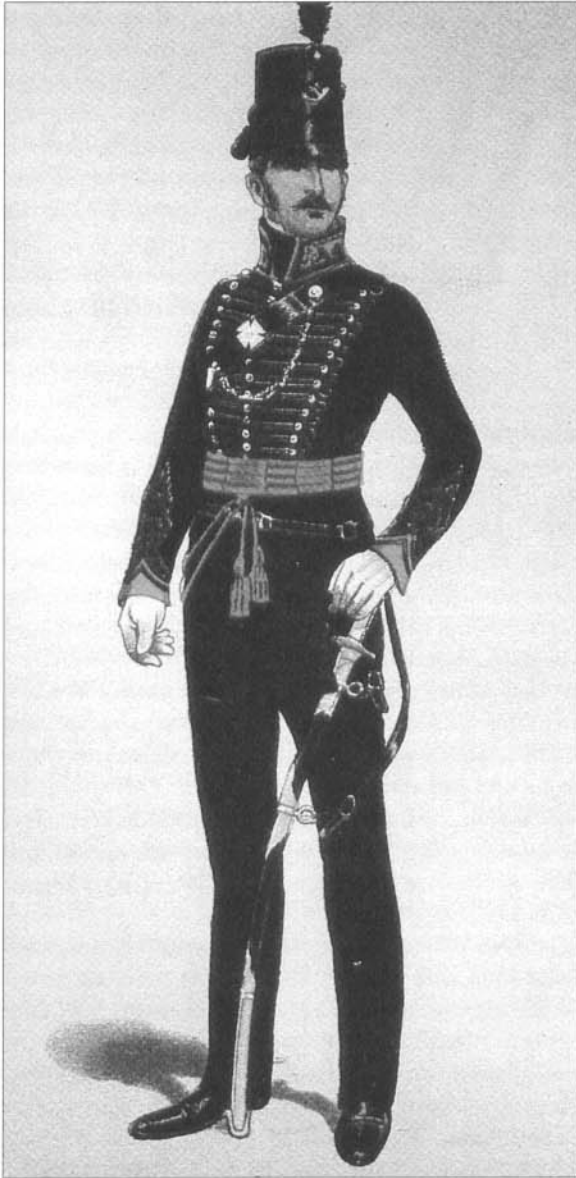
Chasseurs Britanniques (See also MAA 328). The regiment was brought to England in 1803 to incorporate other émigrés on the Isle of Wight, and then sent on to Malta. In 1804 its seven-company establishment was raised to the usual ten including two flank companies. From November 1805 the corps was in Naples, until transferred to Sicily in January 1806. In June and July it campaigned in Calabria but was not at the battle of Maida. However, three companies were part of the British force that captured Reggio on 9 July; incorporating over 300 French prisoners, the unit was back in Sicily by September. It sailed in March 1807 with the British expedition to Egypt, which proved disastrous: the Chasseurs suffered some 300 casualties covering the retreat on 31 March. The unit remained in Alexandria until September, incorporating some of the officers and men from Froberg's corps(qv). It then went to

Sicily and absorbed other groups of foreigners. The corps participated in the raid on the island of Ischia and Scilla on 24 and 30 June 1809.

In November 1810 the unit had some 1,740 men in 12 companies when sent to Cadiz, Spain, where two companies were left until 1813 serving with the Foreign Recruits Battalion (qv). The corps went on to Lisbon in January 1811 and joined Wellington's army in March. It saw much action in the Peninsula, starting at Fuentes d'Onoro (4-5.5. 1811) where Wellington noted its bravery. Other actions were the first attempt on Badajos (7-10 June), Ciudad Rodrigo (19 January 1812), Larena (19 March), siege of Salamanca (21-28 June), Retiro (16 August), Olmos (20 October), Vittoria (21 June 1813), Pyrenees (30 July), Bidassoa (31 August), Nivelle (10 November), Nive (9 December) and Orthez



Rifleman, 5th (Rifle) Bn, 60th Regiment of Foot, c.1812-1815. Two soldiers who deserted at Halifax in June 1805 wore 'a black felt cap, with a black hackle feather, a green regimental jacket, with red cuffs and collar, light blue pantaloons, and regimental gaiters' (*Nova Scotia Royal Gazette*, 6 June 1805). The uniform was generally a green jacket with red collar and pointed cuffs, one row (augmented from c.1808 to three rows) of pewter buttons on the breast, and a white waistcoat. Light blue pantaloons were changed to dark blue from April 1806, and authorised to be green from July 1812, although blue actually appears to have been worn for some time thereafter. Black half-gaiters, and a shako with a white metal bugle badge and green plume and cords completed the uniform. In c.1810 the clothier Pearse made privates' jackets with 44 buttons, buglers' jackets also had 44 buttons, with '30 yds of mixt cord' and '5/6 of worsted'. (Print after P.W.Reynolds)



Officer, 5th Bn, 60th of Foot, 1812. Officers had a green dolman with scarlet collar and pointed cuffs, three rows of silver ball buttons and black cords; a crimson light infantry sash with crimson cord; blue overalls and ornamented pantaloons, and hussar boots. The Tarleton helmet was the official headgear for officers until replaced from 1812 by a black felt shako with a silver bugle horn badge and green plume. The green pelisse with silver ball buttons, black cords and fur edging was also adopted at that time. However, the shako and the pelisse may have been in use by some officers before 1812. The officers' greatcoat was green with scarlet collar and pointed cuffs and three rows of silver ball buttons on the chest. The 5/60th served in Nova Scotia and Ireland before, famously, fighting in Wellington's Peninsula army, usually in companies detached to thicken up the skirmishing line of various formations. (Print after P.W.Reynolds)

(27 February 1814) – the last major battle. Napoleon's popularity was now eroding fast, and when the Chasseurs Britanniques arrived at Bordeaux escorting the Duke of Angoulême on 12 March 1814 the city had turned Royalist.

By then there were few émigrés left in the regiment except for officers, the rank and file being filled with 'professional deserters' from all over Europe. Desertion had become rampant in the corps, some 224 men taking leave in 1813; it was not allowed to post pickets for fear they would desert. However, in battle they proved steady, often suffering heavy casualties. Following Napoleon's abdication the British troops started to evacuate France and the Chasseurs Britanniques left Bordeaux in July for England. A detachment served as marines on board HMS *Ramillies* off the American coast during the summer. The regiment was disbanded at Lymington on 5.10.1814. *Uniform:* See Plates A and E.

Corps of Amboynese Battalion raised following the capture of Amboyna in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia). It had a British captain, a lieutenant, a sergeant-major and a drill sergeant with Amboynese natives providing the 600 privates, 20 corporals, 20 sergeants, 10 drummers, an adjutant and 14 artisans. A 32-man detachment was part of a small British force which captured Fort Orange in Ternate during August 1810. The battalion garrisoned Amboyna until 1816 when the islands were returned to the Dutch and the corps was disbanded.

Croatians Croatia and much of the eastern Adriatic coast were ceded to France by Austria in 1809; so were Croat units, which passed from Austrian to French service. By late 1812 and early 1813 the Croat units were increasingly uneasy and desertion became rampant. In April 1813 proposals to raise a Croat regiment in British pay were forwarded from Lord Bentinck to the Earl of Bathurst, but the idea was not entertained and the unit was never raised as a regiment (PRO, WO 1/659). However, the raising of independent Croat companies was permitted. By August two Croat companies had joined the Royal Corsican Rangers (qv) garrison on Curzola (Korcula) island. They were organised, armed and clothed as the Italian Levies (qv).

As British forces based in the Ionian Islands approached the crumbling French defences of the Adriatic they found unexpected assistance from

Officers of several foreign units which had the same uniform as the 95th Rifles (e.g. the Cape Regiment, and the rifle company of Roll's) wore the hussar-style dress shown in this 1812 print after Goddard. Black shako with folding peak, green plume and cords; green dolman with black collar, cuffs and cords, silver buttons; green pelisse edged with brown fur and trimmed with black cords and silver buttons; crimson light infantry sash with cords; green pantaloons with black decoration, black Hessian boots with black trim and tassel; silver-hilted sabre and black belts.



Croat units posted there. In October 1813 when the British besieged Perasto its Croatian garrison laid down its arms in spite of its French commanders. Old Ragusa surrendered in the same circumstances, on 28 October, as did Stagno on 1 November, Zara on 5 December, Cattaro on 3 January 1814 and finally Ragusa (Dubrovnik), the capital of the French Adriatic provinces, on 28 January. Entire Croat battalions now found themselves with the British. However, they did not formally join the British forces, and went back into Austrian service.

(Edward) Dillon's Regiment (See also MAA 328). With the resumption of war with France in 1803, Dillon's continued to garrison Malta until 1808 when it went to Sicily. Its composition became very mixed with men of some 22 nationalities in its ranks, Italians and Spaniards being the most numerous. While in Malta the regiment showed steady conduct during the repression of the mutiny of Froberg's unit (qv) – another corps made up from various nationalities. In Sicily from the end of 1808, its numbers increased to some 1,200 all ranks in 1810. Five companies were detached to form part of the force deployed in eastern Spain during 1812. They were united with Roll's (qv) into a provisional battalion which fought at Castalla, Tarragona, Biar and other actions, going up the coast until the Allies reached France in March 1814. A month later hostilities ceased, and Roll-Dillon's provisional battalion was dissolved. The rest of the regiment had been sent to Cartagena, Spain, in early 1813, to relieve de Watteville's. In spite of a decent battle record Dillon's had a serious rate of desertion; nearly 300 men had absconded in 1811-1813, and this may have influenced its not being deployed extensively against the French. Six companies were reviewed 'favourably' at Alicante in May 1813 (PRO, WO 27/120). The various companies of the regiment were concentrated at Gibraltar in 1814, and Dillon's disbanded there in January 1815. *Uniform:* See Plate E.

Dutch Levy Also called Dutch Light Infantry Battalion. Unit formed at Yarmouth from January 1814 with the Dutch former prisoners of war still in England, under the command of Col Pankhurst; the battalion appears to have been about 1,000 strong. It was meant to palliate the 'present want of troops to garrison the Fortresses in Holland', and sailed for Helovetslys shortly thereafter (PRO, WO 1/658).

Uniform: a shipment of 1,000 blue coats with orange facings, along with waistcoats, trousers, gaiters, half-stockings, shoes, shakos with plumes, knapsacks, canteens, greatcoats and camp equipage was consigned for the Dutch Levy raised in England on 22.12.1813 and shipped on 7.2.1814 (PRO, WO 1/888). There were further and larger shipments to Holland in May 1814 of similar uniforms and equipments for 'Dutch Levies', but these were obviously intended for new troops raised in that country and not the initial Dutch Levy raised in England (PRO, WO 1/853).

Foreign Corps of Waggoners Raised from May 1815 in Hanover, led by Dutch with some British officers. Attached to the British Royal Waggon Train, it had four companies of 100 men and 180 horses each to provide transport for the British forces in Flanders. Disbanded in Hanover on 24.7.1816 (PRO, WO 4/719). *Uniform:* See illustration.

Foreign Hussars Also called the Foreign Troop of Light Dragoons. Formed during 1810 in Sicily with men who could ride from various foreign regiments in British service on the island. It usually had around 75 to 85 all ranks, and was attached to the 20th Light Dragoons as an

extra troop. In June 1812 it embarked with the 20th for eastern Spain. It was heavily engaged against the French at Ordal, about 35km west of Barcelona, on 13.9.1813, losing 16 casualties in a successful charge with the 20th Light Dragoons and the Brunswick Hussars. The foreign troopers were 'with very few exceptions German' and, following a recommendation which was approved by the Duke of York on 20.12.1813, the troop was amalgamated into the Brunswick Hussars (PRO, WO 1/657).

Foreign Invalids Companies One company of the veterans of Loyal Emigrant (see MAA 328) on the Isle of Wight since 1797, raised to two companies with veterans from Castries and Mortemart's (see MAA 328) from July 1801. Based at Lymington and on the Isle of Wight. Many went back to France with Louis XVIII in May 1814 when the companies were disbanded. Their veterans' pay was maintained by the British government until March 1815. *Uniform:* Red coat, blue collar and cuffs, men's lace white with a red central line, square-ended and single-spaced, pewter buttons, white breeches, black gaiters, shako with brass plate and white-over-red plume. Officers had gold buttons and lace.

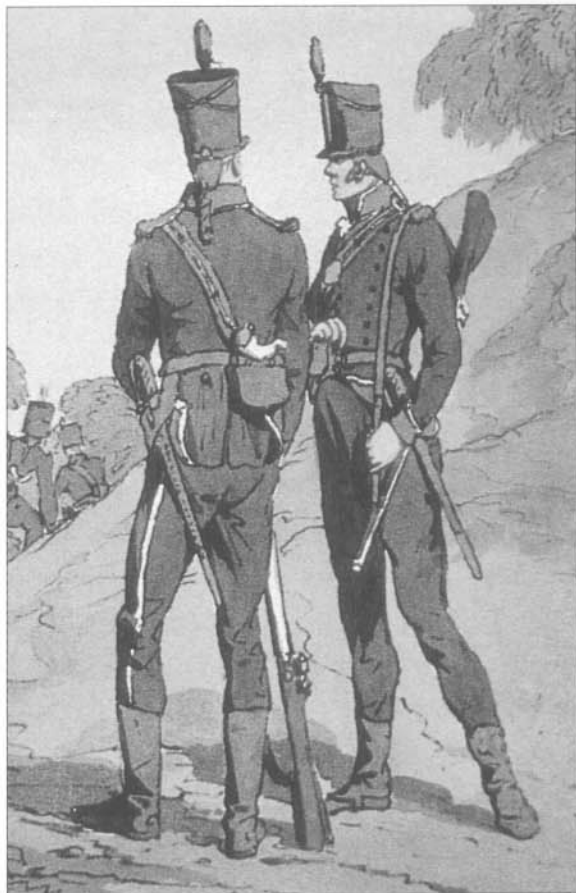
Foreign Recruits Battalion Raised in Cadiz in 1810 from deserters and prisoners, the battalion had a high desertion rate and was not deployed in the field. It received 'much praise' when inspected at Cadiz in May 1813, but 'much wanted' clothing which had 'just arrived' (PRO, WO 27/118 and 120). On 14 November it was converted into the 8th Bn, 60th Foot at Lisbon, and included two rifle companies. In 1814 the battalion went to Gibraltar, where it was disbanded on 31.3.1816, the men being incorporated into the 5th Rifle Bn, 60th Foot (qv).

Uniform: The clothing which arrived in May 1813 may have been similar to that of the 5/60th, as Capt Charles Leslie mentioned in his journal on 12.12.1813 that the new 8th Bn had caused surprise with 'so many men in green rifle uniform'. Accoutrements were 'partly buff and partly black leather' in May 1813.

Foreign Veterans Company raised at Stade, Germany, in March 1805. Attached to the King's German Legion at Portsmouth in 1806; to Portugal 1808-1813. Ordered expanded into a four-company battalion from 8.12.1812, it had two battalions each of 452 men in 1813, and amalgamated into one battalion of four companies in Flanders in 1814. The corps was disbanded at Hanover on 24.2.1816.

Uniform: Red coat, blue collar and cuffs, men's lace white with a red central line, square-ended and single-spaced, pewter buttons, white breeches, black gaiters, shako with brass plate and white-over-red plume. Officers had gold buttons and lace.

Froberg's Regiment Raised from May 1804 by Gustave de Montjoie, called Count de Froberg, a rather mysterious French Royalist officer



The Cape Regiment raised from 1806 had, from 1809, a uniform similar to the 95th Rifles which probably looked somewhat like this print by Atkinson. The men were, however, Hottentots, and were armed with muskets instead of rifles. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)



Officer of the 22nd Foot in the East Indies, c.1812. Round hats were very much in fashion in the East, and the dress of the officers of the Ceylon regiments would have been much the same as this watercolour. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)

whose true identity remains conjectural. Recruiting was very slow, and the unit only had a lieutenant and ten men on Malta in May 1805. Colonel Froberg concentrated his recruiting efforts in the Balkans; by April 1806 the regiment had 500 men, but this sudden arrival of 'Turks' was not to the liking of the Maltese. Another problem was the lack of officers to command this influx of recruits. A number of mostly Swiss and Germans were commissioned into the corps in autumn 1806. General Villette posted the regiment to Fort Ricasoli, a rather isolated fortification on the eastern side of the entrance to Valletta harbour. The arrival of 229 Albanians who had been recruited under false pretenses fuelled much resentment, and disaffection secretly spread to Greek recruits. Ringleaders plotted to capture all the officers and use them as hostages to obtain ships and supplies to go back to the Balkans.

On 4.4.1807 the plot was discovered and, learning this, 200 Albanians and Greeks mutinied. Some officers were killed, though most escaped; but Fort Ricasoli remained in the possession of mutineers holding about 200 loyal officers and men as hostages. General Villette immediately surrounded the fort with a cordon of loyal troops. On 8 April the mutineers surrendered and marched out; however, in a dramatic move about 20 mutineers – described as the most desperate – ran back into the fort, closed the drawbridge, and fired muskets and artillery. A party of loyal volunteers of Froberg's Regt scaled the walls and secured most of the fort. A few of the surviving mutineers hiding in the fort set fire to the powder magazine on the night of 12 April to create a diversion permitting them to escape. The explosion, which created much commotion in Valletta,

allowed three truly incorrigible characters to escape for a few days, but they were caught and quickly executed, as were the ringleaders. After this most serious mutiny of any by British troops during the Napoleonic Wars an inquiry uncovered the questionable recruiting methods which had caused such havoc. The authorities were shocked to learn that the men considered themselves kidnapped into British military service. Some 350 men were found to have reasonable grounds for discharge and were repatriated. The regiment was ordered disbanded in June 1807.²

² As for Count Froberg, he had previously left Malta to recruit in Istanbul. There he ran out of money, borrowed more from the British embassy, then disappeared. He met his end in a skirmish with French cavalry in East Prussia on 10.6.1807 while travelling to the Russian army's headquarters, apparently to offer his services.

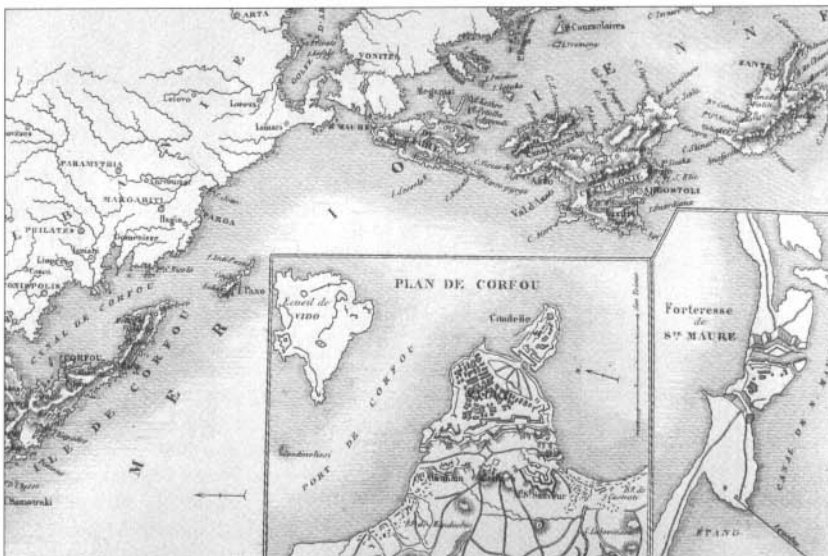
Uniform: White cotton jackets and trousers were issued to the men. Whether this or some other dress was 'the uniform of Froberg' known to a Maltese priest assailed by one of the mutineers remains a moot point. The men were allowed to grow moustaches and hair in their native style.

Greek Light Infantry, 1st Regiment Raised in the Ionian Islands in March 1810 by Capt Richard Church as a single battalion of Greeks and Albanians. It

immediately participated in the capture of Santa Maura (Leucadia) from 22 March to 16 April 1810, a sharp affair in which Church was badly wounded. Noted as having 548 officers and men at the time, the corps was later 800 strong and stationed on the island of Zante. The regiment was put on the British establishment from 25.2.1811 with BrigGen Robert Oswald as colonel, and was to have ten companies totalling 1,129 all ranks; it was designated 'The Duke of York's' in 1812. The unit helped quell an insurrection in Montenegro in June 1812; but displayed a 'degree of unwillingness' to embark for Sicily in early 1813. When reviewed there on 22.5.1813 the corps was reported in a 'very indifferent state', with no field officer present in the last ten months; company officers thus found themselves with 'no authority to install good discipline'. A 250-strong detachment was part of the British forces in the expedition against Spezzia and Genoa in March-April 1814. The unit was disbanded on 24.5.1816 (PRO, WO 26/42 and WO 27/120).



The Foreign Corps of Waggoners of 1815-16 had the same uniform as the British Royal Waggon Train shown in this C.H.Smith print. The enlisted men had a red jacket with blue collar and cuffs edged with white, three rows of pewter buttons on the breast, blue or grey-blue pantaloons, black boots or short gaiters, shako with white cords, white-over-red plume and small white metal badge, and black accoutrements. The officers wore scarlet faced with blue with white turnbacks and blue buttons. The front, not visible in this plate, had three rows of buttons with silver cord frames instead of lapels. (Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)



Map of the Ionian Islands at the time of the Napoleonic Wars - the theatre of operations for some of the more exotic foreign units in British pay.

Uniform: Reported as wearing Albanian dress in 1810. Lord Byron, who travelled to the area at the time, wrote of 'The wild Albanian kirtled to his knee, with shawl-girt head and ornamented gun, And gold-embroid'rd garments, fair to see' (*Childe Harold*, canto II, LVIII). The orders stipulated that 'clothing and accoutrements were to be made in the Albanian fashion'. The oriental-style jacket was red with yellow cuffs, the facing colour, and yellow trim ornamenting the jacket – gold for the Greek officers – with a white *fustanella* or Greek kilt, breeches and stockings, sandals with ties, white shirt and small cap (see illustrations). They would not wear knapsacks, only haversacks; and by March 1813 preferred the standard British musket to a sort of cut-down weapon they initially carried. They were also supposed to have pistols but, as they were always rather volatile, it was 'thought prudent' not to issue these. The corps had 'a fancy pair of small colours and not according to regulation' in 1813 (PRO, WO 1/313 and WO 27/118).

Greek Light Infantry, 2nd Regiment Raised from 29.6.1813 by Sir Richard Church, to have 454 all ranks in four companies plus staff. As in the 1st Greek Light Infantry, the officers were all Greeks except for the British regimental staff. The unit took part in the capture of the island of Paxos during 1814, but was disbanded that October.

Uniform: Basically as the 1st, the red jacket having green regimental facings at the cuffs and trimmings; a red skull cap had a green turn-up and pompon. C.H.Smith's print shows men of this unit armed with Baker rifles and braces of pistols; however we have found no evidence of this weapon being sent in numbers to troops in Sicily and the Ionian Islands. (Nor – see above – was it thought wise to issue the pistols.) The most likely armament was the standard India pattern musket with its bayonet. See illustration and Plate D.

Independent Companies of Foreigners See MAA 319 *British Forces in North America 1793-1815*.

Ionian Islands Volunteer Militias In early October 1809 the Ionian Islands of Zante, Cephalonia, Ithaca and Cerigo were taken by a British force. Headquarters were set up on Zante, the most important island, and Maj J.H.Slessor, 35th Foot, became governor and commandant of the Zante island militia – which he described as 'near 2,000 men, a kind of volunteer force, armed at their own expense'. By 1810 a force of some 4,000 militiamen was reported, some enlisting into Oswald's 1st Greek Light Infantry Regiment (qv).

Italian Levy Also called the Italian Regiments. Following a request by the Marquis of Wellesley to form a corps from among Italian prisoners of



OPPOSITE **1st Regiment, Greek Light Infantry, 1812.** This fusilier has a red skull cap with black tassel; his short, open, buttonless red jacket with red cuffs is decorated with yellow lace or tape, as is the red waistcoat. He wears the white *fustanella* (Greek kilt) over white breeches, with yellow knee bands and some kind of yellow knots or brass fitments at the outside of the knees. The red stockings have buff ties; the low buff shoes seem to have dark brown thonging at the instep over grey socks. The black waist belt appears to have a brass snake clasp; a second buff belt supports a holstered pistol, perhaps French, and the black bayonet scabbard. (Print after Goddard)

war hostile to Napoleon's rule – many having been drafted into the Imperial army by force – they were assembled in England from October 1811, and sent to Malta under the command of LtCol J.Burke. On 13.5.1812 Lord William Bentinck issued at Palermo, Sicily, a detailed 'Regulation for the formation of an Italian Levy to be raised for His Majesty's Service'. The establishment of each regiment was one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, eight captains, 16 lieutenants, eight ensigns, five staff officers, five staff sergeants, a drum-major, 32 sergeants, 32 corporals, 32 carabinieri, 18 drummers, and 1,136 privates – a total of 1,296 officers and men. Each regiment was divided into two battalions each having four companies. Each company had four officers, three sergeants, four corporals, four carabinieri (elite soldiers), two drummers and 142 privates; the 1st and 5th companies had an extra drummer serving as a fifer.

During May 1812 Burke's recruits went from Malta to Iccacia, Sicily, and were there formed into the 1st Italian Regiment. In late May the 2nd Italian Regt was raised under Capt Grant (formerly of the HEIC army and a relative of Lord Bentinck) and stationed at Cerini, near Palermo. The 1st Italian Regt had mostly Austrian officers while the 2nd had 'principally Piedmontese, Swiss and Austrians ... many of them very respectable', according to Lord Bentinck. Some 1,157 men of the Estero Infantry Regt of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies were also incorporated into the levy. A 3rd Italian Regt was organised towards the end of 1813 from 'a further levy' amongst Italian prisoners of war in Britain. All three regiments were recruited up to or over the establishment. A 4th Regt is sometimes mentioned but was not actually raised.

The 2nd Regt embarked some 1,200 strong at Palermo for eastern Spain in November 1812. It lost nearly 140 men through desertion in early 1813; there were also a few traitors in the ranks, who plotted to turn

Officer and fusiliers of the **1st Regiment, Greek Light Infantry, c.1812-1816.** Compare the officer with the illustration on page 3; note here the apparent metal ovals at the outside of the knee bands. Many of the recruits to this unit were Suliote clansmen from the mainland serving under their chiefs, who were commissioned into the new regiment. (Contemporary print after Goddard)





Greek officer and soldiers,
c.1810-1820. (Contemporary
print)

over villages near Alicante to the French in February. Informers leaked the plot to Gen Whittingham, who had the ringleaders arrested and executed. The 2nd was then disarmed and sent back to Alicante. It seems that LtCol Grant was an ineffectual commander whose sneering manner made him detested by his men. The 2nd was reinstated when its members gave their word to serve honourably. Sadly, historians seem to have retained only this one unit's bad conduct, condemning the whole Italian Levy as bad troops. Closer scrutiny reveals this to be an over-hasty conclusion.

The 1st Regt embarked for eastern Spain in December 1812 with 40 officers and 1,153 men. Lieutenant-Colonel Burke was a good commander and the regiment was accordingly steadier. It later went into action against superior French forces at Biar – one of the finest rearguard actions by the British in the Peninsular War, according to Oman. At Castalla on 12-13.4.1813 – where Marshal Suchet's advance on Alicante was halted – the regiment was heavily engaged. A detachment, probably from men left in Sicily, was at the siege and capture of Trieste in October 1813. In April 1814 both Italian regiments sailed from Tarragona and joined other troops from Sicily led by Bentinck, which included the 3rd Italian Regiment. Some 1,220 men from the three regiments took part in the siege and capture of Genoa from 13 to 17 April.

On the whole the Italian regiments were considered good by the British military authorities. In September 1815, as the time was approaching to reduce the corps, a senior War Office official concluded that they 'have conducted themselves in the most exemplary manner, and on the few occasions where they have been employed against the enemy, they have done themselves great credit, particularly in the attack on Genoa' (PRO, WO 6/175).

Uniform: Bentinck strove to make a 'total distinction' between these corps and other units, and thus 'dressed them in blue'. See the text of Plate H for the regulation. In a manuscript addition to his 1814 uniform chart (in the example at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris) Hamilton Smith confirms this dress, showing a plain blue coat with red collar and cuffs and grey pantaloons. Each NCO and private was to receive every second year a cloth jacket, a pair of cloth pantaloons, a pair of cloth half-gaiters, a shako with tuft, a fatigue cap, a white cotton or linen jacket, a pair of white cotton or linen pantaloons, a pair of white cotton or linen half-gaiters, three shirts, two pairs of shoes, two pairs of soles, a

leather stock, and a set of comb and brushes; he was to receive a greatcoat every three years, and a 'fatigue dress when required only'.

Recruits sent from England to Sicily in late 1813 were each issued for the crossing with a white cloth jacket, a pair of pantaloons, a leather cap, shirts, stockings, stocks and clasps, a canvas frock, a pair of canvas trousers and a haversack (PRO, WO 1/311 and WO 6/174).

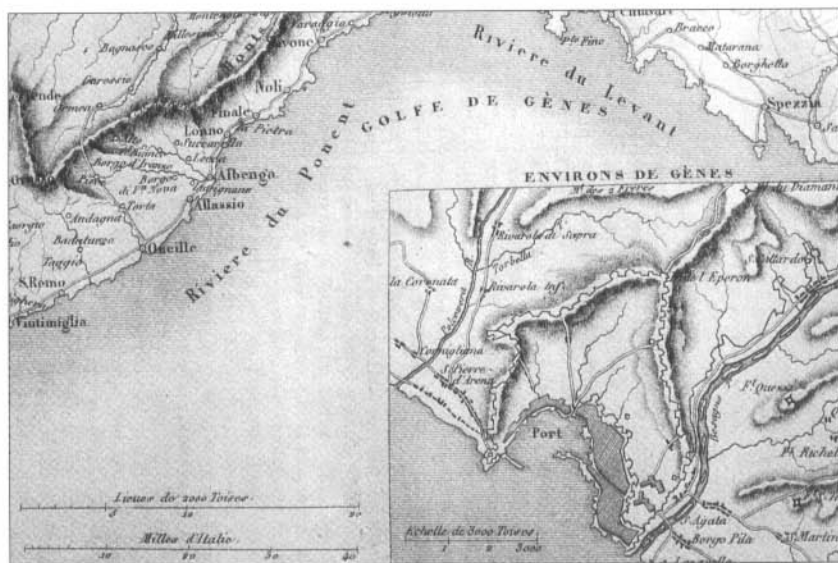
Java Volunteers or Hussars Also called the Java Light Cavalry Regiment. Following the capture of the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) by Anglo-Indian forces in 1811, two cavalry squadrons were organised in India during 1812 to serve on the island of Java under Capt L.H.O'Brien of the Honourable East India Company Madras cavalry, with Indian volunteers from the HEIC's forces. It arrived in Java in early 1813; served mostly in Batavia (Djakarta); and was disbanded in 1816 when Java was handed back to Holland. *Uniform:* See illustration.

King's German Legion See MAA 206 *The Hanoverian Army 1792-1816*; also MAA 338 & 339, *The King's German Legion (1) & (2)*, publication March & May 2000.

Malta Coast Artillery Corps raised from 1800 to help man the various batteries in Malta, especially at Valletta. It had two companies and its status appears to have been an embodied militia. Ordered disbanded on 16.2.1815. *Uniform:* Initially a cotton fatigue jacket and cotton trousers, blue sash at waist and round hat. Later the same as the British Royal Artillery.

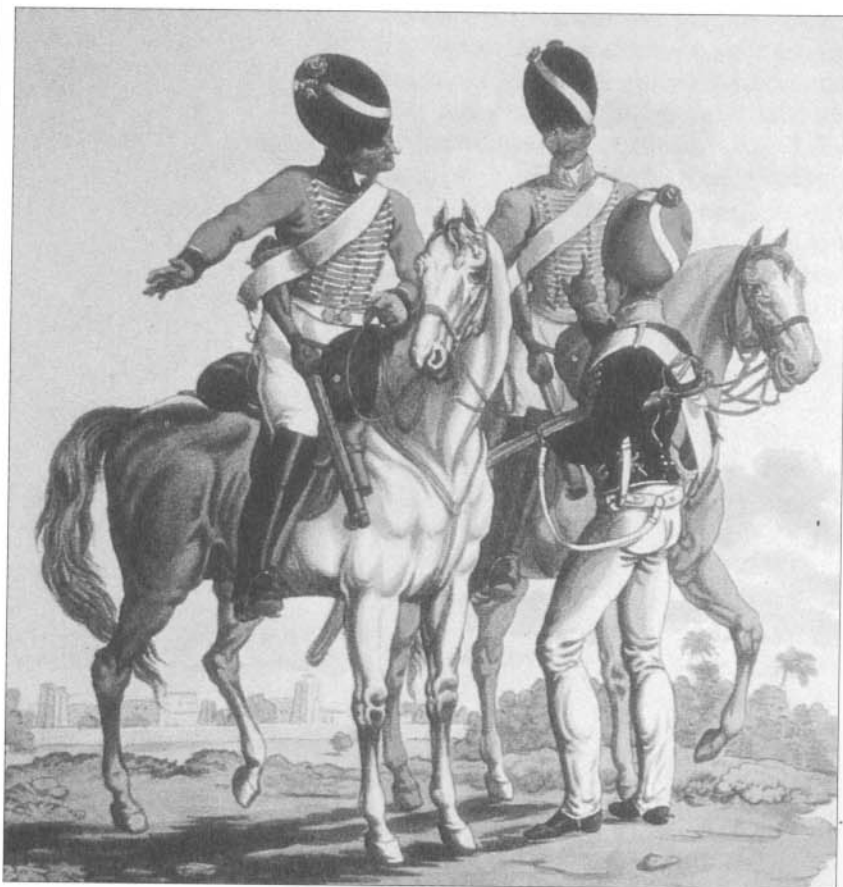
Maltese Military Artificers Two companies of 78 men each raised from January 1806 for service in Malta. A third 'war company' was raised for service elsewhere in the Mediterranean and served at Gibraltar. The corps had Maltese NCOs and men and was led by officers of the Royal Engineers except for a Maltese adjutant; in all it numbered 276 including staff. Disbanded in 1817. *Uniform:* See Plate C and illustrations.

Maltese Police Corps A para-military body of about 224 'police' was on the local establishment of the fortress island and subject to the military authority of the Inspector of Maltese Corps. Disbanded in February 1815. *Uniform:* In September 1812 the Inspector, LtCol Vivian,



Map of Genoa, c.1800-1815. The capture of this port in April 1814 was the last major action involving Britain's foreign units in the Mediterranean. The Italian Levy regiments and the Greek Light Infantry both distinguished themselves in the capture of the outer works which led to the city's surrender.

A trooper of the Java Volunteers or Hussars is shown on foot in this 1815 print by C.H.Smith. He wears a blue dolman faced with yellow at collar and cuffs and trimmed with white lace and cords with pewter buttons; his red (turban?) headdress is trimmed with white, and he wears white pantaloons. The mounted troopers belong to, left, the Governor-General's Body Guard, in scarlet faced with blue; and right, the Bengal Light Cavalry in light blue faced with red. Both show white cords, and a blue headdress trimmed white. (Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)



ordered for the unit from England a supply of grey cloth jackets and pantaloons, black cloth gaiters, white kersey waistcoats, black felt shakos with cockades, brass plates and 184 red and white tufts, plus 40 red and white plumes for sergeants (PRO, WO 6/174).

Maltese Provincial Battalions Two single-battalion 'regiments' raised for garrison duty on the island from November 1802. Officers and men were Maltese, the 1st Bn under the Marquis Parisi, the 2nd led by Count Gatto. The initial establishment called for 1,000 men in ten companies, but reduced to a more realistic 700 per battalion. In late 1806 both battalions were described as in a 'reduced and mutilated state', and were amalgamated into a single battalion of 918 officers and men to render them 'much more efficient and serviceable' and to act as a recruiting depot (PRO, CO 158/3 and WO 1/667). The battalion was ordered disbanded on 16.2.1815. *Uniform:* See Plate C.

Maltese Veteran Battalion A four-company battalion of 300 older soldiers was formed on the local establishments from about 1803. Most were veterans of the small army of the Knights of Malta. Their main duties were to provide guards and act in aid of civil power. Ordered disbanded on 16 February 1815. *Uniform:* Grey faced with red. The officers had silver buttons and lace.

Meuron (See also MAA 328). This Swiss regiment remained in garrison at Seringapatam, India, until 1806, when a cadre of 35 officers and 132 men were sent back to Europe; the remainder were sent to the

Mediterranean in 1807. The unit was stationed successively at Gibraltar, in Sicily and finally in Malta until 1813, when its strength stood at 1,339 men. Sent to Canada during the War of 1812, it arrived at Quebec in August 1813. It went to the area south of Montreal and was posted at La Prairie and Forts Chambly, St Jean and Île-aux-Noix near the US border until September 1814 when, as part of Sir George Prevost's 10,000-man army, it marched on the American town of Plattsburg. Meuron's lost 14 men in this bungled operation, and after six days Prevost withdrew; Meuron's went back to various posts in Montreal. In mid-1816 the regiment was ordered disbanded, the officers and men being offered land grants; 353

SOUTHERN ITALY

1: Private, Watteville's Swiss Regt, 1803

2: Private, Chasseurs Britanniques, c.1806-09

3: Bugler, Royal Corsican Rangers, c.1808



AFRICA

1: Private, Cape Regiment, 1806-08

2: Drummer, Royal African Corps, c.1810

3: Officer, Royal African Corps, 1808



MALTA

1: Sergeant, Maltese Military Artificers, 1808-15

2: Officer, 1st Malta Provincial Bn, 1802-06

3: Drummer, Royal Regt of Malta, 1805-11



1

2

3

F. Loupelle

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

1: Field officer, 2nd Greek Light Infantry, 1814

2: Fusilier, Sicilian Regiment, c.1810

3: Fusilier, Calabrian Free Corps, 1809-1811



PORTUGAL & SPAIN

1: Field officer, Chasseurs Britanniques, c.1810-14

2: Sergeant, Dillon's Regiment, 1813-14

3: Drummer, Roll's Swiss Regiment, 1813-1814



MAURITIUS & CEYLON

1: Private, Rifle Company, 2nd Ceylon Regt, c.1803

2: Fusilier, Bourbon Regiment, 1810-12

3: Private, 1st Ceylon Regiment, c.1803-14



CANADA 1813-16

1: Officer with colours, Meuron's Swiss Regt

2: Fusilier, Meuron's Swiss Regt

3: Officer, Light Company, Watteville's Swiss Regt



ITALIAN UNITS

1: Carabinier, Italian Levy, 1812-15

2: Captain, Italian Levy, 1812-15

3: Fusilier, Piedmontese Legion, 1814





Sir Hudson Lowe, commander of the Royal Corsican Rangers, c.1815. A fine regimental commander, Lowe was to be remembered by history as Napoleon's jailer on St Helena from 1815 to the Emperor's death in 1821. Lowe was not blessed with a particularly flexible character - as the portrait suggests - and this earned him vilification at the hands of historians sympathetic to Napoleon. The uniform is somewhat uncertain in this print after Frémy.

Uniform: According to De Bosset's 1803 chart, a red coatee with yellow collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace with a black line square-ended and set equally, pewter buttons, white breeches and stovepipe shako. Silver lace and buttons for officers. In 1805 the facing colour was changed to blue, the officers' lace and buttons to gold. In Pearse's tailoring notes of c.1808-1810 the men's lace was white with a blue central line and a yellow line on each side, set evenly and square-ended. Grey pantaloons, short grey gaiters and the 'Belgic' shako were taken into wear from 1812-13. According to C.H.Smith's chart of 1814 the men's lace now had a yellow and a blue line and was set in pairs. Drummers' coatees were, according to Pearse, red with blue cuffs and collar and had 15 yards of broad lace, 14 yards of looping lace (the same as the men), 3 yards of fringes, the broad lace set at the 'seams, body, frames down the sleeve 2 darts'. The broad lace was white, an inch wide with a central blue line and a yellow line on each side, each line one-fifth of an inch wide.

Piedmontese Legion Organised at Colchester in early 1814 following an agreement of 3 February between Lord Bathurst and Count St Martin d'Aglié, its commander. It was to have about 3,000 all ranks recruited from Italian prisoners of war interned in Britain, and was for the service of the King of Sardinia in the Mediterranean, although initially paid and equipped by Britain and having some British officers attached to help in its organisation. By June two small battalions each of six 100-man companies were reported formed, and there was even hope of having a 28-strong band of music. News of the end of the war in Europe brought further recruiting to a standstill; another difficulty was the lack of sufficient numbers of Italian officers among the prisoners. In any event, the battalions embarked for the Mediterranean and reached Genoa on 12 September, passing into Piedmontese service four days later (PRO, WO 1/659). *Uniform:* See Plate H.

Roll Swiss regiment raised from December 1794 by the Baron de Roll for British service (see also MAA 328). Following its service in Egypt in 1801-03 the regiment was based in Gibraltar from June 1803 to November 1806, when it transferred to Sicily. It took part in a few skirmishes against the French in Calabria and Puglia, recruiting 150 Germans and Poles from the prisoners. In 1807 the corps took part in the unsuccessful expedition against Egypt, losing three companies to the Turco-Egyptians at Rosetta; the main body fought admirably and kept the enemy at bay during the retreat. Back in Sicily, Roll's flank companies took part in the capture of the islands of Ischia and Procida off the southern coast of Italy. In 1809 over 400 officers and men from the 4th Swiss Regt in French service, captured by the British in Portugal, joined Roll. In March 1810 the regiment stood at 12 companies including a grenadier, a chasseur or light infantry and a rifle company. Two companies (160 men) participated with distinction in the capture of Santa Maura (Leucadia) from 22 March to 16 April 1810. In September 1810 the light company took part in the repulse of Murat, the former marshal named King of Naples, who attacked near Messina in Sicily.

In 1812 three companies went to Malta and two to the Ionian Islands; others were in Sicily, and declared 'generally favourable' at an inspection in May 1813 (PRO, WO 27/120). Four companies were detached to the

Anglo-Sicilian force in eastern Spain, forming a provisional battalion with Dillon's Regiment (qv), and were joined by four more at Alicante in August. The temporary Roll-Dillon battalion saw much action, distinguishing itself at Alicante, Castala, Tarragona and Biar. After hostilities ceased in April 1814 Roll-Dillon's was dissolved and the companies of Roll returned to Sicily.

The regiment's services were not quite over. In the spring of 1815 the chasseurs and two fusilier companies were part of a force which finally toppled Murat from the throne of Naples. With the final exile of Napoleon that summer Sicily was once again part of the Kingdom of Naples; in October the British evacuated the island, and Roll's went to the Ionian Islands until August 1816. It was disbanded in Venice on 24.8.1816; these admirable Swiss soldiers then marched home to Switzerland, unarmed but in disciplined order, and were greeted by their countrymen at Lake Constance with homecoming ceremonies.

Uniform. See also MAA 328. The red coat had sky blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace with a sky blue line set in pairs, and pewter buttons; white breeches, stovepipe shako. In about 1803-05 the shape of the regimental lace, which was pointed, was transformed by the addition of a false tassel at the point of each loop. This was in honour of the Swiss Guards of the former French royal household troops, which had such loopings. The facing colour changed to a darker shade of sky blue at this time, resembling royal blue. The elite companies had wings in the dark sky blue facing colour instead of the usual red, trimmed with regimental lace. Grey pantaloons, short grey gaiters and the 'Belgic' shako were taken into wear from 1812; the shako plate had a sphinx badge below the cipher GR and, from about 1815, 'Peninsula' above. See Plate E for drummers, and the illustration of LtCol Bosset on page 47 for officers. The rifle company's uniform was patterned after the 95th Rifles.

Royal African Corps While nearly all officers were British the corps' last commander, LtCol Charles Macarthy, was a French émigré of Irish descent. It was initially recruited from Britons condemned as incorrigible and sent to the deadly climate of the West African coast rather than to the gallows; but by 1807 foreigners already numbered 108 out of the corps' 265 NCOs and men. By 1809 there were 102 British and 294 European foreigners. Blacks were enlisted into the corps from 1805, when 200 were transferred from the disbanded York Rangers (qv). In 1813 there were about 475 black soldiers filling five companies; most black recruits were obtained from the Liberated Africans Yard at Sierra Leone.

The Maltese Military Artificers at Gibraltar had a similar uniform to these Royal Military Artificers, shown between 1802 and 1812.

At left, a private; centre, a sergeant distinguished by his crimson sash with a central black stripe, yellow epaulette, and halberd or half-pike; at right, a corporal with yellow epaulette. Chevrons, three for sergeants and two for corporals, replaced epaulettes from 1802. Blue coat with black collar, cuffs and shoulder straps, white turnbacks, yellow lace, brass buttons; white breeches, black gaiters, stovepipe shako with brass plate and white plume. This 1855 print after Connolly is generally accurate, except that there was no loop at the collar and no inside turnback at the coat skirts.



Officer, Royal Engineers, 1802. British engineers supervised foreign units of artificers, especially in Malta and Gibraltar. Until 1813 they wore blue faced with black, gold buttons and epaulettes; crimson sash; white breeches with boots, and a bicorn hat with a white plume. The artificer units wore the same uniform colours. (C.C.P.Lawson after Loftie; Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)



First named 'Fraser's Corps of Infantry' after its commander LtCol John Fraser, the corps arrived in Goree during January 1801. In November 1801 the detachment at Sierra Leone repulsed an attack by natives. It was a small unit, having only 98 all ranks at Goree and 59 in Sierra Leone in August 1803. On 18.1.1804 Goree was captured by a French naval force after fierce resistance by Fraser and his men. However, on 9 March, the small French garrison in Goree surrendered without resistance to HMS *Inconstant*, which returned with 230 men of the renamed 'Royal African Corps' on 25 April. In 1805 Lt J.Martyn and 35 men volunteered to take part in Capt Mungo Parks' exploration of the interior up the Niger river; nearly all perished. In July 1809 a force of 166 officers and men took part in the capture of the French fort of St Louis in Senegal. In March 1814 some 150 men of the corps went up the river Pongo to destroy slave-trading stations.

The 1800 African Corps had two companies, augmented to seven in May-June 1803 and ten from 25.3.1804, but six companies were in England and were sent to the West Indies in October. Raised to 12 companies from 25.3.1805, the corps was divided on 25.10.1806 into two units: the Royal African Corps for Africa, and the Royal West India Rangers for the West Indies – each to have eight companies of 100 men each. On 24.8.1807 the Royal African Corps was retitled Royal York Rangers, and raised to ten companies in September. It was again split into two units on 25.6.1808: the Royal York Rangers, which went to the West Indies, and the recreated Royal African Corps, with four companies posted in Africa. It was enlarged to six companies on 25.8.1808, and to eight from 25.8.1809, of which three were at Goree, three at Senegal, one at Sierra Leone, and one as a depot in Guernsey. It was raised to 11 companies during 1811, ten serving in Africa, and reduced to ten (including three black companies) from February 1817.

Mortality was always very high for white troops in West Africa, and it was finally decided to garrison these small possessions with black troops only; the six companies of Europeans were transferred to the Cape. On 24.6.1819 the four black companies in West Africa were disbanded, followed on 24.6.1821 by the six European companies at Cape Town.

Uniform: Initially red coatee, green collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace, pewter buttons. Facings changed to blue from April 1804 when the corps became 'Royal'. Pearse's notes of c.1808-1810 specify the privates' red coatee to have square-ended, evenly-spaced lace with a red and blue central line. C.H.Smith's chart shows the square-ended lace in pairs with a brown (red?)

and a blue line. The regimental badge approved in September 1804 was a lion and crown (PRO, WO 3/336). Some allowances were made for the tropical climate; in December 1800 'white hats' were ordered issued instead of the usual forage caps. In March 1805 each soldier of the detachment with Mungo Parks' expedition was provided with a large cloak, a white hat, two flannel vests, two pairs of trousers, leather gaiters and shoes. It would seem that, for ordinary duties, the men mostly wore white linen jackets, probably with blue collar and cuffs, white trousers and white hats, shakos and red coatees being kept for formal occasions. Black accoutrements were noted as being in wear for 19 years in an 1821 request for replacements (PRO, WO 27/90 and WO 43/149). See also Plate B.



Royal Corsican Rangers Raised in Malta from 14.9.1803 and commanded by Hudson Lowe, to have ten companies of 60 men each with mostly Corsican officers. It formed part of the British expedition to assist Naples in November 1805, but the force was evacuated in February 1806 as 40,000 French invaded southern Italy, the Rangers withdrawing into Calabria with the Neapolitan army. The unit took part in the battle of Maida (4.7.1806) where Gen Reynier's French army was defeated by Gen Sir John Stuart's Anglo-Italian force; and fought in the capture of Monteleone and the siege of Scilla (7-23 July). It was sent to Capri in September. In October 1808 the French attacked Capri, which capitulated with the honours of war on the 16th, its garrison transferring to Sicily on the 26th. Some 442 men of the corps took part in the capture of the island of Ischia near Naples, 24-26.7.1809. Two companies served with the British force which captured the Ionian Islands of Zante, Cephallonia, Ithaca and Cerigo without resistance, 2-16.10.1809. Two companies participated in the capture of Santa Maura (Leucadia), 22.3.-16.4.1810.

Augmented to 12 companies in December 1811, the Rangers were posted in the Ionian Islands, with detachments at Lissa from 1812 and at the capture and garrisoning of Lagosta (Lastovo) and Curzola (Korcula)

A field officer of the Royal Engineers and a private of the Royal Sappers and Miners, 1814. The dress of the 'war company' of Maltese Military Artificers at Gibraltar from 1813 was the same as that shown for the Royal Sappers and Miners: red faced with blue, trimmed with yellow lace, brass buttons; grey pantaloons and gaiters; Belgic shako with brass plate, white plume and yellow cords. Officers of the Royal Engineers supervised the artificers and sappers. They wore scarlet with blue collar, cuffs and lapels, white turnbacks, gold buttons, epaulettes and lace; crimson sash; grey pantaloons with red stripe; and a black bicorn with a white plume. (Print after C.H.Smith; Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)



Working dress of the Royal Sappers and Miners, 1813; the Maltese Military Artificers at Gibraltar would have had a similar uniform. Red jacket with blue collar and cuffs, brass buttons; grey pantaloons with red stripe; black cap with brass corps initials. (Print after Connolly)

from early 1813. A detachment took part in the siege and capture of Trieste in October 1813 and Ragusa (Dubrovnik) in December 1813-January 1814. The regiment was at the siege and capture of Genoa in April 1814; it then returned to the Ionian Islands, and was disbanded on Corfu (occupied by the British 26.4.1814) on 24.9.1816. *Uniform: See Plate A.*

Royal Foreign Artillery. See MAA 294 *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815.*

Royal Regiment of Malta. Initially to be raised as a two-battalion corps from 1805, the establishment was reduced to one battalion of 750 men in 1806. Sent to Capri, the regiment participated in its defence against the successful French attacks of 4-5.10.1808, losing 25 killed and wounded and some 680 taken prisoner including 22 officers. However, the remaining part of the regiment managed to save the colours and get back to the ships. The remnant, about 300 strong, was then deployed for the raid on Naples, in which abortive operation the regiment lost its colours. No doubt as an encouragement, new colours were presented in 1809. However, the

establishment was reduced to 400 men in 1810, and the unit was ordered disbanded on 30.4.1811.

Uniform: Red coat, blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white lace with a blue line square-ended and set evenly, pewter buttons, white breeches, shako. Gold buttons and lace for officers. For drummers, see Plate C.

Royal West India Rangers See MAA 294 *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815.*

Royal York Rangers See MAA 294 *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815.*

Sicilian Regiment Raised in Sicily from May 1806 as a light infantry battalion of 500 men by MajGen Sir John Stuart, it was part of his force at Maida on 4 July although, barely raised and disciplined, it was held in reserve. Back in Sicily it was enlarged to ten companies. Some 24 officers and 548 men took part in the unsuccessful expedition to Egypt in March 1807; they seem to have been held in reserve, as the unit had only seven killed and ten wounded at Alexandria, and was evacuated on 19 September. Two more companies were added in 1808. Each company had four officers, six sergeants, five corporals, four acting corporals, an artisan, ten carabinieri (elite sharpshooters apparently armed with rifles, since they had sword bayonets), two buglers and 68 privates – a total of 100 officers and men. While in Malta the regiment was presented with colours on 2.3.1809. It was later stationed in Sicily until disbanded on 4.1816³. *Uniform: See Plate D.*

³ This unit has sometimes been mentioned as serving with the British forces in eastern Spain from 1812 and at Genoa in 1814. This is a confusion with the contingent of Italian troops from the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The French had taken Naples and set it up as a puppet kingdom, but the legitimate Bourbon king, Ferdinando IV, had retreated to Sicily with part of his army, which served with the British. For details and uniforms, see Giancarlo Boeri & Piero Crociani, *L'Esercito Borbonico dal 1789 al 1815*, Rome, 1989.

Sicilian Volunteers In early 1807 an attempt was made to attach an additional Sicilian company to each British regiment in Sicily. Some Sicilians were enlisted, but only the 20th Foot had recruited as many as half of its company by March 1807, the 21st having only 14 recruits. The scheme failed through lack of interest by regimental commanders (PRO, WO 1/303). Eventually British regiments that went back to England transferred such recruits to the unit of Sicilian Volunteers formed to gather them from January 1808 on the Isle of Wight. They were repatriated and drafted into other Italian units in 1813.

Spanish Volunteers A shortage of replacements from Britain for Wellington's army in Spain eventually made it necessary 'to incorporate some of the Spaniards' in British regiments during early 1812. A General Order of 18.5.1812 authorised regiments to have up to 100 'Spanish volunteers'; they were to be at least 5ft 6ins tall and aged between 19 and 27 years. They took an oath to serve for the duration of the war in the Peninsula; could freely attend Roman Catholic services; would 'be fed, and clothed, and paid in the same manner as the other soldiers; and ... posted to companies indiscriminately, as any other recruits would be'. Instead of bounty money they received 'a knapsack, two pairs of shoes, and two shirts'. Anticipating a culture shock for the Spaniards, Wellington further specified that they were to be treated 'with the utmost kindness and indulgence, and brought by degrees to the system of discipline of the [British] army'.

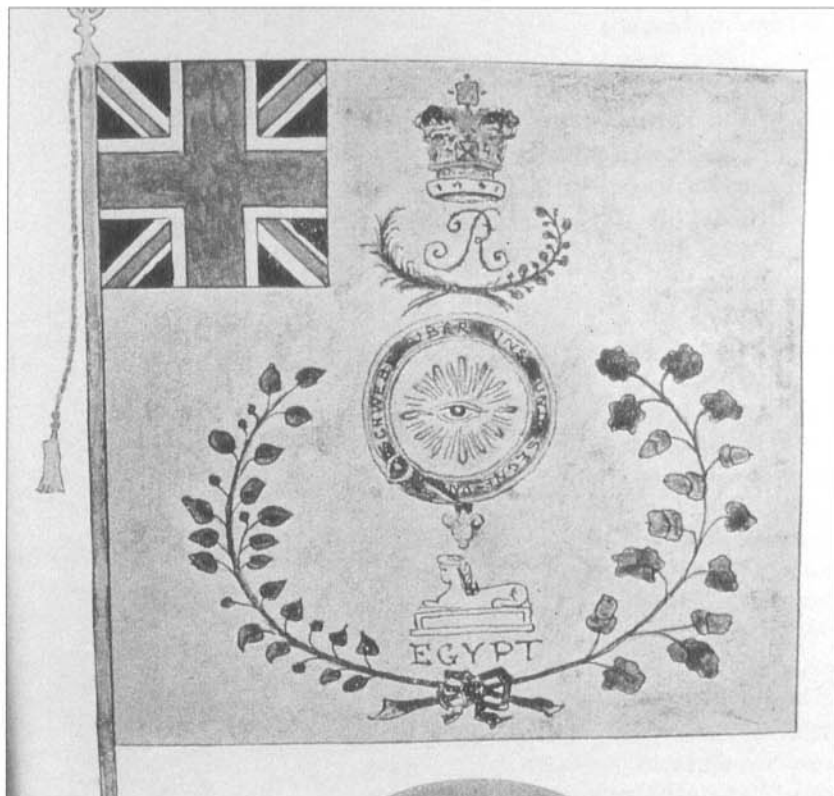
Naturally, everyone anticipated many difficulties with such a measure. However, the famous Spanish guerrilla leader Don Julian Sanchez had a high regard for Wellington and set about finding recruits. Soon, Rifleman Costello of the 95th related that 'we found ... to our surprise, [that] we were joined by a sufficient number of Spaniards to give ten or twelve men to each company in the battalion'. The new recruits had been given 'but three alternatives to choose from, to enter the British [service], Don Julian's service or be hanged!' – so they 'gladly joined the British regiments. Many of them were even made corporals, and, indeed, proved themselves worthy of their new comrades, whom they rivaled in every undertaking of courage and determination.' Costello further noted that 'the gallantry of the Spaniards in our regiment makes me believe, had those countrymen during the war been properly commanded, they would have made excellent soldiers.' These volunteers received the uniform, equipment and weapons of the British regiment in which they served.

Surinam Chasseurs See MAA 294 *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815*.

Watteville (See also MAA 328). The year 1803 found this Swiss regiment in Egypt until March, when it transferred to Malta. On 22.11.1805 Watteville's landed near Naples as part of the Anglo-Russian attempt to protect the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies from the French; but they were forced to evacuate in January 1806 as 40,000 men under Marshal Masséna arrived and Napoleon's brother Joseph was proclaimed king on 30 April. The British forces, including Watteville's, regrouped in Sicily from February 1806 under Gen Sir John Stuart. The energetic Stuart decided to attack the French contingent under Gen Reynier in Calabria; his 5,300 men, which included Watteville's, utterly defeated Reynier's 7,000 men at Maida on 4.7.1806, inflicting casualties of 500



Peter Lardy von Nevenburg (1757-1818), an officer in Meuron's Swiss Regiment, c.1810. (Print after portrait)

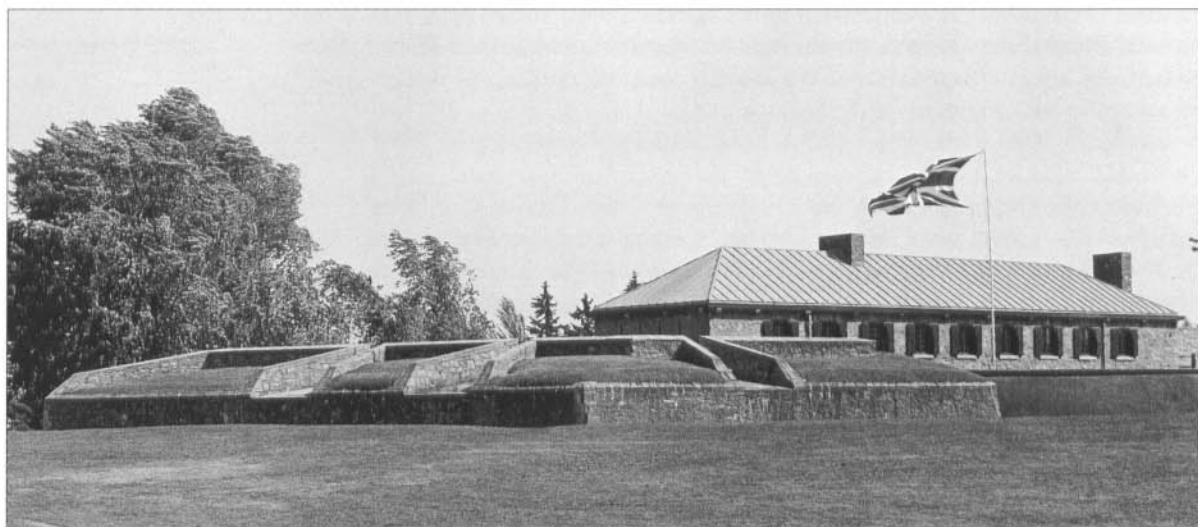


This Regimental colour of Roll's Swiss Regiment is, curiously, yellow instead of the bright blue of its regimental facings. A possible explanation is that it was carried by the combined Roll-Dillon battalion which served in eastern Spain during 1812-1814. Yellow was the facing colour of Dillon's; but the devices, including the Masonic eye symbol and the motto on the garter - *'schwebe uber uns uns segne unsere treue'* - were those of Roll's.

killed, 800 wounded and 1,100 prisoners. Watteville's went back to Melazzo, Sicily, and thence to Gibraltar in December 1807 before returning to Sicily in April 1808. Over 600 of the corps took part in the capture of Ischia and Scilla on 24-30.6.1809.

By 1810 the origins of the men in the ranks were extremely varied, consisting of 231 Germans, 156 Swiss, 120 Italians, 40 French, 39 Greeks, 238 Poles, Hungarians and Russians, and 10 Dutchmen. The 42 officers were Swiss except for three Frenchmen and

Fort Erie, Upper Canada (now Ontario), was the scene in August and September 1814 of desperate fighting which caused Watteville's Regiment heavy casualties. The former Minorca Regiment or Queen's Own Germans, which became the 97th Foot, was also engaged at Fort Erie.



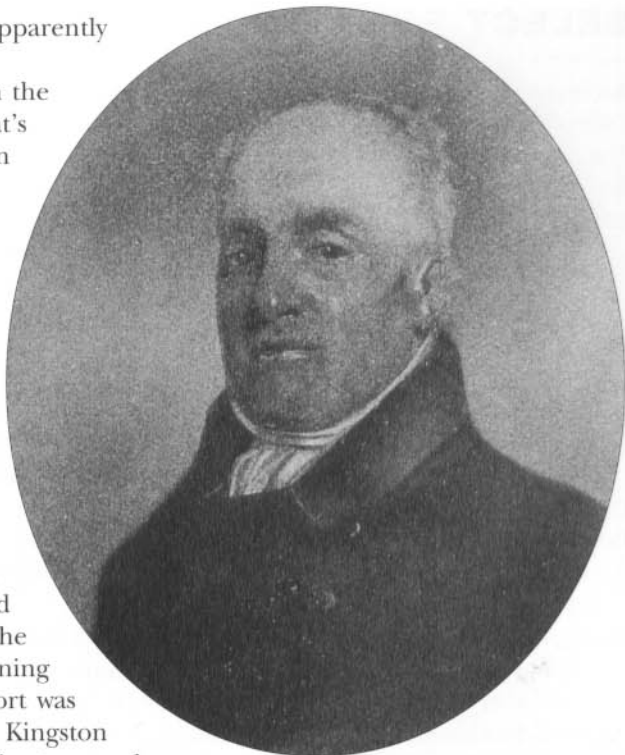
four Germans. The band had 14 musicians apparently paid for by the officers.

Detachments were involved in small raids on the coast of Calabria and in the repulse of Murat's attempt to invade Sicily at San Placido on 18.9.1810. Many of the Slav soldiers taken prisoner enlisted in Watteville's, bringing it up to 1,410 men; an 11th company was organised. The regiment landed in October 1811 at Cadiz, then under siege by the French, to reinforce its garrison. In November a 12th company was formed from French deserters. The corps did not see any heavy action and remained in Cadiz into 1813. Five companies were detached to Cartagena between January 1812 and March 1813.

In March 1813 the regiment was ordered to Canada, and arrived at Quebec on 6 June. It immediately boarded small boats for Montreal and on to Kingston (Upper Canada, now Ontario). The two flank companies, left behind and now rejoining the regiment, were captured when their transport was taken by an American ship about 30 miles from Kingston on 5 October. On 6.5.1814 six companies (including two newly formed flank companies) participated in the capture of Oswego (New York state). Watteville's went on to join Gen Drummond's army in the Niagara peninsula and was involved in the siege of Fort Erie. On 15 August the corps suffered heavily during an assault at Snake Hill near the fort; some 83 men literally disappeared when a mine blew up, besides another 24 killed and 27 wounded. Two days later the Americans made a vigorous sortie which partly destroyed Watteville's, some 278 officers and men being wounded and made prisoner in the engagement. The compromised siege was lifted; Watteville's was made the scapegoat, but it seems in retrospect that it was unlucky rather than cowardly, having to face overwhelming odds. Watteville's spent the winter on the Niagara with Drummond's army. After news of the end of hostilities reached the unit on 20.2.1815 it went to garrison Kingston in April. In June 1816 it was ordered to Quebec, and was disbanded there on 24 October. Although offered land grants to stay as settlers, most officers and men went back to Europe; however, a few enlisted in the service of Lord Selkirk and went to the Red River. *Uniform*: See Plates A and G.

York Light Infantry Volunteers See MAA 294 *British Forces in the West Indies 1793-1815*.

York Rangers Authorised raised from 22.7.1803 by LtCol Stevenson, this unit was to recruit blacks for eventual service in the colonies. In March 1804 there were 87 blacks, most from the French West Indies, with 40 East Indians. The unit was based on the Isle of Wight. Recruiting was slow, and on 24.3.1805 the regiment was disbanded. There were then about 200 men recruited, and these were sent to the Royal African Corps (qv) with their arms, accoutrements and uniforms. The European sergeants and drummers were transferred to British line regiments. *Uniform*: As the 5th Rifle Bn, 60th Foot.



Baron Louis de Roll was a former captain in the Swiss Guards in French service who barely escaped the massacre at the Tuileries palace on 10 August 1792. He devoted the rest of his life to fighting Republican and Imperial France; two years later he raised his own Swiss regiment, which proved to be one of the best and longest serving foreign units in the British forces. The baron was an ardent freemason, as can be seen by the insignia he chose for his corps.

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Louis de Watteville (1776-1836) served in Flanders in 1793-95, and in Switzerland in 1799-1800. Lieutenant-colonel of De Watteville's Regiment in 1801, he was present in Egypt in 1801 and at Maida in 1806. He became colonel of the regiment in 1812, a major-general in 1813, and was in Canada in 1813-16. (Print after portrait)



THE PLATES

A: SOUTHERN ITALY

A1: Private, Watteville's Swiss Regiment, 1803

Colonel de Watteville noted that 'the regiment's dress for that year [1803] was a red coat, green collar and facings'. The term facings applied to lapels and cuffs for officers and cuffs only for enlisted men. The green facings did not last long, as the regiment obviously wished to have its traditional black facings. (Col de Watteville's diary, copy at NAC)

A2: Private, Chasseurs Britanniques, c.1806-1809

The men's uniform was a red coatee with sky blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, and pointed white lace with a red and a sky blue line in even spacing. The unit had the distinctions of light infantry regiments in the British service and also had black accoutrements.

A3: Bugler, Royal Corsican Rangers, c.1808

The clothier Pearse noted for the 'Bugle jacket, 36 yards of cord, 44 buttons, scarlet facings'. A sample of the bugler's jacket cord was pasted on the page; it was made with two dark green strands and one red strand twisted together. The regimental uniform was to be the same as that of the 5th Bn, 60th Foot. Pearse also mentions 'Corsican, Private jacket, bottle green, 44 breast [pewter] buttons, red collar, cuffs and [shoulder] straps, 3 yards of red binding for feathering [piping]. Sergeants scarlet facings.' The pantaloons were green, the accoutrements black, and the black cylindrical shako had a white metal bugle horn badge and a green plume. The regimental uniform may have changed from 1813, as Hamilton Smith's chart indicates a red jacket with red collar and cuffs, three rows of pewter buttons on the chest, and dark sky blue pantaloons.

B: AFRICA

B1: Private, Cape Regiment, 1806-1808

The 'Hottentot' or 'Cape Native Regiment' initially had grey jackets, apparently plain, with white linen trousers, black shakos with a green tuft and probably a bugle badge, sandals, and canvas bayonet and pouch belts. It was later issued with black infantry accoutrements. (PRO, CO 48/3 and 5, WO 1/635)

B2: Drummer, Royal African Corps, c.1810

The drummer's red coatee had blue cuffs, collar, shoulder straps and wings, trimmed with regimental lace at the buttonholes and broad lace at the seams and edging the cuffs; the drummer's broad lace was $\frac{5}{16}$ in wide with a yellow and black centre, each side white with a red line. (Pearse)

B3: Officer, Royal African Corps, 1808

The officers of the corps were allowed a simplified practical uniform in 1808. It consisted of a scarlet single-breasted coatee with blue collar and cuffs, short white turnbacks like the men's coatees, gilt buttons set equidistant with twist cord trim at the buttonholes (blue on collar and cuffs, scarlet elsewhere), and gold lace shoulder straps rather than epaulettes. This was worn with a black round hat with plume and cockade; white cotton or India dimity waistcoat; white trousers of the same material, to be worn loose and tied



LtCol Charles MacCarthy (1764-1823), Royal African Corps, 1812. This officer had a colourful career in Britain's small and pestilential West African colonies, which would eventually be the death of him. He was born in Cork in 1764 of French and Irish parents, and entered French service as a junior officer in Berwick's Irish Regiment in 1785. Joining the Royalist émigrés in 1791, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Royal African Corps and governor of Senegal and Goree until 1814, and thereafter governor of Sierra Leone. His small forces suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of the Ashantis in 1823, in which he perished. Officers had gold buttons and epaulettes but no lace on their regulation uniform. Epaulettes were replaced by wings from 1817 (Herbert's). A memorandum of 1808, however, reveals a more practical dress to be worn by the officers of the corps - see Plate B. (National Army Museum, London, 10140)

round the ankle with tape; half-gaiters of white cotton or dimity, shoes and black leather stock. On duty the crimson sash and gorget were added, with the regulation sword worn on a black shoulder belt; the off-duty sidearm was a dirk suspended from a black waistbelt with round gilt lion's-mask clasps. (Sumner, P., 'Cox & Co. Army Agents', *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XVII, 1938)

C: MALTA

C1: Sergeant, Maltese Military Artificers, 1808-1815

The two companies in Malta had, from 1806, a blue jacket with black collar and cuffs, brass Ordnance buttons, blue cloth pantaloons, and probably a round hat with feather. From 1808 white cotton uniforms made on the island with black collar and cuffs were issued instead, as they were less expensive and better adapted to the climate. Weapons were



Calabrian Free Corps, fusiliers and officer, c.1813-1814. This French print shows what may have been the last uniform of the corps when serving in south-east Spain - blue, including the pantaloons, with yellow facings at collar and cuffs. See also Plate D. (Print after Martinet)

OPPOSITE Riflemen of the 2nd Regiment, Greek Light Infantry, 1814. Red skull cap with brass plate and green tuft; red short jacket with green cuffs and broad green tape piped with yellow, no buttons; red waistcoat with green tape piped with yellow and brass buttons; white *fustanella* (Greek kilt) and breeches; red stockings, buff Greek shoes; black rifle accoutrements, and small powder horn on green cord fixed to shoulder belt; armed with pistol, rifle and sword bayonet. (Print after C.H.Smith; Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University, Providence; photo R.Chartrand)

not carried. Sergeants were distinguished by a sash and corporals by chevrons only; the sergeant-major wore the same uniform as his British counterpart. The Maltese adjutant had the same dress as officers of the Royal Engineers. See illustrations for the dress of the 'war company' in Gibraltar.

C2: Officer, 1st Malta Provincial Battalion, 1802-1806

The battalions had red coatees, collar and cuffs in the facing colour, white turnbacks, white buttonhole lace and pewter buttons; white breeches and black gaiters; black round hats with white-over-red tufts were later replaced by shakos. The men also had white linen or cotton jackets and pantaloons, short black gaiters, leather fatigue caps and knapsacks. The 1st Bn had sky blue facings with silver buttons and lace for the officers; the 2nd Bn had green facings with gold buttons and lace. Accoutrements were black until changed to white in 1812. A period caricature shows the colonel wearing a

round hat with a white-over-red plume. (Marrion, Robert J., 'Regiments of Malta', *Military Modelling*, April & May 1990)

C3: Drummer, Royal Regiment of Malta, 1805-1811

The regimental drummers wore a red coatee with blue collar, cuffs and wings, white turnbacks, white broad lace with small blue chevrons at the centre square-ended and set evenly, and pewter buttons; white breeches, black gaiters, and a black stovepipe shako with a brass plate completed the uniform. (Pearse)

D: THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

D1: Field officer, 2nd Greek Light Infantry, 1814

This figure, based on a Denis Dighton painting in the Royal Collection, may possibly be Sir Richard Church himself. It shows the 'Greek' uniform with the added neo-classical influences of the nascent Romantic period. Note in particular

the helmet, the greaves for the lower legs, and the gilt knee-protectors bearing lion's heads. The crimson velvet jacket is richly embroidered with gold and has green cuffs, the facing colour of the 2nd Greek Light Infantry. This dress was probably worn by those British officers who became especially fond of Greece, such as Church. After the Napoleonic Wars Church went back to Greece to fight the Ottoman Turks for the country's independence. Lord Byron, the celebrated poet, joined him; Byron died of fever, but Church became a leading general of the Greek army. When he retired in 1843 he was hailed as a key figure in the struggle for Greek liberation. (PRO, WO 26/42; Fosten, Don, 'Greek Light Infantry', *Military Modelling*, December 1992)

D2: Fusilier, Sicilian Regiment, c.1810

According to a c.1810 entry in the Pearse notebook, the enlisted men had a red 'private jacket, 10 by 2 double headed, 12 yards looping lace, 30 small buttons, dark green facings'; a piece of white lace with a green central line is pasted on the page. For the 'drum [actually bugler's] coat, 30 small buttons, broad lace seams frames, body and cuffs, 10 yards broad lace, 15 yards of narrow'. The buglers would

have had a green coatee with red collar and cuffs with the lace edging the seams but without sleeve chevrons. The officers had gold buttons; their wings of dark green had plain gold scales and 'flat braid on each side', with silver bugle and 'no bullions' fringes. Gold bugle with laurel badges on dark green decorated the turnbacks; and there was a gold lace triangle at the rear waist (Herbert's). The chaplain was to wear a black cassock with the crucifix hanging from his neck and a tassel on his priest's cap. The 1813 standing orders mention a 'casco' for head dress, which has been interpreted as a helmet - but 'casco' could also mean cap, which was synonymous with shako; we have opted for the latter as the more typical and less expensive headgear. (Pearse Notebook, Canadian War Museum; Fosten, Don, 'His Majesty's Sicilian Regiment', *Military Modelling*, November 1990)

D3: Fusilier, Calabrian Free Corps, 1809-1811

The first uniform of the corps was probably made in Sicily and is shown in an Italian print of the period, upon which this reconstruction is based. It featured a blue open jacket, faced yellow, with many buttons and narrow braid; a blue waistcoat, a pair of blue trousers, and a high-crowned conical round hat with a wide brim turned up on the left side. This was the dress of the regiment when it participated at the capture of Santa Maura in the Ionian Islands in April 1810. (Dempsey, Guy C., 'The Calabrian Free Corps in British Service 1809-1814', *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, LXII, 1984)



E: PORTUGAL & SPAIN

E1: Field officer, Chasseurs Britanniques, c.1810-1814

The officers had silver buttons, lace and epaulettes. The facings in this unit were usually edged with lace rather than following the usual practice of lacing the buttonholes. Our subject is shown in typical campaign dress with overalls and a cover for his bicorn hat. The c.1813 full dress coatee had 18 yards of silver lace, silver epaulettes with scale straps and gilt bugle badges, and turnbacks with silver bugles. (Herbert's)

E2: Sergeant, Dillon's Regiment, 1813-1814

The enlisted men had red coatees with yellow collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, white bastion-shaped lace with a black line set evenly, and pewter buttons. In October 1811 the regiment was sent '1,400 suits of slop clothing, con-

sisting of cloth caps, jackets and trousers' with greatcoats, shirts, half-stockings and shoes. Sergeants had the usual distinctions: plain white lace, three chevrons on the right sleeve, crimson sash with yellow line, sword and pike. Officers had silver buttons and lace and turnback decorations of silver crow's-feet on yellow. (PRO, WO 6/173).

E3: Drummer, Roll's Swiss Regiment, 1813-1814

Drummers wore the traditional reversed colours - dark sky blue coatee with red collar, cuffs and wings; their white lace with a red stripe decorated the buttonholes and all seams and appeared as three double chevrons, points down, on each sleeve. The dark sky blue drum had a white sphinx within laurels, and red hoops. The drum-major had red lapels, silver lace, and a bicorn laced silver edged with red plumes and a standing white-over-red plume.



F: MAURITIUS & CEYLON

F1: Private, Rifle Company, 2nd Ceylon Regiment, c.1803

The 2nd's rifle company had dark green coatees with scarlet collar and cuffs, its officers black cords with gold buttons and wings. The 2nd Regiment wore this blue headgear in place of shakos as it was recruited from Indian sepoy.

F2: Fusilier, Bourbon Regiment, 1810-1812

Initially, the regiment had no regular uniform but was 'very neatly and uniformly clothed in nankeen', which appears to have consisted of a round jacket and pantaloons of a yellowish colour, most likely with a round hat. This temporary uniform was provided at the request of the men against deductions from their pay. The arms were in good order and all English; the belts were also good, but the cartridge boxes were deemed very bad by April 1812. Mounted officers had blue housings but their dress is not recorded (PRO, WO 27/108, pt 1). In London, on 15 April 1812, the Prince Regent approved that the regiment should be 'clothed and equipped in a like manner as the 95th or Rifle Corps' (PRO, WO 3/203). This uniform was sent to Mauritius and issued on Christmas Day 1813. Only the light company had rifles, the rest of the regiment being armed with muskets. Accoutrements were described in 1815 as being 'black waistbelts', which seems to indicate that rifle accoutrements were issued to everyone. (PRO, WO 27/108, 113 and 135)

F3: Private, 1st Ceylon Regiment, c.1803-1814

The Malay-recruited 1st Regiment had a red coatee with buff collar, cuffs and turnbacks, white lace square-ended and singly spaced, pewter buttons, white pantaloons, no shoes and a 'stovepipe' shako. Besides the issue muskets and bayonets Malays also carried their wavy-bladed *kris* daggers. The officers had gold buttons, gold vellum lace, and gold double crow's-foot turnback ornaments on scarlet; however, no lace was to be worn on the coatee after 1813 except for half crow's-feet on the turnbacks. The rifle company was dressed in green, possibly like the rifle companies of the 60th. (G.L.W.Watson, 'The First Malay Regiment 1796-1874', *Malaya in History*, July 1957; Herbert's lace book)

G: CANADA

G1: Officer with colours, Meuron's Swiss Regiment, 1813-1816

Officers had silver buttons, lace and epaulettes, and turnback ornaments of a silver crow's-foot on yellow filled scarlet. The colours were of the traditional Swiss design, having a yellow cross bearing the motto in gold letters, and the quarters filled with wavy flames of the colonel's livery colour (green, black and yellow) - except for the first canton, which bore the British Union flag. (Meuron, Guy de, *Le Régiment Meuron 1781-1816*, Lausanne 1982)

The Bourbon Regiment raised in Mauritius and La Réunion had a similar uniform to this private of the 95th Rifles in 1815, but the men were blacks or mulattoes from the islands. Most were armed with smooth-bore muskets, only the élite rifle company being armed and equipped as shown. See Plate F. (Print after Genty)

G2: Fusilier, Meuron's Swiss Regiment, 1813-1816

The men wore a red coat with sky blue collar and cuffs, white bastion-shaped lace with a red line, white turnbacks and pewter buttons, initially with white breeches and the stovepipe shako. Grey pantaloons, short grey gaiters and the 'Belgic' shako were taken into wear from 1812. Drummers were said to have been dressed 'in the colours of the Colonel which are green black and yellow'. Their coatees had 8½ yards of broad lace at the seams and cuffs, and 15 yards of narrow lace. The broad lace was 1½ inch wide and quite complicated, with black and yellow central bars with white edges having green and red lines. The men with Lord Selkirk in 1816-17 'retained their [military] clothing'.

G3: Officer, Light Company, Watteville's Swiss Regiment, 1813-1816

Colonel de Watteville reported that 'the regiment's dress for that year [1804] was a red coat, black collar and facings'. This remained the regimental uniform until its disbandment. The men's lace was white with a black line, set on in bastion shape; the coatee had pewter buttons and white turnbacks. The 1812 clothing did not reach the regiment, so it landed in Canada with its 1811 issue. The 1813 clothing, which included grey pantaloons, arrived in Canada in June and was issued to the men in Montreal before they left for Kingston. The 1814 issue was received in May of that year. Officers had silver buttons and square-ended lace set in pairs, and their black velvet facings were piped with white. In 1813 the officer's dress coatee had silver epaulettes with 'round top, corded, edged with black velvet, crescent round cord & filled bullion'. The turnbacks had a silver crow's-foot on black velvet (Herbert). Some 1807-13 clothing bills reveal that the officers of the grenadier company had fur caps with 'Rich gold cord, band silver, Embroidered grenade, silver Sphinx, gilt plate & white feather'; that all officers had white pantaloons in 1810 and grey in 1812; and that the chaplain had black pantaloons. The regiment had special badges; from January 1805 'A Sphynx and a crown of laurels with the word EGYPT' were embroidered on the colours, and in 1807 the honour 'Maida'. Surviving badges and buttons bear these distinctions. (NAC, MG54, N23)

H: ITALIAN UNITS

H1: Carabinier, Italian Levy, 1812-1815

In his uniform manuscript now at Harvard University, Hamilton Smith shows a small figure in the regiment's uniform with the collar edged all around with white lace, buttons at the top of the cuffs, green tufts at the possibly green shoulder straps, a cylindrical black shako with an indistinct small brass badge possibly meant to be a bugle horn and a green plume, and white accoutrements with a brass belt plate. The green items most likely indicate a light infantry carabinier, who would be armed with a British musket and bayonet.

H2: Captain, Italian Levy, 1812-1815

Officers had 'a blue jacket with skirts, single breasted with red cuffs and collar, the skirts turned back with white, the lining and edges of the jacket red, yellow buttons, the lieutenant colonel to be distinguished by two rows of lace around the cuffs, the majors by one. The buttons of the

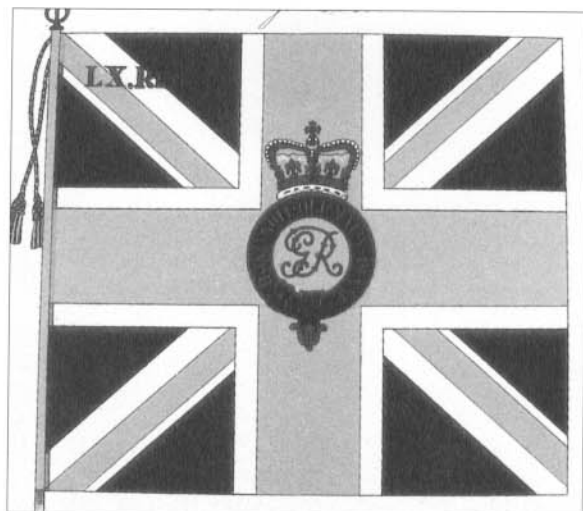


Charles-Philippe de Bosset (1773-1845), lieutenant-colonel of Roll's Swiss Regiment, c.1812. Officers of Roll's wore scarlet faced with a dark sky blue and trimmed with silver lace and buttons, but no skirt ornaments. The regimental lace was supposed to be in pointed loops with a small false tassel, but there is no sign of this feature in this portrait. The edges of the collar, cuffs and lapels were piped with white. For undress occasions officers wore a small dirk from a narrow black waist belt; and a round hat with a flat braid band was reported in 1813 (Herbert's). (Print after portrait)

captains to be put on by two and two, those of the subalterns at equal distances. Grey cloth pantaloons and half boots or gaiters. The officers are to wear caps [shakos] similar to those of the men with four inch feathers, red silk sashes, and crimson and gold sword knots are to be worn. Officers to wear black waistbelts.' (PRO, WO 1/311)

H3: Fusilier, Piedmontese Legion, 1814

The legion's uniform was a blue coatee with red cuffs and turnbacks (and probably collar too), brass buttons, blue pantaloons, short gaiters, shoes, black cravat or stock with clasp, shirt, stockings, and a felt shako possibly of the 'Belgic' type. Articles shipped with the legion in June 1814 included blue jackets and trousers, black gaiters, shakos and plumes, blue cloth undress caps, undress white jackets and trousers, stocks, stockings, greatcoats, canteens and knapsacks. (Schiavo, Vittorio, 'Notizie intorno alla formazione di una legione piemontese in Inghilterra in età napoleonica', *Studi Piemontesi*, Nov. 1989, XVIII, No.2; PRO, WO 1/659)



The King's colour and Regimental colour of the 1st Battalion, 60th (Royal American) Regiment of Foot, 1802-1816. The Regimental colour had a blue field with a red circle at the centre bearing the royal cipher in gold, surrounded by a crowned Garter bearing the motto in gold against the blue field. The wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks was in natural colours; the lettering, and the



crowned ciphers in three corners, were in gold. The 1st Battalion spent the period up to 1810 in Jamaica, and thereafter served at the Cape of Good Hope - whose healthy climate must have seemed like paradise after the fever-ridden West Indies. In 1815 an inspection reported only nine British soldiers in the ranks of this predominantly German and Swiss unit.



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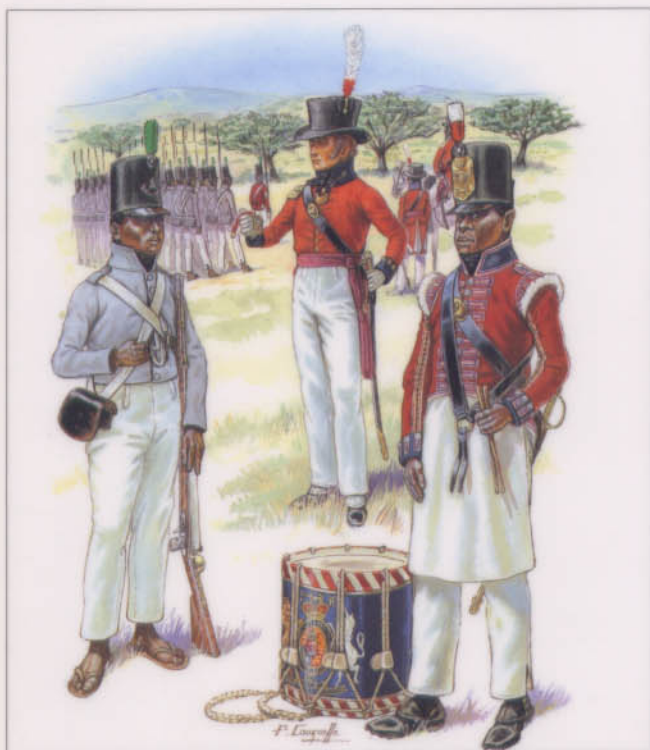
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