

# *Napoleon's Guard Infantry (2)*



*Text by* PHILIP HAYTHORNTHWAITE  
*Colour plates by* BRYAN FOSTEN

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EDITOR: MARTIN WINDROW

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**Editor's Note:**

Perfect consistency in the use of italics in this text has been sacrificed for the sake of clarity. We have generally adopted Roman type for the titles of units, and reserved italic for nouns, ranks, and quoted phrases in French.



# Napoleon's Guard Infantry (2)

## Introduction

The companion title, *Napoleon's Guard Infantry (1)* (MAA 153), described the ethos, formation and uniform of the senior of the Imperial Guard infantry corps, the Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied. The present title extends the coverage to the Middle and Young Guard. The seniority of Guard infantry was only established definitely in 1812 by the Guard's chief of personnel, Courtois:

*Old Guard:* all officers of Grenadiers, Chasseurs, Fusiliers and Seamen; field officers and captains of Voltigeurs, Tirailleurs, Flanqueurs and National Guards; all rank and file of 1st Grenadiers, 1st Chasseurs, Veterans and Seamen; NCOs of 2nd Grenadiers, 2nd Chasseurs and Fusiliers.

*Middle Guard:* 3rd Grenadiers, including Amsterdam Veteran Company; corporals and privates of 2nd Grenadiers, 2nd Chasseurs and Fusiliers; Vélites of Florence and Turin.

*Young Guard:* Voltigeurs, Tirailleurs, Flanqueurs, National Guards and Pupilles.

This was complicated by the continual process of exchanging officers and NCOs between different regiments within the Guard; officers of senior corps were promoted into junior, and NCOs were detached to provide an experienced *cadre* for new units, a process also resulting in the transferred officers and sometimes NCOs retaining the uniforms of their original regiment. Bourgogne records one NCO, commissioned into the Young Guard from the Middle, who served in the 1812 campaign still wearing his NCOs' shako, such a case probably being more the rule than the exception. The practice of captains and above wearing the same uniform prevented unnecessary expenditure upon every change of attachment.

## The Seamen of the Guard

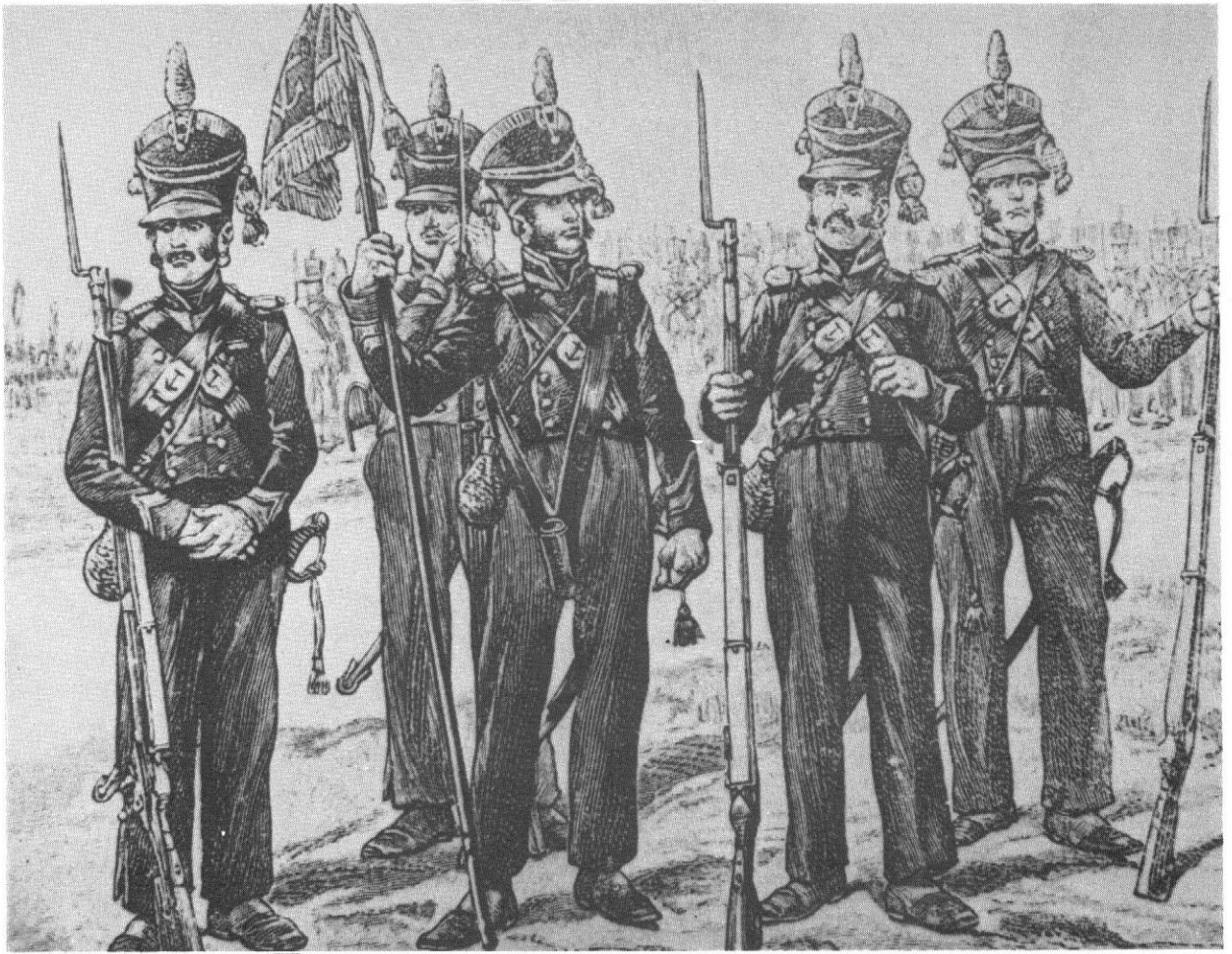
The term 'Seamen' has been used here as a more accurate translation than the frequent anglicisation 'Marines'; the *Marins de la Garde* were essentially naval personnel, French 'marines' in the English sense being termed *Infanterie de marine*.

On 17 September 1803 Napoleon decreed the formation of a battalion of Seamen within the

**Seamen of the Guard: print by R. Knötel. (Left) full dress; and (right) campaign dress, 1806, after a contemporary illustration by the Henschel brothers. Shako with orange lace and cords, scarlet plume. Blue uniform with orange lace and brass shoulder scales; grey gaiters. Note the early pattern of knapsack with white straps, and the sword carried hooked up on to the belt.**







**Seamen of the Guard in campaign dress, c.1807: print by 'Job' apparently based upon a Suhr original. Note the NCO with the *fanion*. The presence of a second shoulder belt plate (on the cartridge box belt) would appear to be an error.**

Consular Guard, initially to man the boats which would transport the staff in the projected invasion of England; the battalion was organised as a naval unit, comprising 737 sailors in five 'crews' of five squads each, under a naval captain (*capitaine de vaisseau*) and assisted by a commander (*capitaine de frégate*), with five trumpeters. Supplied by each Maritime Prefect, the personnel 'selected for the honour of joining the entourage of the First Consul' were to be of robust health, five feet ten inches tall, and with a record of good conduct and loyalty. The Seamen were ranked and paid like the cavalry of the Guard, their NCOs (who retained naval titles) equating with cavalry ranks; and the whole battalion was nicknamed 'naval hussars' from their cavalry-style uniform, with officers 'gilded like

chalices'. They were instructed in arms drill; perfected their own 'free, if rather unusual, gait'; and took their place in the Imperial Guard, originally under one Captain Daugier but later under Vice-Admiral Count Baste—a tough and surly commander, though of great distinction. The unit rarely served as a complete battalion, but often in small detachments: e.g. in 1811 two companies were serving as marines at Toulon, one at Brest, one at Antwerp and one at Cadiz; only two companies served in Russia in 1812, two in the 1813 campaign and one in 1814. (They should not be confused with the number of naval battalions used in land operations, basically as labourers.)

Though armed as sailors at the outset, the Seamen were soon issued with infantry equipment to enable them to fulfill such a rôle in the campaigns of the Empire. In 1804 the strength was increased to 818 men, with a trumpeter and drummer in each crew. In the Austerlitz campaign they forsook their

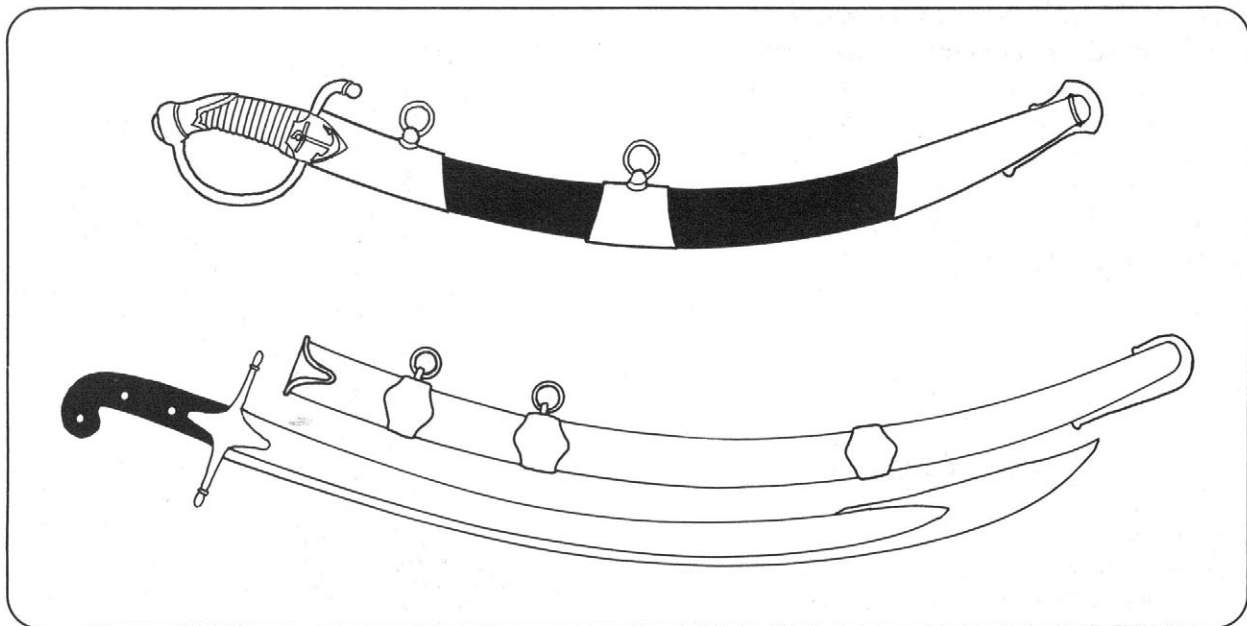


**Shako plate, Seamen of the Imperial Guard.**

new infantry rôle to man a small flotilla on the Danube, demonstrating the value of having trained sailors attached to the army. In December 1806 a detachment built a bridge of boats over the Vistula, while others operated a ferry service across the river. After Eylau a company was despatched to build a bridge at Marienwerder, for which they captured 40 river-boats; and a midshipman and five Seamen were sent to Danzig upon an intelligence-gathering mission, the results of which caused the remainder of the corps to be called to join the army, to man eight ships on the Friche-Haff, the inland sea between Danzig and Königsberg.

In the débâcle of Baylen in Spain in July 1808, where Dupont's 17,000 French troops surrendered to the Spanish, the Seamen fought as infantry, and though the whole battalion was virtually destroyed it upheld the finest traditions of the Guard; the survivors were consigned to Spanish prison hulks. On 27 March 1809 the Seamen of the Guard was reduced to a single 'crew' of 148 men, with naval battalions filling their previous rôle; but these proved a pale imitation, as Napoleon wrote when re-mustering the old Seamen: 'I would rather have 100 men like them than all your naval battalions.' The existing company rejoined the army immediately, Baste and his Seamen cruising around the

**Seaman of the Guard in full dress: print by Pierre Martinet. Shako with brass plate, yellow lace and cords, scarlet plume (somewhat exaggerated!); blue jacket and trousers with yellow lace, scarlet cuffs; brass belt plate, yellow sword knot. An alternative version of the same print shows orange lace and cap cords and lacks the shako plate, perhaps indicating the removal of an Imperial symbol during the Bourbon restoration.**



**Sabre of the Seamen of the Imperial Guard; and (below) sabre of Premier-Maitre des Marins.**

island of Lobau in river craft armed with fieldpieces, while others aided the pontooneers in constructing a bridge of boats over the Danube. After organising a system of navigation and communication on the

**Colour, Seamen of the Guard (reverse side). White central diamond with laurel edging; alternate corner triangles of red and blue (blue at top right and bottom left). All decorations in gold. The other side was similar, but instead of the badge the central diamond bore the inscription 'L'EMPEREUR DES FRANÇAIS, AU B<sup>LD</sup> DE MARINS/DE LA GARDE/IMPERIALE'. The 'Eagle' which topped the staff bore an anchor upon its plinth.**



river the Seamen were recalled to France, their services resulting in a decree of 16 September 1810 which re-formed the battalion. It was to be eight companies strong, plus staff, giving a total of some 1,136 men including eight trumpeters—though the process of formation was slow, and by the beginning of 1812 even the sixth company had not yet been formed.

In 1810 the Seamen returned to Spain; intended for use as engineers, they were regarded as too valuable to be committed to battle except in emergencies. Nevertheless, during Masséna's retreat in early 1811 they were assigned, as an élite unit, to the rearguard! Their versatility was demonstrated further in the Russian campaign of 1812 when the two companies quartered in the Kremlin were each equipped with six 12-pdr. fieldpieces and two howitzers from the Moscow arsenal.

Re-organised in 1813–14, the Seamen manned ferries and served as engineers and infantry in the Leipzig campaign; Baste, commanding an infantry brigade, was killed at Brienne on 29 January 1814. When disbanded on 30 June 1814 the Seamen of the Guard numbered 14 officers and 336 men. A subaltern (*enseigne*) and 21 *marins* followed Napoleon to Elba, and a unit of 94 men, later enlarged to 150, was re-established upon his return; they served with the engineers during the Waterloo campaign, and were disbanded on 15 August 1815.



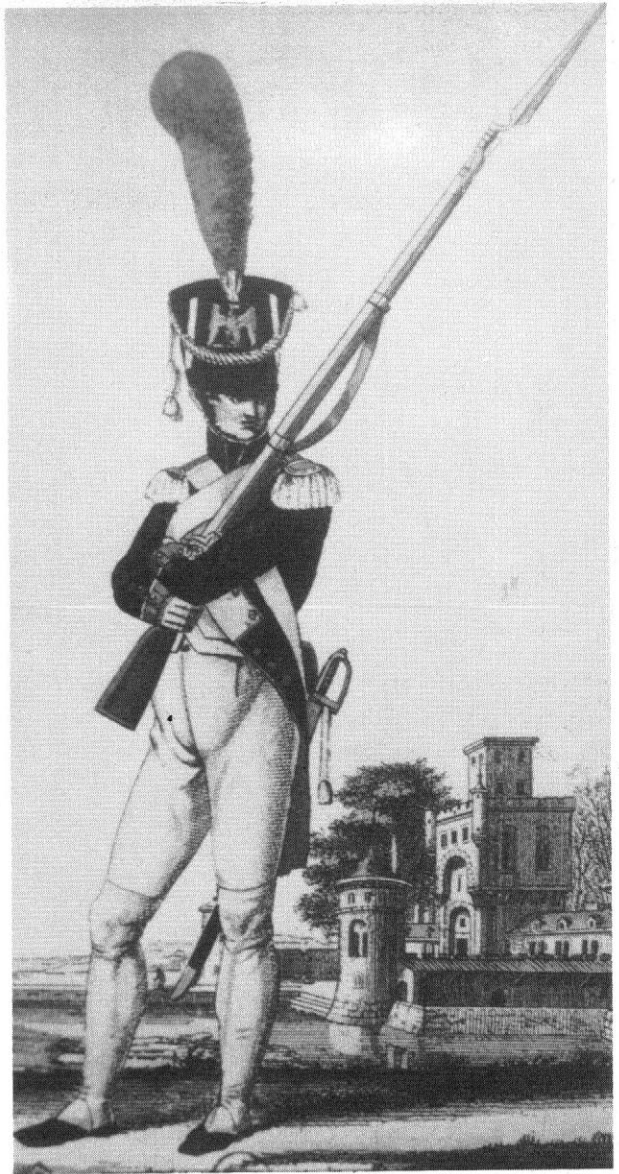
A final comment upon the Seamen of the Guard was provided by Napoleon himself: 'What should we have done without them? . . . As sailors they have in no way deteriorated, and they have shown themselves the best of soldiers. When occasion required they proved equally valuable, whether as sailors, soldiers, artillerymen or engineers; there was no duty they could not undertake.'

## *The Middle and Young Guards*

### **Fusiliers**

The infantry of the Imperial Guard was expanded by a decree of 19 October 1806, which created a Fusilier regiment of two battalions, each of four companies. The 1st Battalion was recruited from the 2nd Battalions of Grenadier and Chasseur Vélites, and the 2nd from conscripts taken partly from the departmental reserve companies; the effective strength was to be 1,200 plus NCOs, corporals and drummers. Recruits had to be at least five feet six inches in height, and the new corps was administered by the Chasseurs à Pied. Some officers came from the Old Guard and others from the Line. A decree of 15 December 1806 transformed the regiment of Vélites (composed of the 1st Battalions of Grenadier and Chasseur Vélites) into a second regiment of Fusiliers, which was to have a theoretical strength of 1,800 and be attached to the Grenadiers à Pied. The fact that this second Fusilier regiment was formed from the senior Vélite battalions perhaps accounts for confusion in some sources as to the order in which the Fusilier regiments were raised, the Fusiliers-Chasseurs formed before the Fusiliers-Grenadiers but from a more junior cadre. Their organisation remained similar throughout the Empire, though on 5 January 1811 a fifth company was added to each battalion with the title of Fusiliers-Sergents, which were later concentrated into a battalion; and on 26 December 1813 each battalion was allotted a sixth company.

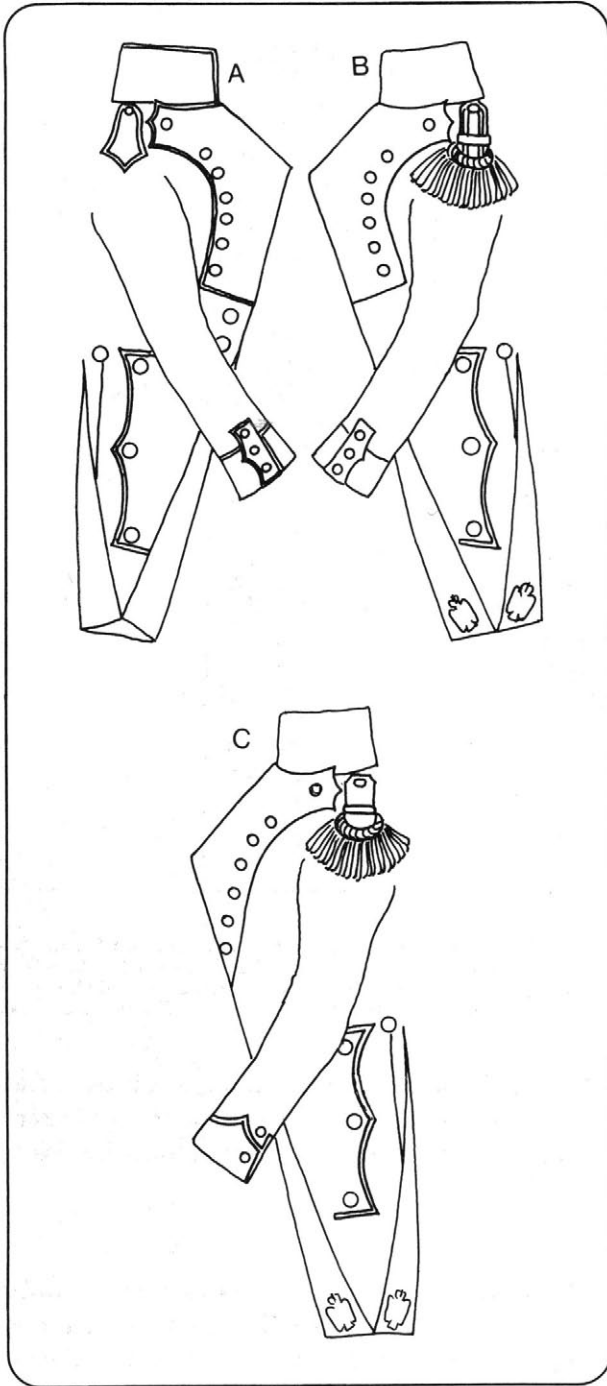
There had been doubts (especially in the mind of Bessières) about the formation of 'junior' Guard corps, in case the combination of veterans with



**Fusilier-Grenadier: print by Pierre Martinet. Shako with white cords, loop and chevrons, brass plate, scarlet plume. Blue coat with white lapels piped scarlet, scarlet cuffs piped white with scarlet vertical piping instead of a proper flap; scarlet turnbacks; white epaulettes with scarlet strap edged white; white sword knot.**

conscripts might reduce the value of the former; but in the event it worked the opposite way, in elevating the value of the recruits. The title 'Young Guard' was assigned to the newly-raised regiments in 1809, but the term 'Middle Guard' came into use about 1811.

Despite obstruction from the War Ministry (who tended to neglect Guard affairs, probably through resentment over the Guard's near-autonomy,



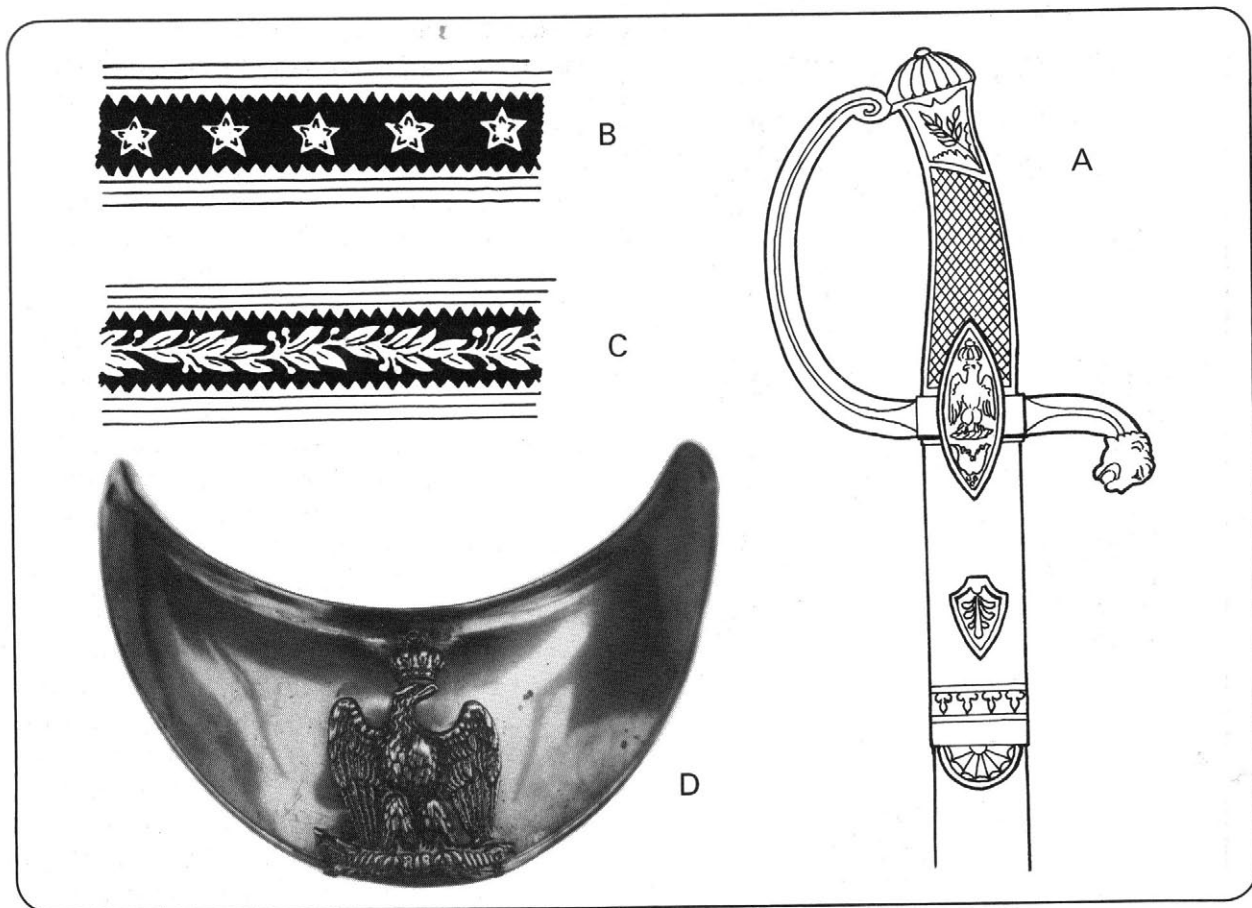
(A) The original pattern *habit* of Fusiliers-Grenadiers apparently worn upon formation: blue with blue collar and shoulder straps piped scarlet, white lapels piped scarlet, scarlet cuffs and flaps piped white, scarlet pocket piping and turnbacks (alternatively, scarlet shoulder straps piped white). (B) The ultimate Fusilier-Grenadier *habit*: blue with blue collar, white lapels and cuff flaps; scarlet cuffs, pocket piping and restyled turnbacks with white eagle badges; red epaulettes with white stripes and fringe (or white with red stripes). (C) *Habit* of Fusiliers-Chasseurs: blue with white lapels; scarlet cuffs piped white; scarlet pocket piping and turnbacks with white eagle badges; green epaulettes with scarlet crescent and fringe.

causing Napoleon to write to Minister Dejean to ensure the payment and clothing of the Fusiliers, 'I learn that my Guard is in difficulties . . . remove these obstacles promptly') the first detachment of 1,549 Fusiliers left for campaign in December 1806, equipped but lacking greatcoats. By the beginning of the following year the height requirement for recruits from the Line had risen to five feet eight inches. From the beginning the newer Guard regiments were committed to action first, the Old Guard, as Napoleon wrote, 'being so precious, one fears to expose them'; thus the Fusiliers-Chasseurs distinguished themselves at Heilsberg whilst the rest of the Guard was kept in reserve. In 1808 the Fusiliers went to Spain, serving at the Madrid rising, Medina and Guadalajara.

In Napoleon's economy drive of 1809, which disbanded the 'extremely expensive' 2nd Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied, the Fusiliers were retained despite being, wrote Napoleon, 'in an awkward spot between Guard and Line, costing twice as much as a Line corps'. In addition, the first of many new Young Guard regiments were raised in 1809, mostly from conscripts but with cadres from existing Guard units or selected Line personnel, a process of transfer from one unit to another within the Guard which would continue throughout the Empire. Preferring not to risk the Old Guard, Napoleon wrote: 'In war, I profit more from the fusiliers and conscripts than from the grenadiers and chasseurs. If the word "conscript" has an unpleasant connotation, we might call [the new regiments] "tirailleurs".'

### Tirailleurs and Conscripts

Thus, the first regiment of Tirailleurs of the Guard—literally 'skirmishers'—equipped and uniformed as light infantry, was formed on 16 January 1809 for attachment to the Grenadiers à Pied, and hence styled Tirailleurs-Grenadiers. Two battalions strong, each of six companies, the regiment had a strength of 2,000, later 1,600; officers and NCOs were taken from the Old Guard. On 29 March 1809 two further regiments were created: a corps of Tirailleurs-Chasseurs (attached to the Chasseurs à Pied); and a regiment of conscripts attached to the Grenadiers, styled Conscrit-Grenadiers, again organised in two battalions of six companies each. Two days later another three regiments were



formed, the 2nd Conscrit-Grenadiers and 1st and 2nd Conscrit-Chasseurs; and on 25 April 1809 the 2nd regiments of Tirailleurs-Grenadiers and Tirailleurs-Chasseurs.

These regiments resulted in a new hierarchy within the Guard, as the Fusiliers were no longer the junior corps, and though not Old Guardsmen they were now the 'old soldiers of the Young Guard'. The Tirailleurs were assigned officers and NCOs from the lately-disbanded 2nd Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied (who retained their Old Guard status and pay), and from the St Cyr academy; and 'At the end of two years' service, Tirailleurs may be admitted to the Fusiliers; and after four more, into the Old Guard; but only by virtue of an Imperial decree.' The Conscrit regiments were dressed as light infantry and paid as troops of the Line; field and company officers came from the Guard, subalterns from the Vélites or St Cyr, and NCOs ('veterans of Friedland, at least') from the Fusiliers. Losing 450 men for this purpose, the Fusiliers were reinforced by a levy of four conscripts from each

(A) Officers' sabre, Young Guard. (B) Upper band of Fusiliers-Grenadiers officers' shako—gold embroidery on black velvet. (C) Upper band of Fusiliers-Chasseurs officers' shako. (D) Gilt gorget of an officer of the Young Guard, with silver eagle motif.

Department, all 'intelligent, literate, robust, and of suitable height'. In all, the *depôt* of the Conscripts of the Guard received 6,000 men from the classes of 1808–09.

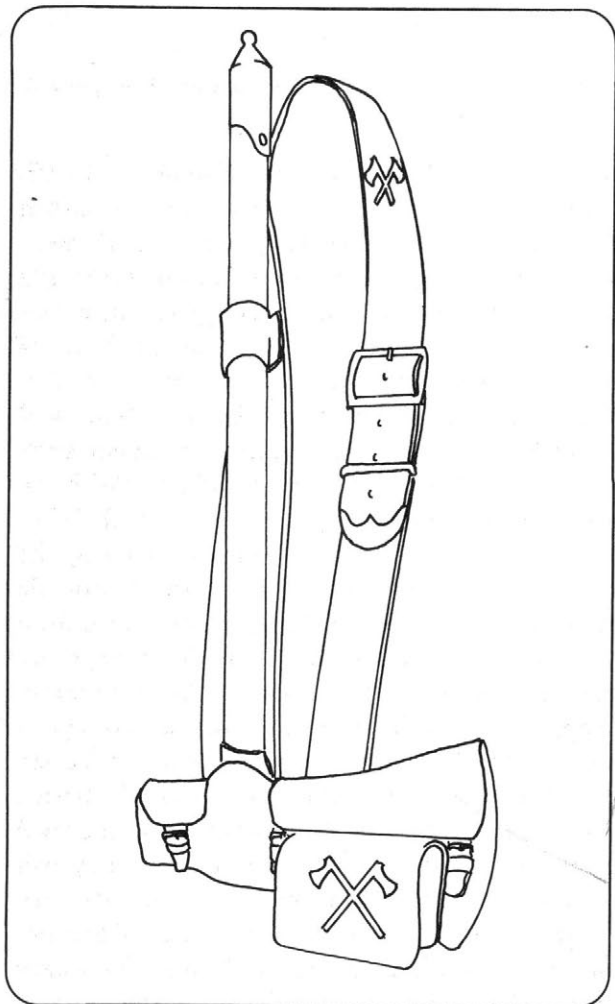
### Vélites

In March 1809 two further Guard units had been formed: a battalion of Vélites in Turin and one in Florence, recruited from volunteers with the usual *véliste* stipulation of 200 francs per annum, with a French cadre from the Guard. The 600 Florentine Vélites were formed as a bodyguard for Napoleon's sister Elisa, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, from recruits from the Tuscan Departments at least 18 years of age and five feet ten inches tall, with NCOs and the commander, Major Dufour, from the Chasseurs à Pied. The Turin Vélites were raised as a bodyguard for Napoleon's brother-in-law Prince



Borghese, governor of the Trans-alpine Departments; 475 strong, they received NCOs chiefly from the Grenadiers, and their commander, Major Cicéron, from the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers. Prince Borghese was inordinately proud of his *Vélites*, lavishing large sums on them and requesting more from Napoleon. In May 1810 the unit comprised a *chef de bataillon*, a *capitaine-adjutant-major*, a captain-quartermaster, a surgeon-major, a *lieutenant-sous-adjutant-major*, a *vaguemestre*, a *caporal-tambour* and three craftsmen; and four companies each comprising a captain, a lieutenant, a *sous-lieutenant*, a sergeant major, five sergeants, a *fourrier* (quartermaster corporal), nine corporals, a drummer and 105 *vélites*. In 1813 some Frenchmen were incorporated in the unit, who transferred to the 14th Line when the corps was disbanded in

*Sapeur's axe in its case, the haft of the axe passing through a leather loop at the rear of the shoulder belt.*



February 1814, the Italians being discharged.

In spring 1809 Napoleon wrote that with the new regiments he would have a Guard of '20,000 men, which makes a fine army corps', but still enquired how the expenses of the Conscripts compared with those of a Line regiment; the news that a Young Guard unit cost half a million francs less than a Line regiment led to the sanctioning of the 2nd regiments of Tirailleurs from the conscripts in the Guard dépôts!

In 1809 the Young Guard first served as a division (Curial's), the first two Tirailleur regiments in Roguet's brigade and the Fusiliers in Gros's. In its baptism of fire at Essling the Young Guard lost a quarter of its strength, but upheld the reputation of the Guard. The 2nd Conscrit-Chasseurs and -Grenadiers joined the army on the day after Wagram, feeling the benefits of the Guard's privileges; as one wrote, 'I used to be skinny, but now I look as fat as a commissary . . .' At the end of 1809 the Young Guard was despatched to Spain, where their contribution to the Peninsular War took the form of anti-guerrilla operations. Tirailleur Mignolet wrote: 'We are surrounded by 40,000 brigands whom we must fight every day—and the situation gets no better, but worse. Their bands grow bigger every year, for we burn their towns and villages . . .' Colette of the 2nd Conscrit-Chasseurs noted that any money they received was immediately drunk, as they were 'afraid of suddenly dropping dead'. 'We can't rest . . . the partisans blockaded us four days without bread, so we ate the captain's horse . . . when we leave a town the partisans enter it and come out to attack us every night . . . where we are, they are all around us . . .'

### National Guards

In order to express Imperial satisfaction with the mobilised 'cohorts' of National Guard in the northern Departments, and hoping to persuade the ordinary National Guardsmen to remain with the colours, on 1 January 1810 Napoleon ordered the establishment of a regiment of National Guards of the Young Guard recruited from the northern 'cohorts'. Initially of four battalions, each of four companies, it was reduced on 29 May 1810 to two battalions of six companies each. Napoleon ordered Bessières to nominate officers and NCOs ('zealous, intelligent, and well mannered') who ranked as

members of the Line; and General Souless to organise the regiment, which was inaugurated at Lille on 1 April 1810. Its commander, Colonel Couloumy, an old soldier of the Royal army and the Guards of the Legislature, had no private means and was thus allowed pay and expenses of the Old Guard. When about to depart for Spain the regiment was reviewed by Curial, who reported its men 'of good height, quite well trained, and apparently animated by a desire to do well'; but being quartered at Lille and thus near to the homes of the men, the desertion rate was bad, and 197 conscripts had to be called to fill the gaps.

### **Voltigeurs**

As Tirailleurs were officially light infantry attached to Grenadiers, the concept of Tirailleurs-Chasseurs was somewhat odd; so on 30 December 1810 the two regiments of Tirailleurs-Chasseurs became the 1st and 2nd Voltigeurs of the Guard, whilst the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers were re-titled as the 1st and 2nd Tirailleurs. On 10 February 1811 the Conscrits-Grenadiers became the 3rd and 4th Tirailleurs, and the Conscrits-Chasseurs the 3rd and 4th Voltigeurs. At the same time each regiment formed a company of 200 'corporal-voltigeurs' or 'corporal-tirailleurs' (and in January the Fusiliers a company of 'sergeant-fusiliers'); Napoleon explained: 'In the Line I shall use tirailleurs as corporals, and fusiliers as sergeants.' Thus, 'My Guard should contain cadres for a reserve of 100 battalions. These will require 3,000 sergeants and 6,000 corporals . . . by holding on to the choice men we can eventually train 3,000 sergeants in the Fusiliers and 6,000 corporals in the Young Guard . . .' To assist this process, a school was established at Fontainebleau—the Bataillon d'Instruction of the Guard—in which selected men were trained in military practice and theory.

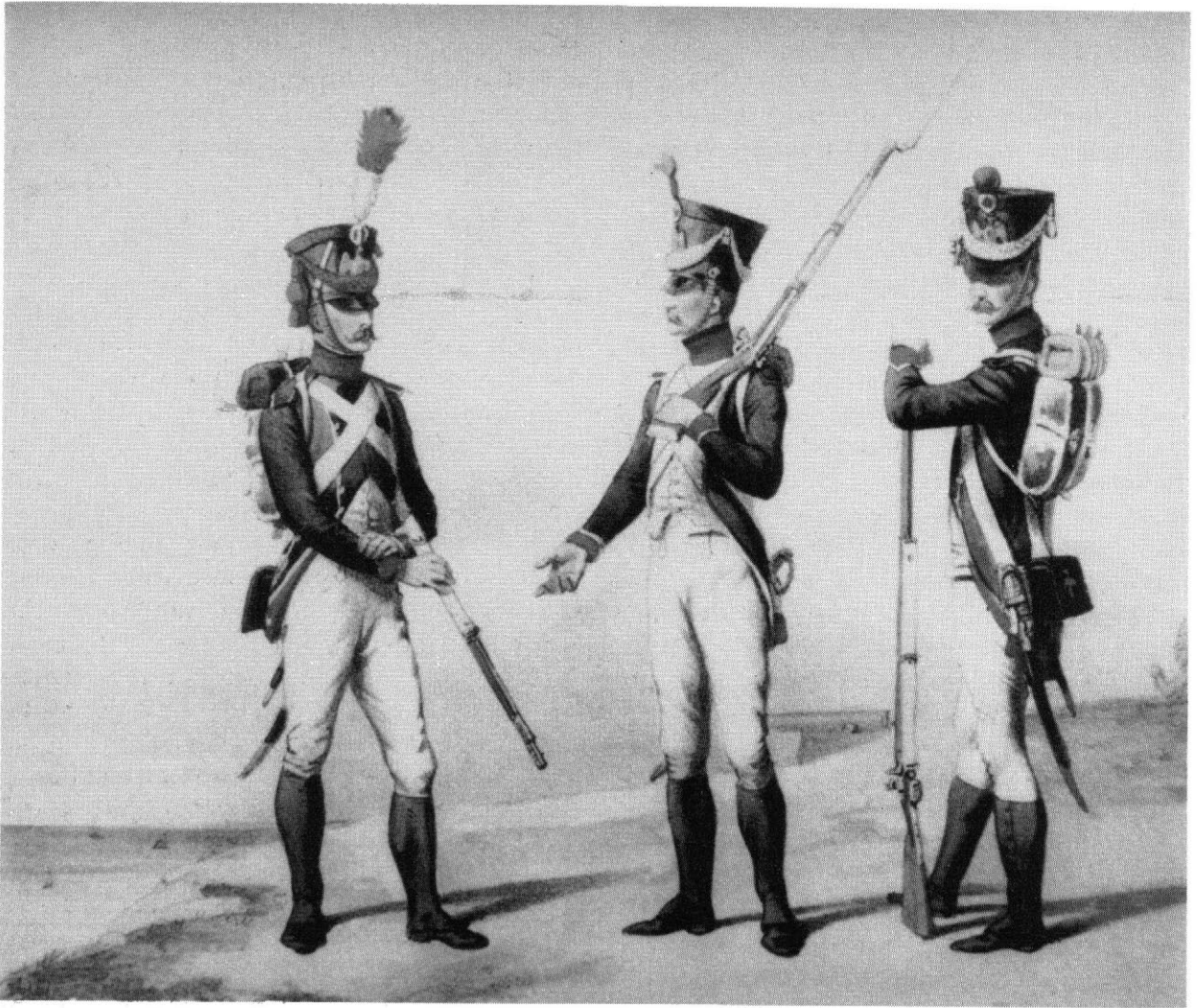
### **Pupilles**

Among the units transferred to French service from the Kingdom of Holland was a corps of cadets, whose fathers had been killed in action. These *vélites* were sent to France as recruits for the navy, but Napoleon was so impressed by their bearing that he used them as a basis for a new 'Baby Guard', opening their ranks to French orphans at least four feet eleven inches in height, to be trained as the



**Shako plate, Young Guard.**

Guardsmen of the future. The original two Dutch battalions were put in the care of the Dutch Grenadiers on 11 February 1811, and were instituted as the Pupilles of the Guard on 30 March 1811. In August 1811 they were given their own administration, and enlarged to nine battalions of 800 each, including a *depôt* battalion—a total of about 8,000 boys from France, Italy, Holland and Germany, representing in numbers about one-sixth of the entire Guard: the largest unit, but with the lowest pay and privileges. Officers and NCO instructors were appointed from the Guard, the Bataillon d'Instruction and from the Garde de Paris, with some 18-year-old *pupilles* promoted from the ranks. The *depôt* remained at Versailles, other battalions being sent to Rouen, Le Havre, Fécamp, Dieppe, Dunkirk, Caen and Grandville. Napoleon announced: 'Soldiers of my Old Guard, here are your children. Their fathers were killed in battle. You shall replace them. By imitating you, they will be brave. By listening to your counsel, they will become the first soldiers in the world.' As they became old enough the *pupilles* were drafted to other Guard units; for example, in January/February 1813 all 17-year-old *pupilles* at Ostende and



**Young Guardsmen: (left) Tirailleur-Grenadier; (centre) National Guard; (right) Tirailleur-Chasseur. Note the distinctive white lapels worn by the National Guardsman.**

Boulogne were armed with dragoon muskets and sent to Lille to join the Young Guard, while at the same time the 7th Tirailleurs was formed from *pupilles*. In 1814 the Versailles battalion helped defend the Clichy gate.

In May 1811 the 5th regiments of Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs were created, each of two battalions of four companies each, recruited from selected conscripts. The 6th regiments of Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs were added in August, formed in Brussels with cadres from the Line, Fontainebleau, and *vélites*.

### **Flanqueurs**

In September a regiment of Flanqueurs was raised:

skirmishers attached to the Chasseurs, recruited from sons or nephews of rangers of the Imperial or public forests, at least 18 years old and five feet six and a half inches in height, whose forester origin was reflected by their green uniform. After five years' service it was intended that Flanqueurs might succeed to their fathers' or uncles' posts.

This progressive enlargement of the Guard resulted in numerous difficulties, including the conditions of entry into the various corps, which were formalised. The Young Guard was to be replenished with selected conscripts, and their cadres from Line officers, *vélites*, and Fusilier NCOs, with senior officers from the Old Guard. Fusiliers were to be replenished with *voltigeurs* and *tirailleurs* of two years' service, and selected conscripts, with cadres from the Line, the Bataillon d'Instruction, or the Old Guard. The Old Guard would be



replenished by Fusiliers of six years' service, and men from the Line with ten years' service and good records. This resulted in a constant reshuffling of personnel within and outside the Guard; it ensured a percentage of veterans even in newly-formed units at the cost of a nightmare for the small clerical staff responsible for the Guard's accounts, which became progressively worse as funds became over-stretched and in arrears: 'The accounting system of the infantry of the Guard has become a labyrinth in which no inspector can find the thread. . . .'

### The campaigns of 1812–15

The Guard was concentrated for the Russian campaign of 1812, thus:

*1st Division (Delaborde): Berthezène's Brigade:* 4th Tirailleurs, 1st and 5th Voltigeurs

*Lanusse's Brigade:* 5th and 6th Tirailleurs, 6th Voltigeurs

*2nd Division (Roguet): Lanabère's Brigade:* 1st Tirailleurs, 1st Voltigeurs

*Boyeldieu's Brigade:* Fusiliers-Chasseurs, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, Flanqueurs

*3rd Division (Lefevre): Boyer's Brigade:* 1st and 2nd Chasseurs à Pied  
*Curial's Brigade:* 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grenadiers à Pied

*Attached:* Vélites de Turin.

The troops recalled from Spain—Fusiliers and Young Guard—made their way partly by carriage and partly by forced march. The 4th Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs made a remarkable march of 468 miles in 23 days—but they were remarkable corps: as Delvau of the 6th Tirailleurs remarked, 'When there's no-one left but us, there'll still be plenty.' Roguet's division was the best in the army; its men, aged from 25 to 30, were in the prime of life (unlike some of the Old Guard), and experienced in Spain (unlike most of the Young), and in their march from Burgos to Vilna only 63 men had dropped out.

Delaborde's division saw serious action first, fighting its way into Smolensk with great difficulty against a determined enemy. Largely uncommitted

at Borodino (though Lanabère was mortally wounded), the Guard reached Moscow in good form, but with difficulties; between Smolensk and Moscow one of Delaborde's brigades lost 99 men dead from starvation. In October 1812, deducting sick, wounded, deserters and those left in garrison en route, Delaborde's division numbered only 3,623 out of the 5,797 who had crossed the Niemen; Roguet's division (its Fusiliers more solid than the Young Guard) had 4,261 instead of 6,301, though the 1st Voltigeurs and 1st Tirailleurs had almost half their men in hospital or at the rear.

The situation deteriorated rapidly as the retreat began. The Guard had to turn at Krasnyi to keep open the line of retreat, Young and Old Guard together hurling back the Russians after furious combat; Roguet's division with the 3rd Grenadiers was the last to retire, losing 760 men. Despite having first pick of the supply depôts along the route, the Guard suffered appallingly; but their attitude was epitomised by Col. Hennequin of the 5th Tirailleurs. His horse was killed as he led his regiment in a counter-attack to keep open the bridges across the Berezina; as his men rushed to aid him, unhorsed and floundering in the snow, he struggled up and cried, 'I am at my post, gentlemen; let others remain at theirs!' Remain at their post they did; and by 29 November the entire Young Guard under arms mustered but 800 men. By Christmas Day 1812, the worst of the retreat over, the Young Guard was all but annihilated. In June the 'carefree Tirailleurs' had marched across the Niemen singing their jaunty song, '*Les tirailleurs sans souci/Ou sont-ils? . . . Les voici*'. Now the 6th had 14 officers and 10 men left; the 6th Voltigeurs had 12 officers and eight men. 'Old Man' Roguet, who had begun the campaign encumbered by a carriage, two waggons, a library, 12 horses and six servants, had marched with his Fusiliers, feet wrapped in rags, eating gruel and melted snow, but maintaining the customs of normal times, including a nightly guard-mounting parade. He had now but 288 Fusiliers. Bourgogne recalled Tirailleur Captain Debonnez riding a cossack pony at the head of his company—which consisted of his lieutenant and one private!

Some 700 Guardsmen were sent home as cadres for newly-formed corps, leaving Roguet with a 'division' consisting of the survivors of the retreat: 1,800 men of two newly-arrived battalions of 2nd



**Tirailleur-Grenadier: print by Pierre Martinet from *Galerie des Enfants de Mars* (c.1813). Shako with white cords and chevrons, brass plate, white-over-scarlet plume. Blue coat with scarlet collar and cuffs piped white; white pocket piping, lapels, and turnbacks with scarlet eagle badges; scarlet shoulder straps; white breeches, black gaiters and grey roll. The figures in the background wear brown greatcoats.**

Tirailleurs and 2nd Voltigeurs, 126 Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 118 Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 461 Turin Vélites, 342 Florentine Vélites, 821 Old Guardsmen and 487 foreigners. The Guard was all but destroyed; in addition to Roguet's men, there were only the troops in dépôts, four instructional battalions at Fontainebleau, the eight Pupille battalions (four at Versailles), the National Guards, and the 3rd Voltigeurs and 3rd Tirailleurs in Spain, with other elements.

Reconstruction began by forming new regiments from conscripts and dépôts, with cadres from existing units and leavened with veterans of four

and eight years' service from the Line, including 3,000 from Spain. On 10 and 17 January 1813 nine new regiments were formed, the 3rd to 6th *bis* (auxiliary) Tirailleurs, 3rd to 6th *bis* Voltigeurs, and 7th Tirailleurs (from Pupilles); the *bis* regiments, 'holding' corps for the formation of new regiments and reinforcement of existing ones, were disbanded in March. The 3rd Tirailleurs and 3rd Voltigeurs were called from Spain, and the National Guard regiment drafted its men to the 1st Voltigeurs and 1st Tirailleurs, the cadre becoming the new 7th Voltigeurs on 15 February.

The rapid re-birth of the Guard was almost miraculous; there was even a surplus of conscripts and Line veterans, so that on 23 March 1813 the 8th Tirailleurs, 8th Voltigeurs and a new regiment of Flanqueurs-Grenadiers were formed, followed by the 9th to 13th Tirailleurs (9th from Pupilles) and 9th to 13th Voltigeurs. Organisation was as before; for example, in August 1813 the 5th Tirailleurs comprised men aged between 18 and 25, with a minimum height of five feet eight inches, in two battalions of four companies each. Each company comprised a captain, two *sous-lieutenants*, a sergeant major, four sergeants, a *fourrier*, eight corporals, three drummers and an average of 163 *tirailleurs* (in practice the three drummers appear to have been two drummers and a fifer). Regimental staff was a *colonel-major*, two *chefs de bataillon*, a *capitaine-adjutant-major*, a paymaster (*officier-payeur*, a *sous-lieutenant*), a *sous-lieutenant-adjutant-major*, a surgeon-major and an assistant, four *adjutants-sous-officiers*, a *caporal-tambour* and an armourer.

In the 1813 campaign the Guard could no longer be regarded as the élite of old, for it now represented a third of the army (on 1 October, 1,684 officers and 47,269 men under arms with the army); in 1814 it rose to a theoretical 102,706 men. From then until Napoleon's abdication, however, the Guard (especially the Young, as the Old was still held in reserve wherever possible) provided the cornerstone for the defence of the Empire, especially in morale value. Their very appearance on the battlefield heartened and revitalised the conscripts of the Line regiments, as at Lützen (where the Young Guard's counter-attack cost 1,069 casualties, about 10 per cent of those engaged), where the shaken 3rd Corps shouted 'La Garde! La Garde!' and steadied at the appearance of the *bonnets à poil*. But still it was not

the Guard of old, and during the rigours of the campaign, with its attendant exhaustion and hunger, the Young Guard suffered from desertion. Courts martial were not prolific, however, as 'it might be embarrassing' publicly to try so many Guardsmen; of 320 arrested in Paris, for example, only 20 were court-martialled.

1813 produced the Guard's most ephemeral unit, the 'Polish battalion', formed in October from members of the Polish contingent of the Grande Armée and the Vistula Legion. Four companies strong, totalling some 800 men, it was granted the same pay and privileges as the 2nd Grenadiers. It suffered heavily at Leipzig and Hanau; by December only 15 officers and 80 other ranks were left, and it was disbanded.

In the forefront of the 1813-14 campaigns, the Young Guard distinguished itself on all sides, as at Dresden, where the 1st Tirailleurs charged six Prussian battalions and won themselves 100 Légions d'Honneur. Re-organised after this battle, the Young Guard comprised four Divisions: the 1st contained the 1st to 4th and 11th Voltigeurs and 11th Tirailleurs; the 2nd, the 1st to 6th Tirailleurs; the 3rd, the 5th to 10th Voltigeurs; and the 4th, the 7th to 10th Tirailleurs and Flanqueurs—a grand total of 711 officers and 20,283 men.

At Leipzig they were decimated; the Young Guard alone lost 120 officers. Again the regiments were replenished with conscripts, surviving veterans acting as cadres, though the situation was deteriorating; it was reported that the 10th Tirailleurs had no NCOs, the 12th and 13th Tirailleurs no lieutenants. Some conscripts joined almost untrained; in 1813 many were accused of self-inflicted wounds on the hands in the hope of obtaining a discharge. Larrey examined 48 Young Guardsmen sentenced to death for this crime, and proved that the injuries were caused simply by lack of training, some charging with hands upheld and thus first to be hit, and others injured by the inexperience of third-rank men who had accidentally shot the men in front! Even the youngsters, however, exhibited the spirit recorded by Charles Parquin who rebuked three men for straggling behind a column in Spain, asking what they thought would happen if ambushed by guerrillas. In all seriousness one replied, 'Well, sir, we would form square'—all three of them! In the words of the

popular paraphrase of De Lisle's *Roland* which Bourgogne heard in Russia, 'How many are they? How many are they?/Is the cry of a soldier without glory!'

In an army filled with under-age conscripts (the 'Marie-Louises'), the Guard, with its nucleus of veterans—some barely out of their teens but hardened by campaigning—became increasingly important, and more regiments were raised. In January 1814 the 14th and 15th Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs appeared, based upon the ex-Royal Guard of Spain; and later the 17th to 19th regiments of each category. Cadres became increasingly difficult to find; officers were appointed from the Royal Guards of Naples and Spain, and retired veterans were recalled—two NCOs posted to the 9th Tirailleurs had each lost an arm. As France was invaded, the Guard was required everywhere, but its dispersal was an error; Roguet's veteran division was virtually besieged in Antwerp, and thus denied to Napoleon.

In the defence of France, Napoleon wrote, the Guard 'performed miracles'; 'they did more than one has any right to expect from men'. But while Napoleon remained optimistic, Joseph Bonaparte in Paris reported that the Guard's funds were exhausted; between 1,000 and 1,500 recruits were arriving daily, but on 12 February there were already 1,500 men in the dépôts who could not be clothed: 'we have no credit. . . .' The height of the crisis is demonstrated by Napoleon's order of 21 February—'send pikes everywhere'—and by his attempt to fire the population by making 'a great noise in the newspapers' with reports of atrocities, real or imagined.

Wherever the Guard fought, the French won; but faced by overwhelming odds, their casualties were insupportable. At Craonne the 14th Voltigeurs lost 28 of their 33 officers, and other formations more than 50 per cent of their strength in the one action. Still new battalions were formed, with 43,000 'Marie-Louises' for the Guard, of whom less than 100 deserted. Continual re-organisations equalised decimated regiments; the four Young Guard divisions were consolidated into two, while battalion strengths ranged from five officers and 67 men to 25 officers with 563. Not even the heroism of both Old and Young Guards could save Napoleon, but before the inevitable end much blood was





expended. The twilight was illuminated by heroic vignettes such as the defence of Soissons by a handful of Young Guards, National Guards and invalids; and the defence of Paris by Pupilles aged between 13 and 16, crying, 'Just one more shot!' when ordered to retire.

After the First Abdication Napoleon retained just the 'Elba Battalion': three companies of Grenadiers, three of Chasseurs, 100 gunners, a squadron of lancers and a 'crew' of 21 Seamen—in all 1,000 indomitable 'Grumblers' of the Old Guard, with a few Fusiliers. The Old Guard was kept on the new Royal establishment, but the remainder were disbanded, with some NCOs from the junior corps incorporated into the Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied of the Royal Guard.

The Elba Battalion formed the nucleus of the re-created Imperial Guard at the beginning of the 'Hundred Days', and on 22 March 1815 Napoleon decreed that the Guard was henceforth to be recruited only from those who had served for 12 years (Old Guard), eight (cavalry) or four (Young Guard). The Fusiliers were not re-formed (but extra regiments of Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied instead), and originally six, later eight regiments each of Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs. In the 1st and 2nd Line 1,374 men petitioned to be allowed to rejoin the Guard, or they would desert; but though they were formed in part from discharged veterans and soldiers from the Line, the 'old of the Old' complained that the new Tirailleurs 'made noisy demonstrations and went out with girls!' The new regiments were assembled hastily and not without difficulty; 'Young Guard regiments are very weak and have few means of procuring reinforcements', wrote Napoleon; 'enlist volunteers and attract old soldiers . . . beat the drums, parade the flags . . . do everything possible to arouse enthusiasm.'

For the Waterloo campaign only the 1st and 3rd Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs took the field to represent the Young Guard, reasonably clothed and equipped if weak in numbers, but lacking little in spirit; the 4th Tirailleurs, for example, volunteered three days' pay from every man to help defray the cost of the war. At Waterloo the Young Guard vainly held

the Prussians in burning Plancenoit, but not even reinforcement from the Old Guard could stem the inevitable defeat. The Old and Young Guards passed together into history.

## The Regiments

*Seamen (Marins de la Garde)* Created 17 September 1803; disbanded 23 April 1814. Re-formed 8 April 1815; disbanded 4 September 1815.

*Fusiliers-Chasseurs* Created 19 October 1806; disbanded 12 May 1814.

*Fusiliers-Grenadiers* Created 15 December 1806; disbanded 12 May 1814.

*Tirailleurs-Grenadiers* 1st Regt. created 16 January 1809, 2nd Regt. 25 April 1809. Became 1st and 2nd Tirailleurs 30 December 1810.

*Tirailleurs-Chasseurs* 1st Regt. created 29 March 1809, 2nd Regt. 25 April 1809; became 1st and 2nd Voltigeurs 30 December 1810.

*Conscrits-Grenadiers* 1st Regt. created 29 March 1809, 2nd Regt. 31 March 1809. Became 3rd and 4th Tirailleurs 10 February 1811.

*Conscrits-Chasseurs* 1st and 2nd Regts. created 31 March 1809; became 3rd and 4th Voltigeurs 10 February 1811.

*Vélites de Turin* Created March 1809.

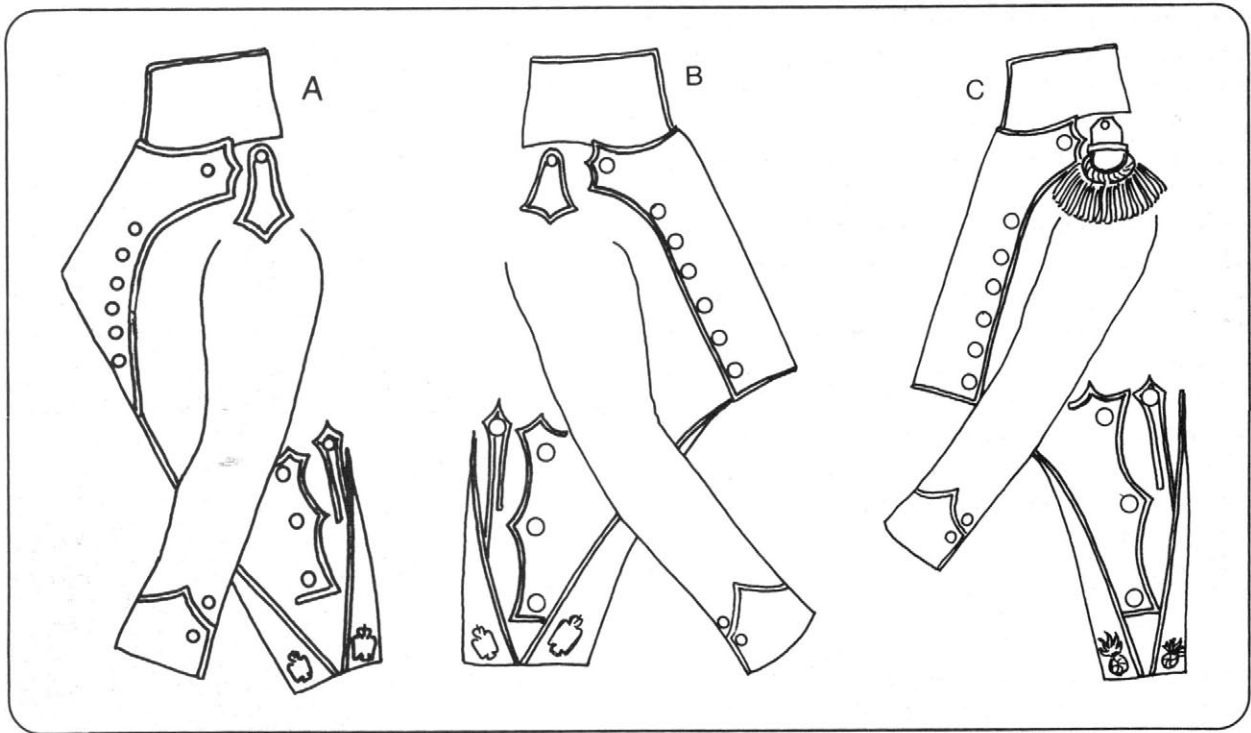
*Vélites de Florence* Created March 1809.

*National Guards of the Guard (Gardes Nationales de la Garde)* Created 1 January 1810; became 7th Voltigeurs 15 February 1813.

*Tirailleurs* 1st & 2nd Regts. formed from 1st and 2nd Tirailleurs-Grenadiers 30 December 1810; 3rd and 4th Regts. from 1st and 2nd Conscrits-Grenadiers 10 February 1811. 5th Regt. created 18 May 1811, 6th Regt. 28 August 1811; 1st to 6th Regts. re-formed 8 April 1815. 6th *bis* Regt. created 10 January 1813; 3rd to 5th *bis* Regts. 17 January 1813; all disbanded March 1813. 7th Regt. formed from Pupilles 17 January 1813, 8th Regt. 23 March 1813; both re-formed 12 May 1815. 9th to 13th Regts. created 6 April 1813, 14th to 16th 11 January 1814 (14th and 15th from Spanish Royal Guard), 17th to 19th 21 January 1814.

*Voltigeurs*: 1st and 2nd Regts. formed from 1st and 2nd Tirailleurs-Chasseurs 30 December 1810;

**Tiraille-Grenadier: print by Pierre Martinet, showing variations in colouring—red-over-white plume, scarlet shako cords, blue lapels piped white, scarlet turnbacks with white eagle badges.**



3rd and 4th Regts. from 1st and 2nd Conscrits-Chasseurs 10 February 1811. 5th Regt. created 18 May 1811, 6th Regt. 28 August 1811; 1st to 6th Regts. re-formed 8 April 1811. 6th *bis* Regt. created 10 January 1813, 3rd to 5th *bis* Regts. 17 January 1813; all disbanded March 1813. 7th Regt. formed from *Gardes Nationales* 15 February 1813, 8th Regt. 23 March 1813; both re-formed 12 May 1815. 9th to 13th Regts. created 6 April 1813, 14th to 16th 11 January 1814 (14th and 15th from Spanish Royal Guard), 17th to 19th 21 January 1814.

*Pupilles* Created 30 March 1811.

*Flanqueurs-Chasseurs* Created 4 September 1811.

*Flanqueurs-Grenadiers* Created 23 May 1813.

## Uniforms

### Seamen of the Guard

The distinctive uniform of the Seamen, a combination of nautical and cavalry styles, was ordered by a decree of 28 *Frimaire An XII* (30 December 1803): a blue jacket (*paletot*) with yellow braid (*tresses jaunes*, though the actual shade seems to have been light orange from the outset), red cuffs and

(A) Jacket of the Young Guard, 1809–13, with 'light infantry' lapels and piping *à la Soubise* on the skirts. (B) *Habit-veste* of the Young Guard, 1813–14, note piping *à la Soubise* on rear of skirts. (C) *Tirailleur* officer's version of the 1813 *habit-veste*: lapels closed to the waist, but with the customary long tails. This was typically worn by subalterns; most if not all captains and above would have retained their *Fusilier* or *Old Guard* uniforms.

waistcoat; blue trousers with yellow (orange) braid; blue greatcoat; brass buttons as for the Guard but incorporating an anchor; and a shako with pompon and yellow (orange) braid.

The shako had a cockade on the front secured by an orange (*aurore*) lace loop and a button; orange lace bands 40 mm deep around the top and 34 mm deep at the bottom; and orange double cords, one strand plaited and one plain, with *raquettes* at the right. It had a detachable peak, and apparently may have been worn with the peak removed, perhaps only in walking-out dress (?); and a pompon with a red plume for full dress. The cap remained unchanged until the addition in about 1808 of a brass plate in the form of a crowned eagle upon an anchor, when the cockade was transferred to the left lower edge, with a button at the bottom and a vertical lace loop passing through the cockade; the cords were now completely plaited.

The Otto MS shows what may be an intermediate version, with the cockade worn above



the plate, and Zimmermann shows a cap with red/orange chevrons on the sides and brass chinscales, both doubtful. The pompon was apparently carrot-shaped, shown as orange/yellow by Suhr and red by Weiland. This second pattern of cap was replaced in 1808 or 1809 by a higher, more bell-shaped and rigid shako with a fixed peak and black leather chinstrap with unchanged decorations. In 1809 it had a cloth cover for service dress, the 1810 inventories mentioning glazed cloth. A late 'state' of the Martinet print, showing no shako plate, probably represents the removal of Imperial symbols following Napoleon's abdication.

The *paletot* was a blue dolman with red pointed cuffs and 15 loops of orange hussar braid on the breast, with three rows of brass buttons (five for NCOs and musicians) bearing an anchor with fasces around the shank and GARDE DES CONSULS above. In 1805 these were replaced by crowned-eagle buttons, and after 1809 all ranks adopted five rows. Some extant dolmans have additional braid, presumably for walking-out dress. It was worn either closed, or with just the top three loops buttoned, exposing the red waistcoat with orange braid and three rows of 15 buttons. Epaulettes are noted as early as September 1804, and were presumably always brass-scaled straps upon red cloth backing; the trefoils shown by Hoffman are probably badly-drawn scales.

The dark blue trousers had orange lace on the outer seams and orange 'darts' on the thighs, later replaced by an Austrian knot, altered to a simpler design after 1811; the orange binding on the bottom of the leg shown by Hoffman seems unlikely. The trousers were worn outside the boots, which for ordinary wear were replaced by military shoes with black gaiters (white for summer); in some cases the trousers strapped under the instep. Elaborately-laced breeches sometimes worn inside the boots for walking-out dress were unofficial, regulation legwear always being described as *pantalon*.

From 1805 to 1808 stores-inventories mention linen waistcoats and trousers. Undress uniform comprised plain blue trousers and a blue tail-less jacket or *caracot* with pointed cuffs and collar laced orange, provision for epaulettes, and two rows of eight buttons on the breast; Suhr shows plain lace on its horizontal side-pockets, the similar pockets on the dolman having more elaborate braiding. The



**Sergeant, 2nd Conscrit-Chasseurs, full dress, 1809-10. Shako with white chevrons and cords, brass plate, green plume. Blue uniform with scarlet collar and cuffs piped white; blue lapels piped white, blue turnbacks piped scarlet; green epaulettes with gold crescent and red fringe; gold rank chevrons; green lace on gaiters. (Print after H. Boisselier)**

double-breasted greatcoat was blue, and judging from inventories the forage cap (*bonnet de police*) was blue with orange lace and bore an anchor on the front.

The decree of 30 December 1803 noted that one-



(Left) Shako plate of the Young Guard; stamped brass with cut-out letters. Of special note is the fact that the eagle faces the opposite way to the normal presentation, and the fact that the asymmetrical crown is ornamented with a row of small eagles. (Right) Shako plate attributed to the Young Guard; brass.

third of the corps was to be armed with sabres, one-third with axes and one-third pikes, and all with pistols. All wore a black waist belt with brass buckle and small pouch (the pistols and boarding-axes both having belt hooks), and the sabre (probably the naval *sabre-briquet*) was carried on a black shoulder belt. No axes or pikes appear in the inventories of September 1805, so presumably they had been replaced by muskets before this date. Leatherwork (including musket slings) was always black. Hoffman *c.* 1805 shows cross belts, one supporting a cartridge box and the other being a waist belt with buckle worn over the right shoulder; in 1806 two sets of belts were issued, one varnished for full dress and one waxed for ordinary use. The cartridge box bore an anchor, but after 1805–06 a brass crowned eagle; after 1811 its straight lower edge was cut into a ‘heart’ shape; in 1807–08 at least it had a cover, of unknown material. The cartridge box belt had a brass anchor badge added after 1811. The belt over the right shoulder supported the sabre upon leather slings, with a bayonet frog between the sling rings; its rectangular buckle was replaced in

1805–06 by a rectangular brass plate bearing an anchor, which seems to have continued in use despite the introduction of a similar plate bearing a crowned eagle upon an anchor about 1811 or later. In 1806 a regimental pattern of sabre was introduced, with a brass hilt with single bar guard and curved blade, in a black leather scabbard with brass fittings (of varied patterns) and orange knot; the black leather bayonet scabbard had a brass chape. The Otto MS shows a sabre with no guard, a pattern similar to a known example of NCOs’ sabre. The knapsack was of ordinary pattern, but as Henschel shows it with white leatherwork, black straps were introduced presumably after 1806; by 1810 it had a third greatcoat strap encircling the knapsack vertically. The corps’ musket was probably the *An IX* naval pattern, 141.5 cm overall, with brass fittings.

The decree of 30 December 1803 equated NCOs with those of the cavalry:

Boatswain (*Maître*) = Sergeant major (*Maréchal-des-Logis-Chef*)

Boatswain’s Mate (*Contre-Maître*) = Sergeant (*Maréchal-des-Logis*)

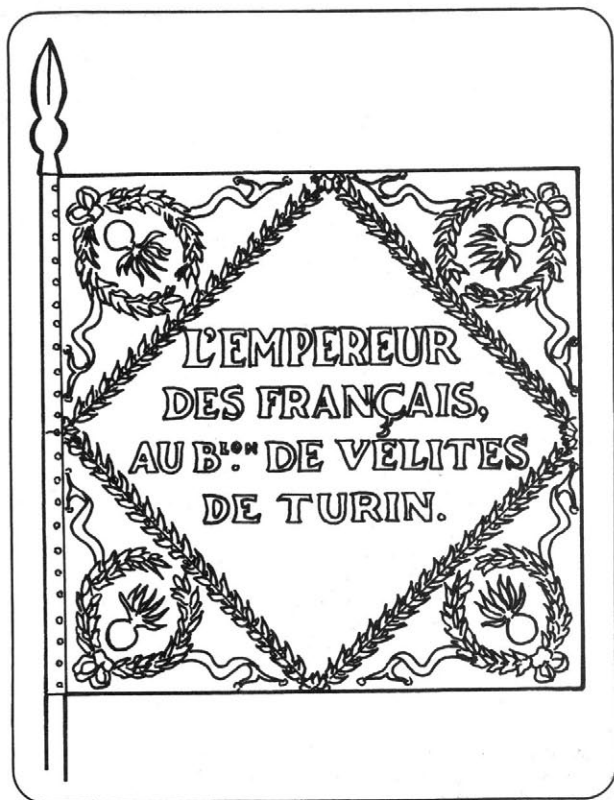
Quartermaster (*Quartier-Maître*) = Corporal (*Brigadier*)

Quartermasters (also called corporals after 1811) had two orange chevrons above the cuff. Boatswains

and mates had finer quality shakos with gold lace, gilt plates and mixed red and gold cords; their dolmans had five rows of buttons, and braid mixed one-third gold and two-thirds red, gilt buttons and shoulder scales, and gold rank chevrons—two for boatswains and one for mates. Their forage caps were gold-laced and had a red and gold tassel. After 1808 at least boatswains wore a bicorn with walking-out dress, presumably of a similar pattern to those of the Old Guard with gold loop and ‘ties’; but there is no confirmation that they wore with this a *chasseur* coat with aiguillettes, like NCOs of Guard cavalry.

The 1803 decree noted that officers were to wear epaulettes and a gold aiguillette, but the traditional depiction of naval uniform with gold buttonholes seems unlikely. The earliest picture (Hoffman, *c.* 1803–04) shows a red-plumed bicorn with gold ‘ties’, worn athwart; a blue seven-button *surtout* with gold-laced collar and pointed cuffs, gold anchor turnback badges, gold epaulette (left) and aiguillette (right); blue breeches with gold stripe and ‘dart’; gold-laced hussar boots; and an épée with gold knot suspended from a white waist belt with a rectangular gilt plate. This may have continued as a ‘service’ dress, Suhr showing a similar version with a plain ‘fore and aft’ bicorn, blue overalls buttoned at the sides, and a sabre with a black belt. Its plain appearance probably caused the adoption of a more elaborate uniform of a *chasseur* coat (aiguillettes were never worn on a dolman), though its date of adoption is unknown; Valmont shows what may be an intermediate uniform—the Hoffman style with two embroidered gold buttonholes on the collar and indented lace on the cuffs.

The *chasseur* uniform shown by Valmont comprised a red-plumed bicorn with gold loop and ‘ties’; a blue coat with point-ended lapels, gilt buttons, two gold collar-loops, indented lace on the pointed cuffs; aiguillette and epaulette; gold-braided scarlet hussar waistcoat; blue breeches with gold stripes and rows of gold ‘darts’ on the thighs (increasing in number with rank); gold-laced hussar boots; a gold-laced black waist belt with rectangular gilt plate; a sabre and a gold knot. Indented lace surrounding the collar and lapels is also shown in a contemporary portrait. Valmont’s eye-witness drawing of a *capitaine de vaisseau* includes a white-plumed hat and embroidered loops on lapels and

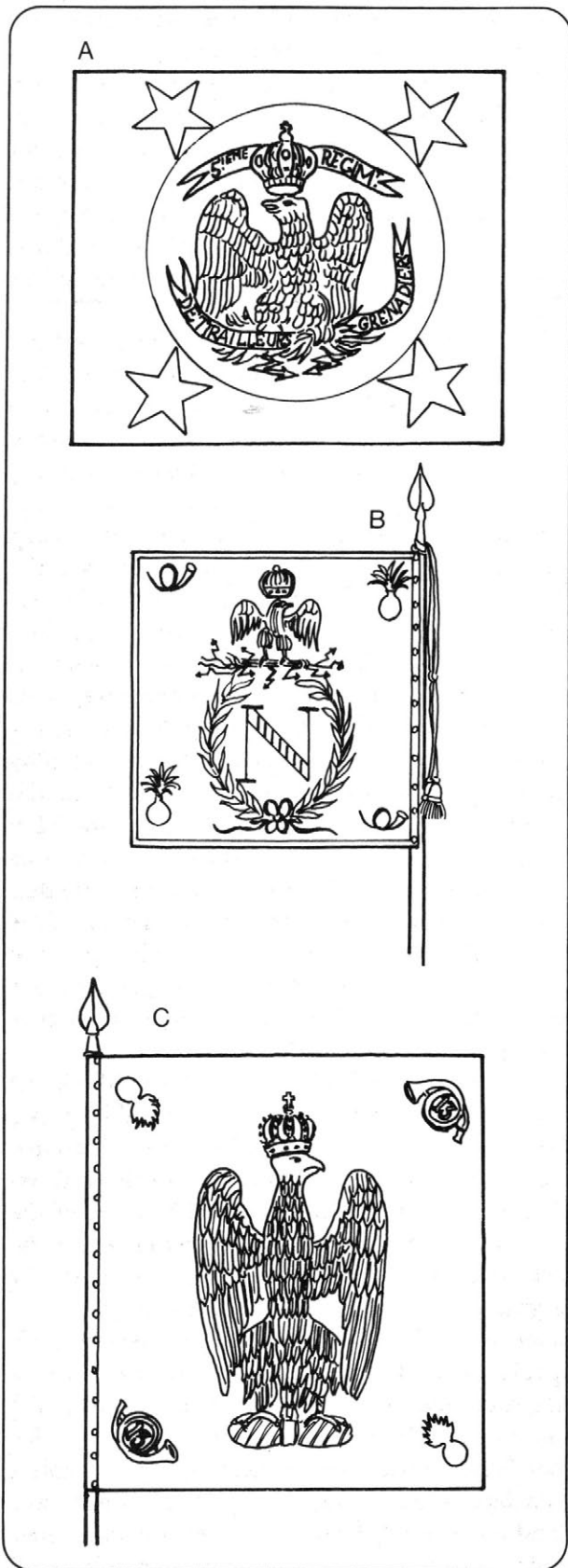


Colour, *Vélites de Turin*. White diamond with gold laurel border; alternate red and blue corner triangles (blue top left and bottom right) bearing gold grenades, wreaths and ribbons. Reverse side was similar, but with lettering: ‘GARDE/IMPERIALE/VALEUR/ET DISCIPLINE’. Gilded pike-head shaped as a stylised grenade.

collar, these probably styled as an anchor with a long shank wrapped with oak and laurel; and a blue, heavy cavalry-style rectangular shabraque with gold edging, an eagle in the rear corners, and triple holster caps—not the light cavalry shabraque which might be expected. Doubtless the *surtout* continued in undress, its length in front increasing to nine buttons.

Apparently the épée was replaced by a sabre around May 1807 (when officers were instructed to have both, the épée obviously reserved for walking-out and evening wear), and the belt changed to black leather with indented gold lace edging at the same time. The original plate was rectangular with a silver ground, gilt edge and device of an anchor with fasces around the shank and a scroll inscribed GARDE DES/CONSULS. From 1805–09 it was all gilt with convex edges, bearing a crowned eagle on an anchor surrounded by laurel; and thereafter rectangular, gilt, with crowned eagle and anchor





alone. Several extant sabres have slight variations of style, the scabbards either black leather or bronzed iron, both gilt-mounted.

Following Guard cavalry style, trumpeters should have been clad in sky blue faced with crimson; but as no crimson cloth is recorded in inventories it is likely that their sky blue uniforms had scarlet cuffs and waistcoat, with the red and gold lace of NCOs. Until 1809 at least they had gold trefoil epaulettes, and thereafter scales. Drum belts and aprons are listed as early as 1805, and a drum major and 14 drummers were noted in May 1807, all sanctioned officially in August 1809. Their undress uniform was sky blue, Suhr showing a *caracot* minus epaulettes, with orange lace on collar and cuffs, and the shako and trumpet with red and gold cords. Inventories of October 1810 note two grades of sky blue cloth, for full and undress uniform; but it is doubtful whether this style continued after 1812, when the 1810 issue was due for replacement, as Valmont stated that the trumpeters were dressed like the rest, supporting depictions in the Boersch and Würtz collections.

The drum major's uniform is unknown, Rousselot suggesting that of the drummers plus white plume, double gold lace on the collar and boatswain's chevrons. In August 1809 it was ordered that the drum major and musicians were to dress like other Guard bands, so the drum major may have adopted a bicorn, *habit* (coat) and breeches. The band of 19 plus boatswain-bandmaster was formed in October 1810, the only depiction of their dress (Würtz) showing a white-plumed, gold-laced bicorn; blue *habit* with pointed scarlet cuffs and square-cut lapels, gold trefoils and lace (including lapel loops); blue waistcoat, and laced breeches—though pointed lapels are probably more likely.

(A) *Fanion*, 5th Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, of totally unofficial design. Red flag bearing white disc, upon which is a gold eagle below a gold crown with blue/green stones and red lining. Eagle grasps tongues of flame from which issue lightning-bolts; white scrolls with black edge and lettering, '5<sup>EME</sup>/REGIM<sup>T</sup>/DE TIRAILLEURS/GRENADIERS'. Originally ornamented with four stars in corners, presumably gold, but now missing. Dimensions: 56 × 65 cm.

(B) *Fanion*, 1st Voltigeurs, Young Guard. Red field with silver/white decorations and edge; gold laurel wreath, crown and flames to grenades. Cords and tassels of mixed red and silver.

(C) *Fanion*, 13th Voltigeurs, Young Guard, c.1813. White with all decorations gold; red cap to eagle's crown. Reverse bore similar hunting horns in the corners, with the central motif of a large hunting horn, mouth nearest to the pole, with '13' in the central curl.

## Fusiliers-Chasseurs

No uniform was precisely established upon the creation of the Fusiliers, so the initial uniform was based upon that of the 'parent' units—Chasseurs and Grenadiers à Pied—with a shako instead of a fur bonnet.

The shako adopted in 1806 by the Fusiliers-Chasseurs was similar to the 1801 light infantry cap, minus lace, with a tricolour cockade on the left side, above which rose a short cylindrical green pompon with scarlet mushroom-shaped top; a brass crowned eagle plate; and simple white cords. An early Martinet plate (altered *c.* 1810 to include plume and epaulettes) shows no cockade loop and a cord ending in a tassel; whilst Weiland shows a white loop and button, and cords with two *raquettes* on the right. Tall plumes were issued about 1809–10, coloured dark green with a scarlet tip like those of the Chasseurs à Pied, worn at the left side in place of the pompon; as this may have unbalanced the shako, chinscales were probably added at the same time. Later, when new shakos were issued, both plume and cockade were transferred to the front.

Lacking guiding regulations, the administrative council of the Chasseurs à Pied had *chasseur* coats manufactured initially: dark blue with long tails, white lapels pointed at the lower end, scarlet pointed cuffs piped white, scarlet turnbacks, scarlet lining, and scarlet piping on the vertical pockets. Of inferior quality to those of the Chasseurs à Pied, the only difference in design was in the blue shoulder straps piped scarlet (instead of epaulettes), and white eagle turnback badges. Later (perhaps in March 1809, before the departure for the Austrian campaign) green epaulettes with red fringes and crescents were adopted; though only details of shako cords and pompons exist, *chasseur* epaulettes would have been available from stores, and it is known that among articles transferred from the Tirailleurs-Chasseurs to the Fusiliers in Vienna in 1809 were pompons, plumes and epaulettes.

Specifications of 1 May 1813 add several details, noting that the coat required eight large buttons (for the skirts) and 20 small; epaulettes are described as red, with no mention of the green strap, and the transverse straps of red braid; the waistcoat is noted as sleeveless, with 12 small buttons. The blue forage cap (*bonnet de police*) had golden-yellow lace, piping and tassel and no badge; and the shako

had a waxed cloth cover, plate, chinscales, pompon and plume, but there is no mention of cords.

Legwear was largely as for the Old Guard, with long black gaiters for full dress and grey linen for ordinary wear; white breeches (and waistcoat); and blue overalls (*pantalon de route*) of linen or cloth according to season—though the common grey-beige were doubtless also worn. Covers for the shako and perhaps the cartridge box were adopted in 1809.

The Fusiliers had much trouble acquiring their original equipment, due to the parsimony of War Minister Dejean. Replying to a plea for adequate winter clothing, Dejean stated that 'On a journey . . . conditions are not the same as on campaign . . . [the greatcoat] though useful, has never been considered indispensable. . . .' It required a sharp note from Napoleon himself to ensure that the Fusiliers received their uniforms, but they left for war without greatcoats—and still lacked them on their return to Paris in November 1807, when their uniforms, after almost a year's campaigning, were in a wretched state, shrunken tight and short-sleeved. The greatcoats issued at the end of 1807 were apparently blue, like a batch sent to the regiment in Spain in January 1812; but the May 1813 specifications describe them as grey, with twelve large buttons. Equipment was similar to that of the Old Guard: whitened buff leather shoulder belts with unstitched edges, supporting a black leather cartridge box bearing a copper crowned eagle, and a *sabre-briquet* with a white sword knot with green tassel and red fringe.

The majority of NCOs from the Old Guard retained their previous uniform, probably giving rise to some sources attributing the Chasseurs' grenade and horn turnback badges to all Fusiliers-Chasseurs. Rank markings were like those of the Old Guard, being inverted 'V' chevrons above the cuff: two orange for corporals, one gold for sergeants, two gold for sergeant majors, etc. Sergeants and above had gold intermixed in their epaulettes, as for the Old Guard; epaulettes of sergeants and *fourriers* (quartermaster corporals) cost 14.25 F per pair, and sergeant majors' twice that. NCOs' shakos had gilt fittings, and probably a gold lace upper band, with perhaps a narrower band immediately below for sergeant majors; their shako cords were mixed red, green and gold (19 F

for sergeants, 26.50 F for sergeant majors); and gold was mixed into their sword knots.

Officers originally wore their Old Guard uniform, giving a somewhat chequered appearance as half had come from the Chasseurs and half from the Grenadiers. All soon adopted Chasseur à Pied uniform (including gold grenade and horn turnback badges on *habit* and *surtout*, and horns on the epaulettes), with a shako instead of the fur cap—the usual practice throughout the Middle and Young Guard. The shako used in 1810 (and probably before) had a black velvet edging around the top, embroidered with a band of gold laurel and edged top and bottom with a triple gold line, the inner edges of ‘wolf tooth’ pattern; the velvet band at the bottom of the cap had plain gold edging. Plate, peak edging, chinscales and lion-mask or horn bosses were gilded; the cords gold; and the red-over-green plume rose from a gold tulip-shaped socket embroidered with spangles. Legwear, gorget, sabre or sword with gold knot, white plume for ‘staff’ officers, etc., were like those of the Old Guard.

Drummers appear to have been dressed like the rank and file, with golden-yellow lace on collar, lapels and cuffs (shown by the Boersch and Carl collections). The duties of drum major should have been undertaken by a *tambour-maitre* (drum corporal), but little evidence exists regarding his dress. The corps should have used the band of the Chasseurs à Pied, but on 21 August 1808 Bessières had organised a band to be shared by the two Fusilier corps—though a report of 23 January 1810 notes that each had a band. On 19 September 1810 the administrative council of the Chasseurs à Pied directed that, as it had not been regulated, the Fusiliers-Chasseurs’ band should be transferred to the Fusiliers-Grenadiers. They seem to have worn ordinary uniform plus gold-laced collar and cuffs, gold trefoil epaulettes, white plume, narrow waistbelt supporting an *épée*, and officers’ boots. *Sapeurs* were added officially to the regiment on 16 March 1813, four per battalion; but they had existed long before, Bessières noting in August 1810 that there were 16 per regiment. They wore ordinary uniform with fur cap and *sapeur* equipment as for the Chasseurs à Pied, with sleeve badges of white (or orange) crossed axes on red backing.

The Fusiliers carried no ‘Eagles’; Napoleon ordered that battalion *fanions* (flags for units

without ‘Eagles’) should be plain, without decoration so as not to be trophies for the enemy if captured; for the Fusiliers the *fanions* were ordered to be blue.

### Fusiliers-Grenadiers

Like that of the Fusiliers-Chasseurs, the uniform of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers was styled upon that of their parent corps, the Grenadiers à Pied. A German watercolour (probably by Kolbe) *c.* 1807 shows a long-tailed blue *habit* with blue collar piped scarlet (conceivably the coat lining instead of true piping), white lapels piped scarlet, scarlet cuffs with scarlet three-pointed flaps piped white, scarlet turnbacks and vertical pocket piping, and blue shoulder straps piped scarlet; another picture by the same artist, possibly slightly later, shows scarlet shoulder straps piped white, and turnbacks without badges. A picture of this date showing pointed-ended lapels is in error, the Fusiliers-Grenadiers having square-cut lapels like the Grenadiers à Pied. White cuff flaps were adopted, after a short time, and white eagle turnback badges probably in 1808.

The shako had a white lace upper band, a white chevron on the side, tricolour cockade with a white lace loop above a brass crowned eagle on the front, white cords with two *raquettes* at the right, and a scarlet carrot-shaped pompon. Between their return from Spain and their departure for the Austrian campaign in April 1809 they received tall red plumes and epaulettes; and a new shako with chinscales but without the white band, though retaining the chevrons. Marco de Sainte-Hilaire describes the epaulettes as white with two red stripes on the straps, confirmed by several illustrations (Berka adding a red crescent); others show a red strap with two white stripes, and Martinet red epaulettes with white crescent and fringe. The last uniform specifications (15 October 1813) mention only a scarlet *lentille* pompon, no plume, white shako cords and eagle turnback badges; and describe the epaulettes as having red straps with two white stripes, white fringe, and scarlet transverse strap lined white.

The remainder of the uniform was like that of the Grenadiers à Pied; white waistcoat and breeches, long black gaiters with copper buttons, etc., though campaign legwear is noted as light brown trousers (1807), off-white linen (1811) and blue (1811–13).



- 1: Seaman, campaign dress, 1807
- 2: Quartermaster, Seamen, full dress, 1811
- 3: Trumpeter, Seamen, full dress, 1808
- 4: Officer, Seamen, full dress, 1810



- 1: Private, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1806  
2: Corporal, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809  
3: Lieutenant, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809





- 1: Private, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1809  
2: Private, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1810  
3: Officer, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1810



- 1: Sergeant, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, full dress, 1809
- 2: Musician, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809
- 3: Drummer, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1809
- 4: Corporal, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, campaign dress, 1807





- 1: Private, 1st Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, 1809  
2: Officer, Conscrits-Chasseurs, 1809  
3: Sapeur, Conscrits-Chasseurs, 1809



- 1: Private, Voltigeurs, 1811  
2: Private, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, campaign dress, 1813  
3: Private, Tirailleurs, campaign dress, 1811  
4: Drum major, Voltigeurs, full dress, 1811





- 1: Sergeant major with fanion, 5th Tirailleurs, 1814
- 2: Surgeon, Tirailleurs, 1813
- 3: Private, 1st Co., 7th Bn. of Pupilles, 1812
- 4: Staff officer, Young Guard, 1814



- 1: Officer, Flanqueurs-Chasseurs, 1813  
2: Private, Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, 1814  
3: Private, Voltigeurs, 1815  
4: Officer, Tirailleurs, campaign dress, 1815





Shako and cartridge box covers existed in 1813–14 if not before. Equipment was like that of the Fusiliers-Chasseurs; no official mention is made of sword knots, which are elsewhere shown as either scarlet or white with scarlet tassel. The *bonnet de police* is described in specifications approved by Dorsenne on 15 October 1808 (and repeated in 1813) as blue with golden-yellow lace, piping and tassel. Greatcoats were initially blue, but apparently iron-grey was adopted in 1811 and confirmed in 1813; an unofficial style described by Bourgoigne was the manufacture in Moscow in 1812 of capes made from billiard cloth by some members of the regiment!

NCOs had diagonal rank bars like the Grenadiers, and epaulettes with gold crescents for sergeants and a layer of gold fringe over the wool for sergeant majors—though some probably retained their old uniforms, including turnback badges and NCO epaulettes of the Grenadiers à Pied. The upper shako band was gold for sergeants, with perhaps a narrower band below for sergeant majors, and the side chevrons were scarlet edged gold; shako cords and sword knot tassel were mixed scarlet and gold. For walking-out dress it is likely that the bicorn with red pompon was worn. Hairstyles of the Fusiliers are shown as a mixture of powdered ‘queues’ and short haircuts, the former more common in the early period and probably retained only by ex-Old Guard NCOs; moustaches may not have been compulsory.

Officers wore the uniform of the Grenadiers à Pied with a shako like that of the Fusiliers-Chasseurs, save for a scarlet plume and the design of upper band, which had a central line of gold five-pointed stars, sometimes enclosed in undulating lines, instead of laurel; chinscale bosses were usually styled as lion-masks. Boersch shows officers’ shakos with white chevrons, and a *chef de bataillon* with gold upper band and scarlet plume (?).

Drummers’ uniform is shown in the ‘Alsatian collections’ as ordinary uniform with yellow lace on collar, cuffs and lapels; Boersch shows a drum belt with a brass grenade over the stick holder, and sky blue drum hoops. At least four versions of drum major’s uniform are recorded (Boersch, Würtz, Boeswilwald, and a drawing by Bommer in Dresden in 1814), all with different details. As the *têtes de colonnes* of the Fusiliers were clothed by the

respective administrative councils of the Old Guard (anxious not to lavish large sums upon them), no records of purchases survive. Boersch shows a drum major in bicorn with gold ‘ties’ and scalloped lace edge, white plume over tricolour panache; officers’ coat with gold-laced collar, lapels and turnbacks, gold epaulettes, sergeant major’s rank bars; gold-laced white waistcoat; white breeches and gauntlets; officers’ boots; scarlet baldric bearing oval gilt plate holding miniature drumsticks with gilt grenade above and below; gilt-mounted sabre on a waist belt; and silver-headed mace.

Musicians’ uniform is depicted upon a Sèvres vase as ordinary dress with gold-laced collar and cuffs, gold trefoils, and an épée on a waist belt; no shako is shown but it probably bore the white plume usually identifying regimental staff. Boersch shows a similar uniform with gold-laced lapels and hussar boots. Drawings in Dresden in 1813 show musicians in campaign dress, wearing red-plumed bicorns and trefoil epaulettes, both with and without gold-laced collars. Another Sèvres figure shows a cymbalist in oriental dress: a white turban with gold-tasselled hanging end at the left and a white aigrette rising from a gilt crescent at the front; a gold-laced pinkish-red sleeveless bolero over a similarly-coloured sleeved waistcoat with gold lace on the pointed cuffs and (apparently) sleeve seams, with gold studs on the breast (?); a pinkish-red cummerbund with tails at the left side; and baggy white mameluke trousers tucked into scarlet hussar boots. *Sapeurs* probably wore a less elaborate version of that of the Grenadiers; Boersch shows a cap with white cords and red plume, and a coat with a sleeve badge of a scarlet grenade over crossed axes, outlined white.

### **Tirailleurs-Grenadiers**

At their inception, the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers were the first Guard infantry to wear a short-tailed light infantry *habit-veste*, with blue lapels cut in a point at the bottom and piped white; the jacket had a scarlet collar piped blue; scarlet lining; scarlet pointed cuffs; scarlet shoulder straps and turnbacks piped white, with white (or blue?) eagle turnback badges; brass buttons; and white piping *à la Soubise* on the coat-skirts and vertical pockets. They had white waistcoats and breeches, with gaiters extending only to the bottom of the knee; their black gaiters



**Flanqueur of the Imperial Guard: one version of the print by Pierre Martinet, showing a Flanqueur-Chasseur. Note the yellow plume with a green 'mushroom' top, and shoulder-straps with a scarlet transverse strap.**

had brass buttons and their white gaiters, white buttons. The shako was like that of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers, with eagle plate, white chevrons and cords and brass peak edging. The 1st Regt. had red-over-white plumes, and though the 2nd is recorded with red plumes, Martinet shows a white-over-red version, similar colouring to the later pompons of the 2nd Tirailleurs. (Hand-coloured versions of the Martinet plate are not always reliable, however, one showing (for example) a blue collar, white lapels and turnbacks bearing red eagles being

almost certainly in error.) NCOs had red and gold shako cords and side chevrons like the Fusiliers; gold turnback badges (eagles, or grenades for ex-Old Guard men); and Old Guard epaulettes—though one source notes white epaulette straps with two gold stripes, gold crescent and fringe; and it is noted that on 15 August 1809, at a parade to celebrate Napoleon's birthday, sergeants and corporals of the Young Guard wore epaulettes of the Guard for the first time. Equipment was like that of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers (including the white sword knot with red tassel); officers and *têtes de colonne* were uniformed like the Fusiliers-Grenadiers.

### **Tirailleurs-Chasseurs**

The Tirailleurs-Chasseurs wore the same uniform as the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, with the following differences: green shoulder straps piped red or white; green turnback badges (eagles, or eagles and horns); white shako cords, and green pompon. NCOs wore Chasseur à Pied uniform with gold turnback eagles and horns; green epaulettes trimmed gold as for the Chasseurs; and green and gold shako cords. Sergeants had an upper gold shako band 27 mm deep, and sergeant majors a second band just below, 14 mm deep. Equipment was like that of the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, with a white sword knot; officers wore the uniform of the Fusiliers-Chasseurs.

### **Conscrits-Grenadiers**

The Conscrits-Grenadiers wore a Fusiliers-Grenadiers' shako with white chevron, red cords and pompon. The blue, short-tailed *habit-veste* had a blue collar and square-cut blue lapels without piping (though the Würtz collection shows white piping); scarlet cuffs with three-pointed white flaps; blue shoulder straps piped scarlet; white turnbacks piped scarlet bearing scarlet eagles; and scarlet piping to vertical pockets. White waistcoat and breeches were worn with short gaiters, and equipment like that of the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, with red sword knots. NCOs had rank bars like the Fusiliers-Grenadiers, and officers were dressed similarly. Drummers wore ordinary uniform with yellow/gold lace on the collar and six sleeve chevrons, a Würtz alternative showing lace on collar, cuffs and lapels. Würtz shows a *tambour-maître* wearing a black bearskin with orange-laced red bag

and red plume, a brass grenade upon the sabre belt, and a brass-headed mace; and musicians with the ordinary shako with white plume over crimson ball; blue coat with gold-laced crimson collar, lapels and cuffs; white cuff flaps and crimson turnbacks; white waistcoat and breeches; officers' boots; and a sabre on a white shoulder belt. The big drummer has a white apron and gauntlets, and a blue drum bearing a gold eagle within a green wreath; and white gauntlets are worn by the cymbalist, a child.

### Conscrits-Chasseurs

The Conscrits-Chasseurs wore the same basic uniform as the Tirailleurs-Chasseurs, but with blue turnbacks bearing green horns; their waistcoats and breeches were blue, and their short black gaiters were cut to resemble hussar boots, with green lace and tassel. Equipment and shako were like those of the Tirailleurs-Chasseurs, with carrot-shaped green pompons, though Boisselier's reconstructions based upon regimental orders of the 2nd Regt. include spherical pompons. NCOs and drummers are shown with green epaulettes with gold crescent and scarlet fringe; white waistcoats are also shown, and the drummers have yellow/gold lace on collar, lapels and cuffs. Officers wore Fusiliers-Chasseurs uniform, although, as in most Young Guard corps, junior ranks and those not having served in senior corps could wear a uniform like that of the men, with a Fusilier shako and the long coat tails common to officers serving in corps whose rank and file wore the short-tailed *habit-veste*.

### Tirailleurs

The Tirailleurs wore the uniform of the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, with a number of variations. In 1811 red shako cords were adopted, but abolished in 1813. Initially the regiments were distinguished by their pompons: 1st Regt., spherical, red over white; 2nd, spherical, white over red; 3rd, a red *lentille* disc with white centre; 4th, white *lentille* with red centre; 5th, white *lentille* with blue centre; 6th, blue *lentille* with white centre. For full dress the 1st Regt. retained its red-over-white plume, and the 2nd and 3rd had all red. After 8 April 1813 ornaments were restricted to a brass eagle plate, brass chinscales and red pompon; even NCOs' shako lace was removed, their upper and lower bands being henceforth of black velvet, only *adjutants-sous-officiers* retaining a



Alternative version of the Martinet Flanqueur print, showing an almost spherical green plume with a small yellow 'stalk'.

gold lace upper band 27 mm deep. The 1812 uniform regulations, which introduced the *habit-veste* with lapels closed to the waist, did not apply to the Young Guard until April 1813, when the old pattern with cut-open, point-ended lapels was replaced by the new style, coloured as before. At the same date the *sabre-briquet* was withdrawn for all except NCOs and drummers, other ranks adopting the Line pattern belt over the left shoulder supporting both cartridge box and bayonet. In 1815 the same uniform was in use, but with scarlet epaulettes; NCOs used the epaulettes of the



Grenadiers à Pied, and rank markings in the chevron style common to all uniforms with pointed cuffs. Senior officers were dressed like the Fusiliers-Grenadiers, subalterns wearing a long-tailed version of the ordinary uniform, and, latterly, shakos without cords. Weiland shows an officer wearing Tirailleur uniform with white cuff flaps (seemingly an error), and an unlaced shako with gold cords and a scarlet plume with green base, with much more scarlet than usual.

On 10 March 1812 it was ordered that Tirailleurs' *fanions* should be white; some disregarded these orders completely, as the 5th Regt. carried a red *fanion* bearing a white disc emblazoned with an eagle, title scroll and stars in the corners.

### Voltigeurs

At the beginning of 1812 (if not earlier) the Voltigeurs adopted a jacket similar to that of the old Tirailleurs-Chasseurs, but with the *voltigeur* distinction of a yellow or *chamois* collar piped blue. Other features (pointed cuffs, light infantry pointed lapels) remained unchanged, though the turnback badges were replaced ultimately by green hunting horns, and green epaulettes with yellow crescents (gold for NCOs) were adopted. White waistcoat and breeches were worn, with gaiters cut to resemble hussar boots; the shako had white cords and a red-over-green plume over a green ball. Weiland shows this uniform (see our Plate F1) with a plume having much more scarlet than usual, and a scarlet sword knot instead of the green with red tassel shown by Würtz. Würtz also differs by having red collar piping, a green plume with a red tip, and a white shako chevron unconfirmed by other sources (conceivably an issue of grenadier shakos with the addition of *voltigeur* ornaments?).

The orders of 8 April 1813 introduced the *habit-veste* closed to the waist, coloured as before, with shako cords abolished, and a green spherical pompon instead of a plume; blue trousers came into use around this time, and the *sabre-briquet* was restricted to NCOs and drummers. A note in an 1813 equipment specification mentions brass hunting horn badges for the cartridge boxes, at 50 centimes each, though whether these replaced or augmented the usual crowned eagle badges is uncertain. NCOs' distinctions were as before, shakos having velvet bands after 1813. Officers

wore Chasseur à Pied uniform (with blue breeches in winter) with the Fusiliers-Chasseurs' shako, with gold cords until these were abolished in 1813.

As in other Young Guard corps, their usual undress consisted of a blue *surtout* (latterly with nine buttons on the breast), with turnbacks as for the *habit*, often worn with a black-laced bicorn with gold 'ties'. A 'campaign' variation noted by Rimmel of the 5th Voltigeurs was 'grey overalls with buttons down the sides, boots and blue waistcoats' which all NCOs were ordered to buy before leaving for Russia in 1812; they cost Rimmel his last 55 francs.

*Sapeurs* (shown by the Würtz collection) wore a fur cap with white cords and red-over-green plume, yellow crossed axes sleeve badges, and a grenade

**Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, 1813. (Left) Drummer: shako with white chevron, yellow-over-red pompon, red cords; green habit-veste with scarlet cuffs and wings, yellow/gold lace; yellow gaiter edging; brass drum with blue hoops. (Right) Sapeur: busby with red cords and bag, yellow lace, red-over-yellow plume over similar ball; green habit-veste with scarlet cuffs and epaulettes, yellow badges. (Print after H. Boisselier, based on Carl Colln.)**





over a mask-boss on the axe belt; and an NCO *sapeur* is shown without musket or pouch but with two pistols in the waist belt, probably with belt hooks. A drum major, after Würtz, is shown as our Plate F4. The anonymous artist 'El Guil' shows a drum major's campaign uniform in Spain: bicorn with black cover, blue *surtout* with gold-laced collar and cuffs, gold rank chevrons (unlike Würtz), gold-laced epaulettes, gold-laced red baldric, and ochre overalls. Würtz shows drummers in ordinary uniform plus gold-laced collar, and a *tambour-maître* with corporal's rank bars and a brass-headed mace with red cords. Musicians have ordinary uniform with white plume over white pompon, gold-laced collar and lapels, gold trefoils, gold-laced hussar boots, and sabre carried on a white waist belt; the big drum has the same design as that of the Conscrits-Grenadiers mentioned above, though the drummer has no apron; the cymbalist wears black gauntlets.

*Fanions* for the Voltigeurs were ordered to be red, as used by the 1st Regt., but decorated (contrary to regulations) with a silver eagle over 'N' within a gold laurel wreath, with grenades and horns in the corners; but the 13th Regt. had a white *fanion* with gold eagles and horns in the corners, a gold crowned eagle on one side and a gold horn with '13' in the centre on the other.

### Vélites of Turin and Florence

Both battalions of Italian Vélites were uniformed like the Fusiliers-Grenadiers. Officers and NCOs had scarlet plumes, and corporals and *vélites* a scarlet pompon; NCOs wore red epaulettes with gold trimming, corporals red and *vélites* white with red-laced straps; shako cords were white, and sword knots scarlet. Prince Borghese was inordinately proud of his Turin Vélites; he spent much time on their training, had them uniformed in Paris, and requested a band, a flag and additional expenses (he already paid his drummers 64 F instead of the usual 50). Napoleon refused the band and expenses, writing 'We could hardly propose . . . that an Eagle be awarded. . . . Only the regiments of the Old Guard have eagles. . . .' Nevertheless, in July 1810 they received a flag of 1804 pattern with grenades within wreaths at the corners; and on the central white diamond, on one side, the inscription L'EMPEREUR/DES FRANÇAIS/AU Blon. DE VÉLITES/



**Pupilles in the uniform decreed in August 1811 and which remained in force until May 1812: green *habit-veste* piped yellow, green shako cords, white shako lace; drummers' lace yellow and green. (Print after H. Boisselier)**

DE TURIN, and on the other GARDE/IMPÉRIALE/VALEUR/ET DISCIPLINE. A flag apparently captured by the Russians in 1814 was of 1804 pattern, with a central diamond bearing VILLE DE TURIN/DÉPARTEMENT DU PO—perhaps a *fanion* of the Turin Vélites?

### National Guards of the Guard

Though the unit was inaugurated on 1 April 1810, Curial reported on 27 June that the National Guards' uniform had still not been designed, and 'it is even more important to settle this question than to stop dressing this corps in clothing that does not belong to it, but which is nonetheless charged to its account'. He proposed 'a short coat with vertical pockets, white lapels and turnbacks piped red, red collars and cuffs; white waistcoats and trousers, black half-gaiters, shakos with yellow eagle plates, and yellow eagle buttons', which was approved. In style the uniform was like that of the Tirailleurs-

Chasseurs: blue *habit-veste* with white pointed lapels piped scarlet; scarlet collar and pointed cuffs piped white; white turnbacks with scarlet piping and blue eagles; scarlet piping on vertical pockets, and on blue shoulder straps. Its Line-style organisation (unusual for the Guard) resulted in each battalion having a company of *grenadiers* and one of *voltigeurs*; *grenadiers* had scarlet epaulettes, sword knot, shako cords, tufted pompon and grenade turnback badges; all these items were green for *voltigeurs*, with green horns on the turnbacks. *Fusiliers* had white shako cords and a tufted pompon in company colours—1st, dark green; 2nd, sky blue; 3rd, *aurore* (orange); 4th, violet. NCOs had gold intermixed in their shako cords and epaulettes; and officers were dressed as Fusiliers-Chasseurs.

### Pupilles

The uniform for the Pupilles was decreed in August 1811: shako with brass eagle plate, green cords and pompon; green *habit-veste* piped yellow on the collar, pointed cuffs, lapels, turnbacks, shoulder straps and vertical pockets; yellow turnback eagles; white waistcoat and breeches and short black gaiters. In theory this uniform was available for the 1st to 4th Battalions, while the remainder were uniformed in white to use up stocks of white cloth from the old Kingdom of Holland. Replying to a request for a standard uniform, Napoleon stated that the issue of white must continue: 'It is a question of economy.'

The 9th (depôt) Bn. had both white and green uniforms, and the colonel had to provide himself with one of each! A report of the 7th Bn. of 10 February 1812 reveals the degree to which economy had been taken; dressed in white Dutch uniforms, this battalion's 1st Company had crimson facings (see Plate G3); the 2nd, green, sky-blue and yellow facings; the 3rd, sky-blue, pink and yellow; and the 4th, green! Despite a well known illustration by Maurice Orange, however, there is little evidence that a white uniform with open lapels was ever worn, as the Dutch style probably persisted until the official sanction of both white and green uniforms on 6 May 1812, by which the green version had *chamois* collar and *chamois* piping on the lapels, shoulder straps, pointed cuffs and turnbacks; while the white uniform had green collar, lapels, cuffs and piping on shoulder straps and turnbacks.

Waistcoats were green with *chamois* collar and

piping to cuffs, or white with green collar, cuffs and shoulder straps. The shako had white chevrons, green cords with the green uniform, and white with white; the *bonnet de police* matched the waistcoat, with orange lace on green and green lace on white. Adjutants always wore the green uniform (with red and gold shako cords and epaulettes, gold lace upper shako band, and long-tailed *habits* as worn by officers). Greatcoats were grey-beige.

*Pupilles* carried the dragoon musket, though in the early stages they may have carried a scaled-down musket measuring 108 cm (3 ft 6½ ins) overall and known as a *fusil des pupilles* (not a contemporary term), the Liège proof marks on extant examples perhaps indicating their use by the Kingdom of Holland. NCOs, corporals, adjutants and musicians carried the sabre.

Drummers' regulations included the green uniform with *chamois* collar and 'swallow's nest'

**Private and officer, Pupilles, wearing the white uniform with green facings. Note the white chevrons on the shako. (Print after H. Boisselier)**



wings, and yellow lace on collar, cuffs, wings and lapels (including loops), and yellow and green shako cords; drum major, black busby with white plume over tricolour panache, gold cords, rank chevrons and trefoils, drummers' lace, gold-laced hussar boots; *tambour-maitre*, busby with gold and green cords, white pompon; musicians, same busby, gold-laced collar, cuffs, lapels (including loops) and gold trefoils, and a sabre worn on a shoulder belt. The *fanion* of the Pupilles was officially of tricolour design.

### Flanqueurs-Chasseurs

Reflecting their 'forester' origin, the Flanqueurs-Chasseurs wore a green *habit-veste* with lapels closed to the waist; green collar and lapels with yellow piping, and pointed cuffs shown either as green (Weiland) or scarlet (Würtz), with yellow piping, while examples of the Martinet plate show yellow collar and cuffs. Red turnbacks were piped yellow, bearing green horn badges; green shoulder straps were piped yellow, shown by Martinet with a scarlet transverse strap; and vertical pockets were piped yellow. White breeches were worn with black gaiters, either ending below the knee (Weiland) or yellow-laced and cut to resemble hussar boots (Würtz, Martinet). The shako was like that of the Voltigeurs, with brass eagle plate and chinscales; and a yellow-over-green pompon, either carrot-shaped (Weiland, Würtz), or spherical, though one state of the Martinet print shows an upright yellow pompon with green mushroom-shaped top, and another state a large green pompon with yellow base. Cartridge boxes bore brass horn badges; otherwise equipment was like that of the Tirailleurs, with *sabre-briquet* and grey greatcoat. Shako cords are not usually shown, except for officers and drummers.

Officers drawn from senior Guard regiments usually retained their blue Chasseur à Pied uniform (giving the Flanqueurs a somewhat piebald appearance on parade) with a Fusilier shako bearing gold cords and a pompon in Flanqueur-Chasseur colouring, or a plume. The Alsatian collections show mounted officers dressed in green, which may be in error, as senior officers would be likely to retain the blue, the green uniforms (like those of the other ranks save for the usual officers' distinctions and longer tails) being restricted to



**Pupilles, 1812. (Left) Musician: busby with green and gold cords, chamois pompon; green habit-veste with chamois cuff-piping and collar, gold lace and trefoils. (Right) Tambour-maitre: as before, but white pompon, green shoulder straps piped chamois over chamois wings edged gold. (Print after H. Boisselier)**

subalterns. The Würtz collection includes a drummer wearing regimental uniform plus chevrons of green and yellow Imperial lace on the sleeves, and white shako cords. The Flanqueurs officially carried yellow *fanions*.

### Flanqueurs-Grenadiers

The Flanqueurs-Grenadiers wore a uniform very similar to that of the Flanqueurs-Chasseurs, but with white (or yellow?) eagles on the turnbacks, and a Fusiliers-Grenadiers shako including a white chevron on the sides, red cords, and a spherical pompon of red over yellow (or yellow over red). Equipment was like that of the Tirailleurs, with a grey or grey-brown greatcoat and a single shoulder belt, only NCOs and drummers carrying sabres. Senior officers dressed as Fusiliers-Grenadiers, and subalterns in green long-tailed coats with closed lapels.



Among his reconstructions from dress regulations Boisselier showed a *tambour-maître* in a white-plumed, gold-laced bicorn, ordinary *habit-veste* with gold-laced collar, cuffs, turnbacks and lapels, sergeant's chevrons, epaulettes of a sergeant of the Grenadiers à Pied, gold-laced hussar boots, a sabre on a white shoulder belt, and a silver-headed mace. The Würtz collection shows a similar uniform but with a busby and corporal's chevrons; while Boesswilwald shows a drum major in a similar dress but with an officer's long-tailed coat, sergeant major's chevrons, white breeches with gold Austrian knots on the thighs, and a black busby with white plume above a tricolour panache.

Regulation drummers' uniform was like that of the other ranks, with mixed red and gold shako cords and lace on collar, cuffs, lapels, pockets and turnbacks; but the Carl collection shows a version including scarlet shako cords, cuffs and 'swallow's nest' wings with plain yellow or gold lace instead of red and gold. Boesswilwald and Würtz show the same for musicians, with gold trefoils and white plume. Carl shows a *sapeur* wearing a *habit-veste* with scarlet epaulettes and cuffs, yellow grenade-over-axes sleeve badge, and a busby with scarlet cords and bag laced yellow, and yellow plume with scarlet tip over a scarlet ball; Würtz shows a *sapeur* with a more conventional bearskin bonnet.

### Fontainebleau Instruction Battalion

The Bataillon d'Instruction de Fontainebleau was drawn from the regiments of Fusiliers, Tirailleurs and Voltigeurs; members wore the uniform of their respective corps. The cadre was drawn from the Old Guard and wore their regimental uniform, with the shako of the regiment to which they were attached.

## Campaign Uniforms

Many modifications were adopted on campaign, varying from the usual use of covered shakos, and grey, ochre, white or blue loose trousers, and the use of the undress *surtout* by officers, to more unusual variations occasioned by necessity or personal taste.

Imperial Guard status prompted regiments to maintain their best appearance despite conditions;

during the occupation of Moscow, for example, the daily noon parades were ordered to be attended 'in the best uniforms possible'. Ultimately shortages were severe, especially in 1813-14, when according to Napoleon's orders, '... there should be plenty of muskets and cartridge boxes. There are enough shakos in Paris. You will have to scratch for the rest ... under present conditions you can dress a soldier with a shako, overcoat, and pouch. ...' In 1813 an order specified that 'Coats will be worn under the greatcoats. On fine days generals may order the latter rolled over the knapsacks; but in foul or cold weather, or on night marches, soldiers must wear both coats and greatcoats.' Others ordered loose trousers 'of grey cloth, slit sailor-fashion at the bottom'. 'El Guil' shows Tirailleurs in Spain wearing locally-made greatcoats of brown Spanish cloth, piped red, with blue or blue-grey trousers with a red stripe, or white trousers, and shako covers bearing either a painted eagle or with the shako plate affixed outside the cover (see Plate F3).

Bourgogne of the Fusiliers describes his costume during the Russian campaign in October 1812, illustrating the scale of a soldier's impedimenta: regulation uniform plus a hazel-coloured riding cloak lined with green velvet, a pair of white trousers, a quilted yellow silk waistcoat made from a woman's skirt, an ermine-lined cape and latterly a bearskin poncho, the bear's head 'over my chest, and the rest over my back ... so long that it dragged on the ground'. He carried a large haversack on a silver cord, containing assorted loot including a silver and gold crucifix, a Chinese porcelain vase and a powder flask. His cartridge box held 16 rounds; and his knapsack several pounds of sugar, rice, biscuits, a half bottle of liqueur, a gold and silver-embroidered Chinese silk dress (intended as a gift for any lady who might catch his eye), several gold and silver ornaments, a lump of silver-gilt from the cross of Ivan the Great, two silver pictures measuring twelve inches by eight, assorted jewellery, and 'a Russian Prince's spittoon, set with brilliants'. 'Add to this a fair amount of health, good spirits, and the hope of presenting my respects to the Mongol, Chinese and Indian ladies I hoped to meet, and you will have a very good idea of the Vélite sergeant of the Imperial Guard.'

Perhaps the most bizarre campaign dress was that worn in the action near Nogent on 22 February



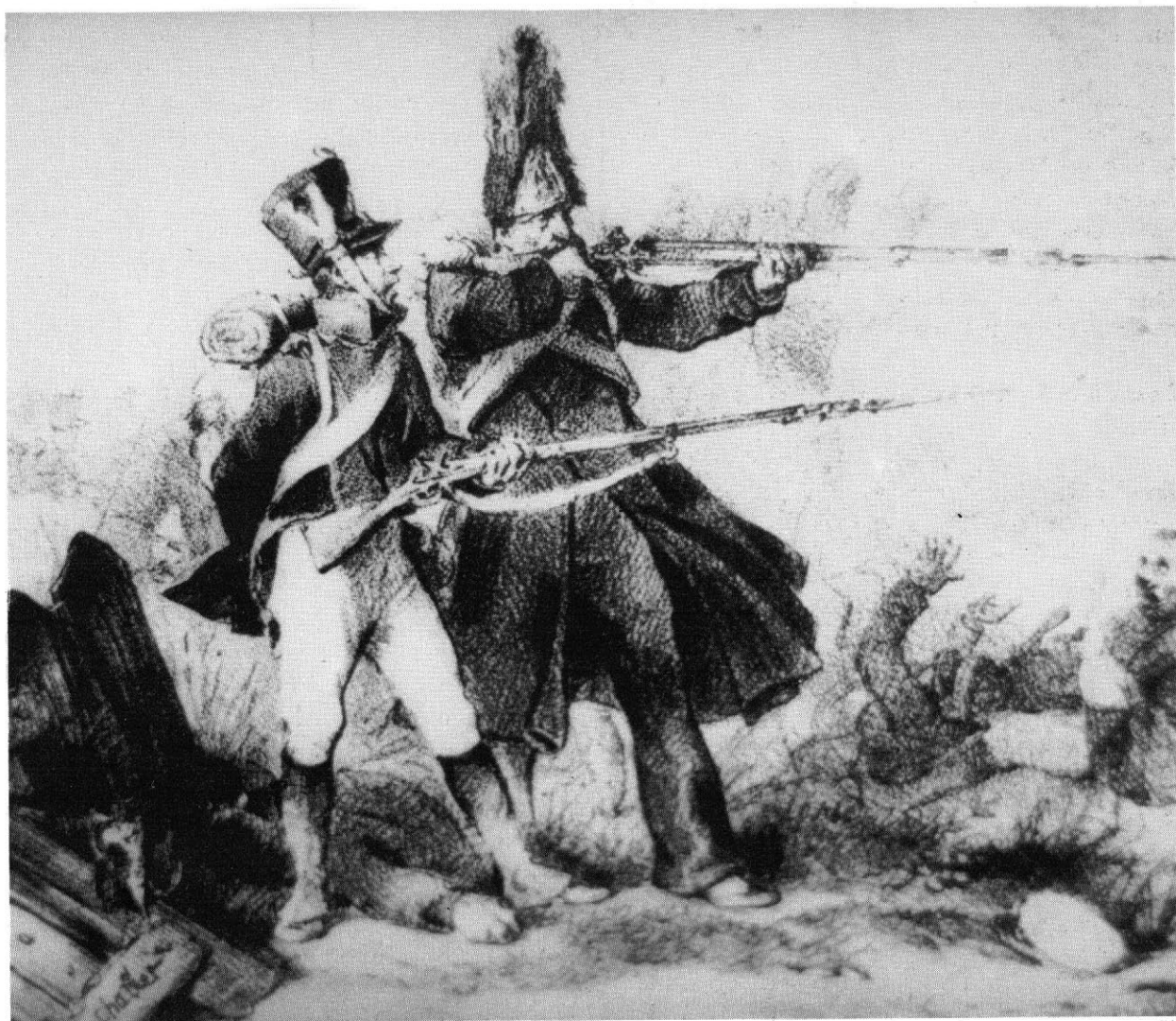
1814, when Young Guardsmen raided a costumier's store and fought in fancy dress and masks, it being *Mardi Gras!*

### Sources

In addition to the usual contemporary pictures and extant items of equipment, the work of certain non-contemporary artists is recommended, in particular Lucien Rousselot (*L'Armée Française*), J. Onfroy de Bréville ('Job'), Albert Rigondaud ('Rigo') and the artists of the Bucquoy series, some of whose work is found in *Les Uniformes du Premier Empire: La Garde Impériale* (E. L. Bucquoy, ed. L.-Y. Bucquoy & G. Devautour, Paris 1977). Histories of the Imperial Guard include *La Garde Impériale* (L. Fallou, Paris 1901), *Histoire anecdotique, politique et militaire de la Garde Impériale* (E. Marco de St Hilaire, Paris 1847),

and, most accessible, the magnificent *Anatomy of Glory* (H. Lachouque & A. S. K. Brown, London 1962), which is the English adaptation of Lachouque's *Napoleon et la Garde Impériale*. Basic details of successive changes in organisation and equipment are listed in *Guide à l'usage des Artistes et Costumiers . . . Uniformes de l'Armée Française* (H. Malibran, Paris 1904, reprinted Krefeld 1972). Among numerous memoirs, perhaps the most memorable is available in translation: *Memoirs of Sergeant Bourgogne* (A. J. B. F. Bourgogne, ed. P. Cottin & M. Hénault, London 1899; reprinted London 1979).

**'Mutual Instruction': print after Nicolas-Toussaint Charlet, symbolising the Guard of 1813-14—a Tirailleur of the Young Guard and a vieux moustache of the Old stand shoulder to shoulder.**



## The Plates

A1: *Seaman (Marin), campaign dress, 1807*

This figure wears the Seamen's campaign uniform of a plain *caracot* and unlaced trousers, with the regimental pattern of sabre suspended from a belt originally intended to be worn around the waist. He wears the initial shako with detachable peak, though Otto appears to show this with an eagle plate—probably an intermediate version between the original and the second pattern with side cockade, itself replaced by the fixed-peak version. The Otto picture showing black knapsack straps must post-date Henschel, who shows white, and thus can probably be dated to 1807. The belt plate replaced the original brass buckle.

A2: *Quartermaster, Seamen, full dress, 1811*

This illustrates the magnificent full dress of the

Seamen, as worn by a *quartier-maitre* (corporal), showing the simplified thigh knot of 1811, a third-pattern shako, and the addition of an anchor badge to the cartridge box belt. The full dress *paletot* (dolman) had slightly varying designs of braid, including some with additional tracery around the main lace. As in the French army, corporals were not officially non-commissioned officers; hence the orange braid of the rank and file, not the mixed gold and scarlet of sergeants and above.

A3: *Trumpeter, Seamen, full dress, 1808*

The trumpeter wears the musicians' initial sky-blue uniform (presumably replaced by dark blue after 1812), with NCOs' lace; the dolman is fastened only by the top three buttons to expose the waistcoat. The design of thigh knot was like that worn in full dress by all Seamen until the plainer version of 1811, as shown in Plate A2. (When the Seamen were re-created after Baylen, an abortive suggestion was made that as dark blue cloth was so expensive, the entire corps should wear sky blue; it did not find favour!)

**'Sire, you can rely on us as on the Old Guard!'—the Marie-Louises of 1814, in a print after Auguste Raffet.**



*A4: Officer, Seamen, full dress, 1810*

This illustrates the *chasseur*-style uniform believed to have been adopted by officers of the Seamen. The depictions showing officers wearing naval uniform may not necessarily be incorrect, but the style illustrated seems more likely.

*B1: Private, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1806*

This uniform is basically that shown by Kolbe: the first uniform, including white shako band, red cuff flaps, shoulder straps instead of epaulettes and red piping to the lapels. But for the head-dress and these minor features (and, at this date, the lack of turnback badges), the similarity to the uniform of the Grenadiers à Pied is obvious, and heightened by the adoption of white cuff flaps.

*B2: Corporal, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809*

This shows the regiment's classic full dress, with the white epaulettes with red stripes given by some sources. The shako has lost its upper lace but has the new chinscales and plume. Not officially an NCO, the corporal has rank distinctions limited to the two orange rank bars on each sleeve. Though some Guard-pattern muskets with brass mounts may have been used, at least in the earlier years, the standard weapons of the Middle and Young Guards were probably the infantry musket and infantry *sabre-briquet*, Guard-pattern weapons being reserved for the Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied.

*B3: Lieutenant, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809*

The uniform illustrated was that used throughout the Young Guard; most captains and above of all *grenadier* units (Tirailleurs, Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, etc.) wore the uniform of the Grenadiers à Pied, with a Fusilier shako which differed little between units, though the upper band sometimes included undulating lines to show gold stars within ovals. Chinscale bosses were usually in lion-mask form, though they sometimes displayed grenades or even hunting horns; Baron Rouillard de Beauval of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers wore the shako of this regiment with horn bosses as *chef de bataillon* of the Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, with a flat disc pompon bearing embroidered oak leaves in the centre.

*C1: Private, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1809*

This shows the second uniform of the Fusiliers-



**Crudely-produced cartridge box plate of cast brass, reputedly a battlefield excavation, which may have belonged to a Young Guard regiment, c.1813-14.**

Chasseurs, replacing the initial issue which had shoulder straps. Weiland shows perhaps an intermediate version, with scarlet lapel piping and no cuff piping (the latter probably an oversight), but with epaulettes and an all-green sword knot. Martinet's version is similar, but shows simple shako cords hung only at the front of the cap, which lacks a cockade loop.

*C2: Private, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1810*

In addition to showing the rear of the equipment, this figure illustrates the second version of shako, with a tall plume at the left side (shown to have an exaggerated outward lean by some sources) and chinscales. Note the re-styled turnbacks of c. 1810, the previous blue 'triangle' at the bottom of the skirts being eliminated. But for the head-dress and turnback badges, this was virtually the uniform of the Chasseurs à Pied.

*C3: Officer, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1810*

The officer wears the third version of the shako, with the plume (and cockade) moved to the front; the cap is identical to that of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers





The Elba Battalion landing at Golfe Juan: detail of an engraving by Friedrich Philip Reinhold from the series *Campagnes de l'Empire* (Vienna, c.1815). Both Grenadiers and Chasseurs à Pied are represented. Note the distinctive badges on the cartridge boxes, and the wide variety of legwear including blue, white and ochre trousers as well as some made from striped ticken. An officer in the middle distance wears grey cavalry overalls, buttoned at the sides, while others have bicorns. Some grenadier caps are shown without plates (presumably in error, or representing a temporary re-use of old Chasseur caps), while a cap in the foreground has both a Chasseur plume and a rear patch.

but for the plume and upper lace, the latter having the laurel decoration common to *chasseur* units. Otherwise, the uniform is that of the Chasseurs à Pied. Mounted officers, as in other corps, wore high-topped riding boots.

*D1: Sergeant, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, full dress, 1809*

The sergeant, probably a *vieux moustache* from the Grenadiers à Pied, wears his hair in an Old Guard 'queue'; his shako has the gold and scarlet chevron of Fusilier NCOs, and the upper gold band which was probably worn, though definite proof is lacking. Though many NCOs retained their

previous Old Guard uniforms, the man illustrated has Fusilier NCO epaulettes; again, evidence of their prevalence is inconclusive.

*D2: Musician, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, 1809*

This figure is copied from a painting upon a Sèvres vase, with the addition of an ordinary shako with the white plume which usually identified headquarters personnel. The Boersch collection shows a similar dress, but with gold-laced lapels and boots, while bicorns are shown in campaign sketches.

*D3: Drummer, Fusiliers-Chasseurs, 1809*

The drummer wears what is virtually regulation uniform, with the sole addition of gold lace on the facings, and the second variety of shako. The presence of the horn badge upon the drum belt above the brass drumstick holder is not established conclusively.

*D4: Corporal, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, campaign dress, 1807*

This *fusilier* wears the uniform for active service in

1807; despite later depictions to the contrary, it seems that greatcoats were never issued officially for this campaign (but may have been acquired unofficially by the individual?). The corporal wears an alternative design of epaulette to that shown in Plate C (red with white stripes), and has the common buff/ochre campaign trousers.

*E1: Private, 1st Tirailleurs-Grenadiers, 1809*

The Tirailleur-Grenadier wears the short-tailed light infantry *habit-veste* with blue lapels (unlike the senior Guard corps, which had white lapels) and a shako based upon that of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers. The scarlet shoulder straps were unusual, and the plume is in regimental colouring. Red shako cords sometimes ascribed to the Tirailleurs-Grenadiers do not appear to have been adopted until 1811, by which time the regiments were officially Tirailleurs. The original uniform and equipment cost 154.26F per man.

*E2: Officer, Conscrits-Chasseurs, 1809*

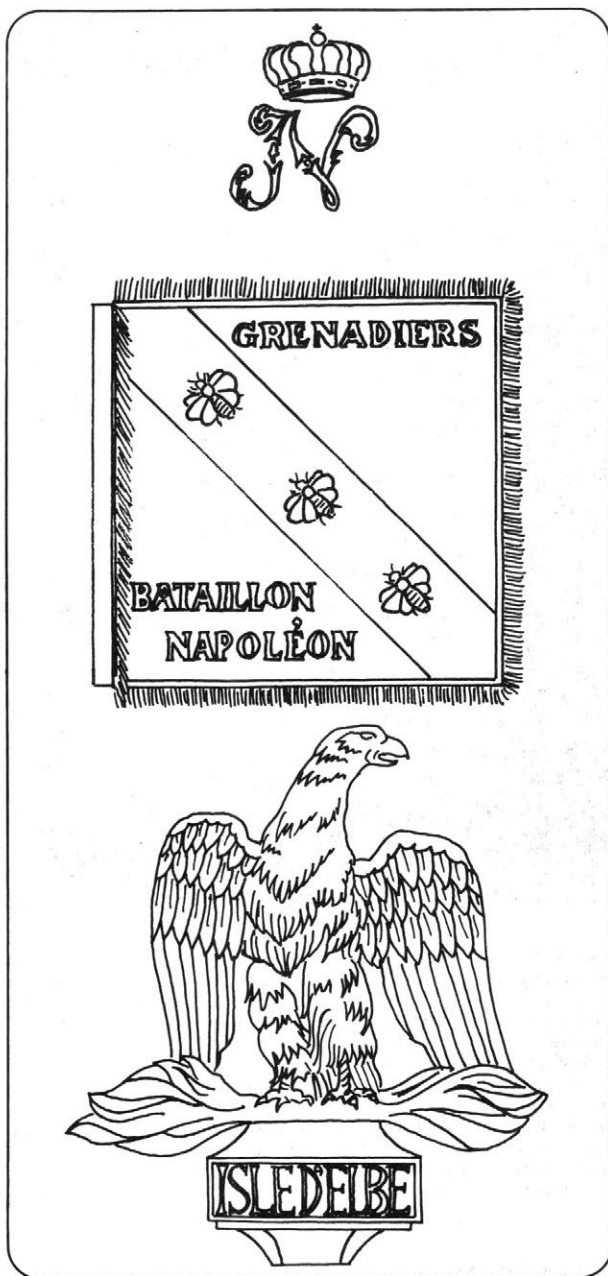
Unlike the field officers and most captains, this subaltern wears regimental uniform similar to that of the rank and file but for the usual rank insignia and the longer coat tails, with a shako of the Fusiliers-Chasseurs.

*E3: Sapeur, Conscrits-Chasseurs, 1809*

The *sapeurs* of the Young Guard were dressed in ordinary uniform with the addition of sleeve badges and sometimes distinctive epaulettes, with the bonnet and equipment of the *sapeurs* of the Old Guard. The man illustrated has the usual axe, apron, sabre (either a *sabre-briquet* or an eagle-headed sword) and carbine—usually depicted with bayonet fixed, as *sapeurs* seem to have had no provision for a scabbard. As usual, full beards were compulsory.

*F1: Private, Voltigeurs, 1811*

This figure is based upon Weiland, showing regulation uniform with minor variations: the plume has more red and less green than usually depicted, without the green ball at the base; the shako is without cords; knee gaiters replace the type cut to resemble hussar boots; and the sword knot is scarlet. The shako plate used by the Young Guard apparently varied, some types having an eagle



Colour of the Elba Battalion, ordered by Napoleon in May 1814 and made in Naples in the Tuscan colours. White flag bearing a diagonal scarlet band embroidered with three yellow bees; inscriptions in crimson lettering. The reverse was plain apart from the band, with a yellow crowned 'N' centred upon it (as above).

(Below) the Elba 'Eagle': a standard finial of carved wood carried at the head of the Elba detachment in the march to Paris upon Napoleon's return from exile in 1815.

seated upon a plinth bearing either a number or regimental inscription such as '1er Regt.'—though it is not certain to which corps these plates belonged nor at what dates.

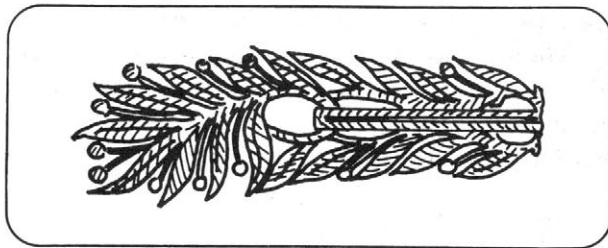
*F2: Private, Fusiliers-Grenadiers, campaign dress, 1813*  
 The Fusilier-Grenadier illustrated wears typical campaign dress of the 1812–14 period: greatcoat with epaulettes, and a covered shako with a cloth disc or *lentille*. The *habit* was sometimes carried in a ticken roll atop the knapsack.

Adrien Jean Baptiste François Bourgoigne (1785–1867), originally a *vélite*, was a sergeant in the Fusiliers-Grenadiers during the 1812 campaign, and wrote a memorable if harrowing account of his experiences. He recalled that the regiment's mascot was a poodle named Mouton, a stray picked up in Spain in 1808 which followed the unit to Essling, Wagram, and Spain again. It was lost in Saxony in 1812, until it recognised the uniform of a draft going to reinforce the regiment, and thus re-appeared in Moscow. Suffering from frozen feet, the dog was carried during the retreat by a veteran sergeant named Daubenton, whom Bourgoigne asked whether he was carrying it to eat it later. 'No', replied the old sergeant indignantly; 'I would rather eat Cossack!'

*F3: Private, Tirailleurs, campaign dress, 1811*  
 This campaign uniform is based upon 'El Guil', including a greatcoat of local cloth with red piping (probably made from the undyed wool of brown Spanish sheep). The shako cover may have been painted with an eagle—a common practice—or it is possible that the plate was re-affixed outside the cover.

*F4: Drum major, Voltigeurs, full dress, 1811*  
 After the Würtz collection, this full dress uniform is typical of that of Guard drum majors—though other sources show a red baldric and rank chevrons which appear to be missing in the Würtz figure. The coat includes the distinctive yellow or *chamois* collar of the Voltigeurs.

*G1: Sergeant major with fanion, 5th Tirailleurs, 1814*  
 As described in the text and illustrated in black and white, the sergeant major carries a regimental *fanion* of non-regulation design, its inscription retaining the old appellation TIRAILLEURS-GRENADIERS. He wears the new *habit-veste* with closed lapels introduced in 1813, with a simplified shako no longer bearing lace, plume or cords. He is armed only with a sabre.



Embroidered loop on collar, Surgeon, Tirailleurs (Plate G2).

*G2: Surgeon, Tirailleurs, 1813*  
 The surgeon wears a regimental version of medical uniform: a *surtout* (rather unusually with an *aiguillette*), a crimson collar bearing two gold embroidered loops, gold grenade turnback badges, pointed cuffs, and the usual Guard officers' belt plate of a crowned eagle surrounded by laurel and oak. Medical officers often wore uniforms of the regiment to which they were attached; when Larrey lost his hat in Poland, for example, he wrote home for a new one, specifying that it should be that of a colonel of the Grenadiers à Pied.

Under Baron Larrey, the most brilliant surgeon of his age, the medical services of the Guard were unequalled. After Aspern-Essling and Wagram, of 1,200 wounded Guardsmen, 600 soon returned to their units and 250 returned to France; only 145 died—incredible statistics for the primitive field medical conditions of the time. Larrey was also a master of improvisation; when he ran out of bandages at Vitebsk in 1812 he used parchments from the city archives instead!

*G3: Private, 1st Company, 7th Battalion of Pupilles, 1812*  
 Though this uniform was not the commonest worn by the Pupilles, it is illustrated to demonstrate the economical re-use of Dutch uniforms in 1811–12, the 7th Bn. having five different facing colours. The later green and white uniforms were cut in French style instead of the Dutch style illustrated; and the French shakos had white side chevrons.

*G4: Staff officer, Young Guard, 1814*  
 After a Langlois painting (post-Empire), this figure shows the uniform of Henri, Baron de Rottembourg, as *général de division*, his rank when commanding the 5th to 8th Tirailleurs in Oudinot's Corps in 1814. The laced *surtout* with *aiguillette* is unusual, perhaps (?) a coat of a Guard adjutant-general (which appointment Rottembourg had



held) with general's embroidery added. (Only in the Guard was the term 'adjutant-general' retained; in the rest of the army they were termed 'adjutants-commandants' after 1800.) The cavalry-style buttoned overalls were typical campaign wear.

*H1: Officer, Flanqueurs-Chasseurs, 1813*

Like Plate E2, this subaltern wears an officer's version of regimental uniform instead of the Fusilier dress normally worn by captains and above; and a Fusilier-Chasseur shako with regimentally-coloured pompon. It should be noted that contrary to some sources, the Flanqueurs-Chasseurs was the corps raised on 4 September 1811, not the Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, who were formed on 23 May 1813.

*H2: Private, Flanqueurs-Grenadiers, 1814*

The man illustrated wears the green uniform of the Flanqueurs, with a shako like that of the Fusiliers-Grenadiers, including the white chevron, with red cords and the regimentally-coloured pompon.

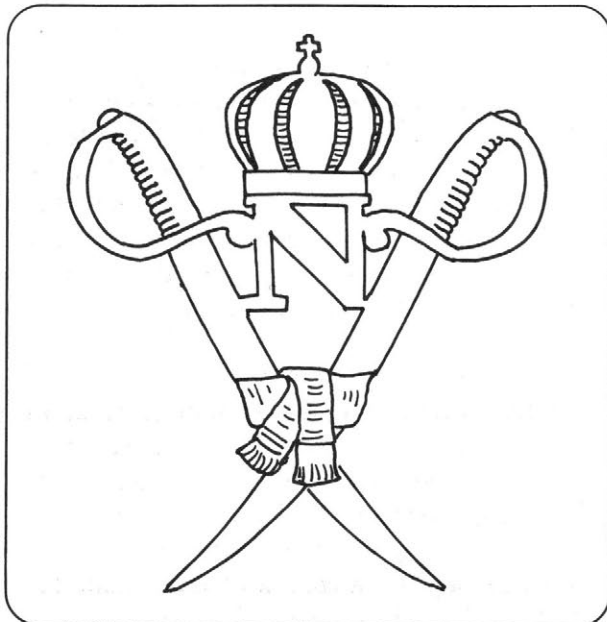
*H3: Private, Voltigeurs, 1815*

This figure wears the typical Young Guard uniform of the 'Hundred Days' campaign: the 1813 *habit-veste* with epaulettes, and a plain shako decorated only by an eagle plate (here of the type upon a numbered plinth) and a pompon, without lace or cords. Tirailleurs of 1815 were dressed similarly, with scarlet collar, pompon and epaulettes; the *sabre-briquet* was carried only by NCOs, the other ranks having infantry-style single belts supporting both cartridge box and bayonet. It is likely that many fought the Waterloo campaign wearing greatcoats instead of the *habit-veste*.

*H4: Officer, Tirailleurs, campaign dress, 1815*

The single-breasted undress *surtout* with colour on the turnbacks only was a common campaign uniform for officers of all units, sometimes worn with a greatcoat rolled over one shoulder—this not only carried personal possessions but acted as a rudimentary defence against sword cuts. The shako could be worn with a cover, but here displays the Fusiliers-Grenadiers' upper band, in this case with the stars enclosed by gold ellipses.

**Cartridge box badge, Pupilles of the Imperial Guard.**



## Notes sur les planches en couleur

**A1** Shako du premier type; *caracot* et pantalon unis; bandes blanches d'un type précoce sur le sac. La ceinture à sabre a initialement été conçue pour être portée à la taille. **A2** D'un rang équivalent à celui de caporal, cet homme porte des galons oranges plutôt que rouges et or. Notez le shako de troisième type; les broderies simplifiées de 1811 sur la cuisse, et un insigne en forme d'ancre ajouté sur la ceinture de la cartouchière. **A3** Cet uniforme bleu clair fut remplacé par un uniforme bleu foncé à partir de 1812. On voit ici la broderie complexe de cuisse d'une époque précoce. Notez les galons de sous-officier. **A4** Certaines sources présentent un uniforme du type naval, peut-être porté en variante de ce style chasseur.

**B1** Uniforme du premier type, tel que présenté par Kolbe. **B2** L'uniforme de tenue complète classique—notez les épaulettes blanches à raies rouges, décrites par certaines sources. **B3** A part le shako du fusilier, la plupart des officiers de la Jeune Garde portaient l'uniforme de leur régiment apparenté, la Vieille Garde.

**C1** Uniforme du second type, les épaulettes remplaçant les pattes d'épaule. **C2** Shako du second type, avec une longue plume à gauche; notez aussi les rabats de queue du manteau d'un nouveau style datant de vers 1810. **C3** Shako du troisième type, avec plume et cocarde à l'avant. L'uniforme est essentiellement celui des chasseurs à pied, porté ici avec des bottes de cavalerie.

**D1** Ancien soldat des grenadiers à pied, portant un shako avec le chevron rouge et or d'un sous-officier fusilier, et les épaulettes d'un sous-officier fusilier. **D2** Les sources varient: cette version est inspirée par une image figurant sur un vase de Sèvres. **D3** Shako du second type, et un uniforme de soldat ordinaire, avec seulement le galon d'or distinguant un tambour ajouté. **D4** Des paletots ne furent pas distribués pour cette campagne. Les pantalons de campagne couleur chamois sont typiques de l'époque. Notez les épaulettes un style en variante de celui présenté par l'illustration B.

**E1** L'habit-veste du style infanterie légère possède des revers bleus, et non des revers blancs comme celui de la Vieille Garde. Il semble que les cordons rouges des shako n'ont pas apparus avant 1811. **E2** Ce jeune officier porte un uniforme régimental, à la différence des uniformes de la Vieille Garde portés par des rangs plus élevés et de plus d'ancienneté. **E3** Les sapeurs de la Jeune Garde portaient un uniforme régimental auquel s'ajoutaient les distinctions conventionnelles des sapeurs.

**F1** Ce tableau est basé sur l'oeuvre de Weiland. Les détails de la conception du shako de la Jeune Garde varient dans les illustrations. **F2** Tenue de campagne typique avec un shako couvert et un paletot aux épaulettes cousues. **F3** Inspiré par l'oeuvre de l'artiste espagnol *El Guil*, ce costume comprend un paletot en tissu brun local et un revêtement de shako comportant un aigle peint. **F4** D'après des oeuvres de la collection Würtz; d'autres sources montrent également l'addition d'un baudrier rouge et des chevrons du rang.

**G1** Fanion non réglementaire conservant le titre des tirailleurs-grenadiers précédents: Il porte l'habit-veste de 1813 avec revers fermés. **G2** Version régimentale de l'uniforme médical, comportant un surtout; l'aiguillette est insitée. **G3** Exemple de réutilisation économique des vieux uniformes hollandais. Les rangs du 7<sup>e</sup> bataillon ne comprenaient pas moins de cinq couleurs différentes pour parements! **G4** Un tableau de Langlois présente cet uniforme tel que porté par le Baron de Rottembourg comme général commandant la division formée par les 5<sup>e</sup>, 6<sup>e</sup>, 7<sup>e</sup> et 8<sup>e</sup> tirailleurs en 1814.

**H1** Version pour officier de l'uniforme du régiment, au lieu du costume de fusilier normal pour capitaines et rangs supérieurs. **H2** Uniforme vert des flanqueurs, au shako similaire à celui des fusiliers-grenadiers. **H3** Typique des Cent-jours, l'habit-veste de 1813 est porté avec un shako simple. **H4** Le surtout constituait un uniforme de campagne commun pour les officiers de toutes les unités. La bande supérieure de ce shako est celle des fusiliers-grenadiers.

## Farbtafeln

**A1** Tschako im Originalmuster. Einfacher *Caracot* mit Hose. Weisse Riemen im alten Stil am Tornister. Der Säbelgürtel wurde ursprünglich um die Taille getragen. **A2** Rangmässig etwa ein Obergefreiter mit orangenen und nicht rot-goldenen Auszeichnungen aus Spitze. Beachten Sie das dritte Tschakomuster. Einfach bestückte Hose aus dem Jahre 1811 sowie Ankerabzeichen und Patronengürt. **A3** Im Jahre 1812 wurde diese himmelblaue Uniform durch die dunkelblaue ersetzt. Hier sehen Sie die ursprünglichen, kompliziert bestickten Hosen. Beachten Sie die Spitzenauszeichnungen des Unteroffiziers. **A4** Einige Quellen weisen auf eine Uniform im Marinestil hin, die eventuell als Alternative zu diesem *Chasseur*-Stil getragen wurde.

**B1** Uniform im Originalmuster gemäss Kolbe. **B2** Klassische Dienstiniform; beachten Sie die weissen Epauletten mit roten Streifen (gemäss verschiedenen Quellen). **B3** Ausser dem *Fusilier*-Tschako trugen die meisten Offiziere der Jungen Garde die Uniform höheren Regiments der Alten Garde.

**C1** Das zweite Uniformmuster mit Epauletten als Ersatz für die Schulterriemen. **C2** Das zweite Tschakomuster mit grosser Feder auf der linken Seite. Beachten Sie den neuen Rockschoss aus dem Jahre 1810. **C3** Das dritte Tschakomuster hat Feder und Kokarde vorn. Die Uniform ist im Grunde die der *Chasseurs à Pied*, hier mit Reitstiefeln.

**D1** Ein ehemaliger Soldat der *Grenadiers à Pied*. Er trägt einen Tschako mit dem rot-goldenen Winkel und Epauletten eines *Fusilier*-Unteroffiziers. **D2** Unterschiedliche Quellen: diese Version wurde einer Zeichnung auf einer Sèvres-Vase entnommen. **D3** Das zweite Tschakomuster sowie eine gewöhnliche Soldatenuniform. An der goldenen Spitze erkennt man den Trommler. **D4** In diesem Feldzug wurden keine Mäntel ausgegeben. Die lederfarbene Hose ist für diesen Zeitraum typisch. Beachten Sie die Epauletten, eine Alternative zu Beschreibung B.

**E1** Im Gegensatz zum weissen Revers der Alten Garde had diese *Habit-Veste* der leichten Infanterie ein blaues Revers. Rote Tschako-Kordeln wurden anscheinend erst 1811 eingeführt. **E2** Ältere Offiziere mit längerer Dienstzeit trugen die Uniform der Alten Garde, aber dieser junge Offizier trägt eine Regimentsuniform. **E3** Die *Sapeurs* der Jungen Garde trugen eine Regimentsuniform mit den üblichen *Sapeur*-Merkmalen.

**F1** Dieses Bild beruht auf Weilands Werk. Der Tschako der Jungen Garde unterschied sich durch eine Reihe von Merkmalen. **F2** Typische Feldzuguniform mit bedecktem Tschako und einem Mantel mit Epauletten. **F3** Diese Uniform beruht auf einem Werk des spanischen Künstlers *El Guil*. Sie besteht aus einem Mantel aus einheimischem, braunem Stoff sowie einer Tschakobedeckung mit aufgemaltem Adler. **F4** Die Quelle hierfür ist ein Werk aus der Würtz-Kollektion. Andere Quellen weisen auf ein rotes Wehrgehenk und Rangwinkel hin.

**G1** Nicht regulärer *Fanion* mit dem Titel der ehemaligen *Tirailleurs-Grenadiers*. Er trägt die *Habit-Veste* aus dem Jahre 1813 mit geschlossenem Revers. **G2** Die Regimentsversion einer Sanitäteruniform, bestehend aus einem *Surtout*. Die *Aiguillette* ist sehr ungewöhnlich. **G3** Sparsamkeit halber wurden holländische Uniformen wiederverwendet. Die Mannschaften des 7. Bataillons hatten nicht weniger als fünf verschiedene Farben! **G4** Ein Gemälde von Langlois zeigt diese Uniform, die hier vom Baron de Rottembourg getragen wird. Er war General und hatte im Jahre 1814 die Division aus den 5. und 8. *Tirailleurs* unter sich.

**H1** Eine Offiziersversion der Regimentsuniform. Sie war anstatt der *Fusilier*-Uniform für Hauptmann und höhere Ränge üblich. **H2** Die grüne Uniform der Flanqueurs. Der Tschako ähnelt dem der *Fusilier-Grenadiers*. **H3** Die für die 'Hundert Tage' typische *Habit-Veste* aus dem Jahre 1813, hier mit einem einfachen Tschako. **H4** Der *Surtout* gehörte zur allgemeinen Felduniform von Offizieren aller Einheiten. Am oberen Band dieses Tschakos erkennt man die Verbindung zu den *Fusiliers-Grenadiers*.

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