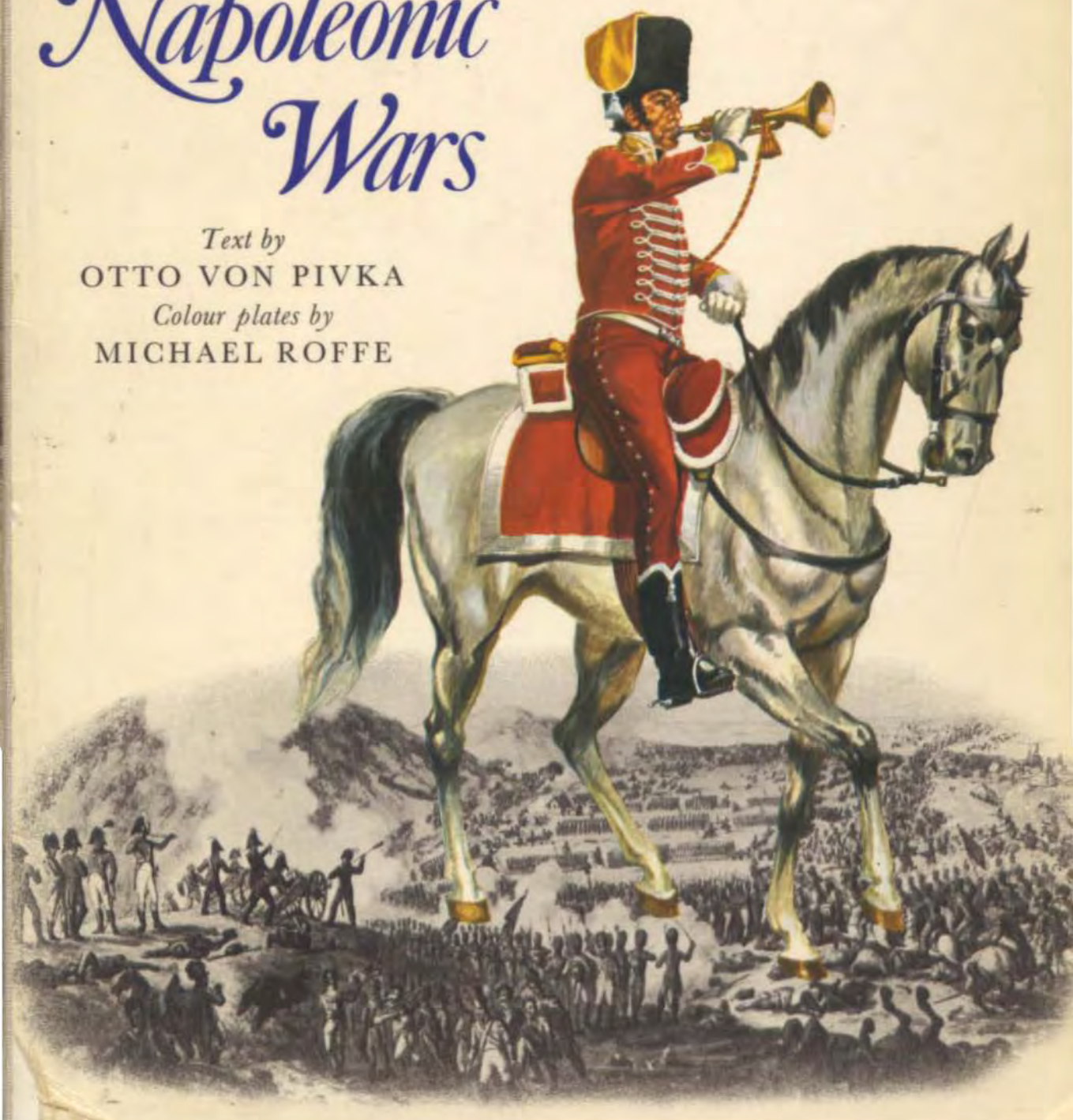


# *Spanish Armies of the Napoleonic Wars*

*Text by*  
OTTO VON PIVKA

*Colour plates by*  
MICHAEL ROFFE



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#### SOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS BOOK

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# Spanish Armies of the Napoleonic Wars

## Spain in the Napoleonic Era

Spain's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars came about largely as a result of the unstable political situation in the Iberian Peninsula at that time and her resulting weak and vacillating policies which caused Napoleon, Emperor of the French, to act in order to fill the power vacuum thus caused.

For years Britain and France had been at war and the situation in 1806 was that France had achieved almost undisputed control of the European mainland while Britain ruled the seas around the world. Neither great power was able to attack the other in the environment of its choosing, so military engagements fell into the background while the main focus of attention moved into the field of trade and commerce. Napoleon established the 'Continental System' over all countries in his sphere of influence by which they were forbidden to import English goods or goods which were carried in English ships. This cut Britain's Continental trade almost to nothing and only smuggling kept the Continent supplied with the exotic imports which they had come to regard as essential. By his rigorous enforcement of this blockade against Britain, Napoleon struck at the Royal Navy's battle efficiency as they had previously drawn almost all their spars and tackle from the Baltic area.

One of the last remaining inlets for British goods into Napoleonic Europe was via Portugal's ports and across Spain. Portugal was allied to Britain, Spain to France. Both were then relatively backward countries with weak and ineffective monarchies. The Bourbon dynasty had been on the Spanish throne since the line of old Spanish Habsburg kings had died out. Within a century



Spanish officer of hussars, Regimiento Maria-Luisa. This figure is taken from Goddard and Booth's work, 'Representations of the Principal European Armies'. The shako shown here is somewhat bell-topped and is not of the type given in the 'Coleccion de Noventa y Siete Estampas'. I think this picture is the less reliable. Uniform details are given in the relevant section of this book (National Army Museum)

this dynasty had exhausted itself and was under the effective dictatorship of the 'Prince of Peace' Manuel Godoy. From humble beginnings Godoy had worked himself into this powerful position by subtle and active exploitation of the favouritism



Spanish officer of artillery: From Goddard and Booth, again differing from the 'Collection' of 1806. In particular the mysterious squiggle of a collar badge and the excess of buttons on the cuff flap make Goddard's figure slightly unreliable (National Army Museum)

of Queen Maria Luisa of Spain who completely controlled her weak husband, Charles IV. An adventurer, Godoy was also a squanderer on imperial scale and enraged both the Spanish nobility and the people by his blatant self interest. In 1807 the Spanish national debt had risen to a record 1,200 million reales but Godoy's personal fortune had increased to 525 millions. The state had practically no sources of income, almost all financial matters passed through Godoy's hands and he constantly benefited from this situation. The army, then 50,000-60,000 strong, had not been paid for months and the soldiers' uniforms hung in tatters. To survive, the common men were reduced to begging or to carrying out public work. In contrast to these poor creatures, there

was a host of 'active' officers all on full pay; they included five captain generals, 127 field marshals, 87 lieutenant-generals, 252 brigadiers and 2,000 colonels.

Since 1795 Spain and France had been allies but this had given neither state any particular advantages. Spain, as an ally of Britain's arch-enemy, had been correspondingly treated and had lost her fleet and many of her American colonies to England. Prior to the Franco-Prussian War of 1806, Russia had intrigued with Godoy in Spain in an attempt to win Spain over to the anti-Napoleonic Coalition. The offer was attractive and the chances that the Prussians would defeat Napoleon were fairly highly fancied in European circles at this time. No one suspected that the Army which Frederick the Great had forged was now just an outmoded and fossilised remnant of its former self. On 5 October 1806 (just before the twin battles of Jena and Auerstädt on 14 October 1806 which were to smash Prussia's army into fragments before an astounded Europe) Godoy announced the mobilisation of the Spanish Army and, although Napoleon's name was not mentioned specifically, no one reading the document of mobilisation could be left in much doubt as to who was to be the object of the army's attention.

News of Napoleon's victories in Prussia caused the mobilisation to be cancelled hastily and sent Godoy into a frenzied panic of damp fawnings on the conqueror which reached almost oriental depths of obsequiousness. Godoy assured the Emperor that the mobilisation had been directed against Portugal (England's oldest and, by now, only free surviving European ally), and sought to avert Napoleon's well-justified rage with a spate of expensive gifts including four of the most beautiful Spanish thoroughbred horses as replacement for one of the same breed which the Emperor had lost in the recent campaign.

Napoleon was prepared to leave Spain as she was for a little longer, provided he could use her to bring about the conquest of Portugal, a land in a state similar to that of Spain and ruled by the Prince Regent João in place of his mother, Queen Maria I, who was mentally ill. A French ultimatum to Portugal demanded that she close all her harbours to English shipping by 1 September



Spanish Army: (1) Canonier, Royal Artillery. (2) Fusilier of the 1st Regimento de Estramadura. (3) Dragoon of the Regimento de Zamora (from Goddard and Booth): The artilleryman looks quite authentic and the fusilier is wearing his fatigue cap in the facing colour (crimson) and white with a regimental badge on the front. Normal headwear would have been the bicorne. The long black gaiters were worn in summer and in winter. The Dragoon is impossible to place; there was no regiment of dragoons entitled de Zamora but the yellow coat and the equipment certainly indicate a dragoon regiment. The black facings lead us to the regiment 'de Numancia' but the collar badge (crossed sabre and palm) is missing (National Army Museum)

1807, intern all Englishmen then in Portugal and confiscate all English goods. João refused (the British fleet would have destroyed Lisbon and taken Brazil if he had not!) and the pre-planned Franco-Spanish invasion of Portugal was set in motion.

A treaty enabling French forces to enter Spain had been signed at Fontainebleau on 27 October 1807 by the Spanish ambassador Esquierdo and the Grand Marshal Duroc. For this task General Junot was to invade Portugal with 26,000 French troops, Spain was to aid him with 10,000 and was

to provide a further 17,000 men to garrison Portugal after the end of the conquest. Portugal was to be split into three parts. One of these (the northern area between the rivers Duero and Minho) was to become the 'Kingdom of North Lusitania' and was to be given to the Queen of Etruria as compensation for the loss of Tuscany. The southern provinces of Alemtejo and the Algarve were to go to Godoy, while the central area was to remain under French administration until 'peace reigned in Europe'. The Portuguese colonies were to be divided between France and Spain and Charles IV was to receive the title 'Emperor of America'.



Spanish officer of heavy horse, Regimiento Carabineros de la Reyna: Once again, the squiggle collar badge spoils this otherwise excellent plate from Goddard and Booth. The badge should have been a rampant lion. The cuffs are also suspect; the Spanish heavy cavalry wore plain round cuffs at this time without cuff flaps (National Army Museum)

On 13 November 1807 the *Moniteur* announced laconically: 'The regent of Portugal has lost his throne. The removal of the House of Braganza is new proof of the unavoidable destruction of those who support England.'

As the Portuguese army was in no better state than that of Spain, and as effective British military assistance with Portugal could not be realised within the time allowed, King João, accompanied by his family and 15,000 retainers, fled to Brazil escorted by a British squadron under Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, and set up a kingdom in exile in Rio de Janeiro. Portugal thus fell into Napoleon's hands without a struggle, and he immediately turned his attentions to his faithful ally, Spain.

The major part of the Spanish army was now in Portugal, and General Dupont d'Etlang, with 40,000 men destined to reinforce Junot's corps, provided Napoleon with the tool with which to grasp the Spanish prize. Godoy saw the danger too late and began to form plans to take the Spanish Court to South America after the Portuguese example.

The Infante Ferdinand of the Asturias, however, disrupted Godoy's intentions by organising a palace revolution against his father (King Charles IV), mother (Queen Maria Luisa) and her favourite (Godoy) with the aim of taking the Spanish throne for himself. On the 29 October 1807 Napoleon was told of the intrigue by a letter from King Charles. A few weeks prior to this the Infante Ferdinand had also written to the Emperor asking for the hand of a French princess to replace his first wife (the daughter of ex-queen Marie Caroline of Naples—dethroned by Napoleon to make way for his brother Joseph.) Seizing this opportunity of intervention in Spanish court affairs as a cloak under which to take Spain for himself, Napoleon thus made the fateful decision to involve himself and his armies in a long and bitterly costly war which sucked away the strength of his military machine year by year, denying him the services of troops more and more desperately needed on other fronts.

On 2 December 1807 the Emperor met his brother Joseph in Venice and offered him the Spanish throne, but Joseph—apparently aware of the situation in that country—gave no immediate answer. The Emperor ruminated in Paris



for the winter and dedicated himself to the reconstruction of his capital city. General Dupont's army was now established between Burgos and Valladolid, poised to do the Emperor's bidding.

On 18 March 1808 Godoy attempted to persuade the Spanish royal family to move to Seville (which was yet free of French troops) but Ferdinand seized this opportunity to try to topple his mother's favourite again and called upon the people to help him. Godoy's palace was stormed by a mob and the favourite clapped in jail. The weak King Charles needed little urging to abdicate in favour of his ambitious son and the happy Spanish mob proclaimed the prince of the Asturias 'King Ferdinand VII of Spain'. His dethroned father turned to Napoleon for help – Napoleon invited all belligerents to Bayonne. Ferdinand could scarcely fight his way out of Vittoria to go there – so insistent were his followers that he should not put his head in the lion's mouth. Napoleon had all Ferdinand's letters from Bayonne to his supporters in Spain intercepted and thus knew the extent of the new king's anti-French feelings. During this long and wearisome period of political dallyings, on 5 May 1808 Napoleon received news of the Madrid uprising of 2 May in which many French soldiers, including numbers of sick in hospital, were murdered by the Spanish mob.

This news galvanised Napoleon into action – there was a stormy and unpleasant meeting during which Napoleon declared that Ferdinand was no longer King and that he would put Charles back on the Spanish throne if he wished. Charles, however, had no desire to return to a land seething with hostile feeling to him and his party, and refused. Ferdinand gave up the Spanish throne on 6 May 1808 and ordered the Junta in Madrid to be loyal to his father and the Emperor. Meanwhile, Napoleon had worked out an edict with Godoy by which Charles IV renounced the Spanish throne in favour of the Emperor, and on 10 May Ferdinand did the same. The Emperor maintained friendly relationships with Charles IV and his queen until the time of his death on St Helena. Napoleon now transferred his brother Joseph from the Neapolitan throne to that of Spain and replaced him in Naples with his brother-in-law, Joachim Murat, previously Grand Duke of Berg.

Berg fell under Napoleon's personal administration.

On 9 July 1808 King Joseph left Bayonne with 1,500 French troops to enter Madrid and take up his new throne. The whole of Spain was united in a common cause – to throw this French usurper out of the country. The remnants of the Spanish army (about 35,000 strong) concentrated near Benavente under General Cuesta but were scattered on 14 July 1808 at the battle of Medina del Rioseco by Marshal Bessi res, commander of Old Castile and Leon, with half that number of French troops. On 20 July Joseph entered Madrid with a much reduced following but this



Spanish officer of infantry of the line, Regimiento de Irlanda: Having given collar badges (correctly) to the artillery and heavy cavalry, Goddard now donates them to this foreign regiment, a supposition not confirmed in the 'Coleccion de Noventa' of 1806 (National Army Museum)





The battle of Talavera de la Reyna, 28 July 1809: In the foreground is part of the Spanish army; the artillery and light infantry are at the left, a grenadier formation in the centre. The much maligned Spanish cavalry are shown gallantly attempting a charge on the right (National Army Museum)

achievement was counterbalanced by the loss of Cordoba in Andalusia where a revolt had broken out and General Dupont had been forced to withdraw. On 21 July Dupont's 17,000-strong French force was cornered by the Spaniards under the Generals Castaños and Reding and forced to capitulate at Baylen (Napoleon had Dupont cashiered for this). News of this French defeat (the first of any size in Napoleon's reign) caused Joseph to lose his nerve and flee Madrid on 29 July. The French forces in Spain (50,000 men under Marshals Bessi eres, Ney and Moncey) withdrew to the river Ebro, and the bloody and bitter guerrilla war which was to split Spain until 1813 had begun.

A detailed description of this tortuous and involved campaign cannot be given here; Oman's excellent *History of the Peninsular War* may be recommended to students. It suffices to say that the British landed in Portugal, cleared the French out and from this safe base gradually pushed the French armies back into France. Wellington (then the Marquis Wellesley, more slightly known as the 'Sepoy General' by his enemies) rose to fame during the years 1808-13 for his coolly planned

and executed campaigns here, in which his revised line tactics repeatedly shattered the much-vaunted columns of the French and their allies.

Prior to Joseph's arrival on the Spanish throne, England had been regarded as Spain's arch enemy. However, the Spanish Junta were quite willing to enter into pacts with the devil himself if he would help them get rid of the cursed French, so Britain was asked to help. Wellington's attempts to co-operate with the Spanish generals came to an exciting end when his army, after winning the battle of Talavera de la Reyna (27 and 28 July 1809) was left stranded without the rations, supplies and military support previously promised to him by the Junta. A rapid and costly withdrawal to Portugal saved his Anglo-Portuguese army from the superior converging French forces, and in future Wellington refused to operate with the Spanish unless he was given undisputed and full command of their army. The legendary pride of the Spanish nation seemed to reach hysterical heights in its generals during this war; their stubbornness, incompetence or stupidity repeatedly led them into crushing disasters. Only a blind and consuming hatred of the French invaders inspired their troops to come together to fight again after each defeat.

## THE SPANISH ARMY IN 1807

We must now examine the Spanish military more closely. In 1808 the Spanish Army consisted of the following units (all figures show the theoretical war establishment):

*The Guard* (Tropa de casa real):

Three companies of 'Guardias de corps' – 673 men and 8 guns

One hundred Halberdiers (Real guardias de Albaderos)

The Spanish Guard (Guardias de Infanteria Española)	} 6,184 men
The Walloon Guard (Guardias Walonas)	

The Royal Carabineers (Real Brigada de Caribeneros)

6 heavy squadrons	} 621 men
2 chasseur or hussar squadrons	

TOTAL: 228 officers and 7,350 men

*The Infantry of the Line* (1,521 officers and 87,984 men): Thirty-nine regiments each of three battalions of four companies per battalion, 188 men and 3 officers in each company. This very low officer-to-men ratio (normally a company of this era had about four to five officers) and the large size of the companies (about 100–120 men was more usual) made the Spanish infantry clumsy and slow in comparison with other European armies of this period.

*The Light Infantry* (228 officers and 14,400 men): Twelve battalions each of 1,200 men, all raised within the provinces of Aragon, Catalonia, Valencia and Navarre.

*The Swiss Infantry* (342 officers and 8,658 men): Six regiments each of two battalions of one grenadier and eight musketeer companies. In January 1810 Napoleon demanded that the Swiss government withdraw these men. \*

*The Cavalry* (1,104 officers, 12,960 mounted men, 3,120 dismounted men): Twelve heavy regiments, twelve regiments of dragoons, light horse and hussars. Each regiment of five squadrons consisting of three troops.

*Field Artillery* (675 officers, 4,000 men): Four regiments each of ten companies of 100 men.

Six companies were horse artillery, the rest foot artillery.

*Veteran Artillery*: Seventy-two companies.

*Artificers*: Five companies.

*The Engineers* (174 officers, 1,400 men): Two battalions.

This field army was backed up by the provincial militia (Milicias Provinciales) or 'Quintas' raised in the Crown Lands of Castile, consisting of four divisions of grenadiers each of two battalions. Thirty-eight regiments of musketeers each of one battalion and a Legion of cavalry. Each battalion had eight companies of 75 men. Total provincial militia strength – 1,230 officers and 27,600 men. There was also the local militia or 'Urbanas' with 363 officers and 9,317 men.

**Spanish Infantry Battalion Colour; see relevant section of text for description of colours**



In 1807 a Spanish division under General de la Romana had been sent to Hamburg and Denmark at Napoleon's insistence and the units concerned were:

*Divisional Commander* – General Pedro Caro y Sureda, Marqués de la Romana.

*Second in Command* – General Kindelan.

*Line Infantry* (three battalions each):

Regimiento de Asturias (Colonel L. Dellevielleuze)  
Regimiento de la Princesa (Colonel Conde de San Roman)  
Regimiento de Guadalaxara (Colonel V. Martorell)  
Regimiento de Zamora (Colonel M. Salcedo)  
TOTAL: 9,152 men



Two pioneers of the infantry Regimiento de la Princesa and one from the Regimiento de Asturias: This plate is reproduced from the famous work by Cornelius and Christian Suhr usually known by its French name of the 'Bourgeois de Hambourg', more properly by its native German title; 'Uniformen alle in Hamburg zwischen 1806 und 1813 gewesen Truppen'. Only three copies of this hand-coloured volume now exist; one is in the Lipperheide collection in West Berlin and one in the Staatsarchiv in Hamburg. This document is highly regarded by Continental experts as being extremely reliable as it was done on the spot by the brothers Suhr as the troops passed through their city. All the Spanish uniforms shown belong to units in La Romana's division and record the time of re-equipment from the old white infantry uniform to the new blue one. Spanish pioneers wore grenadier appointments and had their own peculiar equipment such as the apron and the heavy tools. The man from the de la Princesa regiment is shown in the new uniform, his busby plate is brass, cords white, bag red, fur black. Jacket light blue (faded paint?) facings black, buttons and collar badges yellow. The apron is black with yellow pockets (for nails) with red and white tassels. The centre figure is in the old uniform, facings light blue (?). The right hand figure has light green facings, white buttons, white metal cap plate with brass emblems, black fur, light green bag. Apron light brown with light green grenade and trim

*Light Infantry*

2nd Battalion Voluntarios de Cataluña  
(Major J. Borellas)  
1st Battalion Voluntarios de Barcelona  
(Major J. F. Viver)

TOTAL: 2,440 men

*Cavalry*

del Rey  
del Infante  
de Algarbe (Colonel J. d'Yebra)

TOTAL: 1,620 men

*Dragoons*

Almense (Colonel J. A. Caballero)  
Villa Viciosa (Colonel de Armendariz)

TOTAL: 1,080 men

*Artillery* (Colonel J. Martmez-Vallejo):

Foot and horse 459 men

*Train of Artillery:* TOTAL: 68 men

*Sappers:* One Company.

On hearing of the situation in Spain 1808 this division rebelled and was largely successful in fighting its way to the coast where it was shipped back to the homeland in British ships of Admiral Keats' squadron to fight for independence. The greater part of the regiments de Asturias, de Guadalaxara and de Algarbe were disarmed and interned by the French and many of them later (13 February 1809) volunteered to join the 'Regiment Joseph Napoleon' raised for French service.

## *The Spanish Army of 1808*

To gain some idea of the quality of this army, let us see what Charles Oman says of it in Volume I of his excellent *History of the Peninsular War*, 1902. (By permission of the Clarendon Press, Oxford.)

'When the English student begins to investigate the Peninsular War in detail, he finds that, as regards the Spanish armies and their behaviour, he starts with a strong hostile prejudice. The Duke of Wellington in his dispatches, and still more in his private letters and his table-talk, was always

enlarging on the folly and arrogance of the Spanish general with whom he had to co-operate, and on the untrustworthiness of their troops. . . .

'Before allowing ourselves to be carried away by the almost unanimous verdict of our own countrymen, it is only fair to examine the state and character of the Spanish army when the war broke out. Only when we know its difficulties can we judge with fairness of its conduct, or decide upon its merits and shortcomings.

'The armed force which served under the banners of Charles IV in the spring of 1808 consisted of 131,000 men, of whom 101,000 were regulars and 30,000 embodied militia. The latter had been under arms since 1804, and composed the greater part of the garrisons of the seaports of Spain, all of which had to be protected against possible descents of English expeditions.<sup>1</sup>

'Of the 101,000 men of the regular army, however, not all were available for the defence of the country. While the war with Russia was still in progress, Bonaparte had requested the Spanish government to furnish him with a strong division for use in the North (March, 1807), and in consequence the Marquis of La Romana had been sent to the Baltic with 15,000 men, the picked regiments of the army. There remained therefore only 86,000 regulars within the kingdom. A very cursory glance down the Spanish army-list of 1808 is sufficient to show that this force was far from being in a satisfactory condition for either offensive or defensive operations.

'It is well worth while to look at the details of its composition. The infantry consisted of three sorts of troops – the Royal Guard, the line regiments, and the foreign corps in Spanish pay. For Spain, more than any other European state, had kept up the old seventeenth-century fashion of hiring foreign mercenaries on a large scale. Even in the Royal Guard half the infantry were composed of "Walloon Guards", a survival from the day when the Netherlands had been part of the broad dominions of the Habsburg kings. The men of these three battalions were no longer mainly Walloons, for Belgium had been a group of French departments for the last thirteen



Drum major of the Regimiento de Cataluna Light Infantry and two musicians from the Regimiento de la Princesa: All figures on this plate wear the new uniforms. The drum major has a light blue (could be green) plume, yellow shako plate and cords, red facings, epaulettes and sash with gold embroidery. The 'babe' in the centre and the right hand figure wear light blue plumes, red busby bags, black fur, white trim; red dolman dark blue facings, white lace and buttons

years. There were Germans and other foreigners of all sorts in the ranks, as well as a large number of native Spaniards. There were also six regiments of Swiss mercenaries – over 10,000 bayonets – and in these the men in the ranks did really come from Switzerland and Germany, though there was a sprinkling among them of strangers from all lands who had "left their country for their country's good." There were also one Neapolitan and three Irish regiments. These latter were survivals from the days of the "Penal Laws", when young Irishmen left their homes by thousands every year to take service with France or Spain, in the hope of getting some day a shot at the hated redcoats. The regiments bore the names of Hibernia, Irlanda, and Ultonia (i.e. Ulster). . . . We shall find that not only the foreign regiments but the whole Spanish army was still full of officers of Irish name and blood,

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix, containing the state of the Spanish army in 1808.



the sons and grandsons of the original emigrants of two generations back. . . .

'We need only mention Blake, the two O'Donnells, Lacy, Sarsfield, O'Neill, O'Daly, Mahony, O'Donahue. If none of them showed much strategical skill, yet their constant readiness to fight, which no series of defeats could tame, contrasts very well with the spiritless behaviour of a good many of the Spanish generals. No officer of Irish blood was ever found among the cowards, and hardly one among the traitors.<sup>2</sup>

'The ten foreign corps furnished altogether about 13,000 men to the Spanish regular army. The rest of the infantry was composed of thirty-

<sup>2</sup>The minister O'Farrill and General Kindelan were the chief exceptions.

five regiments of troops of the line, of three battalions each, and twelve single-battalion regiments of light infantry. . . .

'All the light infantry corps belonged to the old kingdoms of Aragon and Navarre, which were therefore scantily represented in the nomenclature of the ordinary line regiments. . . .

'Theoretically there should have been no difficulty in keeping them up to their proper strength, as machinery for recruiting them had been duly provided. Voluntary enlistment was the first resource: but when that did not suffice to keep the ranks full, there was a kind of limited conscription called the *Quinta*<sup>3</sup> to fall back upon.

<sup>3</sup>So called because it was originally supposed to take the fifth man.



Grenadiers and a pioneer from the infantry Regimiento de Zamora: Theoretically Zamora should have had white collars, Suhr shows them brown. The pioneer has a black fur bearskin cap with yellow plate, red plume and black 'tail' with white piping. His grenadier 'epaulettes' have scalloped edges instead of fringes. Facings are black as is the apron (yellow pockets with yellow and black fringes) and the sabre and bayonet sheath. The grenadier (centre) has a black bearskin, jacket as for the pioneer and under his goatskin pack he has hung his bicorne with red cockade. Trousers of blue and white cloth. The right hand figure is as for the centre figure except that the bicorne has a red plume and white lacing



An adjutant and an officer of the Cavalry Regimiento de Algarbe: The adjutant, on the left, may not belong to the Algarbe regiment; his uniform has very little in common with that of the figure on the right which coincides completely with the description in the 'Collecion de Noventa . . .'. The Adjutant has a dark blue coat with red facings and gold buttons and epaulettes; the turnbacks are piped white as are the pockets; the sabre sheath is brass, the plume red. The Algarbe officer has a dark blue coat, yellow facings and breeches, white buttons and hat trim, gold epaulette and lion collar badge, brown sword sheath

This consisted in balloting for men in the regimental district, under certain rules which allowed an enormous number of exemptions – e.g. all skilled artisans and all middle-class townsfolk were free from the burden – so that the agricultural labourers had to supply practically the whole contingent. . . .

‘The 30,000 embodied militia, which formed the remainder of the Spanish infantry, had been under arms since 1804, doing garrison duty; they seem in many respects to have been equal to the line battalions in efficiency. They bore names derived from the towns in whose districts they had been raised – Badajoz, Lugo, Alcazar, and so forth. Their officering was also strictly local, all ranks being drawn from the leading families of their districts, and seems to have been quite as efficient as that of the line. Moreover their ranks were, on the average, much fuller than those of the regular regiments – only two battalions in the total of forty-three showed less than 550 bayonets on parade.

‘It is when we turn to the cavalry that we come to the weakest part of the Spanish army. There were twelve regiments of heavy and twelve of light horse, each with a nominal establishment of 700 sabres, which should have given 16,800 men for the whole force. There were only about 15,000 officers and troopers embodied, but this was a small defect. A more real weakness lay in the fact that there were only 9,000 horses for the 15,000 men. It is difficult for even a wealthy government, like our own, to keep its cavalry properly horsed, and that of Charles IV was naturally unable to cope with this tiresome military problem. The chargers were not only too few, but generally of bad quality, especially those of the heavy cavalry: of those which were to be found in the regimental stables a very large proportion were not fit for service. When the five regiments which Napoleon demanded for the expedition to Denmark had been provided with 540 horses each and sent off, the mounts of the rest of the army were in such a deplorable state that some corps had not the power to horse one-third of their troopers: e.g. in June, 1808, the Queen’s Regiment, No 2 of the heavy cavalry, had 202 horses for 668 men; the 12th Regiment had 259 horses for 667 men; the 1st Chasseurs – more extraordinary still – only



**Cornet and trooper Cavalry Regimiento Infante:** It might seem that the brothers Suhr have slipped up on this one; of the three Spanish cavalry regiments in Romana's division (Del Rey, Infante and Algarbe) only Del Rey had red facings and yellow buttons as shown on this plate. Hat trim, waistcoat and breeches are yellow. The standard is red with gold embroidery and fringe, red cravat, black lance with gold tip. The trooper does have white lapels but his collar and cuffs are red. In his hand he carries what seem to be black leather gaiters with steel spurs attached.

185 horses for 577 men. It resulted from this penury of horses that when Napoleon made a second demand for Spanish cavalry, asking for a division of 2,000 sabres to aid Junot in invading Portugal, that force had to be made up by putting together the mounted men of no less than ten regiments, each contributing two or at the most three squadrons and leaving the rest of its men dismounted at the dépôt.

‘Even if the cavalry had all been properly mounted, they would have been far too few in proportion to the other arms, only 15,000 out of a total force of 130,000 – one in eight; whereas in the time of the Napoleonic Wars one in six, or even one in five, was considered the proper complement. . . . Later in the war they succeeded in filling up the ranks of the old cavalry regiments,



An officer of the cavalry Regimiento El Rey and one of another regiment: The left hand figure is the officer from the El Rey regiment, colours as for Regiment Infante; breeches dark blue with gold decorations. Sword hilt and knot gold, sheath and slings black. Undress boots with gold trim. The seated officer is Spanish as his red cockade betrays but his silver buttons and cuff lace and gold epaulettes do not indicate his regiment. His coat and trousers are dark blue, greatcoat light brown

and in raising many new ones. But the gain in number was not in the least accompanied by a gain in efficiency. For the whole six years of the struggle the mounted arm was the weakest point of their hosts. Again and again it disgraced itself by allowing itself to be beaten by half its own numbers, or by absconding early in the fight and abandoning its infantry. It acquired, and merited, a detestable reputation, and it is hard to find half a dozen engagements in which it behaved even reasonably well.<sup>4</sup> When Wellington was made generalissimo of the Spanish armies in 1813 he would not bring it up to the front at all, and though he took 40,000 Spaniards over the Pyrenees, there was not a horseman among them. . . .

'Spain was notoriously deficient in decent cavalry officers when the war began. The horses

were inferior to the French, and the equipment bad. From early disasters the troopers contracted a demoralization which they could never shake off. . . .

'The artillery of the Spanish army, on the other hand, earned on the whole a good reputation. This was not the result of proper preparation. When the struggle began it consisted of thirty-four batteries of field artillery, six of horse, and twenty-one garrison batteries (*compañias fijas*), with a total of 6,500 men. Forty batteries – that is to say 240 guns or somewhat less, for in some cases there seem to have been only four instead of six pieces in the battery – was according to the standard of 1808 a mediocre allowance to an army of 130,000 men, only about two-thirds of what it should have been. But this was not the worst. Deducting four fully-horsed batteries, which had been taken off by Napoleon to Denmark, there remained in Spain four horse and thirty-two field batteries. These were practically unable to move, for they were almost entirely destitute of horses. For the 216 guns and their caissons there were only in hand 400 draught animals! When the war began, the artillery had to requisition, and more or less train, 3,000 horses or mules before they could move from their barracks! . . .

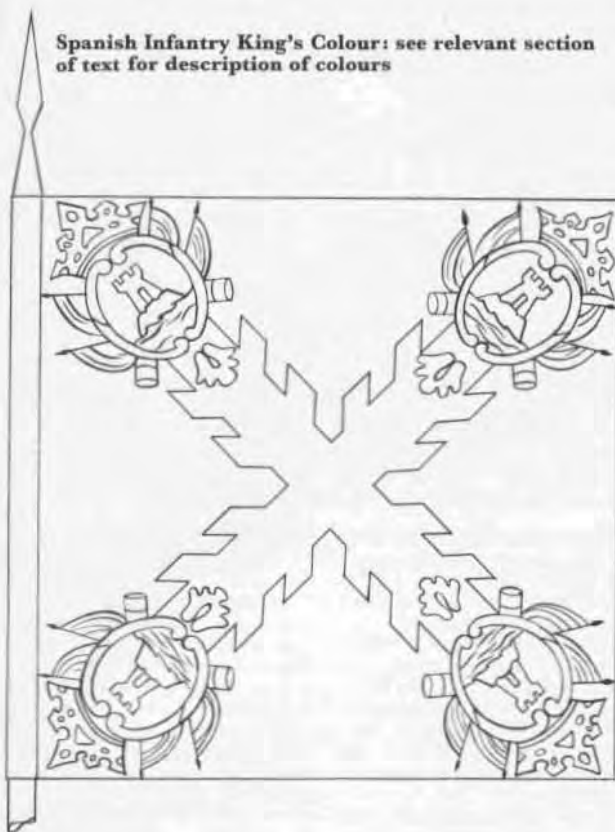
'We often hear of gunners cut down or bayoneted over their pieces, seldom of a general bolt to the rear. For this very reason the personnel of the batteries suffered terribly: every defeat meant the capture of some dozens of guns, and the cutting up of the men who served them. It was as much as the government could do to keep up a moderate number of batteries, by supplying new guns and amalgamating the remnants of those which had been at the front. Each batch of lost battles in 1808–10 entailed the loss and consequent reconstruction of the artillery. If, in spite of this, we seldom hear complaints as to its conduct, it must be taken as a high compliment to the arm. But as long as Spanish generals persisted in fighting pitched battles, and getting their armies dispersed, a solid proportion of artillery to infantry could never be established. . . .

'In the later years of the war the pieces were almost always drawn by mules, yoked tandem-fashion, and not ridden by drivers but goaded

<sup>4</sup>The successful and opportune charge of the regimiento del Rey at Talavera was about the only case which ever came under English eyes.

by men walking at their side – the slowest and most unsatisfactory form of traction that can be imagined. Hence came, in great part, their inability to manoeuvre.

Spanish Infantry King's Colour: see relevant section of text for description of colours



'Of engineers Spain in 1808 had 169 officers dispersed over the kingdom. The corps had no proper rank and file. But there was a regiment of sappers, 1,000 strong, which was officered from the engineers. There was no army service corps, no military train, no organized commissariat of any kind. When moving about a Spanish army depended either on contractors who undertook to provide horses and wagons driven by civilians, or more frequently on the casual sweeping in by requisition of all the mules, oxen, and carts of the unhappy district in which it was operating. In this respect, as in so many others, Spain was still in the Middle Ages. The fact that there was no permanent arrangement for providing for the food of the army is enough in itself to account for many of its disasters. If, like the British, the Spaniards had possessed money to pay for what

they took, things might have worked somewhat better. Or if, like the French, they had possessed an organized military train, and no scruples, they might have contrived to get along at the cost of utterly ruining the countryside. But as things stood, depending on incapable civil commissaries and the unwilling contributions of the local authorities, they were generally on the edge of starvation. Sometimes they got over the edge, and then the army, in spite of the proverbial frugality of the Spanish soldier, simply dispersed. It is fair to the men to say that they generally straggled back to the front sooner or later, when they had succeeded in filling their stomachs, and got incorporated in their own or some other regiment. It is said that by the end of the war there were soldiers who had, in their fashion, served in as many as ten different corps during the six years of the struggle.

'Summing up the faults of the Spanish army, its depleted battalions, its small and incompetent cavalry force, its insufficient proportion of artillery, its utter want of commissariat, we find that its main source of weakness was that while the wars of the French Revolution had induced all the other states of Europe to overhaul their military organization and learn something from the methods of the French, Spain was still, so far as its army was concerned, in the middle of the eighteenth century. The national temperament, with its eternal relegation of all troublesome reforms to the morrow, was no doubt largely to blame. But Godoy, the all-powerful favourite who had also been commander-in-chief for the last seven years, must take the main responsibility. If he had chosen, he possessed the power to change everything; and in some ways he had meddled a good deal with details, changing the uniforms and increasing the number of battalions in each regiment. But to make the army efficient he had done very little: the fact was that the commander-in-chief was quite ignorant of the military needs and tendencies of the day: all his knowledge of the army was gained while carpet-soldiering in the ranks of the royal body-guard. It was natural that the kind of officers who commended themselves to his haughty and ignorant mind should be those who were most ready to do him homage, to wink at his peculations, to con-



done his jobs, and to refrain from worrying him for the money needed for reforms and repairs. Promotion was wholly arbitrary, and was entirely in the favourite's hands. Those who were prepared to bow down to him prospered: those who showed any backbone or ventured on remonstrances were shelved. After a few years of this system it was natural that all ranks of the army became demoralized, since not merit but the talents of the courtier and the flatterer were the sure road to prosperity. Hence it came to pass that when the insurrection began, the level of military ability, patriotism, and integrity among the higher ranks of the army was very low. There were a few worthy men like Castanos and La Romana in offices of trust, but a much greater proportion of Godoy's proteges. . . .

'The undrilled and half-clothed soldiery, the unhorsed squadrons, the empty arsenals, the idle and ignorant subalterns, were all, in the end, the result of Godoy's long domination. But we do not wish to absolve from its share of blame the purblind nation which tolerated him for so long. In another country he would have gone the way of Gaveston or Mortimer long before.

'When this was the state of the Spanish armies, it is no wonder that the British observer, whether officer or soldier, could never get over his prejudice against them. It was not merely because a Spanish army was generally in rags and on the verge of starvation that he despised it. These were accidents of war which every one had experienced in his own person: a British battalion was often tattered and hungry. The Spanish government was notoriously poor, its old regiments had been refilled again and again with raw conscripts, its new levies had never had a fair start. Hence came the things which disgusted the average Peninsular diarist of British origin – the shambling indiscipline, the voluntary dirt, the unmilitary habits of the Spanish troops. He could not get over his dislike for men who kept their arms in a filthy, rusty condition, who travelled not in orderly column of route but like a flock of sheep straggling along a high road, who obeyed their officers only when they pleased. And for the officers themselves the English observer had an even greater contempt: continually we come across observations to the effect that the faults



Musketeers (Figures 2 & 4) of the infantry Regimiento de la Princesa, de Guadalaxara (Figures 3 & 5) and de Asturias (Figure 1): Here is a discrepancy between the Berlin copy of Suhr's work and the Hamburg copy. The title shown above is taken from the Hamburg copy, the Berlin title reads: 'Musketeers (Figure 1) from Asturias; (Figures 2, 4 & 5) from Princesa and (Figure 3) from Guadalaxara.' The figures are coloured as follows: Figure 1 (on the left): facings light green, buttons white, sash red. Figure 2 (2nd from the left): hat band light blue, top piping red; collar black, sleeve lacing red, pocket patch black edged red, trouser decorations light green, sandals light brown with light green laces. Figure 3 (3rd from left): hat band and piping red, facings red, buttons white. Figure 4 (4th from left): dark blue coat, black facings, red piping, plume and sash, yellow buttons and collar badge. Figure 5 (and presumably the drummer) (on the right): blue coat, red plume and facings, red sash and piping (drummer with red and white lace, yellow collar badge and buttons; brass drum with black hoops)

of the rank and file might be condoned – after all they were only half-trained peasants – but that the officers were the source and fount of evil from their laziness, their arrogance, their ignorance, and their refusal to learn from experience. . . .

'A voice from the ranks, Sergeant Surtees of the Rifle Brigade, gives the same idea in different words:

Most of the Spanish officers appeared to be utterly unfit and unable to command their men. They had all the pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency of the best officers in the world, with the very least of all pre-

tension to have a high opinion of themselves. It is true they were not all alike, but the majority were the most haughty, and at the same time the most contemptible creatures in the shape of officers that ever I beheld. (p. 109.)

‘As a matter of fact the class of officers in Spain was filled up in three different ways. One-third of them were, by custom, drawn from the ranks. In an army raised by conscription from all strata of society excellent officers can be procured in this way. But in one mainly consisting of the least admirable part of the surplus population, forced by want or hatred of work into enlisting, it was hard to get even good sergeants. And the sergeants made still worse sub-lieutenants, when the colonel was forced to promote some of them. No wonder that the English observer thought that there were “Spanish officers who did not look like gentlemen.” This class were seldom or never allowed to rise above the grade of captain. The remaining two-thirds of the officers received their commissions from the war office: in the cavalry they were supposed to show proofs of noble descent, but this was not required in the infantry. There was a large sprinkling, however, of men of family, and for them the best places and the higher ranks were generally reserved – a thing feasible because all promotion was arbitrary, neither seniority nor merit being necessarily considered. The rest were drawn from all classes of society: for the last fifteen years any toady of Godoy could beg or buy as many commissions for his protégés as he pleased. But a large, and not the worst, part of the body of officers was composed of the descendants of soldiers of fortune – Irishmen were most numerous, but there were also French and Italians – who had always been seen in great numbers in the Spanish army. They held most of the upper-middle grades in the regiments, for the promoted sergeants were kept down to the rank of captain, while the nobles got rapid promotion and soon rose to be colonels and generals. On the whole we cannot doubt that there was a mass of bad officers in the Spanish army; the ignorant fellows who had risen from the ranks, the too-rapidly promoted scions of the noblesse, and the nominees of Godoy’s hangers-on, were

none of them very promising material with which to conduct a war *à outrance* for the existence of the realm.

‘In 1808 there was but one small military college for the training of infantry and cavalry officers. Five existed in 1790, but Godoy cut them down to one at Zamora, and only allowed sixty cadets there at a time, so that five-sixths of the young men who got commissions went straight to their battalions, there to pick up (if they chose) the rudiments of their military education. From want of some common teaching the drill and organization of the regiments were in a condition of chaos. Every colonel did what he chose in the way of



Officers from the light dragoon Regimiento Villa Viciosa: Here three forms of dress are clearly shown; on the left is the surtout, centre the habit-veste and on the right the normal service dolman. On all three the colours are the same, green coat and breeches, red facings and piping, white buttons, lace, epaulettes and edging to collar and cuffs. Plumes are red, the two left hand figures have brass sabre scabbards (the centre figure has red and gold slings) the right hand figure has a light brown, straight, sword sheath and his sash is green with red and white striped knots, green tassels

manual exercise and manœuvres. A French officer says that in 1807 he saw a Spanish brigade at a review, in which, when the brigadier gave the order "Ready, present, fire!" the different battalions carried it out in three different times and with wholly distinct details of execution. . . .

'No one supposes that the Spaniards as a nation are destitute of all military qualities. They made good soldiers enough in the past, and may do so in the future: but when, after centuries of intellectual and political torpor, they were called upon to fight for their national existence, they were just emerging from subjection to one of the most worthless adventurers and one of the most idiotic kings whom history has known. Charles IV

and Godoy account for an extraordinary amount of the decrepitude of the monarchy and the demoralization of its army.

'It is more just to admire the constancy with which a nation so handicapped persisted in the hopeless struggle, than to condemn it for the incapacity of its generals, the ignorance of its officers, the unsteadiness of its raw levies. If Spain had been a first-rate military power, there would have been comparatively little merit in the six years' struggle which she waged against Bonaparte. When we consider her weakness and her disorganization, we find ourselves more inclined to wonder at her persistence than to sneer at her mishaps.'



Left, drum major of the infantry Regimiento de la Princesa in the old uniform; right, musicians and drum major of the infantry Regimiento de Zamora: (Left) Light blue coat, black facings, red piping, white buttons, yellow collar badges, red and gold sash, brown staff, silver knob, red plume. The three central musicians have red coats with black facings, and white plumes, buttons and lace. The Zamora Drum Major on the right has a black coat with red facings, white buttons and epaulettes; red and white edging on facings; red, white and yellow plumes; a red and silver sash, and a brown staff with silver knob



Grenadiers of the infantry Regimiento de Zamora going to muster parade: It seems that the Hamburg climate was as good as that in England in the years 1808-9! Both men are in fatigue dress, facings black, sash red

# Spanish Uniforms: Pre-1808

During the dynamic period under review, the uniforms worn by the Spanish armies fall into the following main categories: the period up to 1808; the war years 1808-14 in which the Spanish army splits into two, one part under French control and designated 'The Army of King Joseph', the other part being under control of the Junta and fighting against the Army of King Joseph; and the post-war period 1815.



Grenadiers and musketeers of the infantry Regiments de la Princesa and de Guadalajara: a confusing picture. (From left to right) Brown coat and overcoat, red facings, (in a later work Suhr says this man is of the militia), white piping and buttons; red facings and white buttons; red facings and white buttons; blue coat red facings and white buttons. All plumes red

## THE HOUSEHOLD TROOPS

*General notes:* Bicorns with broad white edging (silver for officers and senior N.C.O.s) white (silver) loop and button and red cockade; dark blue coat and breeches, red collar, Swedish cuffs, lapels and turnbacks (except where otherwise noted below) red waistcoats. Senior N.C.O.s wear silver, fringed epaulettes, officers also, and in addition gilt gorgets with the Bourbon crest. Hair powdered, queued and rolled over each ear. White buttons. These units are clean shaven. The individual distinctions are as follows:

*Reales Guardias de Corps* (four companies, each differentiated by its carbine bandolier): White edging to collar, lapels, cuffs and waistcoat. White turnback badges – in the rear a tower, in the front a rampant lion. Buff gloves, heavy cavalry boots with buckle-on spurs, blue saddle furniture with white edging. The carbine bandoliers were silver with inlaid squares along their lengths, each company having their own colour:

- Compania Española – red
- Compania American – purple
- Compania Italiana – dark green
- Compania Flamenca – yellow

*Real Guardia de Alabarderos* (halberdiers): White edging to collar and cuffs only; three buttons along the top of each cuff; weapons – a halberd and a sword worn on a waistbelt under the waistcoat. Purple knee-stockings, black shoes with silver buckles. The five silver buttons on each lapel have a silver lace buttonhole.

*Guardias de Infanteria Española:* Dark blue collar with white edging, white edging to lapels, cuffs and waistcoat, white bandoliers (officers have silver-edged bandoliers with crimson centres) white, knee length gaiters. Musketeer other ranks of this unit have no white edging to their lapels.

Grenadiers of all ranks wear brown bearskin caps without front plates and all buttonholes on lapels (5), cuffs (3), pocket flaps (3) and waist-





Grenadiers and pioneers of the Regiments de Zamora and de Guadalajara: Once again the titles in the Hamburg and in the Berlin copies of Suhr's work differ.

Berlin reads (from left to right): pioneer, Guadalajara (5); grenadier Zamora (1); pioneer Zamora (3); grenadier Zamora (4); grenadier Zamora (2). Hamburg reads: (1 & 2) grenadiers Zamora; (3) pioneer, Zamora; (4) grenadier, Zamora; (5) pioneer, Guadalajara. As can be seen, the Hamburg figures shown here are not numbered. The colours (left to right): (a.) Facings and bonnet flame red, buttons and decoration to flame, white with a light blue circular patch at the top. Cap plate, brass; match case brass; apron black with red and white tassels, red epaulettes. (b.) Facings black (very faint), buttons white, bonnet flame red. (c.) Facings, epaulettes and cap flame black; white lace to bonnet, flame. Circular patch light blue with arm holding the Spanish flag. Cap plate, pouch badge and sabre fittings brass. Plume red. (d.) Plume red, buttons white. (e.) Facings pale grey (faded paint?) bonnet flame red with yellow lace; grenade on pouch lid and sabre fittings brass

coat are lined in white. Moustaches are worn. Turnback badges for this regiment are two dark blue triangles, pointing towards one another and edged white. Fusiliers of this regiment wear the bicorn and the white buttonholes of the grenadiers.

*Guardias Walonas*: As for the Guardias de Infanteria Española except that the gaiters are black and the black pouch has a round brass plate surmounted by a crown on its lid.

*Real Brigada de Carabineros de Linea*: As for the Guardias de Corps but with following differences – moustaches, no edging to red collar or lapels; dark blue cuffs edged white, white edging to lateral pocket flaps, no edging to red waistcoat; silver grenade badges on turnbacks.

*Cazadores Españoles de la Guardia de honor del Generalissimo*: Hussar type uniform; black 'stove-pipe' shako with peak, white front plate, top and head bands and cords, light blue plume at top left hand side (from where tassels depend) red cockade at bottom centre front of shako. Hair natural coloured and worn in a pigtail and two plaits over the ears, moustaches. Dark blue dolman with white lace and buttons and red cuffs edged white, white shoulder straps, white and light blue barrel-sash. Dark blue breeches with white side stripes, buttons and thigh decoration, white sabre slings, short black hussar boots with screw-in spurs. Buff gloves.

## THE INFANTRY OF THE LINE

*General notes*: Plain black bicorns with loop and button in the regimental colour, red cockade; hair powdered and queued, only grenadiers wear moustaches; white coat with facings shown on collar, lapels, cuffs, cuff flaps, pocket flap edging, turnback piping and heart-shaped badges and shoulder strap edging. Officers coat-tails were knee length; other ranks much shorter. White waistcoat and breeches, black, knee-length gaiters, black buttons, white bandoliers, black pouch and bayonet scabbard, only grenadiers and N.C.O.s have sabres.

The three Irish regiments (de Irlanda, de Hibernia and de Ultonia) and the 'Infanta de Napoles' have light blue coats with white edging to cuffs and cuff flaps and bright yellow edging to shoulder straps and pocket flaps, light blue badges on bright yellow turnbacks – white waistcoat, breeches and bandoliers.

The regiments were organized into brigades and the number of the brigade is shown in brackets after the regimental title.

Regimental Title	Lapels	Collar	Cuffs & Flaps	Buttons
Infanta del Rey	Purple	Purple	Purple	Yellow
de la Reyna	Purple	Purple	Purple	White
del Principe (1)	Purple	White	Purple	Yellow
de Soria	Purple	White	Purple	White
de la Princesa	White*	Purple	Purple	White

<i>Regimental Title</i>	<i>Lapels</i>	<i>Collar</i>	<i>Cuffs &amp; Flaps</i>	<i>Buttons</i>	<i>Regimental Title</i>	<i>Lapels</i>	<i>Collar</i>	<i>Cuffs &amp; Flaps</i>	<i>Buttons</i>
Saboya	Black	Black	Black	Yellow	de Estremadura	Crimson	Crimson	Crimson	Yellow
de la Corona	(2) Black	Black	Black	White	de Voluntarios de Castilla	Crimson	Crimson	Crimson	White
de Africa	Black	White	Black	Yellow	de Voluntarios de Estado	(7) Crimson	White	Crimson	Yellow
de Zamora	Black	White	Black	White	de Voluntarios de la Corona	Crimson	White	Crimson	White
de Granada	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	Yellow	de Infanta de Borbon	White*	Crimson	Crimson	White
de Valencia	Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue	White	de Irlanda	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
de Toledo	(3) Light Blue	White	Light Blue	Yellow	de Hibernia	Yellow	Light blue	Yellow	White
de Murcia	Light Blue	White	Light Blue	White	de Ultonia	(8) Light blue*	Yellow	Yellow	White
de Cantabria	White*	Light Blue	Light Blue	White	de Infant de Napoles	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	White
de Cordova	Orange	Orange	Orange	Yellow					
de Guadalupe	(4) Orange	Orange	Orange	White					
de Mallorca	Orange	White	Orange	Yellow					
de Leon	Orange	White	Orange	White					
de Aragon	White*	Orange	Orange	White					
de Zaragoza	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow					
de España	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	White					
de Burgos	(5) Light Green	White	Light Green	Yellow					
de Asturias	Light Green	White	Light Green	White					
de Tixos de Ceuta	White*	Light Green	Light Green	White					
de Navarra	Dark blue	Dark blue	Dark blue	Yellow					
de America	Dark blue	Dark blue	Dark blue	White					
de Malaga	Dark blue	White	Dark blue	Yellow					
de Jaen	(6) Dark blue	White	Dark blue	White					
de la Ordenes Militares	White*	Dark blue	Dark blue	White					

Each regiment bore its regimental title on its buttons; sergeants wore red waist sashes with red tassels, officers red waist sashes with gold tassels, epaulettes according to rank in the button colour and gilt gorgets. Grenadiers wore bearskin caps with front plates and coloured bags according to regiment; brass match cases on their bandoliers, sabres with red fist knots.

Barrack dress was a white forage cap with piping and headband in the facing colour and badges varying with regiment; white waistcoats with sleeves which were laced on to the body with red laces, white breeches and sandals. According to contemporary prints all ranks smoked cigarettes on almost all occasions!

#### *The Light Infantry*

These twelve regiments wore dark blue coats of Line Infantry cut with facings shown on the collar, lapels, cuffs, cuff flaps, turnbacks and shoulder strap edging. Waistcoats and breeches were white, gaiters short and black, belts white.

*NB.* \* = edged in the facing colour

<i>Regiment</i>	<i>Lapels*</i>	<i>Collar*</i>	<i>Cuffs* &amp; Flaps*</i>	<i>Buttons</i>
Primero de Aragon	Red	Red	Red	White
Primero de Cataluña	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Segundo de Cataluña	Yellow	Dark blue	Yellow	Yellow
Tarragona	Dark blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Gerona	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	White
Segundo de Barcelona	Yellow	Dark blue	Yellow	White
Segundo de Aragon	Red	Dark blue	Red	White
Primero de Barcelona	Dark blue	Yellow	Yellow	White
Cazadores de Barbastro	Dark blue	Red	Red	White
Valencia	Purple	Purple	Purple	White
Campo-Major	Purple	Dark blue	Purple	White
Navarra	Dark blue	Purple	Purple	White

*The Swiss Infantry Regiments:* All regiments wore the same uniform, being distinguished only by the number on their white buttons. The bicorns were plain with a white loop and button; red within white cockade and a pompon above this cockade (probably in the regimental colour).

The coat was dark blue with red collar, plain round cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and shoulder straps all edged in white; red pocket-flap edging, long turnbacks for all ranks with dark blue heart-shaped badges edged in white. White waistcoat and breeches, black gaiters with black buttons, white belts.

*Foot Artillery:* Bicorns with yellow (gold) edging, yellow loop and button, red cockade. Dark blue coat, dark blue lapels edged red, red collar with yellow (gold) grenade badge, red cuffs, dark blue, three pointed cuff flaps with three buttons, red turnbacks with yellow (gold) fleur-de-lis badges, red edged, vertical pocket flaps. Officers



Officer and carabinieri of the Villa Viciosa Light Dragoons: After becoming a light dragoon regiment the Villa Viciosa Regiment received the hussar-type uniform shown here; green with red facings, bag and plume to busby; elite company – white buttons, lace and epaulettes. The officer's sabre scabbard is brass, his sash green with red and white striped knots. The two Carabinieri are from 'normal' squadrons and thus wear shakos; in barrack dress, as here, they wear their yellow waistcoats with facings shown only on the cuffs. The shako plume is in a black oilskin cover and the red cockade is at the front bottom band of the shako. The greatcoats are green

wear gold epaulettes and carry curved sabres in black and gold sheaths on black slings. White, double-breasted waistcoat and breeches, short black boots.

*Horse Artillery:* Black, 'stovepipe' shako with yellow cords, tassels, front plate and top and bottom bands; red plume on top left hand side. Short-tailed dark blue coat, colours and badges as for the Foot Artillery, dark blue double-breasted waistcoat and breeches, short black boots, sabres on white slings.

*Engineers:* Bicorn with silver edging, white loop and button, red cockade and plume; dark blue, long-tailed coat with red plain cuffs and turnbacks, purple lapels and collar with silver edging; silver tower collar badge, silver loops (7) on each lapel, silver epaulettes; red, double-breasted waistcoat;

NB. \* = edged in white

<i>Regimental Name &amp; Number</i>		<i>Buttons</i>	<i>Lapels</i>	<i>Collar</i>	<i>Cuffs</i>	<i>Collars &amp; Cuff Badges</i>
del Rey	1	Yellow	Red*	Red*	Red*	White
de la Reyna	2	White	Light blue***	Light blue***	Light blue***	White
del Principe	3	White	Red*	Red*	Red*	White
Infante	4	Yellow	White	White	White	Yellow
de Borbon	5	White	Red*	Red*	Red*	White
de Farnesio	6	White	Red**	Red**	Red**	White
de Alcantara	7	White	Green***	Red <sup>1</sup>	Red <sup>1</sup>	White
de España	8	White	Purple**	Yellow	Purple**	White
de Algarbe	9	White	Yellow***	Yellow***	Yellow***	White
de Calatrava	10	White	Light blue***	Red	Light blue***	White
de Santiago	11	White	Purple***	Purple***	Purple***	White
de Montesa	12	White	White	Purple*	Purple*	White

NB. \* = white edging; \*\* = yellow edging; \*\*\* = red edging; <sup>1</sup> = green edging

**Troopers, Regimiento Villa Viciosa: (From left to right)**  
**(a.) Trooper:** Red plume with black base (carabinero) green breeches and dolman, red facings, white lace and buttons, yellow waistcoat; brown sheath and vandyked-leather booting to breeches. **(b.) Trumpeter (centre squadrons):** Red plume, dolman and breeches, yellow facings and waistcoat, otherwise as for trooper. **(c.) Trooper (barrack dress):** Red hatband and piping, green, flopping peak to cap. The headband badge (the squadron number '3' over a crossed sabre and palm leaf) and piping are white. Yellow waistcoat, red cuffs, green portmanteau over his shoulder, otherwise as for figure (a.). **(d.) Officer (centre squadrons):** As for trooper but with silver epaulettes and light cavalry sabre in brass sheath





dark blue breeches, short black boots; sabre in black and silver sheath on white slings.

Other ranks (*zapadores y minadores*) wore crested black helmets with black turbans of a similar pattern to that then worn by the British light dragoon regiments.

*The Line Cavalry:* These twelve regiments wore dark blue coats with facings shown on the collar, cuffs and lapels; red turnbacks. The plain round cuffs had a row of fleur-de-lis along the top, the collar badge was a rampant lion. The bicorn had

a wide edging, loop and button in the button colour, red cockade. Saddle-furniture was dark blue with an edging in the button colour.

Belts were white, crossed bandoliers (right the carbine, left the cartridge pouch); a straight, heavy cavalry sword, was carried on a white waistbelt over the yellow waistcoat. Yellow breeches and cuffed heavy cavalry boots with buckle-on spurs.

*The Dragoon Regiments:* These eight regiments had white buttons, bicorn edgings, white edgings to

**Artillery officers, Regimiento de Estremadura:** Dark blue coats, red facings, gold buttons, epaulettes, hat trim, grenade collar badges, sword hilt and knots. The left hand figure would appear to belong to the foot artillery (thus the infantry officer's pattern sword) and the right hand figure to the horse artillery (thus the light cavalry sabre in brass sheath)





- 1 Captain of Cazadores, cavalry regiment Voluntarios de España, 1808
- 2 Trooper of the dragoon regiment Villa Viciosa, 1805-8
- 3 Trumpeter of the dragoon regiment Villa Viciosa, 1805-8



Trumpeter of Cazadores of the regiment  
Olivenza, élite company (carbineros), 1806



- 1 Standard bearer of the line cavalry  
regiment Infante, 1808
- 2 Officer of the regiment Guadalajara
- 3 Officer of the line cavalry, old uniform,  
walking-out dress



1



2



3





Trooper of the 7th Cavalry Regiment  
(Lanciers de La Mancha), 1813



1



2



3

1 Drum major, infantry regiment  
Princessa, 1808

2 Officer of the dragoon regiment  
Almansa

3 Officer of Engineers, 1808





1

- 1 Musician from the infantry regiment Princessa in the new uniform
- 2 Officer of grenadiers, infantry regiment Zamora
- 3 Officer of the light infantry regiment Catalonia



2



3



1 Drummer of grenadiers, infantry  
regiment Zamora



2 Officer of horse artillery



3 Officer, infantry regiment Princessa



1 Officer, light company, infantry  
regiment Aragon, 1811-1815

2 Private, grenadier company, infantry  
regiment Zaragoza, 1811-1815

3 Private, centre companies, infantry  
regiment Leon, 1811-1815



collar lapels, cuffs and cuff flaps, yellow coats, waistcoats and breeches, yellow saddle-furniture with white edging. Facings were shown on collar, lapels, cuffs, cuff-flaps and pocket-flap edging. Collar badge was a crossed sabre and palm frond. Belts white, six white buttonholes on each lapel.

<i>Regimental Name</i>	<i>Collar</i>	<i>Lapels &amp; Cuffs</i>
de Pavia	Yellow	Orange
de Villa Viciosa	Light green	Light green
de Sagunto	Yellow	Light green
de Numancia	Black	Black
de Lusitania	Yellow	Black

<i>Regimental Name</i>	<i>Collar</i>	<i>Lapels &amp; Cuffs</i>
del Rey	Purple	Purple
de la Reyna	Orange	Orange
de Almansa	Light blue	Light blue

*Cazadore Regiments:* Both these regiments wore black stovepipe shakos with white cords and plate, red plume and cockade; dark brown dolman and breeches, white lace, buttons, shoulder-

**Troopers from the cavalry Regimiento de Algarbe:** The cap worn in barrack dress could apparently be worn in more than one way. It resembles somewhat the style of the Portuguese infantry shako 1808-15. Hat, waistcoat and breeches yellow, cap plate white, buttons and belts white, sash red, cuffs blue, stockings light blue. Dark blue saddle furniture, white edging, black harness



straps, belts and edging to collar and cuffs, light blue and facing coloured red barrel sash, collar badge as for the dragoons; red side-stripe to breeches, short hussar boots; dark green saddle-furniture with white edging.

The Regiment Olivenzia had red facings shown on collar, cuffs and barrel sash and the Regiment Voluntarios de España had light blue.

*The Hussars:* These two regiments wore uniform of the same style as that of the cazadores but in different colours and they also had pelisses. Regimental distinctions were as follows:

*Usares Españoles:* Shako as for cazadores; light green dolman with light blue collar and cuffs

(collar badges as for dragoons), white buttons, lace and edging to facings; light blue pelisses with light green collar and cuffs (collar badge as before) black fur, white buttons and lace; light blue breeches with white lace and buttons, short hussar boots; light blue saddle furniture with white edging; light cavalry sabre in black and yellow sheath on white slings.

*Usares María-Luisa:* As above but dolman red with light blue facings, pelisse light blue with red facings.

*Milicias Provinciales:* Uniform of Line infantry style, white with red facings and yellow buttons, white waistcoat and breeches, officers' red turnbacks have gold fleur-de-lis badges; other ranks have white triangles on their red turnbacks.

**Officer and trooper, cavalry Regimiento de Algarbe: The trooper is wearing the peculiar black leather gaiters with attached spurs previously mentioned. These must have been one of the results of Godoy's defence cuts – 'cost-effectiveness' gone mad: The officer's silver rampant lion collar badge can clearly be seen as can the fleur-de-lis cuff badge. His epaulettes and sword knot are silver**



# *The Army of King Joseph, 1808-14*

After the battle of Baylen Joseph left Madrid and retired towards the river Ebro. Arriving at Vittoria he decreed the formation of units of his new army which was to replace the old Spanish Army which had abandoned him almost to a man.

The new army consisted of:

The grenadiers of the Guard – two battalions each of six companies (on 8 May 1809 this unit

was altered to become two regiments – the Regiment of Grenadiers of the Guard No 1 and the Regiment of Tirailleurs of the Guard No 1). Shortly after this a regiment of Fusiliers of the Guard was also created. All three units were formed of officers and men drawn from the French army. Other units of the royal guard (the Regiment of Hussars, one company of foot artillery and one of horse artillery and two companies of train) were formed of soldiers of the old Spanish Army. There were also one company of halberdiers and two squadrons of Gardes d'honneur.

On 14 December 1808 Joseph decreed the formation of the first of his new Line infantry regiments entitled Royal Étranger and having

**Grenadiers from the infantry Regimiento de Guadalajara:** The grenadier companies in the Napoleonic era were often excused the lowly town policing duties which were the lot of the lesser centre companies of the battalions. The grenadiers would be called upon to furnish guards at the doors of generals' residences, lesser officers would merit a Voltigeur. Facings red, buttons white, pouch grenade and match case brass. Bonnet flame red with white lace decoration and tassel; the circular patch at the top bears the figure of St George on his grey charger on a light blue ground. Epaulettes and rank stripe, red





Troopers of the cavalry  
Regimiento Infante (Hamburg  
title): The Berlin copy title of  
Suhr's book reads 'Troopers  
and trumpeter . . .' and this is  
undoubtedly correct as proved  
in the plate. (Left hand figure)  
Dark blue coat and cape,  
white lapels, red collar and  
cuffs, yellow hat trim, waist-  
coat and breeches and a brown-  
sheathed sword made for a  
man at least twice the size of  
the wearer. The second figure  
from the left wears a cap with  
red headband, yellow plate,  
blue top and white tassel;  
yellow breeches and waistcoat  
with red collar piped white;  
light blue stockings. (Centre  
figure) Yellow hat trim, red  
pompon, dark blue coat, red  
facings, white piping, buttons  
and collar emblem; yellow  
pouch badge. Trumpeter:  
yellow hat trim; red coat,  
yellow facings and shoulder  
pieces, yellow buttons and  
collar badge. (Right hand  
figure) As for centre figure  
except that the breeches are  
yellow instead of dark blue;  
light blue stockings



four field battalions and one dépôt battalion.

In January 1809 followed the 2nd and 3rd Regiments each of only two field battalions and a dépôt company and shortly afterwards the creation of the Regiment Royal Irlandais. The 3rd Line Infantry Regiment soon joined these units and by 1813 there existed (on paper at least) seven Line infantry regiments, the regiments Royal-Étranger and Royal Irlandais, the Regiment Joseph Napoleon and two regiments of light infantry, the 1st named 'Castile', the 2nd 'Murcia'.

Not only the uniforms of Joseph's new army but also the badges of rank, grenadiers' and Voltigeurs' distinctions, drill, tactics and all other matters, were completely after the French model.

The uniforms were as follows:

*Grenadiers of the Guard:* Very similar to that of the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard – bearskin bonnet white cords, red plume and red and yellow cockade, brass front plate bearing a crowned eagle and two flanking grenades. Royal blue long-tailed coat, royal blue collar, red cuffs, turnbacks and epaulettes, white lapels and cuff flaps, yellow buttons; white waistcoat, breeches and gaiters. (Black gaiters in winter.)

*The Tirailleurs and Fusiliers of the Guard:* Uniforms similar to their Imperial French colleagues.

*Cheveau-légers:* Brass helmet of French Cheveau-léger model with black fur turban, black crest and red plume. Dark green coat with yellow collar, pointed cuffs and turnbacks, dark green shoulder-straps and lapels edged in yellow (the latter with yellow buttonholes to the seven

buttons). White breeches, short hussar boots with yellow trim and tassel. Officers had white plumes and gold epaulettes and aiguillettes; trumpeters wore white plumes, red crests, yellow coats with red facings edgings and buttonholes. Weapons were the carbine (white bandolier) and French pattern heavy cavalry sword in black and brass sheath on white waistbelt.

Saddle furniture was dark green with yellow edging.

*Hussars of the Guard:* Black fur colback, red bag edged yellow, red plume with yellow tip, red dolman with sky blue collar and cuffs, yellow buttons and lace; pelisse in the same colours as the dolman with black fur. White breeches with yellow lace decoration, short black hussar boots with gold trim and tassels. French light cavalry equipment, light blue saddle furniture edged yellow.

*Artillery of the Guard:* As for the Imperial Guard artillery.

*Sappeurs of the Guard* (created 6 January 1812): As for the sappeurs of the Imperial Guard.

*The Infantry of the Line:* The regiments 1-7 all wore French style shakos with carrot-shaped red pompon, red and yellow cockade, yellow loop and button over lozenge-shaped brass plate bearing a crowned 'JN', yellow cords and chin-scales. The coats were dark brown, short-tailed for the men, long for officers, facings shown on collar, shoulder-straps, lapels, round cuffs and turnbacks. Yellow buttons, white waistcoats and breeches and white or black gaiters. French infantry equipment - only grenadiers and N.C.O.s carried sabres - others only the bayonet.

Each line infantry regiment bore the title of one of Spain's provinces and their facing colours were as shown here: No 1 Madrid - white; No 2 Toledo - light blue; No 3 Seville - black; No 4 Soria - violet; No 5 Granada - blue; No 6 Malaga - dark blue; No 7 Cordova - red.

*The Light Infantry:* Uniform as for the Line but with the following differences: light green, carrot-shaped pompon with red tip, light green collar, lapels, round cuffs, lapels turnbacks and shoulder-straps all edged in red, dark brown breeches,

short black gaiters edged along the top in red and having a red tassel at the front.

*The Regiment Joseph Napoleon:* Uniform as for the Line but white with light green facings and yellow buttons, brass eagle plate to shako; white breeches, short black gaiters.

*The Cavalry of the Line:* This consisted of six heavy cavalry regiments and two squadrons of lancers. General cut of the heavy cavalry uniforms was as for the old Spanish heavy cavalry but without badges on collar and cuffs and with the following colour scheme: bicorn with wide yellow edging, yellow loop and button, red and yellow cockade, red plume with yellow tip. Dark brown coat with facings shown on collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks all of which were edged in yellow and the lapels bore seven yellow buttonholes. On each shoulder were yellow trefoils and from the left trefoil yellow cords led to the lapel. Buttons were yellow, waistcoat and breeches white; cuffed, heavy cavalry boots, French, heavy cavalry equipment; saddle-furniture brown with wide yellow edging having a narrow red centre stripe.

Trumpeters wore red coats with yellow facings, yellow plumes with red base, trumpet cords red and yellow.

The facing colours were as follows: 1st Regiment - red; 2nd Regiment - white; 3rd Regiment - light blue; 4th Regiment - pink; 5th Regiment - black; 6th Regiment - green.

The Lancers 'de la Mancha' wore French style Cheveau-légers lancer uniform - black leather helmet with yellow metal fittings, black crest, red plume. Brown coat, yellow collar with red front patch and red loop enclosing a yellow button, red lapels with yellow buttons and buttonholes, red shoulder-straps edged yellow, red and yellow striped shoulder rolls; red pointed cuffs, red turnbacks and piping. Brown breeches with yellow side stripes and yellow thigh knots in short hussar boots or brown overalls with yellow buttons and red and yellow side stripes. French light cavalry equipment, lance pennon red over yellow over red, belts white, the bandolier decorated with a brass lion's head and a grenade.

Horse-furniture green with rounded edging and in the corner the figure '7' between two cyphers.

Officers' collar-loops were gold and they wore gold epaulettes and aiguillettes.

Trumpeters had red helmet crests, red and yellow plumes, red coat, yellow facings, red and yellow trumpet cords.

*The Artillery*: No definite information is known; it may be assumed that the French Artillery uniform (dark blue, red facings, yellow buttons) was closely followed.

*Engineers (officers)*: Bicorn edged gold with gold loop and button, red and yellow cockade; dark

brown coat of infantry cut; collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks of black velvet, gold edging to collar, gold epaulettes (gold aiguillette on the right). Grey breeches.

The majority of the members of Joseph's new army were ex-prisoners of war of Spanish blood, including many of La Romana's division in Denmark. Their loyalty to the usurper was questionable at best and many of them joined only to get out of prison and deserted to their comrades fighting under the Junta at the first opportunity.

**Usares Españoles (left) and Guardia de honor del Generalissimo, 1800**: Usares Espanoles: Red shako and plume, white lace; red dolman with light blue collar and cuffs, white lace and buttons; sash red and light blue, breeches light blue with white piping; light blue pelisse with white lace, fur and buttons. Red saddle furniture with white edging, brown harness with yellow fittings. Guardia de honor: Black shako, white top band, cords and plate, light blue plume; red dolman, light blue collar and cuffs, white lace and buttons, sash - red and light blue; light blue breeches with white lace decorations. Leopard skin saddle cloth with red edging; red portmanteau with white edging, brown harness, yellow fittings



**Cavalry de Algarbe (left) and Cazadores de la Reyna, 1800**: Algarbe: Yellow hat edging, red cockade; dark blue coat, red collar, white edging and lapels, yellow buttons, red turnbacks; dark blue breeches. Dark blue saddle furniture edged yellow, black harness with yellow fittings. Reyna: Black shako and crest, yellow plate, red plume; dark green dolman, red collar and cuffs with yellow edging, yellow lace and buttons, red and white sash; dark green breeches with yellow lace, dark green saddle furniture with yellow edging; black harness with yellow fittings



# Infantry 1814-1815

The number of units in the Spanish Army increased greatly during the Napoleonic Wars from 1809 and 1814 and overburdened the supply of clothing organisations, leading to a great lack of uniformity. The following description is taken from the official Spanish Army list issued by the Estado Militar de España in 1815. This army list is of great interest as it describes those uniforms actually worn in combat

at the end of the war of Spanish Liberation in 1814 and not the new models introduced in 1815. All regiments described herein had only one battalion; only three of them still wore the white uniforms typical of the Spanish Army of 1808. The variety of clothing worn casts doubt on the assumption that all Spanish regiments were dressed in English uniforms. It seems that some of these uniforms were worn for years after 1815.

**Olivenza Usares (left) and Reales Carabineros (Brigade de Cazadores), 1803:** Usares: Red shako, yellow plate, light blue plume, red dolman with light blue collar and cuffs, white lace and buttons, red and light blue sash, light blue breeches with white lace, light blue saddle furniture with red edging, black harness with white fittings, light blue pelisse with white lace, buttons and fur. Cazadores: Black shako, white trim and cords, light blue plume. Dark blue dolman, red collar and cuffs, white lace and buttons, light blue and white sash, dark blue breeches with red side strip, dark blue saddle furniture with white edging, black harness, white fittings



**Cavalry Regiment Infante (left and centre) and de Sagunto Dragoons, 1805:** Infante (left): Yellow hat edging, dark blue coat, white collar and cuffs with red edging, yellow lion and fleur-de-lis badges, red turnbacks, yellow buttons. Grey breeches, dark blue saddle furniture with white edging, black harness. Bandolier red with golden edging, standard crimson and gold. (Centre) Yellow hat edging, dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, white lace and buttons, buff waistcoat and breeches, dark blue and white saddle furniture, black harness. Sagunto: White hat edging and buttons, yellow coat and collar with red edge, dark green lapels with red edge, white collar badge, buff waistcoat and breeches; dark green saddle furniture with white and red edging, black harness





**Granaderos a Caballo Fernando VII (left) and Granada Dragoons, 1808:** Here we enter the confusing war years: Fernando VII: Black bushy, yellow plate, red plume, dark green dolman with yellow collar and cuffs, the first with a red edge, the second a white edge, red turnbacks, white lace and yellow buttons (most unusual!). Brown breeches, green side stripes, yellow thigh loops; dark green and yellow saddle furniture, black harness, yellow fittings. Granada: Black helmet and crest, yellow fittings, yellow coat, light blue collar with yellow front patch, white turnbacks, yellow buttons. Grey breeches with yellow side stripe, yellow saddle furniture with light blue edging, white sheepskin with red edge, black harness with yellow fittings



**Españoles coraceros, 1810 (left), and Legion de Estremadura (lanceros), 1811:** Coraceros: Steel helmet with brass combe, red tuft, black turban and crest. Red coat, dark green collar, white turnbacks, white breeches, steel cuirass with brass shoulder chains; dark green saddle furniture with white edge, white sheepskin with red edge, black harness with yellow fittings. Lanceros: Black shako, red tuft over yellow pompon and top band, yellow lozenge plate. Dark blue coat, yellow collar with red edge (cuffs the same), dark green lapels with red edge, white turnbacks, yellow buttons. Dark blue breeches with yellow edge, dark blue saddle furniture with red and yellow edging, black harness with yellow fittings, red lance-flag



**España Line cavalry (left) and trumpeter of Alcantara Line Cavalry, 1815:** España: Steel helmet, brass combe, leopard skin turban, red tuft and crest. Dark blue coat, yellow collar with red trim, yellow buttons white lace; white breeches, dark blue saddle furniture edged white, black harness with yellow fittings. Alcantara: Helmet as for España, yellow coat, dark green collar with yellow badge and red edge, yellow buttons, red piping, white lace; white breeches, dark green saddle furniture edged white, black harness with yellow fittings. Brass trumpet, crimson and gold trumpet banner



Where regiments are shown as having 'brown and white trousers' this means that both brown trousers and white trousers were worn within the unit. The gaiters were short and were worn under the trousers.

1. 'Rey' Raised in ancient times. Brown coat with violet collar, cuffs and lapels, white cuff flaps and piping, yellow buttons; brown and white trousers; brown great-coat; black gaiters; shako.
2. 'Principe' Raised in 1537. Dark blue coat with white collar, cuffs, piping and

buttons; a triangular violet patch on the collar; dark blue trousers and black gaiters; shakos.

3. 'Galicia' Raised in 1537. Dark blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons; dark blue trousers.
4. 'Saboya' Raised in 1537. Dark blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons; dark blue trousers.
5. 'Corona' Raised in 1537. White coat, dark blue lapels, collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons; white waistcoats and knee breeches.

Cazadores de Madrid (left) and Usares de Iberia, 1815:

Cazadores: Black shako, yellow plate, red plume; dark green coat with yellow collar, cuffs, lace and buttons, dark green and yellow saddle furniture, black harness with white fittings, dark green breeches with yellow side stripe. Usares: Black busby, red bag, dark blue plume, red dolman and pelisse, yellow buttons and lace, black collar, yellow badge, black fur, dark blue breeches, black stripes, yellow thigh loops. Dark blue and yellow saddle furniture, black harness with white fittings



Infantry, 1801: (Left to right)

Infanteria ligera (Barbastro): Red cockade, dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels and shoulder straps edged white; white waistcoat edged red, yellow buttons, brown gaiters and shoes. Infanteria de Linea (Jaen): Steel front plate to cap, brass oval badge, red and yellow piping, red tassel on top. White coat, red collar and shoulder straps piped white, black lapels piped red, black cuffs piped white, yellow buttons, white waistcoat piped red. Infanteria ligera (Gerona): Black hat, red band and cockade; light brown coat, red collar, cuffs and shoulder straps, red chest piping, white piping to shoulder straps; brown trousers, yellow buttons. Infanteria de Linea (Estremadura): Hat as for Jaen, white coat, red collar, cuffs and shoulder straps, yellow lapels piped red, yellow buttons. Red and white lace to collar and cuffs, blue drum, yellow and red badge, red hoops and cords.



6. 'Africa' Raised 1559. Blue coat with light blue collar and cuffs, both decorated with silver, white buttons; blue and white trousers; grey greatcoat; black gaiters; shakos.
7. 'Zamora' Raised 1580. Blue coat and collar, red cuffs, buff cuff flaps, lapels and piping, white buttons; white and brown trousers; brown greatcoat; black gaiters; shakos.
8. 'Soria' Raised 1591. Dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs and piping, white lining and buttons; dark blue trousers; black gaiters.
9. 'Cordoba' Raised 1650. Dark blue coat with bright red lapels, white laces and buttons, buff collar and cuffs; dark blue trousers and gaiters; shakos.
10. 'Guadalaxara' Raised 1657. Dark blue coat with yellow collar and piping, red cuffs and white buttons; two silver stars on the collar and four on the turnbacks; gaiters; shakos.
11. 'Sevilla' Raised 1657. Dark blue coat with red collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons; dark blue trousers.
12. 'Granada' Raised 1657. Blue coat without lapels, red collar and cuffs, white piping, lining, shoulder-straps and buttons, two grenades at the ends of the collar; blue trousers and black gaiters; grey great-coats; shakos.
13. 'Valencia' Raised 1658. Blue coat, yellow collar, cuffs and piping, silver lace on collar and cuffs, three silver laces on the pocket flaps, white lining and buttons.
14. 'Zaragoza' Raised 1660. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, yellow buttons.
15. 'España' Raised 1660. Blue coat without lapels or piping, yellow collar and cuffs and white buttons; shakos.
16. 'Toledo' Raised 1661. Blue coat, yellow collar, cuffs and piping, white lapels and buttons; shakos.
17. 'Mallorca' Raised 1682. Blue coat, red cuffs and lapels, white collar and turnbacks, yellow buttons.
18. 'Burgos' Raised 1694. Light blue coat, yellow collar and cuffs, white piping.
19. 'Murcia' Raised 1694. White coat, collar and buttons, light blue cuffs.
20. 'Leon' Raised 1694. Blue coat, white collar, turnbacks and buttons, red cuffs and lapels.
21. 'Irlanda' Raised 1698. Light blue coat without lapels, red collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons; shakos.
22. 'Cantabria' Raised 1703. Blue single-breasted coat, green collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons; shakos.
23. 'Asturias' Raised 1703. Blue coat, light blue collar and cuffs, red piping, yellow buttons, two vertical yellow laces on the collar.
24. 'Fixo de Ceuta' Raised 1703. White coat, white lapels and buttons, green collar, cuffs and piping.
25. 'Navarra' Raised 1705. Dark blue coat, light blue lapels, green collar and cuffs, white piping; shakos.
26. 'Hibernia' Raised 1709. Blue coat, white collar, cuffs, lapels and buttons, red turnbacks and piping.
27. 'Ultonia' Raised 1709. Light blue coat and lapels, buff collar and piping, white buttons.
28. 'Aragon' Raised 1711. Blue coat with red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and shoulder-straps, yellow buttons.
29. 'America' Raised 1764. Blue coat, buff collar and cuff flaps, red piping and turnbacks, white buttons.
30. 'Princesa' Raised 1766. Blue coat with red collar, lapels and cuffs, white cuff flaps, turnbacks and buttons; shakos.
31. 'Estremadura' Raised 1766. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons; shakos.
32. 'Malaga' Raised 1766. Blue coat, buff collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons; shakos.
33. 'Ordenes Militares' Raised 1793. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs, piping and turnbacks.
34. 'Borbon' Raised 1796. Light blue coat, red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, yellow lapels, white piping and buttons.
35. 'Baza' Raised 1808. Blue coat, light blue collar, red cuffs and lapels, white piping and buttons.



36. 'Fernando VII' Raised 1808. Blue coat, red collar, white lapels, green cuffs, piping in reversed colours, yellow buttons.
37. 'Primero de Bajadoz' Raised 1808. Light blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white lapels.
38. 'Lena' Raised 1808. Brown coat, red collar, light blue cuffs and lapels, white piping, yellow buttons; brown trousers; shakos.
39. 'Almeria' Raised 1808. Blue coat, buff collar and cuffs, one lace on each side of the collar, white buttons and edging; shakos.
40. 'Pravia' Raised 1808. Blue single-breasted coat, red collar, cuffs, piping and turnbacks, white buttons.
41. 'Palma' Raised 1808. Blue coat, lapels and cuffs, white collar, edging, buttons and buttonholes.
42. 'Castropol' Raised 1808. Blue single-breasted coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping and yellow buttons; shakos.
43. 'Cangas de Tineo' Raised 1808. Brown coat with buff collar, piping and cuff flaps, green lapels and cuffs, yellow buttons; shakos.
44. 'Benavente' Raised 1808. Blue coat with light blue collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons, one white lace on the collar.
45. 'Voluntarios de Madrid' Raised 1808. Short blue coat and collar, white piping, red lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, yellow buttons, two yellow laces on each side of the collar.
46. 'Quinto de Granaderos' Raised 1808. Blue coat with yellow collar and cuffs, light blue lapels with white lace decoration, white edging, buttons and turnbacks; shakos.
47. 'Almansa' Raised 1808. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and lapels, yellow buttons and lace on the lapels, white turnbacks.
48. 'Baylen' Raised 1808. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white buttons and turnbacks; shakos with plumes.
49. 'Primero de Guadix' Raised 1809. Blue coat with buff collar, red cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow buttons; red waistcoat, blue breeches.
50. 'Barcelona' Raised 1809. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, green lapels and shoulderstraps, white piping, turnbacks and buttons; shakos.
51. 'Alpujares' Raised 1809. Blue coat, red collar, lapels, turnbacks and piping, light blue cuffs and white buttons.
52. 'Union' Raised 1809. Blue coat and lapels, green collar, red cuffs and turnbacks, white piping and buttons.
53. 'Carinena' Raised 1809. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping and buttons; shakos.
54. 'Segundo de la Princesa' Raised 1809. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping and buttons, large double pocket flaps; shakos.
55. 'Leales Manresanos' Raised 1809. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and piping, light blue lapels and yellow buttons.
56. 'Segundo de Asturias' Raised 1811. Blue coat, light blue collar, red cuffs and piping, white buttons.
57. 'San Fernando' Raised 1811. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, yellow buttons; pocket flaps 'a la Walona'; shakos.
58. 'Cadiz' Raised 1811. Light blue single-breasted coat, red collar and cuffs, white buttons and piping; shakos.
59. 'Arlanza' Raised 1811. Short brown coat, red collar, cuffs and piping, white lace decoration; brown waistcoat, trousers and gaiters.
60. 'Granaderos de Castilla' Raised 1811. Brown coat, red collar, white piping and decoration; brown trousers.
61. 'Guadalaxara' Raised 1811. Blue coat, red lapels, buff collar, cuffs and piping, pocket flaps 'a la Walona' and a small flap besides; yellow buttons, blue trousers.
62. 'Mataro' Raised 1812. Light blue coat, yellow collar and piping, white lapels and trousers; shakos.
63. 'La Reunion' Raised 1812. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and piping, light blue lapels, white buttons; blue trousers.

**Infantry, 1805: Batallones Ligeros (Barbastro):** Green plume, red cockade, yellow loop and button; dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels and shoulderstrap piping, blue cuff flaps and shoulderstraps. **Granadero Provincial:** Black bearskin, red bag; white coat, red collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, white piping and buttons, white cuff flaps, red epaulettes with white half moons. **Infanteria de Linea (Granada):** Red plume and cockade; white coat, blue collar, cuffs, lapels and shoulderstraps, white cuff flap, yellow buttons



**Infantry, 1808: Regimiento Patria:** Black shako, yellow fittings, red plume, dark green coat, red collar with yellow edging, dark green cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, yellow buttons, yellow edging to cuffs and lapels, red cuff flap. **Regimiento Fernando VII:** Shako as above, dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons, yellow shoulderstraps; dark blue breeches. **Regimiento Santa Fe:** Black shako with white fittings and red cockade and pompon, dark blue coat, purple collar, piping and cuff flaps, dark green cuffs and lapels, white buttons and epaulettes, dark blue waistcoat and breeches. **Regimiento Muerte:** Black shako, white badge, dark green plume, red cockade; dark green coat, dark blue collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons, grey breeches. **Regimiento Victoria:** Black hat, yellow plate, red cockade; dark brown coat, red collar, cuffs and lapels, yellow buttons and collar badge, dark brown breeches, green knee bows, black gaiters and shoes



**Infantry, 1812 (The English Uniforms): Line Infantry:** **Granadero:** Yellow grenade hat badge, red plume, cockade and trim; dark blue coat, red collar, cuffs, turnbacks and pipings, yellow buttons, light blue shoulder rolls, red fringes; light blue trousers. **Uficial (light company):** Yellow horn badge, green plume and trim, red cockade; coat as for granadero but gold gorget and epaulettes; light blue trousers. **Fusilero (centre companies):** White plume and hat trim, red cockade, yellow lion badge; coat as for granadero but dark blue shoulderstraps edged red; light blue trousers. **Light Infantry: Cazador:** Green plume and shako trim; dark blue coat, white turnbacks, yellow buttons, light blue shoulder rolls with white fringes, light blue trousers, grey pack



64. 'Veteranos de la Patria' Raised 1813. Blue coat and lapels, yellow collar, cuffs and piping, white buttons; white waistcoat; blue trousers.
65. 'Del General de reserva de Andalucia' Raised 1813. Blue coat, red collar and cuffs, white piping, buttons and lace on the collar; shakos.
66. 'Del General del primer Exercito' Raised 1813. Short blue coat with red collar and piping, white lapels and lining, green cuffs, shoulder-straps and piping on the collar, yellow buttons.
67. 'Del General del quarto Exercito' Raised 1814. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and lining, white piping and buttons; blue trousers.
68. 'Imperial Alexandro' Raised 1814. Blue coat, red collar, cuffs and turnbacks, blue lapels, yellow buttons; blue trousers; shakos.

## The Plates

### A1 Captain of Cazadores, cavalry regiment *Voluntarios de España*, 1808

The Cazadores equated to the Chasseurs à cheval of the Imperial French army and their hussar-type uniform emphasises their rôle of light cavalry. They wore no sabretasches and only the élite squadron wore the crested helmet, the other squadrons wore stovepipe shakos. In 1806 the two cazadore regiments had worn brown uniforms, Olivenza with red facings, España with light blue.

### A2 Trooper of the dragoon regiment *Villa Viciosa*, 1805-8

The facings of this regiment in the *Collecion de Noventa y Siete Estampes de Demuestran los nuevos Uniformes q<sup>e</sup> se an dado a todo el Exto de España segun el hultino Reglamento del Año de 1806* are shown as light green and this is confirmed by Knötel in his *Uniformkunde*. Other sources show a deeper green. The cavalry was the weak spot of the Napoleonic Spanish army; badly equipped, scarcely trained, poorly mounted and given officers of noble birth but no achievement, they failed their comrades in the infantry on almost every occasion.

### A3 Trumpeter of the dragoon regiment *Villa Viciosa*, 1805-8

Most Spanish cavalry regiments clad their trumpeters in red with yellow facings regardless of regiment but the *Villa Viciosa* dragoons used the more common international practice of the trumpeters wearing reversed colours. During the period 1808-15 a great variety of uniforms appeared in the Spanish army, many of them being of English origin. The old-fashioned bicorn shown here, soon gave way to a black leather helmet rather similar to that worn by the British Light Dragoons around 1800.

### B Trumpeter of *Cazadores* of the regiment *Olivenza*, élite company (*carabineros*), 1806

Once again, the élite company is shown in the busby while the rest of the regiment wore shakos. Not only did the trumpeters differ from their comrades in their red uniforms but also they had red saddle furniture as opposed to the dark green of the troopers. As in most other armies of this period, trumpeters rode greys while, except in the Royal North British Dragoons, troopers usually rode blacks, browns or chestnuts.

### C1 Standard bearer of the line cavalry regiment *Infante*, 1808

Although the illustrated uniform was extremely



impressive on the parade ground, it was most impracticable to live and fight in and in many armies of the day, heavy cavalry regiments discarded their high, jacked boots at the first possible opportunity if going on campaign and wore buttoned overalls over short boots with screw-in spurs. Being an officer, the Porta-Estandarte has a white plume and gold epaulettes.

### *C2 Officer of the regiment Guadalajara*

This regiment was one of those units sent to Denmark in 1807 with La Romana's division: on 31 July 1808 the regiments Asturias and Guadalajara erupted into revolt in the town of Roskilde on the island of Seeland and most of them were disarmed and interned by the Danes and later provided many recruits (even if only on a short term basis) for King Joseph's army. In the period 1806-8 the Spanish army was in the process of introducing new uniforms; under this scheme the Line Infantry regiments received dark blue uniforms with shakos.

### *C3 Officer of the line cavalry, old uniform, walking-out dress*

According to Suhr's excellent pictorial records of the Spanish troops in Hamburg, it seems to have been the custom for Spanish officers off duty to carry their swords under their arms with the slings and belt wrapped around the scabbard. Discarding the awkward boots, this gentleman is enjoying the comfort of silk stockings and light shoes – perhaps calling on a lady?

### *D Trooper of the 7th Cavalry Regiment (Lanciers de la Mancha), 1813*

Brown was the colour chosen by the French to clothe most of the units they raised in the Peninsula at this time, including the Portuguese Legion. The reason was simple availability of large stocks of native brown cloth which could be made up into trousers and coats; all the nations who had troops in this unhappy country found it difficult, at one time or another, to maintain frequent deliveries of regulation uniforms and materials.

The patriot soldier wears the British-manufactured uniform which gradually came into use during the period 1811-15. Light company distinctions include the green shako decoration,

the bugle horn plate, and the green-fringed shoulder rolls. A fuller description of this uniform will be found under Plates H1, 2 and 3. Patriot and Bonapartist Spanish units clashed increasingly in the 1813 campaigns, when patriot units of more reliable quality than formerly – such as Morillo's division – served with Wellington's field army at Vittoria and in the Pyrenees. Some of these units distinguished themselves. Fighting between the two Spanish factions was naturally very bitter, and towards the end of the war desertion was a major problem in King Joseph's forces.

### *E1 Drum Major, infantry regiment Princessa, 1808*

The regiment Princessa was sent to Denmark in 1807 and was one of those Spanish units to be equipped with the new uniforms being introduced at that time.

### *E2 Officer of the dragoon regiment Almansa*

As we have seen from Suhr's work on the troops of La Romana's division in Hamburg, even the heavy cavalry troopers wore leather gaiters instead of the more expensive boots; what the dragoons (mounted infantry) suffered in the way of 'novel' equipment is unfortunately not as clearly seen.

### *E3 Officer of Engineers, 1808*

Up to the present day the Spanish engineers have retained the tower as their corps badge. The Engineers in 1808 were all officers with diplomas; the pick-and-shovel work which they designed and directed was carried out by the 'zapadores y minadores' or, if this corps could not produce enough workers, the infantry would be co-opted and usually paid extra for the work they did. The purple lapels are shown in Suhr's work *Die Uniformen der Division La Romana*.

### *F1 Musician from the infantry regiment Princessa in the new uniform*

Even though the equipment and training of the Spanish Army were at a very low point in this era due to shortage of military funds, it seems that much money, time and interest could still be invested in the vital topic of how the regimental band was to be dressed! As in most other armies, musicians' uniforms were the responsibility of the regimental commander and it seems that the

light cavalry image went over well in this infantry regiment hence the busby and dolman.

*F2 Officer of grenadiers, infantry regiment Zamora*

This officer is shown in the old, white uniform which must have been very difficult to keep clean when in the field. It is said that Napoleon, who wished to put the entire French infantry into white and, in fact, got part way through with the scheme, was put off in the end by the sight of some Austrian casualties. He realised that the morale of his men might be adversely affected by the way in which white coats emphasised the amount of blood spattered about while dark blue rendered it less conspicuous.

In undress the officers and men of the grenadier companies wore bicorns with red cockade and pompon.

*F3 Officer of light infantry regiment Catalonia*

To emphasise the importance of speed in their battle rôle, the Spanish light infantry adopted light cavalry style uniforms as shown here. The brass plate on the front of the crest of the helmet bore the royal cypher (either 'CIV' or 'FVII' according to the state of modernity of the uniforms).

As the Spanish army had adopted French tactics and drill in 1803, it is to be expected that the light infantry were mainly employed fighting in extended order to cover the deployment and advance of the assault columns in their rear.

*G1 Drummer of grenadiers, infantry regiment Zamora*

In contrast to the others in the regiment, the flame on the back of the drummer's bonnet has a square patch at the top instead of a circular one. The collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks are trimmed with white lace bearing a diamond pattern in red. The drum is brass, with hoops in the facing colour. Drummers apparently carried officer-pattern sabres.

*G2 Officer of horse artillery*

The similarity between this uniform and that of the French horse artillery of the same period is quite plain. Usually the national cockade was worn at the top of the headdress but in Spain it seems that on shakos of this time, the bottom

front centre was the favourite spot. The curved sabre and short boots are of light cavalry pattern.

*G3 Officer, infantry regiment Princessa*

Grenadier officers wore bearskins on parade and in battle; on other occasions they wore plain bicorns with red cockade, button and loop in the regimental button colour. Officers of musketeer companies wore the bicorn on all occasions except in barrack dress when they were permitted to wear stylised 'night caps' (like those of the men) but with silver or gold embroidery instead of white or yellow.

*H1 Officer, light company, infantry regiment Aragon, 1811-15*

The improvement of Allied fortunes in the Peninsular War in the period 1812-13, Wellington's appointment as Spanish Generalissimo, and an increasing degree of central control over Spanish patriot forces all contributed in some extent to a reform of the regular army. Britain, ever the paymaster of the Allied nations, provided large stocks of new uniforms and equipment. The design of these uniforms was much more modern than the old styles, and immediately invites comparison with British-made uniforms also supplied in large numbers to Portugal, Prussia, and some other German states. The coats of all Line infantry units were blue-faced red; various shades of blue have been quoted, but given the conditions of the day variations were inevitable. Trousers of both blue and the familiar British grey were common. Officers of light companies seem to have worn shakos in preference to bicorns, but both shakos and bicorns have been illustrated as worn by officers of the centre and grenadier companies. Gold epaulettes and gorgets were worn by officers, but apparently not sashes, although Knötel (alone) shows a crimson sash. The collar device is a gilt initial letter, apparently 'A' for *Aragon*. The dress of a light company soldier is illustrated on Plate D. The lace round the base of the British stovepipe shako is green, as are the chin-tapes, tied up over the crown; a green tuft and bugle-horn plate further indicate light status. The red cockade was universal. Other ranks wore padded shoulder wings with green fringes.

*H2 Private, grenadier company, infantry regiment  
Zaragoza, 1811-15*

Another view of the other ranks' uniform. Grenadiers were distinguished by a red shako tuft, a grenade plate, and red lace and tapes; the shoulder rolls were fringed red. Note the small barrel-shaped canteen; and the British appearance of the trousers and gaiters.

*H3 Private, centre companies, infantry regiment Leon,  
1811-15*

Centre company soldiers wore plain piped shoulder-straps in place of the more ornate rolls of the flankers. The distinguishing colour was white, which appeared on the shako lace, tapes and tuft. The plate was a rampant lion. The collar initial, 'L' for *Leon*, identifies a unit which fought well at Roncesvalles in July 1813.

The Light Infantry was reorganised to some extent at the same time as the Line. Regulations called for azure blue coatees and trousers, but grey trousers seem to have been worn by some troops. Shako distinctions were the same as in the Line regiments. The light infantry coatees had pointed white two-button cuffs, white collars, white turnbacks and white edge-piping. Flank company shoulder distinctions followed those of the Line, and collar initials were worn. It appears that sergeants of both light and Line units wore fringed epaulettes in white, green and red according to company.

It is always misleading to refer to any uniform of this period as the pattern of a particular year, implying that by the end of that year the bulk of troops were wearing the new style. Supply and procurement procedures were primitive and vulnerable to disruption, and nowhere more so than in Spain, which was shattered by the long ordeal of occupation and civil war. It was probably a matter of years before any sort of uniformity was achieved in the army as a whole.

## SPANISH ARMY FLAGS

The flags carried by the Spanish Army in the period 1800-1815 were governed by the decree of 22 October 1768. Each battalion had two flags, one a King's Colour, the other the Battalion

Colour. Both were white. The King's Colour bore in the centre the crest of Spain and in each corner the badge of the King, or of the province or town from which they took their title. The flags were embroidered.

The badge of Spain was as follows:

*Top left hand outer field:* vertical red and yellow stripes of equal width.

*Top left hand inner field:* diagonally quartered; the top and bottom fields being vertical red and yellow stripes, the two side fields white each with a red spread eagle.

*Top right hand inner field:* three horizontal bars - red, white and red again.

*Top right hand outer field:* dark blue centre, edged with red and white diced band.

*Centre row left:* six gold spread eagles on a white field.

*Centre row right:* five red balls under a larger dark blue ball bearing three gold fleurs-de-lis all on a white field.

*Centre row heart shield:*

*Centre:* a dark blue disc bearing three gold fleurs-de-lis.

*Top left and bottom right fields:* a gold tower on a red ground.

*Top right and bottom left fields:* a rampant red lion facing left, on a gold ground.

*Bottom row outer left field:* diagonal white and blue stripes with a red surround.

*Bottom row inner left field:* a black rampant lion facing left on a gold ground.

*Bottom row inner right field:* a black spread eagle on a white ground.

*Bottom row outer right field:* a gold rampant lion facing left on a black ground.

The Battalion Colour bore in the centre a red diagonal (St Andrew's or 'Burgundian') cross, with stylised branches to either side and in each corner the badge of the province or city whose title they bore.

### *Spanish Cavalry Standards*

These were of the pattern laid down on 12 July 1728. Each squadron of heavy cavalry and dragoons had one standard, which was red and bore on one side the Spanish crest (as for the infantry flags) and in each corner a gold fleur-de-lis, on the other side a trophy of arms and the regimental number.



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