Year 2 – No. 6

Contents

P.1  The War of 1806  M. Göddert
P.8  Jena and Auerstädt – 180 Years Later  P. Wacker
P.12 Blücher’s March to Lübeck  M. Göddert
P.15 Prussian Dragoons 1806  H.-K. Weiß
E. Wagner
P.22 Saxon Infantry 1806  M. Gärtner  Plate 1
P.27 The French Army in the Campaign of 1806  M. Stein
E. Wagner  Plates 2-4

Unless otherwise noted, the drawings interspersed throughout the text are by J. Fey and L. Sergent.

Editor
Markus Stein  2014 translation: Justin Howard
Introduction

The “Special Edition” has arrived. Unfortunately it had to be published a week or two later than originally planned, because articles were still arriving in October. This edition deals with a campaign which receives little attention here in Germany; the devastating defeat brought the curtain down on the “glorious” Frederician era, which - with the exception of the last four decades of the 19th Century - was one of the most important periods in (regions of) Germany. However, this is to overlook the fact that a system’s faults – and Frederick the Great’s nation surely also had its share – can only be eradicated by defeat or revolution; Prussia’s downfall in 1806 laid the foundation for the army reforms of 1808-10 as well as the emergence of German national sentiment.

The destruction of Prussia consolidated once more France’s position on the European continent, but was also the last “Blitzkrieg of the gloire”. As early as the following year’s campaign against Russia – and the remnant of the Prussian Army – Napoleon experienced considerable difficulties and, for the first time, a considerable number of casualties. Furthermore, the campaign of 1806 can’t be considered such a brilliant coup as that of 1805, because Napoleon believed that the main body of the Prussian Army was at Jena, whereas he only opposed the rear-guard under Hohenlohe; as a consequence, a single French corps under Marshal Davout had to withstand the hasty (and uncoordinated) attacks by the main body of the Prussian Army at Auerstädt.

Afterwards, to conceal his “strategic error”, Napoleon sought a scapegoat; he found one in Marshal Bernadotte, and subsequently berated him repeatedly. Encouraged by his loyal marshals Berthier and Davout, neither of whom were on very good terms with Bernadotte, the emperor accused Bernadotte of inactivity. However he had followed to the letter the emperor’s order to take up position in the rear of the supposed main body of the Prussian Army and only to advance on a further order from Napoleon, which however was never sent. This demonstrates the fundamental shortcoming of the Napoleonic command structure, which was centred solely on the person of the emperor and which made independent action by the generals extremely difficult, in fact almost impossible.

I believe that this issue provides a good insight into the campaign and almost all of the armies involved, and hope that it can motivate the readers to more in-depth study.

Due to the length of the various articles, the usual magazine round-up had to be omitted from this issue. This will be brought up to date in the next Depesche.

Last but not least, I would like to use the introduction to this special edition as an opportunity to announce the next one. In a similar fashion to this issue, it will deal exclusively with the campaign of 1807, and will appear in June/July 1987. I hope that readers will be encouraged to submit articles on this topic. With this appeal, I wish pleasant reading.

Markus Stein
The War of 1806

On 9 August, Friedrich-Wilhelm III yielded to the pressure of the pro-war faction at the Prussian court and ordered the mobilisation of the army. Prussia’s preparation for war was considered a countermeasure to France’s openly hostile attitude. The creation of the Coalition of the Rhine, the French offer to return Hanover to England as well as the failure to evacuate southern Germany were the crucial factors in the Prussian King’s decision. The mobilisation of the Prussian Army could only be regarded by Napoleon as an indirect declaration of war. The emperor, who had consciously provoked the military challenge, was eminently prepared for the conflict. 200,000 French soldiers under the command of their best marshals stood by in southern Germany ready to intervene in Prussia.

When the Prussians delivered an ultimatum to Napoleon on 1 October, war became inevitable. Prussia had mobilised 130,000 men; only Saxony and Weimar provided troops in support. Diplomatic negotiations on military assistance had not been held early enough with the other nations hostile to Napoleon. The official Prussian declaration of war against France followed on 9 October. By this point, Napoleon had already opened hostilities. The French Army approached Bayreuth, Schleiz and Saalfeld in three large columns. The Prussian Army, under the supreme command of the 71 year old Duke Friedrich of Brunswick1, stood widely extended from the Saale to the Weser. Besides the main army, Hohenlohe’s and Rüchel’s corps largely operated independently. This absurd idea, which was the result of an order from the King, was to have serious and lasting consequences.

1 Translator’s Note: sic. Actually the Duke’s name was Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand. Friedrich Wilhelm was his son, the Black Duke, who was later fatally wounded at Quatre Bras.
The first engagement between the belligerent powers occurred on 9 October. Bernadotte’s troops came up against a Prussian flank corps at Schleiz. The Prussians lost this encounter due to the enemy’s superior numbers. The battle which took place at Saalfeld on the following day, 10 October, was more serious. Hohenlohe’s vanguard, under the command of Prince Louis-Ferdinand of Prussia, was surprised by the French and completely defeated. The Prince himself, fighting valiantly, died a hero’s death. The vast French Army approached relentlessly. Although by this time the Prussian Army had concentrated between Weimar and Jena, the Duke of Brunswick decided to withdraw as far as the Elbe. To protect against a potential flank attack, Hohenlohe was to remain in his position at Jena and secure the crossings of the Saale. He had made insufficient provision to defend against attacks from the Saale valley. Weak garrisons under Tauentzien’s command were dispersed among the surrounding villages. As two French corps approached, he hastily ordered the Saale valley to be evacuated ahead of the superior forces, and withdrew. However, what beggars belief is that he neglected to occupy the Landgrafenberg heights. On the same day, 13 October, Jena was occupied by the French. That same night, Napoleon had troops and cannon brought to the plateau of the Landgrafenberg. The Emperor himself leant a hand with this difficult operation. The fog which descended on the region in the morning of 14 October prevented Hohenlohe from realising the danger he was in. At 9:00, the dark clouds cleared. The French attack began. The scattered Prussian detachments were caught in isolation and beaten. The course of the Battle of Jena is a patchwork of several distinct events. After the Prussian flanks had been defeated, there was a bloody encounter in the centre of the front line. Outflanked on both sides and not supported early enough by Rüchel, Hohenlohe found himself forced into a retreat which soon dissolved into headlong flight. This disintegration can be taken as evidence of the obsolescence of Prussian tactics and the incompetence of its leadership. It was not due to a lack of courage within the army. This is shown by the lengthy resistance against a foe who, in the
decisive phase, outnumbered the Prussians by two to one and was under the leadership of the best military commander of his time. Retreat was not ordered until it was almost too late, and thus could no longer be conducted in an orderly manner. The prompt pursuit by the French cavalry completed the disintegration of the demoralised Prussian Army.

In contrast to Jena, the Battle of Auerstädt must be considered a chance encounter. Whilst withdrawing, the main army under the Duke of Brunswick came upon Davout’s French corps, which according to Napoleon’s intentions was to attack Hohenlohe from the rear. The battle began with the combat at Hasenhausen, 25 kilometres from Jena. The Prussians began the battle as disorganised as at Jena. At the moment when the battle could have taken a favourable turn for the numerically superior Prussians, the supreme commander was fatally wounded by a canister shot. The unified leadership was lost. Blücher’s efforts to retake the initiative through cavalry attacks were unsuccessful. Of the available Prussian troops, only 21,000 men were deployed. Instead of a concentrated assault, primarily by the vastly superior cavalry, the King, who couldn’t pull himself together to appoint a new supreme commander, disengaged much too early. Unaware of the Battle of Jena, a withdrawal to Weimar was ordered. Here they met the remains of Hohenlohe’s corps. The sight of these disintegrating units had a disastrous effect on the main army, finally leading it to collapse as well.

For France, the results of the two simultaneous battles were, among other things, 300 captured cannon, 40 captured generals and 50,000 enemy dead, wounded or captured. In the process, the victor's losses amounted to 13,500 dead and wounded. Triumphant, the French pressed further forward. Erfurt, the strong, well-entrenched fortress, was lost due to cowardly capitulation as early as 15 October. On 17 October, there was an engagement at Halle between Dupont’s French division and the Duke of Württemberg’s Reserve Corps. The Prussians mounted an extremely weak and feeble defence of the bridge over the Saale. No provisions were made for defending the Prussian capital. The fortress of Spandau surrendered without a fight. On 27 October, Napoleon made his entrance into Berlin. He made his way through the Brandenburg Gate and down Unter den Linden to the palace of the Hohenzollerns. The goddess of victory and chariot which adorned the Gate was sent to Paris as a mark of glory, together with Frederick the Great’s épée.
For Prussia, the tragedy was not yet over. On 28 October, Hohenlohe capitulated at Prenzlau with the remainder of his corps. After a brief engagement, about 10,000 men laid down their arms. Following a skirmish at Krienitz, the French caught up with Blücher at Lübeck on 6 November. After courageous resistance, the numerical superiority of the attackers forced the Prussians to withdraw. Since all ammunition stores had been left behind in Lübeck, Blücher saw no other alternative but to capitulate to the hard-pressing enemy. This occurred on 7 November at Rattkau. Even after the loss of her armies, the matter was not yet settled for Prussia. The state had strong fortresses, which were capable of holding out for a considerable time against all assaults. In the meantime, Russian armies were advancing and could soon bring relief. However, senile commanders considered the game lost for the King. Out of consideration for the many lives which would have been lost during a siege, most fortresses were surrendered to the French without any attempt at resistance. Noteworthy exceptions were the defence of Kolberg and Graudenz – “Even if there is no longer a King of Prussia, here there is still a King of Graudenz”. Men such as Courbiere, Nettelbeck, Gneisenau and Schill deserve a mention here.

Overview of the Campaign

9 October: Prussia’s declaration of war on France.

Engagement at Schleiz
2,500 Prussians under Tauentzien versus the vanguard of Bernadotte’s I Corps (20,500 men).
Prussian losses: 566 dead and wounded.

10 October: Engagement at Saalfeld.
8,300 Prussians under Prince Louis Ferdinand versus 9,000 French under Suchet from Lannes’ V Corps.
Death of Prince Louis Ferdinand.
Prussian losses: 1,700 men (including captured).
French losses: 200 dead and wounded.

14 October: Battle of Jena.
53,000 Prussians under Hohenlohe and Rüchel versus 54,000 French (Lannes’, Soult’s, Augereau’s and Ney’s Corps as well as the Guard) under Napoleon – of which about 40,000 saw action.
Distinct events of the battle:
1) Engagement at Closewitz and Lützerode.
   8,000 Prussians under Tauentzien versus 20,000 French under Lannes.
2) Engagement at Rödigen and Lehesten.
   4,700 Prussians under Holtzendorf versus 8,000 French under St. Hilaire (Soult).
3) Decisive encounter at Vierzehnheiligen.
   25,000 Prussians under Hohenlohe versus 40,000 French. Prussian resistance collapses.
4) Engagement at Kapellendorf.
   The belated assault by 15,000 Prussians under Rüchel breaks down under the murderous fire of the French.
Prussian losses: 10,000 dead and wounded, 13,000 captured.
French losses: 6,700 dead and wounded.

Battle of Auerstädt.
49,000 Prussians (8,800 cavalry and 230 cannon) under the Duke of Brunswick versus 26,000 French (1,200 cavalry and 44 cannon) under Davout.
The superior tactics of the outnumbered French and the disorganised Prussian cavalry attacks are the decisive factors in the great French victory. Overestimating the strength of the enemy, the Prussian King breaks off the engagement.
Prussian losses: 9,000 dead and wounded.
French losses: 6,800 dead and wounded.
Officers of the Prussian Guard sharpen their swords provocatively on the steps of the French embassy in Berlin (after a watercolour by F. de Myrbach)

16 October: Erfurt capitulates.

17 October: Engagement at Halle.
11,000 Prussians under the Duke of Württemberg versus 8,000 French under Dupont from Bernadotte’s Corps.
Prussian losses: 5,000 dead, wounded and captured.
French losses: 600 dead and wounded.

25 October: Davout’s Corps enters Berlin.

27 October: Napoleon's entrance into Berlin.

28 October: 10,000 Prussians under Hohenlohe surrender at Prenzlau in the Uckermark region.

29 October: The Fortress of Stettin capitulates.

1 November: Surrender of the Fortress of Küstrin.
The commander, Colonel von Ingersleben, will later be condemned to death by a court martial for this ignominious act (the sentence was not carried out).

6 November: Engagement at Lübeck.
20,000 Prussians under Blücher versus the French corps of Soult and Bernadotte. Precipitated by lack of ammunition, the encounter ends with the capitulation of the Prussians.
French losses: 1,200 dead and wounded.

11 November: Capitulation of the Fortress of Magdeburg with 20,000 man garrison and 600 cannon.
## Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiedler, Siegfried</td>
<td><em>Grundriß der Militär- und Kriegsgeschichte, Band 3, Napoleon gegen Preussen.</em> (Summary of Military History, Volume 3, Napoleon versus Prussia).</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grosser Generalstab</td>
<td><em>Studien der Kriegsgeschichte und Taktik, Atlas</em> (Studies of Military History and Tactics, Atlas)</td>
<td>1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jany, Curt</td>
<td><em>Geschichte der preussischen Armee, Band 3 und 4</em> (History of the Prussian Army, Vol. 3 and 4)</td>
<td>1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leidolph, Eduard</td>
<td><em>Die Schlacht bei Jena.</em> (The Battle of Jena).</td>
<td>1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pflugk-Harttung Schirmer, Friedrich</td>
<td>Napoleon I <em>Das preussische Heer 1806, Die Zinnfigur, Uniformheft 15.</em> (The Prussian Army 1806, &quot;Die Zinnfigur&quot; Uniform Booklet 15)</td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thiers, Louis Adolf</td>
<td><em>Geschichte des Konsulats und Kaiserreichs</em> (History of the Consulate and Empire)</td>
<td>1845-1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wencker-Wildberg</td>
<td><em>Napoleon, die Memoiren seines Lebens.</em> (Napoleon, his Memoirs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manfred Göddert, Lohfelden
Jena and Auerstädt – 180 Years Later

In August 1984 and May 1986, the author visited the battlefield of October 1806 and the related memorials. The journey led through Jena up to the ridge of the Landgrafenbberg via the road – then a defile – which to the surprise of the Prussians was used in the night of 13 to 14 October 1806 for the transport and ascent of the French artillery. In Cospeda, a sleepy little village in which time seems to stand still, there is a museum of the battle. It was originally established in an inn on the private initiative of an innkeeper – this innkeeper is said to have borne a certain resemblance to Napoleon, appeared occasionally in uniform as “the Emperor”, and never contradicted the rumour that the night before the battle the “little corporal” had a liaison, which was not without consequences, with a farm girl, such that the good innkeeper was said to be a direct descendant of Napoleon … Legend has it that the Emperor spent the night of 14 to 15 October in this house. In the meantime, the dance hall “Grüner Baum zur Nachtigall” underwent conversion from 1979 to 1981, to establish an “1806 Memorial in Vierzehnheiligen Memorial”, which is subordinated to the Regional Heritage Museum in Leuchtenburg.

After managing to find a friendly young lady in a neighbouring upholstery workshop, a tour was arranged. The museum is organised in a loving, lavish and modern fashion: weapons, uniforms and items of equipment (unfortunately including many which are not from the era or incorrectly labelled, though this doesn’t lessen the quality of the exhibition), reproductions of standards, maps, graphics, excellent tactical displays with metal figures and small dioramas. A 9 square metre relief map of the battlefield
has been set into the floor, which is constructed from the old cobblestones of the coaching house yard in Jena – unfortunately the orientation lamps which are meant to illustrate the individual positions and phases of the battle weren’t functioning. The captions as well as the text of the in itself well written, richly illustrated description by Günter Steiger “The Battle of Jena and Auerstädt 1806”, conform to the Marxist-Leninist perspective of the events of the time.

Leaving Cospeda, after several hundred metres along a country lane one reaches the Napoleonstein, which marks Napoleon’s position – the Stone is in poor condition. As practically no structures whatsoever have changed the landscape – only roads and power and telephone lines have been added – the battlefield is to a great extent still in its original condition. It is a plateau with height differences, hedges, trees and shrubs. The village of Vierzehnheiligen is located in the centre of the battlefield. A cannonball is still embedded in the church wall. In front of the church stands a memorial, unveiled on 14 October 1906, from red Swedish granite and bronze, a cross with a tattered Prussian flag and an oak wreath leaning against it – inscription after Theodor Körner: “Forget not the faithful dead” – and plaques with casualty figures and names of the fallen Prussian and Saxon officers, arranged by unit.

At Rödingen, in an open field north of the copse of Closwitz, the gravestone of First Lieutenant von Bissing of the Chevaulegers-Regiment “Prinz Clemens” from the Electorate of Saxony is said to be well maintained.

Six kilometres north of Jena, in the gardens of the Schwäten1 chateau, there is said to exist a grave of 46 Saxon soldiers, who succumbed to their wounds here.

The journey across the battlefield of Auerstädt leads from Eckartsberg to Hassenhausen via the country road.

At the Eckardsburg near Eckartsberga (the family seat of Ekkehard and Uta, known for being “founding figure statues” in the cathedral of Naumburg), a commemorative plaque in the present ruin recalls that in the final phase of the battle of Auerstädt, Prussian soldiers of the Grenadier Battalion von Schlieffen (Grenadiers of the IR 7 and 30) courageously defended the castle against superior numbers of the enemy. In the tower there is a “Diorama of the Battle of Auerstädt”, which is enough to send a shiver down the spine of any even half-expert observer – because only three of the staff figures wear the 1806 Prussian uniform; all other figures, some gesticulating wildly, are uniformed for the years 1813/14/15, including Landwehr and volunteer Jägers! The polite, though critical, visitor won’t mention the tactical inaccuracies! Even so, the diorama is very popular and attracts many visitors.

I didn’t visit Auerstädt itself – in the village square, there is said to be an obelisk with the Prussian eagle which commemorates the campaign of 1806 as well as the War of 1870/71.

The cemetery in Hassenhausen lies roughly in the centre of the town, directly beside the road. Beyond the steps towers a similar memorial to that in Vierzehnheiligen – a manifestation of Prussian frugality or a lack of imagination when faced with the memories of an unpopular war? Also here plaques have been mounted which list the participating troop units and the names of the fallen officers. As stated on these, 46 officers from the Prussian regiments and the Weimar battalion – including 4 generals and seven staff officers – and about 7,000 soldiers fell or died of their wounds. 239 officers, including six generals and 35 staff officers, and about 13,000 soldiers were wounded.

Between Hassenhausen and Eckartsberga, about 300m south of the road, a memorial

1 Translator’s Note: Now called Zwätzen.
can be made out in a field under a group of trees. On closer inspection, one notices the desolate condition of the memorial, which commemorates that Duke Carl of Brunswick was fatally wounded on this spot. Apart from a few remnants, the original surrounding railings have disappeared. North of the road, at Spielberg, is said to still exist a memorial to the officers of the Prussian Infantry Regiments Number 10 von Wedell, Number 23 von Winning, Number 26 Alt-Larisch and Number 43 von Strachwitz who fell here on 14 October 1806.

Commemorative plaque on the memorial at Vierzehnheiligen

A final memorial is the old stone bridge over the Saale in Kösen (today Bad Kösen), which witnessed the attack of Gudin’s division.

A humble memorial, which commemorates a brave feat in the weeks of the Frederician army’s collapse, is not to be forgotten. On 26 October 1806 at Altenzaun, a village in the Altmark region on the south bank of the Elbe, about 1 km south of Sandau, a Prussian detachment (6 Jäger companies, 3 Fusilier battalions and 2 cannon) under Colonel von York covered the Duke of Weimar’s withdrawing corps in their crossing of the Elbe. The memorial stone portrays two crossed swords and the inscription “York d: 26. Octbr. 1806”; it is well preserved and in the summer months schoolchildren regularly lay flowers at it.

Incidentally, it must be noted that in the GDR the memorials to 1806 – apart from the museum in Cospeda – are not “in demand” compared with (because of the Prussian-Russian military alliance of the time) the markedly well-tended memorials to 1813 in the central German region!
CEUX QUI BRAVAIENT L’AIGLE

Translator’s Note:
Although this is an advertisement for these plates, I believe the description of the series is still relevant. However, I have removed the contact details, as they are definitely out-dated.

The following plates are available in the new A4 series:
Number 13 Russian Guard Cossacks, other ranks, 1812-1815
Number 14 Russian Guard Cossacks, officers, 1812-1815
Number 15 Lützow Cavalry, other ranks, 1813-1815
Number 16 Gordon Highlanders, officers, 1810-1815
Number 17 Horse Guards, other ranks, 1812-1815
Number 18 Horse Guards, officers, 1812-1815

The following are planned:
Number 19 Lützow Infantry, other ranks, 1813-1815
Number 20 Austrian Foot Artillery, 1809-1815
Number 21 Russian Line Infantry (I), 1802-1809
Number 22 Russian Line Infantry (II), 1809-1815

Translator’s Note: The rest of this page was taken up by an advert for Derdinger Figures, which is no longer relevant and has not been translated.
Blücher’s March to Lübeck

After the defeat at Auerstädt, the remnants of the Prussian Army fled in the direction of Weimar. At dawn on 16 October, Blücher reached Sömmerda, a small town about 30 km north of Weimar. On the same day, the King took leave of him. Blücher remained here the complete day, to form the rear-guard. On the morning of 17 October, Blücher left the town together with his cavalry in the direction of Greußen. At Weißensee, about 10 km north of Sömmerda, his path was blocked by French dragoons under General Klein. As a result of his assurance that an armistice had been concluded, the French allowed the Prussians to pass.

At noon on the same day, Blücher’s and Kalkreuth’s Prussian troops united at Greußen. The combined retreat continued via Sondershausen, which Blücher entered on 18 October, to Nordhausen (about 60 km east of Göttingen). Here Blücher met his king, Scharnhorst and Hohenlohe. While the remainder of the army under Hohenlohe marched on Magdeburg, Blücher was given command of a heavy artillery park. With a grenadier battalion and about 500 cavalry for protection, Blücher marched via Osterode, Seesen and Braunschweig (Brunswick) in the direction of the Elbe. On 24 October, they crossed the river at Sandau (near Havelberg), four days after the French. Lannes’ and Davout’s corps had crossed the river in the North at Dessau and Wittenberg, Bernadotte’s at Barby (south of Magdeburg).

That evening, the Prussians reached the town of Neustadt. On orders from Hohenlohe, Blücher stayed in this town for two days to cover the retreat. Having taken over the remains of the Württemberg corps (Natzmer), Blücher now had about 10,500 men under his command. In the night of 26 to 27 October, the Prussians left Neustadt. The march led via Ruppin and Lychen to Boitzenburg (about 100 km north of Berlin). On 29 October, news of Hohenlohe’s defeat was received. Blücher’s and Winnig’s (formerly Weimar’s) forces were thus the only ones remaining. On 30 October, Blücher assumed overall command at Waren (on the Müritzsee lake) and thus commanded about 22,000 men. The next day, the rear-guard under Yorck repulsed Bernadotte’s troops, allowing further retreat to Schwerin. A further rear-guard action took place on 3 November at Crivitz (15 km from Schwerin).
The exhausted Prussians’ march continued via Gadebusch to Lübeck, under pressure from the numerically superior French. Here, Blücher saw a last, though slim, chance of escaping from the enemy by sea. In the night of 5 to 6 November, the troops reached the Hanseatic city \(^1\). At that time, Lübeck was one of the few independent cities and counted as neutral. Its fortifications were in adequate condition and were also secured by wide watercourses (the Trave and Wakenitz rivers).

Only a few hours later, on the morning of 6 November, the French under Bernadotte approached the city, and immediately started fierce assaults. Scharnhorst, Müffling and Goltz were captured right at the start. The fight was especially bitter at the city gates. Above all at the Castle Gate in the north of the city and at the Mill Gate in the southeast, both sides fought with the greatest determination. The Castle Gate and the church square were defended by the Brunswick-Oels brigade and the Manstein regiment. The Ivernois and Kaiserling fusilier battalions also took part. For two hours, the French could hardly make any headway. The Prussian artillery inflicted considerable losses in their ranks. The church graveyard, which had been lost, was retaken by the Prussians. However, the French were more successful at the Mill Gate. From here, they pressed forward to the Market Square, where there was a bitter hand-to-hand fight. Blücher and Yorck succeeded once more in driving back the French. The decisive moment came when the 8th French Line Regiment pushed through the Hüxter Gate and attacked the Prussians in the flank. Yorck fell, seriously wounded.

The Prussians’ only remaining escape route was the Holsten Gate in the west of the city. The Kuhnheim regiment covered the retreat. That night, about 9,000 men reached Ratekau. The ammunition and food wagons had been lost in Lübeck. Faced with this critical situation, Blücher surrendered on 7 November. The entire Prussian Army of the 1806 campaign was thus completely annihilated.

Blücher’s time as a prisoner of the French began. For an officer, this was a fairly comfortable status. He spent the next four months in Hamburg. On 24 April he was exchanged for the French Marshal Victor.

---

\(^1\) Translator’s note: Lübeck was one of the cities which made up the Hanseatic League
## Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parkinson, Roger</td>
<td>Blücher</td>
<td>1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiedler, Siegfried</td>
<td>Napoleon gegen Preußen (Napoleon versus Prussia)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thiers, Adolphe</td>
<td>Geschichte des Konsulats und Kaiserreichs, 23. Teil (History of the Consulate and Empire, Part 23)</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleibtreu, Carl</td>
<td>Die Große Armee, Band I (The Grande Armee, Volume I)</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Manfred Göddert, Lohfelden

Blücher’s surrender at Schwartau on 7 November 1806 (after A. Lalauze)
Prussian Dragoons 1806

Introduction
In the 1806 campaign, Napoleon especially feared the Prussian cavalry. The outstanding part played by this arm in the Seven Years War, under such cavalry strategists as Seydlitz and Zieten, must have left a deep impression.
The performance of the complete Prussian Army in the campaign of 1806/07 is often enough gloated upon; in the process, the cavalry also come off very badly. I believe that the army of 1806 has been treated unfairly on several points here. For, when the Prussian cavalry was well employed, it showed flashes of how dangerous it could be, as clearly shown by the capture of the eagle of the 55th French Line Infantry Regiment by the Prittwitz Hussars at Heilsberg, or the eagle of the 51st French Line Infantry Regiment by the Towarczy Regiment at the Battle of Eylau. Unfortunately, the cavalry as a whole, as with the Prussian Army of 1806/07 as a whole, could not achieve its full potential. Due to a disgracefully bad leadership, the troops were only used in dribs and drabs, so to speak. Neither at Jena nor at Auerstädt did the Prussian Army act as a truly cohesive armed force. Just 10 squadrons, and what’s more from assorted units, charged French infantry in the largest cavalry attack at Auerstädt. In contrast, the enemy was centrally led by Napoleon, and had experienced corps commanders. Likewise, the cavalry was generally combined in larger formations, into complete cavalry corps. Its commanders, especially Murat, knew how to employ the cavalry correctly and to inspire it.
The intention of this brief foreword is to rate the Prussian cavalry slightly better – the reasons for the Prussian cavalry’s failure are probably discussed best in Jany’s “Der Preußische Kavalleriedienst vor 1806” (“The Prussian Cavalry Service prior to 1806”), Berlin 1904. However, this series of articles will deal primarily with the organisation and uniforms of the Prussian dragoons.

Organisation
14 dragoon regiments existed in 1806, 12 regiments of 5 squadrons each as well as the regiments “Königin” Number 5 and “von Auer” Number 6, each of which consisted of 10 squadrons.
In fact, the numbering of the dragoon regiments was only officially introduced in 1815, however they are listed here for clarity:
Number 1 “König von Bayern”
Number 2 “von Prittwitz”
Number 3 “von Irwing”
Number 4 “von Katte” (heavy cavalry !)
Number 5 “Königin ” (heavy cavalry !)
Number 6 “von Auer” (from 24 March 1807 “von Zieten”) 
Number 7 vacant “von Rhein” (from 12 November 1806 “von Baczkó”)
Number 8 “von Esebeck”
Number 9 “Graf von Hetzberg”
Number 10 vacant “Manstein” (from 19 August 1806 “von Heyking”)
Number 11 vacant “von Voß” (from 19 August 1806 “von Kraft”) 
Number 12 vacant “von Brüsewitz” (from 24 September 1806 “von der Osten”)
Number 13 vacant “von Rouquette”
Number 14 “von Wobeser“
The dragoons counted as light cavalry, although, as mentioned above, regiments numbers 4 and 5, which were mostly mounted on German horses and counted as heavy cavalry, were the exceptions. All other regiments were mounted on Polish horses. Nevertheless, all regiments had German saddles and not the Bocksattel type, as was the case from 1808. Counting the rider and his complete equipment, a dragoon horse therefore had to carry 315 pounds.

In wartime, all squadrons were to be mobilised, however a depot was left behind to replace casualties and to train recruits.

In peacetime, the squadrons comprised 7 officers, 15 NCOs, 3 trumpeters and 132 troopers, of which 12 carried carbines. The “carabiniers”, introduced by AKO\(^1\) of 6 March 1787, carried a carbine with rifled barrel, were chosen from particularly good shots and thus served as a breeding ground for NCOs.

In wartime, 12 so-called “supernumeraries” were also mobilised, so that the number of troopers per squadron then came to 144. The squadron was divided into 4 Züge (platoons).

The theoretical wartime strength in 1806 was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regt with 10 sqns</th>
<th>Regt with 5 sqns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combatants in the field</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCOs</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpeters</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlisted men incl. “carabiniers”</td>
<td>1440</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1682</td>
<td>841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Non-Combatants in the field** |                   |                  |
| Servants                    | 132               | 68               |
| Regimental Quartermasters   | 1                 | 1                |
| Regimental Surgeons         | 1                 | 1                |
| Deputy Judge Advocates      | 1                 | 1                |
| Chaplains                   | 1                 | 1                |
| Surgeons                    | 10                | 5                |
| Farriers (in peacetime)     | 10                | 4                |
| ditto (in wartime)          | 18                | 5                |
| Horse trainers              | 1                 | 1                |
| Saddlers                    | 1                 | 1                |
| Gunsmiths                   | 2                 | 1                |
| Gunstock-makers             | 2                 | 1                |
| Provosts                    | 1                 | 1                |
| Total                       | 171               | 91               |

\(^1\) Translator’s Note: AKO stands for Allerhöchste Kabinettsorder, a royal decree
For regiments with ten squadrons, 273 officers and men remained as a depot, for regiments with 5 squadrons it was 137; the number of non-combatants was 13 and 7 men respectively. The actual wartime strength was lower in 1806, because the squadron had little more than 110 to 120 horses in 1806. When it received its mobilisation order on 11 September 1806, the dragoon regiment “Königin” was understrength by the following amounts.

Lacking were:
- 100 horses, which had been invalided out on 1 September
- 140 horses, which were to arrive only on 22 October, and therefore weren’t trained, i.e. weren’t usable for military service.
- 49 horses of the remount detachments and
- 20 spare horses for the foot drill companies.

Altogether, therefore, 309 out of approximately 1500 horses, i.e. about one fifth of the total amount.

Each regiment was also encumbered on campaign by a considerable train – in addition to the led horses, a dragoon regiment of 5 squadrons brought along another 25 horses for the tents and 62 pack horses (actually 65 horses were allocated, but the three horses for the regimental surgeon were often deducted, because he usually brought along a wagon to transport the medicine), as well as the following allocation of wagons, each drawn by four-horses: 6 bread wagons, 1 staff or treasury wagon, 1 commandant’s carriage, 1 wagon for the regimental surgeon and 1 sutler’s wagon. However these regulations were not always complied with. A subaltern in the field was allowed only 2 mounts and 1 pack horse; moreover, the officer’s valet rode one of these; as a consequence, many officers brought along a wagon for their baggage, in order to keep their second mount fresh. One can therefore imagine that such extravagances weren’t exactly conducive to a cavalry regiment’s mobility.

Nevertheless, the lesson was learnt from the disaster of 1806/07, so that in the campaigns of 1813/15 the train was drastically reduced. In the vicinity of the enemy, the wagons were then added to the general train.
Uniforms

HAT
In 1806/07, the shape of the hat was almost that of a bicorn, because the front point had become increasingly flat. The hat, made from black felt, had also become increasingly tall with time. Whereas in 1786 the average height of the brim was 16.5 cm, in 1806 the front brim was 19.6 cm high and the rear brim all of 24.8 cm high. This important detail, the higher rear brim, is often overlooked. It is also possible that the hat size was exceeded or the hat modified according to the taste of each regiment. A regimental order of 24 April 1806 decrees the following dimensions for the regiment Garde du Corps: “… namely, that the rear brim measure 9½ to 10 inches [one Prussian inch = 2.615 cm, so that 9½ - 10 inches = 24.85 - 26.15 cm], the front brim 7½ inches [19.61 cm] and the side brim no longer than 5½ inches [14.4 cm], and the officers’ hats must also be trimmed in accordance with this pattern”.

COCKADE
The cockade was made from black woollen band (see the separate small drawing on this page), however shortly before the start of 1806, this band cockade began to be replaced by one made from black horsehair (see the accompanying sketch of the hat). The two types differed somewhat in style. In 1806, both versions were probably worn. The officers’ cockade was made from black silk, however it was also supposed to be exchanged for the horsehair cockade. The cockade was attached on the left side of the front brim by means of a thin black cord (the so-called agraffe) and a button. For the officers, the agraffe was much more opulently and elaborately designed, and depending on the colour of the button, was in either silver or gold.

STAY CORDS
The purpose of the stay cords was to keep the brims upright and in shape. They consisted of thin black cords, which were threaded through the crown as well as the brims of the hat, such that the brims were attached to the crown.
About 2.5 cm of the cord emerged four times on the front brim (twice on each side) and on the rear brim twice. However, in his illustrations Kling sometimes portrays them as much longer.

**DRAWSTRING**
The drawstring was a coloured woollen cord, which ran around the crown (see drawing on page 18), and had a woollen tassel at each end. The tassels protruded slightly at the side corners. The colour of this drawstring as well as of the tassels varied by regiment as follows. Red/white, (i.e. red entwined with white) for Regiment Number 1, crimson for Number 2, rose red for Number 3, orange for Number 4, yellow for Number 5, red for Numbers 6 and 7, red/white for Number 8, blue/white for Number 9, orange/blue for Number 10, yellow for Number 11, white for Number 12, crimson/yellow for Number 13 and white/crimson for Number 14. For the NCOs, the drawstring was black/white, the carabiniers probably wore the same drawstrings as the troopers. The officers’ drawstrings were silver interwoven with black.

**FEATHER PLUMES**
Just like the hats, the feather plumes also became appreciably longer with time, and in 1806 their height measured about 14¼ inches (38.6 cm), being wider at the top than at the bottom. For dragoons, trumpeters and NCOs, they were made of goose feathers. During the Seven Years War, the officers’ plume consisted of ostrich feathers, however for 1806 I unfortunately don’t have any information. The only certain point is that the officers’ plume was even taller, namely about 40.5 cm high. For dragoons, the feather plume was white; carabiniers also wore likewise, but with black root, thin black ring in the middle and black tip. NCOs wore white ones with black tip and officers white plumes with black root. Trumpeters had a white feather plume with red tip and in addition on the hat brims an adornment of red plumage. Unfortunately, Kling doesn’t make any mention of the means of attaching the feather plume – it was probably, as for the French, inserted into some sort of slot made from thin black leather. This “slot” was fastened to the inside left of the front brim, behind the *agraffe*, so to speak. As already mentioned, I do not have any information about the exact appearance of this “slot”.

**IRON SKULLCAPS, or “CASQUETS”**
In wartime, iron skullcaps were placed over the crown of the hat to protect the rider from sword cuts. In 1806, these *casquets* were strapped to the saddlery and only put on in the vicinity of the enemy. However, many officers seem to have spurned these skull caps, as recorded by several contemporaries. On this point, the following anecdote about Ferdinand von Schill, who was wounded on 14 October at Auerstädt, is of interest. At the time, Schill was serving in the “Königin” dragoon regiment: “The outposts were driven in by the enemy’s superior numbers, and Schill, separated from his men, found himself surrounded by several French troopers. He was called on to surrender, however the brave soul, driven to such a loathing of life by the day’s misery, continued to put up a desperate resistance, in which he wounded several of his opponents, though this served only to further provoke their resentment towards him.
The strokes which were aimed at his head would also have brought his life to a swift end, if not for the good fortune that their harmful force was broken by his hat …” As it happens, Schill, together with the officers of his regiment, had been invited to a dinner by their “Colonel-in-Chief”, Queen Luise. In order to particularly impress, the officers had sent for new hats from Berlin “… amongst which was one for Schill, which turned out to be much too wide. This error could only be hurriedly resolved by the manufacturer supplying a thick padding for the inside, and this very hat must therefore be the one which Schill fortuitously wore on 14 October, to have been protected in such a better way than would otherwise have been the case.”(Kling, pp. 245/246).

HAT LINING, SWEATBAND
I have also not been able to find any information concerning this, however it is probable that, as was customary, a type of linen cap was attached to the interior of the crown of the hat.

HOLDING THE HAT IN PLACE
Because the hat was so large, a type of chinstrap had to be introduced, which consisted of a thin black band. The band was to come down in front of the ear on each side, but the bow was to be concealed on the left side under the neck stock. However for parades on foot or special reviews, the hats were not allowed to be tied under the chin. To prevent the hat from being lost in this case, it was still held in place by the thin band, however in a slightly different way, as shown by a regimental order of the Garde du Corps: “Since in the special review and all foot parades and drills the hats are not to be tied under the throat, though if the hat is not tied at all it could be knocked off during the special review or foot drill, in order to avoid this evil, it is our wish that the band, which runs around the front of the hat and is passed through the hat at the back, is looped once around the queue and tied at the front under the throat and concealed under the neck stock, shall be retained to be on the safe side …”(Kling, p.424).

The officers’ hats were not to have such bands to hold them in place. However, they had to fit pretty tightly, otherwise they would fly away. It would probably be difficult to estimate the extent to which the officers actually complied with this regulation. There certainly were officers that equipped their hats with bands. For instance, Freiherr von Ledebur, lieutenant of the Garde du Corps, writes the following about a raid on 28 January 1807: “A small, in itself very insignificant circumstance caused me trouble; my hat bands had been torn by the fall and now the hat, which I didn’t want to throw away for fear that it might be found and misinterpreted as a bad sign for me, would not sit securely, which is why I finally decided to place it on the saddle under my leg; then onwards, bareheaded, accompanied by my troops, deeper into the village …” (Kling, p. 246).

SIT OF THE HAT
The correct sit of the hat was laid down in the regulation of 1796 as follows: “… the point over the left eye, sitting tight over the eyebrow, though on the right hand side pushed lower down on the eye, nevertheless such that the cavalryman (dragoon) is not prevented from having a clear field of view …” A regimental order of the Garde du Corps from 4 June 1801 confirms the regulation: “… the hat of the Garde du Corps must sit tightly to the right eyebrow, and the left
eyebrow must remain free by only a finger’s width. The hat must not sink so low at
the back of the head that, apart from looking bad, it prevents a tight fit …” (Kling, p.
421).
As a final note on the headgear, I would like to point out that despite everything, there
is very little known about it. There is a lack of real specimens to illustrate the
variations which surely existed. For instance, in 1789 an officer writes that when no
high-ranking officer was near, the rear brim was often folded down to protect the
neck. In this case, the brim must have been held by hooks rather than drawstrings.
(to be continued)

Hans-Karl Weiß, Bamberg
Edmund Wagner, Karlsruhe
Saxon Infantry 1806

Introduction
The Saxon Army fought in the campaign of 1806 as Prussia’s only ally. Since all of the Saxon troops were fully integrated into the Prussian corps, they experienced the catastrophic end to this war in the same manner as their Prussian comrades. However, during the last days of the war, the Saxon camp had already initiated negotiations with the French, which finally ended in a ceasefire. The Saxon prisoners were thus sent home early on, and the remaining intact units also defected from the Prussians in the direction of Saxony.

Saxony joined the Confederation of the Rhine as early as 11 December 1806, and the Elector of Saxony was appointed King by Napoleon. A longstanding Saxon bond with Prussia was thus brought to an end, and at the same time a new era in the history of the fledgling kingdom was ushered in.

The Saxon Army of 1806/07 closely followed the Prussian model, and was attired according to the uniform regulation of 1802, which in turn was based on that of 1763. The Frederician style therefore influenced the appearance of the Saxon troops well into the 19th Century, and it was only in 1810, with a major reorganisation of the army, that the then-French influence became apparent.

Organisation
In 1806, the Saxon infantry consisted of
- 1 regiment Lifeguard Grenadiers, of 10 companies, with a total of 913 men
  (though this regiment did not take part in the campaign)
- 12 infantry regiments, each of 2 battalions, with a total of 21,048 men.

The regimental organisation conformed to the Prussian model, so each regiment consisted of 8 musketeer companies (numbered from 1 to 8) and 2 grenadier companies, which were divided between the two battalions. However, on campaign the two grenadier companies were often detached from the regiment and combined with two grenadier companies from another infantry regiment to form an independent battalion under its own command (see also the appendix at the end of the series of articles).

In addition, since 1793 each musketeer company had to contribute 8 men and 1 corporal towards the formation of a section of sharpshooters. This section of 64 men, 8 corporals, 2 drummers and 1 officer was then employed on campaign as jägers.

Each regiment was commanded by a colonel, who was responsible for the pay and carried out the selection of officers and NCOs. A company was led by a captain, whose range of duties included provisioning in general, as well as the provision of clothing and arms.

The regimental staff of 14 men consisted of:
1 Colonel-in-Chief, 1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 1 Regimental Quartermaster, 2 Adjutants, 1 Deputy Judge Advocate, 1 Field Surgeon, 2 Ensigns, 1 Staff Field Surgeon and 1 Provost with servant.

The following were divided among the companies:
7 Captains, 3 Staff Captains, 10 First Lieutenants, 12 Second Lieutenants, 8 Ensigns, 30 Sergeants, 10 Quartermasters, 10 Field Surgeons, 80 Corporals, 30 Drummers, 20 Fifers, 20 Sapeurs, 300 Grenadiers and 1200 Musketeers.

This amounted to a total complement of 1740 men.
Uniforms
ENLISTED MEN AND NCOs

HEADGEAR
Musketeers wear the bicorn, which closely resembles the Prussian double-brimmed 1787-97 model Kaskett. It is made from black felt and the edges are bordered with white lace. Attached to the front is a spherical woollen pompom, the lower half of which is white and the upper half is in the facing colour (see below). In the corners hang white tassels, whose centre is red for all companies. A button in the regiment’s button colour, i.e. from tin or brass, secures the front.
NCOs wear the same model, except that as a mark of rank the hat borders have undulating silver or gold braid (according to the button colour of the regiment). In addition, instead of the pompom on the front, there is a white silk cockade, which is attached by means of a golden loop.
Grenadiers are distinguished by their grenadier caps, which follow the Austrian pattern. They are worn by both the enlisted men and the NCOs of these companies. It is made from blackish brown pelt and has a semi-circular brass plate with pointed top. This displays the Elector’s insignia “FA” under the crown of the Elector, all framed by a laurel wreath. In each of the two lower corners of the plate there is a flaming grenade. The rear patch is in the regiment’s facing colour and has a white braid strip in a cross pattern. Above this rear patch, a spherical pompom is attached, which according to Schuster/Franke is white/regimental colour (as for the musketeers), however according to Knötel, is completely in the facing colour. In addition, the cap has a white woollen cord, which as either wrapped around the pompom or worn hanging down at the side.
On barrack duty, the grenadiers wore the bicorn like the musketeers. On campaign, this was then strapped onto the knapsack.
Grenadier NCOs wear a two-toned, i.e. black and white, pompom on their cap.
On camp duty, the soldiers wear a white forage cap, similar in form to the French “bonnet de police”, which is piped in the facing colour of the regiment and has a tassel in the facing colour on the tip. The Augsburger Bilder (Augsburg Picture Series) show the cap in this form, however with the complete lower part of the cap in the facing colour.
COAT
The entire infantry wears the same style of white woollen coat, which is half closed at the front and has long coat skirts.
The collar was generally worn turned up; some sources (among others, Hauthal) also show it turned down for field duty.
The interior lining as well as the skirt turnbacks are white.
The exact same facing colours on collar, lapels and cuffs are always worn by two regiments; they are distinguishable from another only by the button colour – see the table below. On each lapel, there are 8 buttons, on each cuff 2 buttons. One button secures each of the skirt turnbacks.
On the back of the left shoulder, musketeers and grenadiers wear a strap which is piped in the facing colour. It is secured by a button near the collar. Knötel and G. Schäfer show this shoulder strap, however only in the basic colour, without coloured piping.

FACING COLOURS AND BUTTON COLOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regiment</th>
<th>Facing Colour</th>
<th>Button Colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Kurfurst”</td>
<td>Scarlet</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“von Sänger”</td>
<td>Scarlet</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prinz Clemens”</td>
<td>Dark blue</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prinz Anton”</td>
<td>Dark blue</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“von Rechten”</td>
<td>Purple red</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“von Niesemeuschel”</td>
<td>Purple red</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prinz Xavier”</td>
<td>Light blue</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“von Ryssel”</td>
<td>Light blue</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(since 1805 “von Bünau”)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prinz Friedrich August”</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Low”</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Prinz Maximilian”</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Brass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“von Thümmel”</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garrison troops</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invalids</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER ITEMS OF UNIFORM
Red neckstock for all enlisted men.
White single-breasted waistcoat with buttons in the button colour of the regiment.
With the coat, tight white breeches with gaiters are worn. Since 1803, long overall trousers made from white linen are in use for field duty.
Over the knee-length breeches, black gaiters are worn in winter, in summer high white gaiters, with brass or leather-covered buttons. However the white gaiters were mainly kept for parades. On campaign, the gaiters were worn under the overall trousers.
In 1806, a grey greatcoat is introduced.
For barracks duty, the enlisted men wear the so-called “Kittel”, or “button-over habit”, which is in the same style as the coat and has a grey-brown basic colour. In addition, the facing colour is omitted on the collar and cuffs. This Kittel is buttoned over and worn with white or grey-brown trousers, which are buttoned at the side. These trousers were introduced in 1803.

EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONRY
The black cartridge pouch on a white leather shoulder belt is worn over the left shoulder and held in place by the coat’s shoulder strap. On their cartridge pouch, the musketeers have an oval brass plate, which displays the Elector’s monogram “FA” under the crown of the Elector. Additionally, for the grenadiers there are flaming grenades pointing inwards in the four corners of the pouch cover. According to W. Kölzer, all fittings were white metal.
All enlisted men wear the sabre on a white leather belt around the waist under the coat; the belt is fastened at the front by a brass buckle.
The sabre scabbard is from brown leather and has a brass scape. Musketeers carry the straight backsword. However, two models were used by the grenadiers. The first was the 1765 model, with brass guard made of three curved bars, the outside of which was protected by a shell-shaped plate. The second model was only introduced in 1806, and as with the musketeers’ backsword, has only one brass bar. Although most other sources report no sword knot for the entire Saxon infantry, R. Knötel shows one for the grenadiers with white cord and tassel in facing colour. As infantry weapon, the Saxon 1778 musket model “Alt-Suhr” was used. It has iron fittings and a reddish natural leather sling.
All enlisted men wear the sabre on a white leather belt around the waist under the coat; the belt is fastened at the front by a brass buckle.
The sabre scabbard is from brown leather and has a brass scape. Musketeers carry the straight backsword. However, two models were used by the grenadiers. The first was the 1765 model, with brass guard made of three curved bars, the outside of which was protected by a shell-shaped plate. The second model was only introduced in 1806, and as with the musketeers’ backsword, has only one brass bar. Although most other sources report no sword knot for the entire Saxon infantry, R. Knötel shows one for the grenadiers with white cord and tassel in facing colour.
As infantry weapon, the Saxon 1778 musket model “Alt-Suhr” was used. It has iron fittings and a reddish natural leather sling.
Grenadiers used the same model, just a somewhat shorter version.
The knapsack from brown natural leather was fastened by two white leather straps and carried on a white leather shoulder belt over the right shoulder.
As additional equipment, a rectangular iron water bottle was either strapped on to the knapsack or carried on a white cord, also over the right shoulder.
Musketeer sergeants and corporals carried the spontoon with brown wooden shaft as well as a pistol in a holster on a separate shoulder belt. This shoulder belt was introduced in 1769 and since then worn over the left shoulder. At chest height, there is a buckle with snap hook, into which the end of the pistol butt can be hooked. The barrel is inserted into a separate leather loop.
Grenadier NCOs carry a carbine instead of the spontoon.
As a further mark of their rank, the NCOs carry the traditional hazelnut cane, which is edged with a silver chape at the upper end. This cane is hung onto the second from top button of the left lapel.
On the march, it is then tucked under the arm, through the coat skirts.
All NCOs have silver-coloured sword knots, which are interwoven with crimson.
Description of Plate 1

Illustrations A, B, C:
Grenadier cap, 1789-1806 model

Illustration D:
Musketeer *kaskett*, 1806 model

Illustration E:
Infantry sabre, 1806 model with brass grip and straight blade.
Length: 72 cm. Weight: 6.2 kg.

Illustration F:
Infantry sabre, 1765 model with brass grip.
Length: 70 cm. Weight: 7.6 kg.

(to be continued)

Markus Gärtner, Lampertheim

P.S. The two drawings interspersed with the text are of unknown origin.
The French Army in the Campaign of 1806

So that the French Army is also taken into account in this “Special Edition” about 1806, in Plates 2 to 4 Herr E. Wagner has drawn some very interesting and unusual figures, which are all based on contemporary sources. Details of the colours as well as brief additional information are provided below.

PLATE 2

Here, in an extremely haughty and majestic pose, the chef de musique of the 7th Regiment of Chasseurs à Cheval, is drawn after the so-called Alsace Paper Soldiers. Similarly to the infantry regiments, the cavalry units also had bands for the sake of prestige and for parades. As with their brothers in arms in the infantry, they were clothed and equipped according to the taste (and purse) of the Colonel, and often exceeded the current regulations. The green riding breeches and possibly the style of the (blue!) coat are thus the only reminders here of the bandmaster’s affiliation with the chasseurs.

However, now to a detailed description of the uniform:
Black colpack; pink (the facing colour of the regiment) bag with white piping and white tassel; white feather plume with pink tip over a green pompon. Dark blue (indigo dyed!) coat with dark blue lapels and pink collar and cuffs; white border along the edges of the collar and lapels and in addition pink piping on the lapels; pink skirt turnbacks with white hunting horns; white lace chevrons on the lower sleeve; tin buttons; white so-called trèfle epaulettes.
Scarlet waistcoat with white frogging, white piping and tin buttons.
Green riding breeches with white stripe and white Hungarian knots.
Black Hungarian riding boots with white braid and tassel.
White waistbelt with white slings and brass clasp.
Sabre model Year IV of the Republic with brass guard, grip bound in black and iron scabbard; white sword knot.
Brass horn.
Black sheepskin shabraque with pink wolf’s teeth border.
Green valise with white number and edging. Black bridle with iron buckles and fittings; iron stirrups; iron crescent on the throatlash and brass heart on the breastplate.
A further note on the 7th Regiment of Chasseurs à Cheval is that during the complete campaign of 1806, combined with the 20th Chasseurs à Cheval, it made up the cavalry of VII corps under Marshall Augereau. Its four squadrons under the command of Colonel de Lagrange, which at the start of the campaign numbered 36 officers and 627 men, fought at Jena, Wismar and Hamelin. In the process, the regiment distinguished itself at Jena, where one officer of the regiment fell and a further 13 were wounded, by capturing a Prussian battery of 8 guns.

PLATE 3

In this plate, a maréchal-des-logis and a cuirassier of the 2nd Cuirassier Regiment are shown, however not with the usual French cuirasse, but instead with Prussian ones (!) from the Frederician era. For, according to a report from December 1806, one company of the Regiment, which was not yet equipped with cuirasses, received

---

1 Translator’s Note: Les Petits Soldats d’Alsace
precisely these Prussian cuirasses, which hadn’t been worn since 1785, from the arsenal in Berlin. Note also the manner of wearing the waistbelt over (!) the coat, which according to Colonel Margaron was indeed customary in several cuirassier regiments. To the description of the uniforms:
Iron helmet with brass comb; iron “tulip”\(^1\) with horsehair aigrette; black fur trim; black peak with brass rim; brass chinscales; black horsehair mane.
Dark blue, single-breasted coat – the “habit droit”, introduced in 1803 – with scarlet skirt turnbacks and dark blue collar; scarlet piping on the collar, button placket and horizontal skirt pockets; blue grenades on the skirt turnbacks; tin buttons; red epaulettes (silver diagonal stripes with red piping on the sleeves of the maréchal-des-logis).
White overall trousers with white buttons.
Black riding boots.
Ochre-coloured gloves with white gauntlets.
Black, Old-Prussian cuirasse with red hem on the edges and white leather straps.
Black cartridge pouch with white leather shoulder belt.
White waistbelt with white slings and brass clasp.
Heavy cavalry sabre Year IX model (1800-01) with brass guard, iron scabbard and white sword knot.
The four squadrons (24 officers and 476 men at the start of the campaign) of the 2nd Cuirassier Regiment, combined with the 9th Cuirassier Regiment, formed the brigade of General of Brigade Lahoussaye in the 1st Division of Heavy Cavalry under General of Division Nansouty. The regiment was commanded by Baron Chouard, who would later become renowned as the “Carabinier General” for his custom of wearing the carabinier helmet and cuirasse.

**PLATE 4**
On the left side of this plate there is an interesting counterpart to the “chef de musique” in Plate 2, namely a voltigeur drummer (though they actually had hornists in their ranks to convey commands) of the 33rd Line Infantry Regiment. This figure is based on a drawing by Ragaz, who in turn names the Alsace Paper Soldiers as source. Of interest here is the white uniform, with which the 33rd Regiment was also partially equipped (see also *Depesche* Issues 1-2).
The colours are:
Black felt shako with black peak and brass shako plate; cockade in the national colours, i.e. blue centre, red middle strip and white outer strip; yellow edging on the upper rim of the shako; yellow pompom and feather plume; yellow cords.

\(^1\) Translator’s Note: The *marmouset*
White coat with violet lapels, collar, cuffs, cuff slashes and skirt turnbacks; red piping on lapels, collar, cuffs, cuff slashes and skirt turnbacks; brass buttons, violet swallows’ nests with yellow edging and white crescents; red (!) lace chevrons on the sleeves.
White waistcoat with brass buttons.
White trousers. White gaiters with brass buttons.
Black half-shoes.
Grey greatcoat with white buckle straps.
White shoulder belts with brass drumstick holder.
White leather knee apron. Dark brown drumsticks.
Brass drum shell; dark blue drum hoops; white tension ropes; white carrying strap. *Sabre-briquet* with black leather scabbard and brass fittings.

In 1806, the 33rd Line Regiment with its three battalions (at the outset of the campaign 69 officers and 1876 men) under Colonel Saint-Raymond fought in Friant’s division of III Corps under Marshall Davout. It fought at Auerstädt, where 3 officers of the regiment fell and 5 others were wounded, and in addition on 24 December 1806 at Nazielsk, where a further 3 officers were wounded.

To the right of the drummer stands Jean François Coste (1741-1819), Inspector General of physicians - which didn’t include apothecaries or surgeons (who were assigned to Parmentier and Percy respectively). Coste wears the regulation full dress uniform of an Inspector General of the French medical corps. Noteworthy here is that even the highest-ranking medical officers – although respected and also usually bearers of the Cross of the Legion of Honour – were not considered officers of soldiers and held more of a military civil servant status. Now to the uniform:

White wig with black pigtail ribbon.
Simple black bicorn without ornament. Dark cornflower blue coat with black (as the colour of the physicians; apothecaries were distinguished by green, surgeons by red) collar and cuffs; a 3.2 cm wide gold braid bordering the cuffs, collar, coat skirts, coat edges and in double form bordering the horizontal skirt pockets; a 2 cm wide gold braid parallel to the edging braid of the collar and cuffs; gold buttons.
Dark cornflower blue waistcoat with 2 cm wide gold braid as border.
Dark cornflower blue trousers.
Black boots with fawn cuffs.
White gloves.
Black épée scabbard with gold fittings.
**Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministère de la Guerre</td>
<td>Historiques des Corps de troupe De l’Armée française (1569-1900).</td>
<td>Paris, 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierre Foucart</td>
<td>La Campagne de Prusse.</td>
<td>Paris, 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Martinien</td>
<td>Tableaux par corps et par batailles des officiers tués et blessés pendant les guerres de l’Empire (1805-1815).</td>
<td>Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Millet</td>
<td>L’Uniforme des officiers du service de santé, 1757-1814.</td>
<td>Saint-Agnant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Markus Stein, Mannheim
Edmund Wagner, Karlsruhe
The Depesche Press plans to make worthwhile works – also in the form of excerpts – available again to interested collectors. Thus far available:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Ministry of War</th>
<th>Historiques des Corps de Troupe De l’armée française (1569-1900).</th>
<th>Paris, 1900</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French Ministry of War</td>
<td>Provisional Regulation on the Drills and Manoeuvres of Cavalry, compiled by order of the Minister of War. The first of Vendemaire, Year 13.</td>
<td>Strasbourg, 1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Perconte / M. Gärtner</td>
<td>The Infantry of the Kingdom of Italy, Manuscript with 36 Plates</td>
<td>1985/86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Organisation of the Imperial Austrian Army for the Year 1810.</td>
<td>Vienna, 1810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Depesche* Plates colourised, using watercolours, to high artistic quality.

Prices on application from the editor of *Depesche*. 
Saxon Infantry 1806
The French Army in the Campaign of 1806
The French Army in the Campaign of 1806