The Napoleon Series

The German and Dutch Troops in Spain
Chapter 3 Part II: Troops of Nassau and Westphalia

By: Richard Tennant

Uniforms

Nassau Infantry

The jacket was dark green with black collar and cuffs with green turnbacks all edged yellow. Note the style of the cuff with the piping along the upper edge and underneath the opening; at the angle of the piping there was a single button with another on the sleeve on a similar line. The jacket was single breasted, cut-away slightly above the waist to reveal the waistcoat; these were white for a while after 1808 and then dark green with yellow piping. Grey breeches with below-the-knee black gaiters gave way after a while to dark green trousers, over short black (or grey) gaiters, with yellow side-stripes and thigh-knots (Hungarian knots). The Fusiliers had black shoulder straps (some sources, green) piped in yellow and fastened with a small button near the collar.

2nd Nassau Infantry Regiment in 1809 by Richard Knötel
(Courtesy of the Antony Broughton Collection)
They had French-styled shakoes without cords (although some sources mention white cords) but with brass straps, a black cockade and a plume "a flamme" of the colour of the company (1st yellow, 2nd white, 3rd light blue, 4th black); the brass plaque was in the shape of a trophy of arms with the regimental number set in a white-metal centre circle. Brass buttons and either no sword knots or fawn. French-style badges of rank with red stripes for corporals.

The Grenadiers wore a black (some sources, brown) colpack with red cords and bag with a yellow tassel; some sources give a red tassel, with officers this tassel would certainly be gold. Red epaulettes were worn by Grenadiers and they had red grenades on the tum-backs and red sabre-knots.
The voltigeurs wore the French-styled shako with a black cockade underneath which was a brass bugle-horn badge (some with regiment's number in the centre); cords were green (or yellow) and the plume green for the lower 3/4 and the top yellow. The epaulettes had green straps and fringes and yellow crescents; they had yellow bugle horn badges on the turn-backs and green sword knots.

Nassau Sergeant Major in 1811 in Spain by Herbert Knötel
(Courtesy of Greenhill Books)
The packs were of the French style with grey coats rolled on top. It was a characteristic of these troops that all leather belting was a natural fawn/yellow (buff). Up until 1809 the officer wore bicorns and a silk waist-sash that was probably orange.

The style for Fusiliers and Voltigeurs then changed to shakoes with the same rank insignias as in the French Army. They carried epees decorated in gilt, suspended on a buff leather "Baudrier" ornamented on the front with a metal plaque of the arms of Nassau. The dress uniform was completed with gilt gorgets, gold sword knots and black hes-sian boots with gold trim and tassels. Some sources show the piping round the collar and possibly the cuffs in gold lace.

Drummers wore the standard jacket but with yellow braid across the front at each button and with "swallows'-nests" epaulettes; on the outside of the sleeves 5 (or 6) yellow chevron's, point upwards but one source gives 3 broad yellow stripes point upwards edged at the top with a green and yellow border. Drums had a brass body with white cords and the hoops of either alternating diagonal stripes of yellow and black or yellow and green triangles.

Variations in Centre Design of Nassau Flags
By Richard Tennant

The flags were attached with gold nails to the brown staff which had gold spearheads and cords. The flag which was the same for both battalions of the regiment was 100 cm on the hoist and 85 to 90 cm in the fly, in yellow with the same pattern embroidered on each side but with the lion facing the staff.

Nassau Chasseurs a Cheval

The uniform was a dark green dolman cut in the French style with white braid and buttons. The dolman was edged with white braid as were the collar and cuffs. The Hungarian-style breeches with hussar boots changed to overalls of the same colour with black leather inserts. The belting was black, the colpack was of black fur with a red bag (some sources green) and a white tassel; the chin straps were white metal.

The officers had finer cloth with braid and buttons of silver. Officers also wore a dark green pelisse similarly laced in silver; individuality and no doubt fashion shows officers with brown colpacks and fur trim to the pelisse. The bag—the colpack was dark green with a silver tassel. Officers also wore bright red baggy breeches (a la Lasalle) and (senior?) officers also were recorded to have red collars.
Sabretaches were black leather and had a "F.A." monogram surmounted by a crown all in white metal; those of the officers had a broad silver edging. Shabraques of the

Nassau Chasseur Regiment by Richard Knötel
(Courtesy of the Antony Broughton Collection)
chasseurs were of black sheepskin; the officers' were of dark green cloth edged with silver lace. The sabres for both officers and men were in white metal.

Nassau Chasseur Sergeant in 1810 by Herbert Knötel  
(Courtesy of Greenhill Books)
1st Regiment of Westphalian Chevaulegers

The jacket was a green surtout with the collar, pointed cuffs, turn-backs and the piping down the front and of the cuffs in orange ("aurore" which had some red in the basic colour). The epaulettes were dark green with orange piping and secured by a small button on the outside. Buttons of white metal. The breeches were dark green with the
edging of the front pockets and side stripes in orange (some sources white). Black Hessian boots edged in white with a white tassel. Where overalls were worn these were also dark green with black leather inserts and an orange side stripe with white metal buttons. The black-crested helmet was black leather with a black peak; the crest and the front plaque were in white metal but the reinforcements, the chin straps and the edging of the peak were in brass. The shoulder strap for the cartouche was in buff leather.

Westphalian Light Cavalry Regiment in 1810 by Richard Knötel
(Courtesy of the Antony Broughton Collection)
Brass sabre hilt and white sword knots. It is reported that for a short time in 1811a lance with a white and blue pennant was introduced but then abandoned; however at the combat of Majalahonda on 11 August 1812 they had lances. The shabraque was
of white sheepskin edged with aurore scallops. They carried a dark green round portemanteau with a white rim and number 1 at the end.

The officers wore the same uniform with silver lace on the breeches, collars and cuffs and epauletttes in silver. Their bandoliers were silver and black.

![Westphalian Lance Pennant](image1)

*Westphalian Lance Pennant*
*By Richard Tennant*

The Trumpeters had sky blue dolmans with orange (one source red) collar and cuffs and turn-backs; these were laced with white the same as the Hussar braiding across the chest. Epaulettes were sky-blue and piped in orange. The colpack was black with a dark green sack which was laced in white with a white tassel; the plume and cords were white. The breeches were dark green with white Hungarian knots and side lacing. Black Hessian boots with white tassel and edging. The trumpets were of brass with (sky) blue and white cords.

![Westphalian Light Cavalry Trumpeter](image2)

*Westphalian Light Cavalry Trumpeter*
*By Richard Tennant*

**Sources:**

Dr. Lienhart and R. Humbert

J.M. Bueno and H. Achard who have used Nassau Infantry – Knötel


Nassau Chasseurs -- Knötel

Westphalian Chasseurs - Documents Hewig.

*Martin Woodrow and Gerry Embleton, Military Dress of the Peninsular War.* The illustration of the Westphalian Chasseur is, I believe, incorrect as being of a Guard Chasseur rather than the Line Regiment.


Otto von Pivka & Gerry Embleton, *Napoleon’s German Allies (2), Nassau and Oldenburg.*
Philip Haythornthwaite, *Uniforms of the Peninsular War 1807-1814.*
Liliane and Fred Funken, *The Napoleonic Wars Part 2.*
Keith Over, *Flags and Standards of the Napoleonic Wars.*
Terence Wise, *Flags of the Napoleonic Wars (3).*

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