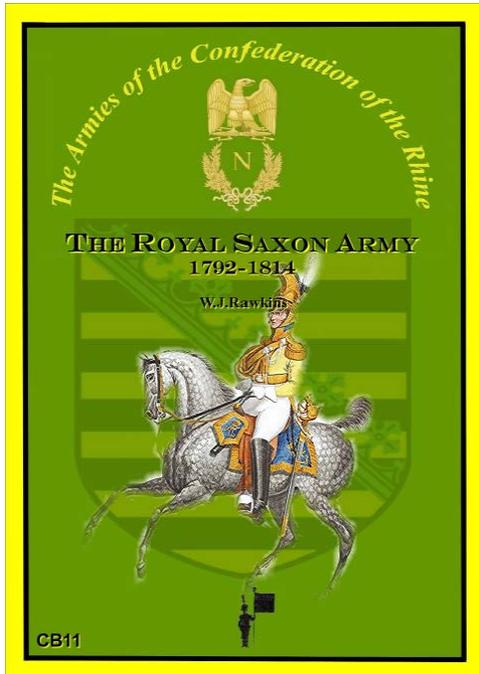


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Rawkins, W.J. *The Royal Saxon Army: 1792 – 1814*. History Bookman, 2016. E-Book. 312 pages. £4.



The Royal Saxon Army is the 11th book in Bill Rawkins “Armies and Uniforms of the Napoleonic Wars”. The original titles were first published about 40 years ago and after a long hiatus, Mr. Rawkins has decided to republish them with major revisions to each one. The original pamphlets were paperbacks and only about 30 pages long with four pages of black and white line drawings. A review of these original books can be seen at [The W. J. Rawkins Uniform Books](#). Unfortunately the books were very flimsy and all my copies have long since fallen apart. In the past two years Mr. Rawkins has begun re-publishing new versions of many of the books. The new editions have been expanded to a minimum of 75 pages to over 300 pages. The expansion also includes hundreds of color images.

The book begins with a short history of the Confederation of the Rhine and then jumps immediately into the history of the Saxon Army in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. There are sixty pages of information on their campaigns. The bulk of the book

however looks at the different regiments and units that made up the army. This includes the following units:

- The Feld-Infanterie Regiments
- Schützen-Bataillon & Leichte-Infanterie-Regimenten Jägerkorps 1809-1814
- Garnison & Halbinvalidenkompagnien
- Bürger-Nationalgarde zu Dresden 1809-1814
- Bürger-Nationalgarde zu Leipsic 1809
- Bürger-Nationalgarde Jäger zu Wittenberg 1809
- Sächsischen Landmiliz Bataillonen 1813-1814
- Sächsischen Feldjäger-Kompagnien
- Banner der Freiwilligen Sachsen
- Leib-Grenadier-Garde
- Schweizerleibgarde
- The Kavallerie
- The Schwere-Kavallerie
- Dragoner-Regimenter & Chevauxléger-Regimenter
- The Uhlanen-Regiment 1813-1815
- The Husaren-Regiment

Stabs-DrAGONER-Kompagnie 1813-1814
 The Artillerie, Führwesen & Train-Bataillon
 Ingenieur-Korps
 Proviant-Führknecht
 Regimental Non-Combatants
 Kadettenkorps
 General Officers and Staff
 Flags & Standards

Each unit has its own section, but follows the same basic format.

It begins with the organization of the unit and how it changed over the years. Using the line infantry regiments as an example, there is list of each position and the number of men authorized for it in the regimental HQ and the musketeer and grenadier companies. The line infantry regimental staff in 1810 – 1813 consisted of:

Position	Number Authorized
Oberst-Kommandant	1
Oberstleutnant	1
Major	2
Auditeur	1
Regimentsfeldscher	1
Stabsfeldsher Führer (Regimental Sergeant-major)	1
Adjutant	1
Büschenschmied	2
Stabsquartiermeister	1
Regimentsquartiermeister	1
Profost	1
Stabs-Schreiber (Regimental Clerk)	1
Musika I.Klasse	8
Stabs-Trommler (Korporal Drummer)	1
Musika II.Klasse	12

After the unit organization Mr. Rawkins examines its uniforms. This includes subsections for headgear, coats, breeches and greatcoats, equipment and weapons, NCO uniforms, officer uniforms, musicians, and in the case of the infantry, their pioneers and regimental artillerymen. This is not a quick survey of each topic, but an in depth examination. For example in the section on infantry NCOS, there are four and half pages of information and five color images showing their uniforms!

One of the strengths of *The Royal Saxon Army* is that Mr. Rawkins provides over 260 color images to illustrate the uniforms he is describing. Many of them are from the contemporary artist Carl Adolph Heinrich Hess, and such great military artists of the 19th Century as Louis Braun, Henri Boisselier, Alexander Sauerweid, and Richard and Herbert Knötel. In addition to the numerous prints, there are also many color photographs of uniforms and equipment. To help clarify detail on the uniforms, equipment, and flags, the author also includes many color line drawings, such as the ones below.



m.1807 /1811 Leibstandarte
Prinz Johann Chevauxleger Regiment



m.1807 /1811 Ordinarstandarte
Prinz Johann Chevauxleger Regiment



Corner Detail Reverse Only
Garde du Korps



Corner Detail Leibfahn
Karabinier-Regiment

Border Details 1785-1813



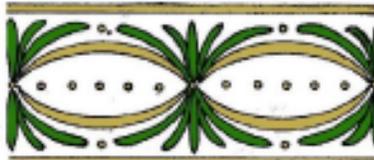
Garde du Korps
1785-1813



Karabinier Regiment
1785-1809



Kurfürst Kürassier-Regiment
Leib-Kürassier-Garde
1785-1814



Kochlitzky Kürassier-Regiment
Zastrow Kürassier-Regiment
1785-1813



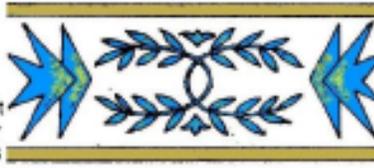
von Gersdorff Dragoner-Regiment
Prinz Johann Chevauxléger
1785-1813



Kurland Chevauxléger-Regiment
Prinz Clemens Chevauxléger
1785-1813



Prinz Albrecht Chevauxléger-
Regiment 1785-1813



Renard Dragoner-Regiment
von Polenz Chevauxléger
1785-1813

WJR'84

Saxon Cavalry Standards



Saxon Infantry Headgear 1810 – 1814

Unfortunately there is one minor weakness in the book. Not really a weakness, more of an annoyance than anything else. Although most of the time the author uses English translations, he occasionally forgets to translate the term and leaves it in German.

That being said, like the other books in the series, *The Royal Saxon Army* is a superb resource for someone looking for information on the organization of the Saxon Army and the uniforms its soldiers wore. It is the perfect reference book for the wargamer or modeler! It can be ordered from [The History Bookman](#) and is available on CD-ROM or as a pdf, which can be sent immediately.

Reviewed by [Robert Burnham](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: May 2016