Depesche

Uniforms and Armies of bygone days

Year 2 – No. 5

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

Editor

M. Stein

2012 translation: Justin Howard

Introduction

To begin the second year of *Depesche*, I would like to say a few words about, and in defence of, our hobby.
In these anti-militarist times – a welcome development in the last 10 to 20 years – collectors, especially the younger ones, are subjected to an increasingly hostile attitude towards their involvement with uniforms, soldiers, and all things military. It's very easy to get lumped in with the so-called "militarists" and thus lose one's desire to spend time studying uniforms, etc. Who hasn't encountered a lack of understanding from within their own circle of friends when trying to explain their hobby?
However, one forgets thereby that – besides the actual pleasure of collecting, which is surely the primary and fundamental motivation for dealing with tin soldiers, uniforms, etc – the contemporary sources, e.g. the memoirs of combatants, very often vividly portray the horrors of war. These impressions can (and should) result in one acquiring a discerning opinion towards the military and thus be wary of further armed conflicts.
While participating in our hobby, one should therefore never forget that the "colourful little" soldiers of the Napoleonic era often fought bitterly and massacred each other – Goya's *Desastres de la guerra* springs to mind – and lived under wretched conditions.
However, I don't want to make such a serious issue of our pastime – our daily life is serious enough – but rather to distance myself from any emotionalism and cult of personality associated with my hobby.
With this in mind, I wish pleasant (and discerning) reading.

Markus Stein

The Appearance of the Prussian Army during the Wars of Liberation

Further to the series of articles by Messrs. Ehmke and Wagner, some additional notes on the artillery of the period are presented here.
The following directive for the artillery was included in the first mobilisation decree from King Friedrich-Wilhelm III on 12 January 1813:
"In every province, all available artillery *Krümper*[1] shall be called-up and formed into provisional artillery companies. The purpose of this mobilisation is to meet the requirements of the fortresses; the exact details shall be stipulated by the General War Department".
Accordingly, 44 provisional companies were raised in 1813. According to the Cabinet Decree of 1 February 1813 the strength of the non-mobile artillery companies (44) was specified as 200 men. These were to provide reinforcements to the mobile companies, but also provide detachments for mobile batteries and columns.
The enormous growth in the artillery and replenishment of the sometimes heavy losses due to combat and sickness led to shortages in supplying the batteries. In addition came the long duration of the campaign, which only ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1814. The actual condition of the batteries as well as their appearance was therefore often far from regulation. Details of these are largely only to be found in regimental histories. Even Knötel, who described the appearance of the Prussian troops during the campaigns in his *Mitteilungsblätter*, hardly mentions the artillery. The statements in the regimental history can surely not be generalised, but they shed a revealing light on the conditions during the Wars of Liberation. There is evidence that gunners had to wear their uniforms from 1811 up until 1816. They therefore wore this clothing, which from the start was wretched, for six years.
The headgear often consisted only of cardboard with a covering. The uniform, whose blue colour was no longer discernable, was already threadbare when it was handed over. In addition, there were linen trousers and a thin greatcoat for the gunners on foot. The footwear was tattered and badly made. To improve the situation, old cartridge box covers were sewn under the ripped soles.
The armistice in the summer of 1813 brought some respite. Many units, primarily the *Krümper*, were only completed then. The emergency situation, which was again apparent in many batteries during the autumn campaign, often led to self-sufficiency. It thus happened that the gunners swapped their tattered clothing for that of French prisoners. There are also claims that Frenchmen escaped dressed as *Landwehr*.

Further assistance was given by the delivery of British uniforms. These were blue coats with red collars and cuffs, grey trousers and greatcoats. The old Prussian shako was mostly retained. In one case, the British coat was embellished with the epaulettes of French soldiers, which however led to harsh words from the commander of the battery.

Due to constant bivouacking in the wet and cold, the uniforms suffered unspeakably. The trousers, which the soldiers never took off, disintegrated on their bodies, as did

[1] Translator's Note: Between 1809 and 1813, Prussia used the *Krümper* system to train large numbers of reserves while retaining only a small standing army.

the greatcoats. It was barely possible for them to cover their modesty. Relief was brought only by a battle, after which one could supply oneself with the clothes of the fallen, or by commandeering an enemy depot. In 1814, one battery acquired green chasseur greatcoats and light grey trousers in Châlons. As the battery came within sight of Blücher in this attire, he was shocked but did not order the items of enemy uniform to be removed.

The batteries thus acquired a colourful appearance. One could discern cavalry and infantry uniforms of the warring armies in all styles and colours. The French shako often served as headgear. The gunners' greatest need was for footwear. Instead of the usual boots, a piece of hide from a slaughtered animal was often wound around the feet as a stopgap. On marching into Paris in 1814, several soldiers wore black sheepskin to cover their feet.

Even after the Battle of Waterloo, it was still customary for gunners to swap their tattered uniforms, which often bore little resemblance to Prussian ones, for those of casualties.

The blue coats of the French Guard and the grey British greatcoats were much sought after. Deviating from this self-sufficiency, there were also battery commanders who took care that their troops retained their Prussian appearance. The tailors and shoemakers in the battery were urged to repair the uniforms when they were in bivouac.

Only the cadres of the horse artillery had an advantage in clothing, as they were issued with new clothing (*litewka*) for the winter campaign.

If the uniform was varied, this was even more the case with the gunners' equipment. Knapsack and sabre were often only acquired on the battlefield. Firearms, vital for personal defence, initially had to be given up to the cavalry.

As with the crew, the guns and vehicles were also a mixed bag. Initial relief from the scarcity of guns was given by a British delivery of 6-pounder guns. This gun was significantly lighter than the similar Prussian one. In addition, it was easier to serve and more accurate. However, one drawback was the reduction of the axle length, which had to be adapted to that of the Prussian guns.

The available Prussian ammunition wagons presented a major handicap to movement of the batteries. Because of their small front wheels, the wagons sank into the mud. Frequent breaks of the wooden axles led to many interruptions. The batteries acquired replacements in the form of captured French vehicles. These wagons, heavier as their own, were of significantly more stable construction. Iron axles, metal bearings and especially the large wheels were characteristic of these wagons.

The tackle caused huge problems. Due to being stored for long periods, it became rotten and brittle. British deliveries provided initial aid.

Sources

Die Königlich Preussische Reitende Artillerie vom Jahre 1759 bis 1816, von Strotha, Berlin 1861.

Theilnahme der Königlich preussischen Artillerie an dem Kampfe des Befreiungskrieges, I.L. Vogel, Berlin 1846.

Großer Generalstab, Issues 14/15/26-30, Berlin 1909/1914.

Manfred Göddert, Lohfelden

The Reserve Companies of the Départements

Description of Plates 1-3

Plate 1
Soldier of the *Seine* Département after Nicolas Hoffmann *Consulat et Empire*, Plate 135 (1805).
Black bicorn, red loop and red pompom, cockade with blue centre, red middle strip and white edge. Dark sky-blue coat with white collar, lapels, cuffs, cuff slashes and skirt lining, tin buttons, dark sky-blue shoulder straps with white piping. White waistcoat, breeches and gaiters with tin buttons. White leather items. Musket with steel fittings. Black sabre scabbard with brass chape.

Plate 2
Pyrénées-Orientales, after the cost estimate of 1806 – Sky-blue coat with sky-blue cuffs, shoulder straps and piping on the cuff slashes. Black bicorn, yellow loop, brass button and white pompom. Green collar, lapels and green piping on cuffs and shoulder straps, brass buttons, skirt turnbacks from white *cadiz*. White waistcoat and breeches. White leather items. Grey or black gaiters. As late as September 1809, this company received 31 coats from sky-blue cloth, of which 12 in the outdated style.
Pyrénées-Orientales, after the cost estimate of 1806 – forage cap from sky-blue cloth with white silk lace and white tassel as well as green piping. White waistcoat with sleeves with blue collar and cuffs (though these are sky-blue, as this was the only cloth available in the stores). White trousers.
Pyrénées-Orientales, after the cost estimate of 31 March 1808 – black bicorn with white loop, tin button and yellow pompom; the first shakos were only received in 1809. Coat, shoulder straps, cuff slashes, lapels, waistcoat and breeches from bottle-green (winter-) cloth. Collar, cuffs and piping on the shoulder straps, lapels and cuff slashes from scarlet cloth, skirt lining from scarlet *cadiz*. Tin buttons, waistcoat and breeches from raw fustian (in the summer!). Short leather gaiters. Calf-leather cartridge pouch.
Pyrénées-Orientales, after the deliveries of 1809-1810 – green coat with green collar, shoulder straps, cuff slashes, waistcoat and trousers; piping on collar, shoulder straps and cuff slashes as well as lapels and cuffs from scarlet cloth; skirt turnbacks from scarlet *cadiz*. Summer waistcoat from chamois coloured cloth. Small bone buttons and large tin buttons. Black shako with white loop, tin button and plate as well as yellow pompom. Forage cap from green cloth with yellow lace and tassel as well as scarlet piping. Yellow corporal’s stripes. Greatcoat from beige-coloured cloth.

Pyrénées-Orientales, after the cost estimate from 1 March 1813 – black shako with white loop, tin button and plate as well as yellow pompom. White coat with white shoulder straps and cuff slashes; green lapels, collar, cuffs and piping on cuff slashes, shoulder straps and the vertical skirt pockets. White waistcoat with sleeves, with green collar, cuffs and piping on the shoulder straps. Trousers from white tricot. White forage cap with green headband and piping as well as white braid and tassel. Greatcoat from beige-grey coloured *Clermont* cloth. Short gaiters from black or grey linen. Tin buttons. White cartridge-box belt.
Gard, after the deliveries of 1806 – black hat with yellow loop and brass button. Sky-blue coat with sky-blue collar, cuffs and piping on the cuff slashes; green lapels, cuff slashes and piping on collar, cuffs and shoulder straps; white skirt turnbacks. White waistcoat and trousers. Black or grey gaiters. White cartridge-box belt.
Gard, 1813-1814, after the uniform sale of 10 August 1814 – shako with yellow loop and button; plate as well as chin scales are brass. White coat with yellow collar, shoulder straps and skirt turnbacks; green lapels and piping on collar, cuff slashes and cuffs; white cuffs. Trousers from white tricot. Short black or grey gaiters. Brass buttons.
Hérault, after the books of the administrative council 1808 – black hat with yellow loop and brass button. “Saxon-green” coat with collar, shoulder straps, cuffs as well as piping on collar, shoulder straps and cuffs in the same colour; skirt turnbacks from white *cadiz*. Waistcoat and trousers from white *cadiz*. Brass buttons with embossed “24”. Black or grey gaiters.
Hérault, after the uniform purchase of 10 April 1809 – the same colour scheme, except that now white and not sky-blue is the basic colour of the coat. The remainder of the sky-blue cloth was used for the piping of the cuffs, the collar and the shoulder straps. Shakos were bought without decoration; however they replaced the bicorns only when these were completely dilapidated. New uniforms on 29 March 1811. Purchase of greatcoats made from beige-coloured cloth on 15 October 1811.
Hérault, after the purchase of *Kolletts* on 16 May 1813 and 1 January 1814 – white coat with white collar, cuffs, skirt turnbacks and piping on the cuff slashes; green lapels, shoulder straps, cuff slashes and piping on collar, cuffs, skirt turnbacks and skirt pockets; green decoration on the skirt turnbacks; brass buttons. Black shako with green pompom, yellow loop as well as button, chin scales and plate (officially not worn) from brass. Trousers from white tricot. Short white gaiters. Green sword knot, because from 1813 onwards, all fusiliers carried the *sabre-briquet*. In March 1814, two green drummer’s coats were made, with white lapels, skirt turnbacks, collar and

cuffs. For this, 12 metres of silk lace was used for each coat, probably lace in the so-called “imperial livery”.

Embossed belt buckle of a French commissary of war

Plate 3
Haute-Loire, after the deliveries of 1807 – sky-blue coat with sky-blue shoulder straps, cuffs and piping on the cuff slashes; *aurore*-coloured lapels, collar, cuff slashes and piping on the shoulder straps and cuffs; white skirt turnbacks. Waistcoat from white cloth. Breeches from white tricot. Black gaiters. Black shako with yellow loop and brass button. Black shako cover with brass buttons – the shakos as well as the corresponding covers were purchased in 1807. Greatcoats were only purchased on 10 October 1810.
Haute-Loire, after the deliveries of 1810 – the same colour scheme, except that sky-blue is replaced by white. Red pompom on the shako.
Haute-Loire, after the deliveries of 1813 – *Kolletts* with the same colour scheme as the previous figure. A “12”on the shako plate. *Aurore*-coloured corporal’s stripes.
Loiret, 1808, Collection of P. Devaux – bicorn or shako. Grey coat with red collar, cuffs and lapels; grey shoulder straps and cuff slashes, with red piping. White waistcoat. Blue breeches. Black gaiters.
Ariège, fusilier in greatcoat after the deliveries of 1813-1814 – black shako with yellow loop and brass button, plate and chin-scales. Greatcoat from beige-coloured cloth with dark-blue collar. Black gaiters.
Ariège, after the deliveries of 1816-1818 – regulation coats (see also *Depesche* Issue 3), except with *aurore*-coloured corporal’s stripes and green epaulettes with *aurore*-coloured fringes. White trousers and half-gaiters.
The drummer wears the same uniform as the fusiliers, except for the crimson lace with dark-green edging and yellow lilies.

(To be continued).

Claude Achard, France

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 outdated.

Depesche readers will be familiar with this excellent series of plates at the latest since Issue number 4 and the accompanying colour plate, which Mister Patrice Courcelle kindly allowed us to use.
The editor has now received the latest two plates, namely Numbers 17 and 18, which cover the British Horse Guards; these will serve to thoroughly reacquaint the readers with the series.
In the two plates mentioned above, Mister Courcelle depicts a unit from one of his "favourite countries" (the other is Russia); this unit is in fact almost universally overshadowed by the two Life Guard regiments, and therefore receives less recognition in relevant literature.
Plate number 17 deals exclusively with the other ranks, the subsequent plate with the officers, each for the period 1813-1815. The Horse Guards - also known as "the Blues"- are extremely exhaustively illustrated in the excellent colour drawings (mostly front, rear and side views) as well as the accompanying text on the rear of the plates. The only shortcomings are maybe that NCOs and trumpeters are not covered, and that there are only brief references in the text to the sources. However as this otherwise excellent series of plates, which, incidentally, deals with the enemies of Napoleon, is still in its early stages, it is hoped that at least this second point will be taken into consideration.
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:

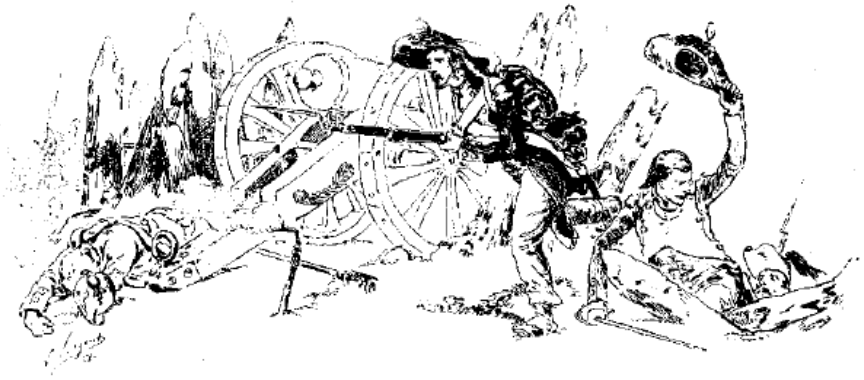
Number 19 Lützow Infantry, other ranks, 1813-1815
Number 20 Austrian Foot Artillery, 1809-1815
Number 21 Russian Line Infantry (I) 1802-1809
Number 22 Russian Line Infantry (II) 1809-1815

The Württemberg Army 1812

The majority of the Württemberg troops with the Grande Armée in 1812 were assigned to the 3rd Corps. Its strength and organisation is given by Fabry (*Campagne de Russie*, Paris 1900-1903) as follows (typos and errors in calculation have not been corrected):

Staff of III Corps

Maréchal de France.....	Ney, duc d'Elchingen.....	Valmabelle, adj.-com.	
	(comaandant en chef)	Laboissière, chef d'esc.	
		D'Albignac, capitaine.	
		Bourgoing, capitaine.	
		Marchand, capitaine.	
		Macors, lieutnant.	
Général de brigade.....	Gouré.....	Cavaignac, lieutnant.	
	(chef de l'état-major général)		
Adjud.-commandant.....	Marchand.....	Latapie, capitaine.	)
	(sous-chef d'état-major)	Bonamy, capitaine.	)
Adj.-command.-major.....	Le comte de Dantzig.....	Dufresne, command.	)
	(à la suite)	à Thorin le dépot du	)
	Duras (malade).....	..3e corps.	)
	(à la suite)	Dubreuil -	) Adjoints.
		Ibry -	)
		St-Charles -	)
		Froment -	)
		Decamps -	)
Général de division.....	Foucher.....	Reguis, capitaine.	
	(commandant l'artillerie)		
Général de brigade.....	Martuschewitz.....	Martuschewitz, lieutn.	
	(commandant en seconde)		
Colonel, direct. du parc.	Mangin.....	Troché, capitaine.	Adjoint.
		Villeneuve, capitaine.	
Chef de bat.sous-direct..	Becker.....	Delesvaux, capitaine.	
Major.....	Mathieu.....	Mazoyer, capitaine.	
	(commandant la réserve)		
Général de brigade.....	Dode.....	Pretel, capitaine.	
	(commandant le génie)	Dorlodot, lieutnant.	
Capitaine-commandant de gendamerie.....	Monjovet.		
Inspecteur aux revues....	Novel.		
Ordonnateur en chef.....	Duprat.....	Dutour.	)
Commissaires des guer....	Badoulier.....	Beutzmann.	) Adjoints.
	Cassaing.....	Hautecloque.	)



10e Division

Général de division.....	Ledru.....	Murphy, chef de bat. Hayaert, capitaine.
Adjudant commandant.....	Delaage.....	Bouton, capitaine. Decamps, capitaine.
Généraux de brigade.....	Gengoult.....	Clert, capitaine. Besset, capitaine.
Généraux de brigade.....	Marion.....	Magnier, lieutnant.
	Bruny.....	Descombes, capitaine.
Commandant l'artillerie..	Ragmey..... (chef d'escadron)	Ardoin, capitaine.
Commandant le génie.....	St-Hillier, capitaine.	
Sous-inspect. aux revues.	Cathelan.	
Commissaire des guerr....	Chuffart.	

11e Division

Général de division.....	Razout.....	Goguillot, lieutnant. Dufey, lieutnant.
Généraux de brigade.....	Montbrun..... (chef de l'état-major)	Gagemon, capitaine.
Généraux de brigade.....	Compère.	
	Joubert.....	Durocheret, capitaine. Dauderic, lieutnant.
	D'Henin.....	Boyer, capitaine. De Genouillat, capitaine.
Commandant l'artillerie..	Bernard..... (chef de bataillon)	Houdart, capitaine.
Commandant le génie.....	Dombié. (capitaine)	
Sous-inspect. aux revues.	Bletterie.	
Commissaire des guerr....	Vanderbergh.....	Renange, adjoint.

25e Division

Généraux de division.....	Prince Royal.....	De Théobald, général de brigade. De Spitzemberg, colonel. D'Amerongen, lieutnant-colonel. De Wimpfen, major.
	De Scheler.....	Lesuire, capitaine.
Général de brigade.....	De Kerner..... (chef l'état-major)	De Bangold, capitaine. De Gelbke, capitaine. De Miller, lieutnant. De Kampz, lieutnant.
Adjudant-commandant employé à la 25e divis..	Delagrange.	
Généraux de brigade.....	De Hugel.....	De Reuss, lieutnant.
	De Koch.....	De Martens, lieutnant.
	De Brusselle.....	De Dietrich, lieutnant.

Commandant l'artillerie..	De Brandt..... (lieutnant-colonel)	De Roeder, lieutnant.
Command. l'art. à pied...	De Bartruff. (lieutnant-colonel)	
Commandant le génie.....	D'Arlt. (capitaine)	
Grand prévot.....	De Nausester. (capitaine)	
Gendarmer. de campag.....	Schiller. (lieutnant)	
Ordonnateur.....	De Schönlin.....	De Becker. Schönlin. Oetinger. Schlotterbeck. Krais.
Ecclésiastiques évangél..	Hutten et Greber.	
Ecclésiastiques cathol...	Pregler et Funck.	
Détachés au quart. imp...	De Beroldingen. (colonel) De Blücher. (capitaine) Lievreville. (lieutnant)	
Général de division..... (lors du départ)	De Wöllwarth.....	De Bär, capitaine.
Général de brigade.....	De Walsleben.....	De Maucler, capitaine.
Volontaire.....	Prince Adam de Wurtemberg..... (général de brigade)	Wagner, major.
	Cavalerie Légère (9e Brigade)	
Général de brigade.....	Mouriez.....	Merflet, capitaine. Prévost, lieutnant.
	14e Brigade	
Général de brigade.....	Beurman.....	Reiset.
	De Brunig.....	De Broignard.
Commandant l'atillerie...	Breithaupt.	
Sous-inspect. aux revues.	Malus.	
Comissaire des guer.....	Humbert.	
	Artillerie	
Colonel.....	Verrier.....	Ganal, capitaine. Alis d'Ambel, capitaine. Ravenel, capitaine. Dumonceau, capitaine. St-Marie.
Capitaine du train.....	Lacroix. (capitaine)	
Commissaire des guer.....	Thery.	

	Génie	
Chef de bataillon.....	Javain.....	Lemaitre, capitaine.
	Campredon.....	Tholosé, capitaine.
		Vandedem, capitaine.
		Gerard, lieutnant.

Remarks

To aid understanding, the translations of several terms and descriptions are provided here (in the order in which they appear).

Commandant en chef	-	Commanding officer
Adjutant-commandant	-	Officer of the adjutant corps
Chef d'escadron	-	Squadron commander
Capitaine	-	Captain
Lieutenant	-	Lieutenant
Chef de l'état-major	-	Commander of the corps staff
à la suite	-	with the Emperor's court
malade	-	sick
Adjoints	-	Staff or administrative aides
Colonel	-	Colonel
Directeur du parc	-	Commander of the transport park
Chef de bataillon	-	Battalion commander
Sous-directeur	-	Deputy commander
Génie	-	Pionier troops
Inspecteur aux revues *Ordonnateur en chef* *Commisaire de guerres*	]	Administrative civil servant, War commissary
Prince Royal	-	Crown prince
Lieutenant-Colonel	-	Lieutenant-Colonel
Employé à	-	employed at
Artillerie à pied	-	Foot artillery
Grand prévot	-	Provost
Gendarmerie de campagne	-	Military police
Ecclésiastique évangél.	-	Protestant Chaplain
Détachés au quart. Imp.	-	in the imperial headquarters
Lors du depart	-	at the time of departure
Volontaire	-	Volunteer
Train	-	Transport corps

(To be continued)

Rolf Kögel, Bad Dürkheim

Uniforms of the Spanish Generals and General Staff 1808-1814

According to the *Estado Militar* of 1808 – the last army list issued before outbreak of the war against Napoleon – the Spanish army included the following generals: 5 *Capitanes Generales*, 86 *Tenientes Generales*, 118 *Mariscales de Campo* and 198 *Brigadieras*. This gives a grand total of 407 generals; however not all had troops under their direct command.
Unless the uniform of a specific unit was worn instead, the uniform consisted of a dark-blue coat with red collar, cuffs, lapels and skirt turnbacks; since around the turn of the century in a tailcoat style. The embroidery with which it was decorated already appeared in the 18th Century. The pattern of individual diagonal leaves connected by three curved lines was especially characteristic, and is still included today in the walking-out uniform (see Figure 12 of Plate 5). There are numerous variants of the positioning; their colour, as for the buttons, is gold; for brigadier-generals it is silver. Waistcoat and trousers were white for *Gala* and *Media Gala*, with all other types of dress *paille* (straw yellow) or white. Riding boots, Suvarov boots or buckle shoes with white stockings were worn. The bicorn always had golden (silver) lace on the edges, golden cords, golden (silver) loop and red cockade, black plumage (for captain-generals white), depending on type of dress also red or white plume.
A further distinguishing feature which has survived to the present day is the dark-red sash with golden tassels on the left side, which at the time had (vertical) rows of generals' embroidery interweaved on its front, in fact the same amount of rows - rank-dependent - as on the sleeve. (These days the embroidery is located on bands which are looped around the part which hangs down). The sash was sometimes worn over the waistcoat, and sometimes over the coat. Further details will be given in the descriptions of the individual figures.

Description of Plate 4

The style of drawing of the first three figures, and in the case of the first two figures also the details, are very closely based on a well-known painting which depicts the surrender to General Castaños of a French corps under General Dupont at Bailen on 28 July 1808.

Figure 1 – *Mariscal de Campo* in *Uniforme diario / de Campaña*.
The bicorn here has curved lace. The coat is buttoned over; the lapels, whose upper edge is curved, are open to show the reverse. The collar is plain. The generals' embroidery can be seen on the reverse of the lapels, in a row on the cuffs (where it is horizontal) and on the sash (where it is vertical). Straw-coloured trousers.

Figure 2 – *Teniente General* Francisco Javier de Castaños in the uniform of an infantry regiment.
As usual for line infantry, the basic colour of the coat is white; collar (this one has white piping), lapels and cuffs are black, buttons gold; this colour scheme is that of the *Saboya* regiment. On the cuffs, as well as the usual double row of embroidery designating a *Teniente General* there are also the three lace strips of a Colonel. This layout is consistent with source number 2 in the list of sources, as well as – even for the customary general's uniform – with several portraits. In variance with the

regimental pattern, the trousers are red with narrow golden stripes. Red order-sash over the right shoulder.

Figure 3 – *Capitan General* in *Gala*
The most lavish form of decoration with generals' embroidery is shown here, not just on collar, lapels and cuffs, but also along the sleeve seams and on the front edge of the coat. In order not to obscure the view too much, an order-sash, which would definitely be appropriate here, has been omitted. This general holds – as in figure 1 – the command baton (*Baston del Mando*) often used by commanders

Figure 4 – Lieutenant-Colonel of the General Staff (*Primer Ayudante*) in Campaign Uniform
Dark blue dolman with light blue collar and cuffs. Black frogging; gold lace on collar and cuffs, buttons also gold. Around the waist, there is a light-blue silk sash, at the right side it has a bow and hanging-down tassel (this is still worn today by officers of the general staff). Dark blue trousers, black leather *sabretâche*.

Figure 5 – *Mariscal de Campo*
This figure is based on the portrait of MDC Rafael Menacho y Tutillo. The coat is buttoned over. The opened-out lapel parts shown as pointed here (as opposed to curved) are buttoned down. The bicorn is decorated with a white feather plume with red base, which droops over to the left.

Figure 6 – *Brigadier* in *Uniforme de Diario*
Embroidery and bicorn lace are silver. A general's sash was not part of the uniform.

Figure 7 – *Commandante* of the Horse Chasseurs (*Cazadores a Caballo*), attached to the General Staff
According to article 6 in the royal order of 30 April 1815 for the Pyrenean corps of observation, officers in this function wore on the left upper sleeve a red armband tied in a bow, with the golden-fringed ends hanging down. Dolman and trousers green; collar, cuffs and frogging white, lace on the collar and cuffs was silver, as were the buttons and the lace on the shako's upper edge, emblem, loop and chin scales; red cockade. Collar emblem: crossed sword and palm frond.

Description of Plate 5

Although the following portraits (figures 8-11) are based on black-and-white reproductions in books, the colours can easily be reconstructed.

Figure 8 – *Capitan General* Joaquin Blake (1757-1827)
Blake wears a simple, single-breasted uniform, which can be dated to around 1815. Unusually, there is no embroidery on the collar, just wide lace with a zigzag pattern (similar to the Austrian design). On the cuff , there are three rows of generals' embroidery and three rows of lace, as befits the rank. Blake wears the sash of the *Real y Militar Orden de San Fernando* (originally called *Orden Nacional de S.F.*), which was created by the *Cortes* on 31 August 1811 and which even today is the highest Spanish military decoration. The sash is red, with narrow yellow stripes slightly inset from each edge. Under this sash, another sash of a grand cross is visible; this is probably that of the *San Hermenegildo* order. On the breast is the *Placa* of the *San Fernando* order, and underneath, that of the *San Hermenegildo* order. Wearing up to three sashes of grand crosses over one another was normal practice in Spain at the time.

Figure 9 – *Teniente General* Martin Garcia Arista y Loygorri
Garcia was Colonel-General of the royal corps of artillery, whose uniform he is shown wearing. Dark blue tailcoat with lapels of the same colour, piped red, as well as red collar and cuffs. Buttons and collar emblems (grenades) are gold. On the sleeve, Garcia wears the double row of generals' embroidery appropriate for a *Teniente General*, underneath this three rows of lace; over the shoulder the sash of the *San Hermenegildo* order (crimson with two white side stripes), on the breast the *Placa* of that order above the *Placa* of the San Fernando order. Light coloured trousers.

Figure 10 – José Palafox y Melzi (1775-1847), the defender of Saragossa
A stand-and-fall collar (as opposed to a standing collar), opened wide, is shown here, with wide general's embroidery. Collar probably red.

Figure 11 – Francisco Javier Castaños (1756-1852), the victor of Bailen
In contrast to figure 2 of Plate 4, here Castaños wears the normal general's uniform, with narrow generals' embroidery on the collar and the pointed lapels.

Figure 12 – Detail of the generals' embroidery, with serrated edge to the embroidery on the uppermost part of the sleeve

Figure 13 – Original tailcoat of *Capitan General* Joaquin Blake in the *Museo Ejercito* in Madrid

This coat bears the insignias of the associated service branch, the pioneers (*Ingenieros*), although the colour differs slightly from the actual pattern of these troops (facing colour of the *Ingenerios* was crimson-purple). Basic colour dark blue with lapels of the same colour; collar and skirt-turnbacks (each of which had a silver tower emblem) were red; white piping. On the lapels flat silver braid lace. The sash of the San Fernando order is worn over the coat, the *Placas* of the San Fernando and San Hermenegildo orders are embroidered.

Figure 14 – *Placa* of the San Fernando order

Silver Cross with golden edge and golden orbs on the points of the cross. Circular green laurel wreath with golden edging. In the medallion, on a golden background Saint Ferdinand in natural colours; on a blue background the inscription *AL MERITO MILITAR*.

Sources

1) José M. Bueno *Uniformes Militares Españoles – El Ejercito y la Armada en 1808*, Malaga 1982

2) José Almirall / Ramon Soler *Distinctivos de Mando* (part of a series on the *Guerra de Independencia*) in *Boletin de la Agrupacion de Miniaturistas Militares*, Number 16 (1962)

3) Luis Gravelos *Breve Reseña del Cuerpo y Servicio de Estado Mayor* in *Boletin de la Agrupacion de Miniaturistas Militares de España*, Number XL

4) Galeria Contemporanea *La Real y Militar Orden des San Fernando, Tomo I*, publication of the *Servicio Historico Militar*, Madrid 1953

5) Portraits in the *Museo del Prado*, *Museo del Ejercito* and *Museo de la Arte del Siglio XIX* in Madrid

Exhibits in the *Museo del Ejercito*

Dr. Friedrich Hermann, Bonn

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.

Magazine Roundup

Zeitschrift für Heereskunde

Issue 325

F. Herrmann: Prussian Uniforms 1813-1815, after the *Elberfelder Bilderhandschrift* (Elberfeld Picture Manuscript), C. J. Ljunggren, Genty and L. Scharf.

Mr. Herrmann presents a plate of the usual high quality, depicting eight interesting Prussian Army figures, and also includes interesting explanatory notes.

E. Schubersky: Orders of the Officer Corps of the Prussian Army in 1806.

This article (from the rarely covered area of faleristics) deals with the distribution and number of orders awarded, rather than the appearance of the Prussian orders of the era and the methods of wearing them. It is therefore uninteresting from the point of view of uniformology, and more of interest to statistics buffs. However the three portraits of officers are interesting.

MSM

Die Zinnfigur

Magazine of the German "Klio[1]"

Issue 4/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

Issue 5/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

Issue 6/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

MGL

Modell-Fan

Issue 4/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

Issue 5/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

Issue 6/1986

C. Beutlin: *Königlich Bayrische allgemeine Landesbewaffnung* (Royal Bavarian general militia) 1814.

A one-page article providing a brief historical outline in addition to the relevant colour plate from Knötel's *Großer Uniformkunde*, as well as a plate from the *Unterricht für die Infanterie der kgl. Bayerischen Landwehre des Isar-Kreises* (Instruction for the Infantry of the Royal Bavarian Landwehr of the Isar District) from 1815, which is very interesting.

MSM

De Tinnen Tafelronde

Magazine of the Dutch figure collectors

[1] Translator's Note: Klio is the *Deutsche Gesellschaft der Freunde und Sammler kulturhistorischer Zinnfiguren*, i.e. the German Society of Tin Figure Enthusiasts and Collectors

Issue 2/1986

Does not include any articles on Napoleonic subjects.

MSM

Uniformes

Issue 94

F. Robichon: The Morning of Castiglione (5 August 1796), a previously unknown painting by Jean-Louis-Ernest Meissonier.

Large colour reproduction of this painting, as well as small black-and-white illustrations.

M. Pétard: The Mounted Gunner of the Guard, 1807.

Many contemporary colour illustrations as well as two A4 plates by the author; as ever excellent, although the colour printing was not very successful.

P. Courcelle: Choiseul Hussars, 1794-1796.

Two A4 plates illustrate this émigré regiment.

Issue 95

H. Wielecki: The *Krakus* cavalry, 1812-1839.

Many colour illustrations, including an A4 plate of *Krakus* cavalry with 19 illustrations from the period 1812-1814 – excellent article.

P. Allard: The organisation of a Napoleonic Army of 25mm figures.

Several colour photos of 25mm figures – superficial article, written for the wargamer. However the author has only a vague idea of the organisation of the Prussian, Russian, British and Austrian armies.

M. Pétard: *L'école de Mars*, 1794.

Contemporary colour illustrations, black-and-white drawings and two A4 plates by the author. A very unusual uniform is described here in the usual "Pétard quality".

Michel Deprest and the French shako.

Several colour photos of excellent replicas of French headgear. M. Deprest produces life-size replicas of French shakos, which are superior to the usual museum quality. Incomparably better than the replicas in "our" museums, which can immediately be recognised as "fakes". Deprest's replicas are barely distinguishable from the originals.

RIGO: "I was at Jemappes …"

A single A4 plate of flags and uniforms from 1792 as well as b/w drawings – excellent.

HWB

Military Modelling

Issue 4/1986

D. Featherstone: With Wellington and the "Black Prince" in the Pyrenees
Travelogue, with three b/w photos of memorials to the siege of Bayonne 1814 – interesting article.

Issue 5/1986

B. Marrion: Militaria
Two colour photos of the eagle escort of the 1st Foot Grenadier Regiment of the French Guard (reconstruction!) – otherwise nothing of interest.

C.S. Grant: Supply Wagons
Covering a period of two centuries, the well-known wargamer also briefly reflects on the supply system during the Napoleonic era – however this interesting topic is only superficially studied in the article. Nevertheless, it can still be recommended, because the four reproduced engravings by W. H. Pyne, J. Atkinson and J. Hamilton Smith for the period from 1803 to 1814 impressively illustrate the everyday life of (British) soldiers on the march.

Issue 6/1986

C.S. Grant: Supply Wagons
In the second part of his series of articles, several wagon types from the Napoleonic era are described and illustrated (by means of photos of 25mm models).

MSM

Le Moniteur

Magazine of the British "Napoleonic Association".

Issue 4

G.C. Dempsey jr.: The Croatian Hussar Regiment 1813.
Very good article on the history, organisation and uniforms of this foreign regiment in French service – very good source material.

R. Thomas: The landings at Bagur and Palamos in Spain from 10 to 14 September 1810.
Using excellent sources – interleaved with the diary of an officer of British marines – the author succeeds in delivering a gripping description of the previously largely ignored events in this region.

P.J.C. Coates-Wright: Napoleon's Murderer?
Good, critical review of a – likely commercially-oriented – British work, which claims to be able to reveal Napoleon's "true murderer" – namely General de Montholon.

J.A. Hargreave: Air Rifles.
Drawings of two originals from the Château of Fuschl – otherwise more or less superficial text.

G. Child: 15th (King's) Light Dragoons (Hussars) 1793-1815 – Part 1: The Netherlands 1793-1799
Good history of a British unit, with good maps.

MSM

Questions and Answers

French Ranks

The following information on French ranks is supplementary to the article on the 14th Hussar Regiment in issue 2 of *Depesche*.

In my opinion, the titles *Adjudant sous-officier* and *Adjudant-major* are not ranks in the strict sense of the word, but instead designate a function, even though the incumbents were identified by specific insignia. These positions did not belong to the typical French army career path.
For the British army at least, two significant tasks of an adjutant can be identified, one being to deal with correspondence and the other to train the men and conduct the drills (compare v. Poten: *Des Königs Deutsche Legion 1803 bis 16*, Berlin 1905). These tasks were probably similar in the French army; the cane possibly indicates that the *Adjutant-major* conducted training.
As I am especially interested in the Bavarian army of the Napoleonic Era, here is a quote about the selection process for adjutants in the Bavarian army: “Another decree from 9 July (1792) rules that regimental adjutants who distinguish themselves through zeal and aptitude shall, whilst retaining their previous function, be advanced to captain and then receive an additional allowance of 7 Gulden. Suitable NCOs with at least 6 years of service at this rank can also be advanced to *Fahnenjunkers* and adjutants, and of these in turn the most competent shall be selected to be regimental adjutants”. (after Döderlein: *Geschichte des Kgl. Bayerischen 8. Infanterieregiments (vacant Prankh), I. Teil 1753-1804*, Landshut 1895).
To my mind, an *Enfant de troupe* was a child/youth who came to the respective regiment, usually as an orphan, often was clothed in its uniform and also provided for by it. It was not uncommon that he later joined “his” regiment as a drummer or trumpeter.

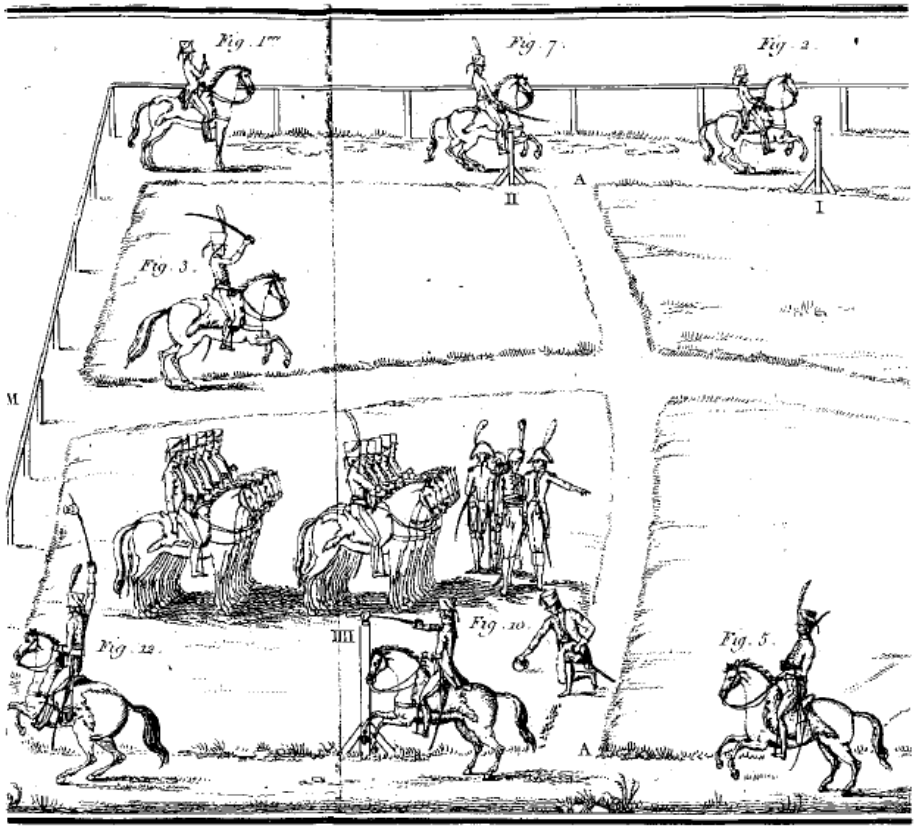
Stefan Frank, Schwabach

Translator’s Note: The rest of this page was taken up by an advert for photocopies of antique books, which is no longer relevant and has not been translated.

Curiosities – French Riding School

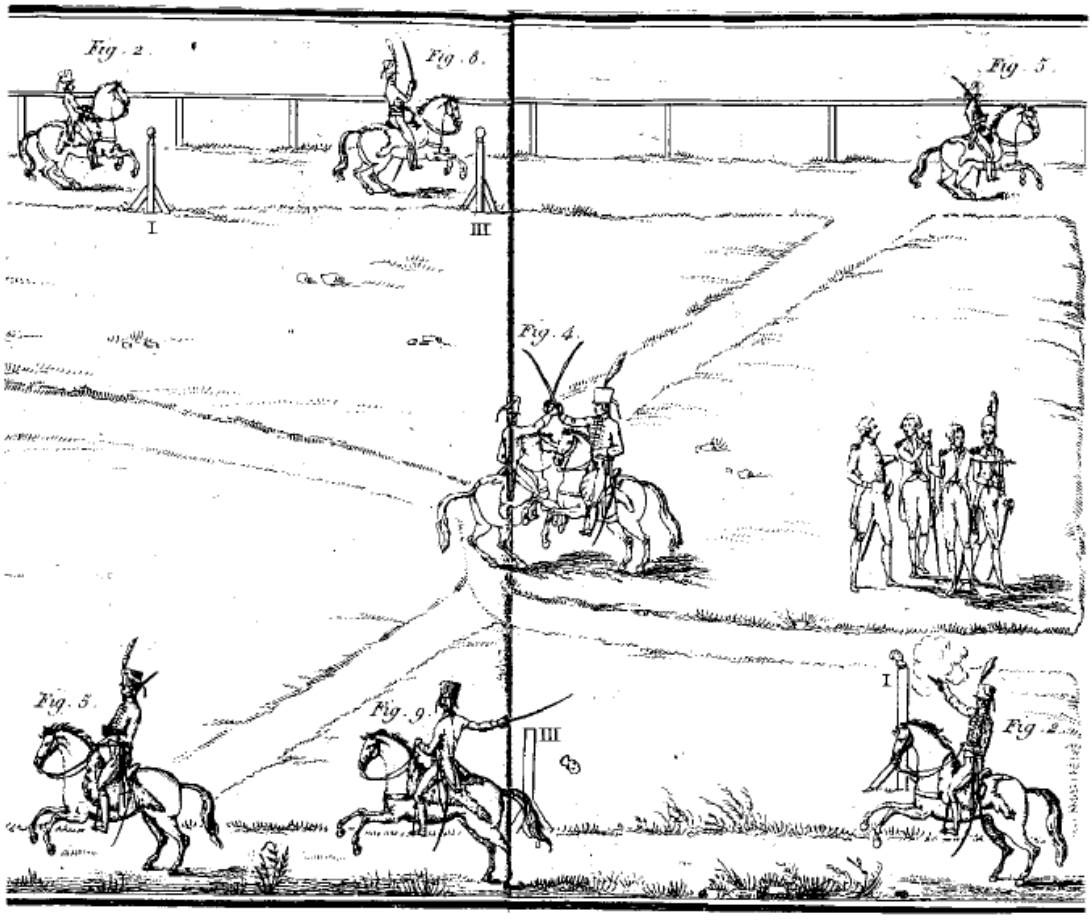
The following excerpt from a German edition – published in 1808 – of the *Provisorischen Verordnung über das Exercitum und die Manövers der Reiterey, verfaßt auf Befehl des Kriegsministers, den ersten Vendemiär 13* (Provisional Regulation on Cavalry Drill and Manoeuvres, prepared by order of the Minister of War, 1 Vendemaire Year XIII) explains the weapons drill of the cavalry while mounted, which is very clearly illustrated in the plate.

"On the subject of Running at the Head.
301. In order to more effectively induce the troopers to perfect the various drills, control their mounts properly and use their weapons well, in addition to gaining experience, they are drilled in running at the head in the following manner.
When the company which has been assigned to run at the head has entered the riding arena, it shall be divided into two *pelotons*, and each of these formed into two ranks as shown in plate 63, ensuring thereby that they leave enough space behind them for a horse to easily pass.
302. Cloth heads stuffed with hay are placed on two roughly 178 cm (5 feet 6 inches[1]) tall wooden posts, in the manner shown in plate 63; after that, the trooper from the left wing of each *peloton's* first rank makes his way to the left, to the corner of the arena (as shown in Figure 1), takes his pistol in his hand, takes position with the muzzle pointing upwards and the trigger guard to the front, his fist at the level of the right shoulder and at a distance of 162 millimetres (6 inches) from it, then holds himself ready to march.



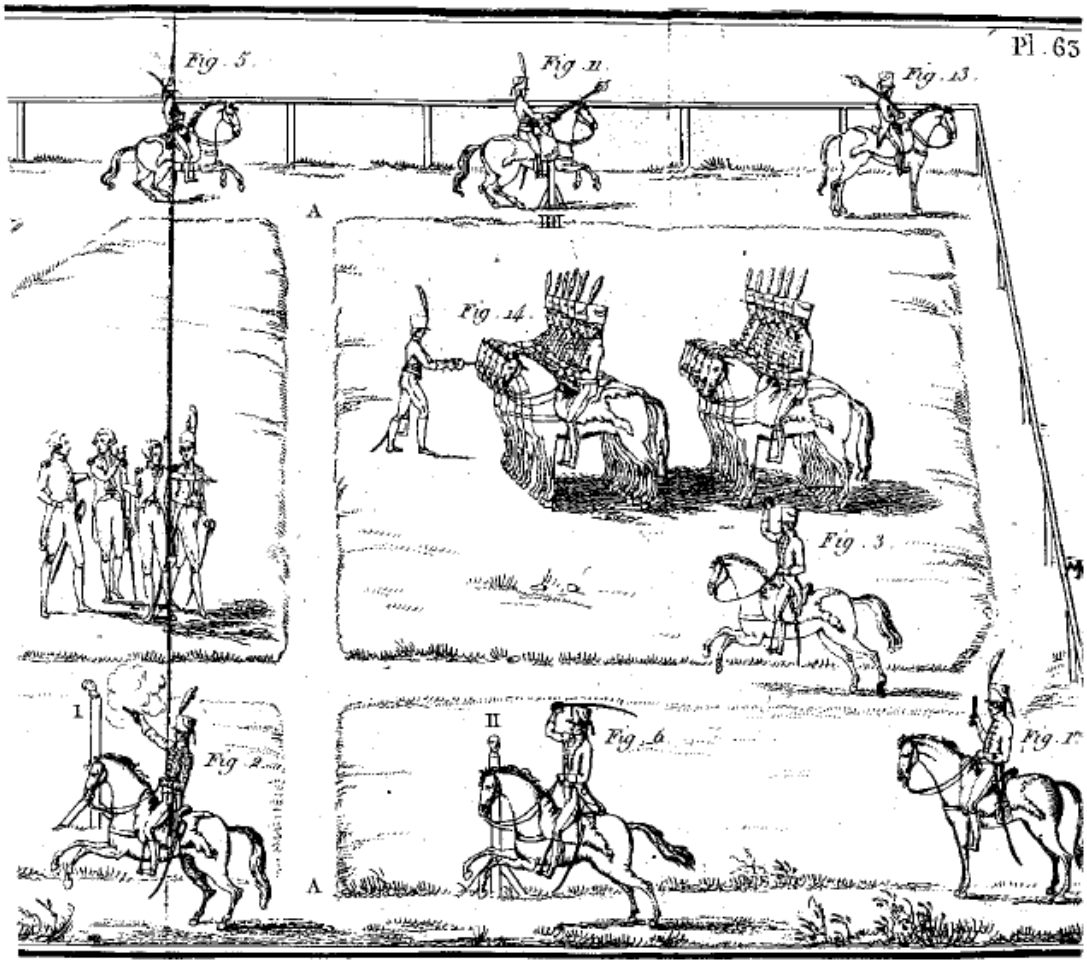
[1] Translator's Note: At the time a *pied du roi* was ca. 32.48 cm; 5 and a half of these equals ca. 178 cm.

At the command: “March”, both riders march forward, so that they simultaneously turn in the direction A to A; as soon as they have marched past the files, and both reach the head “I”, they extend the arm smoothly (Figure 2), aim and fire; they place the pistol in the holster, take the sabre in their hand and continue marching. As both reach the centre of the end line of the course M, they leave this track as if they were going to change direction; then make their way towards each other; raise the sabre (Figure 3); cross the sabres by making a quarter twist (Figure 4); after which each marches in direction A with the right hand forward, the sabre shouldered (figure 5), and march thus the length of the course. After that, as each comes within striking range of head II, they raise the sabre to strike the head vertically; after this they place the sabre opposite the left shoulder and hold it upright, the fist at the height of the shoulder and at about 162 millimetres (6 inches) distance (figure 8). When they reach head III, they perform a backhand sabre stroke, such that horizontal strokes are given by extending the arm completely, and afterwards bring the point of the sabre forwards again; with extended arm, the fist turned by one third and at shoulder height, they aim the point of the sabre at head IIII; as they near this, they draw the elbow back, and gradually twist the fist by a quarter, so that the upper arm and forearm form a right angle,

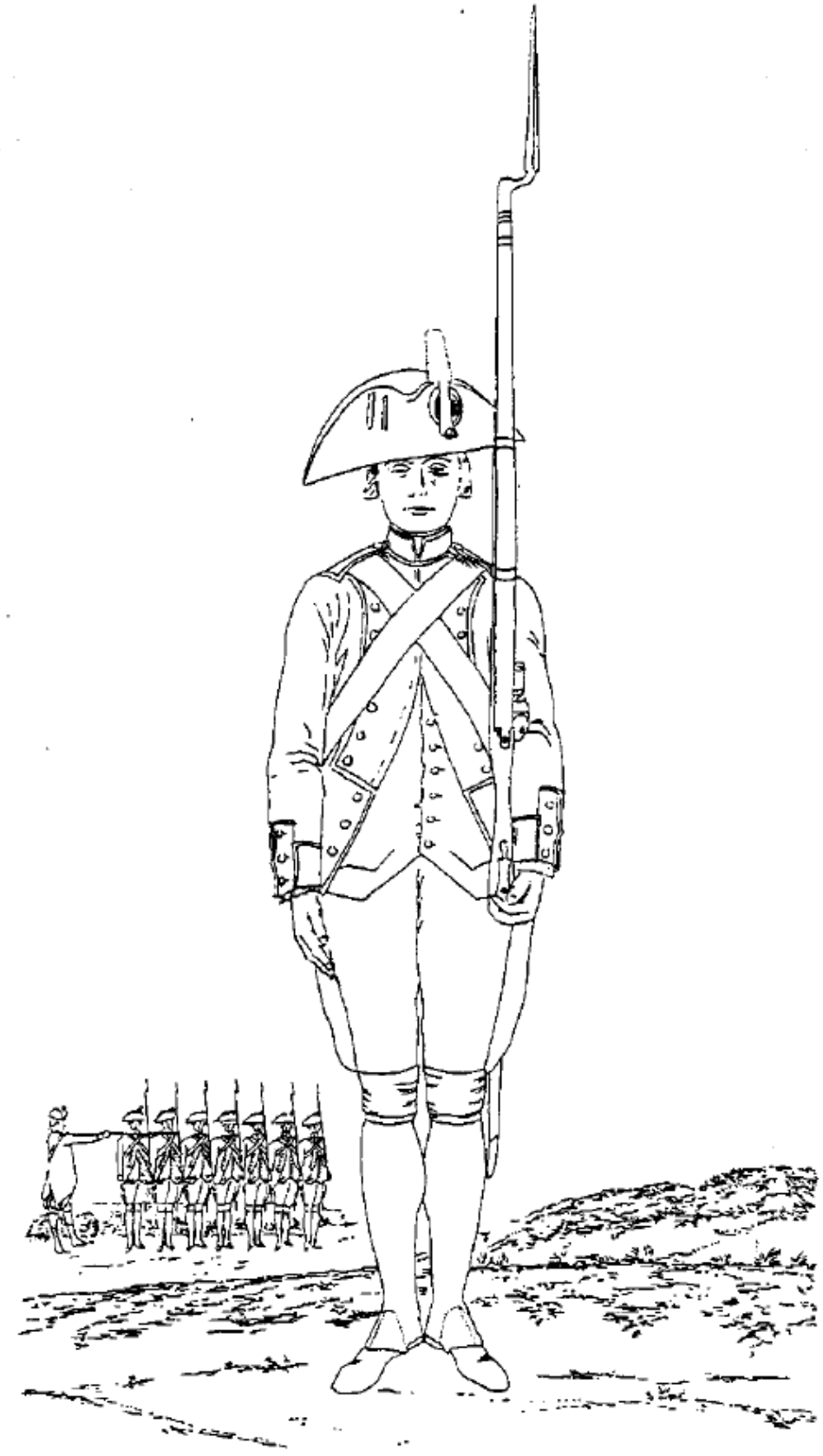


the elbow at shoulder height, as is the fist, and the point of the blade always directed at the object (Figure 10); when they reach head IIII, they run it through, though not too quickly (Figure 11), and carry it away with them , by extending the upper arm, the point of the blade and the fist perpendicular to the right shoulder (Figure 12). They then continue marching until they come to the *peloton* which is in the opposite corner to that where they started; they halt here (Figure 13), shoulder the sabre and align

themselves on the right wing of the first row; they then give the transfixed head back (figure 14) and return the sabre to the scabbard (Figure 15).
303. If desired that they return to the *peloton* from which they had departed, the direction can be changed over the width of the course, instead of following the line. As soon as these troopers have almost ended their run, the two troopers from the left wing of the second rank of each *peloton* move to the corner, so that they will be ready to start once the command: “March” is given; and so forth, alternating those from the first and second rank.
304. During the run, the troopers avoid that the force which they are required to use causes their position to change; they ensure that they constantly orient towards each other; that they do not have any sort of ball loaded in their pistol, because even the wad is enough to knock off the head at a distance of three paces.

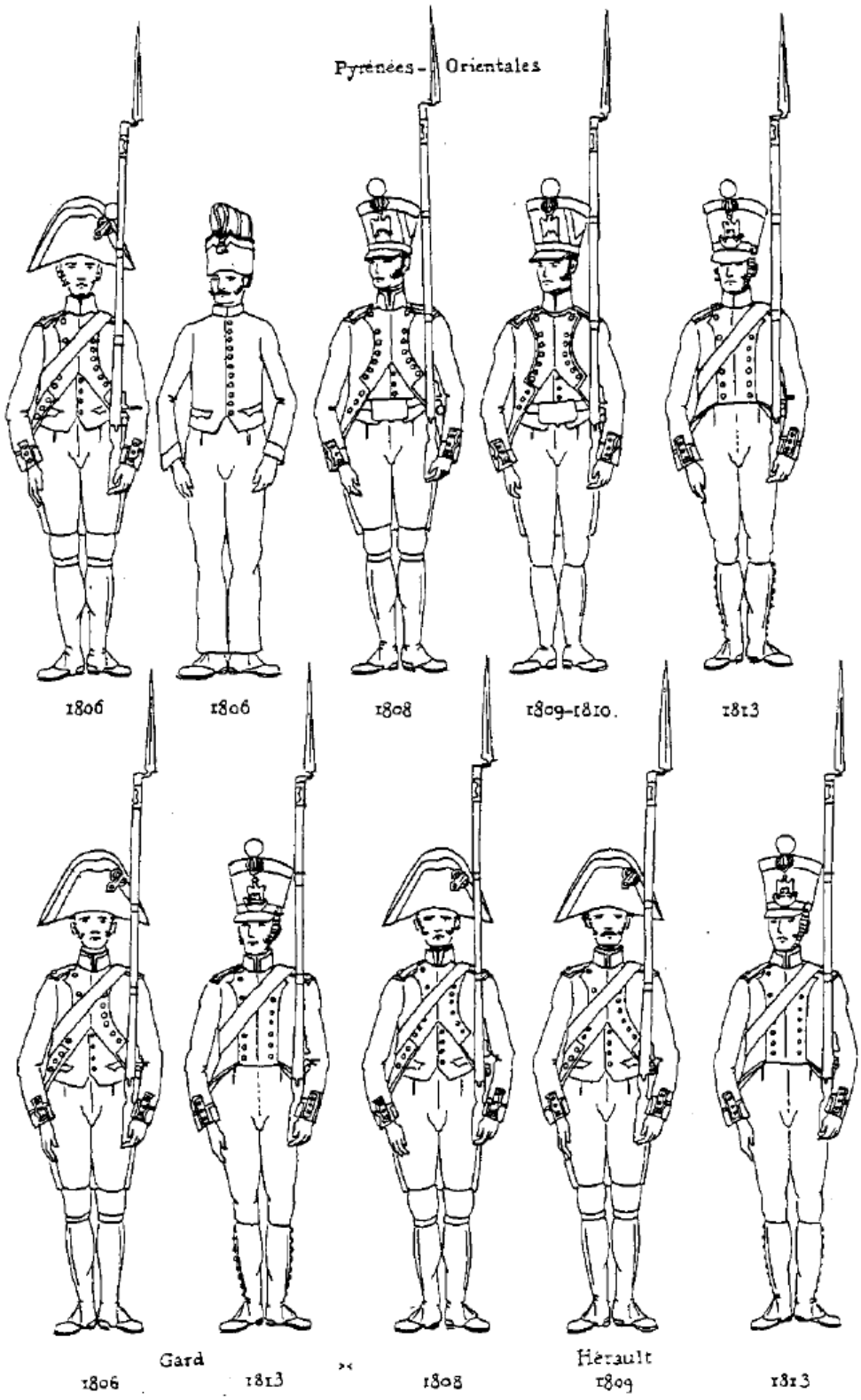


305. Each trooper is made to run 4 or 5 times, as desired; first at a walking pace, then at a trot, and finally at a gallop.



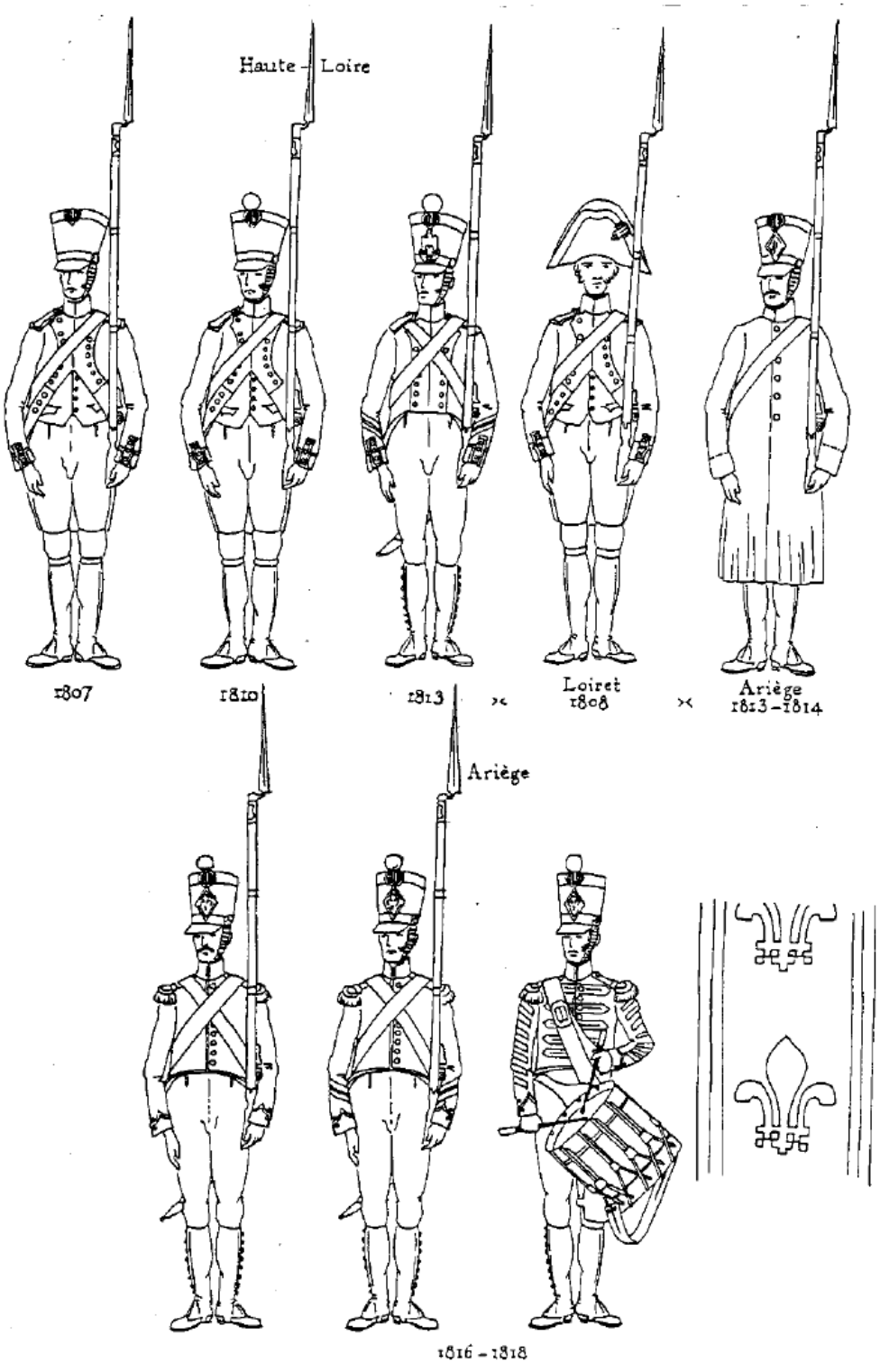
The Reserve Companies of the Départements

Depesche Issue 5, Plate 2



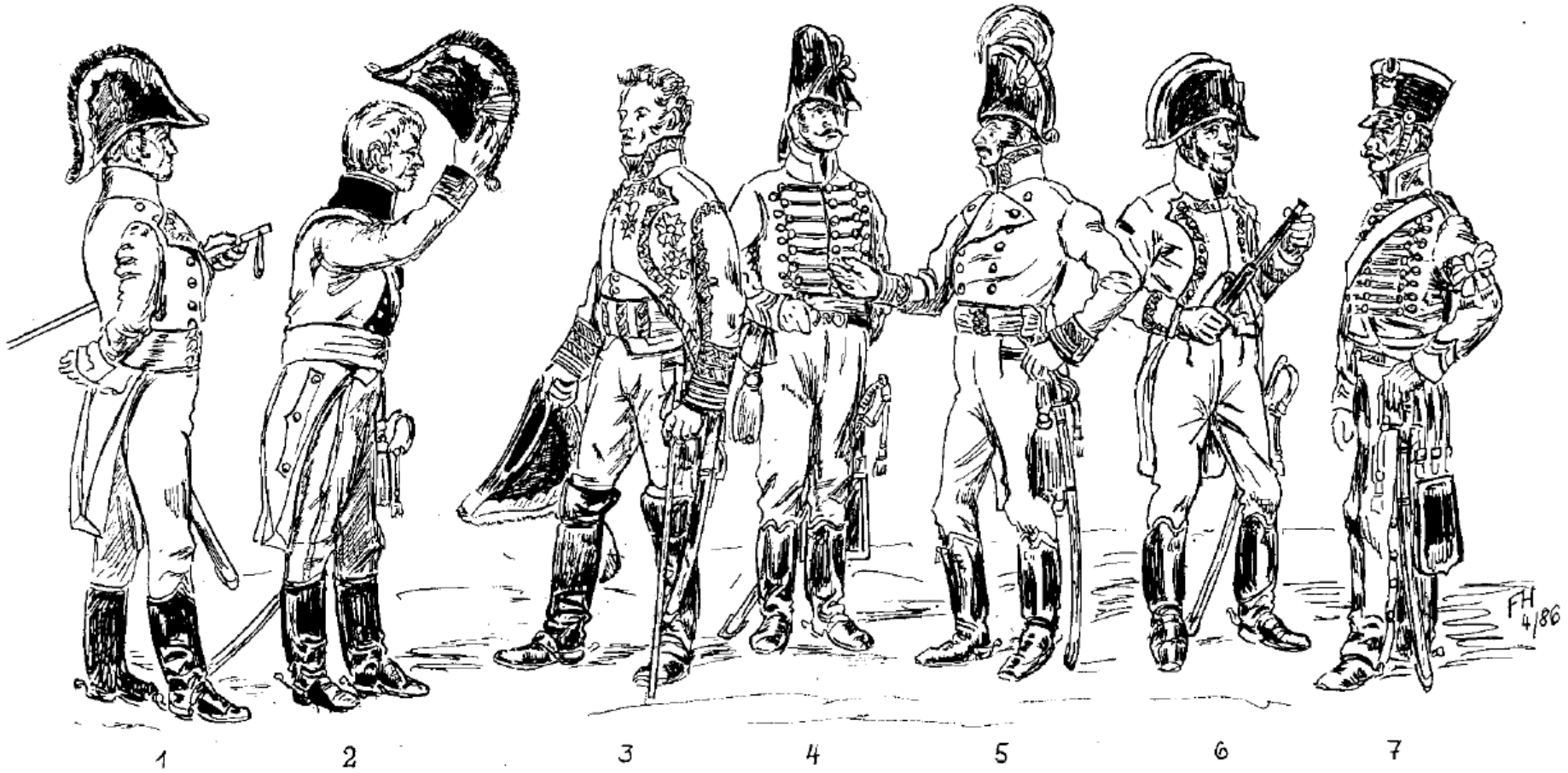
The Reserve Companies of the Départements

Depesche Issue 5, Plate 3

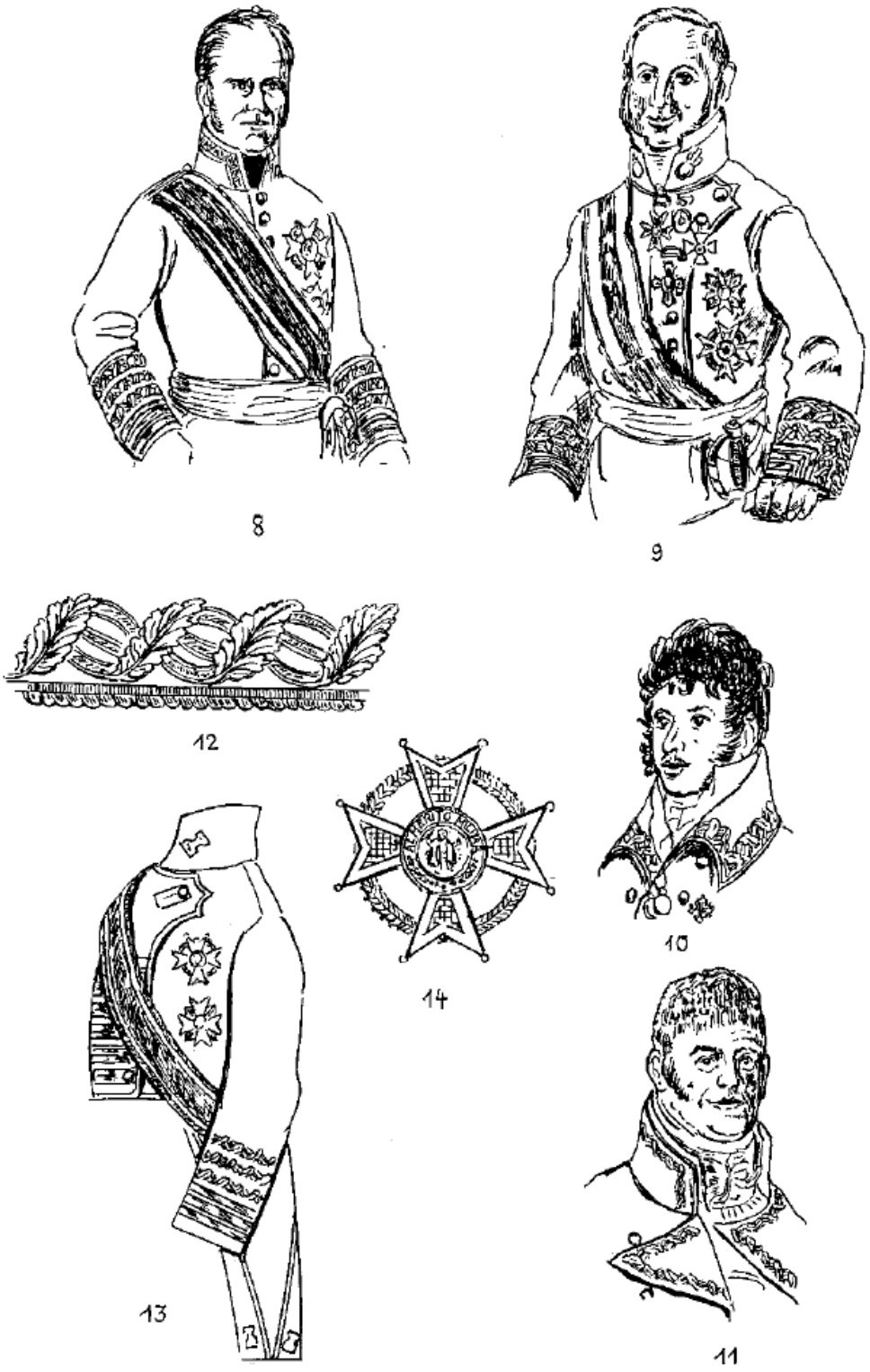


The Reserve Companies of the Départements

Spanish Generals and General Staff 1808-1814 **Depesche Issue 5, Plate 4**



Depesche Issue 5, Plate 5



Spanish Generals and General Staff 1808-1814