

# **Dutch Troops of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars**

**1793 to 1810**

By

George Street

and

Karim van Overmeire

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This major new book on these neglected armies of the early nineteenth century is due to be published in September 2012 by Partizan Press. As a taster to what will be included, the following extracts from the book have been put together to give a flavour of what will be covered. Not only will the book describe the uniforms and organisations in extensive detail but there will also be uniform illustrations by Bob Marrion and the colourful flags will be brought to life by Lesley Prince. An extensive section of Orders of Battle will be included as will biographical details of many of the characters involved in the history of the time.

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100 Baker Road, Newthorpe,  
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Ph/Fx: +44 (0) 1159 382111  
Email: ask@caliverbooks.com  
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# History

## **Batavian Military Involvement, 1795 to 1800**

The Batavian Republic supplied troops for the campaign in the Rhineland in the autumn of 1796 and in the following year almost the entire Batavian Army along with a sizable proportion of the Navy was to have taken part in the invasion of Ireland. However this expedition was abandoned. The next year, taking advantage of the British blockading force being off-station, a large Batavian fleet under Vice-Admiral Jan de Winter sortied into the North Sea, but on their return to the Dutch coast were engaged by a British fleet under Admiral Adam Duncan off Kamperduin on 11 October 1797 with the result that virtually all of the Dutch ships were captured in a bloody and hard-fought battle.

In early 1799 the Batavian Army consisted of about 25,000 men, but about 60% of these were either foreigners, ex-French POW or turncoats from other countries. On 27 April 1799 a recruiting campaign in Northern Europe succeeded in adding a further 9,500 men to the army. However these recruits were far from trained and the majority of the officers had no battle experience following the loss of the Orangist supporters. It should also be noted that the financial state of the country and armed forces meant that there was a risk that some soldiers would starve to death. Obviously under such circumstances the desertion rate was very high.

The Army was organised into two Divisions each of two Brigades. Each Brigade was made up of two *Halve Brigades* of infantry and a Jager battalion. Each Division also had one or two cavalry regiments and a horse artillery company attached. The foot artillery was not permanently attached to any Division, but assigned to them by the Commander-in-Chief as circumstances required.

In 1799 the British having misjudged the mood of the country, launched an invasion of the Republic to attempt an Orange restoration. Great Britain and Russia co-operated in an operation to land troops at the top of the North Holland peninsula, near the port of Den Helder, on 27 August 1799 under the command of the Duke of York. The objectives were initially to occupy the naval bases there, capturing the fleet if possible, but it was hoped eventually to unleash a pro-Orange revolt and capture Amsterdam.

The first wave of British troops landed between Huisduinen and Callantssoog and was met by Batavian forces under Daendels. The ensuing battle forced the Dutch to retreat and the British advanced inland towards Alkmaar.

The British succeeded in taking Den Helder, although the Dutch fleet refused battle and retreated into the Zuyderzee (now the IJsselmeer or IJssel Lake), and continued their advance southward. The Batavian forces in the north of Holland province, a quarter of which had less than four months under arms, were strongly reinforced by other Dutch and French forces and defences, including inundations, were thrown up to defend Amsterdam. At the same time a small force of Orangist troops under the command of Crown Prince William Frederick invaded the eastern provinces of the country in an attempt to capture a number of fortresses and incite the population to rebellion. There was some initial success, but the assembled *Gewapende Burgermacht* or Armed Citizen Militia along with a few French troops were enough to repel them on 4 September at the bridge at Westervoorsche near Arnhem.

The Dutch Rear-Admiral Samuel Story, in charge of the fleet in the Zuyderzee, planned to sortie and engage the British fleet. However, morale was so low amongst the Orangist seamen that the fleet mutinied and surrendered to the British on 30 August without a shot being fired.

The Franco-Batavian army was now concentrated near Alkmaar and had 25,000 men facing 20,000 British. General Brune, commanding the Franco-Batavian forces, determined to attack before the Russians arrived, but the British won the ensuing Battle of Krabbendam on 10 September and the Franco-Batavian were routed.

At this time the members of the *Uitvoerend Bewind* (Executive Government) became very nervous of the outcome of this invasion. Consequently one of its members approached the King of Prussia asking him to become a mediator in a plan that would see Crown Prince William Frederick heading a constitutional monarchy under a constitution based on that of the United States. The Republic would revert to its traditional neutrality while Britain would occupy North Holland and France Zeeland. These suggestions were rejected and later caused a considerable degree of embarrassment in relations with France.

By mid-September the British had been reinforced by two Russian divisions bringing their forces up to 40,000 men, and were still determined to reach Amsterdam. York decided to attack with a four-pronged envelopment of the enemy at Bergen on 19 September, Unfortunately co-operation between the columns was poor resulting in complete failure and the capture of the Russian commander-in-chief Lieutenant-General Hermann. On 2 October York tried again to push south, using the beach this time. The resulting Battle of Alkmaar was effectively a draw although Brune felt sufficiently threatened around Bergen to order a withdrawal.

York, who was now experiencing problems of supply and a fall in troop numbers, continued to push south in a three-pronged attack on 6 October. The fighting around Castricum saw both sides take and re-take the village many times. By the end of the day however the attacks had not succeeded in making any sort of breakthrough<sup>1</sup>. At a council-of-war it was decided that a retreat back to the original bridgehead was the only course of action and so the Anglo-Russian forces fell back to Den Helder. Once there an agreement was negotiated which allowed the Anglo-Russian forces to re-embark and evacuate the area unmolested. This Convention of Alkmaar<sup>2</sup> was signed on 18 October and the last British troops left on 19 November.

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<sup>1</sup> An interesting part of this battle was the crude attempted *ruse de guerre* by the British Lieutenant-General Don to get through Batavian lines. He was arrested as a spy and imprisoned in Lille for quite a few years.

<sup>2</sup> It is said that the Batavian government wanted the Convention to include the return of the fleet surrendered in August. However this was left off when the Duke of York included a personal gift of a string of fine horses to Brune.

# Republic of the United Netherlands

## Swiss Regiments

### The Regiments

<i>Regiment Hirzel</i>	In 1794, the name of the Regiment changed to <i>Lochman</i> .
<i>Regiment Stockar de Neuform</i>	
<i>Regiment de Gumoëns</i>	
<i>Regiment Schmid</i>	This regiment was recruited in the canton of Grisons and was sometimes called by that name.
<i>Regiment May</i>	

### Normal Organisation

Each regiment consisted of two battalions. Each battalion had six very strong companies but of different strength in each regiment. There was no separate grenadier company, so grenadiers were allocated to each company. Strength of a battalion was about 620 increasing to 920 after the Augmentation but actual strength in the field was more like 510.

### Uniform Details

#### Headgear

The hats for both musketeers and grenadiers were the same as for the line infantry.

#### Coats

The coats were dark blue and the same cut as for the line infantry, the only difference between the regiments were the different coat decoration.

#### *Regiment Hirzel*

The collar, cuffs and turnbacks were red. There were no lapels but each side of the coat was decorated with three pairs of white lace battens evenly-spaced down the edge. The outer ends of these battens were pointed. The cuffs were Swedish and each of the peripheral buttons had a white lace batten extending to the edge of the cuff itself. White epaulettes were worn on each shoulder, the one on the right shoulder having full white fringes attached to the end. All buttons were white metal.

#### *Regiment Stockar de Neuform*

The collar, cuffs and turnbacks were red. There were no lapels but each side of the coat was decorated with nine white lace battens evenly-spaced down the edge. The outer ends of these battens were pointed. The cuffs were round with a three-button cuff-flap that was dark blue piped red. The bottom two buttons lined up with the bottom and top of the cuff while the top one was above the cuff itself. The bottom two buttons had a stripe of white lace under them, but this was only on the cuff-flap and not continued onto to front of the cuff itself; however there were two squares of white lace attached to the cuff behind the cuff-flap to continue it that way. The third, top button had a stripe of white lace continuing right around the cuff. Dark blue edged white epaulettes were worn on each shoulder, the one on the right shoulder having full white fringes attached to the end. All buttons were white metal.

#### *Regiment de Gumoëns*

The collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks were all red. The lapels had six buttons attached to both sides and evenly spaced down the coat. The cuff was a simple round type with two small buttons at the

rear vent and one above on the sleeve. The shoulder-straps were red and worn on both shoulders, the one on the right having a full white fringe attached. All buttons were white metal.

#### ***Regiment Schmid***

The collar, cuffs and turnbacks were all red. The front of the jacket was entirely undecorated and simply had eight evenly-spaced buttons down the right-hand edge. The cuff was Swedish in design with buttons around the periphery and two smaller ones at the rear vent, on the cuff, and one above it on the sleeve. The shoulder-straps were red and worn on both shoulders, the one on the right having a full white fringe attached. All buttons were white metal.

#### ***Regiment May***

The collar, cuffs and turnbacks were all red. The collar was pointed and was edged with white lace. There were no lapels and the jacket was decorated with ten square-ended white battens evenly spaced down the front. The cuff was Swedish in design with the top edge and the rear vent both having a edge of white lace to which the peripheral and vent buttons were attached. Each peripheral button also had a square-ended batten extending down onto the cuff itself. The shoulder-straps were dark blue edged white and worn on both shoulders, the one on the right having a full white fringe attached. All buttons were white metal.

#### **Legwear and Equipment**

All legwear and equipment was as for the line infantry.

## **Hussar Regiments**

### **The Regiments**

<i>Korps Huzaren op Holland</i>	This formation was originally in the pay of the Province of Holland, hence the name, but on 17 April 1793 it was taken into the National Army and became the <i>Huzaren Van Heeckeren</i> . It was also called <i>Korps Zwarte Huzaren</i> or Black Hussars. <sup>3</sup>
<i>Korps Huzaren Van der Hoop</i>	This was created in 1787 at a strength of one company and on 25 May 1793 was taken into the National Army. On 1 February 1794 it was increased in strength to two squadrons and renamed <i>Korps Huzaren Van Timmerman</i> . It was also called the <i>Korps Roode Huzaren</i> or Red Hussars.

### **Uniform Details**

#### **Headgear**

They wore a black mirliton with a *flamme* of light blue for the *Korps Huzaren op Holland* and red edged white for the *Korps Huzaren Van der Hoop*. Cap-lines were red and a black or dark green plume was worn on the left hand side for both regiments. Troopers of both regiments wore their hair in the

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<sup>3</sup> The regiment was extremely loyal and saved Prince Frederik of Orange (second son of William V) from capture by French cavalry on 29 March 1793.

standard fashion for hussars of the time, so they had long moustaches and long platted *cadettes* at the temples.

### **Coats**

#### ***Korps Huzaren op Holland***

For this regiment the dolman was black with light blue collar and pointed cuffs and the pelisse was black. All braiding and decoration was in the usual hussar fashion and in white braid and the pelisse was edged with white fur.

#### ***Korps Huzaren Van der Hoop***

For this regiment the dolman was red with light blue collar and pointed cuffs and the pelisse was brown. All braiding and decoration was in the usual hussar fashion and in white braid and the pelisse was again edged with white fur.

The barrel sash for both regiments appears to have been light blue and white.

### **Legwear and Equipment**

Both regiments wore light blue hussar-style breeches with white Hungarian knots on the thighs and white piping to the outer seams. They also wore short, black Hungarian boots.

They wore a white leather cross-belt over the left shoulder to carry a carbine. However the sword-belt was black and supported a curved light cavalry sabre in a black scabbard with brass fittings hung from two black leather straps and a black leather sabretache hung from three black leather straps. The design on the sabretache is a bit obscure but would appear to be a rampant Dutch lion, probably in white.

### **Horse Furniture**

The shabraque was pointed at the rear end and rounded at the front. It was black for the *Korps Huzaren op Holland* and red for the *Korps Huzaren Van der Hoop*. This was trimmed with a wide zig-zag edging in light blue that was piped at the inside with white. All harnessing was in black leather.

# Batavian Republic

## Line Infantry

### *From 8 July 1795 to October 1803*

#### Normal Organisation

On 8 July 1795 the existing regiments and battalions of infantry were re-organised into six *Halve Brigades*. Each *Halve Brigade* consisted of three battalions, with a battalion consisting of one grenadier and eight fusilier companies.

The *Halve Brigade* or Regimental staff consisted of:

1 Kolonel  
12 Musicians

1 Kapitein-adjutant-majoor

The battalion staff consisted of:

1 Luitenant-kolonel  
1 Kapitein-kwartiermeester  
1 Chirurgijn (with 1 Assistant Surgeon and 2 students)  
1 Tamboer-majoor

1 Adjudant  
1 Geweermaker

Each company consisted of:

1 Kapitein  
1 Tweede-luitenant  
3 Sergeants  
6 Korporaals  
67 Soldiers

1 Eerste-luitenant  
1 Sergeant-majoor  
1 Foerier  
2 Tamboers

On paper each battalion was about 700 men strong with a *Halve Brigade* about 98 officers and 1,995 men strong. However this was rarely attained.

Until 24 January 1798, each *Halve Brigade* also had a company of six 4pdr cannon served by 67 men on its establishment.

On campaign, the grenadier companies from the line battalions were separated from their parent battalions in order to form ad-hoc grenadier battalions. These battalions were named after their commanding officers and were likely to serve in the same Brigade as the parent formations. Once the campaign was over, the battalion was disbanded and the grenadiers sent back to their parent *Halve Brigade*.

These *Halve Brigades* were made up in the following manner:

New Unit	Battalion	Old Units
1e Halve Brigade	1e Bataljon	Regiment Nr 10 Van Brakell
		1e Bataljon Regiment Nr 5 Des Villates
	2e Bataljon	Regiment Oranje Nassau, Nr 1
		2e Bataljon Regiment Nr 5 Des Villates
	2e Bataljon Regiment No 17 Van Plettenberg	
	3e Bataljon	Regiment Nr 18 Van Wartensleben
2e Halve Brigade	1e Bataljon	Regiment Oranje Nassau, Nr 2

		<i>Regiment Nr 8 Bosc de la Calmette</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Markgraaf van Baden</i>
	<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 9 Van Randwijck</i>
		<i>1e Bataljon Regiment Nr 17 Van Plettenberg</i>
<i>3e Halve Brigade</i>	<i>1e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 14 Hessen-Darmstadt</i>
		<i>Regiment Nr 4 Von Wilcke</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 3 Van Dopff</i>
		<i>1e Bataljon Regiment Nr 21 Westerloo</i>
<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Erfprins</i>	
	<i>2e Bataljon Regiment Nr 21 Westerloo</i>	
<i>4e Halve Brigade</i>	<i>1e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 19 Douglas</i>
		<i>Regiment Nr 1 De Schepper</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 13 De Thouars</i>
		<i>Regiment Oranje-Gelderland</i>
	<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 15 De Petit</i>
		<i>Regiment Oranje-Friesland</i>
<i>5e Halve Brigade</i>	<i>1e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 20 Von Geusau</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 7 De Bons</i>
		<i>Regiment Nr 2 Van Maneil</i>
	<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 6 Van Welderen</i>
<i>6e Halve Brigade</i>	<i>1e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nassau-Usingen</i>
		<i>Regiment Nr 12 Bedaulx</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 24 Bentinck</i>
		<i>1e Bataljon Regiment Oranje-Stad en Lande en Drenthe</i>
	<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 23 Stuart</i>
		<i>2e Bataljon Regiment Oranje-Stad en Lande en Drenthe</i>

The final “old” Line Infantry Regiments were organised into the *7e Halve Brigade* on 22 September 1795. This was initially paid for by the provinces of Holland and Utrecht but the unit was finally taken into National Army service on 1 March 1796<sup>4</sup>.

<b>New Unit</b>	<b>Battalion</b>	<b>Old Units</b>
<i>7e Halve Brigade</i>	<i>1e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 16 Von Münster</i>
	<i>2e Bataljon</i>	<i>Regiment Nr 22 Van Nijvenheim</i>
	<i>3e Bataljon</i>	<i>Bataljon Walen van Perez</i>

At this time the total paper strength of the seven *Halve Brigades* was 14,651 men.

## The Regiments *Lichte Dragonders*, 1803 - 1805

### Headgear

Headwear was a ‘Tarleton’ helmet of black ‘burned’ leather with black bear fur crest and crimson turban. This turban was secured with diagonal white metal chains around the hat giving the appearance of white diagonal lines, and was closed at the back with a round buckle. This buckle may have had a small tassel attached that would signify the company. At the front, on the turban, was a white metal band in the shape of a ribbon that bore the inscription ‘*Ligte Dragonders*’. On the left hand side there was a black cockade and a small socket that held the white plume. Both front and rear

<sup>4</sup> The unit was also named as the first unit of the Batavian Guard. (See later chapter.)

peaks were trimmed with white metal. The chin-strap was of black leather overlain with white metal rings. Hair was still worn in a queue reaching to the top of the shoulder blades.

The bicorn with white plume was however retained for undress wear to replace the expensive Tarleton.

### **Coats**

The jacket was a white short-tailed one with closed lapels. Collar, lapels, turnbacks and cuffs were black for the *1e Regiment* and light blue for the *2e Regiment*. In 1804 white lace battens were added, two on each side of the collar and eight on each side of the lapels. They had vertical three-pointed pockets piped in the facing colour.

A light blue *habit-long* was worn as undress wear. This had black collar, lapels and simple round cuffs for the *1e Regiment* and buff collar and cuffs with light blue piped buff lapels for the *2e Regiment*. Knötel shows this jacket with red lining and turnbacks. This jacket was worn with a buff waistcoat.

### **Legwear and Equipment**

White breeches with short hussar-style boots were initially worn. However this was soon replaced by dark grey overall trousers and black boots with steel spurs. The outer seam of the trousers had broad lighter grey stripe that had zig-zag edges and a row of white metal buttons.

For undress wear the buff breeches and high black riding boots were retained.

The equipment used was the same as that used by the *Regiments Cavalerie*. Leatherwork was buff and the straight-bladed heavy cavalry sabre was still carried although the sabre-strap was now buff leather. A carbine was now worn on the right side and shown carried butt down on the leather carrier and secured higher up with a leather strap to the saddle's pommel. The black cartridge pouch was mostly plain but the lid is also shown with a grenade decoration.

### **Officers and N.C.O.s**

The officers and non-commissioned officers wore similar uniforms to the men. Rank distinctions for both were done in the same fashion as for the *Regiments Cavalerie*.

The cuff of the undress coat had a light blue cuff-flap for the officers. It was also cut with longer tails.

### **Horse Furniture**

The shabraques, pistol holster covers and harnessing remained unchanged from the *Regiments Cavalerie*.

## **Infantry Flags**

### **1795 Pattern Flag**

The flags were made of silk with the design painted onto the fabric. The Obverse was white with a central device of an arm encased in steel plate-armour picked out in bronze coming out of a grey cloud. The arm is holding a curved sword with a silver blade and copper hilt. The whole of this is framed within a large green oak and laurel leaf wreath. Above this device is an inscription in gold indicating the battalion number, for example:

1<sup>e</sup> BATAILLON

Beneath the device is an inscription, also in gold, indicating the *Halve Brigade*, for example:

2<sup>e</sup> HALVE BRIGADE

Details of the Reverse are assumed to be the same as the Obverse.

The staves were brown with gilt spear-shaped finials. The flag staves were often decorated with cords of mixed red, silver and blue.

### Presentation

One flag of this pattern was ordered for each battalion of the six *Halve Brigades* then in existence on 11 September 1795. Later, on 14 March 1796, one was ordered for each of the battalions of the new 7<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade*.

On 25 January 1800 a new flag was presented to the 3<sup>e</sup> *Bataljon* of the 1<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade*. A little later, on 19 March, new flags were presented to the 1<sup>e</sup> and 2<sup>e</sup> *Bataljons* of the 7<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade* but it is uncertain whether these are the ones ordered four years before or different ones.

On 25 April 1800 a new flag was presented to the 1<sup>e</sup> *Bataljon* of the 3<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade* as a gift from *Luitenant-kolonel* Abbema while on 17 October 1801 the 1<sup>e</sup> and 2<sup>e</sup> *Bataljons* of the 2<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade*, then in garrison at 's-Gravenhage, were presented with new flags as the others had worn out. Finally, on 30 November 1801 a new flag for the 2<sup>e</sup> *Bataljon* of the 4<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade* was authorised by the *Staatsbewind* (Grand State Council).



1795 Pattern Flag of the 1<sup>e</sup> *Bataljon* of the 1<sup>e</sup> *Halve Brigade*

*Lesley Prince*

# Kingdom of Holland

## Artillery and Technical Services

### General Organisation

When the Kingdom came into existence there was a *Regiment Artillerie te Voet* of three battalions each of six companies. A company of *Pontoniers* was part of the *1e Bataljon* as was the company of *Mineurs en Sappeurs*. There was one company of *Garde-Artillerie te Voet* which was also nominally attached to the *1e Bataljon* while the *Korps Rijdende Artillerie* consisted of two companies of horse artillery. The engineers continued to remain in their own *Korps Directeurs en Ingenieurs*.

On 18 July 1806 the *Regiment Artillerie te Voet* was re-organised so that the 1st company of each battalion was called the '*Keurcompagnie*' which gave it elite status. The company of *Garde-Artillerie te Voet* became the *Keurcompagnie* of the *1e Bataljon* and the two horse artillery companies became those of the *2e* and *3e Bataljons*. At the same time a battalion of four companies of train were added to the regiment.

At this time the artillery personnel returning from the Colonies were also incorporated into the Regiment. The *1e Bataljon* took those from the *4e Afzonderlijke Artillerie-compagnie* (Independent Artillery Company), the *2e Bataljon* took those from the *1e* and *2e Afzonderlijke Artillerie-compagnieen* and the artillery element of the West Indies Depot while the *3e Bataljon* took those from the *3e Afzonderlijke Artillerie-compagnie*, the *5e Bataljon Artillerie* and the artillery elements from the Cape of Good Hope Depot.

On 17 September 1806 the name of the regiment was given as the *Koninklijk Korps Artillerie en Genie* (Royal Corps of Artillery and Engineers) and was increased to include four companies of *Mineurs en Sappeurs*, one battalion of *Artillerie-werklieden* (artillery workers) of two companies, which included the *Pontoniers*, three companies of *Kanoniers der Kusten* (coastal artillery) and a battalion of train.

12 October 1806 saw the creation of a transportation service for supplies, ambulance and administration.

Between 6 and 27 November 1807 the Regiment was temporarily expanded to include four brigades of *Burger-Artilleristen* (Citizen Gunners) from Amsterdam. However on 23 November 1806 the horse artillery were ordered to be made into a separate regiment of two squadrons totalling four companies along with two companies of train. At this time the Guard foot artillery was ordered to convert to horse artillery and a third horse artillery company was ordered to be created on 21 December 1806 to complete this organisation. This was supposed to have been completed by 1 March 1807.

On 9 December 1806 there was created two companies of *Auxiliaire Artillerie* (auxiliary artillery) from naval and marine gunners.

The artillery train battalion was expanded to eight companies on 23 February 1807. The 1st Company was intended for the new 3rd Horse Artillery Company, the 2nd to 7th Companies were intended for the other two horse artillery companies and the foot artillery companies with the army while the 8th Company was for the field artillery in Zeeland and around Den Helder. However on 3 December 1807 the train located within the Kingdom was reduced to one company.

On 26 December 1807 the artillery arm consisted of the *Regiment Artillerie te Voet* of three battalions each of seven companies, a brigade of Horse Artillery of one line and one guard company, one company of train and an Artisan Battalion of two companies of *Artillerie-werklieden*, one company each of *Pontoniers* and Gunsmiths and one of *Mineurs en Sappeurs*.

At this time the staff of the Regiment consisted of:

1 Kolonel	1 Majoor
3 Luitenant-kolonels	3 Kwartiermeesters-adjutant
1 Chirurgijn-majoor	3 Aide-chirurgijns
6 Adjudant-onderofficieren	1 Tamboer-majoor
3 Korporaals-tamboer	4 Artisans

Each foot company consisted of:

1 Kapitein eerste klasse	1 Kapitein tweede klasse
2 Eerste-luitnants	1 Tweede-luitenant
1 Sergeant-majoor	4 Sergeanten
1 Foerier	6 Korporaals
8 Artisans and workmen	2 Tamboers
26 Kanonniers eerste klas	34 Kanonniers tweede klas

Each horse company consisted of:

1 Kapitein eerste klasse	1 Kapitein tweede klasse
2 Eerste-luitnants	1 Tweede-luitenant
1 Opperwachtmeester	4 Wachtmeesters
1 Foerier	6 Brigadiers
8 Artisans and workmen	2 Trompetters
26 Kanonniers eerste klas	28 Kanonniers tweede klas

A battalion of *Vrijwillige Artilleristen* (Volunteer Artillery) was formed on 19 August 1809 which was to make up the *4e Bataljon* of the *Regiment Artillerie te Voet* and on 24 August the artillery train was expanded to a staff and five divisions.

On 7 September 1809 the corps was renamed the *Korps Koninklijke Artillerie* (Royal Artillery Corps) and was to consist of a Horse Artillery Regiment of four companies (each rotating for service in the Guard), two regiments of Foot Artillery each of two battalions, artillery train and a company each of Artillery Workers (including the *Pontonniers*) and *Mineurs en Sappeurs*. However a month later, on 17 October 1809, the 1st Horse Artillery Company was disbanded and the 2nd and 3rd Companies renamed 1st and 2nd respectively. It was also proposed to separate the Artillery Corps from the Engineering Corps. The Artillery Corps was to consist of a Foot Artillery Regiment of twenty-one companies, a Brigade of Horse Artillery of two companies, an Artisan Battalion of five companies and a Train Battalion of four companies. How much of this re-organisation actually happened is uncertain.

Finally the Artillery Train was re-organised on 8 November 1809 to increase the number of companies available in line with all the previous re-organisations that had been ordered in the past two years.

## Koninklijke Kweekelingen (Royal Pupils)

On 24 September 1806, Louis proclaimed that a large number of orphan boys were eligible to be called up from their orphanages for service in the army and on 11 May 1808 a Military Institute was established in The Hague to serve as a training facility for these boys. Here the orphans were organised into four classes based on their age<sup>5</sup>. In June 1808 the 3rd Class was over 1000 strong and was formed into a battalion of four companies; only the 1st Company (aged twelve to fourteen) were

<sup>5</sup> 1st Class was for those under 3 years old, 2nd Class for 3 to 7 years of age, 3rd Class for 7 to 14 years of age and 4th Class for those over 14 years old.

armed. Another battalion was raised from the 3rd Class at The Hague. On 16 November 1808 the concept of "regimental children"<sup>6</sup> was abolished and they were ordered to be sent to become Pupils. On 12 April 1809 a 2nd Battalion was formed from the 4th Class at Nijmegen.

On 10 June 1809 all Pupils over the age of 16 were sent to Utrecht where they were given uniforms of the *3e Regiment Jagers* and organised into two battalions. Each of these two battalions had a company of *karabiniers*, one of *voltigeurs* and eight of *jagers*. However, a week later on the 17 June, the battalions were ordered to be abolished as independent formations and the young men were transferred to either the Guard Grenadiers or the *3e Regiment Jagers* until the units were at full strength. The remainder were then placed back in their orphanages or into the Military Schools at either The Hague or Honsholredijk.

On 27 August 1809 many schools were established for these Pupils around the country. They were in The Hague (with Honsholredijk very close), Nijmegen, Grave, Willemstad, Bergen op Zoom, Deventer and Assen. In November it was determined that Honsholredijk would house the oldest and most advanced of the 3rd Class Pupils.



*Korps Abelborsten*  
**Bob Marrion**

### Uniform Details

The initial uniform outlined on 29 July 1808 was to consist of a black round hat, similar in style to our "top hat", with a black bow-cockade on the left side held in place by a yellow lace cockade-loop and brass button. Around the bottom of the hat was a 3-inch wide blue ribbon bearing the legend "*Koninklijke Kweekelingen*" in black letters. This was tied at the back with the ends flapping over the brim at the rear. The coat was a short grey shell-jacket, without tails, with sky blue collar, a single row of nine buttons down the front, two buttons in the back and a single button on each simple round cuff. All buttons were silver with an embossed "K.K." motif in the centre. The uniform was completed with a grey waistcoat and pantaloons, white socks and black shoes.

A year later, on 1 August 1809, all ranks were ordered to wear the *bonnet-de-police* at all times rather than the hat and gaiters were to replace the socks.

Another year later, on 9 July 1810, the *Kweekelingen* at the Military School at Honsholredijk to ordered to wear the school uniform but would be distinguished by wearing a *contre-epaulette* on the left shoulder and two buttons on the back of the uniform.

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<sup>6</sup> Children of serving or deceased soldiers who were being looked after by his regiment.

# Other Dutch Troops

## The Dutch Emigrant Brigade

### History

A new contingent of Dutch troops was formed in Lingen, Germany, in August 1799 from those that had assembled at Osnabrück in 1795 by the ousted *Stadhouder*. These were used in support of the invasion of the Batavian Republic in that month under the command of Crown Prince William, the *Stadhouder's* eldest son. This operation in the east of the country was not successful and they were forced to withdraw. They made their way to Emden where they embarked for Den Helder where the Prince and his followers formed a force to support the British invaders. He managed to recruit more men from amongst the Batavian fleet<sup>7</sup> that had surrendered on 30 August, but the British did not use the unit and it embarked on 14 October 1799 destined for Yarmouth.

By now his force amounted to around 5,000 men and was incorporated into the British army as "The Dutch Brigade". Initially it was stationed on the Isle of Wight where it was reinforced by several hundred more deserters from the Batavian army and many of the sailors who had been recruited earlier. However there were nationalities other than Dutch as the ranks included Nassauers and other Germans along with Swiss and French émigrés.

In October 1799 the Brigade was nominally under the command of the Duke of York and at full strength consisted of four regiments of infantry<sup>8</sup>, a Jager regiment<sup>9</sup>, a battalion of artillery<sup>10</sup>, some engineers, a company of labourers and some veterans. However on 27 November 1800 the two flanker, or light infantry, companies from each infantry regiment were amalgamated into two battalions of flankers each of four companies with a theoretical strength of 420 men per battalion. At some point the engineers were absorbed into the artillery which were then detached from the infantry and formed into a separate corps. The Brigade exercised with British troops and two regiments were sent to Spithead where they were readied for an expedition to Portugal; however this came to nothing.

On 11 December 1800 the Brigade was embarked on transports bound for Cork in Ireland to maintain law and order there. It was accompanied by a Dutch Squadron that had been placed into British service by the *Stadhouder* until his restoration<sup>11</sup>. The two Flankeur Battalions remained in Cork while the other regiments marched to Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny and various forts along the coast. On 15 July 1801 the Brigade was moved back to the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands where a French invasion was threatened. However it never saw any real action.

Following the Peace of Amiens, the British stopped paying for most of their foreign regiments and as a result the Brigade was disbanded by order of the Crown Prince on 12 July 1802. Most of the men returned to the Batavian Republic but some went to Fulda which was the property of the Prince of Orange at the time<sup>12</sup>. Others passed into British service proper or joined the Kings' German Legion.

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<sup>7</sup> The Batavian Fleet was still considered to be quite Orangist at this time.

<sup>8</sup> Each infantry regiment had a theoretical strength of two battalions each of nine companies.

<sup>9</sup> Also theoretically of two battalions each of nine companies.

<sup>10</sup> The battalion consisted of six companies.

<sup>11</sup> This squadron was disbanded on 25 May 1802.

<sup>12</sup> Following the defeat of Prussia, French troops occupied Fulda on 27 October 1806 and its troops, amounting to one company of infantry, joined the service of the Kingdom of Holland in December 1806.