

The Napoleon Series

The German and Dutch Troops in Spain Chapter 1 Part II: Troops of Frankfurt

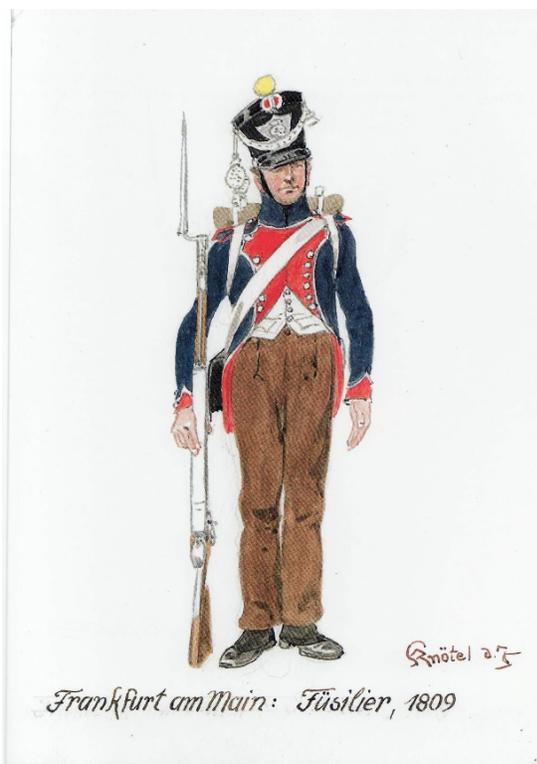
By: [Richard Tennant](#)

Battalion of Frankfurt-am-Main



Frankfurt Troops in 1807 by Richard Knötel
(Courtesy of the Antony Broughton Collection)

In 1809 the previous white uniform was replaced by a blue coat; this was either the French-issue cloth or, according to Knotel, Prussian dark blue. The collar was blue and the pointed facings and cuffs as well as the turnbacks were red (or scarlet) piped white. On the tails of the coat there was a simulated vertical pocket piped in red with three points and a button at each. The tails of the coat had very short flaps, cut square at the bottom. Waistcoats were white or blue according to the season as were breeches (or trousers when worn); gaiters were below the knee and black or white according to the season. White metal buttons. Fusiliers had epaulettes of the same cloth of the coat, piped with red, and secured near the collar. The French-style shako had a red and white cockade secured by a white cord and button; the plaque bearing the arms of Frankfurt was in white metal, and white shako cords and tassels were worn; the chin straps were black leather. H. Knotel records that one, probably the third, company of Fusiliers were awarded the insignia of Grenadiers in recognition of their bravery under fire during the course of the war in Spain; this was probably red epaulettes and shako cords with possibly red sword knots. Pompom plumes were in the established distinctive colour of the companies: 1st light blue, 2nd white 3rd yellow, 4th green. Fusiliers carried the sabre either without the sword knot or in white.



Frankfurt Fusilier 1809 by Herbert Knötel
(Courtesy of Greenhill Books)

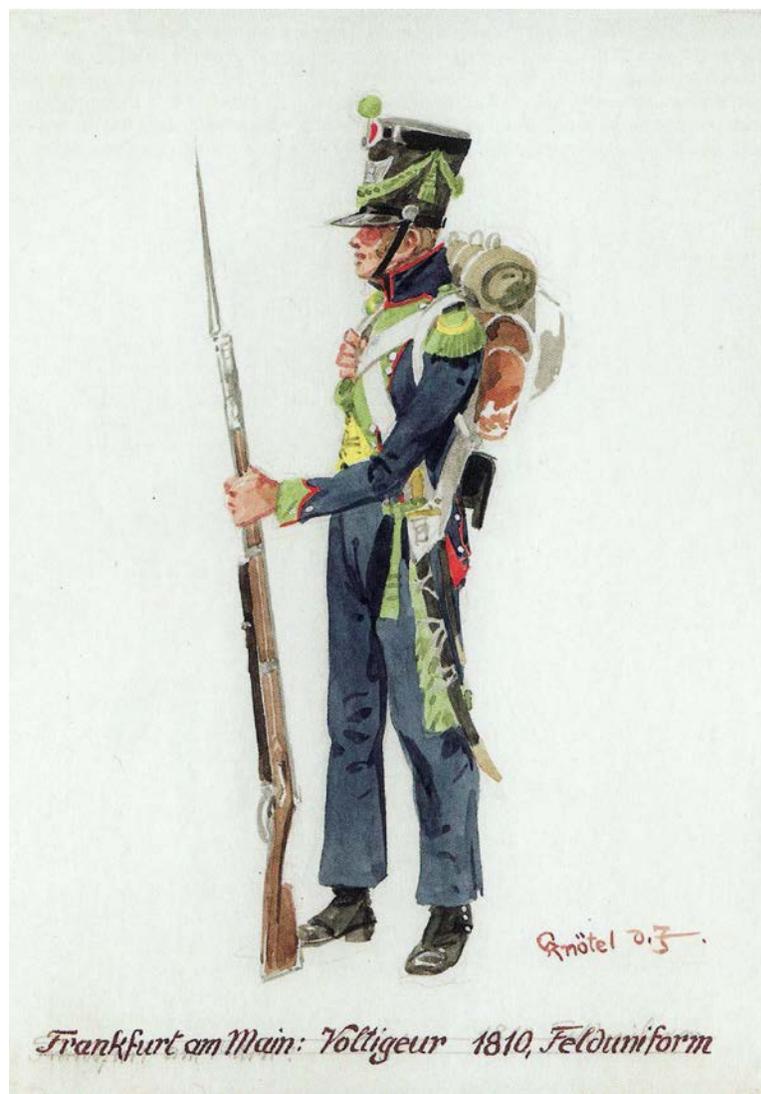
In the original white uniform the Grenadiers had worn a black bearskin without a plaque; this had been embellished with scarlet cords and plume on the left as well as the traditional red parch and white cross. When the uniforms changed in 1809 it appears that these emblems of status were retained and probably worn until they became unserviceable when they were replaced by the shako with the French-style red/scarlet cords and plume. The usual Grenadier distinctions of red/scarlet epaulettes and sword knot were worn.

Voltigeurs had the same distinctions as the French army, yellow shako cords and plume, collar, epaulettes and sword knot. It is recorded by Lienhan and Humbert that the uniform of the Voltigeurs was subsequently modified but no date is given. The coat remained blue with collar of the same colour but now piped with red; the same pointed facings and cuffs now light green

piped with red; turnbacks red. The waistcoat is described as straw-coloured yellow. Epaulettes green with yellow crescents whilst the plume and shako cordings become light green. All the rest as previously.



Frankfurt Voltigeur Officer in Spain, 1810
by Herbert Knötel
(Courtesy of Greenhill Books)



Frankfurt Voltigeur, 1810
by Herbert Knötel
(Courtesy of Greenhill Books)

All leather belting was white with the French-style pack and grey coat. The coat of the officers was the same colours as the troops with gold buttons and epaulettes. The waistcoat was blue, laced around the edge and on the pockets in gold. Blue breeches



Frankfurt Facing Colours by Richard Tennant

were worn with black hessians trimmed and tasseled in gold. The shako peak was rimmed with white metal and the chin-scales were in golden metal whilst the upper trim and the (point-up) chevrons on the sides were in gold braid. The rest was generally of the French-style.

The drummers wore the same uniforms as the troops with the insignia of the companies to which they belonged. A lacing of red and white edged the collar and facings of the cuffs and the lateral seams of the trousers; a white and red plait formed a Hungarian knot on the front of the thighs. The hoops of the drums were white and red whilst the body was copper. There do not appear to be any records regarding flags.

Sources:

Dr Lienhart and R. Humbert (*Holland Vol V pp 59-63*)

J.M. Bueno and H. Achard who have used *Frankfurt -Knotel , Kingdom of Holland Collection Nassbaurn.*

J. Hoyneck van Papendrecht, *De Uniformen van de Nederlandsche Zeeen Land macht.* 1-1. Ringoir, *De Nederlandse Infanterie.*

Otto von Pivka, C. Warner, *Dutch-Belgian Troops of the Napoleonic Wars.* Note that the illustrations on page 13 of the Horse Artillery and 2nd Train are incorrectly stated as being Batavian Republic 1795-1806 and should be the Kingdom of Holland 1808, 2nd Horse Artillery and Train.

Philip Haythornthwaite, B. Fosten, *Napoleon's Line Infantry. Excellent Plate, G 3, of the 4th Dutch Line soon after becoming 125th French Line.*

Otto von Pivka, *The Portuguese Army of the Napoleonic Wars.* Note although a description of a Frankfurt Voltigeur by Weiland, it is difficult to link this accurately as being worn in the Peninsular unless it was another variation of the modification of the Voltigeur uniform mentioned in the text.

T. Wise, *Artillery Equipments of the Napoleonic Wars.*

T. Wise, *Flags and Standards of the Napoleonic Wars.*

Text

Mainly a paraphrasing or precis from "History of the Peninsular War" by Oman for all parts of this series. David Johnson, *Napoleon's Cavalry and its Leaders.* Claude Manceron, *Austerlitz.*

Placed on the Napoleon Series: July 2018