

Some Thoughts on  
French *Ligne & Légère*  
Infantry Uniforms  
During the Hundred Days Campaign of 1815

By  
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French 1815 *légère* infantry. Image by Patrice Courcelle

## Introduction

*“As long as they have a rifle, a capote and some sort of military turnout, that’s enough. The main thing is to increase the number and strength of our battalions.”*—Napoleon’s letter to Marshal Davout, Minister of War, on 9 May 1815 expressing his view on equipping the infantry for war.

On the eve of the Waterloo campaign, *Lieutenant général* Comte Maximilien Sébastien Foy surveyed the more than 5,000 men in his 9<sup>e</sup> Division as they prepared to cross the Sambre River in June 1815. It would be fascinating to know what observations General Foy made of his men’s uniforms and their equipment as they passed before him. Were the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers from the 92<sup>e</sup>, 93<sup>e</sup>, 100<sup>e</sup> *ligne* and the 4<sup>e</sup> *légère* dressed in a multitude of shambolic uniforms and equipment, or was his division, in the intervening three months from when Napoleon re-entered the Tuileries to before the opening of the campaign, freshly reequipped with new Bardin regulation uniforms and equipment? Perhaps the answer to that question can be ascertained with some clarity.

The Waterloo campaign is perhaps the most studied, discussed and written period of the Napoleonic wars, and as a consequence, much interest has been focused on the uniforms of the participating armies, particularly those of the French *Armée du Nord*.

The aim of this article is not to define what specifically the French infantry wore during the 1815 campaign but rather, to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the many decisions made by the Bourbon government that was in power from April 1814 to March 1815, that had a profound influence in the appearance of the French soldiers uniforms in June 1815. Further, the Bourbon government’s regressive attitudes had a significant debilitating impact on the *ligne* and *légère* regimental commands as they prepared to clothe and equip their men for Napoleon’s forthcoming 1815 campaign. As we shall see, it is difficult to reach a definitive conclusion for a number of thought-provoking reasons, all of which will be examined in the following paragraphs.

Also included for consideration in this study are the infantry components of the Emperor’s main field command, the *Armée du Nord*, as well as General Rapp’s 5<sup>e</sup> Corps known as the *Armée du Rhin*, Marshal Suchet’s *Armée du Alpes*, Lecourbe’s *Armée du Jura*, General Lemarque’s *Armée de Loire*, General Clausel’s *Armée des Pyrénées* and Marshal Brune’s *Armée du Var*.

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Infantry of the Line 1815, campaign of Belgium 1815 by Edouard Detaille

## Bardin Regulations

Almost four years prior to Napoleon taking the field in Belgium in what became known as the Waterloo campaign, the Emperor established a committee in July 1811 under General Bourcier to rein in high costs to clothe the soldiers of the Empire and to standardise the uniforms throughout the French military establishment. The “Bourcier Commission” included amongst others, General Sorbier, Colonel Dauttencourt, Intendant Dufour and Major Bardin. As Major Bardin was concerned that regimental commanders might misinterpret the new regulations, the renown painter-artist Carle Vernet was commissioned to produce over 200 detailed illustrations for a book that would be issued to each regiment, and this book came to known as “The Bardin Regulations.”



French fusiliers in Bardin regulation uniform by Carle Vernet

It appears that from July 1812, some newly-made Bardin uniforms were being to be issued to those newly raised units, such as the 88 National Guard cohorts that later became the 135<sup>e</sup> through 156<sup>e</sup> *ligne* regiments, and new drafts for Napoleon’s 1813 *Grande Armée*. Not surprisingly, however, a report of 14 March 1813<sup>1</sup> showed that the Imperial depots/stores still contained habits, waistcoats, *capotes* and forage caps of the older pattern. Therefore, to assume that the French army from 1813 onwards was entirely clothed in Bardin regulation uniforms is certainly not the case. In fact, if new pre-Bardin uniforms were issued to troops during the first six months of the 1813 spring campaign in Germany, there is every reason to believe that they still being worn by the men throughout 1814, especially those serving in Spain, and continuing into the Bourbon Restoration period of 1814-1815 when there were drastic reductions in military spending

There was also the problem obtaining suitable material for the men’s double-breasted greatcoats, known as *capotes*. At the end of December 1813 there was a shortage of smooth beige cloth for their production and instead it was authorised: “. . . use of knitted beige, of dyed knit, of twilled beige cloth and of white

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<sup>1</sup> Lucien Rousselot, *Napoleon’s Army 1790 -1815*, p. 22.

*cloth picked with blue, for the manufacture of top coats.*”<sup>2</sup> As an economic measure to cut costs, the *capotes* were made shorter and single breasted during the remainder of 1813 and into 1814.

## Historical overview

To fully appreciate how Napoleon’s 1815 French army found itself in such a poor state of readiness regarding their uniforms and equipment, we must examine the preceding months of stewardship under the Bourbons.

From mid-April 1814 until Napoleon’s return in March 1815, the French army was transitioning from an active Imperial Napoleonic army into a peacetime Royal army, permanently in garrison, under their new sovereign, King Louis XVIII, who was greatly influenced by the repressive policies advocated by legions of returning *émigrés*. The re-installment of a Bourbon king onto the throne of France was made possible by the bayonets of the Allied Powers who now dictated terms to the new regime. So why would the Bourbons, lazy and indolent by nature, need to expend any effort on an army when their power derived from foreign interests?

With Europe now at peace, the Bourbons wasted no time in consolidating and reducing the French armed forces. From the Bourbons point of view, there was no need to prepare the army for a possible wartime footing. As such and in the process, the returning rulers made decisions that were counter-intuitive, counter-productive and totally oblivious to the sensitivity required to address the wants and needs of the personnel of an army that for 25 years had achieved considerable success on the battlefields of Europe while being commanded by a charismatic and undeniably Great Captain.

For the Bourbons, anxious to return to an illusionary splendour of the *Ancien Régime*, they enacted a number of significant policy decisions that influenced how the French infantry were uniformed for what became known in 1815 as the Hundred Days. Among the first of these policy changes was the Kings’ Ordinance N° 122, issued on the 12 May 1814, that detailed the amalgamation<sup>3</sup> of the regiments throughout the army. This policy change was believed to be of the utmost importance because, at the time of Napoleon’s abdication, there existed on the army’s roles more than 200 regiments of *ligne*, *légère* and Young Guard infantry. Since this number was far in excess of foreseeable national requirements under Bourbon rule, and with the recommendations of the Council of War, the new Royal Army was reduced to 90 *ligne* and 15 *légère* regiments. In this Royal Ordinance, the regiments comprising the Young Guard were broken up and the individual battalions randomly scattered throughout the various surviving *ligne* and *légère* regiments. There were also new provisions that only natural born Frenchmen were eligible for service in the new Royal army that resulted in the exit of many veterans.<sup>4</sup>

Another event to have a significant impact on this subject was the first Treaty of Paris that was signed 30 May 1814. Among other issues, this treaty determined that the borders of France would revert to its

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<sup>2</sup> Lucien Rousselot, *Napoleon’s Army 1790 -1815*, p22

<sup>3</sup> An example of the amalgamation process: The famous 84<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* (Un Contra Dix) regiment. The remnants of the 84<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* was merged with the 1<sup>e</sup> battalion 116<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* and the 1<sup>e</sup> battalion 14<sup>e</sup> *Tirailleurs* (ex-Grenadiers of King Joseph’s Spanish Guard). This combined regiment, due to the *Amalgam*, became the new 72<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* in the Royal army and found itself with personnel from three different units with various regimental experiences, two regimental depots and its personnel presumably wearing a variety and style of uniforms.

<sup>4</sup> On 1 August 1814, 2,259 men, all Italians from the 111<sup>e</sup> *Ligne*, left for Italy. These men were faithful to the ideals of Napoleon, and when given the choice to permanently leave the army or join the ranks of King Louis new royal army, they departed en-masse, save for 100 officers and NCO’s. These men subsequently returned to France to serve once again in the 111<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* upon hearing the news of Napoleon’s return.

1 January 1792 borders. As a result, France forfeited 11 *divisions militaires* containing 41 *departments*. As a consequence, the French army lost the depots for the following *ligne* infantry regiments: 6<sup>e</sup>, 7<sup>e</sup>, 8<sup>e</sup>, 9<sup>e</sup>, 10<sup>e</sup>, 13<sup>e</sup>, 20<sup>e</sup>, 22<sup>e</sup>, 27<sup>e</sup>, 30<sup>e</sup>, 33<sup>e</sup>, 35<sup>e</sup>, 42<sup>e</sup>, 45<sup>e</sup>, 48<sup>e</sup>, 52<sup>e</sup>, 53<sup>e</sup>, 54<sup>e</sup>, 56<sup>e</sup>, 61<sup>e</sup>, 67<sup>e</sup>, 71<sup>e</sup>, 72<sup>e</sup>, 84<sup>e</sup>, 85<sup>e</sup>, 92<sup>e</sup>, 94<sup>e</sup>, 95<sup>e</sup>, 98<sup>e</sup>, 101<sup>e</sup>, 102<sup>e</sup>, 106<sup>e</sup>, 111<sup>e</sup>, 112<sup>e</sup>, 123<sup>e</sup> -126<sup>e</sup>, 127<sup>e</sup>, 128<sup>e</sup>, 129<sup>e</sup>, 133<sup>e</sup>, 134<sup>e</sup>, 137<sup>e</sup>, 146<sup>e</sup>, 148<sup>e</sup>, 150<sup>e</sup> and 156<sup>e</sup> *ligne*. Also lost were the depots for the 1<sup>re</sup>, 3<sup>e</sup>, 14<sup>e</sup>, 19<sup>e</sup>, 21<sup>e</sup>, 22<sup>e</sup>, 28<sup>e</sup>, 35<sup>e</sup> and 37<sup>e</sup> *légère* regiments.<sup>5</sup> However, many of the depots serving these regiments had been overrun by the Allies in the preceding 1813-14 campaigns. Since the loss of regimental depots also deprived those regiments of stores and supplies, any statistical references to 1 January 1815 regimental inventories must be taken within the context that the army had entered into new garrisons as of mid-April 1814.<sup>6</sup>

Additionally, there was the considerable factor of the crippling state of France's finances due to a number of factors. The costs for the previous 1812, 1813 and 1814 campaigns had been steep. Yet, as costly as were the expenses to maintain the Imperial forces fighting on multiple fronts, it was the unwillingness by the Bourbons once they came back to power to pay for the IOUs that had been previously issued by the Imperial government for goods and services rendered to the state and the military. If that lack of honour and integrity wasn't bad enough, the cessation of hostilities had resulted in a significant recession in France. Thus, with the Bourbons unwilling to assume the government's debts as well as their unwilling to outlay vast sums of money for the ongoing upkeep for the much-reduced Royal army, manufacturers and merchants of all classes were negatively impacted and the business owners' and their employees' trust in the government plummeted. As a result, all this had the effect of the Bourbons not only neglecting to restore the stocks of uniforms emptied by the demands of the last four campaigns (for the principal army in 1812, two in 1813 and 1814), they did nothing to provide or maintain the basic confidence of the citizenry. Thus, the Bourbons also created the conditions whereby those businesses that were left holding IOUs and not being paid were the same enterprises needed by Napoleon upon his return to France in order to prepare the army for war. It proved to be a nightmarish situation for the Emperor, and one of his biggest hurdles in preparing to defend France in 1815. Probably the most shocking statistic to come out of the Bourbon period was that from May 1814 to February 1815 the War Department only spent 1 million francs on the army (outside the new household troops) even though they had an allocation budget of 4 million, while at the same time the *Maison du Roi* was recreated and lavished with a budget that came to a staggering sum of 20 million francs. Thus, the Royal army outside the newly-created/reinstated *Maison du Roi* was a mere shell of its former self.

Since the Bourbons refused to pay merchants the debts they were owed by the Imperial government from the recent campaigns, and since they were unwilling to restock the supplies of uniforms, the manufacture of military cloth virtually ground to a halt under Louis XVIII. It was only in early April 1815, that the Imperial treasury, faced with the backlash of a very unhappy citizenry, began making payments to the businesses and manufacturers in order to reopen and get the wheels of production rolling again. It would inevitably take a month to get into full production, and only by recalling their workforce and gathering in the required raw material, did the workshops regain their activity and industry. This was only part of a larger debilitating financial predicament that would combine to have a significant impact on uniform production during the Hundred Days.

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<sup>5</sup> Although some regiments had multiple depots.

<sup>6</sup> Refer to Appendix II for the comparisons between the 1811-12 depots and the later 1814-15 depots.

## The Royal Infantry Regiment

The newly amalgamated 90 *ligne* and 15 *légère* regiments of the Royal Army were each to consist of three battalions, with each battalion comprising one grenadier (*carabinier* in the *légère*) company, four fusilier (*chasseur*) companies, and one *voltigeur* company per battalion, giving a full regimental establishment strength, including staff, of 1,379 officers and men. However, the King's Ordinance also stipulated that at least a quarter of the men were to be placed on leave, bringing the regimental 'garrison' strength down to just over 1,030-men in three battalions, or about 340 officers and other ranks per battalion.

### 1814 Inspection Reports

The vast majority of the inspection reports for the regiments from mid-to-late 1814 convey the desperate state of the uniforms and equipment, asserting that at least 50% of the items were in need of repair, equipment missing or needed to be totally replaced.<sup>7</sup> Obviously, some units were better off than others, but overall, the army as a whole was not in condition to undertake field operations due to the state of disrepair among the uniforms and equipment.

It must be remembered that for the vast majority of the regiments (except those in isolated garrisons) had been on constant campaign for nearly two years—and more so for those regiments in the Spanish theatre—and in some of the harshest and demanding weather conditions imaginable. These factors took a heavy toll on the uniforms and had the effect of breaking an already strained supply system. *Capitaine adjutant-major* Faré of the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard wrote from Reims, 16 March 1814 “. . . I have never found myself in such a situation. I no longer have any boots or trousers.” As Faré was then a senior officer of the Guard, one would expect that the Guard officers had access to the best possible supplies, and not be wanting for basic clothing. However, other corroborating memoirs and reports from the various corps confirm that the army was in rags by the time of Napoleon's abdication.



French Infantry on campaign 1813-14 by Leopold Beyer

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<sup>7</sup> I highly recommend Paul Dawson's '*Napoleon's Army at Waterloo*' for its tables and charts. An 1814 inspection report for the 108<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* clearly shows that it was in a desperate state, with only a quarter of the men sufficiently uniformed and equipped. Out of the 1,500 shakos only 474 were fit for service, and the depot had no existing stocks of cloth to make new or repair uniforms.

The iconology of the French army is that it excelled at improvisation when faced with logistical issues. For example, when Napoleon was in Egypt beginning in mid-1798, his army faced supply problems and adopted the Kleber uniform. During the Peninsular campaign during the years 1808-14, the French and their allies were continually forced to utilise local brown cloth to re-uniform their soldiers,<sup>8</sup> and again in 1814 during the campaign of France the desperate situation called for recruits to be issued with only a beige *capote* (greatcoat) to be worn over their civilian clothes. In November 1813, owing to the shortage of buff-leather, the Minister of War authorised the use black cowhide for cross-belts and musket slings. How widespread black leatherwork was issued throughout the army is uncertain, but it may have been confined to those recruits of the *ligne* and Young Guard raised during the 1814 campaign.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore, it is almost certain that the remnants of Napoleon's and Soult's armies were found to be wearing every conceivable type and style of uniform, in a multitude of colours and in various states of condition by the end of hostilities in April 1814. It's important to take this into consideration when examining what the French infantry were clothed and equipped in March to June 1815, combined with the financial issues and the policy decisions by the Bourbons that resulted in the mix of units brought about by the *amalgam*.

### **April 1814 to March 1815**

It has been said by some writers, that in the period beginning with the First Restoration, the French army had plenty of time and money to manufacture and equip the Royal army with new Bardin uniforms and equipment. However, such an assertion constitutes a bold claim that demands bold evidence, and may be characterized as an optimistic, even romantic, assessment. What is more likely, given the lack of finances as already discussed, is that the regimental tailors now had the time to repair some of the uniforms and equipment from the limited and existing regimental stores. From the 1814 inspection reports we have an excellent appreciation of these limited inventories.<sup>10</sup>

It is therefore not unreasonable to assume that within the newly organised regiments resulting from the *amalgam*, the men of the new Royal Army were generally dressed in a variety of styles from *habit-veste*, Bardin, campaign altered uniforms, including soldiers just simply wearing the beige *capote* over their civilian clothes. Take for example the Royal 34<sup>e</sup> *ligne* consisting of the remnants of the Imperial 35<sup>e</sup> *ligne*, 5<sup>e</sup> battalion of the old 154<sup>e</sup> *ligne*, the 1<sup>er</sup> & 2<sup>e</sup> battalions of the Imperial 18<sup>e</sup> *légère* and 1<sup>er</sup>, 2<sup>e</sup>, 3<sup>e</sup>, 5<sup>e</sup> & 6<sup>e</sup> battalions of the old 22<sup>e</sup> *légère*. Another example is the Royal 47<sup>e</sup> *ligne* that had as its parts the remnants of the Imperial 51<sup>e</sup> *ligne*, 1<sup>re</sup> battalion of the old 139<sup>e</sup> *ligne* and the 5<sup>e</sup> battalion of the Imperial 36<sup>e</sup> *légère*. Other Royal regiments that contained *légère* battalions, such as the Royal 42<sup>e</sup>, 52<sup>e</sup>, 53<sup>e</sup>, 67<sup>e</sup> along with the 68<sup>e</sup> *ligne*, and most regiments also contained battalions from the amalgam of battalions of the Young Guard. This may give the reader some idea of how these newly amalgamated units initially looked, especially the new 34<sup>e</sup> and 46<sup>e</sup> *ligne*, with men wearing *ligne*, *légère*, various guard uniforms, and all in various degrees and manner of condition and styles.

Thus, the effect of combining men from the remnants of multiple battalions of different regiments that fought in various theatres, with soldiers wearing uniforms from habit-vest and/or Bardin habits (some in non-regulation coat colours), to men whose only uniform was a beige *capote* and to those whose uniforms were in rags, we begin to form a picture of how the army appeared in garrison under the Bourbons. Obviously, some regimental uniforms, especially the returning units from 26,000 Davout's

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<sup>8</sup> Local brown, white and green cloth being widely used throughout the army, especially for their greatcoats.

<sup>9</sup> Lucian Rousselot, *Napoleon's Army 1790-1815*, (Casemate, 2010), p.22

<sup>10</sup> Refer to numerous tables in *Napoleon's Waterloo Army, Uniforms and Equipment*, by Paul L. Dawson

13<sup>e</sup> Corps<sup>11</sup> and other garrisons, may have been in better condition and more traditionally recognizable than most. In addition, there were many tens of thousands of returning prisoners of war, (at least those who were to remain in the army) to accommodate.

The inspection reports throughout the later part of 1814<sup>12</sup> give specifics that help to create an overall impression of the various state of the Royal infantry uniforms. Up to 50% of items were in need of repair or to be totally replaced. If one was to assume that the Bourbons were to address that half the uniforms and equipment had to be replaced within the infantry regiments, as the inspection reports illustrate, then that would require approximately 53,550 complete sets of new ‘Bardin’ regulation style uniform and equipment (not including a musket) to be made at a cost to the government of around 2,780,000 *francs*, an amount that would have been unpalatable for the Royal government that was spending only 1,000,000 *francs* on the army outside the *Maison du Roi*, and that one million figure includes payroll.

It is critical at this point to reinforce the fact that the Royal establishment did not issue any decrees for the manufacture of new uniforms for the army outside the *Maison du Roi*. There was only a directive that the 1812 Bardin regulations were to be used as the standard cut for the uniforms and it was only on 8 February 1815, some 10 months after the Bourbons returned to the throne, that new dress regulations were decreed and those regulations itemized the cost of uniforms and equipment for all branches of the Royal service.

Therefore, a reluctant, self-obsessed, and self-indulgent Royal government adopted what can be described as “*at arm’s length*” approach to regimental self-sufficiency by allowing the regimental tailors to make whatever limited numbers of new uniforms that were possible from the existing and inadequate stock of materials. Presumably the existing items would have been repaired to the best that the regimental resources would allow. In the interim, the Bourbons introduced a notable and arguably their least controversial initiative by distributing new white Bourbon flags, along with replacing the tricolour cockades with white rosettes to headdresses, and adorning the musicians’ uniforms with Royal lace, thereby eradicating all easily visible vestiges of Imperial icons. Additionally, a new Royal cypher replaced the crowned N on the fusiliers’ *giberne*, while the grenadiers and *voltigeurs* retained their grenade and hunting horn emblems, respectively. On 16 January 1815, a decree was issued for the *sabre briquet* to be returned to the *voltigeur* companies that had been denied to them since 1807.

The following gives an insight into what stage the infantry uniforms were progressing for one of the better attended units; the 2<sup>e</sup> *La Reine* (*Queen’s*) *Légère* regiment was stationed in Paris on the *rue de Babylone*, and was visited on the 30 September 1814 by the King’s nephew, the Duke of Angoulême. Following his review, the duke commented that he was very happy with the dress and excellent spirit of the men, and (of interest), that the uniforms had been brought up-to-date by removing any symbols of the Imperial regime.

There is also an interesting passage in John R. Elting’s notable work, *Swords Around A Throne* (p 620), where he relates that “. . . two regiments<sup>13</sup> – 1<sup>er</sup> ‘roi’ and 2<sup>e</sup> ‘de la reine’ – of the line and light infantry; they were to be the new royal guard and form the permanent garrison of Paris.” Elting then goes on to state: “The two line infantry regiments were supplied with showy new uniforms in which the traditional red collars and cuffs and white lapels and turn backs had been replaced by crimson.” There is a print (below) by H. Boisselier depicting a drummer of *voltigeurs*, a fusilier officer and drum-major from the 2<sup>e</sup> *La Reine Ligne* regiment in 1814 with crimson facings. In the *Le Passepoil* article, Boisselier says:

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<sup>11</sup> 3<sup>e</sup>, 15<sup>e</sup>, 29<sup>e</sup>, 30<sup>e</sup>, 44<sup>e</sup>, 48<sup>e</sup>, 61<sup>e</sup>, 105<sup>e</sup>, 108<sup>e</sup>, 111<sup>e</sup> *Ligne* & 33<sup>e</sup> *Légère*.

<sup>12</sup> Refer to the multiple inspection reports found in *Napoleon’s Waterloo Army, Uniforms and Equipment*, by Paul Dawson.

<sup>13</sup> 1<sup>re</sup> *du Roi* & 2<sup>e</sup> *La Reine Ligne* and *Légère*

*“This particular uniform of the corps was certainly appreciated in high places, because the Duke of Angoulême passing on 4 June 1814, reviewing the officers composing of the 4 regiments mentioned above (1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> line and light regiments), congratulated them on their “beautiful outfit[s],” which contrasted with the uniforms of the [other] line and light infantry, and had the advantage of replacing the tricolour habit, prescribed by the suite even for the National Guard!”*



Image from Le Passepoil, Bulletin Illustré, N°1 1930, De La Société d'Étude des Uniformes.

Captain Robineaux,<sup>14</sup> who was serving at the time in the 2<sup>e</sup> Ligne (La Reine) stated: “We wore as a uniform crimson lapels and fleur-de-lys buttons and epaulettes of the guard.” The likelihood that at least the 1<sup>er</sup> & 2<sup>e</sup> ligne regiments may have worn these “Royal” uniforms during the 1815 campaign after removing any Royal emblems and adding any available Imperial details) should be considered. Furthermore, the possibility that both units were provided with new Royal uniforms is also suggested by writer Paul Dawson: “As the senior regiment of the line infantry in the French army, the royalist authorities were very keen to make sure the (1<sup>er</sup>) regiment was re-clothed as quickly as possible. Between 1 May and 22 August 1814 huge quantities of new items of clothing were ordered and distributed to the regiment.”<sup>15</sup> Dawson also claims of the 2<sup>e</sup> ‘La Reine’ ligne regiment: “Clearly, the

<sup>14</sup> Robineaux was a former officer of the 139<sup>e</sup> ligne and was transferred to the 2<sup>e</sup> battalion of the 2<sup>e</sup> La Reine Ligne as a captain of voltigeurs.

<sup>15</sup> Paul L. Dawson, *Napoleon's Waterloo Army*, pp156-157.

*crimson was used as a facing and lining colour.*"<sup>16</sup> There didn't seem to be any problem retaining the blue jacket, as blue had worn by the Bourbon royal guard in the previous century.



Print by Parisian print maker, Genty

Another interesting uniform plate depicts a *carabinier* from the 3<sup>e</sup> Légère (*du Dauphin*, as shown above) with pink/crem collar and pink/crem piping to lapels, pointed cuffs and coat-tails. Apparently, this regiment was completely re-equipped in early 1815.<sup>17</sup> Could it have been the plan to 'Bourbonise' the first 10 named *ligne* and *légère* regiments and gradually phase in these measures over time? Henry Boisselier writes in *le Passepoil*,<sup>18</sup>

*...but let us add that these fancies of chef de corps (regimental commanders) in search of coquetry (flirtatious behaviour) with the new regime, must have been of serious importance, for General Dupont, Minister of War, by a letter of 18 July 1814, reminded General Compans that "certain regiments which have obtained royal denominations of the Princes of the Blood, had thought they could modify such and such a part of their clothing, and enjoining him to inform him of the Commanding Officers who had tolerated or prescribed the changes to the regulations of 12 January and 7 February 1812.*

Therefore, it is certain that at least the 1<sup>er</sup> and 2<sup>e</sup> *ligne* and the 1<sup>er</sup>, 2<sup>e</sup> and 3<sup>e</sup> *légère* regiments had their uniforms modified to reflect their 'named' new status in the Royal Army. As for the rest of the *ligne* and *légère* regiments who had not received a Royal denomination, it may have been the Bourbons' ultimate aim to gradually phase out the Revolutionary, Consulate and Imperial red, white and blue colours of the National Guard uniform and revert to pre-revolutionary times where the infantry traditionally wore white and the light troops green. Also, it can be positively asserted that widespread change over to new uniforms was significantly restrained for financial reasons. Interestingly, it was during the Second Restoration, when, on 23 September 1815, King Louis XVIII disbanded the army

<sup>16</sup> Paul L. Dawson, *Napoleon's Waterloo Army*, p161.

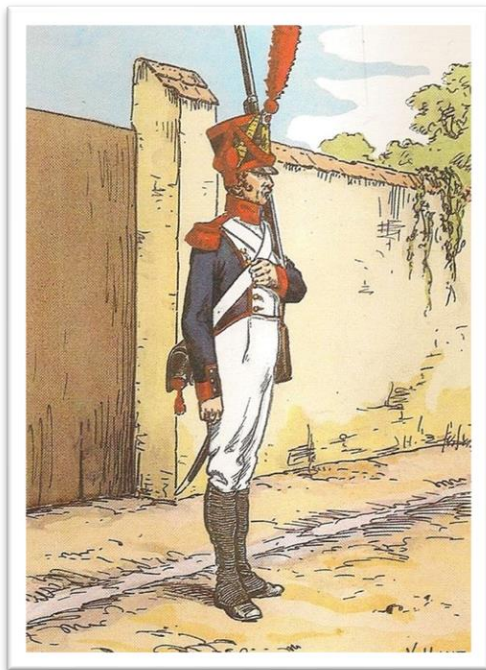
<sup>17</sup> From an article by Didier Davin. Articles en ligne de Frédéric Berjaud.

<sup>18</sup> *Le Passepoil*, 10<sup>e</sup> Année, N°1 Bulletin Illustré de la Société d'Étude des uniformes, 1930. p 8

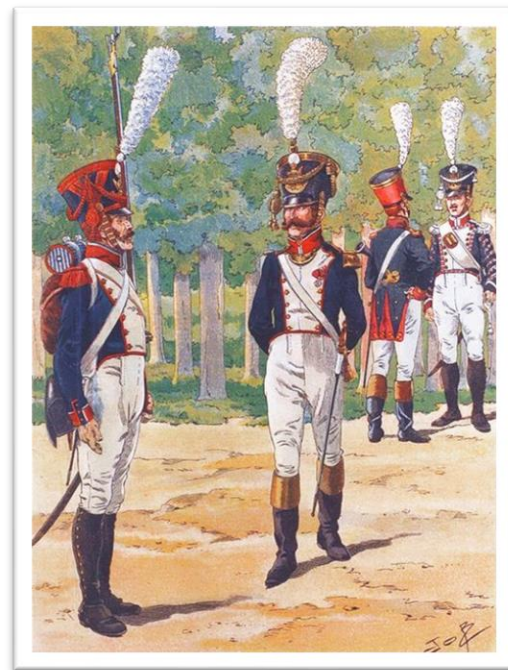
for its treacherous behaviour for rallying to Napoleon the previous March, and that the government of the Second Restoration introduced new white uniforms for the *ligne* in creating the *Légions Départementales*. Was this indeed the Bourbon government's eventual long-term plan beginning in the spring of 1814 to re-introduce the traditional pre-revolutionary uniform colours, and to modify the existing Imperial uniforms as a short-term economic measure? This would explain to some degree the dilapidated appearance of the army as it took to the field for what became known as the Hundred Days Campaign.

### The Bourbon army in garrison

While the regiments were in garrison, the men wore fatigue dress for daily duties, the regimental staff and non-commissioned officers would have insisted that their soldiers present themselves in the best uniform available for guard duty outside the barracks and providing a military presence for civic or municipal buildings.



Grenadier of the 8<sup>e</sup> ligne 1815 by V. Huen



French *ligne* infantry during the First Restoration  
Grenadier, Officer, Musician and Drummer  
byJOB

There are two uniform prints depicting soldiers in 1815 on guard duty. One is of a grenadier of the 8<sup>e</sup> *ligne* in Bardin regulation full dress, with red plume and shako cords by Victor Huen<sup>19</sup> and the other uniform plate by JOB<sup>20</sup> that portrays a *ligne* grenadier, an officer, musician and drummer from an unidentified Royal *ligne* regiment. All the soldiers represented in both illustrations are in Bardin full dress uniforms with shako cords, with the drummer's *habit* profusely adorned with Royal lace. This should not be taken as definitive evidence that the army was totally re-uniformed to full dress as specified by the Bardin regulation standards, although it does illustrate that there was a “public face” which belied the true state of the regimental uniforms.

<sup>19</sup>Cdt Bucquoy, *Les Uniformes du Premier Empire L'Infanterie*, Plate 127, p167

<sup>20</sup> The French artist and illustrator, JOB, Jacques Marie Gaston Onfroy de Bréville.

## March to June 1815

When Napoleon returned from Elba, one of his first priorities was to send officers to inspect the army's regiments. The reports the Emperor received, these described an army whose clothing and equipment was in very poor condition. From these reports, it was obvious that very little had been achieved in advancing the state of the men's uniforms and equipment in the past 10 months under the Royal government. In a number of regiments, men still wore the pre-1812 *habit-longe* jackets, especially in those units whose battalions were Peninsular veterans as well as among large numbers of returning prisoners of war.

The Emperor immediately increased the budget for clothing and equipment to 51 million francs over the coming year. Uniform workshops were set up in the depots/garrisons to address the shortcomings of the previous regime and to clothe the expected flood of new recruits and returning veterans.

With the likelihood of imminent invasion by the Allies during the weeks of the early summer, Napoleon and his ministers wasted no time in making preparations for the full production of uniforms and equipment, and correspondence confirms that this was among the highest of Imperial priorities. Quickly, the regiments had to shake themselves out of the lethargy of the past year as the officers and NCOs began preparations their units to take the field in the best uniforms and equipment available. However, in many regiments, the returning officers and men who had been on leave and on half-pay arrived at the regimental depots to find nothing to wear. For those who did have a uniform, the soldiers quickly removed the royal emblems from their uniforms by altering their shako plates and replacing the white cockade with the tricolour.

On 9 March in Grenoble, less than two weeks before Napoleon entered the Tuileries, an Imperial Decree abolished the white cockade and the lily decorations and ordered the use of the tricolour cockade and the raising of the tricolour flag throughout France. Whether or not the removal or modification of royal emblems such as shako plates was done as an impulsive act of loyalty to their Emperor, or a rejection of the Bourbon regime, or the result of responding to the Imperial decree is unclear. Regardless of the reason or reasons, the army rallied to the Emperor. The following letter from *Lieutenant général* Reille to *Maréchal* Davout dated 9 June 1815<sup>21</sup> relates to removing the last vestiges of Bourbon insignia from the uniforms of a *ligne* regiment.

*By my letter of 7 June, I had the honour to inform your Excellency that he had given orders to review the 93<sup>e</sup> Régiment de Ligne, where it was supposed to exist a few more fleur-de-llys; I entrust this care to General Gauthier in whose Brigade this regiment is; This General informs me that he has very carefully reviewed the four battalions of This Corps and that not one officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier has retained these sorts of marks on any part of his clothing or equipment.*

In a report written to Davout Colonel Gaudin of the 27<sup>e</sup> *ligne* mentioned: “. . . that his men went on campaign wearing *bonnet de police*.” This is obviously a post-Waterloo document, but it must be noted that his regiment was due 30,000 *francs* to clothe the repatriated prisoners from 1 January 1815. Obviously, all the uniforms and/or equipment did not get to the regiment before the middle of June. Gaudin's issues were not isolated and helps give insight as to the financial problems faced by Imperial units to clothe and equip their formations for the oncoming campaign.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Stephen M. Beckett II, *Operations of the Armée du Nord 1815*, Vol. III, The Concentration, p252

<sup>22</sup> Henry Houssaye, *1815 Waterloo*, Leonaux, 2009, p17

Money and its efficient and effective flow from the Minister of the Treasury impacted the jobs performed by everyone from the Minister of War, to the people working at the Ministry of Finance, down the chain of administrative command to the *prefects*, all the personnel working within the *departments*, to those manning the regimental depots and then finally to the commanders of the units themselves. With the Bourbons having welched on the government IOUs that were issued prior to May 1814, and with manufacturers insisting on only performing work again upon receiving cash payments from the new Imperial government that was reestablished in March 1815, money, or the lack thereof, was the major issue of the times. This is perhaps best illustrated by the letter of 4 May written by Minister of War Davout in response to one from General Lobau, commander of the 6<sup>e</sup> Corps:

*We will give you the armaments; as for the clothing and equipment, I don't know which magazine (magasin) to take them from. The depots of the regiments had to have the returning soldiers dressed; it was up to General Fririon and the generals he has to get moving: go to the prefect, to the offices and to the Minister of the Treasury to have funds made available, and finally to General Evain for the armaments. I have given you communication of the letters written to the prefect of the Seine so that he comes to the aid of the depots; there is no lack in Paris of cloth, leather, and finally of all the materials necessary for the raising of the troops. The suppliers do not deliver for fear of not being paid, but this obstacle would cease from the moment that the prefect would respond in the name of the City of Paris. Neither General Fririon, nor the Maréchal de camp under his orders, have taken care of the depots; show them your strong displeasure, and let them make up for the time lost.*

Clothing and equipping the new recruits and returning soldiers were only part of the problem. Everyone was experiencing shortages, and the plight of existing units preparing for campaign was a great concern for their commanders. Marshal Brune,<sup>23</sup> commander of the *Armée du Var*, noted while reviewing the 2<sup>e</sup> *bataillon* of the 14<sup>e</sup> *Légère*, that some of the men were still wearing the same uniform that they had for the past four years.<sup>24</sup> Brune's 8<sup>e</sup> *division militaire* clothing magazine at Marseille held, on 10 June:<sup>25</sup>

|                                         |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 11 artillery habits                     | 52 infantry porte-giberne (bayonet frog) |
| 3 light infantry waistcoats             | 189 light cavalry porte-giberne          |
| 3 artillery waistcoats                  | 40 port-carabine                         |
| 7 light infantry trousers               | 597 shirts                               |
| 1 chasseurs trouser                     | 365 pairs of shoes                       |
| 144 infantry greatcoats                 | 18 black collars                         |
| 25 manteaux (coats)                     | 25 pairs of black gaiters                |
| 129 line infantry shakos                | 13 pairs of grey gaiters                 |
| 5 light infantry bonnets de police      | 446 line trousers                        |
| 787 infantry gibernes (cartridge pouch) | 79 backpacks                             |
| 100 light cavalry gibernes              | 25 pairs of riding boots                 |

This was obviously insufficient to even re-equip many personnel, let alone supply entire existing local regular army units as well as any newly raised battalions that were expected to serve either in Brune's active army or somewhere else within the 8<sup>e</sup> *division militaire*. However, given the inventory date of 10 June, it could be interpreted that the magazine may have already been mostly emptied and its contents

<sup>23</sup> Archives de guerre, Brune au ministre, 16 mai. *Napoléon, ses dernières armées*, p299

<sup>24</sup> *Napoléon, ses dernières armées*, H. C. de Saint Chamant, p299

<sup>25</sup> H. C. de Saint Chamant, Archives de guerre, Le ministre à Verdier, 10 juin. *Napoléon, ses dernières armées*, H. C. de Saint Chamant, p299

distributed to the other units in Brune's command, therefore suggesting that what remained was insufficient to meet the demands of the 2<sup>e</sup> bataillon of the 14<sup>e</sup> Légère,

In a letter addressed to Davout, 28 May 1815, General Reille, commander of 2<sup>e</sup> Corps. wrote<sup>26</sup> about the poor condition of the 12<sup>e</sup> Légère:

*I have the honour to address to V.E. a report made to me by General Devilliers, provisional commander of the 7<sup>e</sup> Division on the unfortunate situation in which the 1<sup>e</sup> battalion of the 12<sup>e</sup> is found in regard to its clothing and their shoes; the depot of this corps is so distant that they can only hope for some effects; even so, they would arrive very late; it is therefore only by making them through extraordinary measures to provide greatcoats, the clothes, the waistcoats and the trousers and other articles of clothing that they demand, and by having some money placed at the disposal of the colonel, in advance of the masses of linen and shoes, that this corps [meaning, in this case, the unit being discussed] will be able to be put in condition to make the campaign. It seems that the second battalion that is due to arrive in a few days, will be in just as bad a state if it hasn't obtained some things during its passage through Paris.*

## Conclusions

It is utterly impossible that all of the 105 infantry regiments of the French army undertook their activities of the Hundred Days epoch with new Bardin regulation uniforms and equipment. Many regimental records from this period do not provide details of what the soldiers actually wore. However, if one was to consider only two factors that arguably had the most influential impact on the appearance of the 1815 army, those would be what the men wore during their previous campaigns, along with the lack of expenditure on the manufacture and maintenance of the uniforms and equipment by the Bourbon government. One can therefore be confident that there was either a mix of uniform styles—in the best possible condition—within units, or that some personnel within units wore one style of uniform while others had a different style. As an example, we know that the 45<sup>e</sup>, 51<sup>e</sup> and 85<sup>e</sup> ligne<sup>27</sup> were dressed in pre-1812 *habit-longes* in June 1815.<sup>28</sup> And since these regiments were, in part, comprising Napoleon's *Armée du Nord*—the best equipped of the French armies in the period under consideration—then it doesn't take much imagination to envision the uneven look of the other French armies of the Hundred Days.

Therefore, the most likely scenario is that the men donned a variety of uniforms in serviceable condition that were available at the time and were issued with the best equipment possible, and the new recruits or returning soldiers given the easily produced, cost effective beige capote. It is conceivable that had the circumstances allowed the French more time and the efficient distribution of funds, the army's uniforms and equipment could have evolved, giving the regiments a more universal appearance. Understandably, Napoleon's priority within the infantry branch was focused on numbers, rather than having the men appear as if on parade and in the current regulation uniform. That is not to say the Emperor was disinterested in the supply of the men's clothing and equipment. There are numerous examples in Napoleon's *Correspondance*<sup>29</sup> as well as in Davout's writings over the frustration of funds

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<sup>26</sup> Stephen M. Beckett II, *Operations of the Armée du Nord: 1815* Volume I, p473.

<sup>27</sup> Paul L. Dawson, *Napoleon's Waterloo Army, Uniforms and Equipment*, p608

<sup>28</sup> NB: This is not to say the entire regiment wore this style of uniform, it confirms that the *habit-longe* is confirmed being in use with personnel from these regiments.

<sup>29</sup> *Napoléon's 1<sup>er</sup> Correspondance*, 21885, 21886, 21891, 21938.

not being efficiently distributed to the *divisions militaires* for the manufacture of uniforms and equipment.

To complete this article, an extract from Henry Lachouque's *Waterloo* is helpful. While it is not evidential proof, it does illustrate how the subject of this article has been expressed by a famous French historian. As such, Lachouque's narrative provides insight into how French historians wrote about their army in 1815, and thus should be respectfully noted and never dismissed as being purely romantic.

*The uniform of the marching columns might have been shabby, but the copper badge, with its Imperial Eagle, gleamed on their headgear. Dug out from the depths of cupboards, the 'cuckoo' - which had been once before on the previous 15<sup>th</sup> August – returned to the shakos, bearskins, and the helmets. Breaches of regulation were condoned to allow offenders to flatten the fleur-de-lys with hammers and cut the bourbon emblems from their uniforms. Well-polished, the touched-up insignia served only to highlight the miserable conditions of the overcoats, cloaks and undress caps that had been resurrected at the call of the 'Tondue' from the booths, barns and sheds, where their owners had, by strenuous exertions, been eking out a living . . . Now the resurrected insignia embellished the wide trousers made from coarse canvas and the multi-coloured clothes that had been hastily cut out, tacked together and sewn in small workshops in the short space of ten weeks. The punctilious might brandish the 1812 Regulations, but everyone else had more important fish to fry . . . Civilian frock-coats with tarnished epaulettes and military buttons were to be seen here and there among the commands of armies, reminding the old-timers – as well as D'Erlon, Reille, Vandamme and even the Emperor himself – of the days of their youth in 1796.*

Peter R. Cross

December 2022



## Appendix A

The following charts depict the regimental depots before and after the *Amalgam* of 12 May 1814. The highlighted lines indicate that some regiments retained their imperial depot which would suggest that at least some continuity with their supplies and equipment.

### REGIMENTAL DEPOTS OF THE *LIGNE*

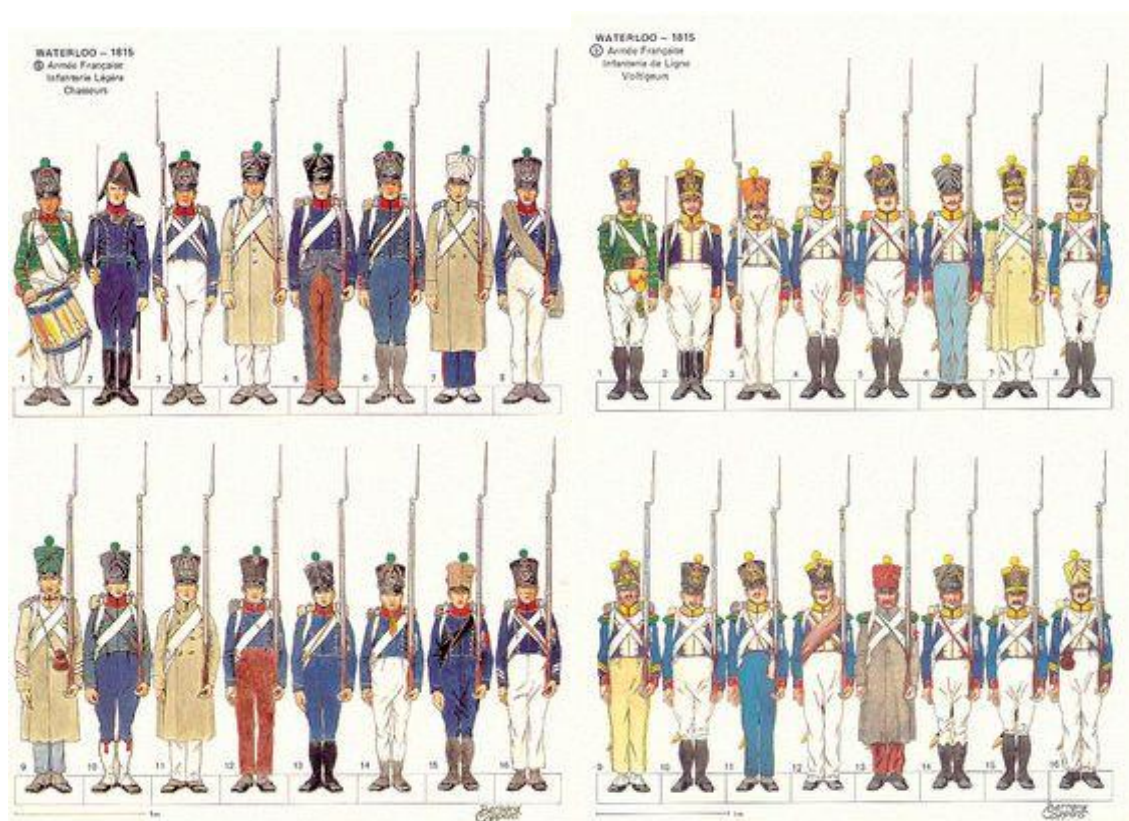
\*The first Imperial and Bourbon thirty regimental numbers are unchanged and while the Bourbon regimental numbering continues from 31 through to 90 disregarding the previous vacant Imperial regimental numbers.

| 1811 Depot    | Pre-amalgam<br>Imperial<br>regimental title | May 12 Royal<br>regimental title | 1814-1815 Depot            |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Marseille     | 1 <sup>er</sup> régiment                    | 1 <sup>er</sup> régiment         | Paris                      |
| Besançon      | 2 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 2 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Paris                      |
| Strasbourg    | 3 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 3 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Douai                      |
| Nancy         | 4 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 4 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Nancy                      |
| Grenoble      | 5 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 5 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Grenoble                   |
| Rome          | 6 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 6 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Avignon                    |
| Turin         | 7 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 7 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Chambéry                   |
| Venloo        | 8 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 8 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Valencienne                |
| Brescia       | 9 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 9 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Calvi et Ile Rousse        |
| Plaisance     | 10 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 10 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Perpignan                  |
| Grenoble      | 11 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 11 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Chambéry & Annecy          |
| Mézières      | 12 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 12 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Sedan                      |
| Udine         | 13 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 13 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Montpellier                |
| Sedan         | 14 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 14 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Orléans                    |
| Brest         | 15 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 15 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Brest                      |
| Toulon        | 16 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 16 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Toulon                     |
| Lille         | 17 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 17 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Lille                      |
| Strasbourg    | 18 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 18 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Strasbourg                 |
| Douai         | 19 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 19 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Douai                      |
| Vercel        | 20 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 20 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Montbrison & Roanne        |
| Juliers       | 21 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 21 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Cambrai & Bouchain         |
| Maestricht    | 22 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 22 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Mézières                   |
| Genève        | 23 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 23 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Dijon                      |
| Lyon          | 24 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 24 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Lyon                       |
| Landrecies    | 25 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 25 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Le Quesnoy & Landrecies    |
| La Roche/Yon  | 26 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 26 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Bourbon-Vendee             |
| Mayence       | 27 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 27 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Angers & Laval             |
| Saint-Omer    | 28 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 28 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Saint-Omer, Aire & Béthune |
| Toulon (1812) | 29 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 29 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Valenciennes               |
| Mayence       | 30 <sup>e</sup> régiment*                   | 30 <sup>e</sup> régiment*        | Thionville                 |
| Paris         | 32 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 31 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Strasbourg                 |
| Mayence       | 33 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 32 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Verdun                     |
| Givet         | 34 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 33 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Givet                      |
| Bologne       | 35 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 34 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Bastia                     |
| Calais        | 36 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 35 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Le Mans                    |
| Besançon      | 37 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 36 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Chalon-sur-Saône & Mâcon   |

|                      |                           |                          |                                      |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Landau               | 39 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 37 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Landau                               |
| Wissembourg          | 40 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 38 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Sélestat                             |
| Alexandrie           | 42 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 39 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Embrun & Mont Dauphin                |
| Gravelines           | 43 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 40 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Rochefort                            |
| Valenciennes         | 44 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 41 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Périgueux & Angoulême                |
| Liège                | 45 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 42 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Condé                                |
| Arras                | 46 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 43 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Arras                                |
| Lorient              | 47 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 44 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Lorient & Port-Louis                 |
| Anvers               | 48 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 45 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Cahors, Figeac & Tulle               |
| Cambrai              | 50 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 46 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Bourges & Limoges                    |
| Lille                | 51 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 47 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Lille                                |
| Gênes                | 52 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 48 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Toulon                               |
| Forli                | 53 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 49 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Briançon                             |
| Maestricht           | 54 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 50 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Calais & Gravelines                  |
| Dunkerque            | 55 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 51 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Dunkerque & Berquen                  |
| Grave (in 1812)      | 56 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 52 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Montmédy                             |
| Strasbourg           | 57 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 53 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Strasbourg                           |
| Paris                | 58 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 54 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Sélestat                             |
| Luxembourg           | 59 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 55 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Sarrelouis                           |
| Genève               | 60 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 56 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Pau, Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port         |
| Worms                | 61 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 57 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Caen                                 |
| Marseille            | 62 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 58 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Marseille                            |
| Belfort              | 63 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 59 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Metz                                 |
| Besançon             | 64 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 60 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Besaçon                              |
| Gand                 | 65 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 61 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Nantes                               |
| Bordeaux             | 66 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 62 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Blaye & Bordeaux                     |
| Gênes                | 67 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 63 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Nîmes                                |
| Luxembourg           | 69 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 64 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Sarrebruck Forbach Bitche & Voelkein |
| Brest                | 70 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 65 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Brest                                |
| Bruxelles            | 72 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 66 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Rouen                                |
| Lille                | 75 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 67 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Vannes                               |
| Sarrelouis           | 76 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 68 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Sarrelouis                           |
| Chambéry             | 79 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 69 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Toulouse                             |
| Chambéry             | 81 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 70 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Perpignan                            |
| La Rochelle          | 82 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 71 <sup>e</sup> régiment | La Rochelle                          |
| Bergame              | 84 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 72 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Clermont                             |
| Coblence             | 85 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 73 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Granville                            |
| Saint-Malo           | 86 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 74 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Saint-Malo & Saint-Brieuc            |
| Rocroi               | 88 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 75 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Philippeville                        |
| Milan                | 92 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 76 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Bourg                                |
| Besançon             | 93 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 77 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Besaçon                              |
| Wesel                | 94 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 78 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Bayonne & Mont-de-Marsan             |
| Cologne              | 95 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 79 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Maubeuge & Avesnes                   |
| Thionville           | 96 <sup>e</sup> régiment  | 80 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Thionville                           |
| Metz                 | 100 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 81 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Belfort                              |
| Gênes                | 101 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 82 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Fort La Malgue                       |
| Savone               | 102 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 83 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Marseille                            |
| Metz                 | 103 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 84 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Wissembourg                          |
|                      | 104 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 85 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Neufbrisach                          |
| Strasbourg (in 1812) | 105 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 86 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Boulogne                             |
| Vérone (in 1812)     | 106 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 87 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Antibes                              |
|                      | 107 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 88 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Le Harve                             |
| Anvers               | 108 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 89 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Abbeville                            |
| Spire                | 111 <sup>e</sup> régiment | 90 <sup>e</sup> régiment | Longwy                               |

## REGIMENTAL DEPOTS OF THE *LIGNE LÉGÈRE*

| 1811 Depot      | Pre-amalgam<br>Imperial<br>regimental title | May 12 Royal<br>regimental title | 1814-1815 Depot    |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alexandrie      | 1 <sup>er</sup> régiment                    | 1 <sup>er</sup> régiment         | Paris & Vincennes  |
| Paris           | 2 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 2 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Paris & Versailles |
| Parme           | 3 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 3 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Bayonne            |
| Paris           | 4 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 4 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Paris              |
| Cherbourg       | 5 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 5 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Cherbourg          |
| Phalsbourg      | 6 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 6 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Phalsbourg         |
| Huningue        | 7 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 7 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Huningue           |
| Genève          | 8 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 8 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Bordeaux           |
| Longwy          | 9 <sup>e</sup> régiment                     | 9 <sup>e</sup> régiment          | Longwy             |
| Sélestat        | 10 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 10 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Strasbourg         |
| Wesel (in 1812) | 11 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 11 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Rennes             |
| Paris           | 12 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 12 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Châlons-sur-Marne  |
| Ostende         | 13 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 13 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Lille              |
| Rome            | 14 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 14 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Ajaccio            |
| Paris           | 15 <sup>e</sup> régiment                    | 15 <sup>e</sup> régiment         | Besançon           |



These two images are an interpretation of how the French infantry appeared during the 100 Days Campaign. Bernard Coppens, *Les Armées de Waterloo 1815. Les Planches de la Belle Alliance N°1*, Editions de la Belle Alliance, Brussels 1999.

## Appendix B<sup>30</sup>

**10<sup>e</sup> légère** – 1815 (exact date not given)

1<sup>e</sup> Brigade 16<sup>e</sup> Division – 5<sup>e</sup> Corps (*Armée du Rhin*)

Effectives: 2,940 – Present under arms: 2,219

### Regimental Clothing and Equipment

| Type of items                  | Number of items          |                   |                    |                        |                             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                | In serviceable condition | In need of repair | Out of service     |                        | Lacking within the regiment |
|                                |                          |                   | Due to be replaced | Not due to be replaced |                             |
| Habits                         | 1,475                    | 468               | 614                | 144                    | 1,176                       |
| Vestes                         | 1,410                    | 273               | 526                | 86                     | 1,433                       |
| Trousers                       | 565                      | 108               | 1,486              | 15                     | 1,742                       |
| Greatcoats                     | 1,583                    | 378               | 349                | 106                    | 1,455                       |
| Shakos                         | 1,744                    | 144               | 382                | 15                     | 1,256                       |
| Bonnet de police               | 1,431                    | 140               | 508                | 21                     | 1,394                       |
| Gibernes                       | 2,153                    | 117               | 64                 | -                      | 1,071                       |
| Porte-gibernes (bayonet frogs) | 2,155                    | 100               | 64                 | -                      | 1,071                       |
| Drum collars                   | 59                       | 12                | 5                  | -                      | -                           |
| Drum cases                     | 60                       | 2                 | 5                  | -                      | -                           |
| Musket slings                  | 1,913                    | 10                | 59                 | 1,313                  |                             |
| Muskets                        | 2,038                    | 175               | 80 out of service  |                        |                             |
| Sabres                         | 594                      | 29                | -                  | -                      | -                           |
| Shirts                         | 4,694                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas trousers                | 1,032                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Black collars                  | 1,366                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of shoes                 | 3,634                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Black                | 1,994                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Grey                 | 2,278                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas bags                    | 794                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Haversacks                     | 2,209                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Cockades                       | 2,178                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Épinglettes (pins)             | 1,278                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Screwdriver                    | 2,246                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |

<sup>30</sup> *Napoléon, ses dernières armées*, H. C. de Saint Chamant, p499-504

**20<sup>e</sup> ligne** – 1815 (exact date not given)

2<sup>e</sup> Brigade 22<sup>e</sup> Division – *Armée des Alpes*

Effectives: 2,246 – Present under arms: 1,198

Regimental Clothing and Equipment

| Type of items                  | Number of items          |                   |                    |                        |                             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                | In serviceable condition | In need of repair | Out of service     |                        | Lacking within the regiment |
|                                |                          |                   | Due to be replaced | Not due to be replaced |                             |
| Habits                         | 849                      | 326               | 150                | -                      | 9                           |
| Vestes                         | 727                      | 222               | 349                | -                      | 36                          |
| Trousers                       | 601                      | 64                | 503                | 139                    | 27                          |
| Greatcoats                     | 868                      | 308               | 129                | -                      | 29                          |
| Shakos                         | 667                      | 231               | 430                | -                      | 6                           |
| Bonnet de police               | 708                      | 11                | 513                | 74                     | 28                          |
| Coiffes de shakos              | 578                      | 17                | 430                | -                      | 9                           |
| Grenadier horse hair plumes    | -                        | -                 | -                  | -                      | 199                         |
| Voltigeur horse hair plumes    | -                        | -                 | -                  | -                      | 248                         |
| Fusiliers pompons              | 224                      | 17                | 59                 | -                      | 1,028                       |
| Grenadier epaulettes           | 31                       | -                 | 139                | 22                     | 7                           |
| Gibernes                       | 1,093                    | 99                | -                  | 81                     | -                           |
| Porte-gibernes (bayonet frogs) | 1,185                    | 63                | -                  | 25                     | -                           |
| Drum collars                   | 24                       | -                 | -                  | -                      | 3                           |
| Drum cases                     | 23                       | 1                 | -                  | -                      | 3                           |
| Musket slings                  | 1,028                    | 26                | -                  | 216                    | 3                           |
| Muskets                        | 1,208                    | 77                | 76 out of service  |                        |                             |
| Sabres                         | 492                      | 19                | 16 out of service  |                        |                             |
| Bayonets                       | 1,049                    | 31                | 73 out of service  |                        |                             |
| Shirts                         | 2,934                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas trousers                | 2,087                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Black collars                  | 1,643                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of shoes                 | 2,059                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Black                | 962                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Grey                 | 437                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas bags                    | 36                       |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Haversacks                     | 1,329                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Cockades                       | 65                       |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Épinglettes (pins)             | 1,226                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Screwdriver                    | 1,078                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |

39<sup>e</sup> ligne – 1815 (exact date not given)

1<sup>e</sup> Brigade 15<sup>e</sup> Division – 5<sup>e</sup> Corps (*Armée du Rhin*)

Effectives: 1,443 – Present under arms: 993

Regimental Clothing and Equipment

| Type of items                  | Number of items          |                   |                    |                        |                             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                | In serviceable condition | In need of repair | Out of service     |                        | Lacking within the regiment |
|                                |                          |                   | Due to be replaced | Not due to be replaced |                             |
| Habits                         | 1,116                    | 383               | 2                  | 248                    | 353                         |
| Vestes                         | 995                      | 245               | -                  | 107                    | 373                         |
| Trousers                       | 792                      | 178               | 402                | 86                     | 573                         |
| Greatcoats                     | 950                      | 297               | 168                | 50                     | 395                         |
| Shakos                         | 996                      | 237               | 170                | 74                     | 327                         |
| Bonnet de police               | 774                      | 133               | 304                | 60                     | 571                         |
| Gibernes                       | 986                      | 164               | -                  | 267                    | 267                         |
| Porte-gibernes (bayonet frogs) | 986                      | 164               | -                  | 267                    | 267                         |
| Drum collars                   | 39                       | -                 | -                  | -                      | 53                          |
| Drum cases                     | 39                       | -                 | -                  | -                      | 16                          |
| Musket slings                  | 1,003                    | 163               | 68                 | 167                    | 235                         |
| Voltigeur cornets              | -                        | -                 | -                  | -                      | 6                           |
| Muskets                        | 1,300                    | 176               | 4 out of service   |                        |                             |
| Sabres                         | 353                      | -                 | 2 out of service   |                        |                             |
| Shirts                         | 2,901                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas trousers                | 1,086                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Black collars                  | 1,174                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| White collars                  | 1,323                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of stockings             | 631                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of shoes                 | 2,202                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Black                | 964                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Grey                 | 1,366                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas bags                    | 336                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Haversacks                     | 1,287                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Cockades                       | 1,242                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Épinglettes (pins)             | 1,229                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Screwdriver                    | 1,026                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |

86<sup>e</sup> *ligne* – 1815 (exact date not given)

2<sup>e</sup> Brigade 11<sup>e</sup> Division – 3<sup>e</sup> Corps

Effectives: 1,811 – Present under arms: 1,083

Regimental Clothing and Equipment

| Type of items                  | Number of items          |                   |                    |                        |                             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                | In serviceable condition | In need of repair | Out of service     |                        | Lacking within the regiment |
|                                |                          |                   | Due to be replaced | Not due to be replaced |                             |
| Habits                         | 1,026                    | 76                | 104                | 15                     | 128                         |
| Vestes                         | 749                      | 10                | 64                 | 5                      | 564                         |
| Trousers                       | 775                      | -                 | 124                | 5                      | 449                         |
| Greatcoats                     | 565                      | 88                | 146                | 75                     | 475                         |
| Shakos                         | 729                      | 23                | 121                | 141                    | 335                         |
| Bonnet de police               | 618                      | 5                 | 84                 | 29                     | 613                         |
| Gibernes                       | 1,101                    | 24                | -                  | 1                      | 149                         |
| Porte-gibernes (bayonet frogs) | 1,125                    | -                 | -                  | 1                      | 149                         |
| Drum collars                   | 29                       | -                 | -                  | -                      | 8                           |
| Drum cases                     | 30                       | -                 | -                  | -                      | 8                           |
| Musket slings                  | 866                      | -                 | -                  | -                      | 408                         |
| Voltigeur cornets              | 7                        | -                 | -                  | -                      | -                           |
| Sapper axes and aprons         | 9                        | -                 | -                  | -                      | -                           |
| Muskets                        | 975                      | 69                | 82 out of service  |                        |                             |
| Sabres                         | 400                      | 22                | 8                  | -                      | -                           |
| Shirts                         | 2,872                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas trousers                | 783                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Black collars                  | 1,096                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| White collars                  | 14                       |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of stockings             | 16                       |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Pairs of shoes                 | 1,479                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Black                | 713                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Gaiters – Grey                 | 716                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Canvas bags                    | 17                       |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Haversacks                     | 1,192                    |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Cockades                       | 922                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Épinglettes (pins)             | 749                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |
| Screwdriver                    | 643                      |                   |                    |                        |                             |

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