BRITISH INFANTRY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS

Philip J. Haythornthwaite

1. Battalion company private, 1791. A typical uniform, showing the bicorn hat (of the type worn in the American War, but with the front corner flattened). The colouring of this plate is in error, showing the 'turnbacks' of the skirts in the facing-colour; they were white for all regiments, or buff for those with buff facings. (Engraving by F. D. Soiron after H. Bunbury)

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ARMS AND
ARMOUR

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many of the rarer contemporary sources.

Cover illustrations:
Front – Colour sergeant and ensign 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment
Back (top) Piper Clarke of the 71st Highlanders at Vimiero
Back (bottom) The 28th (North Gloucestershire) Regiment at Quatre Bras

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INTRODUCTION

Walking through a Brussels park on the eve of the Waterloo campaign, Thomas Creevey asked the Duke of Wellington for his thoughts on the approaching confrontation with Napoleon. The Duke pointed to a British infantry private, wandering in the park and staring with bewilderment at the statues. 'There,' said the Duke; 'It all depends upon that article whether we do the business or not. Give me enough of it and I am sure.'

'That article' – the British infantryman of the Napoleonic Wars – occupies a unique place in history. Reviled at home, recruited at times by deception or from hunger, disciplined by the lash and capable of committing outrages when in liquor, the British infantry was the only military force never to suffer a major reverse at the hands of Napoleonic France. While it would be unrealistic to claim that this small body was the deciding factor in delivering Europe from Napoleonic domination, it was undoubtedly of considerable significance, and on the way it figured in some of the greatest epics in military history.

ORGANIZATION

The army which commenced the war against France in 1793 was more akin to that of the late American War than it was to the superb machine perfected during the Peninsular War. In basic organization and character, however, certain factors remained constant.

The 'infantry of the line' consisted of a series of numbered regiments (104 in 1814, with a peak of 135 in the mid-1790s). Most possessed a territorial designation which had some bearing upon the area from which its men were drawn, though recruiting-parties would range far afield so that men from many counties would be found within the same battalion. Most battalions included a good proportion of Irish and Scots (34 per cent of the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment was Irish in 1809, and 37 per cent of the 29th (Worcestershire) in 1811, for example). At the commencement of the Peninsular War, 61 of the 103 regiments had two battalions each; 37 had a single battalion; the 60th had seven battalions; the 1st had four; and the 14th, 27th and 95th, three each. Subsequently seven others raised a second battalion, and the 56th a third. The 1st Foot Guards had three battalions, and the other Guards regiments (2nd Coldstream and 3rd Scots) two battalions each.

Commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, a battalion was composed of ten companies, each commanded by a captain with two lieutenants or ensigns. These included eight 'battalion' or 'centre' companies (named from their position when the battalion was drawn up), and two 'flank' companies which stood on the flanks of the line, theoretically the battalion's élite: a company of grenadiers, the largest and most stalwart members of the battalion (though no longer armed with grenades), and a company of light infantry, the smallest and most active men, adept at skirmishing and scouting.

When a regiment's senior battalion went on active service, it was made up to about 1,000 effective rank-and-file (privates and corporals; more than 1,100 when sergeants, musicians and officers were included) by transferring its sick and ineffective men to the 2nd Battalion, making up its numbers by taking men from the 2nd. When a 2nd Battalion was ordered on service, it would leave behind not only its own ineffectives but also those of the 1st Battalion; thus 2nd battalions were usually weaker in strength. For this reason, and as a consequence of the losses incurred on campaign, no definitive estimate of the strength of an infantry battalion can be formulated (in 1809, for example, establishments ranged from 4,926 men for the 1st Regiment (four battalions) to 406 for the 16th Regiment (one battalion). The theoretical strength of 1,100 was scarcely ever attained,

and despite the reduction of numbers on campaign, the ten-company establishment was usually retained. For example, at the end of the 1811 campaign, of the 46 battalions with Wellington's army, only nine had more than 700 of all ranks present; sixteen had between 500 and 700, ten between 400 and 500, and eleven less than 400. The average was 550 per battalion, with the extremes of the 1/43rd at 1,005 and the 2/38th at 263. During a campaign reinforcements would be provided by drafts from the regimental depôt at home; only infrequently were shattered regiments withdrawn for reformation. If their strength dwindled so far that they were no longer a practicable tactical unit, two or more could be combined to form a 'provisional battalion', as happened in the Peninsula; and even small parties could be consolidated into 'battalions of detachments' in time of emergency, as at Talavera.

Within the line, certain corps had unique features. Highland regiments, recruited from Scotland, were distinct in uniform and (they would have averred) in character, some being raised almost on old feudal lines, with many officers and men belonging to different strata of the same clan. Regiments remaining 'Highland' in dress and custom throughout were the 42nd, 78th, 79th, 92nd and 93rd; the 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th and 91st were de-kilted in 1809 as the kilt was regarded as a hindrance to recruiting. The old 97th (Inverness-shire Highlanders) and 116th also wore Highland dress during their brief existence.

From great proficiency during the American War, British light infantry capability had been allowed to decline, so that from the early 1790s light infantry tactics had to be perfected anew. The 43rd, 51st, 52nd, 68th, 71st and 85th (and in all but title, the 90th) were converted to light infantry from 1803; while retaining the capabilities of the line infantry, they were especially adept at light tactics, and in the Peninsular War formed (with the two rifle corps) the army's élite. The 95th Rifles and the 'rifle' battalions of the 60th (Royal American) Regiment (the latter including a large number of German *Jägers* in its ranks) were armed with rifled muskets, dressed in green, and employed almost exclusively as skirmishers.

RECRUITING

The Duke of Wellington's comment that the army was composed of 'the scum of the earth' is often misunderstood; he added, 'It is really wonderful that we should have made them the fine fellows they are.' He was referring to the fact that generally only 'the very worst members of society' enlisted. 'Whoever "listed for a soldier" was at once the set down among a catalogue of persons who had turned out ill', as one Peninsular veteran wrote. All enlistment was voluntary, unlike the French, whose armies were conscripted, and whose system Wellington admired '. . . we must compose our army of soldiers drawn from all classes of the population of the country; from the good and middling, as well in rank as in education, as from the bad . . .' But so bad was the reputation of the soldier that often only the desperate would enlist; Wellington again: 'People talk of their enlisting from their fine military feeling – all stuff – no such thing. Some of our men enlist from having got bastard children – some for minor offences – many more for drink.' This simplistic view contains some truth. The army was a refuge for petty criminals (as one officer wrote, 'The system of recruiting is so defective and so radically bad that in every regiment there are from 50 to 100 bad characters that neither punishment nor any kind of discipline can restrain', but sheer economic necessity took many to the recruiting-sergeant). To the desperately impoverished, considerable temptation to enlist existed in the 'bounty' paid to each recruit: £7. 12*s*. 6*d*. in 1803, rising to £23. 17*s*. 6*d*. in 1812 for those enlisting for life, and five guineas less for those enlisting for seven years. The majority signed away their life; of 3,143 who enlisted in 1814, only 772 enrolled for limited service, and only one out of 566 Irish recruits. The bounty was usually consumed by the purchase of the recruit's initial 'necessaries' and the standing of drinks to the recruiting-party, but at least it appeared a temptation to the impoverished labourer. (The danger of fraud was ever-present; in 1787 a man was hanged for taking the bounty and then deserting on 49 occasions).

The insatiable demand for recruits was caused in part by the wastage from campaign and disease, the latter being the greatest scourge (one authority claimed that the annual loss by death, discharge and desertion was more than 11 per cent). In 1794–7, for example, 80,000 men died or were crippled by disease in the West Indies; and of 22,953 men lost to the army through death or infirmity in 1811 (a year of considerable bloodshed, Albuera, etc.), fewer than 3,000 were casualties caused by enemy action. To meet the demand, the recruiting-

sergeants enlisted any man who was physically able, irrespective of character, and used every trick to inveigle the impressionable, often with the aid of copious alcohol. As for each man the recruiting-officer received 16*s*., the recruiting-party 15*s*. 6*d*. and the 'bringer of the recruit' (usually a publican) £2. 12*s*. 6*d*., it was to their advantage to entrap the maximum number: '. . . your last recourse was to get him drunk, then slip a shilling in his pocket . . . and next morning swear he enlisted . . .' Justices of the Peace might release minor offenders on condition that they enlisted, but convicted criminals were normally only allowed to enroll in the Royal African Corps or West India Rangers.

Ironically, an impediment to recruiting was the constitutional home-defence force, the Militia, raised by ballot from among all able-bodied men between 18 and 40 years (less certain exempt categories). Any man thus conscripted could procure a 'substitute' to serve in his stead, who might command a £25 bounty, making it financially preferable to serve as a Militia substitute than a regular soldier; moreover, a militiaman's dependents were supported by his parish, whereas regulars' families had no such support. The impasse was acknowledged in 1805, from which date militiamen were encouraged to volunteer for regular service, with a ten guinea bounty (later £14. for life and £11. for limited service). From this date almost half the recruits came from the Militia, providing a supply of men already trained and inured to discipline; and from this date the quality of the army improved apace. In the first four years of the Peninsular War, 55,000 militiamen joined the regulars; by coincidence, almost the same strength as the Peninsular army.

Many recruits, especially those from urban areas, were small and ill-nourished. A random sample of 106 recruits in 1808 showed a height varying from 5 feet to a single man at 6 feet, with the majority below 5 feet 6 inches. In the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) at the time of Waterloo, only eleven men were over 6 feet tall, not one was over 6 feet 1 inch; more than half were under 5 feet 7 inches, and one-sixth 5 feet 4 inches and under. Sixty-five per cent were under 30 years old, and 26 per cent under 20; only ten were 45 and over. One man had served more than 25 years, but 40 per cent more than 10 years. The minimum height requirement could be circumvented by stating the recruit to be a youth who might be expected to grow; in fact, in 1797 six regiments were instructed to enlist only boys, and at least four more in 1800 (9th, 16th, 22nd, 34th, 55th and 65th; and 4th, 32nd, 45th and 52nd Regiments of Foot).

The popular view that the officers of the army were aristocrats who had purchased their commission is erroneous. While the majority came from the gentry and middle class, few were of the nobility; in 1809 only 140 officers were peers or their sons, and 43 of those were in the Foot Guards. (By 1814 there were 10,590 officers in the army). Excluding the Veteran battalions (almost all of whose officers were ex-NCOs), more than 5 per cent were commissioned from the ranks, mostly as rewards for gallantry (such as Patrick Masterson of the 87th who captured a French 'eagle' at Barossa), and it was not impossible for men of humble birth or no fortune to rise to high rank. For example, two noted Waterloo personalities, Sir John Elley of the Royal Horse Guards and Lieutenant-Colonel James I. Hamilton of the 2nd Dragoons, were respectively the sons of an eating-house keeper in Holborn and the sergeant-major of the 21st Fusiliers; while David Dundas, Commander-in-Chief in 1809, had been so poor that he had walked from Scotland to London to take up his first commission.

Officers were literate, but few were university graduates and less than 4 per cent had come from the Royal Mililtary College. Ultimately almost 20 per cent came from the Militia, commissioned as a reward for enlisting forty militiamen. Commissions could be purchased, but though a commission was a realizable asset, 'purchase' was only of real use when a man wished to join a particular regiment, such as one in a favoured station or with a high reputation. During the Peninsular War, less than 20 per cent of first commissions were by purchase. Promotion was largely by seniority, and by the vacancies caused by death or injury on service; though purchase of 'steps' was practised (an ensigncy cost £400, a lieutenancy £550, a captaincy £1,500, a majority £2,600 and a lieutenant-colonelcy £3,500 in the line, for example), during the Peninsular War less than a fifth of line promotions were by purchase. The proportion was higher (up to a half) in the Foot Guards, who were a special case, their expenses being so great that a private income was essential, and the purchase-price of commissions up to treble those of the line, due to their higher social standing and the fact that Guards officers had both a regimental rank and a higher 'army' rank, so that (for example) a Guards captain ranked as a lieutenant-colonel in the army.

Regulations ensured that 'no person is considered eligible for a commission until he has attained the age of sixteen years', virtually ending the practice of appointing children to regimental posts long before they ever served; but the youth of new ensigns was extreme. Before 1802, 20 per cent had been under fifteen when first gazetted, and even after that date half were under eighteen. William Howe DeLancey, head of the Quartermaster-General's department at Waterloo, was apparently first commissioned at the age of eleven in 1792. After 1809 the purchase system was regulated so that rapid promotion for rich but incompetent officers was no longer possible; by seniority alone, however, progress could be snail-like: in 1811 Lieutenant-Colonel Brunt of the 83rd achieved this rank in the forty-third year after his enlistment! Though promotion as reward for merit was difficult, given the observance of 'seniority', the system generally worked well, with severe incapability being remedied at the highest level, for example the wholesale transference of all officers from the 85th during the Peninsular War, transforming a wretched regiment into an excellent one. Some 4½ per cent of officers were commissioned after having served as 'volunteers', gentlemen allowed by a battalion commander to accompany the unit on campaign, serving in the ranks but living with the officers, until death created a vacant ensigncy to which they were appointed.

DAILY LIFE

Although unenviable, the soldier's daily life was probably no worse than that in the civilian world from which the majority had come. At the outbreak of war, the majority of troops in England were billeted on innkeepers, there being barracks for only 20,000 men. From the early 1790s a programme of barrack building was instituted; but in 1804 the Barrackmaster-General was dismissed for spending nine million pounds without keeping accounts to show where the money had gone, and for building a large number of small barracks where each soldier was allotted less space than that allotted to a convict. Contemporary accounts of barrack life are horrendous to the modern mind, crowded and insanitary rooms where the men had to sleep several to a bed.

The soldier's rations exemplify the care expended upon his person. Even though Wellington remarked that the ration was 'not sufficient for his subsistence for any great length of time', no attempt was made to improve them, and when quartered in billets peculation by landlords added to the problem. As Sergeant Cooper of the 7th remarked, 'When a man entered upon a soldier's life . . . he should have parted with half his stomach'. There were no cooks, each man taking a turn at preparing the daily meals, breakfast and midday; anything additional to the issued ration had to be bought from the shilling a day paid to each private (often in arrears and reduced by stoppages for 'necessaries', 4*d*. a week for laundry, etc.), less what he spent on alcohol in an attempt to assuage his lot. The daily ration was 1½lb. of bread and 1lb. of beef (including bone), and a quart of beer; the beef was always boiled, yielding a pint of broth per day. In the Peninsula, the ration was 1lb. of biscuit or 1½lb. of bread, 1lb. of beef or mutton, and pint of wine or 1/3rd pint of rum. 'Sometimes we were reduced to half rations, and once, for a whole week, we had nothing but one pound of bad beef daily. When bread could not be obtained, we got a pint of unground wheat, or a sheaf of wheat out of the fields, or else two pounds of potatoes.' Some regiments endeavoured to provide their men with a more balanced diet, such as that issued to each mess of six men per week by the 85th in 1801: 42lb. bread, 28lb. meat, 7 quarts spirits, 6 quarts oatmeal, 4 quarts pease; to which their commanding officer noted, 'Butter and Cheese form part of the Soldier's Rations, but in lieu thereof, one pint of Molasses for six men, is allowed per week.' On campaign the soldier might have to forage to stay alive, as commissariat arrangements frequently broke down. George Wood of the 82nd noted that for four days in the Pyrenees, his regiment ate nothing but leaves of trees, 'which we chewed as we passed along to assuage the craving of hunger'; but his only reflection upon this starvation was that when beef, biscuit and rum *did* arrive – wretched in quality though these would be – they felt to be 'literally wallowing in luxury, which gave us such spirits that, woe to the enemy who should dare to oppose us'.

Sir John Moore in 1804 stated that most young officers were not sufficiently provident to live on their pay, but required a private income of between £50 and £100 p.a. Costs of uniform and equipment were such that impecunious subalterns might buy second-hand or cut-price clothing, while maintenance and mess expenses had to be met from the daily pay of 5*s*. 3*d*. for an ensign, 6*s*. 6*d*. to 7*s*. 6*d*. for a lieutenant, 10*s*. 6*d*. for a captain, etc. Even basic

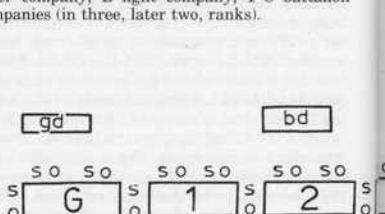
equipment represented a considerable investment: the plain regimental sabre of the 52nd, for example, represented (at four guineas) sixteen days' pay for an ensign, while the predicament of Ensign Bell of the 89th in 1808 was not uncommon: unable to afford a greatcoat 'owing to my having to procure two Regimental coats instead of one (as I had thought of) and those two very rich ones my money will run me short'. With various deductions, as John Patterson of the 50th calculated, an ensign's living expenses consumed the whole of the 4*s*. 6*d*. he actually received, leaving nothing for spending-money or dress. The richer officers, though, spared no expense; while Booth of the 52nd bought his entire kit for £57.18*s*.6*d*., George Elers of the 12th spent £300 on his and his colonel owned between fifty and a hundred pairs of boots, 200 undress jackets and everything else in proportion. Captain Hobkirk of the 43rd was reputed to spend almost £1,000 per year on his uniform, and when captured was mistaken for a field marshal from the magnificence of his uniform!

For the rank and file, marriage was actively discouraged, only six wives per company being allowed officially; 'married quarters' were merely a corner of a barrack-room with a blanket hung up as a screen. Wives were expected to do the company's washing, and any who married outside the quota were ignored completely by the army. No allowances were paid, and when a regiment proceeded on active service only four or six wives per company could accompany it, being chosen by ballot from among the married families, causing great anguish to those not permitted to go. One experienced officer deplored the practice of allowing women to share the barracks: 'Soldiers' wives are generally the greatest nuisances . . . revolting to decency – and certainly demoralizing . . . what is the consquence – the man is starved – his childred are naked and starved – and the wife – she is not to be described . . .'

A perpetual scourge was alcohol, the only opiate to relieve the miserable living conditions. Drunkenness and its punishment varied; the best regiments had the fewest courts-martial, though Wellington once remarked that even the NCOs of the Foot Guards got drunk every night, but at least first ensured that their duties were completed!

Though execution (for looting, mutiny or desertion to the enemy), transfer to the Royal African or New South Wales Corps or penal servitude were all employed to enforce discipline, the usual punishment was the lash, an appalling practice in which the miscreant was tied to a 'triangle' of spontoons and whipped across the back with a 'cat'. The maximum of 1,200 lashes was rarely inflicted, but 1,000 was not uncommon, and 300 to 700 a matter of routine, the prisoner being taken down only when the regimental surgeon deemed his life to be in danger. When his back had healed, the remainder of his sentence was then inflicted. This terrible spectacle was performed before the entire regiment, *pour encourager les autres*, producing revulsion in the spectators and hideous injury. Cooper of the 7th watched a flogged man being treated: 'He was laid upon the floor, and a large poultice taken off the wound. Oh! what a sickening sight! The wound was perhaps eight inches by six, full of matter, in which were a number of blackheaded maggots striving to hide themselves.' Yet even Cooper admitted its necessity: the army '. . . was composed of the lowest orders. Many, if not most of them, were ignorant, idle, and drunken . . . by the discipline . . . enforced, the British army became more than a match, even at great odds, for the best of Napoleon's boasted legions.' But though savage, flogging for straggling helped hold together the rearguard on the retreat to Corunna, and the better regiments flogged the fewest men; throughout the period, there was only one glaring case of a martinet commander flogging his men illegally, and he was cashiered (Colonel Archdall of the 1/40th in 1813). A badly led regiment, though, could have a horrendous

2. Diagram of an infantry battalion deployed in line, in 'close' order, grenadiers on the right flank and the light company on the left. Key: G grenadier company; L light company; 1–8 battalion companies (in three, later two, ranks).

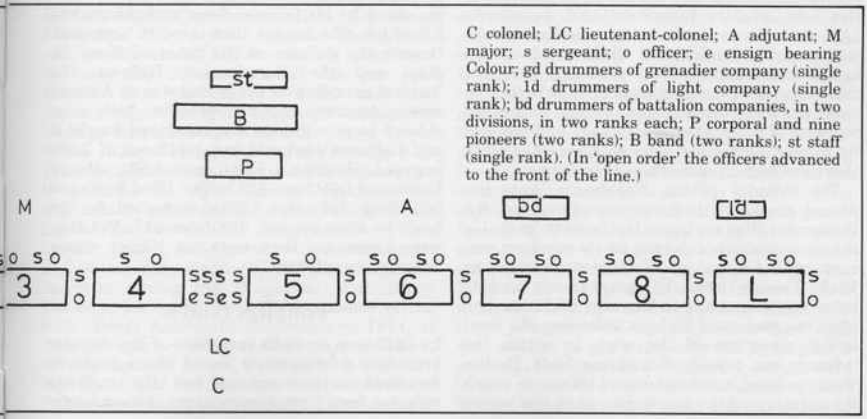


punishment-book; a terrible example is the 10th Hussars, who between 20 February and 26 June 1813 – in the Peninsula – held courts-martial for 136 crimes, of which 63 involved drunkenness; for which crimes 38,900 lashes were awarded, of which 21,555 were actually adminstered.

TACTICS

Infantry tactics were governed by the performance of the muzzle-loading flintlock musket with an effective range between 80 and 200 yards, wildly inaccurate and with a maximum rate of fire of five shots per minute, dropping to two or three in controlled volley and when fouled with burnt powder. In combat (as opposed to controlled tests under ideal conditions, the only reliable statistics) the effectivenesss of shots striking the target was probably between three and five per cent; one contemporary theory held that to kill a man, seven times his own weight of shot had to be fired. But such calculations are somewhat academic, for in the context of Napoleonic warfare it was not necessary for a musket to hit an individual target, but merely to score a hit anywhere upon a tightly-packed block of troops many times larger than the proverbial barn door. Such tactics were formulated by the very inaccuracy of the musket, but how quickly they would have changed had a better 'common musket' been available is in question. Despite its poor quality, the musket could inflict horrendous injury, its one-ounce lead ball flattening and producing wounds for which the rudimentary medical treatment available had little answer. The destructiveness of a hard-fought action – 'fair bludgeon work' as Wellington described Sorauren – may be gauged by the comparison that in the 1943-4 Italian campaign, from the landing at Salerno to the fall of Rome, the Allied Fifth Army lost hardly any more men than did the French at Borodino, in eleven hours and on a front of three and a half miles.

Although manoeuvre was normally executed in column formation, the British infantry generally fought in line, a two-deep formation which enabled every musket in the battalion to be brought to bear simultaneously, a major advantage over the column-attacks of the French which, until the column deployed, could only employ the muskets of the head of the column. Dundas's 1788 drill book had reverted to the three-rank line, but in practice (virtually universally by 1801) the two-rank line used in the American War was the preferred formation. Firing was usually by volley, either by company, platoon, rank or by the entire battalion at once, producing a profound effect upon an advancing enemy. One or two volleys, followed by a cheer and the threat of a bayonet-charge, was usually sufficient to cause one of the opposing formations to break or retire; usually the attacking column, whose head would have been mown down by the British musketry, or the unit's cohesion lost by being raked while attempting to deploy. The bayonet was used as a psychological



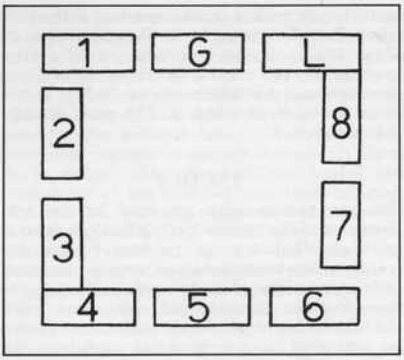
C colonel; LC lieutenant-colonel; A adjutant; M major; s sergeant; o officer; e ensign bearing Colour; gd drummers of grenadier company (single rank); ld drummers of light company (single rank); bd drummers of battalion companies, in two divisions, in two ranks each; P corporal and nine pioneers (two ranks); B band (two ranks); st staff (single rank). (In 'open order' the officers advanced to the front of the line.)

weapon to speed the flight of a foe already shaken; skirmishers might become involved in hand-to-hand combat, but in general one side fled before bayonets could be crossed. So rare was large-scale bayonet combat that during the entire Peninsular War there was probably only one case of such fight, between a company of the 20th Foot and a French column which ran into each other by accident; the British lost about one-third of their strength and the French considerably more.

A battalion in column was especially vulnerable to artillery fire, but a battalion in line was susceptible to an even greater threat, that of being attacked by cavalry, when a unit could be destroyed in moments: Colborne's brigade when ridden down at Albuera lost about 1,250 out of 1,650 men. The defence against cavalry was to form square, presenting a hedge of bayonets and musketry on all four sides, which was virtually impenetrable; or, for smaller groups, a 'rallying square' in which a knot of men would cluster together in an attempt to resist being overridden.

Light infantry tactics developed fully during the Napoleonic Wars, largely as a counter to the French practice of preceding attacks by clouds of *tirailleurs* (sharpshooters) to screen the advancing column and harry the enemy. British light tactics were perfected by Sir John Moore in the training camp at Shorncliffe, ultimately producing the Light Brigade – later Division – of Peninsular fame; but it was a revival and perfecting of half-forgotten skills which Moore led, rather than total innovation. In addition to the light infantry regiments, each battalion's light company was trained in a skirmish role, and sometimes additional 'flankers' from the battalion companies. Most proficient were the rifle corps, distributed in company- or battalion-sized units to each division, armed with rifled muskets of much greater accuracy and handled by trained marksmen who engaged the enemy sharpshooters on more than even terms.

The infantry of the Napoleonic Wars improved greatly with increasing experience; the Peninsular War perfected the force to 'probably the most complete machine for its numbers now existing in Europe', as Wellington described in 1813. Though beset by drunkenness and ill behaviour (climaxing in the orgy of destruction after the assault of Badajos, following the most hellish slaughter of the war), in action the infantry was capable of amazing feats. Battles were confused, smoke-obscured affairs in which the ordinary soldier knew only what was within his own, narrow compass of view – George Wood of the 82nd stated that a battle consisted simply of 'firing, shouting, running, swearing, sweating, huzzaing', which is about as perfect a description of the infantryman's lot as can be found. Under such circumstances, with death and injury on every side (and given the standard of medical care, injury and death were frequently synonymous), only character, instilled discipline and regimental *esprit de corps* would persuade a man to load and fire like an automaton, stand by his fellows, cheer and charge and follow his officers; yet that is what happened. Despite the defence of the ridge of Mont St. Jean and the storming of Badajos, the 'hardest pounding' of the period was at Albuera where, contrary to usual practice, both sides refused to give ground but stood and fought it out. Colborne's brigade lost 1,413 out of 2,066 engaged; Hoghton's 1,044 from 1,651; Myers' Fusiliers 1,045 from 2,015. The 1/3rd Buffs lost 643 from 755; the 1/57th, exhorted to 'die hard' by their colonel, 428 from 647. Yet they were victorious; they were, as Napier wrote, 'astonishing infantry.'



3. An infantry battalion in square, formed from line by companies, 4, 5 and 6 standing fast, the wings swinging back until the two flank companies met at the rear face of the square.

'FOREIGN CORPS'

In 1813 one in eight members of the regular army was a foreigner, a few of whom might be described as mercenaries but the majority refugees from French occupation of their home-

land. They included large numbers of Germans, some French *émigrés* (such as Captain Saint-Pol of the 7th, killed at Badajos, son of the Duke of Orleans), a number of Americans and other assorted nationalities, such as the 48th's senior captain, a Portuguese. In 1812 only 31 officers and 393 men in the ordinary line regiments were foreign (the latter mostly coloured musicians), the bulk being concentrated into their own corps.

Vast numbers of emigrant corps were formed in the 1790s, mostly French royalists fleeing the Revolution; many were of good quality and ex-members of the old Royal army, but the *émigré* corps were diluted by the desperate policy of enlisting turncoat prisoners of war and freebooters, which dragged down the reputation of the whole; and with few exceptions, the emigrant corps were wasted in *débâcles* such as the landing at Quiberon or sent to the West Indies, though much of the army's light infantry capability in the Netherlands campaign had depended upon such units. Few survived the Peace of Amiens, notably the Chasseurs Britanniques of the Peninsular army, a corps renowned for good service in action and unreliability on other occcasions; it could not, for example, be trusted with outpost duty.

Best of the 'foreign corps' was the King's German Legion, raised originally from the citizens of George III's possessions in Hanover; from its small beginnings in 1803, the Legion ultimately embraced cavalry, artillery, two light and eight line battalions of infantry. Few finer units existed, even after the recruiting of Poles, Illyrians and other nationalities after about 1810. The officers were splendid throughout, and as late as 1814 about 85 per cent were German; the others included ten per cent British, five per cent French and two Italians. Another unit originally exclusively German was the Brunswick Oels Corps, raised by the Duke of Brunswick in 1809 (mostly with Prussian officers), which entered British service to continue the fight against Napoleon; the impossibility of obtaining further Brunswickers led to the recruitment of prisoners, Poles, Danish, Dutch, and Croats, with a subsequent decline in quality leading to a bad reputation for desertion during the Peninsular War. Many Germans served in the 'rifle' battalions of the 60th (Royal American) Regiment; in 1814, of their 299 officers of the rank of major or below, 40 bore German names, 24 French, five Italian, four Dutch and one Spanish. At the end of the Peninsular War the 5/60th still contained 300 Germans to 400 British. The 97th Foot was also largely German, but lost heavily in the Peninsular War, so that by 1814 it contained only seven German and three French officers to 28 British.

Of other foreign regiments, some fine Swiss corps were reduced to four regiments serving in the Mediterranean, while others were raised from specific nationalities such as the Greek Light Infantry (which in 1814 had only six British officers, three French, two German and one Portuguese to 46 Greek or Italian). The York Light Infantry Volunteers (originally Dutch, serving in the West Indies) had rank-and-file from every source though largely British officers (in 1814, 33 to twelve French, seven German and one Italian). Such corps varied from the excellent to the abysmal, the latter including the Greek, Croatian, Albanian and Serb trash enlisted into Froberg's Regiment (disbanded for mutiny in 1807), and Independent Foreigners (mostly ex-prisoners) who behaved with barbarity in North America in 1813. The West India Regiments, often classed with the British line, were composed of coloured rank-and-file who rarely served outside the Caribbean, though some fought in the New Orleans campaign.

AUXILIARIES

The statutory home-defence force was the Militia, a series of infantry battalions formed by a 'quota' according to the population of each county, recruited partly like the regulars but completed by a ballot. The Militia was embodied only in wartime and could not be sent abroad, though some units volunteered to serve in Ireland during the '98' rebellion, and three battalions went to the Peninsula, too late to be engaged. A second home-defence force were the Volunteers, a bewildering array of local companies with myriad 'terms of service' (ranging from an undertaking to serve anywhere in the country to one unit formed solely for the defence of Somerset House!), a part-time 'home guard' formed to defend the country against invasion and to aid the civil power in suppressing internal unrest, an unsavoury duty shared with the Militia. At its peak, the Volunteer Force numbered 380,193 men (excluding Ireland), a large percentage of the population (less than nine million people were recorded by the 1801 census in England). In 1808 the Volunteers were largely replaced by battalion-sized units of Local Militia, easier to control than the thousands of

independent local units. Such corps were principally of use in releasing regular troops for service abroad.

A third auxiliary were the Fencible corps, only one of which survived the Peace of Amiens; they were like regular line regiments, except that they were not to be sent out of the country in which they were raised without the consent of all ranks. In the event, many Scottish units volunteered to serve in England and in Ireland during the '98', but only one saw other campaign service, the Ancient Irish which went to Egypt.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

The infantry uniform is illustrated here by contemporary pictures and extant relics. Regulations existed (codified in 1802) governing most aspects of uniform and equipment, but these allowed considerable scope for regimental practice. Provision of uniforms was largely in the hands of regimental colonels, who contracted for their manufacture and were reimbursed by the Treasury, making possible the allocation of funds to provide extra-decorative costume for the band or flank companies, for example. Regimental peculiarities ranged from minor variations in style and regimental badges of rank or merit, to total divergence from regulation dress such as the unique shako of the 28th Foot. Officers purchased their own uniforms, receiving no reimbursement, and thus each corps followed its own practice as to the amount of decoration permitted; as ever, flank companies and light infantry frequently had the most distinctive costume, as befitted a *corps d'élite*.

Although items of the other ranks' equipment changed during the period (notably with the introduction of the stiffened 'Trotter's' knapsack), the ordinary soldier's burden remained remarkably standard. Constricted by buff-leather shoulder-belts supporting cartridge-box and bayonet, and a strap across the breast for the knapsack, the infantryman's immense load was described by Sergeant Cooper of the 7th Fusiliers (weight in pounds in parentheses): musket and bayonet (14), pouch and 60 rounds (6), canteen and belt (1), mess-tin (1), knapsack and belts (3), blanket (4), greatcoat (4), dress jacket (3), white fatigue jacket (½), 2 shirts and 3 frills (2½), 2 pairs shoes (3), trousers (2), gaiters (¼), 2 pairs stockings (1), brushes, button-stick and comb (3), shoulder-belts (1), pen, ink and paper (¼), pipe-clay (1), 2 tent pegs (½), 3 days' bread (3), 2 days' beef (2), water in canteen (3): a combined total of 59lb. As Cooper remarked, 'The government should have sent us new backbones to bear the extra weight.'

On campaign, both uniform and equipment were transformed by the rigours of active service. Grattan of the 88th noted that 'Provided we brought our men into the field well appointed, and with sixty rounds of good ammunition each, he [Wellington] never looked to see whether their trousers were black, blue or grey . . . we might be rigged out in all the colours of the rainbow if we fancied . . . scarcely any two officers were dressed alike. Some with grey braided coats, others with brown, some again liked blue; while many from choice, or perhaps necessity, stuck to the "old red rag".' Such latitude was fortunate, for a few weeks' service would result in regiments wearing patched and sometimes unrecognizable costume. Typical is Ross-Lewin's description of the 32nd in 1814: 'No one . . . could possibly have discovered . . . the original colour of our clothing, for it was so patched with a diversity of colours and so bespoke a variety of wretchedness that . . . we must have borne an undesirable resemblance to Falstaff's ragged regiment'. George Wood described his own appearance in the 82nd: '. . . my cap, which had served me both for pillow and nightcap, crushed into different forms, my beard somewhat grown, my eyes sunk in, my cheeks quite hollow, my frame diseased and filthy, my countenance woeful, my shoes without a sole, my sword, from having been drawn all day and sheathed in a wet scabbard at night, covered with rust, my belt of a deep brown, my epaulette very blue, my shirt very black, and my coat any colour but red, and in most wet and miry condition'. But, as Frederick Mainwaring of the 51st wrote, 'No one thought about the cut of a coat, or the fashion of a boot, or looked coldly on his neighbour because his ragged garment was less fashionable than his own; sufficient was it that he had a coat on his back.'

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FROM 1793 TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 1800–1 SHAKO

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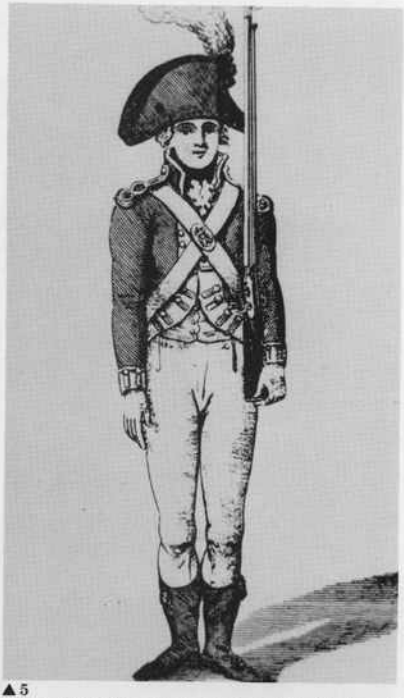
4. Battalion company private, 8th (King's) Regiment. Red coat with dark-blue facings, white lace with interwoven blue and yellow stripes. The lace was generally square-ended, ten loops being carried on each lapel and four on each cuff. White hat-lace and black tuft. The shoulder-straps are plain blue, without the usual worsted tuft at the end. The whitened buff-leather belts support a cartridge-box at the right and a bayonet at the left rear, with a rectangular brass plate bearing the number 8 in the centre, KING'S above and REGIMENT below. (Engraving by C. H. Hodges after Edward Dayes, 1792)



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5. 'Soldier under Arms': the infantry uniform of the mid-1790s. The lapels are still worn open at the bottom, but from 1796 they were made to fasten down the front with hooks and eyes, concealing the waistcoat, and in 1797 were removed entirely. The loop of lace worn on the collar was discarded in the early 1790s (but retained by officers), and plumes were introduced officially in 1796. The calf-length gaiters shown were originally worn by light infantry, but became more widespread. (Engraving from Keith's *Soldier's Assistant*)

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6. Battalion company private of the 1st Foot Guards performing the 'Manual Exercise', from a contemporary drill manual. The illustration presumably predates March 1790 when the hat was ordered to be worn without lace edging.

7. Members of the 3rd Foot Guards preparing to 'give fire' in three ranks; note the lace loops worn in threes. Presumably this illustration from a contemporary drill-manual dates between March 1790 and September 1796, when the hat had white lace looping; after the latter date only a cockade-loop was worn.

8. The rear of the infantry uniform, from a drill-manual of c. 1797, showing the 2nd Foot Guards. This shows the buckle on the cartridge-box belt and the badge on the flap; the latter was retained by the Foot Guards and (probably) the 29th Foot, but was otherwise discontinued as it was found to damage the leather of the box. The long white gaiters were worn by the Foot Guards on parade throughout the period.

9. Battalion company officer, 8th (King's) Regiment. Scarlet coat with the dark-blue facings which were the distinction of 'royal' regiments, gold lace and epaulette, crimson sash, white waistcoat and breeches, black gaiters. The hat has gold lace and a black cockade (the latter used universally in the British forces). The oval belt-plate bore a silver horse within a crowned Garter. (Engraving by C. H. Hodges after Edward Dayes, 1792)

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10. Battalion company officer, 1st (Royal) Regiment. Scarlet coat with blue facings and gold lace, gold-laced hat with black-tipped white feather; gilt belt-plate bearing an engraved star. Regimental orders stated that when not on duty (as here), the black gaiters with 15 gilt buttons were to be replaced by white leather breeches and 'regimental boots' (of soft leather). Grenadier officers were to be similarly dressed but with two epaulettes, a grenade badge on the cockade and a white plume; and light company officers a short jacket with 'wings' and bugle badges on the turnbacks and shoulder-straps, a laced red waistcoat and a leather cap with green feather and the numeral 1 on the front. (Engraving by C. H. Hodges after Edward Dayes, 1792)

11. Colonel The Right Honourable Charles Lennox, 2nd Foot Guards, wearing a typical undress uniform: coat without lace (note the early turn-down collar), stockings and buckled shoes, and a smallsword on a waist-belt instead of a shoulder-belt. The hat was

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unlaced, and neither sash nor gorget were worn in undress uniform. Charles Lennox succeeded as 4th Duke of Richmond in 1806, and is chiefly remembered for organizing (with his wife) the Brussels ball on the eve of Quatre Bras. His son, the Earl of March, served on Wellington's staff in the Peninsular War. (Engraving after John Kay, 1789)

12. Lieutenant-Colonel Hay MacDowall, 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment. His unlaced scarlet coat with yellow facings has silver buttons and gold epaulettes, the lapels half fastened over. His crimson sash is worn beneath the coat, and though regimental Inspection Returns mention gold-laced hats at an earlier date, he has an unlaced hat with black feather. The cuffs apparently have no buttons and are higher at the front; the oval gilt belt-plate probably bore the numeral 57 within an oval band. The gilt-fitted sword was a regimental variation, the 1791 Inspection Returns noting 'armed with swords, but not according to regulation'. (Print after Henry Raeburn)

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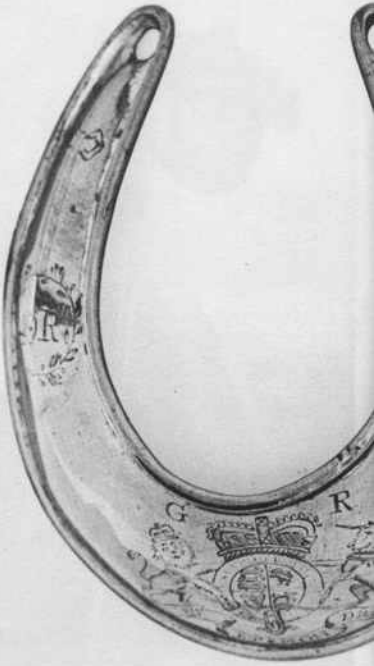

13. James, 3rd Earl of Hopetoun, Colonel of the Hopetoun Fencibles, wearing typical infantry officers' uniform of the mid-1790s. The regiment (known as the 'Hopetoun Invincibles') was raised by the Earl in 1793, and wore red coats with light grey-blue facings (a unique shade) and silver lace for officers. (Engraving after John Kay, 1795)

14. Officer of the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment, of the mid-1790s. Scarlet coat with yellow facings and silver lace, the lapels half folded over. The cocked hat apparently has a black tape cockade-loop and a cockade with vandycked edge. The small shoulder-belt plate bearing the numeral 67 within a wreath and vandycked edge is in the style of the 1770s. The wearing of epaulettes by officers was not codified until 1791, when all field officers were to wear two, and company officers a single epaulette on the right shoulder; at this date they consisted of a lace strap with a fringe of bullion, in the colour of the regimental lace; though much scope existed for regimental variations and the wearing of regimental badges on the strap. (Wallis & Wallis)

15. Gorget, 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment. A relic of the armoured throat-protection of the 17th century, the gorget was worn by officers at the neck in full dress, only rarely on campaign, as a mark of commissioned rank. Originally of the colour of the regimental lace, it was later gilt for all regiments, usually bearing just the royal arms on the front, though (especially in the earlier years) regimental inscriptions were quite common, in this case 40 RT. within a wreath on each arm of the crescent. It was suspended from the collar- or epaulette-buttons by ribbons and rosette of facing-coloured silk. (Wallis & Wallis)

16. Officer's 'spadroon', a straight-bladed sword with stirrup hilt used prior to the introduction of the 1796 pattern. Although authorized in 1786, there was no pattern prescribed exactly, so numerous variations existed, many bearing a regimental badge on the locket around the bone grip. This example has the arms of the City of London engraved on the oval locket. Fittings were gilt-brass, steel or silver, according to regimental practice.

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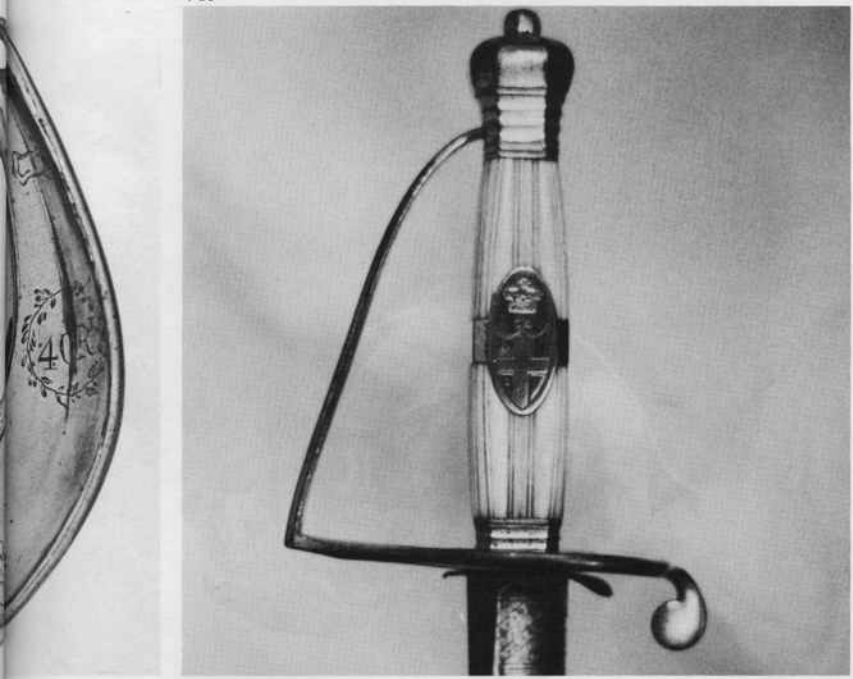


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17. Grenadier cap as worn by line regiments from 1768: black bearskin with a white-metal plate with a black-enamelled background, and a red cloth rear patch bearing a regimental device, sometimes embroidered, though for this regiment (97th Inverness-shire Highlanders, 1794–6) it consisted of a metal grenade-badge bearing the number on the 'ball'. In the 97th, privates and drummers had white worsted cords and tassels, sergeants and pipers silver-plated fronts and silver cords, and officers gilded plates and gold cords.

18. Grenadier sergeant, 1st Foot Guards, 1792. Wearing the sergeants' gold lace in the singly-spaced loops of the 1st Guards, this man has the distinctive cap of the regimental grenadiers, with a gold tassel, white plume with red tip, and a large black-enamelled plate bearing gilded royal arms device (white-metal for other ranks). The 3rd Guards wore older, pointed caps with white-metal plates (gilt for sergeants). The sash illustrated is crimson with a white stripe, a unique distinction of the 1st Guards; the 2nd wore all-crimson, and the 3rd crimson, white and blue stripes. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes, 1792)

19. 'Pacification of the Maroon Negroes' at the end of the Maroon rebellion in Jamaica, an engraving by Scott after a drawing from life by Agostino Brunyas, *c.* 1796. The central figure is a grenadier of the 2nd (Queen's Royal) Regiment, a rare depiction of the use of regimental badges on the grenadier cap, in this case a Paschal lamb on the plate. The 2nd was not present as a regiment in Jamaica but small parties were detached as guards for the governors of various islands.

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20. Grenadier, Lancashire Militia, 1797. A typical infantry uniform, scarlet with blue facings and white lace with a blue stripe, the loops in the pointed shape known as 'bastion'. The tall fur cap has a brass plate and two white tassels at the right. (Engraving after Edmund Scott)

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21. Private, 7th Royal Fuzileers, 1793. 'Fuzileer' (fusilier) regiments wore grenadier distinctions, including a fur cap and facing-coloured (blue) wings. Shown here is the grenadiers' hair-style, powdered like that of the battalion companies but dressed into a 'club' at the rear, thicker than the normal 'queue' or pig-tail. (Engraving by C. Borkhardt after Edward Dayes)

22. Officer, 7th Royal Fuzileers, 1793. Fuzileer officers wore the white-plumed grenadier cap, two epaulettes (for all ranks), and being armed with a fusil (a light musket shortly afterwards discarded by officers) had shoulder-belts like those of the rank-and-file. (Engraving by C. Borkhardt after Edward Dayes)

23. Light company private, 1st Foot Guards, 1793. The Guards light companies, newly raised at this date, wore a shortened coat, fur-crested round hat and gaiter-trousers. The spacing of the loops indicates the 1st Regiment. (Engraving published by S. W. Fores in August 1793 to mark the fact that 'Four of these new rais'd Companys Embarked to join the Duke of York in the Siege of Valenciennes July 9th 1793.')

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24. Light company private, 2nd Foot Guards, 1797. This illustration shows an elegant, curled-brimmed version of the round hat with a green plume, and fringed epaulettes instead of light infantry wings. (Engraving by Hopwood after Edmund Scott)

25. An other ranks' leather undress cap of probably *c.* 1795–1800, of a type also worn by light companies: with a pleated crown of 'natural' leather, enabling it to fold perfectly flat, with front and rear faces of glazed black leather.

26. Pioneer, 1791. A battalion's pioneer section usually consisted of a corporal and ten men, equipped with billhooks, saws, axes, spades, pickaxes and mattocks. A leather apron and facial hair (usually a full beard) were traditional distinctions. Usually a grenadier cap was worn (the 1802 regulations describe its metal plate as red-enamelled, bearing an axe and saw with the royal arms), though the fur busby illustrated was probably one of numerous regimental distinctions. (Engraving by F. D. Soiron after H. Bunbury)

27. 'Trepanning a recruit'; the first of four mezzotints by G. Keating after George Morland, 1791, showing a Cumberland labourer entrapped into enlisting, deserting, and finally restored to his family by the kindness of his officer, an idealized story! Here the yokel resists the pleading of his wife and is plied with ale by a recruiting-party. He wears the sergeant's hat (trimmed with ribbons, the sign of a recruiting-party), while the drummer wears 'reversed colours' (a facing-coloured coat with red collar, lapels and cuffs), and presents an excellent side view of the grenadier cap.

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28. 'The Recruiting Serjeant taken in, or all Fair above Board'. A joke at the expense of the sergeant, who plies with drink a potential recruit, whose wooden leg (concealed beneath the table) would prevent his enlistment). The sergeant wears a 'shoulder-knot' or epaulette as a mark of rank. (Engraving after Dighton, published by R. Sayer, 1791)

29. Sergeant-major Patrick Gould, 1st Royal Edinburgh Volunteers. The early 'armed associations' of middle-class volunteers wore infantry uniform, frequently of dark-blue which was considered more tasteful than the red of the regulars. Gould wears a 'round hat' with black fur crest and black and white plumes, blue coat with scarlet collar and cuff-flaps, gold lace, white waistcoat, breeches and stockings, black gaiters and crimson sash. Drill-sergeant of his unit, as a tribute to his efforts he was awarded a pension and allowed to wear uniform for the remainder of his life. His duties were arduous as the Edinburgh gentry did not easily accept the impersonality of drilling in the ranks; as a colleague of his remarked, it was easier to instruct five fools than one philosopher! (Engraving by John Young after George Watson, 1794)

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30. The infantry knapsack was made of canvas, usually painted with a regimental badge, and equipped with buff-leather shoulder-straps and connecting breast-strap. This example is painted tan with a red disc edged black, yellow and white crown, green thistle with white head and white letters identifying it with the 10th North British (Edinburgh County) Militia *c.* 1798–1803. This useful pattern was replaced from *c.* 1805 by the invention of the contractor whose name it bears, Trotter, which was a box of black lacquered canvas, stiffened with wood, smart but difficult to wear, the wooden frame cutting into the spine and producing an ailment termed 'pack palsy'; it was used by the British Army until 1871.

31. Major William Howe DeLancey, 45th Foot, *c.* 1800, wearing a uniform which includes laced lapels, but without the usual loop or button on the collar. A major at approximately eighteen years of age (the date of his birth is uncertain), after two or three years as a regimental officer DeLancey transferred to staff duties, in which he remained until his death at Waterloo.

32. Battalion company officer, 2nd (Queen's) Regiment, 1799. The uniform is slightly unusual in that the lapels are still open to expose the lower waistcoat, not closed to the waist as ordered in 1796. The 2nd wore blue facings and silver lace, and wore upright collars as early as 1784, long before these became regulation. The bicorn hat bears the white-over-red plume which from about this date became universal for battalion companies; and contrary to usual practice, in 1803 the light company officers of the 2nd did not wear the usual shako. The oval silver belt-plate bore the numeral 2 within a crowned strap inscribed PRISTINAE VIRTUTIS MEMOR, Dayes in 1790 having depicted an oblong plate bearing a crown over QUEENS. (Print from the 'British Military Library' series published by J. Carpenter, 1799)

33. Battalion company officer, 56th (West Essex) Regiment, 1800. The regiment wore silver lace and unique purple facings, giving rise to the Essex Regiment's nickname of 'Pompadours'. The coat is fastened over to conceal the facing-colour; the plume is the regulation white over red, though William Loftie, *c.* 1796, shows a black plume and boots with a narrow scarlet top. The silver belt-plate bore a crown over the numeral 56 within a laurel wreath, with the battle-honour GIBRALTAR below, probably only on the plates of the 1st Battalion. (Print from the 'British Military Library' series, 1800)

34. Officer, 7th Royal Fuzileers, 1800, showing the fusilier cap (similar to that of the grenadiers), lapels closed to the waist, scaled epaulette-straps and clubbed hair, the pigtail folded up in the manner of grenadier companies. (Print from the 'British Military Library' eries, 1800)

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FROM 1801 TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 1812 UNIFORM

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35. Plate of the 1800 stovepipe shako, made of stamped brass. Some regiments added their number or regimental insignia to the 'general pattern' illustrated.

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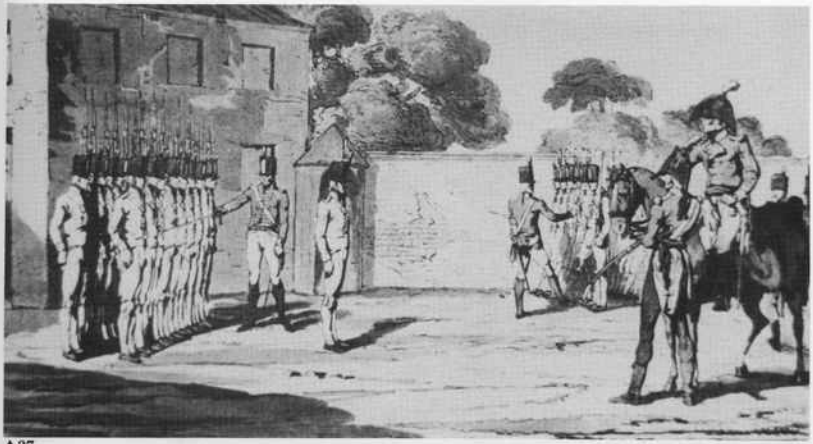
36. Corporal Anton Lutz, Minorca Regiment, with the Colour of the French 21st *Demi-Brigade Légère* which he captured at Alexandria. This shows the typical infantry uniform of 1800, with the new short jacket and stovepipe shako. In 1801 the Minorca Regiment (formed 1798 from captured Swiss troops) became the Queen's Germans, and in 1804 the 97th Foot. Their facings were yellow (changed to blue when titled 'Queen's') and the lace white with a central black stripe. Lutz wears a white-over-red plume much larger than usual and an embroidered representation of the Colour he captured upon his left breast; originally this badge was worn upon the right arm. (Engraving after Reinagle, 1803)



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37. Infantry drilling, 1806. This is a rare depiction of the undress uniform, worn for fatigues and drill, consisting of a white sleeved waistcoat, white breeches and stockings, and the ordinary stovepipe cap. The officers and sergeants wear the scarlet uniform, the dismounted officer having the blue breeches worn for other than 'dress' occasions, being prescribed morning wear in some regiments. The corporal in front of the two ranks of privates is the 'fugelman' or 'file-leader', an experienced soldier whose movements were watched and copied by the remainder. (Print after J. A. Atkinson, published 1807)

38. Baggage of an infantry battalion, 1807. Heavy baggage and even families would be transported on the march in such wagons. The men here wear the stovepipe shako, and some have long, white overall trousers, used in summer and on campaign from the late 1790s. The officer at the right appears to have a goatskin shabraque. (Aquatint after J. A. Atkinson)

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39. A typical officer's coat of the pre-1812 style, as worn throughout the Peninsular War, shown here with the lapels folded back to reveal the buff facing-colour; alternately it was worn with the lapels fastened over, concealing the facing, or with the top of each lapel folded over to reveal facing-coloured 'triangles' at the top of the breast. Whether or not officers' uniforms were laced depended upon regimental practice; the 1802 regulations stated that '. . . if the Colonel thinks proper either Gold or Silver Embroidered or Laced Button Holes are permitted', but the practice was not rigidly defined.

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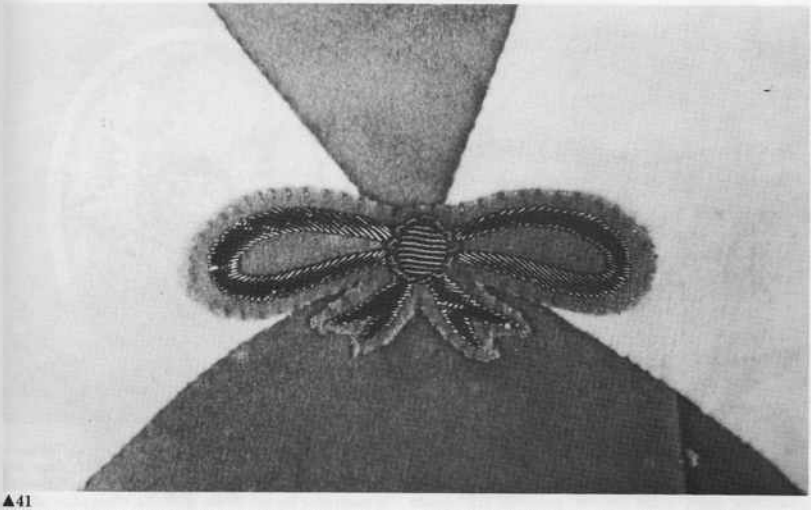
40. Reverse of an officer's coat of pre-1812 style. The horizontal pocket-flaps were dummies; the actual pockets were the vertical slits in the lower coat-tails.



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41. Turnback badge on an officer's coat: a typical knot decoration in silver wire upon scarlet backing. Flank companies often used a grenade or bugle badge on the turnbacks, while some regiments had more elaborate devices.

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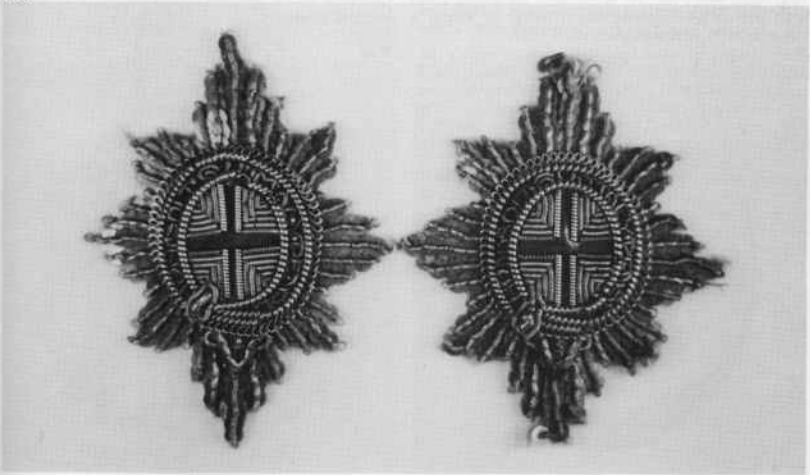
42. Officer's turnback badges of a unit using the star of the Order of the Garter as an insignia: made of tinsel, gold wire and sequins, typical of the regimental devices that might be carried on the turnbacks.



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43. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 18th (Royal Irish) Regiment, of a pattern probably worn throughout the Napoleonic Wars. Gilded overall, with the harp and shamrock upon blue enamel ground. The motto 'Virtutis Namurcensis Praemium' was awarded by William III, but the appropriate battle-honour 'Namur' was not authorized until 1910, 215 years after the event.

44. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment; silver overall, it replaced an oblong plate with cut corners bearing the numeral 12 within a circle in 1799, and was worn until 1816.

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45. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment. Matted gilt with silver star, rim and numeral, the number on a black ground traditionally in mourning for the death of Wolfe. Grenadier officers had a silver grenade with the numeral 22 on the ball at the top of the star, and light company officers probably a corresponding bugle device.

46. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 48th (Northamptonshire) Regiment, worn from the late 1790s until 1820. Gilt with silver rim and silver numerals 48 upon a hatched ground.

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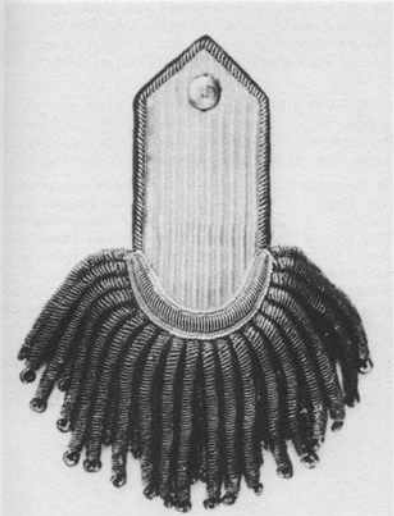

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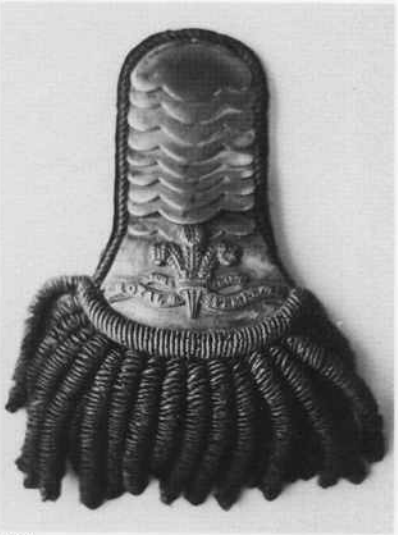

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47. Officer's epaulette of typical construction, as used from about 1800 when the 'crescent' at the point of the shoulder became formed. Made of metallic lace with bullion fringe, some regiments wore company or regimental insignia on the strap even before the official introduction of rank markings.

48. Officer's silver epaulette bearing light infantry bugle badge. Rank-badges had been used by some regiments for many years before they were authorized officially in 1810, when company officers were instructed to wear a single epaulette on the right shoulder; an order that subalterns should have fringe instead of bullions, lasting only from 1810 to 1811, may never have been enforced. Field officers wore two epaulettes with badges on the strap of a star for majors, a crown for lieutenant-colonels and a star and crown for colonels. Light infantry wore wings on both shoulders, with field officers' epaulettes atop the wings.

49. Officer's epaulette, Royal Pembrokeshire Militia. Such fusilier regiments often used metal-scaled epaulette-straps, this example pre-dating the unit's conversion to light infantry in 1810.

50. Officer's hat, *c.* 1810. Bound with black tape, with a pleated black cockade and gold loop, and crimson-and-gold corner tassels, this hat of typical design has a large white-over-red feather plume as worn in full dress.

51. Officer's undress hat, one of an extant pair which appear to demonstrate a regimental distinction between full and undress; this version has a short white-over-red feather tuft, and no corner-tassels.

52. Sergeant Patrick Masterson of the 87th capturing the 'Eagle' of the French 8th Line Regiment at Barossa, 18 April 1811; print after Denis Dighton. This depicts the typical uniform of the Peninsular army, including stovepipe cap and gaiter-trousers buttoned on the outer seam. The latter were one of several styles of service-dress legwear worn at this time, until a loose, grey overall became universal in about 1812. Masterson's campaign equipment includes knapsack with rolled blanket above, fabric haversack, and a canteen at the right side; like all 'battalion' sergeants he has a waist-sash and is armed with a spontoon and straight-bladed sword.

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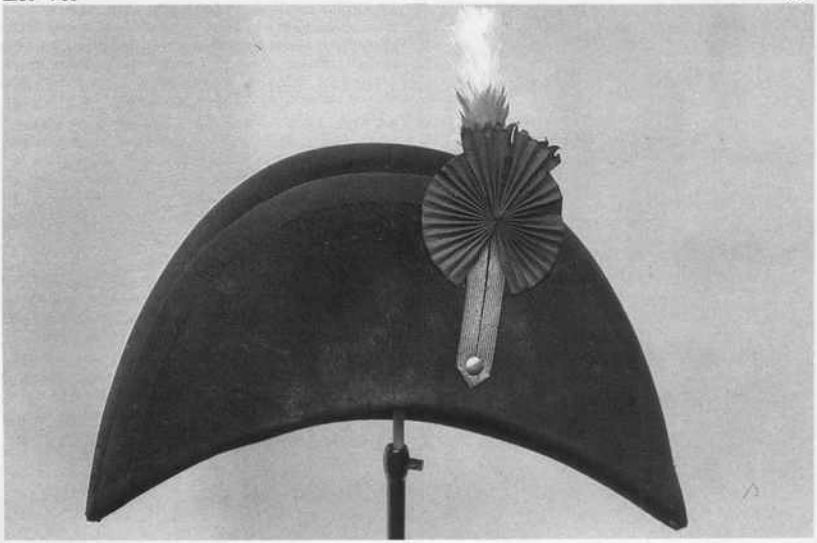

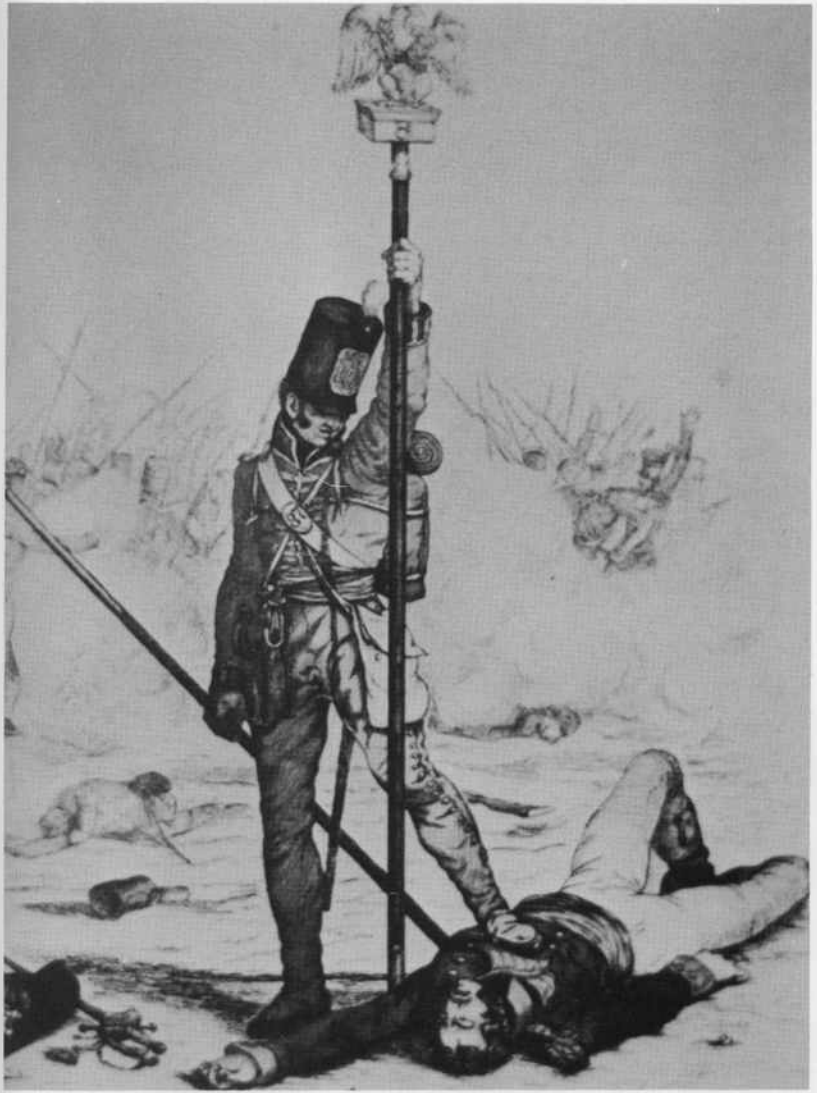

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53. Death of Sir John Moore at Corunna, 1809. The infantryman wears a caped grey greatcoat and white overalls; he has the green plume of a light company and non-regulation shako-cords. The waist-belt, worn with an additional pouch by some light companies, was probably made regimentally from spare musket-slings. (Aquatint by T. Sutherland after W. Heath)

54. Infantry on the march. Thomas Rowlandson's cartoon is not greatly exaggerated: large numbers of wives and 'followers' might accompany a unit on campaign. Such a scene would be typical in the early Peninsular War: the men wear one-piece gaiter-trousers buttoned on the outer seam.

55. Sergeant Patrick Masterson of the 87th, capturing the 'Eagle' of the French 8th Line Regiment from *Sous-Lieutenant* Edme Guillemin at Barossa. This print by Clark & Dubourg was published four years after the event, but depicts accurately the 87th's uniform, though the French are shown in the uniform of 1812, a year too late. Note the regimental number painted on the rear of the knapsack and on the light-blue, drum-shaped canteen.

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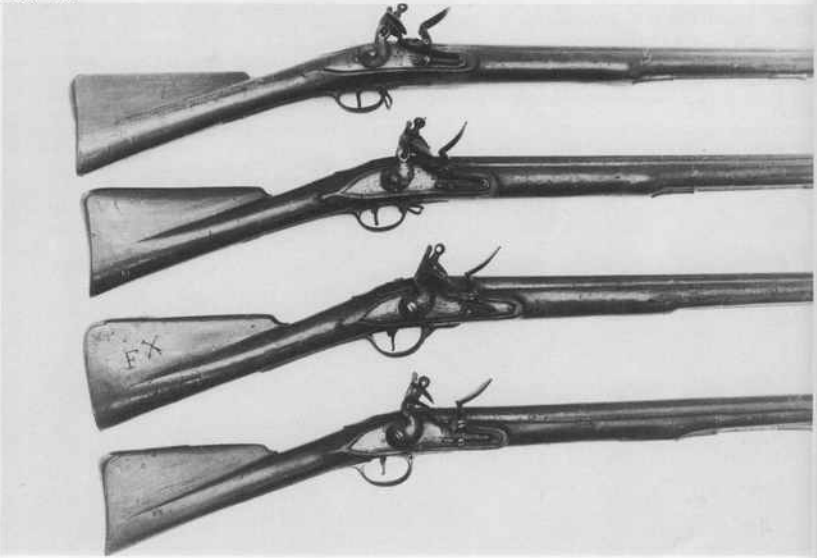

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56. The storming of San Sebastian, 1813; a contemporary print showing the continued use of the pre-1812 uniform, here in what might be termed 'fighting order': the minimum of equipment, with even haversacks discarded. Officers wear blue or grey greatcoats, allowing them to be identified amid the smoke and confusion of battle. The leader of the 'forlorn hope' at this action, Lieutenant Maguire of the 4th (King's Own), wore a bicorn with white feather 'to make himself conspicuous and recognizable'; it was too conspicuous and he was killed at the breach.

57. The 'Brown Bess' musket, a generic term for a number of different patterns of flintlock, the universal arm of the British army throughout the Napoleonic Wars. From top to bottom: the India pattern with 39-inch barrel, as carried in the Peninsular War; similar weapon, both with the reinforced cock introduced in 1809; Sea Service musket with 37-inch barrel and unreinforced cock; Eliott-pattern carbine with 24½-inch barrel. (Wallis & Wallis)

58. The flintlock mechanism, here on a musket bearing the stamp of Dublin castle. A flint was screwed into the jaws of the cock or hammer, shown here on half-cock, the cock drawn back only sufficiently to allow the pan to be closed. For ignition, the flint struck the vertical iron projection or frizzen, which would be knocked back, opening the pan; sparks from the flint ignited the powder in the pan, and via the touch-hole communicated a spark to ignite the charge in the barrel.

59. The infantry sword adopted in 1796 by all officers: gilded hilt (here with one shell-guard folded to facilitate carrying), grip bound with silver wire, blued-and-gilt blade, leather scabbard with gilt metal fittings. This is an especially ornate version, presented to Lieutenant-Colonel Kirkby Torre of the 2nd West Yorkshire Militia by his subalterns, 'as a mark of the high respect and esteem which they bear towards him'. (Wallis & Wallis)

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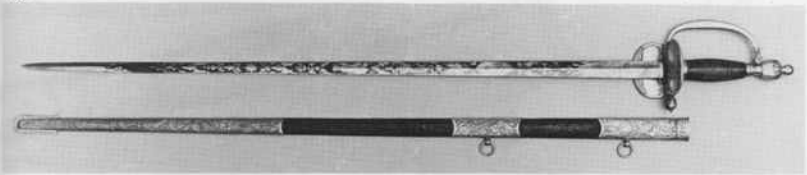

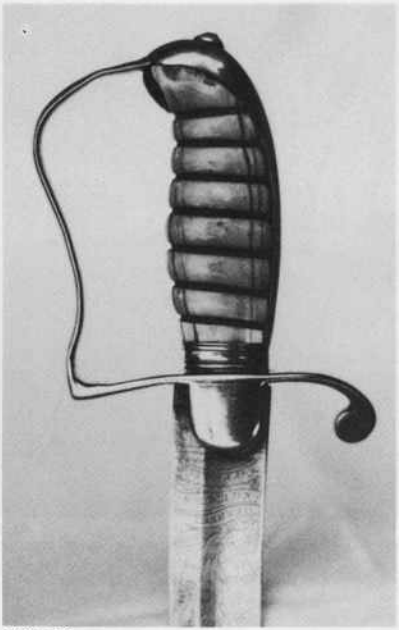

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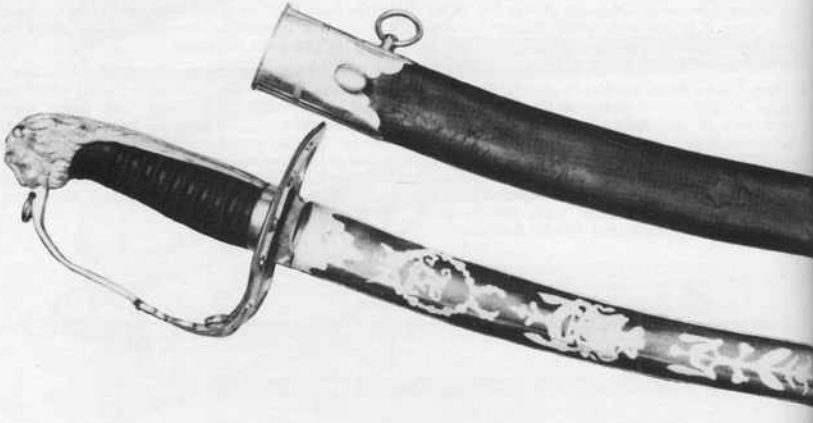

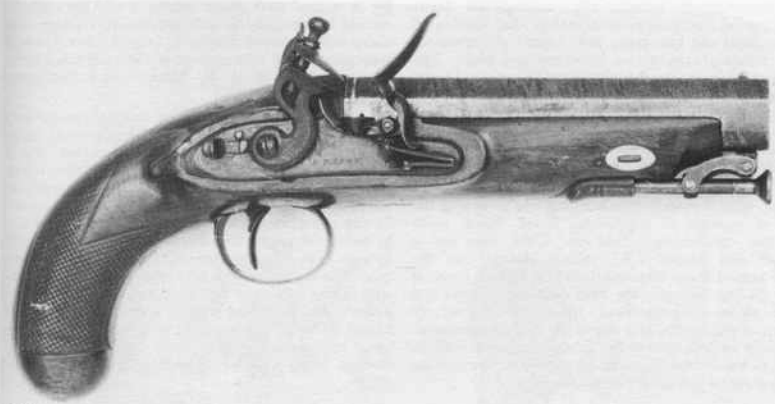

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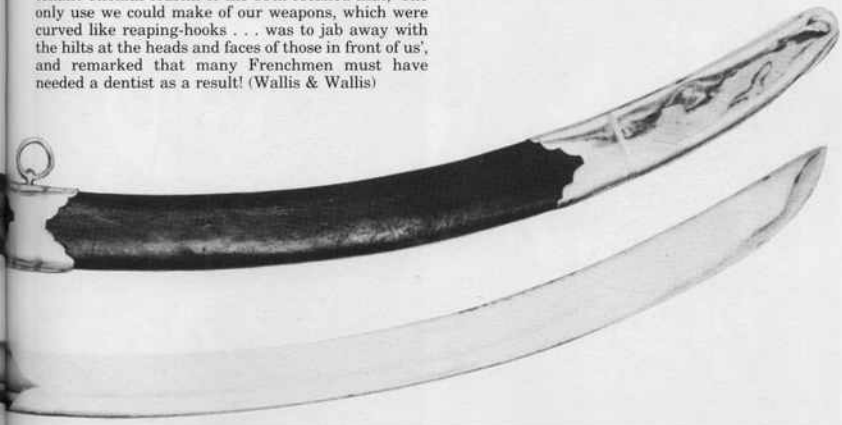
60. Flank company officers often carried sabres, though no pattern was regulated until 1803. This version is typical, having a brass stirrup-hilt and scabbard and a wide, curved blade, with ivory grip; the blade is etched with the badge of the Royal East India Company Volunteers.

61. Flank company sabre, of the pattern regulated in 1803: gilded hilt with black leather grip bound with copper wire, blued-and-gilt blade, black leather scabbard with gilt fittings. The curved blade was 'better calculated to shave a lady's-maid than a Frenchman's head', and universally disliked; Lieutenant Thomas Austin of the 35th recalled that, 'The only use we could make of our weapons, which were curved like reaping-hooks . . . was to jab away with the hilts at the heads and faces of those in front of us', and remarked that many Frenchmen must have needed a dentist as a result! (Wallis & Wallis)

62. Guard of the 1803 flank company sabre; all featured the crowned royal cypher motif, sometimes with a grenade or bugle as appropriate.

63. Officer's pistol. On campaign most officers carried at least one pistol, usually privately acquired; this example with swivel ramrod has a short barrel enabling it to be carried in a greatcoat pocket. It bears the inscription E. PATON, ARMOURER 42ND REGT. (Wallis & Wallis)



64. Presentation swords were among the finest examples of Georgian craftsmanship: that illustrated has a silver-gilt hilt, ivory grip, copper-gilt scabbard with fishskin inserts and blued-and-gilt blade. The scabbard bears an inscription to Captain Daniel Mackinnon, 2nd Foot Guards, 1812, one of the Peninsular army's great 'characters' whose practical jokes included impersonating the Duke of York and disguising himself as a nun to gain entry to a convent. (Wallis & Wallis)

65. No official system of rewarding the rank-and-file existed, except at regimental level. Some units awarded merit-badges (like the 52nd, who had a wreath and letters 'V.S.' (valiant stormer) on the right arm of those who survived the 'forlorn hope' of Rodrigo and Badajos; the 28th awarded crowns and stars above rank-chevrons, the 72nd long-service stripes of regimental lace above the cuff, for example); but most awards were in the form of engraved medals, such as this silver example presented to the leading marksman of the 32nd's light company.

66. A typical bass drum, which would normally be carried horizontally despite its unwieldy shape. The elaborately painted design is typical, this example belonging to the 97th (Inverness-shire Highlanders). (Photograph from H. B. Mackintosh's regimental history, published 1926)

67. Drum-major, pioneer, fifer and drummer, 66th Foot, pre-1812. The drum-major wears 'gosling green' with red facings and silver lace (the 'reversed colours' of musicians), crimson sash with green stripe, silver-laced green baldric, and silver-laced bicorn with red feathering and white-over-red plume. The pioneer's fur cap has a brass plate bearing crossed axe and saw; he has a red jacket with white lace and wings, green facings, brown leather apron and black leather axe-case. The drummer and fifer wear 'reversed colours' with white lace, and fur caps with brass plate and white cords. Reversed colours were officially discontinued in 1811, but seem to have been retained by some regiments for some time. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith, published 1815)

▲64 ▼65

▼66 67▶

68. A rare example of an officer's undress cap, for which no regulation pattern existed. This example, made of silver lace with silver tassel and glazed black peak, was worn by Lieutenant-Colonel Lee of the Staincross Local Militia (West Yorkshire).

69. Recruiting: a print by George Walker from his *Costume of Yorkshire* (1814), showing a recruiting-party plying labourers with drink. The ribbon-decorated flat oatcake impaled upon the sergeant's sword was a symbol of the adequate food promised to recruits by the 33rd (West Riding) Regiment, their traditional temptation. The sergeant wears the pre-1812 stovepipe shako and the red facings of the 33rd, his sash thus being all-red, lacking the usual facing-coloured central stripe.

▲68 ▼69

A

B

C

A. A typical infantry uniform at the beginning of the Revolutionary Wars: a battalion company private of the 2nd Foot Guards. Similar to the uniform worn in the late American War, it comprised a long-skirted scarlet coat (brick-red for the rank-and-file of line regiments) with collar, cuffs and lapels of the regimental 'facing colour', a bicorn hat, white breeches (buff for regiments with buff facings) and black gaiters. Upright collars were confirmed in 1796, but had been worn for some years by many regiments. Until 1796 the lapels were worn open, exposing the waistcoat. The Guards wore blue facings and white lace; for other regiments, the lace had an interwoven, coloured pattern. Lace on the upper edge of the cuff was a distinction of Guards regiments; the hat has white lace 'ties' and a white plume with black tip. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes, 1792).

B. Battalion company sergeant, 2nd Foot Guards. Sergeants were distinguished by a waist-sash of crimson, usually with a stripe of the facing-colour, a 'shoulder-knot' or epaulette, a sword instead of a musket and a halberd (as illustrated), which was exchanged for a half-pike or 'spontoon' in 1792. This uniform shows the unique sergeants' distinctions of the Foot Guards, who had gold lace and epaulette-fringe and (for the 2nd) a plain crimson sash. Lace loops were in pairs for the 2nd Guards (singles for the 1st and threes for the 3rd); the hat has gold 'ties' and a white plume with black tip. This sergeant has his cane suspended from a lapel-button, a Germanic practice. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes, 1792)

C. Battalion company officer, 2nd Foot Guards. Officers' uniforms resembled those of the rank-and-file, but with metallic lace loops (and edging to the facings for Foot Guards), epaulettes, crimson sash, gorget at the neck, and sword. Blue facings and gold lace were the distinctions of all Guards regiments, buttons in pairs being unique to the 2nd. The gilt gorget bears the royal arms in silver and has facing-coloured silk rosettes; the belt-plate bears the Garter star in full colour on a gilt ground. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes,1792)

▲D ▼F

▼G ▲E ▼H

D. Grenadier, 2nd Foot Guards. Grenadier companies wore the uniform of the battalion companies, with certain distinctive features, notably a fur cap and 'wings' (cloth projections decorated with lace) on the shoulders. This Guardsman wears the blue facings and white, pointed lace loops in pairs of the 2nd Guards, and the regiment's distinctive pattern of cap with white cords and plume, both traditional grenadier distinctions, the plume reputedly representing the smoke of an exploding grenade. Above his belt-plate is carried a brass match-case, a decorative relic of the days when a glowing taper was held in a metal case, with which to ignite the fuzes of hand-grenades. The knapsack is painted in regimental colours, blue with a white star bearing a blue Garter and red cross. The wings are blue, with white lace and worsted fringe. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes, 1792)

E. Grenadier sergeant, 2nd Foot Guards. This sergeant wears the regimental grenadier uniform with NCO distinctions, gold lace, gold fringe over the wings, gold cap-cords and a plain crimson sash. Unlike battalion sergeants, those of the grenadiers were armed with fusils instead of polearms, and thus wore two shoulder belts like the rank-and-file. The large fur cap with brass royal arms badge was unique to the 2nd Guards; the other Guards wore different patterns. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes, 1792)

F. Grenadier, East Yorkshire Militia, 1797. This interesting variation includes square-cut wings, a brass grenade on the belt, and a flat-topped brown fur cap with white cords and plume, a pattern worn by several regiments including the 15th Foot. The East York wore yellow facings and white lace with an interwoven red line between two black lines. The white one-piece gaiter-trousers were common around the turn of the century. (Engraving by Dadley after Edmund Scott, from the latter's *Manual Exercise & Costumes*, London, 1797).

G. Drummer, 2nd Foot Guards, 1792 Drummers' uniforms were normally ornamented with lace chevrons on the sleeves, with additional lace for the Foot Guards on breast, back and collar, which had a fringe. This lace was white with interwoven blue fleurs-de-lys; for the 3rd Foot Guards (whose drummers had red plumes) the lace was either blue, edged white, with yellow fleurs-de-lys, or white, edged yellow, with blue fleurs-de-lys. Drum-hoops were red, white and blue diagonal stripes with red top and bottom edge for the 1st Guards, white with red edge and blue wavy line for the 2nd, and plain red for the 3rd. Note that the drum-belt also has a lace covering. (Engraving by T. Kirk after Edward Dayes)

H. 'The Billeted Soldier's Departure': an engraving by G. Graham after George Morland, *c.* 1791. The drummer wears 'reversed colours', the usual uniform of line infantry musicians: the body of the coat in the facing colour, with collar, lapels and cuffs in red. The drum bears the royal arms, and the private carries a bearskin knapsack.

▲I

I. Light infantry private, 1791. The uniform of light companies was dependent upon regimental preference, but most included a short-tailed jacket with wings (often cut-down from the ordinary coat), short gaiters and stockings, often red waistcoats and a leather cap, often with a peak and bunch of feathers or even an animal-tail. It was remarked frequently that light company caps were made too small, looking smart but falling off with sudden movement, requiring to be tied on by a string passing beneath the soldier's club or pig-tail. (Engraving by F.D. Soiron after H. Bunbury)

▲J

▲L

J. Battalion company private, St. George's (Hanover Square) Volunteers, 1798. Typical of the blue uniform chosen by the gentlemen-volunteers of many 'armed associations', the St. George's had red facings, white piping, and red-over-white plumes. Their pouches bore a badge of St. George and dragon, with a crown and GR above and rose and thistle below, with the patriotic motto PRO REGE, LEGE ET PATRIA. The light company wore short jackets, short gaiters, and a Tarleton light dragoon helmet with black turban, green plume at the left and a bugle badge at the right. One of the best metropolitan corps, the St. George's was more than 700 strong. (Engraving after Thomas Rowlandson)

K. Light company private, Bank of England Volunteers, 1798. This volunteer wears typical light infantry uniform, a short red jacket with green facings and white piping, green shoulder-straps and red wings with gold edging and a Tarleton light dragoon helmet with fur crest and green turban and plume. A badge of Britannia with BANK VOLUNTEERS around was borne upon the cartridge-box. Other companies wore longtailed coats, the 'battalion' men with a fur-crested round hat and white-over-red plume, and grenadiers a fur cap with white plume. The corps was formed from Bank employees in 1798, specifically to protect the Bank against invasion or riot. (Engraving after Thomas Rowlandson)

L. Left to right: Grenadier, 4th (King's Own); trooper, 1st Dragoons; battalion company sergeant, Highlanders. The most radical change in the infantry uniform occurred between 1796 and 1800; in the former year the rank-and-file adopted short-tailed jackets, closed to the waist, with lapels abolished in

▲M

1797; and in 1800 the 'stovepipe' shako was adopted, a cylindrical, lacquered leather cap with peak (made of felt from 1806), bearing a large, brass plate, with a plume of white-over-red for battalion companies, white for grenadiers and green for light infantry. An apparent error in this illustration are the shoulder-straps with worsted tufts of battalion companies, instead of the wings correctly worn by grenadiers. The NCO wears his sash Highland-style, over the left shoulder. (Print from Goddard & Booth's *Military Costume of Europe*, 1812)

M. Foot Guards, 1807. Left to right: light company, 2nd; grenadier, 3rd; battalion company private. Grenadiers continued to wear the fur cap in full dress despite the adoption of the stovepipe shako in 1800. Note the large bunch of black ribbons worn by the light company corporal below his clubbed hair; the cartridge-box plate identifies the 2nd Guards. (Print after J.A. Atkinson)

N. Sergeant Hooper of the grenadier company of the South Gloucestershire Militia, *c.* 1805, a contemporary watercolour portrait. The uniform includes typical 'flank company' distinctions: fur cap with white cords and plume, square-cut wings as seen at the turn of the century, and more lace on the breast than usual. The facings were dark-blue and the lace white with an interwoven yellow and a red line.

O. Bandmaster, 1805, wearing the crimson 'state dress' coat covered with gold lace, worn by Guards drum-majors and state trumpeters; but for the bicorn hat (replaced by the velvet jockey-cap worn by the trumpeters in the background), it resembles closely the state dress of the drum-majors of the modern Brigade of Guards. (Aquatint after William Miller)

▲N ▼O

▲P

P. Field officer, 25th (King's Own Borderers), 1812, wearing the long-tailed coat with blue facings and gold lace loops; the hat has a very short white-over-red tuft and gold loop, and the non-regulation 'mameluke' sabre is suspended from a cavalry-style waist-belt. (Print after Goddard & Booth)

▲Q

Q. Privates of the 23rd (Royal Welch Fuzileers) and 6th (1st Warwickshire) Regiments, in the 1812 uniform. The Warwickshire wears 'battalion' uniform with white-over-red plume and white worsted shoulder-tufts; the fusilier wears the full-dress fur cap with white cords and plume, and the peak it bore latterly. The fusilier's wings are red, the usual line infantry style, unlike those of the Foot Guards which were blue. Both wear grey service-dress overalls. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler from Charles Hamilton Smith's *Costume of the Army of the British Empire*)

R. Ensign, Foot Guards, full dress, 1814. The officer wears the gold-laced, long-tailed state coatee, a gold-laced bicorn and white gaiters; his King's Colour illustrates how voluminous were such flags. In the background is a musician wearing the state coat and black velvet jockey-cap, and a Negro percussionist in mock-oriental uniform with turban. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

S. Officer and private, 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry,1814. The classic light infantry uniform is illustrated here, with the stovepipe shako retained throughout (the Belgic cap never being adopted), with brass bugle badge and green plume. From the turn of the century light infantry officers wore short jackets with a corded crimson sash instead of the pattern with hanging tails as worn by line regiments. Regiments with buff facings like the 52nd wore buff turnbacks and breeches. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

T. Officer, 79th (Cameron) Highlanders, 1812. The green facings and gold lace of the 79th, and the Highland sash (worn over the shoulder by officers and NCOs) have been rendered accurately, but the tartan has defeated the colourist; the 79th wore 'Cameron of Erracht', basically the Macdonald sett, minus three red lines, with a yellow overstripe. (Engraving from Goddard & Booth's *Military Costume of Europe*)

U. Privates of the 60th and 95th Rifles, 1813. Both wear dark-green 'rifle' uniform with white-metal buttons and fittings, green shako-cords and plume and black leather equipment. Regimental distinctions were black facings and white piping for the 95th, and scarlet facings and dark-blue breeches for the 60th's 'rifle' battalions (their first four battalions wore scarlet infantry uniform, faced blue). The 95th rifleman is shown here wearing green overalls, though grey would be common on campaign. The 60th's blue breeches may have had scarlet piping at this period, as worn earlier. Both are armed with the 'Baker' rifle. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

▲R ▼S

▲T ▼U

▲V

V. Privates of the rifle companies, North Yorkshire Militia, 1814. The North York's rifle companies were formed in 1795, and were thus the first British units to be so equipped, though their uniforms were not initially as dark a shade as that adopted ultimately by the regular rifle corps. With black facings and shoulder-tufts, the uniform included an unusual breast-pocket for accommodation of the powder-flask, and initially a hatchet in a black leather case on the waist-belt, but otherwise resembled that of the regulars. (Engraving by R. & D. Havell after George Walker)

W. Officer probably of the Royal Emigrants, one of many French emigrant corps formed after the Revolution to continue their fight against the republican regime. This silhouette (probably by John Buncombe) shows typical British light infantry uniform, scarlet with blue facings and gold lace, and an epaulette of gold lace with blue and silver inner line and silver star. Many light infantry units emulated light cavalry styles, hence the Tarleton helmet with green plume and leopardskin turban, with gilt fittings and a gold tassel at the rear.

▲W ▼X

X. The most unusual British infantry corps were the two regiments of Greek Light infantry, raised in 1809 and 1812 in the Ionian Islands; both were disbanded in 1814. Their Greek dress comprised a red jacket and waistcoat with yellow lace and facings for the 1st and green for the 2nd, a white *fustanella* (skirt) and breeches, low boots and red stockings (trimmed yellow for the 1st). The red skullcap shown here has a green tuft and brass plate; other illustrations show a white *pagri* wrapped around the cap. Equipped as riflemen, these men appear to carry a German *Hirschfänger* (hunting-knife) instead of a British sword-bayonet. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

4
1812 TO 1815

70. A pair of officers' coats illustrating the change in pattern introduced by the 1812 regulations, which decreed short-skirted jackets for officers, as had been worn by the rank-and-file since 1797. The regulations took some time to be implemented. Both these examples belong to Local Militia corps: left 2nd Aberdeenshire with yellow facings, white piping and silver buttons; right, Oldham Local Militia, 1808-12, scarlet with blue facings, white turnbacks fastened with a blue cloth star, gilt buttons and gold epaulettes (Wallis & Wallis)

▲71

71. Infantry jackets. Right: officer, Aberdeenshire Volunteers, pre-1809 (presumably a short-tailed jacket worn by the light company), scarlet with yellow facings and silver buttons. Left: sergeant of an unidentified unit, scarlet with blue facings and shoulder-straps, white turnbacks, silver lace and shoulder-fringe (an unusual NCO distinction). ▼72

73▶

Shoulder-knots as badges of NCO rank were officially replaced in 1802 by chevrons on the right arm, of four, three and two for sergeant-major, sergeant and corporal respectively, usually metallic lace for sergeant-majors and regimental lace for others, but regimental variants existed. Usually the chevrons were set upon facing-coloured backing. (Wallis & Wallis)

72. Officer's shako, 1812 pattern. The 'Belgic' pattern authorized in March 1812 had a false front 8¼ inches high and a rear 6¾ inches high, the front bound with black tape. The cords were crimson and gold for officers, green for some light companies and white for others; two tassels were at the right side, and a black cockade and plume at the left. Worsted for other ranks and feathers for officers; the latter was white for grenadiers, green for light companies and white over red for the remainder, though regimental variants included white plumes for the 5th Foot and red for the 46th's light company. The cap was black felt (beaver for officers) with leather peak, and covered by black oilskin on campaign.

73. Officer's jacket, 60th (Royal American) Regiment, c. 1812–14: the red uniform with blue facings, white piping and turnbacks, silver buttons and epaulette, worn by the 60th's 'ordinary' battalions. The jacket is of the 1812 pattern, with a gold crown upon the epaulette, the rank-badge of a lieutenant-colonel. (Wallis & Wallis)

▲74

▲75

74. The universal pattern of plate for the 1812 shako, gilt for officers and brass for others. Many regiments wore distinctive badges on the plate, and from 1814 some light companies replaced it with a separate bugle-badge and the regimental number.

75. Officer's shako-plate, 2nd (Coldstream) Foot Guards, 1812–16. Gilt, bearing a silver Garter star with gilt strap backed with blue enamel, with a red enamel cross.

76. Officer's shako-plate, 21st (Royal North British) Fuzileers, 1812–15. Though fusilier regiments wore the fur cap in full dress, the shako was the ordinary wear; this plate is an example of the simplest regimental variation, the reversed 'GR' cypher with the regimental number.

77. Officer's shako, 23rd (Royal Welch) Fuzileers, 1812–15. This 'Belgic' cap bears a particularly elaborate version of the shako-plate, gilt with silver regimental devices of a scroll inscribed MINDEN, sphinx, GR and Prince of Wales's plumes; the straps in the centre bear the Garter motto (left) and regimental title (right), and the number is carried beneath the sphinx. A simpler version existed, bearing the cypher over the feathers and sphinx, over the numerals XXIII. (Wallis & Wallis)

◀76

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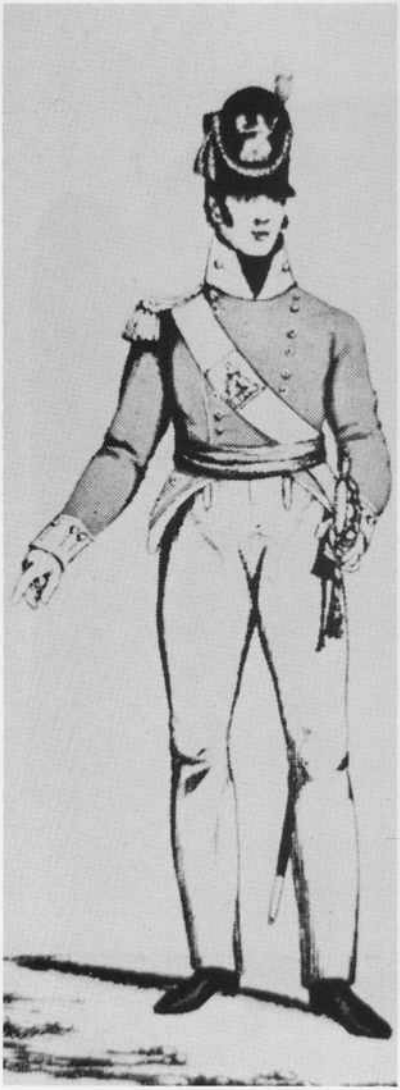

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78. Battalion company officer, 9th (East Norfolk) Regiment, wearing the 1812 uniform. The regimental Britannia motif is worn on the belt-plate and shako, though on the latter it is likely to have been carried on a conventional shield-shaped plate. The inhabitants of the Iberian Peninsula believed this regiment to be formed from Roman Catholics, mistaking Britannia for the Virgin Mary! (Engraving from Goddard & Booth's *Military Costume of Europe*)

79. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Henry Sullivan, 2nd Foot Guards (killed at Bayonne, 1814). This print shows the gilt metal or gold lace binding around the false front of the 1812 shako, worn initially by Foot Guards officers, but later replaced by the usual black tape. (Aquatint by W. Bond after H. Edridge, 1812)

80. Ensign William Pitt, 1st Battalion 2nd (Coldstream) Guards, a casualty at Bayonne on 14 April 1814. This shows to excellent effect the broad gold lace binding worn on the facings and breast of Foot Guards officers' uniforms; the gilt gorget has blue rosettes and the gilt belt-plate bears a silver star with gilt Garter backed with blue enamel, surrounding a red cross. (Wallis & Wallis)

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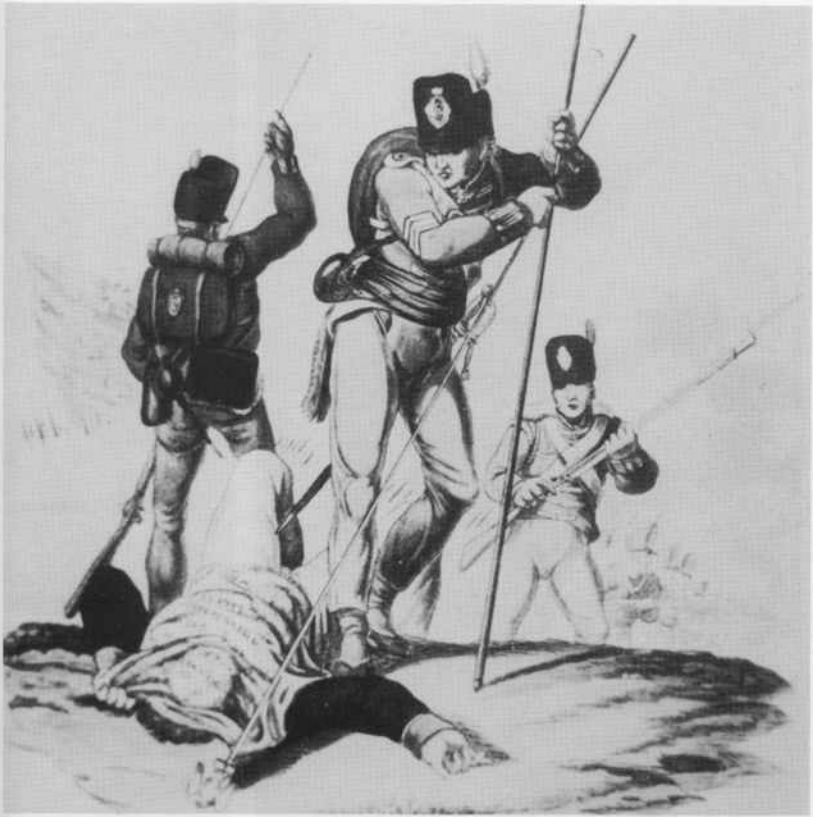
81. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 1st Foot Guards; gilded overall. The rectangular plate was introduced towards the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

82. A rare opportunity of comparing the uniform of flank companies of a single regiment: Captain Englebert Lutyens of the 20th (East Devonshire) wears the scarlet jacket with yellow facings with scarlet wings laced silver, bearing the light company's gilt bugle badge.

83. Officer's shoulder-belt plate, 3rd (Scots) Foot Guards. Gilt with silver star and green enamel backing to the strap and thistle. Among recorded variations are plates with a plain rim and circlet, and an earlier variety with green-enamelled thistle-leaves and red flower.

84. Lieutenant William Crokat in the uniform of the 20th's grenadiers: a similar uniform to Lutyens', but with the 'wing' bearing a gilt grenade. Although all the buttons are silver, Crokat appears to have a gilt button upon the collar. A captain in 1814, Crokat was the officer on duty at Longwood on the night of Napoleon's death.

85. Grenadier and light company privates, 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment, 1812. The light infantryman wears the 1812 shako without cords, and an unofficial waist-belt, probably manufactured regimentally from a spare musket-sling. The grenadier wears the full dress fur cap with white cords and plume; note the painted design on his knapsack. Both have the white breeches and black gaiters worn on home service instead of the grey campaign overalls. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)



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86. Battalion company privates, 1st Foot Guards, 1812, wearing the regulation service dress of that year. The shako bears a white-over-red plume, the brass plate having an embossed Garter star with GR reversed in the centre; the cartridge-box badge is also a crowned Garter with the cypher in the centre. The service-dress overalls are tucked into the gaiters; though it was equally common for them to be worn outside the gaiters, as was the practice in the line regiments. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

87. Grenadier corporal, 3rd (Scots) Foot Guards, 1815. An excellent depiction of the service dress as worn in the Waterloo campaign, including white plume and shoulder-rolls of the grenadiers, the lace in groups of three (unique to the Scots Guards) and full equipment, the light-blue canteen resting upon the haversack at the left, bearing a stencilled company-identification, and a mess-tin strapped to the rear of the knapsack. (Print after Carle Vernet)

88. Sergeant Patrick Masterson of the 87th at Barossa. Hamilton Smith's version of this famous incident shows the uniform of 1812, not that in use at the time. Curiously, the shako is shown without cords (removed for campaign dress?), and the inverted chevrons probably represent one of Hamilton Smith's rare errors rather than an otherwise unrecorded regimental variation. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler)

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89. Colour-sergeant of a battalion company, as shown by a French print of c. 1815. The shako lacks cords, conceivably removed for campaign; the sleeve-badge bears the colour-sergeant's badge over two chevrons, instead of the regulation single chevron. Arms consist of the spontoon or half-pike, and a sergeant's plain version of the 1796 officer's sword.

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90. Private (left) and sergeant, 1st Foot Guards, in marching order, 1812. In bad weather and on campaign the 1812 shako and plume were covered in oilskin, with a waterproof neck-curtain. The grey greatcoats had deep cuffs, with facing-coloured collar and cuffs for sergeants; the sergeant wears his sash over the greatcoat. Only the private carries a car-

▲91

tridge-box, as the sergeant carries a spontoon instead of a musket. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

91. Light company private, 5th (Northumberland) Regiment; a print published *chez Genty*, Paris, 1815. Though French popular prints are often inaccurate, the large green shako-plume is confirmed by the 1813 Inspection Return, which notes that all ranks had feather plumes instead of the usual worsted. The shako-plate bears the regimental number (many light companies never adopted the authorized bugle and separate numbers). The knapsack bears the regimental number in both Arabic and Roman numerals, a known regimental practice.

92. Captain George Webb DeRenzy, 82nd Foot. DeRenzy lost his right arm in the Peninsular War, and has fastened his jacket in the 'female' style (right lapel over left), doubtless to allow him to dress with greater ease, illustrating the degree of latitude in the interpretation of dress regulations. Scarlet faced yellow with silver lace and buttons; the silver belt-plate bears the Prince of Wales's plumes over the numeral 82 within an oval, predating the addition of honour-scrolls 'Peninsula' and 'Niagara' in 1815 and 1816 respectively. (Engraving by C. Turner after I. G. Strutt)

93. Battalion company officer in greatcoat, 1812. The officers' grey greatcoat was voluminous, with deep cuffs and separate cape, though many preferred civilian coats, capes and boat-cloaks. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

94. Grenadiers of the 2nd, 1st and 3rd Foot Guards (left to right) in full dress, 1812. The bearskin cap, with white ornaments, brass plate and small badge at the rear, was retained for full dress, and the long white gaiters for 'state dress'. Note the rolled coat carried diagonally on the back of the 3rd Guardsman. Blue facings and white lace were worn by all, with the following distinctions. *1st Guards*: 'bastion'-shaped lace spread singly, rectangular brass belt-plate bearing crowned Garter, brass crowned Garter on cartridge-box. *2nd (Coldstream) Guards*: pointed-ended loops in pairs; oval belt-plate bearing Garter star; Garter star on cartridge-box. *3rd (Scots) Guards*: pointed-ended loops in threes; oval belt-plate bearing star of the Order of the Thistle, and similar star on cartridge-box. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

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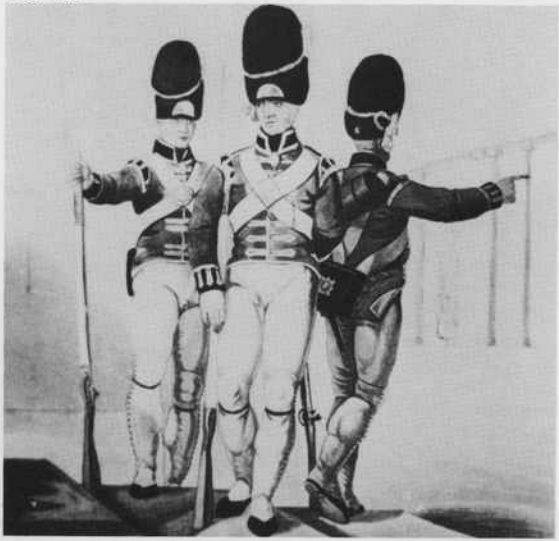

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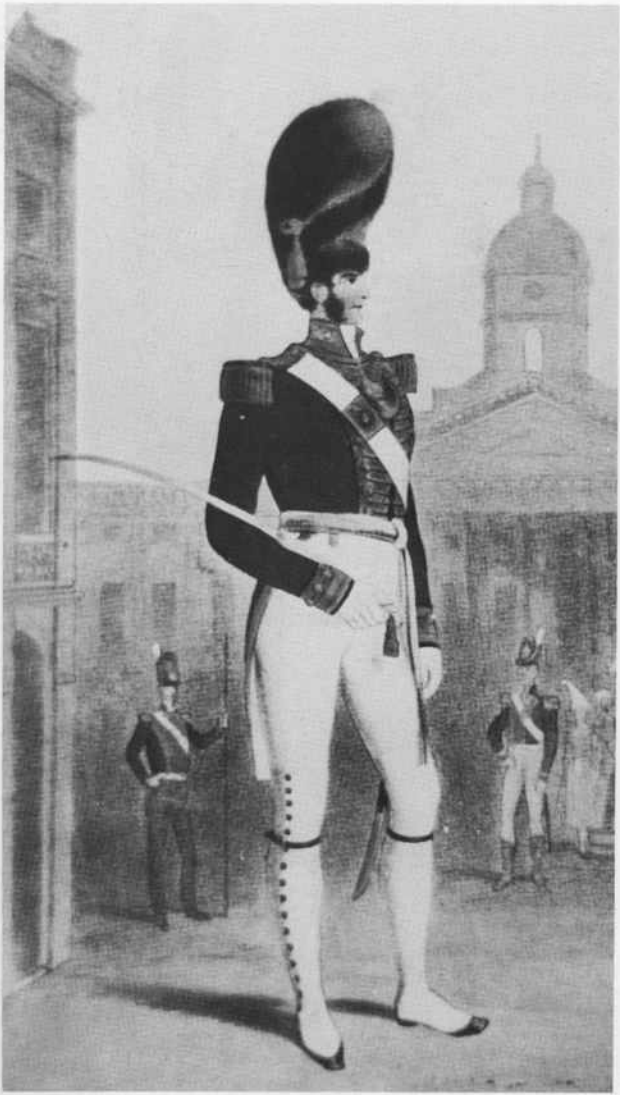
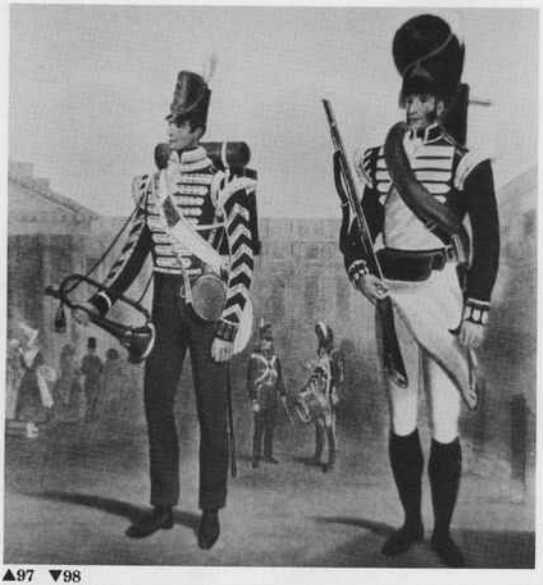
95. Grenadier, 3rd Foot Guards; a print published *chez Genty*, Paris, 1815. The full-dress cap is worn here with grey service-dress overalls; a crowned star of the Order of the Thistle is painted on the back of the knapsack.

96. Grenadier officer, 1st Foot Guards, 1815. In 'Guard Order' (for full dress occasions) officers wore the long-tailed state coatee with much gold lace, white gaiters, and the grenadier cap with white plume and gilt ornaments. (Print by B. Clayton)





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97. Bugler (left) and pioneer, 1st Foot Guards, 1815. Both wear the wings and white plume of the grenadier company, and broad loops on the breast. The pioneer has a white apron, a rolled blanket, a spade and pick on his back, a cartridge-box at the front on his waist-belt and a sheathed billhook at the left; his belts and musket-sling are of black leather. (Print after B. Clayton)

98. Discharged soldiers often retained their uniforms and wore them in their everyday work. This veteran of the 33rd (West Riding) Regiment (identified by his red facings) also wears an undress forage-cap of dark blue cloth in cylindrical form. He is seen working at the ruddle mine (ferric oxide) at Micklebring near Doncaster. (Print after George Walker, from his *Costume of Yorkshire*, 1814)

5
THE HIGHLAND REGIMENTS

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99. Early Highland regiments wore an infantry coat, a bonnet with diced band and feathers, and the traditional 'belted plaid' (*breacan-an-feile*), a kilt and plaid in one length. The *philabeg* or 'little kilt' which later replaced the belted plaid was often worn off duty. This engraving after John Kay, 1796, shows Samuel 'Big Sam' McDonald of the Sutherland Fencibles, a noted character and (at 6 feet 10 inches) 'strong man'. The unit wore yellow facings and 'government' or '42nd' tartan, now known as Black Watch. The ornaments on the shoulder may represent NCOs' shoulder-knots.

100. A Highland officer, 1800, showing the *breacan-an-feile* or belted plaid. The stockings are white with red checks. (Print from the 'British Military Library' series)

101. Officer, 42nd Highlanders, 1808. This print shows the classic Highland uniform, with the regimental red plume, additional ostrich-feathers on the huge bonnet, a goatskin sporran with crimson top with gilt fittings and gold tassels, and broadsword; the belted plaid has become a kilt with apparently a separate small shoulder-plaid.

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102. Officer, 42nd Highlanders, 1800. Note the two epaulettes, worn by all Highland officers; the white-over-red plume instead of the traditional red plume worn by the 42nd, which traditionally dates from 1795 (though white-over-red is shown in one case as late as 1806); and the sash worn around the waist, not over the shoulder as in the later Highland style. The officer has a stirrup-hilted sabre or spadroon instead of the classic broadsword. (Print from the 'British Military Library' series)

103. Sir James Grant of Grant, Colonel of the Strathspey Fencibles. Although Highland officers wore the short jacket instead of the tailed coat, the kilt was usually reserved for full dress, with breeches and boots or overalls for other occasions. The Strathspeys wore green facings and gold lace; their tartan was apparently that of the 42nd with a red overstripe, the bonnets had a diced border of red, white and green, with a white-over-red feather (white for grenadiers, and mixed black-and-red for the light company, who had no diced band). (Engraving after John Kay, 1798)

104. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Erskine of Cardross, 92nd Highlanders, killed at Alexandria. The lace loops on the inside of the lapels and on the collar, illustrate the interwoven black line in the officers' lace of the 92nd. (Engraving by G. Dawe after Sir Henry Raeburn)

▲105 ▼106

105. Lieutenant-Colonel Napier of Blackstone, 92nd Highlanders, killed at Corunna. This engraving shows the 92nd's yellow facings and officers' silver lace with interwoven black (or blue?) line. The plaid worn over the shoulder (which a regimental order of April 1810 specified should be worn by all mounted officers) is in the regimental Gordon tartan, the 'government' sett with a yellow overstripe. Napier wears his hair powdered and in a queue, the hated ▼107

hair-dressing abolished throughout the army in 1808. The medal on an orange ribbon is the Turkish Order of the Crescent, awarded for service in Egypt.

106. Lieutenant Donald Campbell, 71st Highlanders; a contemporary miniature showing the uniform worn before the regiment was converted to light infantry, including buff facings and a large number of buttons on the breast. The belt-plate bears the regimental number upon a trophy of arms, a shoulder-plaid is worn, and there is apparently a black 'queue-ribbon' attached to the rear of the collar.

107. The 92nd Highlanders charge with the 2nd Dragoons at Waterloo. The officer (left) wears the usual service uniform, with overalls instead of the kilt (for the 42nd the grey overalls had two red stripes). (Engraving after Captain George Jones)

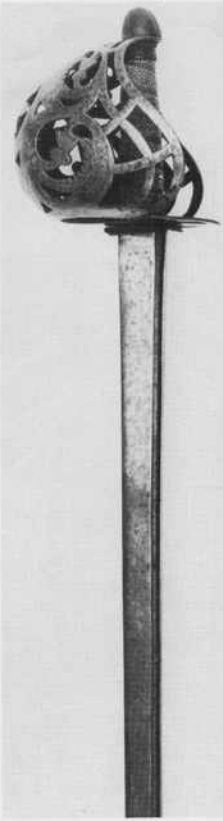
▲108 109▶ 110▶▶

108. Grenadier corporal, 42nd (left) and grenadier, 92nd Highlanders, 1812. The small size of the Highland bonnet is shown excellently, being a blue cloth cap with diced band, the black ostrich-feather decoration being to some extent dependent upon the owner, who could buy additional feathers to improve his appearance. The 42nd man has blue facings and bastion-shaped lace, the 92nd yellow facings. The 42nd's grenadiers are believed to have worn red-over-white plumes and may have had a red overstripe on their tartan. The sporrans were not normally worn on campaign. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

109. Grenadier, 92nd (Gordon) Highlanders, 1815. The kilt is too short, as are the hose, but otherwise this depicts accurately Highland campaign dress of the Waterloo era. Regimental orders forbade the attachment of leather peaks to the bonnets as worn by other Highland regiments, but it appears that this was not adhered to. Red cockades were worn by the light company, and the black cockades of the others were fastened with white-metal sphinx badges. (Engraving after Noël-Dieudonné Finart)

110. William Duff, 42nd Royal Highlanders (Black Watch), 1816. The square-ended loops instead of the regimental 'bastion' lace may be in error, though the four chevrons indicate the uniform of a sergeant-major; thus the square-ended loops may represent silver lace in officers' style (hence the collar-loops), the uniform of this rank often combining elements of both officers' and NCOs' uniform. The sash lacks its usual facing-coloured stripe, so is presumably an officers' pattern. The plume is red and the hose red and white, which for the 42nd had a narrow black outline. (Engraving after John Kay)

▲111 ▼112



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111. Highland dress at the end of the Napoleonic Wars: Lieutenant Robert Innes Ackland, 79th Highlanders (left), with a light company private and grenadier sergeant. By this date the belted plaid has given way to a kilt and 'half-plaid' attached to the rear of the left shoulder in full dress. Having served in the later Peninsular War, Ackland went on half-pay in 1814 and thus missed Waterloo. (Engraving after Captain G. W. Unett)

112. Pipe-banner, Reay Fencibles, 1794–1802. Highland pipe-banners were sometimes emblazoned with regimental devices, or crests of their officers; those lost by the 71st at Buenos Ayres (1806), for example, were like swallow-tailed guidons with a Union in the upper canton, and a crowned number within a 'Union' wreath. The Reay banners were violet silk (perhaps originally the light-blue facing-colour) with gold designs. (Photograph from Captain I. H. Mackay Scobie's *An Old Highland Fencible Corps*, Edinburgh 1914)

113. Highland officer's broadsword, *c.* 1794. Highland officers carried such basket-hilted broadswords, but no set pattern existed; this typical example bears a thistle motif on the iron hilt, and the identification of the 116th Perthshire Highlanders, a unit formed and disbanded in 1794. A sword of almost identical pattern was used by the Breadalbane Fencibles. (Wallis & Wallis)

6
THE LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENTS

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114. Sir Thomas Graham of Balgowan, Colonel of the 90th (Perthshire Volunteers), which he raised in 1794 to avenge the desecration of his wife's coffin by the French. The first complete, regular light infantry corps (though not so titled until 1815), they wore a short scarlet jacket faced buff, with gilt buttons and gold epaulettes atop scarlet wings trimmed with gold bullions. Officers wore a scarlet waistcoat with gold loops, buff breeches and black 'Hessian' boots with gold tassels in full dress, and blue-grey pantaloons and grey gaiters at other times, like the grey trousers of the rank-and-file which gave rise to their nickname, 'Perthshire Greybreeks'. They wore a fur-crested Tarleton light dragoon helmet with green

▲115
turban and plume. (Engraving by S. W. Reynolds after J. Hoppner)

115. Major Hungerford Elers, 43rd Light Infantry, who died in the Peninsula in 1811. This portrait shows the 43rd's stovepipe cap with gilt bugle badge and unusual pyramidal green plume, a scarlet jacket with white facings, silver buttons, a scarlet epaulette with silver embroidery, crescent and fringe, and a gold and silver rose upon the strap. The absence of wings suggests that an order of March 1809, instructing flank and light infantry officers to wear wings, was issued to reintroduce wings that had been replaced unofficially by epaulettes in some units. The belt-plate is gilt with silver design.

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116. Light infantry officer *c.* 1806. Although the regiment is unidentified, the officer wears the usual short-tailed light infantry jacket with wings, and a 'line' pattern sash instead of the corded light infantry type (as late as 1811 the 36th's light company, for example, wore the line sash). The usual light infantry stovepipe cap has a dark-green feather, bugle badge and an appendage of chain or cord; such unofficial decorations were popular with units possessing light infantry *esprit de corps*. (Wallis & Wallis)

117. Officer, 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry, 1815; a print published by Genty of Paris. He wears the lapels fastened back to show the buff lining, and grey overalls strapped under the foot. The narrow black leather waist-belt instead of the shoulder-belt was a common light infantry practice, though unusually he has a 1796-pattern sword instead of the usual stirrup-hilted sabre of the 52nd.

118. Officer's jacket, 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry. Scarlet with buff facings, white piping, silver buttons and bugle badge on the turnbacks, with scarlet cloth wings ornamented with silver chains and bullions, and a silver boss bearing a gilt bugle and wreath. (Wallis & Wallis)

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119. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Colborne, 52nd (Oxfordshire) Light Infantry, 1813. Scarlet jacket with buff facings and silver buttons (note the buff embroidery on the collar in place of a lace loop), with scarlet wings edged with lace and a single row of chain, with the silver lace epaulettes of field rank atop the wings.

120. Major William Napier, 43rd (Monmouthshire) Light Infantry, 1816. The scarlet jacket with white facings and silver buttons is worn with silver epaulettes atop the scarlet wings covered with silver curb-chain. Officers of the 43rd adopted unofficially a

scarlet pelisse with grey fur and silver lace, imitating the style of the 95th Rifles, as worn here by Major Napier.

121. An unusual variation on the stovepipe cap, attributed to Lieutenant Kershaw of the 43rd Light Infantry, having the usual cockade and bugle-badge and, in addition, gilded chinscales, leather reinforcing bands and sunken top, black silk turban and black cords. (Wallis & Wallis)

122. Light infantry bore their bugle insignia on much of their equipment: this black leather belt with brass buckle, slider and engraved belt-tip belonged to the light company of the Royal Carmarthen Fusiliers.

123. 'British Light Troops' from Goddard & Booth's *Military Costume of Europe*, 1812. Left to right: rifleman, 95th; trooper, 23rd Light Dragoons; private, 43rd Light Infantry. The rifleman wears green faced black with white piping, green trousers over black gaiters, and green plume; the 43rd private wears scarlet faced white, with green plume and white trousers over black gaiters (a common Peninsular legwear). Wings are omitted from his jacket, almost certainly in error.

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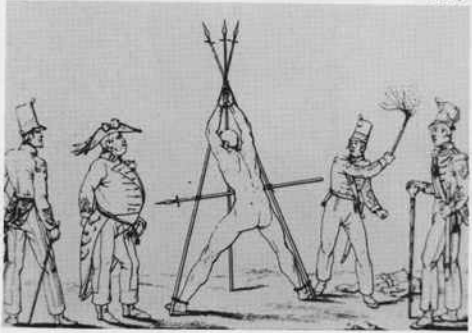

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124. 71st (Highland) Light Infantry at Quatre Bras. The 71st, after conversion to light infantry, wore a distinctive head-dress, the blue Highland bonnet with diced band blocked into the shape of a stovepipe shako, with a metal bugle and the numeral 71 on the front, a green plume and perhaps a 'toorie' on top; officers wore ordinary light infantry stovepipe caps. Though pipers are known to have retained Highland dress, it was conceivably restricted to full dress, as the piper (right) wears ordinary dress, and is armed with a short sword, not a broadsword. (Engraving after Captain George Jones)

125. Punishment at the 'triangle'. This anti-British engraving exaggerates the evil of the lash (in reality only the victim's upper body was unclothed) but is otherwise reasonably accurate. Drummers performed the flogging, superintended by the drum-major (right); the diced band on the shakos identify the 71st Light Infantry. Note the chevrons on the drummers' sleeves, and the musicians' cruciform-hilted swords. The officer's uniform (left) is in error: 71st officers did not wear the diced shako-band, and wore the sash Highland-fashion, over the shoulder.

126. Piper George Clarke, 71st Light Infantry, 1816, wearing the Highland dress retained by pipers even after the regiment was converted to light infantry. In common style for regimental pipers (who were not officially authorized), Clarke wears officers'-style bonnet, sporran and lapelled scarlet jacket, showing the buff facing-colour, and epaulettes worn over light infantry wings. The kilt and plaid (unusually wrapped around the waist) are probably Mackenzie, the tartan worn by the 71st before conversion, the 'government' sett with red and white stripes. Clarke's silver-mounted pipes were presented by the Highland Society of London for bravery in continuing to play after being wounded at Vimiero. (Engraving by Rosenburgh after Manskirch)

7
THE RIFLE CORPS

127. Privates of the 95th Rifles; an early uniform of the corps, *c.* 1806. The rifle-green colouring was adopted as an aid to camouflage, with black facings and shoulder-straps with black worsted tufts, and white piping. The shako here appears to have a white-over-green plume (?) and green cords, and the green breeches (worn with black gaiters) have a white stripe. All equipment was of black leather; note the powder-horn slung along the shoulder-belt, and the sword-bayonet with knucklebow for the 'Baker' rifle. (Print after J. A. Atkinson)

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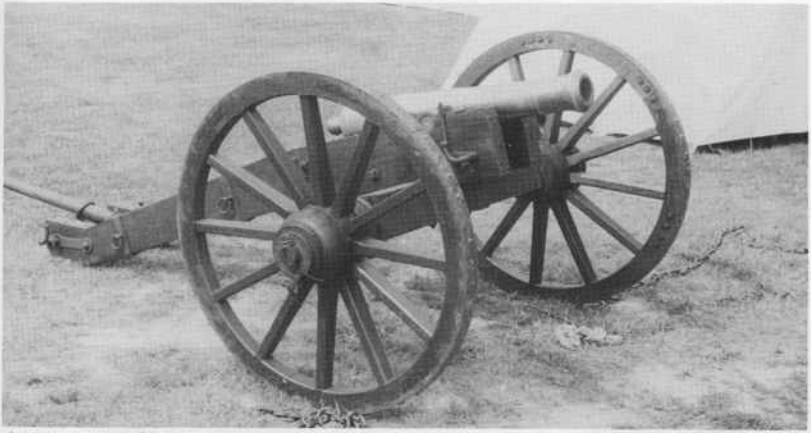

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128. Officer, Experimental Rifle Corps (later 95th), 1801, wearing the light cavalry style uniform favoured by rifle regiments: 'rifle green' (very dark-green) with black facings and silver lace, a Tarleton light dragoon helmet with fur crest, dark-green turban and plume and silver bugle badge, black leather equipment (note the silver whistle on the shoulder-belt) and a crimson sash of the 'barrelled' style favoured by hussars. (Engraving from the 'British Military Library' series)

129. Officer, 95th Rifles, 1812. This typical 'rifle' uniform, styled on that of the light cavalry, is rifle-green throughout, with black braid and silver buttons; John Kincaid noted that it was 'pocketless, and fitted tight as a glove', though overalls were preferred for active service. The pelisse had black fur, and the crimson, corded light infantry sash is shown. The officers' shako had a square peak which could be turned up, as here, and a green or black plume and cords, and was sufficiently large (as Kincaid remarked) to be used for storing half a dozen oranges! The 1803 flank company sabre is worn upon a black waistbelt. (Print from Goddard & Booth's *Military Costume of Europe*)

130. A 3-pounder 'battalion gun'. Originally each battalion possessed two light field guns (often 6-pounders), crewed by an officer and 34 men; but the guns were more of an encumbrance than an asset and had all but died out by 1800. (Thomas E. DeVoe)

131. Powder-horn as carried by rifle corps, with brass end-cap and nozzle which automatically measured a correct charge of powder. The badge on the end-cap identifies this as belonging to the Percy Tenantry Volunteers, a Northumberland corps, *c.* 1803.

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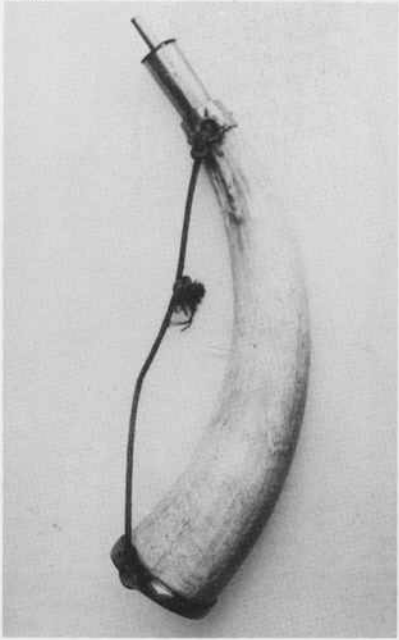

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132. Captain E. Kent, 95th Rifles, in Peninsular campaign uniform. In typical light cavalry style, Kent's uniform includes a cap with folding peak resembling a hussar 'mirliton' with green tuft and black cords, green dolman and pelisse with black facings and braid and brown fur, grey overalls with tan leather reinforcing and black stripe, a crimson corded light infantry sash, and a black leather light-cavalry waist-belt and slings. (Reconstruction by P. W. Reynolds of a portrait from life)

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133. Private, 95th Rifles, 1815. A French print published by Genty, this is a reasonably accurate depiction of the 95th's uniform: shako with black or rifle-green plume and cords and white-metal bugle-badge (incorrectly shown here as a hunting-horn instead of bugle with strings), rifle-green jacket and trousers with black facings, white piping and three rows of white-metal buttons, and black leather equipment. He carries the 'Baker' rifle and its sword-bayonet, and hanging from the clasp of the waist-belt is the wire brush and 'picker' used for cleaning burnt powder from the rifle's touch-hole.

134. Brass shoulder-belt plate, King's German Legion. The best of the 'foreign corps', the K.G.L. line infantry battalions wore ordinary with blue facings, and their light battalions a green uniform like that of the 95th Rifles.

135. Hussar (left) and infantry of the Duke of Brunswick's 'Black Legion', enlisted in British service in 1809. Dressed in black with sky-blue facings and white-metal death's-head insignia on the shako, their sombre appearance led to their British nickname of 'death or glory men', and to Lady DeLancey's likening them to 'an immense moving hearse' during the Waterloo campaign (in which the Duke was killed). The Brunswick Oels *Jägers* who served in the Peninsula were recruited from ex-prisoners and assorted foreigners, and were best known for their penchant for desertion. (Aquatint by I. C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith, 1812)

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8
THE 'FOREIGN CORPS'

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136. Private, 5th West India Regiment, 1814. The West India regiments wore their own version of ordinary infantry uniform, their jackets having red collars and facing-coloured half-lapels; blue or white 'gaiter-trousers' and black slippers (as the men were unused to wearing boots); and the 1812 shako which replaced the earlier 'round hat' and later 'stovepipe'. Equipment was black leather to 1803, and white thereafter. In the background is a private wearing a white, tailless drill jacket. The 5th Regiment (who had green facings) was largely African in origin (during 1798–1807 it recruited 710 Africans, 88 West Indian Negroes, seven East Indian Lascars and seven Europeans), and served at New Orleans. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

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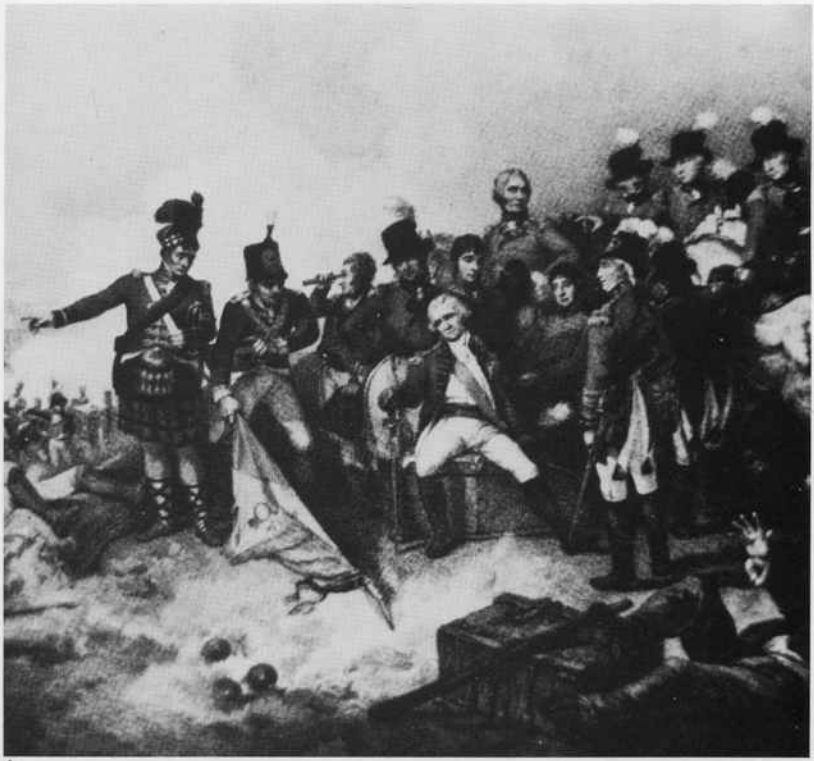
137. Sergeant (left) and private, York Light Infantry Volunteers, 1813. Originally styled the Barbados Volunteer Emigrants, the corps was originally formed from Dutch prisoners of war in the West Indies, and was ultimately over 1,500 strong. The ordinary uniform (right) was dark-green 'rifle' style with black facings and gaiters and white piping; the sergeant wears 'morning parade dress', an all-white uniform with black collar and shoulder-straps, a crimson sash, and a blanket made into knapsack-shape; he is armed with a curved sabre and a short fusil without a bayonet. Both wear the 1812 shako in white (as used in tropical climates), with green plume and cords. (Aquatint by I.C. Stadler after Charles Hamilton Smith)

9
THE COLONIAL REGIMENTS



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138. Sir Ralph Abercrombie wounded at Alexandria; showing the black 'round hats' commonly worn in tropical climates, sometimes with a feather crest. The 42nd Highlander (left centre) wears the bonnet with a single ostrich-feather and red hackle. (Print after P. T. de Loutherbourg)

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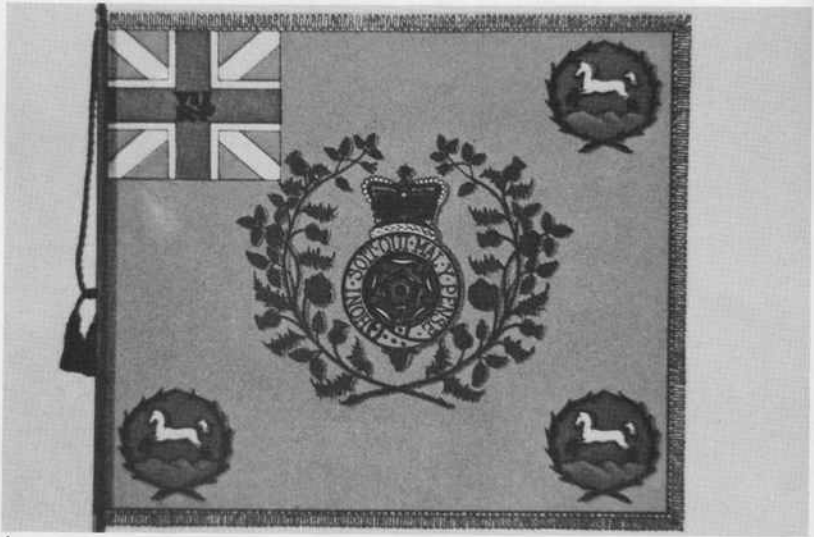

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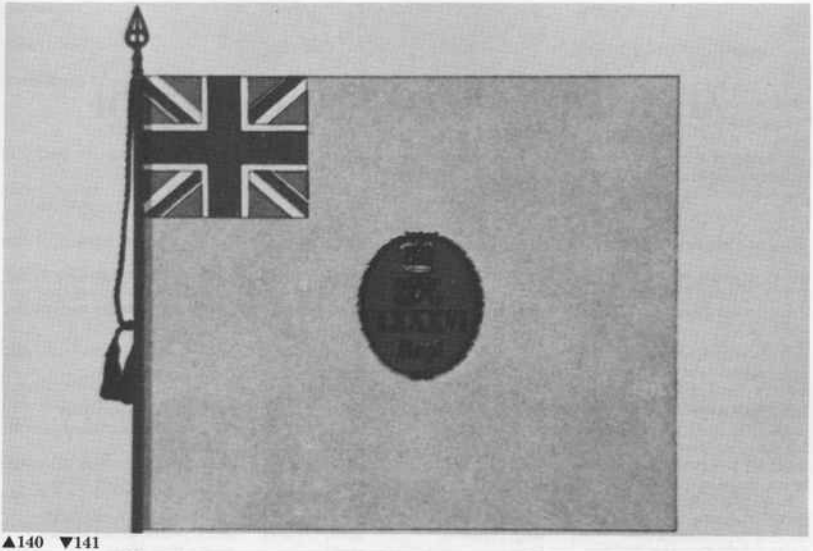
139. Regimental Colour of the 7th Royal Fuzileers, 1790. A typical Regimental Colour, with facing-coloured (blue) ground bearing the regimental badges, a Tudor rose within a crowned Garter, surrounded by a wreath, all in 'proper' colours, with corner-badges of the white horse of Hanover upon a green hill, with red backing; the Union in the upper canton (pre-Union with Ireland) bears the regimental initials, VII/R.F. Each battalion possessed two Colours, the Regimental (as here) and the King's Colour, the latter a whole Union with the same badges in the centre. (Print from S.M. Milne's *Standards & Colours of the Army*, 1893)

140. Regimental Colour, 86th (Leinster) Regiment, 1807. Facing-coloured ground (yellow) with a central red oval with gold laurel border, bearing a crown and gold inscription. In the upper canton, the Union bears the red saltire added after the union with Ireland. (Print from S. M. Milne's *Standards & Colours of the Army*, 1893)

141. Regimental Colour, 2nd Battalion, 14th (Buckinghamshire) Regiment, 1812. Battle honours came to be added increasingly after 1802. Buff ground, with 'proper' Union wreath, red shield and gold inscription, with the honour 'CORUNNA'. (Print from S. M. Milne's *Standards & Colours of the Army*, 1893)



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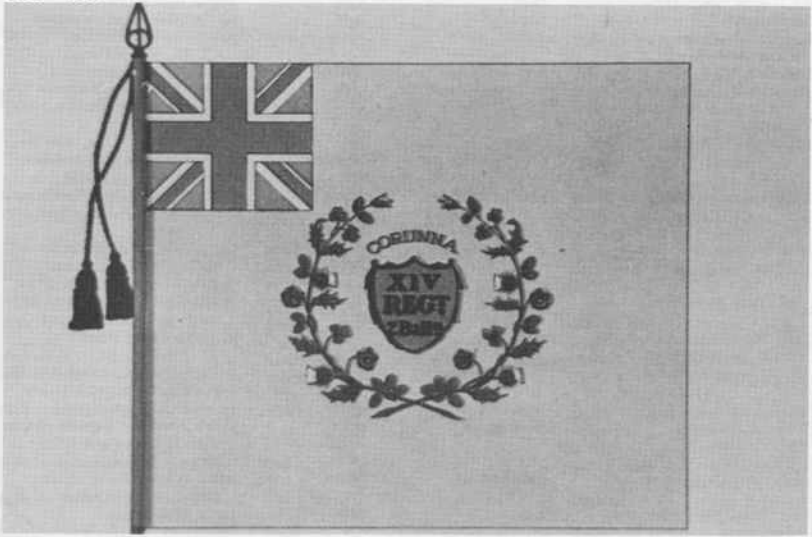

APPENDIX: FACINGS AND LACE OF THE REGIMENTS OF THE LINE

Design of other ranks' lace is taken from the 1802 Clothing Regulations, De Bosset's Chart *A View of the British Army on the Peace Establishment in the Year 1803*, and Charles Hamilton Smith's *Costume of the Army of the British Empire* (1812). Unless stated otherwise the lace was white with interwoven colours and square-ended.

Regiment	*Facings*	*Officers' Lace*	*Other Ranks' Lace*
1st (Royal) Regt. (1812, 1st Royal Scots)	blue	gold	pairs; blue double worm (appearing as chain-pattern)
2nd (Queen's Royal)	blue	silver	single; blue stripe
3rd (East Kent)	buff	silver	pairs; yellow, black & red stripe
4th (King's Own)	blue	silver (gold 1809)	bastion single; blue stripe
5th (Northumberland)	gosling green	silver	bastion single; 2 red stripes
6th (1st Warwickshire)	deep yellow	silver	pairs; yellow & red stripes
7th (Royal Fuzileers)	blue	gold	single; blue stripe
8th (King's)	blue	gold	single; blue & yellow stripe
9th (East Norfolk)	yellow	silver	pairs; two black stripes (Smith, blue stripes)
10th (North Lincoln)	bright yellow	silver	single; blue stripe
11th (North Devon)	'full green'	gold	bastion pairs; 2 red outside 2 green stripes (Smith, red outside blue)
12th (East Suffolk)	yellow	gold	bastion pairs; yellow, crimson & black stripes (Smith shows blue instead of black)
13th (1st Somersetshire)	philemot yellow ('*feuille-mort*': dead-leaf shade)	silver	pairs; yellow stripe (Smith, red stripe)
14th Bedfordshire (1809, Buckinghamshire)	buff	silver	pairs; blue & red worm and buff stripe (Smith, blue stripe)
15th (York East Riding)	yellow	silver	pointed pairs; yellow & black worm and red stripe
16th (Buckinghamshire) (1809, Bedfordshire)	yellow	silver	single; crimson stripe
17th (Leicestershire)	'greyish white'	silver	pairs; 2 blue and 1 yellow stripe (Smith, 2 red and 1 yellow)
18th (Royal Irish)	blue	gold	pairs; blue stripe
19th (1st Yorkshire North Riding)	deep green	gold	pairs; 2 red and 2 green stripes (Smith, 1 blue and 1 red stripe)
20th (East Devonshire)	pale yellow	silver	pairs; red and black stripe (Smith, red and blue)
21st (Royal North British Fuzileers)	blue	gold	pairs; blue stripe

Regiment	*Facings*	*Officers' Lace*	*Other Ranks' Lace*
22nd (Cheshire)	pale buff	gold	bastion pairs; blue and red stripe
23rd (Royal Welch Fuzileers)	blue	gold	pairs (De Bosset, bastion single); red, blue and yellow stripe (Smith, red and blue stripe)
24th (2nd Warwickshire)	willow green	silver	pairs; 1 red and 1 green stripe (Smith, red and yellow stripe)
25th (Sussex) (1805, King's Own Borderers)	deep yellow (1805, blue)	gold	bastion single; blue, yellow and red stripe (Smith, red and yellow stripe)
26th (Cameronians)	pale yellow	silver	pairs; 1 yellow inside 2 blue stripes
27th (Enniskillen)	buff	gold	single; red and blue stripe
28th (North Gloucestershire)	bright yellow	silver	pairs; 1 yellow and 2 black stripes (Smith, 1 red and 2 blue stripes)
29th (Worcestershire)	yellow	silver	pairs; 2 blue and 1 yellow stripe (Smith, 2 blue stripes)
30th (Cambridgeshire)	pale yellow	silver	bastion, single; 1 sky blue stripe
31st (Huntingdonshire)	buff	silver	single; blue & yellow worm and small red stripe (Smith, red stripe)
32nd (Cornwall)	white	gold	pairs; black worm and black stripe
33rd (1st Yorkshire West Riding)	red	silver	bastion pairs; red stripe in middle
34th (Cumberland)	bright yellow	silver	pairs; blue & yellow worm and red stripe (Smith, red & yellow worm and red stripe)
35th (Dorsetshire) (1805, Sussex)	orange	silver	pairs; 1 yellow stripe (Smith, 1 red and 1 yellow stripe)
36th (Herefordshire)	gosling green	gold	pairs; 1 green and 1 red stripe
37th (North Hampshire)	yellow	silver	pairs; 1 yellow and 1 red stripe
38th (1st Staffordshire)	yellow	silver	single (De Bosset, bastion single); 2 red and 1 yellow stripe (Smith, 1 yellow stripe)
39th (East Middlesex) (1807, Dorsetshire)	pea green	gold	pairs; light green stripe
40th (2nd Somersetshire)	buff	gold	pairs; 1 red and 1 black stripe
41st Regt.	white	silver	bastion single; black worm (Smith, blue stripe)
42nd (Royal Highland)	blue	gold	bastion single; red stripe
43rd (Monmouthshire) (1803, Monmouthshire Light Infantry)	white	silver	pairs; 1 red and 1 black stripe
44th (East Essex)	yellow	silver	single; blue, yellow and black stripe
45th (Nottinghamshire)	deep green	silver	bastion pairs; green stripe
46th (South Devonshire)	pale yellow	silver	pairs; red and purple worms (Smith, red stripe)
47th (Lancashire)	white	silver	pairs; 1 red and 2 black stripes (Smith, 1 red and 2 blue stripes)
48th (Northamptonshire)	buff	gold	pairs; black and red stripes (Smith, blue and red stripes)
49th (Hertfordshire)	'full green'	gold	bastion single; 1 green between 2 red stripes
50th (West Kent)	black	silver	pairs; red stripe

Regiment	*Facings*	*Officers' Lace*	*Other Ranks' Lace*
51st (2nd Yorkshire West Riding) (1809, 2nd Yorkshire West Riding Light Infantry)	deep green (later, grass green)	gold	pairs; green worm
52nd (Oxfordshire) (1809, Oxfordshire Light Infantry)	buff	silver	pairs; red worm and orange stripe (Smith, red stripe between 2 blue stripes)
53rd (Shropshire)	red	gold	pairs; red stripe
54th (West Norfolk)	popinjay green	silver	pairs; green stripe
55th (Westmoreland)	dark green	gold	pairs; 2 green stripes
56th (West Essex)	purple	silver	pairs; pink stripe
57th (West Middlesex)	yellow	gold	pairs; black stripe (Smith, blue stripe)
58th (Rutlandshire)	black	gold	single; red stripe
59th (2nd Nottinghamshire)	white	silver (gold by 1809)	bastion single; red and yellow stripe (Smith, 2 blue stripes)
60th (Royal American) (not including 'rifle' battalions)	blue	silver	pairs; 2 blue stripes
61st (South Gloucestershire)	buff	silver	single; blue stripe
62nd (Wiltshire)	yellowish buff	silver	pairs; straw-yellow stripe between 2 blue stripes
63rd (West Suffolk)	very deep green	silver	threes (De Bosset and Smith pairs); very small green stripe
64th (2nd Staffordshire)	black	gold	pairs; 1 red and 1 black stripe
65th (2nd Yorkshire North Riding)	white	gold	pairs; red & black worm and black stripe (Smith, red & yellow worm and black stripe)
66th (Berkshire)	yellowish green ('gosling green' 1815)	silver	single; 1 crimson & green and 1 green stripe (Smith, 1 crimson and 1 green stripe)
67th (South Hampshire)	pale yellow	silver	pairs; yellow, purple and green stripes (Smith, red and green stripes)
68th (Durham) (1808, Durham Light Infantry)	deep green	silver	pairs; yellow and black stripes (Smith, red and green stripes)
69th (South Lincolnshire)	willow green	gold	pairs; 1 red between 2 green stripes
70th (Surrey) (1812, Glasgow Lowland)	black	gold	single; narrow black worm
71st (Highland) (1808, Glasgow Highland; 1809, Glasgow Highland Light Infantry; 1810, Highland Light Infantry)	buff	silver	single; red stripe
72nd (Highland)	yellow (1802, 'yolk')	silver	bastion single; green stripe (Smith, blue stripe)
73rd (Highland) (1809, 'Highland' dropped)	dark green	gold	bastion single; scarlet edge (Smith, red stripe)
74th (Highland)	white	gold	single; red and blue stripe (Smith, red stripe)
75th (Highland) (1809, 'Highland' dropped)	deep yellow	silver	pairs; 2 yellow and 1 red stripe (Smith, 1 yellow and 1 red stripe)
76th (titled 'Hindoostan Regt.' 1807–12)	red	silver	pairs; black stripe (Smith, blue stripe)
77th (East Middlesex)	yellow	silver	single; black stripe (Smith, 1 red and 1 yellow stripe)
78th (Highland) (Ross-shire Buffs) (raised 1793)	buff	gold	bastion single; green stripe (Smith, blue stripe)

Regiment	*Facings*	*Officers' Lace*	*Other Ranks' Lace*
79th (Cameronian Volunteers) (1804, Cameron Highlanders) (raised 1793)	dark green	gold	pairs; 1 yellow between 2 red stripes
80th (Staffordshire Volunteers) (raised 1793)	yellow	gold	pairs; 2 red and 1 black stripe (Smith, 1 red between 2 blue stripes)
81st (titled Loyal Lincoln Volunteers 1793–4) (raised 1793)	buff	silver	pairs; blue and scarlet edges (Smith, 1 blue and 1 red stripe)
82nd (Prince of Wales's Volunteers) (raised 1793)	yellow	silver	bastion pairs; black stripe (Smith, blue stripe)
83rd (raised 1793)	yellow	gold	pairs; 1 red and 1 green stripe (Smith, red stripe)
84th (1809, York and Lancaster) (raised 1793)	yellow	silver	pairs; 2 scarlet stripes (Smith, 1 blue between 2 red stripes)
85th (Bucks Volunteers) (1808, Bucks Volunteers Light Infantry) (raised 1793)	yellow	silver	pairs; 2 red worms and 2 black stripes (Smith, red crenellation)
86th (1809, Leinster; 1812, Royal County Down) (raised 1793)	yellow (blue 1812)	silver	pairs; 2 yellow and 2 black stripes (Smith, 2 red between 2 black stripes)
87th (Prince of Wales's Irish) (1811, Prince of Wales's Own Irish) (raised 1793)	green	gold	pairs; red stripe
88th (Connaught Rangers) (raised 1793)	pale yellow	silver	pairs; 2 black, 2 red and 1 yellow stripe (Smith, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 yellow stripe)
89th (raised 1794)	black	gold	pairs; red and blue stripe on edge (Smith, red stripe)
90th (Perthshire Volunteers) (raised 1794)	deep buff	gold	pairs; 1 blue and 1 buff stripe
91st (Argyllshire Highlanders) (numbered 98th 1794–8; title dropped 1809)	yellow	silver	pairs; 1 black stripe and black dart (Smith, 2 yellow stripes)
92nd (Highland) (raised 1798)	yellow	silver	pairs; blue stripe in edges
93rd (Highland) (raised 1800)	yellow	silver	bastion pairs (De Bosset, pairs); yellow stripe (Smith, red stripe)
94th (Scotch Brigade) (raised 1685 but only brought into the line in 1802)	green	gold	pairs; 1 green and 1 red stripe
95th Rifles (un-numbered and titled 'Rifle Corps' 1800–03: rifle uniform)			
96th (raised 1798 as 2nd Battn. 52nd, numbered 96th 1802)	buff	silver	pairs; 1 blue, 1 yellow, 1 red stripe
97th (Queen's Own German) (previously Queen's German Regt., taken into line 1804)	blue	silver	pairs; 1 red, 1 blue stripe
98th	buff	silver	single; 2 red and 2 blue stripes
99th (1811, Prince of Wales's Tipperary) (raised 1804)	pale yellow	silver	single; yellow stripe
100th (1812, Prince Regent's County of Dublin) (raised 1805)	deep yellow	silver	single; 2 blue and 2 red stripes
101st (Duke of York's Irish) (raised 1806)	white	silver	pairs; blue stripe
102nd (New South Wales Corps taken into line 1808)	yellow	silver	pairs; 1 yellow and 1 blue stripe
103rd (9th Garrison Battn. taken into line 1808)	white (Smith, buff)	silver	single; 1 red and 1 blue stripe

Regiment	*Facings*	*Officers' Lace*	*Other Ranks' Lace*
104th (New Brunswick Fencibles taken into line 1810)	buff	silver	pairs; 1 blue, 1 yellow and 1 red stripe

(Note: some of the variations in design of other ranks' lace recorded by Smith may have occurred because the Smith plates were hand-coloured)

Disbanded infantry regiments

Regiments numbered from 91 to 135 were raised in 1793–6, but of short duration; the many 'recruiting regiments' (formed to supply drafts to other corps) which bore only the name of their colonel, are not included. Of the numbered corps, the following bore supplementary titles: 94th (Irish), 96th (Queen's Royal Irish), 97th (Inverness-shire Highlanders), 102nd (Irish), 103rd (Irish), 104th (Royal Manchester Volunteers), 105th (Borough of Leeds), 106th (Norfolk Rangers), 109th (Aberdeenshire), 111th (Loyal Birmingham Volunteers), 113th (Royal Birmingham Volunteers), 116th (Perthshire Highlanders), 121st (County Clare), 125th (Loyal Stamford Volunteers), 129th (Gentlemen of Coventry), 130th (Loyal Staffordshire Volunteers), 132nd (Wakefield), and 134th (Loyal Limerick).

West India Regiments
Details are taken from the 1802 Clothing Regulations:

Regiment	*Facings*	*Other Ranks' Lace* (all single)
1st West India	white	1 black stripe
2nd	yellow	green, yellow and purple stripe
3rd	yellow	large black stripe
4th	yellow	1 blue and 2 yellow stripes
5th	dark green	plain white
6th	yellow	black stripe
7th	yellow	brown, yellow and scarlet stripe
8th	grey	red, yellow and black stripe
9th	yellow	1 blue and 2 yellow stripes
10th	buff	scarlet and black edge
11th	green	narrow green edge
12th	buff	scarlet and black edge

King's German Legion, Line Battns.: blue facings; officers' lace gold; lace pairs, red stripe. Garrison Battns.: blue facings; officers' lace gold; lace single, blue stripe.

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142. The face of the ordinary soldier of the Napoleonic Wars: John Spencer Cooper, 1787–1874. A sergeant of the 7th Royal Fuzileers, he is seen here wearing his Military General Service Medal with nine Peninsular clasps and a silver plate recording a further twelve actions in which he fought. For this extensive campaigning he received a pension of 1*s.* per diem, not granted to him until fifty years after his discharge.