

# *Napoleon's Italian and Neapolitan Troops*

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Like the Soviets today, the Republican French were active in the export of revolution, and in 1796–1800 Napoleon saw that the inhabitants of northern Italy were ripe for conversion to the cause. French victories in 1798 and 1800 secured his hold on the area, and he at once began reorganizing the many small states which then made up the territory of modern Italy into units more suitable for his military and dynastic ambitions.

Existing states in the centre and south of the Italian peninsula were less eager to embrace Napoleon's cause, but they could not resist him for long and in time they too fell under his sway. The Royal Navy maintained the fires of revolt against Napoleon wherever they could, and the long Italian coastline was ideally suited to the exercise of the amphibious threat, even if landing places were less plentiful than desired. The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, ruled by the Bourbon King Ferdinand IV, was in fact split politically, the island portion remaining under Bourbon control (supported by the Royal Navy) while the mainland portion became the 'Kingdom of Naples' from 1806 to 1814.

The Treaty of Pressburg (26 December 1805) gave to the infant Kingdom of Italy parts of the Tyrol and the Republic of Venice, including a small fleet; and much of modern Austria and Yugoslavia were also transferred to French control under the Treaty of Schönbrunn (15 October 1809), so that the Adriatic became effectively a French lake. Austria was thus deprived of her seaboard and cut off from direct contact with her ally, Britain.

It was against this kaleidoscopic political backcloth that the military affairs of the region developed, and it is scarcely surprising that the loyalties of many officers of both the Italian and

Neapolitan armies were, to say the least, confused. An additional factor affecting morale in these armies was the high degree of membership of secret societies among the military, with consequent patterns of loyalty which often cut across the normal lines of discipline.

Many have belittled the martial achievements of the Neapolitans in the Napoleonic era; the facts should not be disguised, but the factors mentioned above may give clues to some of the causes of this lack of performance and the human consequences of these factors should also be recognized.





**Joachim Murat, King of Naples 1808–14. Napoleon's brother-in-law, and most impetuous if not most skilled cavalry commander, Murat made a series of unprincipled switches of allegiance in his attempts to cling to his throne during his Emperor's decline and downfall. He was eventually shot by a firing squad after a bungled coup in 1815.**

## *The Italian Army, 1796–1814*

In 1797 the armed forces of the Cisalpine Republic consisted of the following bodies:

Milan civic guard—one company; Milan national guard—eight companies. Lombard Legion—six cohorts each of five centre companies and a grenadier company; one company of chasseurs à cheval, one battery of four guns and one battalion of sappers. Cispadane Legion—five cohorts organized as for the Lombard Legion (a sixth cohort was raised later), one company of chasseurs à cheval and one battery of four guns.

The strength of both of these legions, all volunteers, was 7,000 infantry and 300 cavalry. Later that year

the army had been reinforced considerably by the following:

Bergamo—one cohort of infantry; Crema—three companies of infantry and one of hussars; Brescia—three cohorts of infantry, one regiment of hussars, a battery of six guns. Venice—six cohorts of infantry and one squadron of hussars.

Apart from this, thirteen companies of hussars (*Usseri di requisizione*) were raised and distributed among the following towns: Milan, Lodi, Bergamo, Cremona, Pavia, Como, Modena, Reggio, Ferrara, Brescia, Crema, Mantua and Bologna.

The army was reorganized in this year into the following state:

Eight legions of line infantry, each of two battalions; one battalion of light infantry; a regiment of hussars; a small cavalry corps; four batteries of field artillery; a battalion of artillery, twelve companies strong; two companies of bombardiers; and a battalion of sappers, miners, pontonniers and artificers, giving a total strength of about 15,000 men.



**Prince Eugene de Beauharnais, Viceroy of Italy 1805–14. Adopted by Napoleon in 1807, Eugene remained loyal to the Emperor after Napoleon divorced his mother Josephine in December 1809. He commanded the IV Corps in Russia in 1812, and his men—mainly Italians—fought the bloody battle of Malo-Yaroslavetz at the start of the retreat from Moscow on 24 October 1812.**



By 1798 this establishment had been swelled not only by Italian nationals but also by Polish and French contingents. These Polish units were organized by Jean Henri Dombrowski under Napoleon's patronage; a fuller description of their history is to be found in my book *Napoleon's Polish Troops*, also in this series. The army then consisted of six legions of line infantry (these were converted later that year to four 'demi-brigades' on the French pattern, one demi-brigade being of light infantry); one hussar regiment, and one dragoon regiment, and had a strength of 6,000 Poles, 25,000 French and 13,000 Italians.

In 1800 the organization had changed yet again:

*The Italian Legion (Legione italiana)*

Two elite companies formed of supernumerary NCOs; one officers' battalion formed of superfluous officers; a regiment of hussars (this unit was in Versailles); and a regiment of chasseurs à cheval.

*The Italian Division (Divisione italiana)*

1st and 2nd Italian Demi-Brigades (three battalions each); a battalion of light infantry; 1st Hussar regiment; 1st Chasseurs à Cheval; two companies of foot artillery; one company of horse artillery; one company of artillery train, and one of sappers.

*The Cisalpine Division (Divisione cisalpina)*

1st and 2nd Cisalpine Demi-Brigades (three battalions each); a battalion of light infantry; 2nd Hussar Regiment; an officers' battalion; and a company each of foot and horse artillery, one of train and one of sappers.

*The Polish Division (Divisione polacca)*

1st and 2nd Polish Demi-Brigades (three battalions each); a battalion each of grenadiers and carabinieri; one squadron of the 1st Hussar Regiment, and a company of foot artillery.

*The Internal Security Division (Divisione del interno)*

A squadron of chasseurs à cheval (in the process of formation).

*The Detached Corps (Corpo distaccato)*

A battalion of Sharpshooters of Brescia (*Bersaglieri di Brescia*)—this unit was attached to General Serras' French brigade; a squadron of the 1st Hussar Regiment—this unit was attached to General Mainoni's French brigade.

In 1803 a guard had been created under the title of the Presidential Guard (*Guardia del presidente*) and consisted of one battalion of grenadiers and one of

chasseurs (each of eight companies), a squadron each of horse grenadiers and chasseurs à cheval, a company of horse artillery and one of artillery train.

In 1805 the 1st Hussar Regiment was converted to a dragoon regiment—the '*Dragoni Regina*', and the 2nd Hussar Regiment became the '*Dragoni Napoleone*'. The chasseur à cheval regiment received the title '*Real Italiano*'.

The 'Guards of Honour' and the 'Velites' were ordered by Napoleon to be formed on 20 June 1805. Both units were recruited from the flower of aristocratic Italian youth; the Guards of Honour (with four companies each of 100 men) were designed for royal bodyguard duties, and the Velites (with twelve such companies) were to guard the royal palaces. In time of war both units were attached to the royal guard as a reserve.



**Trumpet banner of the Italian Gardes d'Honneur, captured by the Prussians in 1813; the crown is the Iron Crown of Lombardy.**

In 1806 the Guards of Honour were increased by a fifth company, and other new units raised included the Dalmatian Legion of four battalions each of six companies (2,930 men in all), and a battalion of Istrian Rifles of 770 men. This battalion was combined in 1806 with the Sharpshooters of Brescia to form the 3rd Light Infantry Regiment.

The addition of Venice to the Italian kingdom reinforced the navy, and in addition to the battalion of naval gunners (*Cannonieri marinai*), the veteran battalion, the invalides and the flotilla battalion, which were taken on to the establishment, a company of marines was raised. By the end of 1806 the armed forces of Italy consisted of:





**Private, Italian Fusiliers of the Line, 1806 parade dress: a contemporary plate by Weiland. The French influence is marked. The 3rd Regt. is indicated by the combination of green coat, red collar, red cuffs and cuff flaps, red shoulderstraps and white piping.**

The royal guard; six regiments of line infantry; three regiments of light infantry; the Dalmatian Infantry Regiment; two dragoon regiments; two regiments of chasseurs à cheval; the artillery (with four companies of horse artillery); the corps of engineers; the Gendarmerie; the veterans and invalides corps, and the navy (based at Venice and

acquired from Austria under The Treaty of Pressburg). Total strength was 40,000 men, 6,000 horses, 120 guns and a flotilla of ships in the Adriatic.

The year 1808 saw the raising of the 7th Line Infantry Regiment and of a city guard battalion in Venice, of nine companies each of 140 men. The organization of the infantry regiments was altered to conform to the French pattern: each regiment had four field battalions each of one grenadier, one voltigeur and four fusilier companies. Each company had 140 men. There was also a depot battalion for each regiment, but this battalion had only four companies (all of fusiliers) and a training staff of fifty men. The Gendarmerie was increased to 1,935 men, and the kingdom was divided into six Military Divisions: Milan, Brescia, Bologna, Mantua, Venice and Ancona. Armed forces strength at the end of the year was 44,000 infantry, 6,000 horses, 120 guns, 6,000 sailors and a squadron of three frigates.

In 1809 the 3rd Chasseurs à Cheval was raised, but the heavy losses suffered by the Italian division in Spain (under General Pino's command) meant that by the end of that year the army mustered only 37,000 men and 5,100 horses. The year 1810 saw a slight recovery of strength to 44,000 men and 5,500 horses, and in 1811 the royal guard was augmented by a regiment of recruits (*conscritti*) of two battalions, and a battery of foot artillery. The 4th Light Infantry Regiment and the 4th Chasseurs à Cheval were also raised, as was a twenty-two-company-strong Departmental Reserve. The invalide and veteran corps of the land and naval forces were combined into one regiment of one battalion of invalides and two of veterans.

The fateful year of 1812 found the Italian army with the following units:

#### *The Royal Guard*

Guards of Honour, Velites, Guards Infantry Regiment, Dragoon Regiment, Guard Artillery and Conscripts of the Guard.

#### *Line Infantry*

1st-7th Infantry Regiments and the Dalmatian Infantry Regiment, each regiment of four field battalions and one depot battalion.

#### *Light Infantry*

1st-4th Light Infantry Regiments and the Colonial Battalion.

### *Line Cavalry*

1st Chasseurs à Cheval '*Real Italiano*', 2nd Chasseurs à Cheval '*Principe reale*', 3rd Chasseurs à Cheval, 4th Chasseurs à Cheval; Queen's Dragoons '*Dragoni Regina*', and Napoleon's Dragoons '*Dragoni Napoleone*'.

### *Artillery*

One foot artillery regiment, one horse artillery battery, the artillery train and the coastal artillery—two companies.

### *The Engineers*

One battalion of sappers, the engineer train and the pompiers.

### *The Gendarmerie*

Three legions and a depot.

### *The Military Train*

Two battalions.

### *The Invalides and Veterans Regiment*

Three battalions.

### *The Civic Guards*

Milan and Venice (one regiment each).

### *The Departmental Reserve Companies*

Established strength was 79,522 men, 12,824 horses; losses in the Russian disaster took 14,061 men and 733 horses from this total. At the time of departure for Russia, the Italian contingent of the *Grande Armée* was so short of draught horses that 740 oxen were pressed into service.

The contingent which Italy sent to Russia in 1812 was attached to the IV Corps which was commanded by Eugene, the Viceroy. In the 14th Infantry Division of General Broussiere was the infantry of the Italian Guard, commanded by General Lecchi—five battalions with 4,070 men. The 15th Infantry Division was commanded by General Pino, and included the 1st and 3rd Light Infantry, the 2nd and 3rd Line Infantry and the Dalmatian Infantry Regiment, with 16,084 men in all. The cavalry of the Italian Guard under General Villata, with 1,000 sabres, and General Ornano's Light Cavalry Brigade (9th and 19th French Chasseurs) and two Italian chasseur regiments formed the cavalry of the IV Corps. The corps had 100 cannon with 2,540 gunners, sappers and train personnel. The IV Corps was present at Smolensk and Borodino.

In 1813 Napoleon urged the Italians to frantic efforts to make good the losses of the previous year. Four new line infantry regiments (8th, 9th, 10th



**Private of Carabiniers, 2nd Italian Light Infantry, 1806 parade dress (Weiland). This élite company wears the colpack instead of the bearskin. Plume, cords, epaulettes and sabre strap red; facings, waistcoat, piping and gaiter trim yellow.**

and 11th) were raised; the Gendarmerie had to give their horses to the cavalry; and the five companies of Guards of Honour were reduced to one. By the end of the year army strength had risen to 90,000 men and 14,750 horses.

In 1814 the kingdom of Italy vanished from the European stage.

# Uniforms of the Italian Army

## The Lombard Legion and the Cispadane Legion, 1796–97

### Infantry

The two Legions were distinguished only by their different hats and the different inscriptions on their buttons. The Cispadane Legion wore the French style bicorn with yellow loop and button; a green, red and white cockade; and a white-over-red-over-green plume, and their buttons bore the peripheral inscription: LEGIONE ITALIANA, LIBERTA, EGUALIANZA. The Lombard Legion wore a 'Corsican' hat with the left-hand brim extended and upturned; on this brim were fixed a yellow loop and button, a green, red and white cockade, and a white-over-red-over-green plume; on the front of the hat was a square brass plate bearing: VIVA/LA LIBERTA. Their buttons bore the peripheral inscription: LEGIONE LOMBARDA, LIBERTA, EGUALIANZA.

*Common features:* Dark green, single-breasted jacket with eight-button front, red collar, pointed cuffs and turnbacks, red shoulder-straps, white buttons; white piping down front of jacket. Dark green breeches with a wide red side-stripe; short black gaiters with black buttons. White belts, black pouch and sabre sheath, with brass grip and tip.

*Distinctions:* *Drummers:* White edging to top and front of collar, to top of cuffs and to shoulder-straps. Brass drum with white cords, and red and white triangles around the hoops. Black drumsticks on an oval brass holder on the white drum bandolier. *Drum major:* As for drummers but with gold epaulettes with gold and red fringes, and instead of the Corsican hat a bicorn with gold edging and loop and the usual cockade and plume. His bandolier was red with gold lace edging and gold fringe, and his staff had a gold knob. *Officers:* Gold epaulettes in the French style; gold gorget; sabre in black sheath on white waistbelt. Horse furniture of mounted officers green with gold edging. *Artillery:* As for the infantrymen but with black collar, cuffs and shoulder-straps. *Sappers:* Bicorn with normal loop,



**Officer, chasseur company, 2nd Italian Light Infantry, 1806 (Weiland).** Again, a completely French appearance is the most noticeable point, and the Italian cockade is the only national feature. Facings yellow; shako trim, epaulettes, gorget, and sword knot gold.

**Privates of the Italian Horse Artillery Train of the Line—a plate which poses more questions than it answers.** The uniform is definitely artillery—red shako tuft and cords, brass badge, dark green tunics and waistcoats with white buttons and red piping, cuff flaps and turnback grenades—but the left figure is definitely a foot-slogger while his companion wears heavy cavalry boots. Perhaps the man in green breeches and short gaiters rode a limber or battery vehicle, and thus did not need riding boots. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)







**Weiland's plate of a gunner of the Italian Horse Artillery of the Line, 1806, shows a curious mixture of national influences: Polish *czapska* with Italian cockade, red plume and yellow chin-chains, and Hungarian dolman and breeches, trimmed, like the boots, with red lace and braid.**

cockade and plume; coat as for the infantry but with red lapels; white waistcoats and breeches.

### **Cisalpine Hussars 1796-97**

Black conical shako with white top band and white cords; white-over-red-over-green plume at the top front centre; white lozenge front plate; white metal chin-scales, and white metal rim to peak. Dark

green dolman with white buttons and lace; red and white barrel sash; dark green breeches with white side-stripe and thigh knots; black hussar boots with white trim and tassel. Buff gauntlets. White belts and bandoliers; white sabretache bearing a bundle of fasces surmounted by a Phrygian cap and surrounded by a wreath. Harness black with white metal fittings; *schabraque* and holster covers dark green edged in white, the former having a scalloped red edging; white sheepskin saddle-cloth with red edging. Curved sabre in steel sheath with brass grip.

*Officers:* As in the French army, all officers wore silver lace and buttons if the men of the regiment wore white, and an officer's rank was indicated by the number and width of the chevrons on each cuff, on each thigh, and by the thickness of the edging to his horse furniture.

### **Cispadane Chasseurs à Cheval 1796-97**

Same uniform as for the Cisalpine Hussars except as follows: the shako decoration was limited to the white top band, and a yellow 'flame' was added. The lace on the dolman was not as close as that of the hussars, and there were not as many rows of it.

### **Milan National Guard**

Bicorn with yellow loop, white button, green-within-red-within-white cockade and white-over-red-over-green plume; dark green coat of French Army cut with (long) red tails, collar, round cuffs, lapels and shoulder-straps. White buttons, white cuff flaps, white edging to collar, lapels and shoulder-straps, white waistcoat, buff breeches, short black gaiters. White belts, black pouch, sabre sheath and bayonet sheath; brass sabre hilt with white strap and red tassel.

\* \* \*

After the reorganization of the Cisalpine Republic's army in 1797, the dress, hairstyles and

*continued on page 14*

**Fusilier privates of the Milan City Guard, 1807. Basically the uniform and equipment resemble those of Line Infantry. The shako has brass fittings, the Italian cockade, and a red-over-white-over-green tuft. The light blue coat has white buttons, white turnbacks with red grenades, and red collar and piping. Note unusual position of bayonet scabbard under cartridge box. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)**







Gunner and driver of the Italian Foot Artillery Train of the Line. They have red cords and plumes, dark green tunics with red cuff flaps and piping and white buttons, and dark green waistcoats; the gunner has dark green breeches, his companion, buff. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)



Italian Reserve Companies, 1812. White shako fittings and buttons; dark green coats with white lapels, turnbacks and cuff flaps edged red, and red collar, cuffs and piping. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)

equipment of this army became standardized on the French model except that the basic coat colour was green:

### **Light Infantry**

Black shako with white lozenge plate, white cords, green conical plume. Green coat and trousers; yellow collar, cuffs and waistcoat; green lapels and cuff flaps, green fringed epaulettes.

### **Line Infantry**

Bicorn with loop, button, cockade. Green coat, waistcoat and trousers; red collar, turnbacks, cuffs, shoulder-straps, turnbacks, all edged in white; white lapels edged in red; white buttons. Long black gaiters, white belts, brown calfskin packs, French muskets and sabres. *Grenadiers*: Red fringed epaulettes and red plume, white grenades on the turnbacks, brass grenade on the pouch lid, red sabre knot. By 1806 the bearskin bonnet had been issued to these troops; it had a red top with white cross, red cords and plume, and brass front plate bearing a grenade. *Drummers*: Red swallow's nests with white lace decoration. Drums and drum hoops as before. *Officers*: Uniform as for the men but with silver epaulettes, silver gorget with gold crest; brown-topped black boots.

### **Hussars**

Shako with lozenge plate, white cords, red-over-green plume. Red dolman with light green collar and cuffs, white buttons and lace; light green pelisse with white lace and buttons; red and green barrel sash; red breeches with white lace side-stripe and thigh knots. Green sabretache with white fasces surmounted by a Phrygian cap and white edging; plain hussar boots; light cavalry sabre. Black harness, black sheepskin saddle-cloth with red edging, green portmanteau with white edging.

### **Foot Artillery**

Bicorn with usual loop, button and cockade; green coat with black collar, cuffs, lapels and cuff flaps piped in red; red turnbacks; green shoulder-straps, green waistcoat and trousers. Black gaiters, white belts, infantry equipment.

### **Horse Artillery**

Shako without front plate but with national

cockade held by a white loop, red cords, red-over-green plume. Green dolman with white buttons and red lace, black collar and pointed cuffs piped in red. Green breeches with red side-stripes and thigh knots; black and red barrel sash; buff gauntlets; hussar boots with red trim and tassel. White sheepskin saddle-cloth with red edging, green portmanteau edged red and with a white cannon badge at the ends; white belts.

### **Sappers**

Bicorn with usual loop, button and cockade, and yellow conical pompon; green long-skirted coat with green collar, lapels and cuff flaps, red turnbacks and cuffs, red edging to lapels and collar; yellow fringed epaulettes; green waistcoat and breeches; black gaiters; white belts.

### **Miners**

As for sappers except: no plume or pompon; light blue collar, cuffs and cuff flaps; red edging to collar, lapels, cuffs and cuff flaps; green shoulder-straps edged red, red pocket edging. White buttons, belts and breeches.

### **Artificers**

As for sappers except: no pompon; green cuffs, white cuff flaps; pink lapels, shoulder-straps, turnbacks, and pink piping to collar, coat front, cuffs, cuff flaps and pocket flaps. White buttons, waistcoat and breeches; white belts; black gaiters.

### **Artillery Artificers**

As for sappers except: no pompon; coat, waistcoat, and trousers green. Pink lapels, turnbacks and shoulder-straps; cuffs and cuff flaps piped red; collar and front of coat piped pink. White buttons; short black gaiters, white belts.

### **The Polish Legions**

#### *Infantry*

Square-topped, traditional Polish *czapska* with dark blue upper portion piped in white, white headband, white cords, red plume, black lower half with no badge; red, white and blue cockade; olive-

**Italian Marines, wearing dark green coats with red facings, red gaiter trim and red waistcoats; buttons and hat plate white, and plume and epaulettes light green. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)**







Gardes d'Honneur, Italian Royal Guard, 1806-15. Brass helmet with comb in form of eagle, black fur crest, white plume, steel 'turban' with gold crowned 'N' cypher, brass chinscales with lion's-head bosses; brass scale epaulettes on a backing of facing colour, yellow fringes and aiguillette. Dark green coat,

silver buttons, silver lace on collar and cuffs. Green horse furniture trimmed white. Facings varied from company to company: Milan, pink; Bologna, yellow; Brescia, buff; Rome, scarlet; and Venice, orange. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)

shaped, white-over-red pompon; yellow metal chinscales. Dark blue, short-skirted Polish-style *kurtka* tunic, with crimson collar, lapels and turnbacks; dark blue shoulder-straps edged crimson; pointed crimson cuffs and piping; white buttons. Dark blue breeches with crimson side-stripe. White waistcoat; red sabre knot; white belts; short black gaiters with white trim and tassel; French equipment (musket, sabre, bayonet, pouch, pack and grey greatcoat).

*Officers* had the same uniform but with silver instead of white trim; silver epaulettes, silver side-stripe to breeches, gilt chinscales, hussar boots with silver trim and tassel, gilt-hilted sabre in steel sheath with silver strap and tassel on a white waistbelt worn under the *kurtka*. A red, white and blue waistbelt was worn.

*Drummers* had no special distinctions; their drum bandolier was white with a brass plate to hold the black drumsticks. Brass drum with the hoops painted in diagonal stripes of white, blue and crimson. Hair was cut short.

#### *Cavalry*

As for the infantry, but with yellow facings for one of the two regiments, crimson for the other. The *czapska* had a long plume in white, blue and red, the position of the colours varying according to squadron. Instead of gaiters they wore hussar boots with trim and tassel in the facing colour. Lance pennants were white at the lance end, then red over blue at the two points. Portmanteau, schabraque and pistol holster covers were dark blue with white edging; the saddle-cloth was white sheepskin edged in red. Black harness with white fittings; white belts with square brass belt buckles; curved sabre in steel sheath with brass hilt and white leather strap.

#### *Grenadiers*

In 1800 a battalion of grenadiers was added; the men were distinguished by a drooping red bush plume on the *czapska*, red fringed epaulettes, black belts, and red sabre strap and knot. Their gaiter trim and tassel were also red, and their waist sash was dark blue with red edging, with a red, white and blue central portion at the front of the waist.

#### *Carabiniers*

In 1800 the light infantry of the Cispadane Legion was increased by a battalion of carabiniers with green coats; red collars and cuffs; white cuff flaps,



**General Officer of the Gardes d'Honneur, Italian Royal Guard. Brass helmet with steel 'turban', white plume; dark green coat faced pink, with silver buttons and lace. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)**







**Trumpeter, Dragoons of the Italian Guard.** Brass helmet, red crest, light blue plume. Light blue coat, red facings, white buttons and lace, red and gold epaulettes. Red trumpet banner with silver badge and trim; blue and white horse furniture. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)

**Officer, Dragoons of the Italian Guard.** Brass helmet, red plume, black tuft and crest, leopardskin turban. Dark green coat faced white with red turnbacks, silver buttons, epaulette and aiguillette. Green and white horse furniture. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)

lapels, waistcoat and trousers; red turnbacks; red fringed epaulettes; light infantry shako; short gaiters with red trim and tassel; all other equipment as for the infantry.

### **The Guard**

The events of 1805 led to Italy emerging as a kingdom; already in 1803 a '*Garde du President de la Republique Cisalpine*' had been formed. It then consisted of one battalion of grenadiers and one of



**Italian aide-de-camp. Dark green coat with red turnbacks and silver lace, sash and epaulettes; green and silver *schabraque*. (Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.)**

chasseurs à pied (eight companies strong in all), a squadron each of grenadiers à cheval and chasseurs à cheval, a company of horse artillery and a company of artillery train. These units wore the same uniforms as the French Consular Guard but green replaced blue as the basic coat colour. The horse artillery wore the same uniform as the horse artillery of the Italian line artillery, but in blue; horse furniture was blue with red trimming.

In 1805 this Presidential Guard was retitled the 'Royal Guard' and was expanded to two battalions each of grenadiers and chasseurs à pied and twelve

companies of Velites (grenadiers and chasseurs). The cavalry was increased to five squadrons of Gardes d'Honneur and a regiment of dragoons; artillery comprised a company each of foot and horse, and there was also a corps of Gendarmerie d'élite.

#### *Uniforms of the Guard: Grenadiers*

Black bearskin with white front plate bearing a grenade and the letters 'R' and 'I', red top patch bearing a white cross, red plume and white cords. Green coat (all details of cut as for the Imperial Guard); green collar, red cuffs, white cuff flaps with three points, red turnbacks; vertical, three-button pocket flaps piped red in the skirts; white lapels, white buttons. Red epaulettes; white waistcoat, breeches and gaiters (black gaiters in winter). White belts. *Officers* had silver cap plates, gorget, belt plates, buttons, epaulettes and sabre strap and tassel; mounted officers' horse furniture was green edged in silver; black harness.

The eagle which figured on the Italian arms bore a five-pointed star on its chest with the letter 'N' in the centre, above the star the Iron Crown of Lombardy. The Carabiniers of the Regiment of Grenadiers of the Guard wore the above uniform but without a front plate to the bearskin bonnet, and with dark green plume with red tip; and dark green epaulette straps with red crescent and fringes.

#### *Chasseurs*

Shako with white top band; white cords, loop and button; green, white and red cockade; green plume; yellow eagle front plate. Green coat, green turnbacks and lapels, red collar and cuffs; white, three-pointed cuff flaps, white piping to collar, lapels, turnbacks and pockets; white waistcoat and trousers; short black gaiters; red epaulettes, yellow buttons.

#### *Velites Grenadiers*

Bearskin as for the Grenadiers but with a yellow front plate; white coat of the same cut as for the Grenadiers, with light green collar, lapels, cuffs, cuff flaps, turnbacks and pocket piping; white piping to collar, lapels and cuff flaps; red epaulettes, yellow buttons.

#### *Velites Carabiniers*

Bearskin bonnet as for the carabiniers; coat of the same cut as for the carabiniers but with colours as for the Velites Grenadiers. *Officers* of Velites wore gold epaulettes, and had gold grenade or hunting



horn badges in their turnbacks; light green and gold horse furniture with grenade or hunting horn badge in the rear corner.

*Conscripts of the Guard*

Uniform as for the Chasseurs of the Guard.

*Gardes d'Honneur*

Brass helmet of the same basic style as that worn by the French Carabiniers, the comb of the helmet in the form of an eagle; steel turban with crowned 'N' badge; black peak and neck guard edged in white metal; black 'stuffed sausage' crest, white plume, yellow chinscales. Green coat of dragoon cut; facings, according to company, worn on collar, lapels, round cuffs, turnbacks and pocket piping. Each side of the collar was adorned with two white lace loops, as were the cuffs; officers also had silver lace decoration to their lapel buttonholes. Brass scale epaulettes on a backing of the facing colour held with a yellow band. Aiguillette on the right shoulder in yellow cord. White waistcoat, breeches, bandolier and belt with brass plate. High cuffed boots; brass-hilted sabre in steel sheath, white knot. White gauntlets. Black harness; green horse furniture edged white with the Iron Crown in the rear corner.

**The Army of the Cisalpine Republic, 1801-02. This rather indistinct study by J. Cenni brings out the French Republican flavour of this period. The Polish cavalry and the hussars are represented on the right. (Italian Army Historical Dept.)**

The facing colours of the various companies were as follows:

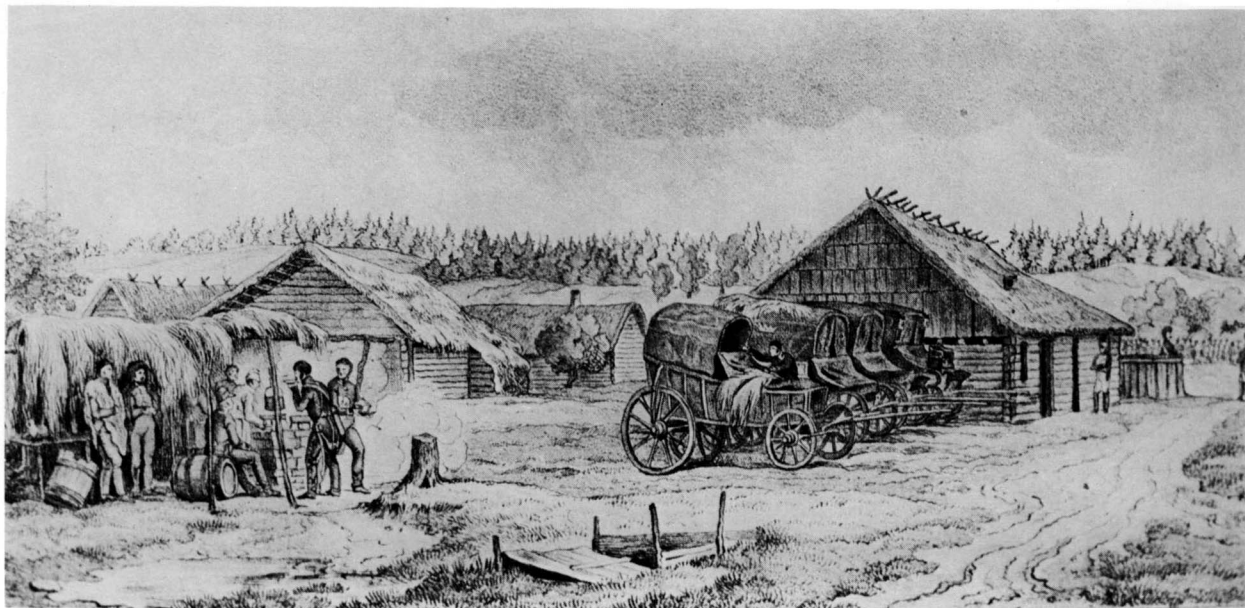
| <i>Number and Name</i> | <i>Facings</i> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Milan               | Pink           |
| 2. Bologna             | Yellow         |
| 3. Brescia             | Buff           |
| 4. Romagne             | Scarlet        |
| 5. Venice              | Orange         |

Officers wore silver epaulettes and aiguillette, and their horse furniture was edged in silver. Trumpeters had a yellow coat with light blue facings; white crest and plume to helmet; white contre epaulettes with light blue backing; light blue and white horse furniture. Grey horses.

*Dragoons of the Guard*

Uniform as for the Empress Dragoons of the Imperial Guard but with white lace and buttons. *Trumpeters*: red crest, light blue plume; light blue coat; red collar, lapels and cuffs; light blue cuff flaps; lapels edged white with white buttonhole





**Italian baggage waggons in Russia in 1812—a plate by Albrecht Adam showing a bivouac of the Italian IV Corps during the *Grande Armée's* advance.**

decoration. Red turnbacks; light blue horse furniture edged white with white grenade in the rear corner. Otherwise as for the troops. Red trumpet banner with silver embroidery. Grey horses. Officers as for the men, but with gilt helmet, and silver epaulettes, lace and buttons.

#### *Foot Artillery of the Guard*

Bearskin without front plate; red top patch with white cross; red cords and plume; green, white and red cockade. Green, long-skirted coat, black collar and lapels piped in red, red turnbacks with green grenade badges. Red cuffs and cuff flaps, white buttons, red epaulettes. Green waistcoat and breeches; high black boots, white gauntlets. White belts, brass-hilted sabre with white strap and red tassel, black sheath, brass fittings. Officers had silver epaulettes and silver grenade badges on the turnbacks.

#### *Horse Artillery of the Guard*

Uniform as for the horse artillery of the Imperial Guard: brown fur colpack with red cords and plume and brass chinscales, dark blue dolman with red hussar lace and three rows of brass buttons. Dark blue collar and cuffs edged red, dark blue pelisse with black fur, red lace and yellow buttons. Dark blue breeches with red side-stripes and Hungarian thigh knots; red and blue barrel sash.

Dark blue sabretache edged in red with brass eagle and crossed cannon badge; white belts. Horse furniture blue edged red; black sheepskin saddle-cloth edged red. Officers as for the men, but all red lace and piping becomes gold; red morocco bandolier and slings with gold edging; gold cords to colpack.

#### *Horse Artillery Train*

Polish-style *czapska* in black with, on the upper front left-hand side, brass crossed cannon barrels under the Iron Crown; brass chinscales; green, white and red cockade; red plume. Grey coat; dark green collar, pointed cuffs and turnbacks (latter with white grenade badges); five broad dark green bands with pointed ends across the chest; dark green fringed epaulettes. Buff breeches, high boots, white belts. Black sheepskin saddle-cloth edged red; saddle furniture dark green edged white.

#### *Foot Artillery Train*

As for horse artillery train but with round green cuffs and green, scalloped, three-button cuff flaps.

#### *Gendarmerie d'élite*

Uniform as for their French counterparts: bearskin with peak; white cords and plume; green, white and red cockade; brass chinscales; dark blue coat, dark blue collar; crimson lapels, cuffs, cuff flaps and turnbacks, crimson piping to skirt pocket flaps. Collar, lapels and cuffs piped white. White trefoils on both shoulders, white aiguillette on the left shoulder; buff waistcoat and breeches, buff gaunt-

lets, high boots. Buff bandolier edged white, white waistbelt; brass-hilted sword in black leather sheath with white leather fist strap. Dark blue horse furniture edged white with a white grenade in the rear corner; black harness. Foot gendarmes had the same uniform but with gaiters and infantry equipment.

### 1806-15

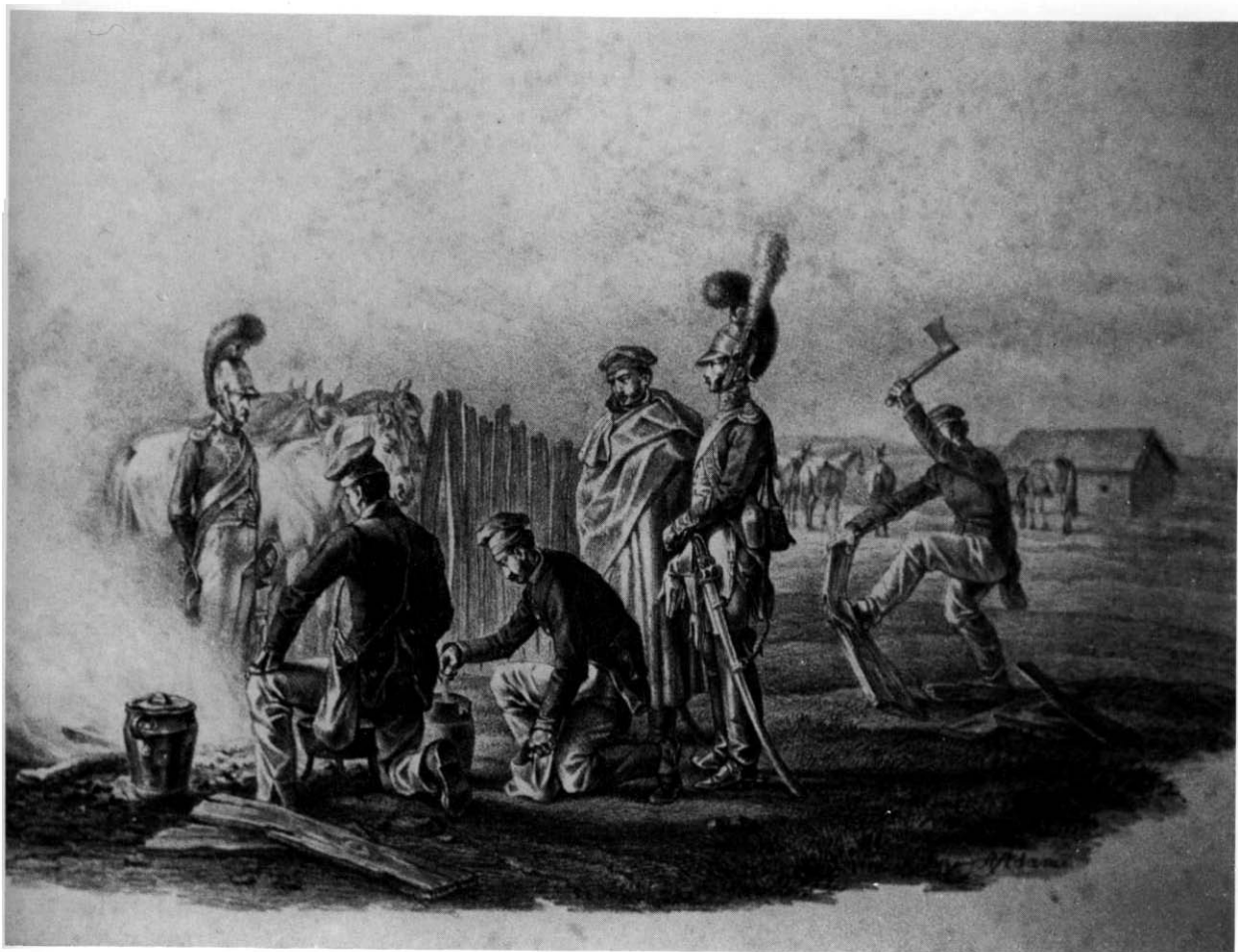
#### *Line Infantry*

In 1806 the uniforms of the Italian line infantry were redesigned and the green tunics and breeches gave way to white. The cut and style was entirely French, as were the inter-company distinctions and the rank badges. Grenadiers wore black bearskins with brass plates bearing a grenade, a red plume and white cords, and red epaulettes and sabre knots. Fusiliers had shakos with brass, rhombic plates and chinscales, a green-within-red-within-white cockade, and a company pompon (1st—

green; 2nd—sky-blue; 3rd—orange; 4th—violet). White shoulder-straps were edged in the facing colour. White shako cords were added for parades. If sabres were carried, the straps were white. Voltigeurs had yellow-tipped green plumes, green cords, green epaulettes with yellow crescents, and green sabre straps.

Bandoliers, waistcoats and breeches were white, and gaiters black. French-style packs, pouches, sabres and muskets were carried. Turnback badges were: Fusiliers—a green, five-pointed star; Grenadiers—a grenade; Voltigeurs—a hunting horn. Drummers had company uniform with the addition of a special red, white and green lace to collar, cuffs and to the 'swallow's nests', which were in the facing colour.

**Italian Gardes d'Honneur in Russia, 1812—a typical bivouac scene from the sketchbooks of the famous Faber du Four, the Württemberg artillery officer to whom we are indebted for so many fine studies of this campaign.**



### Facings:

1st Regiment *a* (collar)—green\*; *b* (lapels)—red\*; *c* (cuffs)—red\*; *d* (cuff flaps)—green\*; *e* (turnbacks)—red\*; *f* (buttons)—yellow.

2nd *a*—white\*\*; *b*—red\*; *c*—white\*\*; *d*—red\*; *e*—white\*\*; *f*—yellow.

3rd *a, b, c, d* and *e*—red\*; *f*—yellow.

4th *a*—red\*; *b*—white\*\*\*; *c*—white\*\*\*; *d*—green\*; *e*—white\*\*\*; *f*—white.

5th *a*—red\*; *b* and *c*—green\*; *d*—red\*; *e*—white\*\*\*; *f*—white\*\*\*.

6th *a*—white\*\*\*; *b*—green\*; *c*—white\*\*\*; *d*—green\*; *e*—white\*\*\*; *f*—yellow.

7th *a*—green\*; *b*—white\*\*\*; *c*—red\*; *d*—none; *e*—white\*\*\*; *f*—white.

\* = piped white    \*\* = piped red    \*\*\* = piped green

### Light Infantry

Uniform as for the French light infantry in style but dark green tunics and breeches; national cockade and shako plates, yellow buttons. Carabiniers (grenadier equivalents) wore bearskins with red plumes and cords, red epaulettes, and red sabre straps. Facings were as follows: 1st Regiment: *a* (collar, cuffs and piping)—red; *b* (waistcoat)—green; *c* (turnbacks)—white. 2nd: *a, b* and *c*—yellow. 3rd: *a, b* and *c*—white. 4th: *a, b* and *c*—light blue.

### Line Cavalry:

#### 1st and 2nd Dragoons

French dragoon-style uniforms and equipment; green coats and shoulder-straps; white buttons, waistcoat, breeches and belts. Facings were: 1st Regiment ('*Dragoni regina*') pink collar, cuffs, lapels, piping and turnbacks; green plume to left side of helmet, leopardskin turban. 2nd ('*Dragoni Napoleone*') carmine collar, cuffs, lapels, piping and turnbacks up to 1812 when they became red (the collar became green); black plume with carmine tip, black fur turban.

#### 1st–4th Chasseurs à Cheval

The 1st, 2nd and 4th Regiments wore shakos having at the front only the cockade and loop; white side chevrons, point upmost; white chin-scales; green plume with tip in the regimental facing colour. Green, single-breasted tunics; white buttons and lace bars to the chest; Hungarian breeches with white thigh knots and side-stripe; white-

trimmed hessian boots, white belts. The 3rd Regiment wore black fur colpacks with cockade at the front top centre and above this a red plume. Facings (collar, cuffs and turnbacks): 1st Regiment—yellow; 2nd and 3rd—red; 4th—violet.

#### Foot Artillery of the Guard

Confusing sources make it difficult to draw a clear picture. Either a black fur colpack or a black peakless shako; red pompon and cords, brass badge of crossed gun barrels. Dark green tunic of line infantry cut, red epaulettes, and red piping to collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks; yellow buttons. Dark green breeches, white buttons and belts, black gaiters. Black collar, cuffs, cuff flaps and lapels; black turnbacks with red grenades and piping.

#### Horse Artillery of the Guard

As for their French counterparts—colpacks; dark blue hussar uniform laced red; yellow buttons.

#### Train of Guard Foot Artillery

Black shako; grey tunic and breeches faced dark green; dark green lace bars across the chest.

#### Train of Guard Horse Artillery

As for their foot artillery counterparts but with the *czapska*.

#### Engineers of the Guard

As for foot artillery but with a peaked shako, red epaulettes and black Polish cuffs.

#### Foot Artillery of the Line

As for the foot artillery of the guard but black, peakless shako with cords, pompon and badge as before; red top band.

#### Horse Artillery of the Line

Black *czapska*, red plume, black fur headband. Short-skirted green tunic and breeches; black collar and Polish cuffs; red epaulettes, piping, turnbacks and lace bars across the chest.

#### Engineers

As for foot artillery but peaked shako, red epaulettes, black Polish cuffs.

#### Train of Foot Artillery

As for the artillery but green collar, lapels, turnbacks and cuffs piped red; red cuff flaps. Green shoulder-straps piped red. Drivers wore buff breeches and heavy cavalry boots and their tunics were single-breasted.

#### Train of Horse Artillery

As for foot artillery train but with short-skirted tunics.





- 1 Private of Grenadiers, Italian Legion, 1800
- 2 Trooper, Chasseurs à cheval, Italian Legion, 1800
- 3 Officer of Italian Grenadiers, walking out dress, 1806
- 4 Grenadier of Italian Guard, parade dress, 1806





**1** Pioneer sergeant, Grenadiers, Italian 1st Line Infantry, 1806  
**2** Drummer, Fusiliers, Italian Line Infantry, 1806  
**3** Trooper, Italian 1st Chasseurs à cheval, 1806





**1 Private of Grenadiers, Bataillon Septinsulaire, 1808**  
**2 Corporal of Carabiniers, Dalmatian Infantry Regiment, 1811**  
**3 Lieutenant colour-bearer, Neapolitan 5th Line Infantry, 1811-14**



Officer, Neapolitan Horse Artillery of the Line, 1808-14







1

2

3

**1** Drummer of Chasseurs, Neapolitan 1st Light Infantry, 1810-11  
**2** Trumpeter, Neapolitan 2nd Chasseurs à cheval, 1808-12  
**3** Private of Fusiliers, Regiment Illyrien, 1811

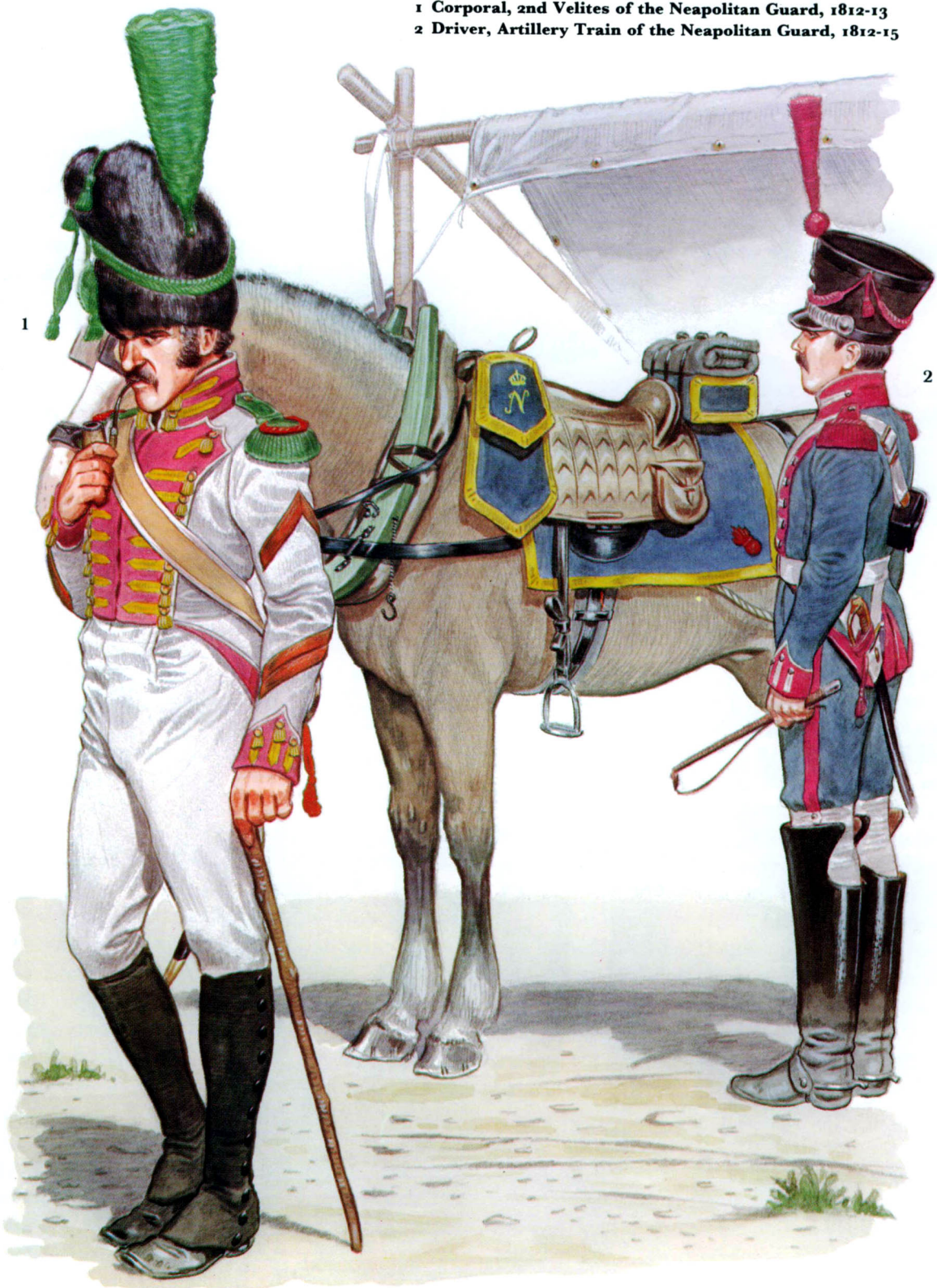




1 Voltigeur, 2nd Velites(?) of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-15  
2 Gunner, Horse Artillery of the Neapolitan Guard  
3 Drum major, Grenadiers of the Neapolitan Guard



1 Corporal, 2nd Velites of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-13  
2 Driver, Artillery Train of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-15







**Kettle-drummer, Cheveau-légers of the Neapolitan Guard, 1811-15**

### *Baggage Train*

Shakos; single-breasted green coats with red collar, shoulder-straps and Polish cuffs; buff leather breeches.

### *Engineer Train*

As for the horse artillery train but white buttons, red epaulettes.

### *Istrian Chasseurs (raised 1806)*

French light infantry-style uniform in green; light blue facings; white buttons; shako. This unit was combined in 1806 with the *Bersaglieri di Brescia* to form the 3rd Light Infantry Regiment.

### *Bersaglieri di Brescia (raised in 1800)*

Corsican hat with the left-hand brim turned up, light green pompon and loop; dark green, double-breasted tunic; light green collar, turnbacks, shoulder-straps and pointed cuffs; yellow buttons; grey trousers with light green side-stripe worn over the black gaiters; white belts. Small black pouch worn at the front centre of the waistbelt. Together with the Istrian Chasseurs this unit later (1806) formed the 3rd Light Infantry Regiment.

### *Dalmatian Infantry Regiment*

Shako with white lozenge plate bearing 'RDI' under the Iron Crown; green, single-breasted tunic with red collar, pointed cuffs and Austrian-style turnbacks; white buttons.

## **Colours and Standards**

### *Cisalpine Republican Colours*

Each battalion had a colour, very much in the French style: white ground, green branches surrounding a central fasces surmounted by a red cap; gold fringes and inscriptions: LIBERTE EGALITE at the top, VIGILANCE at the bottom; to each side DISCIPLINE and SUBORDINATION. Gold spear tip.

### *Italian Republican Colours and Standards*

French 1804 style: white central lozenge, red outer corners, green central square. On the obverse—scales framing a sword and a branch and the inscriptions REPUBLICCA/ITALIANA/GUARDIA DEL/PRESIDENTE. On the reverse the central, regimental inscription BONAPARTE/PRESIDENTE/ALLO SQUADRONE/DI GRANATIERI/A CAVALLO, flanked by DISCIPLINA and SUBORDINATION. In each corner a flaming gold grenade.

### *Italian Colours and Standards 1805-14*

These were of French 1804 pattern with a white central lozenge, the outer corners alternately green

and red (top staff corner green); embroidery gold. The staff was surmounted by an eagle grasping a thunderbolt on a rectangular plinth all in gold. Initially the regimental designations were in French, later (1808 onwards) in Italian and these were shown on the reverse. On the obverse was the Italian eagle in gold under the imperial crown and bearing on its breast a red shield with the Iron Crown of Lombardy.

In 1813 the eagle and surroundings on the obverse changed slightly and the mantle and crossed halberds were replaced by two light blue scrolls bearing in gold VALORE and E DISCIPLINA, or the regimental designation OVER VALORE E DISCIPLINA.

For detailed examples, see Men-at-Arms title *Flags of the Napoleonic Wars (1)* by Terence Wise.

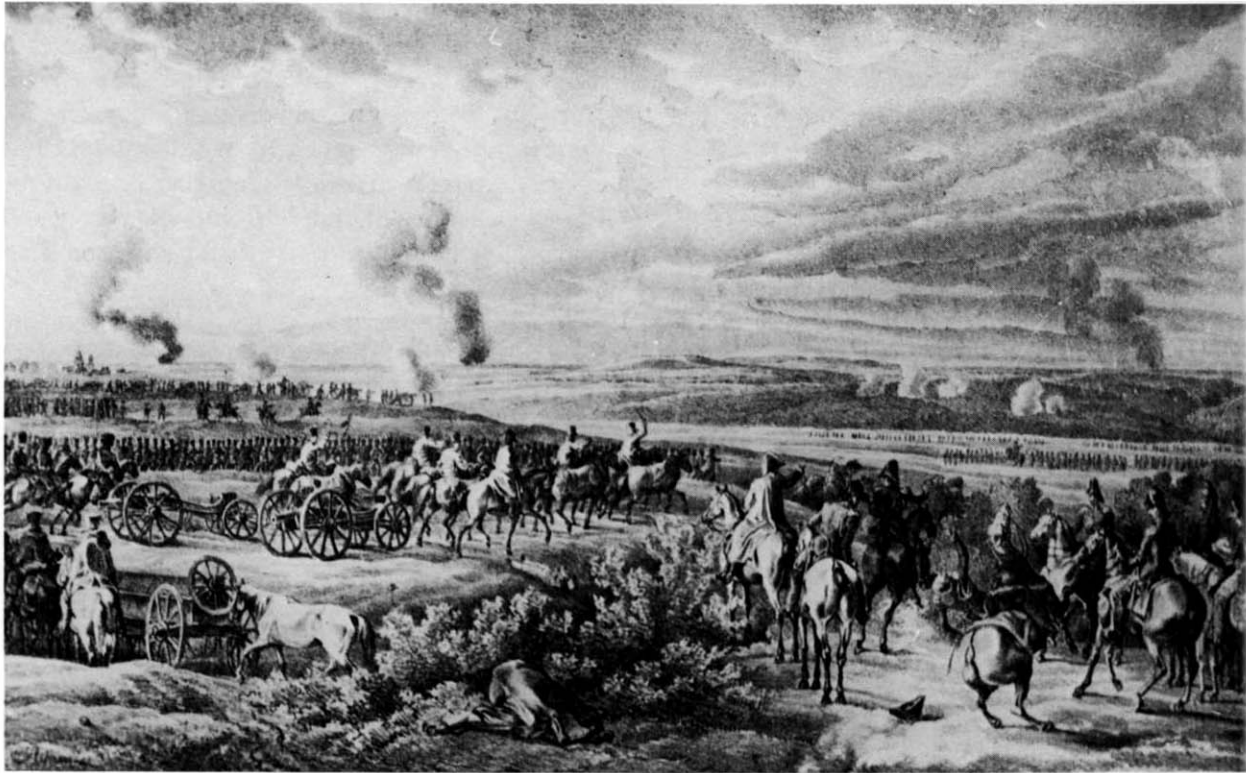
## *The Neapolitan Army*

When Naples fell under the Napoleonic sway in 1806, the army was small and badly organized. Most of the existing army of the 'Kingdom of the Two Sicilies' (as the southern Italian state was known) remained loyal to King Ferdinand IV and went with him to Sicily, where the old regime survived until 1815, supported and maintained by British naval power. In his short stewardship (1806-08), Joseph Bonaparte did not bring about a dramatic improvement in this situation. In a desperate effort to meet his imperial brother's demands for troops, Joseph opened the gates of all the prisons in his new kingdom and transferred hundreds of more or less willing 'volunteers' into his military establishment.

Badges of rank and inter-company distinctions were as in the French army, and most weapons and equipment were supplied from French magazines. From the available, and conflicting, sources it would appear that this army had almost as many varieties of uniforms as men to wear them, and it is likely that a mixture of old and new items was often to be seen.

In 1806 the field army consisted of the royal guard and the line; the Guard comprised a





**Italian troops moving up to participate in the battle of Borodino, 5 September 1812; a more general study by Faber du Four.**

company of halberdiers, a regiment of grenadiers, one of voltigeurs, a regiment of chevau-légers, one company each of foot and horse artillery (with train) and a corps of Gendarmerie d'élite.

The Line had two infantry and two light infantry regiments and the Corsican Legion. The line cavalry consisted of two regiments of chasseurs à cheval and one of 'Polish' lancers. This 'regiment' was in fact part of the 1st Lancers of Berg whom Murat brought with him from Spain to Naples on his promotion from the status of Grand Duke of Berg (see my book *Napoleon's German Allies (1), Berg and Westphalia*, in this series). There was an artillery regiment with train, a battalion of sappers and miners, one of invalides and a corps of gendarmes.

By 1811 the Guard had the halberdiers, a regiment of grenadiers, two of Velites (the 2nd formed from the voltigeurs in 1811), one of Gardes d'Honneur, one of velites à cheval, one of chevau-légers, a squadron of Gendarmerie d'élite, two companies of horse artillery, two companies of artillery train and a battalion of marines.

The line comprised eight infantry regiments;

four light infantry regiments; one regiment of chasseurs à cheval and two of chevau-légers; a regiment of foot artillery of twenty companies, a battalion of artillery train with a company of artillery artificers; three companies of armourers; a battalion of sappers and miners; a battalion of veterans; three legions of gendarmerie (seven squadrons and fourteen companies); a battalion of marines; a regiment of naval artillery, and a battalion of sailors.

By 1812 the Guard had increased by a company of veterans, a squadron of Gendarmerie d'élite and a corps of engineers. The line had been augmented by two companies of horse artillery, five companies of artificers and twelve coastal artillery companies.

At the end of 1813 the Gardes d'Honneur became Gardes du Corps; the 4th Light Infantry Regiment was disbanded, and all line cavalry regiments were now chevau-légers.

On 15 January 1814 the Guard Chevau-légers (three squadrons) were converted to lancers, and the three squadrons of velites à cheval to hussars. In the Line, the 4th Light Infantry Regiment had been resurrected and a 4th regiment of chasseurs à cheval raised.

By 2 May 1815, at the battle of Tolentino, the

Guard had been increased by a regiment of voltigeurs and all the Guard cavalry regiments had been expanded to four squadrons each. Line infantry regiments were now twelve in number, and a company of pontonniers had been added to the artillery.

## *Uniforms of the Neapolitan Army*

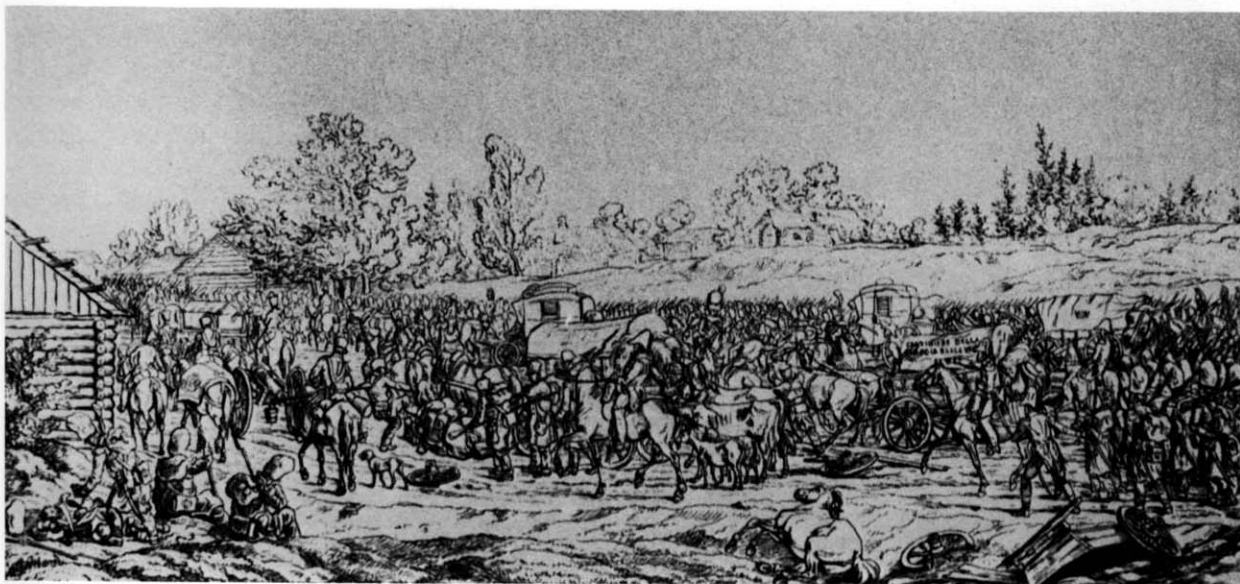
### *Generals*

Bicorn with cockade, gold loop and button, gold lace edging, white cut-feather trim; dark blue tunic and breeches, crimson collar and cuffs edged with gold embroidery, gold embroidery across the chest. Crimson and silver waist sash, gold side-stripes to breeches; gold epaulettes; hussar boots with gold trim and tassel.

patch with yellow grenade. Dark blue coat with light crimson collar, lapels, cuffs, three-point cuff flaps and turnbacks; white piping to collar, cuffs, cuff flaps and lapels; yellow buttons, yellow lace buttonholes with tassels as follows—two on each side of the collar, two on each cuff, seven on each side of the lapel. Red epaulettes. White breeches, white or black gaiters (summer or winter); white belts, black pouch, French-pattern sabre, white strap, red knot; grey greatcoat, brown calfskin pack. Fatigue cap in the coat colour piped black.

*Officers* wore the same uniform but of finer cloth and with gold buttons; gold bearskin cords, white plume; gold turnback grenades and gold gorget bearing a silver grenade; gold trim and tassel to boot tops, gold sword knot. Field officers' saddle furniture was red with gold edging. Off duty they wore the bicorn with cockade, loop and button.

*Drummers* wore a light crimson coat with dark blue facings, dark blue 'swallow's nests' laced in gold, gold edging to collar, lapels and cuffs, and



### *General Staff Officers*

Bicorn with cockade and gold loop and button; dark blue tunic, light blue collar, gold buttons and epaulettes; crimson breeches with gold side-stripes and Hungarian thigh knots. Hussar boots with gold trim and tassel. Gold sabre strap.

### **Royal Guard Infantry**

#### *Grenadiers*

Black bearskin caps, red cords and plume, red top

**Albrecht Adam sketch, dated 1 July 1812 'between Piloni and Kroni', showing the Italians of the IV Corps advancing into Russia. The atmosphere of relative chaos, and the dead horses even at this stage of the campaign are tellingly shown.**

gold buttonhole lace to lapel buttons. The *drum major's* uniform was similar to those of the drummers, except for: brown fur colpack with gold cords, white plume with crimson and green feathers in the base; gold edging all around the collar; black cuffs and collar, gold tassels to the lapel but-



**Faber du Four made this sketch of Italian troops during the July 1812 advance on the spot. A mounted officer of an Italian infantry regiment carries on his saddle the knapsacks of two soldiers, while a grenadier supports an ailing fusilier of the Line.**

tonholes, gold edging to turnbacks, all jacket seams edged gold; gold fringed epaulettes. Gold side-seams and Hungarian thigh knots to white breeches; officer-pattern boots; white gauntlets. Green sabre bandolier edged gold, gold-hilted sabre in black and gold sheath. gilt oval drumstick holder, gilt-tipped black drumsticks. Mace, brown with silver pommel and tip, gilt cords and tassels.

*Sappers* were as for privates except: red bearskin cords, brass front plate bearing the crowned cypher 'JN'; on each upper sleeve were crossed axes under a crown all in white cloth. Buff gauntlets with black cuffs. White apron held by a white waistbelt with square brass buckle bearing a grenade. Black-hafted axe with brass fittings, black leather blade-cover bearing brass grenades, white bandolier; carbine with white sling.

*2nd Battalion.* As for 1st Battalion but with white facings.

*Velites, 1st Regiment*

All details as for the grenadiers except where noted otherwise. White tunics, white buttons; red collar,

lapels, pointed cuffs, turnbacks and vertical pocket piping (no piping to collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks); gold lace to collar, cuffs and lapel buttons. Yellow epaulette straps with green fringes.

*Velites, 2nd Regiment*

As for the 1st Regiment but with light crimson facings.

*Marines of the Guard*

All details as for grenadiers except where noted otherwise. Bearskin with red cords and plume; dark blue tunics with red collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks (all without piping); red pocket piping; dark blue cuff flaps, yellow buttons. The collar bears two yellow laces, and the buttons on lapels, pocket and cuff flaps each have yellow lace buttonholes. Red epaulettes.

*Halberdiers*

Bicorn with cockade and white corner tassels, white loop and button. Dark blue, single-breasted tunic closing with eight buttons, the front of the tunic piped red. Red collar, square cuffs and turnbacks; the cuffs and horizontal pocket flaps edged silver. White breeches; white or black gaiters. Gilt-hilted sword on white belt worn under the coat; black pike to halberd.

After a short time all Guards units, mounted and foot, adopted buff leatherwork with white edges.

## Line Infantry

French-pattern black shako with cockade (initially French blue-within-red-within-white, from 1811 crimson-within-white), loop and button over either a brass shield bearing 'JN' or a brass lozenge with the same device. Brass chinscales; company pompon for fusiliers: 1st Company—green; 2nd—sky-blue; 3rd—orange; 4th—violet. White, French-pattern tunic with regimental facings (see table) shown on collar, lapels, cuffs, turnbacks and on piping to fusiliers' white shoulder-straps, to the white, three-button, scalloped cuff flaps and to the vertical pocket flaps. Yellow buttons; white breeches; black gaiters; white bandoliers; black pouch. French-pattern sabres, muskets, packs and great-coats.

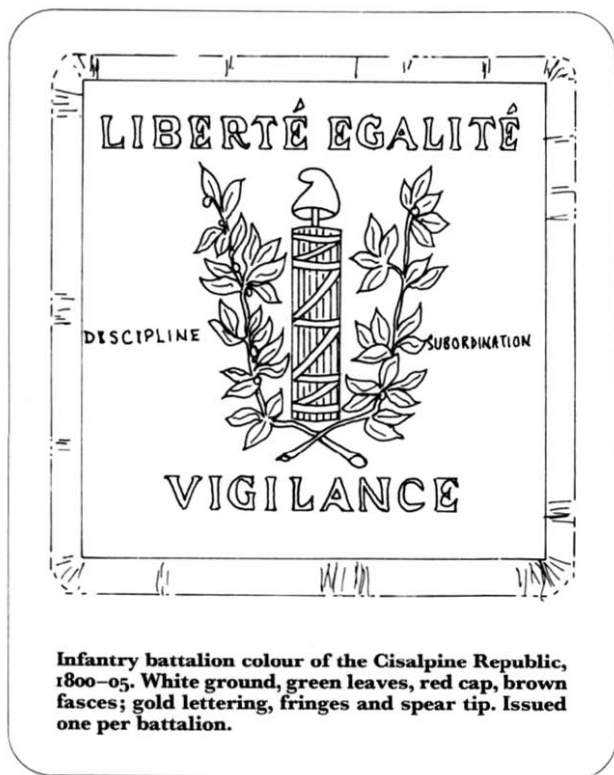
*Grenadiers* had red pompons, plumes and cords to their shakos (initially some bearskins were worn on parades), red epaulettes and sabre straps, and red

grenades on their turnbacks. *Voltigeurs* had yellow-over-green plumes, green pompons, cords and epaulettes (the latter with yellow crescents), and green or yellow horns on their turnbacks. *Voltigeur* sabre straps were green. *Drummers* had a special red-white-and-blue lace edging to collar and cuffs, and swallow's nests in the facing colour at the top of each sleeve edged in blue, white and red lace. In later years (probably 1811) drummers' lace became crimson and white checks, and was worn in seven chevrons, point up, on each sleeve in addition to the positions described above. *Drum majors* had fur colpacks, gold epaulettes, and were dressed as for the drum majors of the grenadiers but in white coats and with their own regimental facings. *Sappers*

**Another Albrecht Adam sketch, this time of Grenadiers of the Italian Guard muffled against the Russian autumn. The details of slung equipment are clear—and note the pioneer, second from right. The bearskins are protected by oilcloth covers.**







1st Regiment 'Re'—mid-blue; 2nd 'Regina'—mid-blue (later red); 3rd 'Principe Royale'—yellow (later black); 4th 'Royale Samnite'—orange (later crimson); 5th 'Royale Calabria'—green; 6th 'di Napoli'—orange; 7th 'Royal Africaine'\*\*—yellow; 8th 'Principe Luciano'—pink; 9th\*—light blue; 10th\*—dark blue; 11th\*—crimson; 12th\*—dark green.

\* = raised in 1812

\*\* = Originally the French 'Pionieres Noires' transferred in 1806 to Neapolitan service—negro personnel.

## Light Infantry

### *Voltigeurs*

Shako with cockade, lozenge plate or shield in white metal bearing the crowned 'JN'; white loop and button, carrot-shaped yellow-over-green pompon, yellow cords and white chinscales. Medium blue tunic and breeches of French light infantry style with medium blue lapels and cuffs all piped in the facing colour. Facings shown on cuff flaps and piping; yellow collar. On the turnbacks, white hunting horns. Medium blue waistcoats; black gaiters. Green epaulettes with yellow crescents; green sabre straps. White bandoliers; other equipment as for the line infantry.

### *Carabiniers*

As for voltigeurs except: black bearskin caps, red top patch with white grenade, red cords and plume; cockade. Red epaulettes and sabre straps. Collar in the facing colour.

### *Fusiliers*

As for voltigeurs but with company pompon, white cords, medium blue shoulder-straps piped in the facing colour, white sabre straps. Collar in the facing colour.

*Drummers'* uniforms were as for those of the Line. *Officers* wore silver epaulettes, gorget and sabre knot, silver cap cords and boot trim, and white plumes.

### *Facings 1813*

1st Regiment—black (from 1806 to 1813 Royal Corsican Regiment)

2nd Regiment—yellow (was 1st Regiment until 1813)

3rd Regiment—red (was 2nd Regiment until 1813)

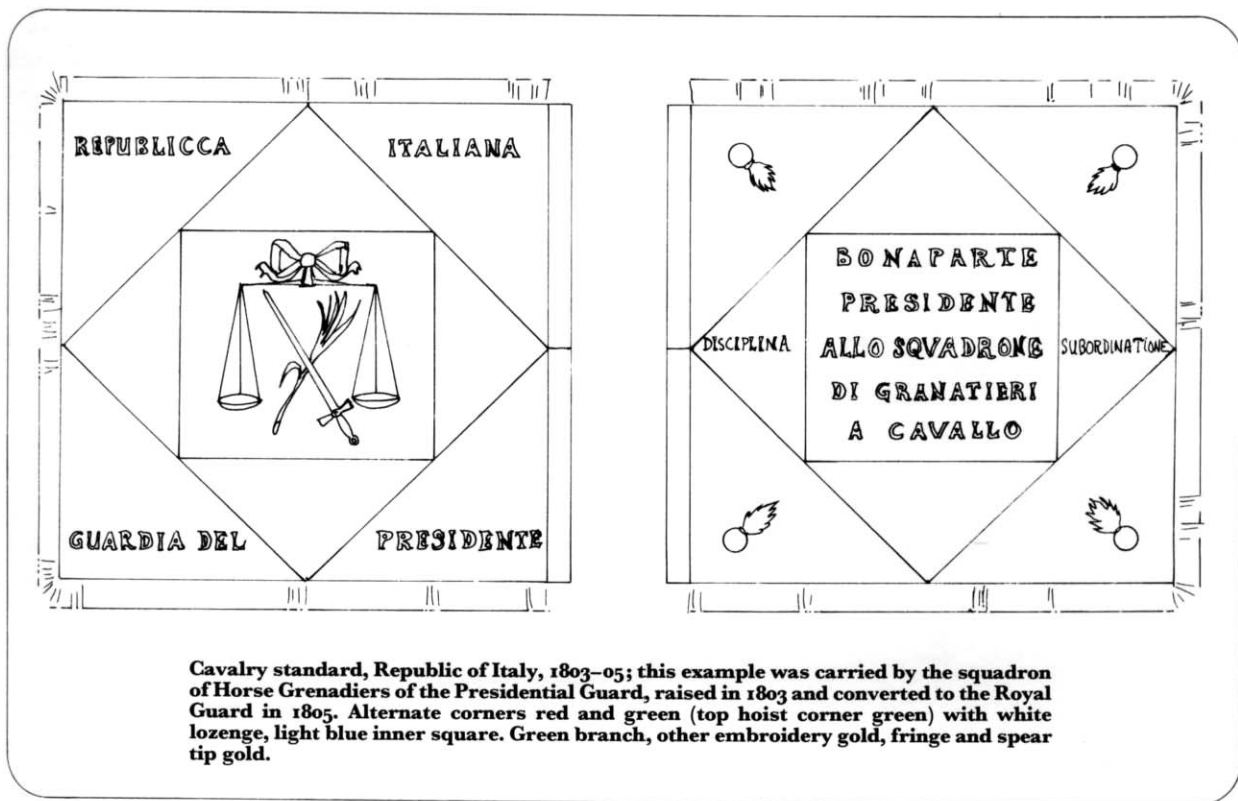
4th Regiment—orange (raised 1813)

wore privates' uniforms but with bearskin bonnets with white cords, red plume, brass plate bearing a grenade; red epaulettes; red badges on the upper arms (crossed axes under a grenade). All other details as for sappers of the Guard.

*Officers* were as for privates except: gold shako fittings, cords and pompon; longer coat tails; white plumes for field officers of fusiliers; gold gorget bearing a silver crowned 'JN'; boots, etc., as for officers of the Guard. The bicorn with cockade, loop and button was worn off duty with the single-breasted white frock coat with facing colours on collar, cuffs, turnbacks and piping to front.

*Musicians* wore white plumes with the base in the colour of their tunics, and single-breasted tunics with seven bars of white lace on the chest and white lace edging to top and front of collar. Their red epaulettes had white fringes, and they had hussar-pattern boots. Tunics were generally in the regimental facing colour (light blue for the 5th) with red facings (white for the 1st and 6th Regiments).

Badges of rank and service were red (corporals and below) or gold. The facings of the individual regiments were:



## Guard Cavalry

### *Gardes d'Honneur*

Black colpack with red bag and yellow trim, tassel and cords; white dolman, red collar and cuffs, yellow lace and buttons; crimson and yellow barrel sash. Red pelisse with black fur and yellow buttons and lace. Light green breeches with yellow side-stripes and Hungarian thigh knots; hussar boots with yellow trim and tassel and steel, screw-in spurs. Green *schabraque*, red edging and yellow piping.

### *Gardes du Corps (the converted Gardes d'Honneur)*

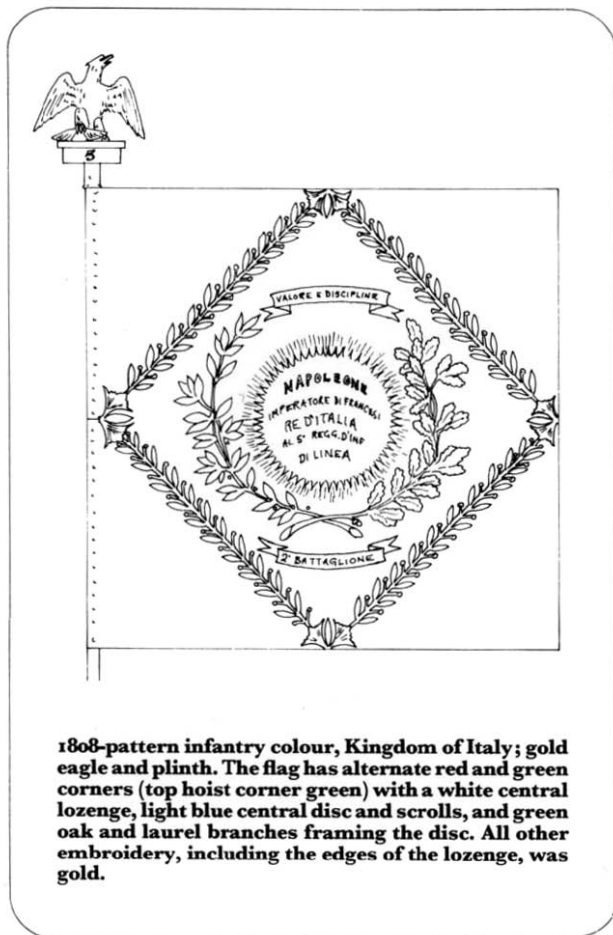
Bicorn with cockade, white loop and button, white plume. Red, single-breasted tunic closed with eight silver buttons; yellow collar and cuffs, red cuff flaps, red piping to front of tunic; yellow turnbacks to long skirts; yellow piping to vertical pockets. White lace buttonholes to buttons on the chest, the pocket and cuff flaps. White epaulettes; white aiguillette on the right shoulder. White breeches; heavy cavalry boots. White belts; black harness with brass fittings. Saddle furniture blue with white lace borders and red piping; square blue portmanteau. In the *schabraque* rear corners, the crowned cypher 'JN' in white.

### *Velites à Cheval (1806-14)*

Slate-blue tunics, pale yellow facings; gold buttons and lace loops with tassels at collar (one), cuffs (two) and lapels (seven); yellow epaulettes. Slate-blue breeches, double yellow side-stripes; black shako with a silver-within-gold sunburst plate, yellow cords, white-over-yellow plume (white plume for officers), yellow chinscales. Slate-blue *schabraque* and portmanteau with yellow edges, all leather white.

### *Hussars of the Guard (ex-Velites à Cheval)*

Black shako, brass front plate and chinscales, white top band and cords. Sky-blue dolman with crimson collar and cuffs, white buttons and lace; crimson pelisse, black fur edging, white buttons and lace; crimson and white barrel sash. White bandoliers. Sky-blue breeches with white side-seams and Hungarian thigh knots; hussar boots with white trim and tassel; steel, screw-in spurs. Sky-blue *schabraque* edged white (outer piping sky-blue); in the rear corners the crowned royal cypher 'JN' in white. Sky-blue round portmanteau edged white and bearing the same cypher as the *schabraque*. *Officers*—as for the men but with silver replacing the white. In full dress they wore black colpacks with



1808-pattern infantry colour, Kingdom of Italy; gold eagle and plinth. The flag has alternate red and green corners (top hoist corner green) with a white central lozenge, light blue central disc and scrolls, and green oak and laurel branches framing the disc. All other embroidery, including the edges of the lozenge, was gold.

crimson bag, silver trim and tassel, white plume and cords. *Trumpeters*—as for the troops except: crimson dolman, sky-blue collar and cuffs; sky-blue pelisse, white fur; crimson breeches.

## Line Cavalry

### 1st Cheveau-légers

Raised 25 December 1806 from the Municipal Guard of Naples; on 18 March 1813 became the 3rd Cheveau-légers. Black French shako with brass-edged peak, white top band, crimson-within-white cockade under crimson-within-white pompon, white plume; white, semi-circular, rayed plate with brass centre bearing the cypher 'JN'. Light blue, double-breasted tunic; light blue collar, lapels, shoulder-straps and pointed cuffs, all edged crimson. Crimson turnbacks with white hunting horn badges; white buttons. Light blue breeches with double crimson side-stripes; hussar boots with white trim and tassel; screw-in steel spurs. White

bandoliers. Light blue *schabraque* and round portmanteau edged crimson; in the rear *schabraque* corner the crowned cypher 'JN' in white; on the portmanteau end the regimental number in white. White sabre straps. *Officers*—as above but silver buttons, silver epaulettes and top band to shako; white plume and gauntlets; gold sabre strap. *Trumpeters*—as for the men but crimson tunics with light blue piping; white plume with crimson tip; collar and cuffs edged with lace in the cockade colour. Brass trumpet, crimson and white cords.

The élite companies wore black fur colpacks with red plume and cords; red epaulettes and sabre straps. Sappers wore uniforms in reversed colours (like the trumpeters) with colpacks, red pompon, plume and cords and red epaulettes. They also wore beards.

### *Chasseurs à Cheval (Cacciatore a Cavallo)*

1st Regiment raised 18 February 1806, 2nd on 27 May 1806; on 18 March 1813 they became the 1st and 2nd Cheveau-légers. Shako with brass lozenge plate bearing '1' or '2', brass chinscales; white top band and cords; cockade, white loop and button. Dark green plume with red tip. Dark green tunic; dark green collar, lapels, shoulder-straps and pointed cuffs all edged red; red turnbacks. White buttons, and white hunting horns in the turnback corners. Red breeches with double dark green side-stripes; hussar boots with white trim and tassels; steel, screw-in spurs. White belts and bandoliers. Dark green *schabraque* and round portmanteau trimmed red with white crowned cypher and numeral. White sabre straps. *Officers*—as for the men but with silver buttons and trim, silver epaulettes, gold sabre strap. *Trumpeters*—as for the men except: red tunic with dark green collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks (red horns in the turnbacks); red shoulder-straps edged green. Crimson and white lace to collar and cuffs, white over red plume. Dark green breeches trimmed red.

The élite companies wore black fur colpacks with red plume and cords, red epaulettes and sabre straps; the sappers wore reversed colours, and élite items (colpacks, red epaulettes, etc.). They also wore beards.

In March 1813, when converted to cheveau-légers, all three line cavalry regiments received lances with black shafts and crimson-over-white pennants. On 11 May 1814 the green uniforms

were ordered to be replaced by sky-blue items and the 2nd Regiment's facings changed from yellow to crimson.

## Artillery of the Guard

### *Horse Artillery*

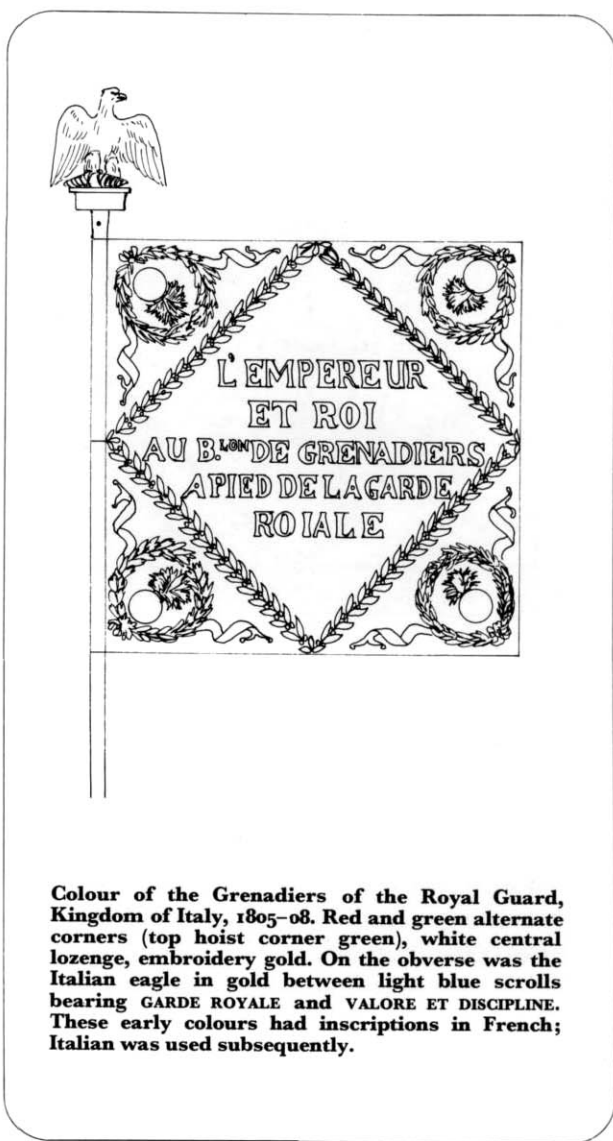
Brown fur colpack, crimson pompon and plume, light crimson bag and tassel with yellow trim. Dark blue tunic; dark blue lapels and pointed cuffs; light crimson collar (with a single lace loop) and turnbacks; crimson piping to cuffs and lapels; light crimson epaulettes, and aiguillette on the right shoulder. Yellow buttons. Dark blue waistcoat with light crimson lace and yellow buttons; dark blue breeches with light crimson Hungarian thigh knots and side-stripes; black hussar boots with light crimson trim and tassel; steel, screw-in spurs. White bandolier and sabre slings; brass-hilted sabre in steel sheath; crimson sabre knot. Black sabretache with gold edging and gold crowned cypher 'JN'. In full dress they wore dark blue hussar costume with light crimson collar, cuffs and lace; light crimson and dark blue barrel sash. *Trumpeters* wore reversed colours and white-over-light-crimson plumes. *Officers* had gold lace and epaulettes, and gold and light crimson barrel sashes; their plumes were white.

### *Train of Artillery of the Guard*

Shako with cockade, white loop and button over a white grenade; white chinscales; light crimson pompon, plume and cords. Medium blue tunic and breeches; light crimson collar, epaulettes, lapels, pointed cuffs and turnbacks; white lace loops to collar, cuffs and lapels. Light crimson stripe to breeches; white bandolier and belts; light crimson sabre knot; heavy cavalry boots. Artillery pieces and vehicles were painted dark green with black fittings. *Trumpeters* wore tunics in reversed colours, white-over-light-crimson plumes and light crimson shako cords.

### *Foot Artillery of the Guard*

Shako with light crimson plume, pompon and cords; yellow plate and chinscales; cockade; yellow loop and button. Dark blue coat, waistcoat and breeches; light crimson facings and epaulettes; yellow buttons; black gaiters; white belts. Guard lace to collar. *Drummers*—as for drummers of Grenadiers. *Officers*—white plumes; gold gorget, epaulettes and sword knots.



**Colour of the Grenadiers of the Royal Guard, Kingdom of Italy, 1805–08. Red and green alternate corners (top hoist corner green), white central lozenge, embroidery gold. On the obverse was the Italian eagle in gold between light blue scrolls bearing GARDE ROIALE and VALORE ET DISCIPLINE. These early colours had inscriptions in French; Italian was used subsequently.**

## Line Artillery

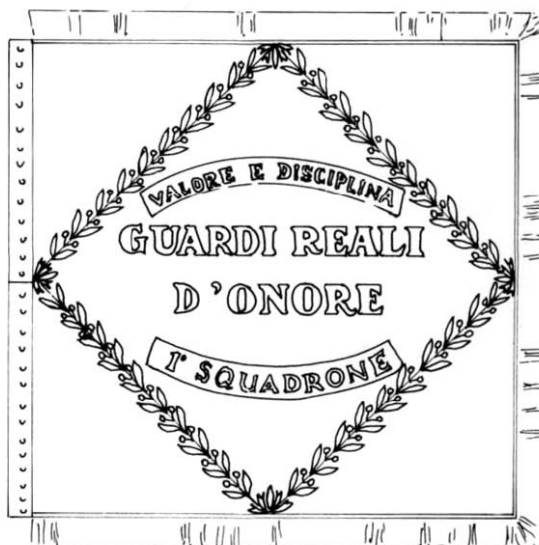
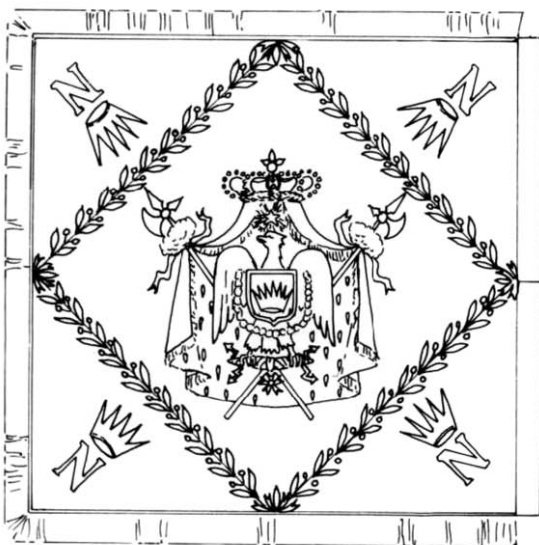
### *Foot Artillery*

As for foot artillery of the Guard but red facings and trim; no lace to collar; dark blue shoulder-straps edged red; yellow grenades on red turnbacks.

### *Train of Artillery of the Line*

The same style as for the train of artillery of the Guard but with black facings, white buttons and red epaulettes; white grenades on black turnbacks. White waistcoats; buff breeches. *Drummers* had tunics in reversed colour; light blue shoulder-straps edged white; drummers' lace to collar and square cuffs. *Engineers*—as for foot artillery of the Line but with white buttons and metal fittings.





**Standard of 1st Squadron, Gardes d'Honneur; Kingdom of Italy, 1808. This 56cm-square standard was lost in battle in 1813. The embroidery, fringes, and eagle and plinth were gold; the axeheads in the coat of arms were silver. The red and green corners, white lozenge and light blue scrolls followed the usual style.**

### **Mounted Gendarmerie of the Guard**

Bicorn with cockade, white button and loop; dark blue tunic faced crimson with the usual Guard lace to collar and square cuffs; buff bandoliers edged white. White waistcoat; buff breeches; heavy cavalry boots. Black harness with brass trim; square, dark blue *schabraque* and portmanteau edged white with narrow crimson outer piping. In the rear *schabraque* corner, a white grenade.

### **Foot Gendarmerie of the Guard**

As above but with crimson, carrot-shaped plume to bicorn; infantry equipment, and long black gaiters.

### **Gendarmerie of the Line**

As for that of the Guard but without the collar and cuff lace and with white bandoliers.

### **Neapolitan Colours and Standards**

From 1806 to 1811, colours and standards were of the French 1804 model with a central white lozenge, the outer corners being alternately black and red (the top staff corner black). On the obverse was the crest of Naples, on the reverse the regimental designation. Embroidery and fringes were silver; the staff tip was a silver spearhead.

In 1811 Murat distributed colours of a new design. They were light blue with a crimson and white check border near the outer edge. In the centre of the obverse was the new crest of Naples under Murat, and on the reverse the regimental designation in Italian. The staff tip was a prancing bronze horse and to it were attached light blue cravats with white and crimson checks and silver fringes. The scale of issue was one per regiment; battalions or squadrons carried fanions bearing the regimental and battalion designation.

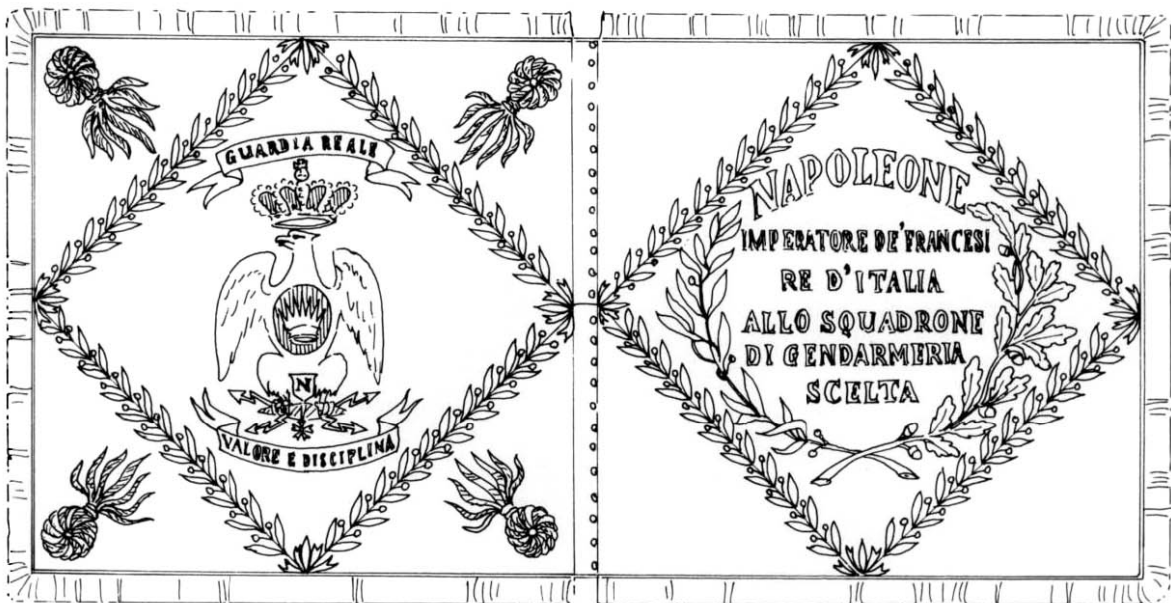
For more detailed examples, see the Men-at-Arms title *Flags of the Napoleonic Wars (1)* by Terence Wise.

## *Battle History*

### **Extracts from the battle history of Italian troops:**

*1806*

Units mobilized and sent to Prussia in General Pietro Teulie's division: The Italian Guard, 1st Line and 1st and 2nd Light Infantry Regiments. In 1807 they were joined by the 4th Line Infantry, the



Standard of the Elite Gendarmes, Kingdom of Italy, 1813. Usual red and green corners, white lozenge, and green branches; the fringe and grenades were silver, the other embroidery gold. Note modified eagle of this 1813 pattern.

two dragoon regiments 'Regina' and 'Napoleone' and the 1st Chasseurs à Cheval.

1809, against Austria in the Alps

Guard; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th Line and 1st and 2nd Light Infantry, Istrian Rifles; 'Dragoni Napoleone' and 'Regina'; Chasseurs à Cheval 'Re' and 'Principe'.

1812, in Russia in the IV Corps

Guard; 2nd and 3rd Line, 1st and 3rd Light, and the Dalmatian Infantry Regiments; the 'Dragoni Regina'; 2nd and 3rd Chasseurs à Cheval.

1813, in Germany in the IV Corps

Guard; 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Line and 1st and 2nd Light Infantry Regiments; 'Dragoni Napoleone'; 1st and 4th Chasseurs à Cheval.

Spain 1808-12

4th-8th Line and 1st and 2nd Light Infantry; 'Dragoni Napoleone'; Chasseurs à Cheval 'Re'; nine companies of foot and one of horse artillery; five companies of artillery train.

### Extracts from Neapolitan battle history:

Spain 1808-13

1st and 2nd Line and 1st Light Infantry Regiments (at the end of 1811 the survivors of these regiments

were amalgamated into the new 8th Line Infantry Regiment); 2nd Chasseurs à Cheval.

Italy 1809, against Austria

4th-7th Line, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Light Infantry; Corsican Legion; 1st Chasseurs à Cheval.

Russia 1812 as part of the XI Corps

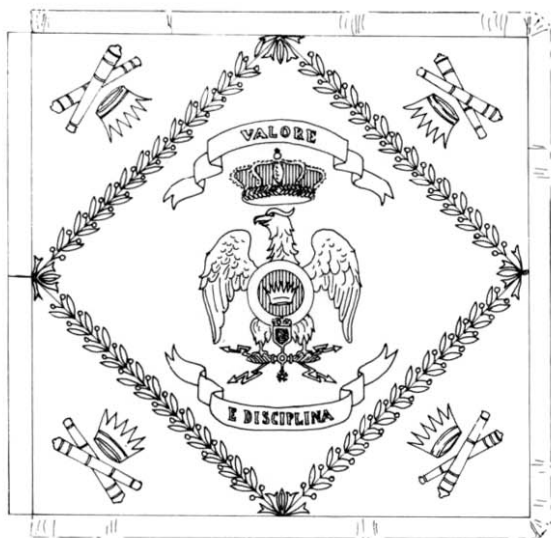
Guard; 5th, 6th and 7th Line Infantry.

Germany 1813

Guard (XII Corps), 1st Light Infantry (XI Corps).

## The Plates

It will be seen that several of these figures bear little resemblance to the uniforms described from the written regulations in the body of the text. Sources, in many cases contemporary sketches, are quoted. Such contradictions are all too common, as students of Napoleonic uniforms will be aware; speculation is unprofitable, and one should always remember the part played by the means and preferences of individual unit commanders in the matter of musicians' costume, and the uncertainty of procurement and supply in general.



**Left:** Standard of the Horse Artillery, Kingdom of Italy, 1813. Embroidery, eagle and fringes in gold on the usual red, green and white ground and blue scrolls. The inscription on the reverse was *NAPOLEONE/IMPERATORE E RE/AL REGGIMENTO/ D'ARTIGLIERIA / A CAVALLO*. **Right:** 1813-pattern standard of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Chasseurs à Cheval 'Principe Reale'. The obverse was as for the Horse Artillery standard, but with corner badges of a silver-crowned '2' in gold within a gold wreath.

*A1 Private of Grenadiers, Italian Legion, 1800*

The model for this uniform is that of a carabinier of French light infantry. This legion was raised in 1800 from officers and élites of the Cisalpine, Lombard and Cispadane Legions. Centre companies wore no plumes, and had green shoulder-straps edged yellow in place of the epaulettes. Note French cockade. One battalion of this formation was entirely composed of officers who had no troops to command. (After Fieffe.)

*A2 Trooper, Chasseurs à Cheval, Italian Legion, 1800*

Once again, uniform supply was clearly from French sources. The red plume, epaulettes and boot trim denote a member of the élite company. (After Fieffe.)

*A3 Officer of Italian Grenadiers, walking out dress, 1806*

This officer, in a *surtout* of French cut, is still wearing the old green uniform which was then being replaced with white. The colours of the young Italian kingdom—green, white and red—were repeated in almost all the uniforms of the army.

Note the unexplained collar detail—apparently three gilt buttons on a strip of silver lace. (After Suhr.)

*A4 Grenadier of Italian Guard, parade dress, 1806*

Otto Helms, another Hamburg artist, is the source for this figure; his work has the appearance of careful attention to detail, but note the wide differences from the written description in the body of the text. The close copying of French Guard Grenadier styles is obvious. The hair is powdered, queued and clubbed: turnbacks bear yellow grenade ornaments, and the red top patch of the bearskin has an upright white cross.

*B1 Pioneer Sergeant, Grenadiers of 1st Italian Line Infantry, 1806*

This figure, in the new 1806 white uniform, is based on a plate in Cornel Suhr's *Die Uniformen aller in Hamburg zwischen 1806–1813 gewesenen Truppen*. Equipment would include a heavy felling axe and a carbine, usually slung on the back. The pioneer's traditional full beard is worn. Turnbacks bear



white grenades, and the horizontal three-point pocket flaps are piped red.

*B2 Drummer, Fusiliers, Italian Line Infantry, 1806*

Another on-the-spot sketch executed by Suhr in Hamburg is the source of this drummer, still wearing the old green uniform. The cockade centre is now green instead of the blue worn before the formation of the kingdom. The unusual drum stringing is noteworthy.

*B3 Trooper, Italian 1st Chasseurs à Cheval, 1806*

This is based on a figure in the Drouon Collection, and poses the problem that the *czapska* is not mentioned as being part of the regulation uniform. It is possible that in the early stages of its existence the unit took over residual stocks of uniform items from the old Polish Legion, or perhaps some men of this Legion were transferred to the 1st Chasseurs. The plume rises from a round bright blue pompon, set above the Italian cockade held at the top of the left front vertical surface by a white loop and button.

*C1 Private of Grenadiers, 'Bataillon Septinsulaire', 1808*

This foreign unit serving with the Italian army followed a common style for such regiments in that it wore French light infantry uniform with a hunting horn on the white metal buttons, and kit and accoutrements from French magazines. Piping and facings originally light blue, here faded by use. (After Fieffe.)

*C2 Corporal of Carabiniers, Dalmatian Infantry Regiment, 1811*

This example of one of several foreign corps raised or taken into service by the Italian army is interesting in that the normal French light infantry style is here replaced by a uniform coat displaying a strong Austrian influence in the cuffs and turnbacks. Company epaulettes, ranking and service stripes are in the French style, however; and the plate of the French shako bears the Iron Crown of Lombardy above 'RDI'.

*C3 Lieutenant colour-bearer, Neapolitan 5th Line Infantry, 1811-14*

Murat requested eagles to top his regimental standards. The Emperor refused, so the prancing horse replaced the plain spearhead which had

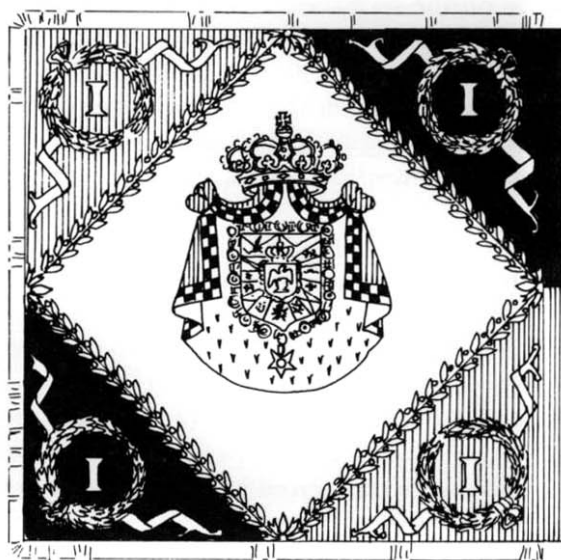


**Arms of the Kingdom of Naples under Joachim Murat, 1808-14. Blue mantle with edging of silver and crimson checks and silver fringe. Gold ribbons, crown, chains and sceptres. Blue anchor and shank with gold stars; blue ground with gold eagle; black horse on gold ground; gold sun with natural legs on black ground. The double anchor refers to Murat's status of Grand Admiral; the French dominance is represented by the gold eagle and the chain of the Légion d'Honneur.**

been used since 1806. Each regiment had one such colour, carried by the 1st Battalion. It was guarded by two long-service NCOs each with a white flag on a staff with a gilt spearhead. On the flag were the arms of the kingdom (reverse) and the regimental designation, e.g. AL REGGIMENTO / REAL / CALABRIA / 5° DI LINEA (obverse). (After *Mostra della Armata* . . .)

*D Officer, Neapolitan Horse Artillery of the Line, 1808-14*

This figure, based on sketches by Cenni, underlines the strong Polish influence in some Italian uniforms (see *Napoleon's Polish Troops* in this series). Gunners wore red cords and pompon on the *czapska*; green tunics and breeches; red collar, cuffs, turnbacks, breeches side-stripes, and boot trim and tassels; white buttons; black sheepskin *schabraque* with red vandyked edging; green portmanteau.



Kingdom of Naples infantry colour 1806-08—in this case, that of the 1st Light Infantry. The French 1804 pattern of colour is easily recognizable: the colours are black, white and red, and the embroidery, fringe and staff tip are silver.

*E1 Drummer of Chasseurs, 1st Neapolitan Light Infantry, 1810-11*

This unit served in Spain, and the figure is based on contemporary sketches now in the Bezdard Collection. The peculiar blue may represent faded French blue. Considering that these troops were mainly pressed men, released from jails to fight in a hostile country for a foreign usurper's cause, it is hardly surprising that morale was low.

*E2 Trumpeter, Neapolitan 2nd Chasseurs à Cheval, 1808-12*

The complete difference between this uniform and written descriptions is unexplained. It is taken from contemporary sketches interpreted by Bueno and published in the *Carnet de la Sabretasche* in 1973.

*E3 Private of Fusiliers, 'Regiment Illyrien', 1811*

Napoleon personally directed that this regiment raised in the Balkans should wear French light

infantry uniform with the addition of red 'swallow's-nests' edged white. (After Fieffe.)

*F1 Voltigeur, 2nd Velites of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-15 (?)*

A puzzling figure, taken from contemporary sketches and published in *Mostra della Armi* . . . The figure is described as a voltigeur of the Guard, but the Voltigeur Regiment became the 2nd Velites in 1811. The peculiar belled shako with its odd surface detail does not look French. The non-regulation change to a collar of *chamois* or light buff follows some French voltigeur styles.

*F2 Drum Major, Grenadiers of the Neapolitan Guard*

All drum majors wore costumes of this basic pattern—reversed colours. Details of decoration naturally varied widely between regiments, depending on the whim and pocket of the commander. (After Lienhart and Humbert.)

*F3 Gunner, Horse Artillery of the Neapolitan Guard*

Apart from the trim in light crimson, this uniform is almost identical to that of the French equivalent unit. Officers wore white plumes in gold pompons, and gold lace and buttons on the uniform. Trumpeters wore reversed colours, with white-tipped red plumes, and white and crimson checked lace at collar and cuffs; they rode greys. Note that this figure from *Mostra della Armi* . . . lacks the Guard lace on the collar, which one would expect to find.

*G1 Corporal, 2nd Velites of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-13*

Regulation dress, based partly on a series of figures in the St Martin's Museum at Naples. The bearskin has a red top patch with a yellow grenade. Note the characteristic buff cross-straps with white edges. A figure in the Meissen manuscript depicts a soldier of this regiment on campaign in Germany, and displays many departures from regulations. He wears a bearskin with yellow cords and tassels; a white coat faced red but without the white piping at collar, cuff and lapels; reversed lace on the collar, i.e. with tassels to the rear: yellow epaulette crescents; and round cuffs with vertical rectangular flaps bearing three horizontal lace loops with tassels at the front.

*G2 Driver, Artillery Train of the Neapolitan Guard, 1812-15*

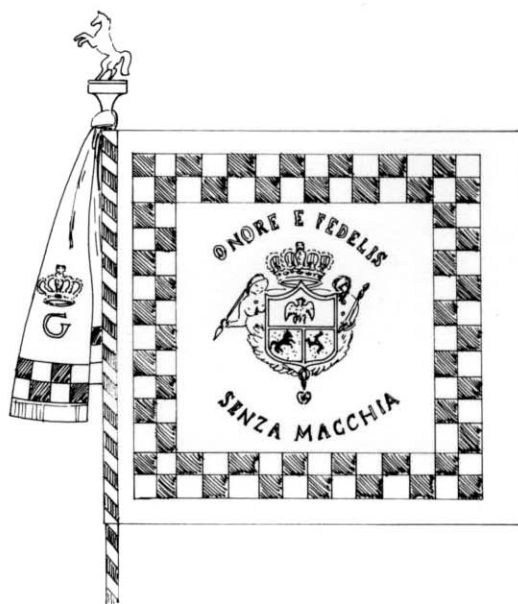
This figure, after Brauerbogen, shows regulation uniform. The heavy jacked boots protect the legs from crushing between the horses and the limber poles. The green-painted wooden horse collar is worn over a leather cushion padded with straw.

*H Kettle-drummer, Cheveau-Légers of the Neapolitan Guard, 1811-15*

This colourful figure, after a facsimile interpretation by Forthoffer published in the *Supplément au Carnet de la Sabretasche 1975/26*, is much hung about with the crimson and white musicians' lace introduced in 1811. The uniform as a whole is a direct throw-back to the parade uniforms worn by the squadron of Lancers of Berg who came to Naples with Murat in 1808, and the elaborate parade harness is of Polish origin.



**Kingdom of Naples Foot Grenadiers of the Guard colour, 1811-14. Murat introduced this new light blue, crimson and white colour in 1811. Embroidery gold, horse staff tip bronze, staff crimson and white. The arms of Naples were on the obverse.**



**Kingdom of Naples infantry colour, obverse, 1811-14. Flag and cravat light blue, crimson and white; supporters of crest in natural colours (proper); staff crimson and white, cravat fringe silver, horse staff tip bronze; embroidery gold.**



## Notes sur les planches en couleur

Dans beaucoup de cas, l'uniforme de ces personnages, basé sur des dessins d'époque et des interprétations ultérieures, n'est pas conforme à la description réglementaire. Nous n'expliquons pas ce désaccord, que connaissent trop bien les amateurs d'uniformes de l'époque de Napoléon.

**A1** Uniforme dessiné d'après celui des carabiniers de l'infanterie légère française. Les compagnies du centre portaient des pattes d'épaule en vert gansé de jaune au lieu d'épaulettes et ne portaient pas de plumet. **A2** Le plumet rouge, les épaulettes, etc. désignent un membre de la Compagnie d'Elite. **A3** Le surtout est du style français. Le galon du col et les boutons ne s'expliquent pas. **A4** Il y a des différences de détail frappantes entre l'uniforme de ce personnage, basé sur des dessins apparemment exacts exécutés par Otto Helms de Hamburg et la description réglementaire.

**B1** Le nouvel uniforme blanc de l'an 1806, portant les symboles traditionnels du pionnier, fut dessiné d'après nature par Cornel Suhr. **B2** Un autre dessin de Suhr montrant le vieil uniforme vert toujours en usage; notez la manière inhabituelle de disposer les cordes du tambour. **B3** Ce personnage, d'après un dessin dans la collection Drouon, porte un czapska dont il n'est pas fait mention dans la description réglementaire—serait-ce un legs de la vieille légion polonaise?

**C1** Les soldats d'un grand nombre de ces unités étrangères au service des Français ou des alliés aux Français portaient l'uniforme de l'infanterie légère française avec des variations. **C2** Notez la curieuse influence autrichienne sur les manchettes et les pans rabattus de la veste. **C3** A la manière des Français, le porte-étendard du régiment était gardé par deux vieux sous-officiers, chacun portant une pique ornée de drapeaux. Voir les dessins en noir et blanc pour le détail des étendards.

**D** L'influence polonaise est évidente dans cet uniforme dessiné par Cenni. Les soldats ordinaires de l'artillerie montée portaient des manchettes, cols et rabats de veste rouges, ainsi que des galons.

**E1** Basé sur des dessins d'époque, la nuance de bleu bizarre de l'uniforme porté par ce personnage peut signifier le bleu français normal devenu déteint en campagne. **E2** La différence presque totale entre cet uniforme, interprété par Bueno dans le *Carnet de la Sabretasche* et la description réglementaire ne s'explique pas. Certes, il y avait très souvent des variations dans la tenue des musiciens. **E3** L'uniforme de l'infanterie légère française avec l'addition de 'nids d'hirondelle' rouges aux épaules.

**F1** Les curieux détails du shako et du col ne s'expliquent pas; ce personnage est basé sur des dessins d'époque publiés dans *Mostra della Armata* . . . Il est décrit comme un Voltigeur de la garde, mais ce régiment est devenu le 2<sup>ème</sup> Vélites en 1811. **F2** Mis à part les décorations vermeilles qu'il porte, cet uniforme est presque identique à celui de l'artillerie montée de la Garde Impériale. **F3** Ceci est la tenue type de tous les tambours-majors, en couleurs inversées avec une décoration somptueuse au choix et aux frais du colonel et des officiers.

**G1** Tenue réglementaire, basée sur celle portée par un mannequin dans le Musée Saint Martin à Naples. Le manuscrit de Meissen dépeint un soldat en campagne, dont la tenue diffère de celle-ci à bien des égards. **G2** Tenue réglementaire, peinte d'après la version de Brauerbogen.

**H** Ce costume coloré, très orné du galon quadrillé blanc et vermeil introduit en 1811, montre quelques caractéristiques des uniformes polonais et de la grande tenue des lanciers de Berg.

## Farbtafeln

Diese Figuren, die auf zeitgenössischen Skizzen und späteren Auslegungen beruhen, weichen in vielen Fällen von den schriftlichen Verordnungen für diese Uniformen ab. Wir machen keinen Versuch diesen Widerspruch zu erklären: der Forscher über napoleonische Uniformen wird ihn nur zu gut erkennen.

**A1** Uniform nach jener der Karabinier der französischen leichten Infanterie gestaltet. Die Mittel Kompagnien trugen grüne Achselklappen mit gelben Rändern anstatt Epauletten und hatten keine Federbüsche. **A2** Roter Federbusch, Epauletten u.s.w. deuten auf einen Mitglied der Compagnie d'Elite. **A3** Das surtout ist nach französischer Art, die Bedeutung der Kragentresse und der Knöpfe bleibt unklar. **A4** Bei dieser Figur, die auf anscheinend sorgfältig gezeichneten Skizzen von Otto Helms aus Hamburg beruht, sind besondere scharfe Unterschiede zwischen den hier zu sehenden Uniformeinzelheiten und den schriftlichen Verordnungen zu bemerken.

**B1** Die neue weisse Uniform von 1806 mit ihren eigenartigen, traditionellen Pioniereinzelheiten wurde nach dem Leben von Cornel Suhr gezeichnet. **B2** Noch eine Skizze von Suhr, worin die alte grüne Uniform, die noch im Gebrauch war, zu sehen ist; bemerkenswert ist die aussergewöhnliche Einrichtung der Trommelschnüre. **B3** Diese Figur, nach einer Skizze in der Drouonversammlung, trägt ein czapska wovon nichts in den Vorschriften steht—vielleicht eine Erbschaft von der ehemaligen Polnischen Legion?

**C1** Mehrere von diesen ausländischen Einheiten der französischen und französisch-alliierten Dienst trugen Abarten der Uniform der französischen leichten Infanterie. **C2** Bemerkenswert ist der österreichische Einfluss, der bei den Ärmelaufschlägen und den schossumschläge zu sehen ist. **C3** Nach französischer Art wurden die Regimentsfahnenräger von zwei kampferprobten Unteroffizieren beschützt, deren Piken mit Fahnen geziert waren. Man siehe die schwarz-weiss Zeichnungen für Einzelheiten der Standarten.

**D** Der polnische Einfluss ist bei dieser von Cenni gezeichneten Uniform leicht zu erkennen. gemeiner der reitenden Artillerie trugen rote Ämelaufschläge, Kragen, schossumschläge und Tressen.

**E1** Es kann sein, dass bei dieser auf zeitgenössischen Skizzen beruhenden Figur der aussergewöhnliche blaue Farbton den normalen, durch Feldzüge abgefärbten französischen Blau entspricht. **E2** Es bleibt unerklärt warum diese von Bueno in *Carnet de la Sabretasche* ausgelegte Uniform sich so völlig von den schriftlichen Verordnungen unterscheidet. Verschiedenheiten in Musikeruniformen waren nämlich sehr üblich. **E3** Die Uniform der französischen leichtbewaffneten Infanterie mit roten 'Schwalbennestern' auf den Schultern.

**F1** Die rätselhaften Einzelheiten des Tschakos und des Kragens sind unerklärt; diese Figur beruht auf zeitgenössischen Skizzen in *Mostra della Armata* . . . Sie wird als *Voltigeur* der Garde beschrieben, aber dieses Regiment wurde im Jahre 1811 zum 2ten Vélites umgewandelt **F2** Mit Ausnahme der hell-karmesin Zierrasse stimmt diese Uniform mit der der reitenden Artillerie der französischen kaiserlichen Garde fast völlig überein. **F3** Typische Bekleidung für alle Tambourmajore, mit umgekehrten Farben und reich verziert, nach Wahl und auf Kosten des Obersts und der Offiziere.

**G1** Vorschriftsmässige Uniform, auf einer Figur im Martinimuseum in Neapel beruhend. Das Meissener MS. stellt einen Soldat im Feldzuge dar, dessen Bekleidung sich in vielen Einzelheiten von dieser Figur unterscheidet. **G2** Vorschriftsmässige Uniform von der Brauerbogener Darstellung abgezeichnet.

**H** Eigenschaften polnischer Uniformen und des Paradeanzugs der Lanzenreiter von Berg sind in dieser farbenprächtigen Bekleidung, die in vielen Stellen mit der im Jahre 1811 eingeführten rot-weiss karierten Tresse geschmückt ist zu erkennen.

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Avec annotations en français sur les planches en couleur  
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf deutsch über die Farbtafeln