

The Armies of 1805

A Pictorial Review of the Units of 1805 - artwork by Joe Amoral

France

Infantry

The French infantry of the Napoleonic wars were a direct product of the Revolutionary Wars and the old days of the kings. In many ways they were superior to anything that the king had ever fielded. The French infantry that marched to war in 1805 was probably the best that Napoleon ever fielded.



Fusiliers

Grenadiers

The ligne (line) infantry of the French army had transitioned from the Revolutionary War period and were a professional force trained in the Channel camps. In the hands of Napoleon they were more than a match for their Allied opponents. Each battalion had nine companies, one of grenadier and eight fusilier companies. In 1805 many of the grenadier companies were detached from the ligne battalions and formed into elite battalions.



Chassuers

Carabinier

The French Legere (light) infantry were among the finest in Europe. They were trained not only to fight in open order but could be used as assault troops as well. Usually they were more than a match for their Allied counterparts. Organized in nine companies, eight of chasseurs and one of carabiniers. The carabiniers were often detached and formed into elite battalions for special tasks.

Imperial Guard Infantry



These regiments were drawn from the best men of the Legere regiments. These men were not only well acquainted in the skills of light infantry combat but their loyalty to Napoleon and France was beyond question. The Imperial Guard at this stage had only one regiment of Chasseur a Pied but another regiment would join the ranks. Together they would fight until the end of the Napoleonic Wars.

Chasseurs a Pied



These were the bravest of Napoleon's soldiers. Entrance into the Guard was strict enough but these men were la creme de la creme of the French Army. While Napoleon has been criticised for creating too many Guard units which many say stripped the line units of their best men this unit was proven to be an important force many times as they acted as Napoleon's final reserve to provide the crucial breakthrough or in certain cases his bodyguard. Often just the threat of their presence was enough to ward off enemy opposition. The distinctive bonnets of both the Grenadiers and Chasseurs of the Guard told the adversary that Napoleon was not far away.

Grenadier a Pied

Cavalry

The French cavalry of this period was not the formidable force that it would become in the next few years. Poor mounts accounted to most of this but the cavalry was emerging from a period of neglect. Of all of the arms that Napoleon would improve this one remained his largest project. It would only be with the acquisition of better mounts during and after the War of the Fourth Coalition with Prussia and Russia that they would become a better force to reckon with.



These were the line cavalry of the French light mounted forces. They were skilled at performing screening duties and acting as convoy guards. While they did not have the same presence on the battlefield as the Hussars and the Heavy Cavalry nonetheless they were able to take on most enemy light cavalry on an equal basis. The beau sabreur Colonel Marbot commanded the 23rd Chasseurs a Cheval. Whether you want to believe his memoirs or not they make for excellent reading into the bravery that was expected of each hussar!

Chasseurs a Cheval



These were the elite of the light cavalry regiments (though dont tell a Chasseur this!). Sporting the daring costumes made famous by their Hungarian forefathers they were the ideal of any young Frenchmen. It was counted an honor to be a member of their ranks.

Well known French officers such as La Salle or Pire had been commanders of hussar regiments one time or another during their careers.

Hussars



If the Chasseurs were the line troopers of the Light Cavalry then the Dragoons formed the line elements of the Heavy Cavalry. This branch of cavalry had been in existence since the days of the musket and pike. Over thirty regiments would be formed during the Napoleonic Wars. During this period they were not as much of a force to be reckoned with as their counterparts the Cuirassiers and other nation's dragoons were often better mounted.

Dragoons



Due to a lack of mounts there were several Dragoon regiments that were used in a dismounted role during the 1805 campaign. They were usually attached to the Imperial Guard.

They did not match up well to the other infantry of the period but did not lack for bravery. Their carbines were of a shorter range than the musket. There are scenarios in the game where Dragoons may dismount.

Dismounted Dragoon



Cuirassier

The Cuirassiers formed the elite branch of the Heavy Cavalry. Armed with a metal cuirass front and back they had some protection from the swords of enemy cavalymen.

Anywhere from twelve to fourteen regiments were formed during the Napoleonic Wars. During the 1805 campaign they were used repeatedly in actions from Wertingen to Austerlitz. Mounted on the best horses France could offer they were an imposing sight to any Allied cavalry regiment.



Carabinier

The last type of Heavy Cavalry were the Carabiniers. Formed originally in 1693 from the seven existing Carabinier companies into the Royal-Carabiniers their type was retained in French service throughout the Napoleonic Wars and beyond.

The Carabiniers of this period did not wear a metal cuirass. It was not until after 1809 that they would receive the cuirass.

Imperial Guard Cavalry



Chasseur a Cheval

These were the elite light cavalry of the French army. Composed of only the bravest men from the ranks of the light cavalry they were formed originally during the late Revolutionary War period.

Often used in battles, unlike their comrades in the Old Guard infantry, their record in battle spans from Austerlitz to Waterloo. They were always found near Napoleon's headquarters and were some of his most loyal men.



Mamelukes

Brought back from Egypt by Napoleon after his campaign in 1797-98 fierce troopers usually fought with Chasseur a Cheval. They were known for their ferocity in combat. Later groups of Mamelukes were formed of Frenchmen in oriental attire. Not many of the original member survived the Napoleonic Wars.



Known affectionately by Napoleon as his "Big Boots" these were the finest cavalry troopers that the French army could offer. Each was a man of reknown in the French cavalry having served in numerous campaigns. Used sparingly they were nonetheless active at many of the battles of the period.

Like the Chasseurs a Cheval they were active at Austerlitz clashing with the Russian Horse Guards on the Pratzen Heights towards the end of the battle.

Their record in battle was unprecedented by any other cavalry regiment of the period. While not used as often as the line cavalry when they were called up they rarely were defeated in action.

Grenadier a Cheval



One of the original components of Napoleon's Guard in Italy, the Gendarmes were entrusted with the protection of Imperial Headquarters and the Emperor's entourage. While not as well known as their brethren in the Guard they were nonetheless fine troopers. Loyal to a man to Napoleon they remained with him to the very end.

They did not take part in the Battle of Austerlitz being left in Brunn to guard the city. Not to be confused with the regular Gendarmes.

Gendarmes d'Elite

Specialists

This group was formed of not only the artillery branch (both line and Guard) but also of engineers and other specially trained men.



Most of the artillery companies in the French army were foot batteries. The men that formed these companies were among the best artillerymen in Europe.

Foot Artillery



The French horse artillery was usually paired with a cavalry brigade of the infantry corps or found in the Cavalry Corps of the army as well. The companies were formed of eight pound guns during this period with some exceptions.

Horse Artillery



Composed of the finest artillerymen in the army. The Old Guard foot artillery companies were often ordered forward to form part of a Grand Battery in the later part of the Napoleonic Wars these men were known for their accurate fire.

Old Guard Foot
Artillery



There were some of the finest artillery units in Europe. Their batteries were armed with their beloved eight pound guns and had some of the finest horses available in the army. Their officers were the elite of their branch.

Old Guard Horse
Artillery



The sappers, genies and miners provided the engineering support to the army. Sapper companies were attached at division or corps level to assist with taking defenses or providing for the improvement of defensive positions. Miners were useful in denying the enemy with structures such as bridges and buildings.

Sappers/Genies and Miners



Guided by engineering officers the Pontoneers provided the labor for placing temporary bridge structures across bodies of water. Often they were prefabricated and then launched into the water and bound together to form anything from a simple infantry bridge to large bridges capable of carrying wagon traffic.

Pontoneers



Marines (Seamen)

These were sailors formed into infantry battalions for service with the army. They also put their knowledge of water craft to use during campaigns. Not to be confused with the marines that fought on board ship with muskets. Napoleon would make use of many more of these men during later campaigns especially in 1813 when he was scrounging France for all available manpower.



Supply Wagon Driver

Every army needs supplies and many men were pressed into service to drive the wagons that delivered the ammunition to the men in the infantry and cavalry as well as the artillery batteries.

The capture of supply wagons, in most cases, would enable an enemy to make use of important items such as powder and cannister rounds.

Austria

The Austrian army of 1805 was undergoing change due to General Mack's meddling with its organization. The infantry was expanded to six battalions resulting in a much confusion in the officer ranks. The cavalry was also expanded with more squadrons being desired by Mack. Overall the reorganization was a poor choice. Keeping to the standard organization would have at least help avoid much of the confusion that resulted which lead the officer corps to have to get used to a new unit format during a campaign. Not a good thing to have to do when faced by such an advesary as Napoleon and the Grand Army of 1805! The army was a staunch opponent and would be involved in every major campaign of the period except for 1806 and 1812 (where the Austrians were forced to provide an Auxillary corps). Usually a formidable opponent, in 1805 the Austrians were never able to fully recover from Mack's debacle at Ulm.

Infantry

The Line Infantry was raised from a wide variety of locations with different languages and customs. The most numerous were the German regiments but other regions such as Galicia and Hungary supplied large numbers of troops as well. Organized into six battalions, five of them had four companies while one of them had just two companies. This was the results of the army reorganization of General Mack. New officers and NCOs had to be enlisted to lead these battalions and the results were that the leadership of the line battalions suffered as a result.



Most of the regiments wore a uniform as seen above. These were the regiments from German speaking provinces as well as Bohemia and Galicia to name a few. They wore white pants which distinguished them from the Hungarian regiments which wore blue.

German Line



Each "German" regiment had one battalion of four companies of Grenadiers. These were the elite units of the Austrian army. They had no Imperial Guard because Kaiser Franz distrusted guard units. These troops were used to attack strongpoints such as the Granary at Essling. They were the veterans of the army. It was an honor to be chosen for the Grenadier battalions.

German Grenadiers



The Hungarian provinces supplied the bulk of the non-German speaking troops for the Austrian army. The troops were just as brave as their German counterparts. They could easily be distinguished from the German regiments as they wore blue pants. Examples of the Hungarian regiments were Benjowsky IR#31 or Alvinczy IR#19.

Hungarian Line



The Hungarian Grenadiers would usually be brigaded together when possible. It was easier to do this due to language differences though Hungarian officers spoke both German and Hungarian.

Hungarian Grenadiers



These were the irregular fighters of the Border Provinces. They often fought in rough terrain against the Turks or enemies of Hungary. Rarely would all of the Grenz units be sent to fight with the main army. They wore a brown uniform with red cloak while on the frontier but a white uniform when fighting with the main Hapsburg army, though some units were known to wear their border uniform either due to uniform shortages or because of expediency (they didn't have time to return to their depots to change uniforms).

Grenzers



Jagers

Raised mainly in the Tyrol, these rifle-armed troops were trained to fight in light order, though they often were formed up in line instead (the Austrians not trusting men to fight in an independent role on the battlefield). Their natural enemies were the Bavarians, who were always trying to encroach on their lands. At this period of time there was only one regiment of Jagers. During the 1809 conflict some 9 battalions would take to the field.

Cavalry

The Austrian cavalry was well mounted and for the most part one of the best in Europe. They retained the use of a column formation for some time which gave their French opponents who deployed in line the opportunity to overlap their flanks. Despite this they fought bravely and could be depended on to give even the French Imperial Guard a stiff fight.



Hussars

While the hussar was Hungarian in origin, these troops were formed of men from both Hungary and Germany and the surrounding regions. They formed the main body of the Light Cavalry. Like their French counterparts it was the dream of every young man to fight in a Hussar regiment.



Three regiments of Uhlans were available for 1805. These troops were trained to fight with the lance and were deadly against infantry or other light cavalry. The concept was borrowed from the cavalry of the steppes though Hungarian cavalry of the earlier ages had fought with lance. Together with artillery they could be deadly against infantry without cavalry support.

Uhlans



Categorized as light cavalry they operated with the Hussars to perform light cavalry duties. Several of their regiments became Dragoon regiments during the era. The O'Reilly Chevaulegers is one example of a regiment that was changed over to Dragoons.

Chevaulegers



Dragoons

These were formed as Heavy Cavalry though in practice they were more like a medium cavalry: they were neither heavy nor light. They were not brigaded together in 1805 as much as they would be in 1809. Thus their effectiveness was diminished as they were parcelled out to the various line infantry divisions. In 1805 there were six of these regiments. Through the years they had been formed from Chevauleger regiments that were converted for the Heavy Cavalry.



Cuirassiers

These were the elite of the cavalry. Armed with a straight cavalry sword and a half-cuirass (which made their backs exposed to attacks from the French Heavy Cavalry) they were the Heavy Cavalry of the Austrian army. In 1805 there were eight of these regiments.

Specialist Troops

The Austrian army had a strong branch of specialists. Besides the artillery branch this included a wide variety of engineer specialists. The Danube river formed the basis of much of their military strategy and they possessed a strong corps of river craft used to support river crossings or to contest the same by the enemy.



Foot Artillery

The Austrian artillery was formed of position and brigade batteries. The latter were mainly for use with the infantry. They were considered inferior to the French artillerists in effectiveness, probably because they used less powder. Thus their ranges were different than the French and other nations (such as the Russians) and as a result they would not be able to dominate the battlefield. In 1805 the concept of a grand battery was not in practice though large groups of batteries might be congregated in one area. This was more by accident than on purpose!



Horse Artillery

Formed of batteries drawn by more horses these companies were used mainly to support the cavalry, though on occasion they would be brigaded with the infantry.



The Grenzers had their own artillery branch to support their troops in the Border regions. Composed of 3lb guns they were perfect for the close in work that they were often called to perform. The light guns could be drawn with fewer horses and could travel through some of the smaller trails found on the frontier. In battle they were relegated to supporting the infantry and were no match for their French counterparts.

Grenzer Artillery



Men trained in the use of preparing structures for destruction or defense. They were attached at various levels in the Austrian army.

Sappers



The Danube River dominated much of the Hapsburg kingdom and the use of pontoons by the Austrians to cross the mighty river was well practiced by this time. They had a fine pontoneer corps and were able to place bridges over large bodies of water. Usually the army only had a small amount of these men, the majority of them being placed in large reserve formations for use when the army needed to span a river. They were also used during 1809 to dislodge logs and debris and float them down on the bridges that Napoleon had built across the Danube near Vienna.

Pontoneers



The standard wagon driver of the army. The Austrians were a wagon-bound army. They only marched as far as their wagons could reach in a day for the most part with forced marching an exception more than the rule.

Supply Wagon Driver

Russia

The army of the Tsar Alexander was a dogged opponent of Napoleon's dating back to the days of the Revolutionary Wars. What it lacked in organization and leadership it made up in fighting prowess and endurance.

Its soldiers should not be blamed for the disaster that struck on December 2, 1805. Napoleon observed that if the French infantry could fight as well as the Russians he would conquer the world. Its cavalry were ill-led most of the time but were well served by their troopers. The men observed a code of loyalty to their officers unknown in most Western armies of the Napoleonic Wars.

Infantry

The Russian infantry became renowned for their tenacious defensive qualities, something that would emerge again in later wars, especially World War II. While the Jagers may not have been as good as the Musketeers, anyone that ever faced the Russian infantry knew that they would have a tough fight on their hands.



Under Paul I the Musketeer regiments were named for the regimental commander but once Alexander I took the throne he returned the army to the former practice of naming them after the town from which they were raised.

The Russian musketeers were very dependent on their leaders and if casualties mounted in the officer corps they could revert to lost sheep and rout like any other regiment. Otherwise they stood their ground with great determination.

They were not particularly well trained but their morale often made up for their lack of military prowess.

Musketeers



Line Grenadiers



Pavlov Grenadier

Formed from men of large stature, these battalions were the elite of the regular regiments. The Pavlov Grenadiers eventually became a Guard regiment in 1812-13.



Jagers

Sources say that these regiments were not particularly well trained. Unlike other armies the Jagers (or Egers) were not the elite infantry as per other armies of Europe.

Russian military thinking did not relate well with the concept of fighting in open order and while the Jagers may have been trained to fight in open order (a kind of quasi-skirmisher formation) they were rarely deployed in this fashion on the battlefield during this period.

The worst of the line infantry officers were sent to the Jager regiments thus their officer corps was of inferior quality material.



The prize of the Russian army was its Guard and the Guard Infantry were the finest in the army. While sometimes more of a showpiece they still were a formidable foe and usually were staffed by men of nobility or of higher honors.

There were four regiments during this period and they were usually brigaded together in pairs.

Guard Infantry



The finest infantry in the army - the Guard Grenadiers were composed of the largest men in the army. Again, they may have seemed like more of a parade ground unit but in combat they proved their worth many times during the wars.

Guard Grenadiers

Cavalry



The Russian Hussars are often not rated as highly as the hussars of other nations due to the mounts they were given and the training they possessed but regardless they still were able to fight on the battlefield against other light cavalry and hold their own.

Composed of large regiments they often were divided up by squadron and attached to other formations.



Hussars



Uhlans

Three regiments of lancer armed Uhlans were in the Russian army at this time. They were actually called "Horse" regiments but carried a lance.

While later this number would be increased, the three original regiments, Polish, Lithuanian and Tartar, were always known as superior quality regiments.



Dragoons

The Dragoons were the line units of the Heavy Cavalry although they did not possess the mounts of their brethren cuirassier regiments.

Rarely did they fight on foot and only when they were in a static role. Anywhere from 26-28 regiments were raised in 1805. Nowhere near that amount took part in the fighting.



These were the true heavy cavalry of the Russian army. Apart from the Guard, these regiments were used for impact.

Composed of above average troopers mounted on large horses they were well suited for battlefield use.

Cuirassiers



These men of the Steppes were irregular cavalymen, well known for their riding ability but unfortunately not as well suited for the battlefield. They were best used as scouts or raiders.

Formed from tribes and lead by tribal leaders they struck fear into the rear echelons of the enemy army but also those of their allies as well! In Austria they pillaged the villagers unmercifully.

Scared of cannon, often just the blast of cannonfire would send them running.

Cossacks

Guard Cavalry



The Russian Guard Cavalry was composed of a large amount of cavalry units and the Guard Hussars were the elite light cavalry unit.

Sporting a bright red uniform they were easily distinguished from the other hussar regiments in the army.

Guard Hussar



The Guard Dragoon regiment was another of the elite formations in the Russian army. They possessed better mounts than the line dragoons and were better officered as well.

Guard Dragoon



Constantine's Uhlans wore the Polish style uniform similar to those of the line Uhlans. They would be admitted to the Guard in 1809.

Originally they had not been armed with lance but they were later so armed to match up to their troop type. Five of their squadrons would be used to form the Guard Dragoons while the remaining five were armed with lance and would take their place with the Guard.

Constantine's Uhlans



Elite heavy cavalry that were mounted of fine horses. Their officers often came from nobility.

Guard Cuirassier



These were not cossacks but Russians uniformed similar to the irregular tribesmen of the Steppes.

Guard Cossack



Elite unit that dated back to before the time of Paul I. This was the finest cavalry regiment in the army.

Horse Guards

Specialist Troops



Foot Artillery

Russian foot artillery was some of the finest in Europe. Composed of large batteries they could sweep the battlefield and leave large gaps in the enemy ranks.

They were known for their determination to fight for their guns rather than flee to squares.



Horse Artillery

The horse artillery was well manned and supported by good mounts. While not as dynamic in battle as the French Old Guard Horse artillery they nevertheless could be moved to critical points as needed.



Fine artillery units that supported the Imperial Guard. Usually composed of 12lb guns but smaller caliber 6lb guns were used as well.

Guard Foot Artillery



These were elite units that were well mounted and well lead by officers that were a cut above the rest.

Their uniform was similar to a dragoon yet distinct enough to set them apart on the battlefield.

Guard Horse
Artillery



The need to support the movements of the Cossacks during their forays into the rear of the enemy merited the creation of Cossack Horse Artillery companies.

While not as well trained as the line artillery they were helpful in those instances where a little firepower could help capture a supply column.

Cossack Horse Artillery



Russian sappers accompanied the line divisions and were used to take strongpoints or help prepare them for the defense.

The men were not particularly well trained but their role demanded bravery in the line of fire.

Sapper



Pontoneer

Russia is a country of waterways and the pontoneers of the Russian army were well-versed in traversing any water obstruction in Europe.

While their engineer column was not as well equipped as the Austrians they could be supplied by their allies to more than make up for their lack of materials.



Supply Wagon Driver

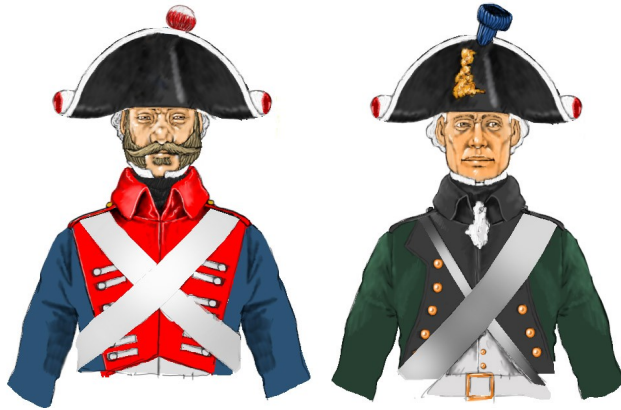
The army wagons were drawn by men who were loyal to the army.

They were depended on to stand up under fire just as much as any other element in the Russian army.

French Allies

By 1805, Napoleon had begun to dominate several of the German principalities and they in turn provided troops for his service. While still a small amount compared to those that would later serve for him nonetheless there were at least 30,000 men who were of foreign origin in the army.

Hesse



Hesse Line Infantry

The Hessians were reknown for their mercenary soldiers of the 18th Century but during this time they were under the command of Napoleon supplied under an agreement more or less of conquest.

Through the years they would fight with the French soldiers usually brigaded with other German allies.

They were loyal allies fighting right through to the end in 1813.

Nassau



Nassau Line Infantry

The Duchy of Nassau was along the Rhine river being actually composed of several smaller regions. They would band together to form a regiment for the old Holy Roman Empire.

During 1805 they provided Napoleon with a battalion for use in his campaign.

Nassau would remain a part of the Confederation of the Rhine until November of 1813.

Waldeck



Line Infantry

The Principality of Waldeck was bordered on all sides by Westphalia. They supplied Napoleon with a battalion for use in the 1805 campaign.

Their participation in the wars was small owing to the fact that they were small and frankly not entirely enthusiastic about fighting for the French.

The Batavian Republic

The Netherlands had been divided since the days of the Reformation with one portion being loyal to the Holy Roman Empire while another was free and independent. Modern Holland was the Spanish Netherlands while Belgium was the Austrian Netherlands. In 1794, France overran the Austrian and Spanish Netherlands and created the Batavian Republic. In 1806, Napoleon changed it to the Kingdom of Holland and put his brother Louis on the throne.

In 1810 Holland was integrated into Metropolitan France so that the French could monitor the coast in accordance with the Continental System. The Dutch and Belgians would provide large amounts of troops to Napoleon's operations and an entire division marched off to war in 1805.



Line Infantry

The line infantry was formed similar to the French. Their uniform also was much like the French Ligne infantry.

They were good soldiers but of course were not totally enthusiastic about fighting for Napoleon.



The light infantry were the sharpshooters of the army. The Batavian light infantry fought well during the campaign.

Light Infantry



The hussars were the light cavalry of the Batavian army. They were often used as scouts for the purpose of screening the army and finding out information as to the whereabouts of enemy formations.

Dressed in a uniform similar to the French they sported a tricolor plume.

Hussars



The Light Dragoons had one of the more unique uniforms of the Batavian Republic.

Their use was similar to the Hussars not being battle cavalry.

Light Dragoons



Armed with light caliber weapons (mainly 6lb guns) the Foot Artillery supported the line infantry during the battles.

Foot Artillery



Trained similar to the French artillery, the Batavian horse artillery was a fine troop of fighting men.

Armed with light guns they supported the II Corps during the 1805 campaign.

Horse Artillery



The sappers supported the army whether it be to loophole buildings or assist the engineers with the construction of bridges.

They were well acquainted with civil engineering projects as well due to the nature of terrain occupied by most of the Netherlands.

Sapper



These troops were efficient during sieges and operations where structures had to be destroyed. They also supported regular engineering operations as needed.

Miner

Bavaria

Napoleon would elevate Bavaria to a Kingdom during his reign and they would supply him with much needed manpower for his constant operations in Europe. In 1805 they enthusiastically supported Napoleon and their army was withdrawn from Bavaria to march with La Grande Armée



The Bavarian line infantry was adequate during the course of the wars. Never found to be spectacular they nonetheless gave loyal support to Napoleon during this period against their rivals the Austrians.

Line Infantry



The light infantry was drawn mainly from the Tyrol and other mountainous regions though there were exceptions. They supported the line infantry in the field by sniping at the formations of the enemy and screening them from enemy light infantry.

During the 1805 campaign they marched with the Bavarian army to support Napoleon's conquest of the Third Coalition.

Light Infantry



These were the standard battle cavalry of the Bavarians though they were not as well mounted as the other European nations.

They provided cavalry support of the Bavarian army, being uniformed very much like the rest of the other German allies of Napoleon.

Dragoon



These were the Bavarian light cavalry. Uniformed similar to the Dragoons they were useful as scouts and to screen the approach of the army.

Chevauleger



Bavarian foot artillery was armed with light pieces and were never up to the standards of their continental adversaries. Adequate for the task they never excelled at their profession.

Foot Artillery



Bavarian horse artillery was similar to the rest of the German allies armed with light artillery pieces and a larger amount of horses than the infantry in order to give them superior mobility.

Horse Artillery



The typical driver for supply wagons that furnished ammunition and resupply for the army.

Supply Wagon Driver

Northern Italy

This region included the former Kingdoms of Sardinia and Venice as well as other small areas of Northern Italy, mainly in the Po River Valley. There was always a love-hate relationship with Napoleon but mainly these men were good troops and throughout the wars, Northern Italy would provide a steady supply of manpower.



Formed of men from the Po River Valley these light troops were part of Soult's IV Corps and were deployed to defend the Sokolnitz Castle and its environs.

They suffered heavy losses during the fighting but their bravery under fire made them well known throughout the army and endeared them to the Emperor.

Tirailleurs du Po



Dressed similar to the French Guard Grenadiers, these men were the best in the Northern Italian army. Added to the Guard during 1805 they would fight side by side with the best in Europe.

Guard Grenadier a Pied



Some of the finest light infantrymen in Northern Italy, the Guard Chasseurs were also attached to Napoleon's Guard, high honor indeed.

While probably not as brave as the French Guard they nonetheless were highly motivated to serve the Emperor of the French.

Guard Chasseur a
Pied



The Guard Horse Artillery was equipped with light artillery pieces and were very well trained at their profession.

Likewise they were attached to the Imperial Guard and served at Austerlitz along with the rest of the Northern Italian Guard.

Guard Horse Artillery



The Foot Artillery received similar training as for the French army. They were good artillerists and would support the operations of the Northern Italian troops during the wars.

Foot Artillery

Corsica

The homeland of Napoleon Bonaparte supplied a minimal amount of forces for the wars. They were eager to show their patriotic fervor and became an integral part of the French army.



Commaned by one of Napoleon's cousins, d'Ornano, this unit of light infantry saw combat throughout the wars.

They were part of Soult's IV Corps during the campaign and saw action at Austerlitz.

Tirailleurs du Corse

England

The British Army was always in a state of flux, with its size dependent on the status of overseas involvement. While a cadre was always kept in being it was only to reach its larger size by the time of the Peninsular Wars. During this period a smaller force was fielded. Much of this lay with the people's distrust of the army dating back to the days of Cromwell. The British Home Guards and the Navy provided the defense of the homelands while the Army was primarily used for overseas duty.



Line Infantry

The British line infantry was probably the best in the world. Their courage in the face of the enemy was reknown. Composed of over sixty regiments they saw extensive service all over the world as Brtain tried to expand her colonial empire. Cool under fire and well known for their firepower and prowess on the counterattack after an enemy attack they were difficult to beat.



Highlander Infantry

Recruited from either the Scottish higlands these men were fierce in combat. Several regiments served in the British army either at home or abroad. Their bagpipes would strike fear into the hearts of their enemies.



95th Rifles

The British had experimented with light infantry units armed with rifles and various arms before dating back to the American Revolution. One example was Ferguson's Rifles (though they disliked the concept of rapid fire). Other units such as the Royal American Rifles were also added to be able to give the British ability to combat the various natives which would harry them while marching through the woods or other rough terrain.

In 1800 The Rifle Corps was founded. Armed with the muzzle-loading Baker rifle they were the best shots in Europe. They would become the 95th Rifles and later units of Rifles would form The Rifle Brigade.

They were one of the finest brigades to ever fight during the Napoleonic Wars.



Light Infantry

The British Light Infantry were some of the finest in Europe. An entire division of Light troops was formed in the Peninsular and they one of the most difficult opponents of the French.

They were formed to oppose the French skirmishers that had begun to proliferate the battlefield during the days of the Revolutionary Wars though the Light Division was not formed until Wellington took command.



Militia

The home defense rested on two groups: her navy and her militia.

The militia were formed of companies privately funded or provided by a city or region. The uniforms were generally those of the line infantry though there were variations.

Recruits for the Army would be drawn from the Militia but usually no more than 40 percent of any one battalion would be enlisted at any given time (though there were exceptions).

Should Napoleon have decided to invade their use in the field with the Army would have been inevitable.

Guard Infantry



Foot Guards

The British Guard was a fine organization though not as pampered as the French.

At various times the units were kept at home but when in the field during the Peninsular wars performed admirably.

Cavalry

The British cavalry was both feared and respected by their allies and enemies. Known for their reckless abandon they could be difficult to recall, which often proved to be their undoing at times.

Mounted on fine horses they were more than a match for the French and were a fine corps of troops if a bit unsteady at times. Wellington would keep them on a short leash whenever possible.



The standard light cavalry of the British army. Good scouting troops they also did well on the battlefield.

Light Dragoons



Like the Light Dragoons these troops performed light cavalry duties but were also good battlefield troops.

Hussars



Dragoons

The Dragoons were the heavy cavalry of the British army.

Known for their reckless abandon they were a strong force that would cause wreck and ruin in their wake.

Like the rest of the British cavalry they were difficult to control but in the long run probably were better than the best French cuirassier regiment.

Guard Cavalry



Life Guards

The elite heavy cavalry of the British army they were renowned for their battlefield prowess.

Only the bravest troopers were admitted to the Life Guards.



Horse Guards

Known as "The Blues" in the army these troopers were often at home serving the crown.

While they did serve in the field they were known throughout the army as more of a parade ground unit.

Brave on the battlefield they never had the reputation of the Life Guards.



Dragoon Guards

Fearsome troopers that were every bit as good as Napoleon's Guard Cavalry.

Specialist Troops



The British engineers would become world reknown for their projects in foreign lands.

The battlefield engineers were up to par with any nation in Europe lead by able officers trained in the sciences of the day.

Sappers



The British Foot Artillery were able men armed with either 6 or 9lb guns.

Armed later with a proximity fuse their rounds were more lethal than the French artillery rounds.

Foot Artillery



Some of the finest horse artillery companies in the world.

These artillerists were fine shots and were well versed in artillery methods and practices.

Rockets would later be added to the corps though their use on the battlefield was one more of annoyance than of destruction. On rare occasions the rockets would strike their intended target.

Royal Horse Artillery



The army needed supplies and replenishment of ammunition and the supply wagon driver was the one to bring it to them.

Supply Wagon Driver

Kings German Legion

Formed of volunteers from Hanover who fled when Napoleon conquered their homeland these men fought for England and were considered just as good as the British on the battlefield. The original establishment of troops would be enlarged to consist of a full division in size.

Infantry



Trained to fight in two-rank lines as per the British infantry these men were staunch fighters.

Line Infantry



The light infantry of the KGL was able to deploy in open order similar to the British Light Infantry. They were able to mix it up with the best of the French light units.

Light Infantry

Cavalry



Versatile fighters who not only could help screen their armies' advance but also handle themselves well on the battlefield.

Hussars



Trained to fight as battlefield cavalry these troopers were also valuable as escorts.

Dragoons

Artillery



Capable gunners able to help support their comrades in arms on the battlefield.

Foot Artillery



The Horse Artillery was setup similar to the Royal Horse Artillery. They were able gunners and could support either the infantry or cavalry as needed.

Horse Artillery

Other nations participated in the War of the Third Coalition such as the Denmark and Sweden but their involvement in the campaigns were limited to small actions which are not covered in Campaign Austerlitz.

We hope you have enjoyed this tour of Joe Amoral's artwork. And we hope that this helps better acquaint you with the different types of combat units that fought in the Napoleonic Wars.