

# SPANISH ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (3) 1812-1815



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## THE STATE OF THE SPANISH ARMIES

**King Fernando VII, 1814.**  
The 'desired one' was freed by Napoleon in late March 1814 and made a triumphant return to Spain in April. In this print after Goya, he wears the uniform of a captain-general: blue coat, scarlet collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, gold buttons, lace and embroidery, scarlet sash with gold embroidery, white waistcoat, buff breeches, black boots edged with gold lace and tassel, hat laced with gold and edged with white plumes, gilt sword and scabbard, gold-laced belts.



**A**T THE BEGINNING OF 1812 the French still occupied most of Spain. From that time, however, the British and Portuguese armies under the Duke of Wellington – joined by increasingly large contingents of Spanish troops – slowly but steadily drove the French out of Spain. By the spring of 1814 the Allies were invading southern France. For a detailed account of the unfolding story of these campaigns, the reader is referred to Sir Charles Oman's superlative *A History of the Peninsular War*. In 1812-1814 the situation and service of the Spanish armies was generally as follows:

The **1st Army (or Army of Catalonia)** had been largely dispersed by the French in 1811. However, it rose again, and by June 1813 had 16,000 men under General Copons.

The **2nd Army (Army of Valencia)** under General Blake was 17,000 strong on 9 January 1812 when it surrendered at Valencia to Marshal Suchet. However, another 7,100 men of the 2nd Army rallied at Alicante.

By June 1813 it mustered over 30,600 men under General Elio. Its 5th Division was the former guerrilla force led by El Empecinado.

The **3rd Army (Army of Murcia)** was weak, with barely 5,500 men in January 1812, rising to 8,000 in October. In June 1813 it was led by the Duke del Parque and had 12,600 men. By April 1814 it was 21,000 strong when it crossed into France under the Prince of Anglona and occupied Pau.

The **4th Army** initially covered the troops at Cadiz and Algeciras which, by June 1813, had grown to a force of over 25,000. Led by General Giron, who had replaced General Castanos, it was attached to Wellington's army. It was reinforced by Don Carlos de Espana's division of 3,300 men and Count Arispal's Army of Reserve of Andalucia of 17,500 men in July. Thus, by August 1813, over 46,000 Spanish troops had been attached to the Anglo-Portuguese army. This did not include Espoz y Mina's force of about 8,000 operating in Aragon and eastern Navarre.

Now led by General Freire, the 4th Army was 35,000 strong in the autumn of 1813, decreasing to 30,000 by April 1814. This was the force that saw the most service with Wellington, its eight divisions being led by Morillo, Carlos de Espana, Losada and later Del Barco, Barcena and later Espeleta, and the guerrilla leaders Porlier, Longa and Espoz y Mina. Part of these troops were left in Spain, but several divisions served at Toulouse and Bayonne before being sent back.



Arthur Wellesley, Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington, commander of British and Portuguese forces in the Peninsula, was named *Generalissimo* or supreme commander of the Spanish armies by the Cortes on 22 September 1812. (Detail from print after J.Jackson. National Archives of Canada, C11791)

The **Army of Reserve of Andalusia** led by General Giron was attached to Wellington's army from summer 1813, reducing to about 10,000 men in August, 8,000 in November and 9,200 in April 1814. It served with the Anglo-Portuguese army up to Toulouse.

The **5th Army (Army of Estramadura and Castilla)** was only about 8,000 strong, and served with Wellington's army in 1812. Most were absorbed into the 4th Army in 1813. The **6th Army (Army of Galicia)**, about 15,000 strong, served with Wellington's army in 1812. Most went into the 4th Army in 1813.

The **7th, 8th and 9th Armies** of 1812 were somewhat theoretical forces. They included mostly the guerrillas in north-eastern Spain led by Mina, Longa, Campillo, Porlier and other smaller bands, and could hardly be expected to function as regular field formations. Most were absorbed into the 4th Army in the summer of 1813.

Whittingham's Spanish Division from Mallorca served in Valencia during 1812–1813, about 4,000 strong, later rising to 5,000.

By the middle of 1813, the Spanish forces on regular service amounted to about 160,000 men. Of these, about a third were serving with Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese army. Another 10,000–20,000 were deployed in conjunction with the Anglo-Sicilian force in Valencia.

As of 1 December 1814 the Spanish peninsular army was reorganized by a provisional regulation. This was a first step towards rationalizing the numerous and extraordinary collection of units raised since 1808. For the first time since the French invasion the *Estado Militar de Espana* – the register of the Spanish Army which normally appeared yearly – was once again published in a complete edition early in 1815<sup>1</sup>. No doubt compiled largely from information obtained from corps commanders and review reports, it gave a general listing of the field officers of the many units, and what uniforms were being worn.

## UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

From 1812 Britain considerably augmented its already significant aid to the Spanish armies. As regards weapons, some 100,000 firearms (of which 95,000 were infantry muskets and 3,000 cavalry carbines) were sent to Spain between April 1812 and March 1813 – up from about 40,000 stands of arms in 1811. In 1813 another 50,000 muskets were sent. To these were added thousands of cavalry sabres – 13,000 in 1812 alone – and thousands of pairs of cavalry pistols. These figures represented a considerable commitment; the 1812 shipment accounted for well over a third of the year's production of India Pattern muskets. (No significant numbers of rifles were supplied for the Spanish forces, which had no rifle units as such.)

Ordnance was also sent to Spain, though not in such massive numbers. It would seem that large calibre pieces were already available,

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete *Estados* were published in the *Guia Patriótica de Espana* and the *Guia Política de las Espanas* of 1811 and 1812. Only the uniforms of the General Staff Corps, Guards infantry, artillery, engineers and sapper battalions are described.

but light calibre 'mountain' cannons were in much demand by guerrilla bands, and the British tried to deliver these in numbers. When one adds uniforms and camp equipage for 100,000 infantry in 1812, for 50,000 men in 1813 and again in 1814, added to cavalry saddlery and supplies, the total logistical aid from Britain to Spain in the final years of the Napoleonic Wars was very impressive.

The Spanish made good use of it all, and their armies were logistically transformed from 1812. However, the Spanish themselves also continued to make arms and clothing. By 1814 the British supplied the requirements of 50,000 to an army of 154,000 men. Outfitting the remainder must have called for a tremendous effort in a country almost totally ruined by war, and whose population was traumatized by years of privations, bloodshed, instability and more or less arbitrary terror.

The scarlet national cockade of Spain was worn by all troops. However, from about 1812 a black centre was sometimes added to denote the alliance with the British; and a yellow edge seems also to have been used by some, thus reproducing the scarlet and gold of Spain's national standard (possibly to differentiate the patriots from the renegade troops of Joseph-Napoleon's forces, who also displayed scarlet cockades).

### Generals and Staff

The official full dress of general officers did not change, but the trend was towards fairly simple field uniforms. Surviving examples and portraits show simple single-breasted blue coats or coatees with scarlet collar and cuffs edged with gold lace. However, a French style all-blue coat with gold embroidered edging was also worn by some generals. Aides-de-camp seem to have had a free rein to indulge in a variety of dress, a phenomenon not exclusive to Spain.

### The Royal Guard

During the Peninsular War the Spanish Royal Guard had a very sketchy existence. From 1808 to 1809 palace guard units such as the Halberdiers vanished, while the Guardia de Corps disintegrated as its personnel often became cadres for newly raised units. However, the infantry units survived and elements of the Spanish and Walloon Guards continued to be found in Spanish armies during the war, each adding a 4th Battalion in 1810 and a 5th in 1814. With the return of King Fernando VII in 1814 the Guard was reformed, resuming much the same organization as before the French invasion, complete with Halberdiers.

**Guardia de Corps** The unit was revived in Cadiz to provide guards for the Cortes by its decree of 25 May 1813. This called for a corps of two squadrons each having three brigades, each brigade having 60 officers and men, all to have previously served in the line cavalry or dragoons. One squadron would attend the Cortes while the other was serving in the field, the squadrons rotating at intervals. Following the return of the king in 1814 the unit went to Madrid and was expanded to four squadrons – two of mounted grenadiers and two of light cavalry – and a brigade of flankers. *Uniform:* From 1813, the bandoleers were no longer of varied colours to distinguish squadrons; all were ordered to be scarlet, laced with silver. In 1814–1815 blue coat, scarlet collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, silver buttons and lace; white waistcoat and breeches; bicorn



**General Francisco Ballesteros, a veteran of many battles, Captain-General of Andalusia and commanding general of the 4th Army in 1812. Outraged by Wellington's elevation to *generalissimo* of the Spanish armies, he called for a military uprising in October 1812, but had considerably overestimated his own influence and popularity. At the order of the Cortes he was arrested by the Prince of Anglona with a battalion of Spanish Guards on 30 October; his own troops did not stir, and Ballesteros was exiled to the African *presidio* of Ceuta. (Print after portrait)**



**Undress infantry uniform of General Espoz y Mina, c.1814. Blue with scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping, gold buttons; three narrow gold lace bands at the ends of the cuffs, below two broad embroidered laces of a lieutenant-general. The silver lace and scarlet bandolier shown here is in error; it does not belong to Mina's uniform, but is for the Guardia de Corps. (Museo del Ejercito, Madrid)**

laced silver; blue housings laced silver. Grenadiers, silver aiguillettes and tall black bearskin caps with silver cords and white plume; crested helmets for light cavalry, and shakos for the flankers, were taken into wear from 1815.

**Guardias Alabarderos** From 1814 the Guard Halberdiers were back in the palace, wearing a blue coat with scarlet collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat, silver buttons, silver buttonhole and edging lace at collar and cuffs; blue waistcoat and cape also laced silver, scarlet stockings, bicorn laced silver.

**Guardias de Infanteria Espanola** The Spanish Guards were reorganized in 1815, but in 1818 both the Spanish and Walloon Guards were united into the 1st and 2nd Guards Infantry Regiments, losing their distinctive titles. The Guards Infantry Regiment was disbanded four years later. Compiled in 1811–1812, the 1812 *Guia* described its uniforms as blue coatee, pantaloons and gaiters; scarlet cuffs, turnbacks and waistcoat; white buttonhole lace (probably pointed and set in threes), white metal buttons with the cipher (or initials) of the regiment's name; shako with a plate bearing the same cipher as the buttons, and a red cockade. In 1814–1815, blue coat and breeches, scarlet cuffs, lapels and waistcoat, pewter buttons, white lace set in pairs. Officers' dress was as the Guardia de Corps but with a blue collar.

**Guardias de Infanteria Walonna** Part of the Walloon Guards Regiment was in Madrid when it

was first occupied by the French in June 1808, and many of its men were incorporated, often forcibly, into the French forces. After Bailen the regiment's battalions in Barcelona and Aragon, bolstered by volunteers, reorganized into four battalions in various parts of Spain. These participated in many battles over the years, and were reduced to two battalions in January 1812, finishing the war in Andalucia. Reorganized into a five-battalion regiment in 1814. *Uniform:* In 1811–1812, according to the 1812 *Guia*, the uniform was the same as for the Spanish Guards described above except for the cipher on the buttons and shako plate, which was to be to the regiment's name, and the scarlet shako cockade, which was edged with black. The white buttonhole lace was probably pointed and set in pairs. For c.1813 uniform, see Plate D. In 1814–1815, the same as the Spanish Guards except for the black cockade border and a small button at each pocket.

**Carabineros Reales** Reorganized in 1814 into a squadron of grenadiers and a squadron of cuirassiers; disbanded in 1822. *Uniform:* Blue coat, pantaloons and cape; scarlet collar, lapels, waistcoat and turnbacks; silver buttons, silver lace edging the collar and cuffs; blue housings laced white. Grenadiers with bearskin cap, cuirassiers with cuirass and steel cuirassier helmet.

# CAVALRY

## Organization

As in previous years, there were scores of cavalry units of all sizes and descriptions, until 1813–1814. Some of these were fleeting corps about which there is little on record. Others would change names or designations, e.g. becoming hussars after starting out as heavy cavalry, or vice-versa. The organization remained officially the same in 1812–1814 as previously, following the 1808 regulations (see MAA 321). Each regiment was supposed to have four squadrons, each squadron having two companies. In reality, many units had only a couple of squadrons or even only a single company.

On 1 December 1814 a new 'provisional' organization of the cavalry streamlined the many corps down to 16 heavy cavalry regiments, three of mounted *cazadores*, and three of hussars. All were to have five squadrons each of two companies, each company having four officers and 58 troopers. The heavy cavalry regiments were as follows: Rey, Reina, Principe, Infante, Borbon, Farnesio, Alcantara, Espana, Algarve, Calatrava, Santiago, Montesa, Costa de Granada, Voluntarios de Espana, Legion Estremena and Coraceros Espanoles. Rey and Reina were henceforth also equipped as cuirassier regiments. The mounted *cazadores* were: Madrid, Guadalajara and Burgos. The hussars were: Espanoles, Estramadura (Bailen from 15 June 1815) and Iberia.

Other units continued to exist but were to be altered or disbanded later. For instance, the *Cazadores de Sevilla* were sent to America as the *Cazadores del Rey*.

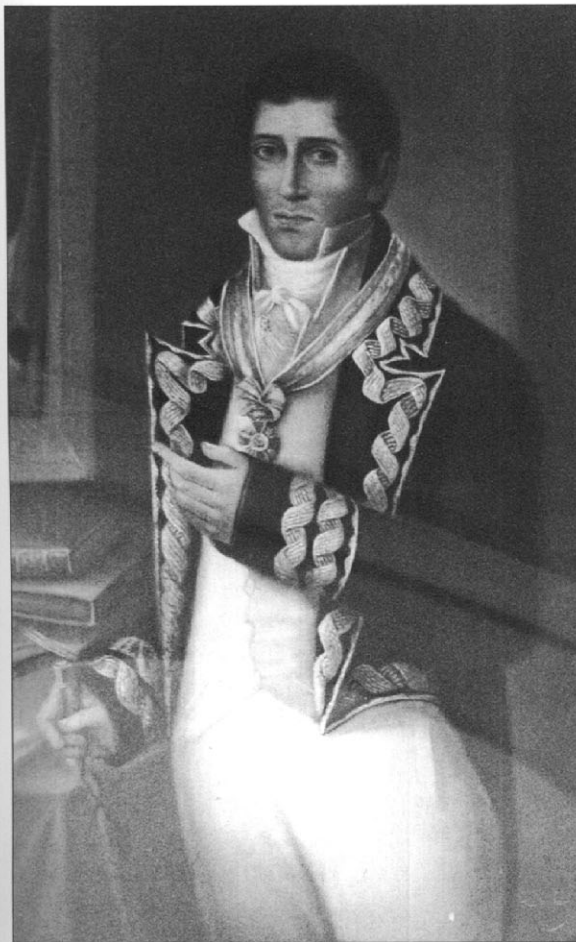
Already existing were the eight dragoon regiments: Rey, Reina, Alamanza, Pavia, Villaviciosa, Sagunto, Numancia and Lusitania.

## Cavalry Uniforms

By the latter part of the Peninsular War the dress of the cavalry had changed considerably. The long-tailed coats were generally replaced by coatees, often blue for cavalry and yellow for dragoons, with regimental facings at the collar, cuffs and turnbacks. Leather helmets with fur crests somewhat resembling the British Tarleton type were now used by many heavy cavalry and dragoon regiments. Mounted *cazadores* had emerald green dolmans with shakos, and hussars wore various colours with fur busbies or shakos. Besides breeches, all generally had grey overalls strapped with leather and striped with the facing colour.

The Peninsula veteran G.R.Gleig left a fine impression in *The Subaltern* of some elements of this cavalry, seen on campaign near San Sebastian in August 1813: '... some were arrayed in green jackets, with slouched hats and long feathers, others in blue, helmeted with Tarleton helmets

Alejandro Ramirez, Intendant of Cuba, c.1815. This portrait shows the evolution in the uniforms of the administrative 'officers of the quill pen' towards the end of the Peninsular War and later. The all-blue coat cut in a stylish manner has regulation silver embroidered edging, two bands on the cuffs denoting the rank of intendant. (Museo de la Ciudad, Havana)



like our yeomanry or artillery drivers, whilst not a few wore cuirasses and brazen head pieces such as they had plundered from their slaughtered enemies ...'. Gleig thought them imposing, and admired their '... loose and independent march', adding that they were well mounted.

Many of the new units raised from 1808 left few records of their dress. The information given below comes from a variety of sources but mainly from the 1815 register, except for heavy cavalry uniforms, which rest primarily on a more detailed descriptive list appended to the orders of 1 December 1814.

### Heavy Cavalry:

All regiments had buff waistcoat and breeches, and cloaks were of the coat colour.

**Key** Blue coat; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons. Steel cuirasses and steel cuirassier helmet trimmed with brass, with black mane and red plume, from December 1814.

**Reina** Scarlet coat; blue collar, cuffs and lapels; white buttonhole lace, pewter buttons. Steel cuirasses and steel cuirassier helmet trimmed with brass, with black mane and red plume, from December 1814.

**Principe** Blue coat; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; white buttonhole lace, pewter buttons.

**Infante** Blue coat; white collar, cuffs and lapels; yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons.

**Borbon** Blue coat; collar, scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**Farnesio** Scarlet coat; white collar, cuffs and lapels; brass buttons.

**Alcantara** White coat; green collar, cuffs and lapels; brass buttons.

**Espana** Scarlet coat; black collar, cuffs and lapels; brass buttons.

**Algarbe** Scarlet coat; yellow collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**Calatrava** White coat; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**Santiago** Blue coat; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**Montesa** White coat; blue collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

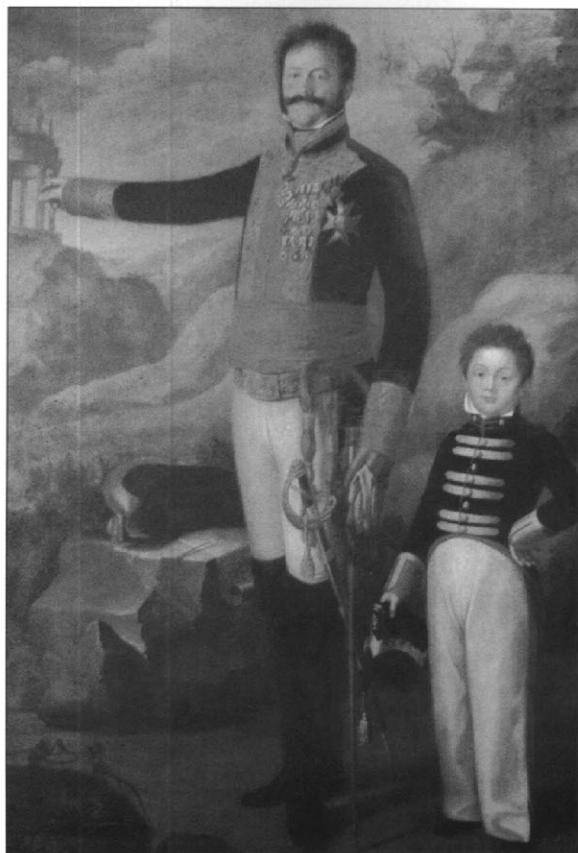
**Costa de Granada** Blue coat; yellow collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**Voluntarios de Espana** Green coat; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels, buff piping; pewter buttons (see Plate G).

**Legion Estremena** See also MAA 332 for previous history and dress. The 1814 listing for the legion's cavalry, which was made a distinct regiment on 1 December, was a blue coatee, straw-coloured cuffs and piping edging the lapels, green lapels, green piping edging the collar and cuffs, and a blue greatcoat.

**Coraceros Espanoles** See MAA 332, Plate D.

BELOW General Carlos Favre d'Aunoy, c.1815. A native of Louisiana, Favre d'Aunoy greatly distinguished himself during the Peninsular War. He joined the Louisiana Regiment as an officer cadet in 1796, later travelling to Spain and joining the Walloon Guards. In 1808 he fought the French at Menjibar, Bailen, and in the defence of Madrid in December. Still a captain in 1811, his outstanding conduct at Albuera made him a national hero and he was promoted. Later that year he was at Lujar and Moroidro. Sent to south-eastern Spain, he served with the army besieged by Suchet until its surrender in January 1812, becoming a prisoner of war. He was later promoted, and is shown wearing the full dress regulation uniform of Mariscal de Campo (major-general). The blue coat has scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels embroidered with gold, a single broad embroidered gold (continued opposite)



band edging the cuffs indicating his rank, and scarlet turnbacks. The crimson sash has gold trim; the belt is laced and buckled gold; white breeches, high black boots, and a black bicorn laced gold complete the uniform. His young son is pictured in a miniature uniform of the Walloon Guards: blue coatee with scarlet cuffs and turnbacks, white buttons and lace; he holds an all-blue forage cap with white lace and tassel. (Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans)



ABOVE Hussar officer, unidentified regiment, c.1812-1815. Scarlet dolman with sky blue collar and cuffs; sky blue pelisse edged with black fur; scarlet breeches; gold cords and buttons; crimson and gold barrel sash; black busby with scarlet bag; belts covered with gold lace; black sabretache laced gold and edged with scarlet; gilt-hilted sabre, steel scabbard. The housings appear to have been sky blue trimmed with gold. (Print after Giscard)

### Dragoons:

All had the crossed sword and laurel branch badge on the collar, in the button colour. The cloaks were of the coat colour.

**Rey** Blue coatee and breeches; scarlet cuffs and waistcoat; yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons.

**Reina** Scarlet coatee; blue cuffs, waistcoat and breeches; yellow buttonhole lace, brass buttons on both sides.

**Almansa** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; blue cuffs, pewter buttons.

**Pavia** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; scarlet cuffs, pewter buttons.

**Villaviciosa** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; scarlet cuffs, brass buttons.

**Sagunto** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; green cuffs, pewter buttons.

**Numancia** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; blue cuffs, brass buttons.

**Lusitania** Yellow coatee, waistcoat and breeches; black cuffs, pewter buttons.

### Hussars and Cazadores:

These regiments were dressed in hussar fashion. All had white cords, and the crossed sword and laurel branch badge on the collar in white.

**Extramadura Hussars** All-scarlet dolman; sky blue pelisse, pantaloons and greatcoat; pewter buttons.

**Espanoles Hussars** All-emerald green dolman; sky blue pelisse, pantaloons and greatcoat; pewter buttons.

**Fernando VII Hussars** (1808) Raised as Horse Grenadiers of Fernando VII from 8 September 1808 by Count Fernan-Nunez, to have 540 men in three squadrons. Converted into Fernando VII Hussars from 1 May 1811. Present at battle of Saguntum in 1811. Disbanded in 1814. *Uniform:* See Plate D.

**Burgos Hussars** (1809) Squadron of 150 men raised in the province of Burgos, later expanded to a regiment from 6 April 1811. Commanded by

Don Julian Sanchez, one of the leading guerrilla leaders. Converted to mounted cazadores in December 1814. *Uniform 1814:* All-buff dolman; sky blue pelisse and pantaloons; pewter buttons, white cords. *1815:* All-emerald green dolman; buff pelisse and pantaloons; pewter buttons, white cords; emerald green housings edged white.

**Iberia Hussars** (1809) Raised as hussars – see MAA 332 for organization and dress. Converted to mounted cazadores in December 1814. *Uniform 1814-1815:* Crimson dolman, collar and cuffs; sky blue pelisse, pantaloons and greatcoat; pewter buttons.

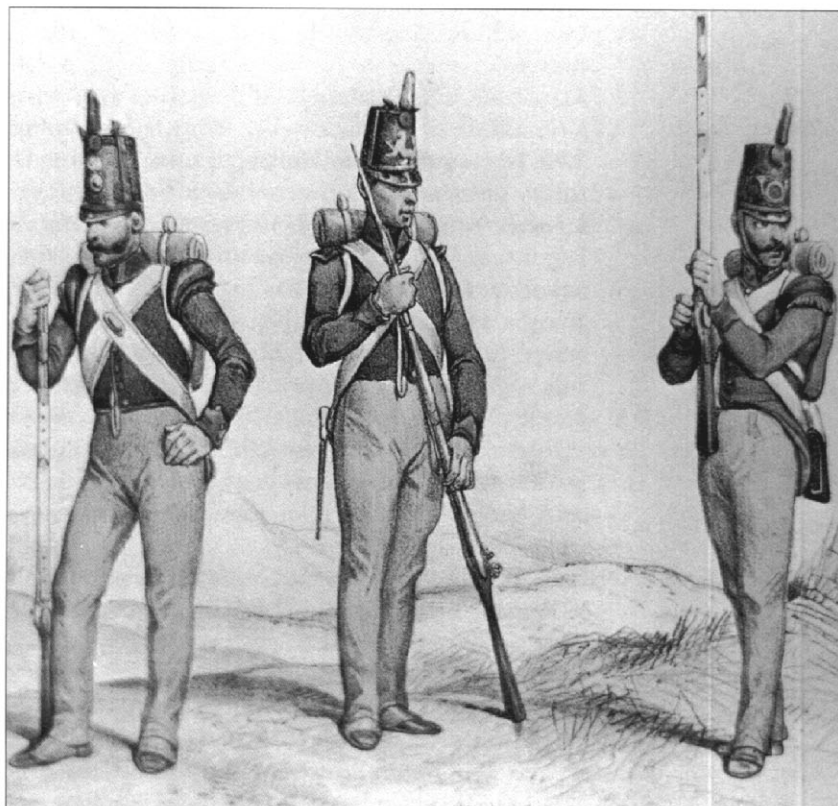
**Almanza Hussars** (1810) Raised in Cadiz by Colonel Whittingham to a strength of about 400 troopers. Transferred to Mallorca in 1811 with Whittingham, who was promoted general to command there. Served in eastern Spain in 1813 as part of Whittingham's Spanish division with the

Line infantry privates, 1812.

*Left, grenadier, distinguished by the red plume and ribbons and the brass grenade badge on the shako, and blue wings with red fringes.*

*Centre, fusilier: white plume and ribbons, brass lion plate, blue shoulder straps piped red.*

*Right, cazador or light company man: green plume and ribbons, brass buglehorn badge, blue wings with green fringes. All wear the uniform ordered on 12 December 1811, and have British white accoutrements with plain brass oval belt plates. (Print after Gimenez published in Clonard's *Historia Organica ...*)*



British-Italian corps under Lord William Bentinck. Disbanded in 1815. *Uniform:* Sent from Britain in 1810 hussar clothing including 400 pelisses and sashes with sabres, sabretaches, saddles and appointments. Dressed 'as the 10th Regiment of British Hussars', according to Woolcombe's diary. Blue dolman with scarlet collar and cuffs; blue pelisse trimmed with white fur; white cords, pewter buttons, crimson and yellow sash; white breeches, black boots; fur busby with scarlet bag and yellow, white over red plume. In June 1811 '351 hussar caps' were ordered for Mallorca, most likely intended for this regiment (PRO, WO 1/848). A shipment of 500 hussar uniforms sent to Malta in early 1812 may have been for this regiment; this consisted of blue jacket with ball and half-ball buttons, white thread cord, pairs of blue pantaloons, pairs of boots with fixed spurs, cavalry sword with knots and belts, hussar caps with feathers (PRO, T 28/9 and WO 1/850).

**Olivenza Cazadores** See Plate B.

**Guadalajara Cazadores** (1811) Raised by Don Juan Martin, 'El Empecinado', and approved by the provisional government on 24 December 1811; confirmed as regular regiment on 18 October 1814. Converted to hussars in June 1815. *Uniform:* Emerald green dolman, pantaloons and greatcoat; white collar, cuffs and waistcoat; pewter buttons.

**Madrid Cazadores** (1811): Raised by 'El Empecinado' and approved on 24 December 1811; confirmed as regular regiment on 18 October 1814. *Uniform:* Emerald green dolman, pantaloons and greatcoat, crimson collar, cuffs and waistcoat, pewter buttons.

## INFANTRY

### Organization

Officially, line infantry regiments were supposed to have had three battalions since July 1810; but very few, if any, could boast such numbers. In reality a regiment often fielded barely the equivalent of a single battalion, with too many officers. A new order reorganizing the composition of infantry units was issued on 8 March 1812; this acknowledged the true situation. The regiments were now to have only one battalion; only in exceptional circumstances of extra manpower could they form a second. The battalion was to have six companies of fusiliers, one

company of light infantry (cazadores) and one of grenadiers. Each company had a captain, two lieutenants, two sub-lieutenants, a sergeant first class, four sergeants, eight corporals first class, eight corporals second class, and 96 privates. Fusilier companies each had three drummers, light infantry three buglers, and grenadiers two drummers and a fifer. The battalion staff consisted of a commander (who might hold either colonel's or lieutenant-colonel's rank), a first major (*primer sargento mayor*) and a second major (*segundo sargento mayor*), two adjutants (*ayudantes*) who held the rank of lieutenant, two sergeant-majors (*sargentos de brigadas*), a chaplain (*capellan*), a surgeon (*cirujano*), a drum-major (*tambor mayor*) and a master armorer (*maestroarmero*). Attached to the grenadier company was a detachment of six sappers under a sapper-corporal. This organization applied to both the line and light infantry battalions.

During this final period of the Peninsular War the Spanish Army had about 168 regiments of various sorts. Some were pre-1808 'old' regiments, some were embodied provincial militia, and many were 'new' regiments raised since 1808. In March 1814 a muster was made which revealed some regiments – e.g. Princesa and Ceuta – as having over 1,200 men, while others might have less than 300 – e.g. the Rivagorza provincials and the Gerona Light Infantry. In all, the infantry regiments amounted to 153,238 men.

### Infantry Uniforms

The Spanish infantry had, out of necessity and in a few short years, gone from its traditional white uniform to an extraordinary motley of styles and colours – as illustrated in MAA 332. As the national army emerged yet again from its ashes to be reorganized and re-equipped with massive British help from late 1811 and especially in 1812, the need for a more common uniform was addressed.

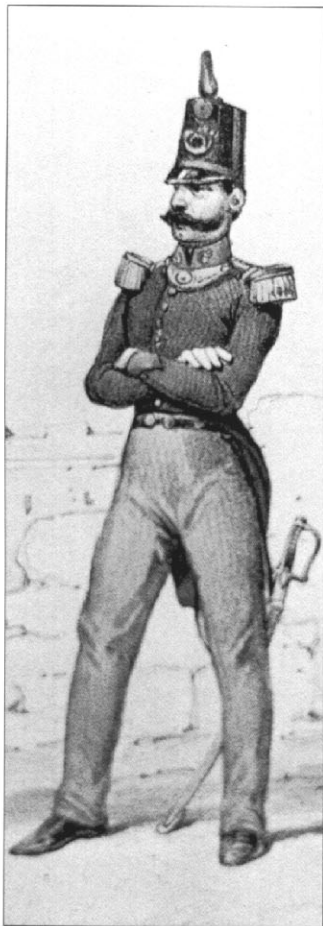
The Regency of the Kingdom issued on 12 December 1811 a royal order to re-establish the principle of uniformity in dress. It stated that Lieutenant-General Charles William Doyle had recognized 'the necessity of adopting a uniform for all the infantry', and the Regency council accordingly approved a proposal, made previously on 9 September by Mariscal de Campo Martin Gonzales de Menchaca, for a national infantry uniform:

'For the troops of the line: short coat or coatee without lapels, buttoning up the front, wide pantaloons with half-gaiters worn underneath the pantaloons, of sky blue cloth, scarlet cuffs, collar and turnbacks with gilt buttons, white waistcoat with sleeves. For light troops, the same uniform with collar and cuffs of the same sky blue colour, white turnbacks and white metal buttons. Both the line and the light infantry with a cap in the shape of a truncated cone with a wide circle around the bottom: a golden metal lion (shako) plate in front for fusiliers, a grenade for grenadiers, and a white metal buglehorn for light troops, with also at each side of the collar the initials of the regiment. Finally, the forage cap of the same cloth as that of the coatee, with scarlet piping for the line, and white for the light troops. Knapsack of painted canvas, and grey greatcoat.' These new uniforms were to replace the old when they wore out.

The above order is unfortunately unclear, in Spanish or in translation, as to the colour of the coatee. Did sky blue mean the



Line infantry grenadier sergeant, 1812: red plume and ribbons and brass grenade badge on shako, red epaulettes. (Print after Gimenez published in Clonard's *Historia Organica ...*)



LEFT **Captain of cazador company, 1812: green plume and ribbons and gilt buglehorn on shako, two gold epaulettes, gilt gorget, black swordbelt. Note long scarlet turnbacks – his coat is longer than the coatee of the enlisted men. (Print after Giminez published in Clonard's *Historia Organica* ...)**



RIGHT **Rear view of a cazador, with the standard British black canvas 'Trotter' knapsack with rolled grey blanket or greatcoat on top. All the rankers wear white British accoutrements with plain brass oval plates. (Print after Giminez published in Clonard's *Historia Organica* ...)**

pantaloons only, or the coatee as well? Further confusing the issue are the plates illustrating this text, printed in General Conde de Clonard's monumental mid-19th century history of the Spanish Army. The plates show the coatees as dark blue, the pantaloons as sky blue. As Clonard was himself a soldier who was interested in military dress, and had surely seen such uniforms as a youth, a mistake seems unlikely.

This 1812 national uniform was often called the 'English' uniform by the Spanish, since it was said to have been supplied from Britain. Shipments of blue (meaning dark blue) and sky blue uniforms had been sent in some quantities from 1811 and early 1812. The above order would have applied to these shipments as well as what could be procured in Spain itself. Thus, it may be that the colour of the coatee was purposely left unspecified, as it could not be guessed what colour of uniforms the next shipment might bring.

#### **British Supplies 1812**

In October 1811 Wellington had requested blue clothing and other supplies for 'a division of (4,000) infantry, now raising in Castille, under Don Carlos de Espana, to which I have supplied arms and accoutrements'. In January and February 1812 the shipments arrived at Porto, comprising 4,000 items of each: suits of blue clothing, linen shirts, pairs gaiters, stocks with clasps, forage caps, helmets with feathers, knapsacks, greatcoats, pairs of shoes, wood canteens and straps, haversacks (PRO, WO 1/270 and 849). These were no doubt issued quickly, since Wellington wrote in April 1812 asking for more clothing for other Spanish troops, to be the same as that recently sent for Don Carlos de Espana 'with the exception of the caps (shakos), which are to be of black felt, and 400 suits of the same description for artillerymen.' This last remark would suggest that the 4,000 suits had red facings – see Plate A.

Also in October 1811, another supply of '4,000 complete suits of clothing, 4,000 great coats, 1,000 buff sword belts for cavalry, 400 saddles with their appurtenances, 1,000 camp kettles, 3,000 knapsacks and 200 bugles for light infantry' were ordered delivered to Coruna for Spanish troops in Galicia (PRO, T 28/9). These began arriving there in January 1812, including '750 Blue cloth jackets, with red facings, 750 Kersey waistcoats with sleeves, 750 Blue cloth trousers, 300 Blue cloth jackets, with yellow facings, 300 Kersey waistcoats with sleeves, 300 Blue cloth trousers, 3,000 knapsacks' (PRO, WO 1/270); see Plate A. In February Wellington asked for arms, accoutrements and '20,000 suits of clothing

complete, of the same quality as those lately provided for the Spanish forces, 40,000 pairs of shoes, soldiers' necessaries for 20,000 men, 20,000 greatcoats, 20,000 caps (PRO, WO 6/174). In early May some of this was shipped to Portugal, namely: '4,600 suits of clothing with red facings, 3,000 suits of clothing with light blue facings, 10,000 caps (shakos) and plumes, 5,600 linen shirts, 200 privates' great coats' (PRO, WO 1/270).

Back in London, it was becoming obvious to British cabinet ministers that a very large quantity of supplies would be needed for the Spanish armies which were now re-raising as Wellington marched into Spain. On 19 March 1812 the decision was taken to supply 'clothing for 100,000 men, ordered for the service of Spain: blue cloth jackets with facings, blue pantaloons, white kersey waistcoats, felt caps (shakos), foraging ditto (forage caps), and knapsacks, 100,000 of each; shirts and pairs of half-stockings, 200,000 of each; pairs of half-boots, linen jackets, and ditto pantaloons, 100,000 of each; 200,000 pairs of shoes; 100,000 great coats and slings; 100,000 sets of accoutrements, besides canteens, camp kettles, shoe and clothes brushes, black balls, &c. &c.' (*Gentlemen's Magazine*, LXXXII).

From late June and July 1812 some 80,000 'suits of Blue Clothing' for the Spanish armies were supplied, half going to Cadiz in southern Spain, the rest to Portugal for points north (Wellington's February order of 20,000 suits was included in this). The remaining 20,000 'Suits of Light



**Loose but spirited impression of the battle of Vittoria, 21 June 1813. Wellington's victory ensured the French evacuation of Spain and spelt the end of King Joseph-Napoleon's pseudo-reign. His entire court baggage and that of his generals and Spanish followers provided the richest loot ever to distract an Allied army from its duty of pursuit. (Mina claimed - and the French acknowledged - that if he had not delayed Clausel's 14,000-strong corps further north then they could have arrived in the rear of the northern elements of Wellington's army, with serious consequences.) At Vittoria itself the Spanish divisions of Morillo and Longa were heavily engaged and took 538 casualties out of 552 Spaniards lost. Before the battle Wellington had ordered the Spanish troops to wear a white armband on the left sleeve to avoid confusion with the French. The Allied casualties totalled 5,158 casualties, the French about 8,000, with a massive loss of materiel.**

(Print after M. Bottice)



**A senior officer of infantry, c.1812-1815. Note the two laces on the cuff indicating the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and also a round commemorative badge above the cuff. This likeness is said to represent Captain B. U. de Schwyz of Reding's Swiss Regiment; since he was killed at Bailen on 19 June 1808 it is obviously a posthumous portrait. (Print after portrait)**

**Siege of San Sebastian, August-September 1813; note field forge in foreground. Wellington's army successfully stormed the town on 31 August. Sadly, as at Badajos, the streets were overrun by wild gangs of redcoats murdering, raping and robbing the hapless Spanish civilians, and these atrocities considerably heightened the tensions between the Allies. The French retreated to the castle of La Mota on the cone-shaped Mt.Urgul, the garrison resisting heavy bombardment before surrendering with the honours of war. (Print after Martinet)**

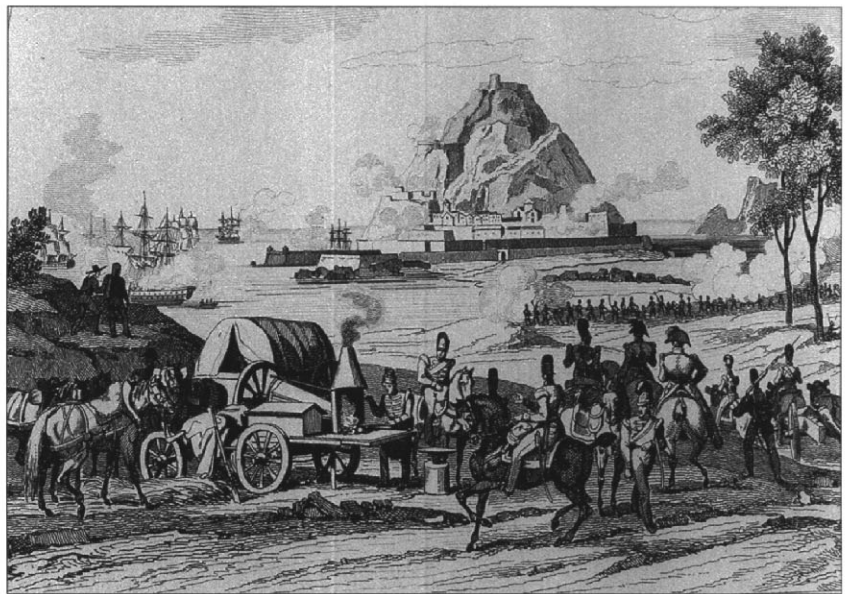
Blue Clothing' went to Cadiz; thus, this light blue clothing was all issued in southern Spain.

Other items were shipped in proportion including greatcoats, greatcoat straps, 100,000 felt 'Caps' (shakos) with red plumes, 80,000 'Forage Caps of dark blue Cloth' and 20,000 of light blue cloth going to Cadiz, 200,000 pairs of shoes, 100,000 canvas frocks and trousers of British duck, 100,000 'Yellow Knapsacks with buff straps', 200,000 shirts, 100,000 pairs of braces, 80,000 'Black Cloth' gaiters and 20,000 'Light Blue Cloth' gaiters going to Cadiz (UoS, WP 1/358).

From the above, it can be seen that some 80,000 uniforms of blue – that is to say, dark blue coatees, pantaloons and forage caps with black gaiters – and 20,000 light (or sky) blue coatees, pantaloons, gaiters and forage caps were served out in all. All had shakos with red plumes; white waistcoats probably used as undress jackets; off-white duck canvas frocks and trousers for fatigues; and yellow canvas knapsacks with whitened buff straps. (See Plate C.)

The facings at the collar, cuffs and turnbacks were apparently mostly red, but in spite of all shako plumes being that colour, some facings varied. The Castropol Regiment reported black collar and cuffs to its sky blue uniforms issued in June 1812. Some 1812 shipments of blue infantry uniforms mention yellow and sky blue facings.

This clothing, issued from the middle of 1812, may well have lasted for two or three years, as was the practice in the Spanish army. By 3 March 1813, however, Wellington wrote to the Earl of Bathurst that '... Although I believe the Spanish army are generally clothed, and they ought not to want clothing for at least a year, I think it would be advisable to let us have clothing for 100,000 men, instead of 50,000, in the year 1813. You may depend on it that none shall be issued, the issue of which can be avoided; and I have it in my power to control this concern in any way I please. By sending the 100,000 suits this year, I shall have time to distribute and send them to the different armies when wanted.'



## British Supplies 1813-1814

The British cabinet agreed with Wellington's opinion, and a new supply was ordered in 1813. Infantry uniform suits ('These suits consist of jacket, waistcoat, trowsers & gaiters' — UoS, WP 1/358) shipped from England to Spain from August to October 1813 mentioned two facing colours, red and green, for regimental distinctions. In the invoices the Spanish infantry regiments were identified by numbers; however, it is uncertain to which units these actually corresponded, if indeed such a concordance was even intended. As listed below, some units were sent uniforms with green facings, some with red, and some one shipment with red and another with green:

*Green only:* 1st, 3rd, 6th, 10th, 13th, 14th and 20th regiments.

*Red only:* 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 37th, 40th, 41st, 46th, 47th, 56th and 57th regiments.

*Green and red:* 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 11th and 12th regiments.

The uniforms were blue, with kersey waistcoats, as in the previous year. However, the shakos of uniforms with green facings had green plumes and their forage caps were trimmed with green, while those with red facings had red shako plumes and red-trimmed forage caps.

Other items were sent in order to ornament the coatees. For wings, there was broad and narrow lace 'For Grenadiers & Lt. Infantry clothing, in proportion of 500 yards, with a small quantity of fringe & red cloth for wings, to every Regiment of 1,000 Men (1,000 Suits)'. It thus seems that all grenadiers and light infantrymen had red wings with white lace and fringes. There were also 'Green Wings with bugles' and 'White Wings with bugles' in much smaller quantities. The green wings were presumably for the light infantry company buglers of green-faced regiments, and the white wings for those of red-faced regiments.

Non-commissioned officers were obviously distinguished in British fashion. There is mention of sergeants' swords with sword knots, shoulder sword belts and belt-plates, and large quantities of 'Chevrons Sergeants' (UoS, WP 1/358). No sashes nor pikes were sent, as Spanish army sergeants did not have these items.

In early 1814 more uniforms and supplies were sent out; this time, regimental numbers were not mentioned. In March the issues of suits of clothing, shakos and forage caps were reported for the following troops: *Army of Reserve:* 4,000 red facings, 2,000 green facings; *3rd Army:* 4,000 red facings, 2,000 green facings; *4th Army:* 2,560 red facings, 2,660 green facings; *General Mina's Division of Navarra:* 2,000 red facings, 2,000 green facings.

Accoutrements sent included buff pouches with their buff belts. As these were sent in great quantity

Line infantry soldiers, c.1812-1815. Documents do not mention the distinctions of drummers and buglers; but this engraved chapter heading in Vol.6 of Clonard's *Historia Organica* ... gives a clue. At right, a drummer smoking a cigarette has a white leather drum belt and apron and, on his sleeve, four point-up lace chevrons. Second from left, what appears to be a bugler or fifer wears the same chevrons.





**Infantryman wearing a caped, British-type greatcoat, c.1812-1815; the tents in the background are also British. (Engraving from Clonard's *Historia Organica...*)**

(over 17,000 in one shipment), these were clearly meant for infantry and not just artillery as in the British Army. Even larger quantities of black pouches and belts were also shipped – nearly 30,000 in a single shipment in early 1814. Together with all this were sent vast quantities of blankets, pairs of braces, billhooks, canteens, iron camp kettles, combs, clothes brushes, drums ‘complete’, frocks of duck and linen, fifes, greatcoats, flannel gowns, pairs of gaiters, haversacks, pairs of worsted hose, knapsacks and straps, musket cramps, pickers and brushes, linen and flannel shirts, shoes, stocks and clasps, and canteens with their straps. (See Plate F.)

How did all this appear in use? A clue is given in the 1813 description by a soldier of the British 71st Foot of a French column ‘dressed in greatcoats, with white covers on their hats (surely meaning shakos), exactly resembling the Spanish’, thus giving an excellent glimpse of the silhouette of the Spanish infantryman of the time. The greatcoats would have been brown Spanish or grey British types, and the shakos of the French type with a wide top. This last detail is interesting and confirms contemporary art, e.g. the plates by Pacheco and later by Dighton, which usually show the wide-topped shako about which, unfortunately, there is no detailed information. The combination of wide-topped shakos and blue uniforms made the Spanish resemble French troops; in order to avoid confusion Wellington

*(continued on page 19)*

**Table 1: Line Infantry Regimental Uniforms 1814-1815**

<b>Rey</b> Brown coatee and pantaloons; violet collar, cuffs and lapels; white piping and cuff flaps; brass buttons; brown greatcoat; white summer trousers; shako.	<b>Valencia</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks; pewter buttons; silver lace at the collar and cuffs, cuff flaps with three silver buttonhole laces; ash grey greatcoat; black gaiters.
<b>Principe</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; white collar, cuffs and piping, violet triangle collar patch; pewter buttons; black short gaiters; shako.	<b>Zaragoza</b> Blue coatee, scarlet collar and cuffs; brass buttons.
<b>Galicia</b> (formerly <b>Reina</b> ) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons.	<b>Espana</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar and cuffs; pewter buttons; grey greatcoat; black gaiters; shako.
<b>Saboya</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons.	<b>Toledo</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar, cuffs and piping, white lapels; pewter buttons; shako.
<b>Coruna</b> White coatee, waistcoat and breeches; blue collar, cuffs, lapels and piping; pewter buttons.	<b>Mallorca</b> The grenadiers at Mallorca had, in 1812, ‘blue jacket, sky blue facings (lapels), buff cape (collar) and cap (probably error, for cuff), red feather, blue cloth pantaloons, buff leather accoutrements.’ See Plate G for 1814-1815.
<b>Africa</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs edged with silver lace; pewter buttons; grey greatcoat; black short gaiters; white summer trousers; shako.	<b>Burgos</b> Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar and cuffs, white piping and buttonhole lace.
<b>Zamora</b> Blue coatee with blue collar; buff lapels and piping, scarlet cuffs; pewter buttons; brown pantaloons and greatcoat; black short gaiters; white summer trousers; shako.	<b>Murcia</b> Grenadiers at Mallorca in 1812 had a ‘blue jacket, yellow facings (lapels), cuffs and cape (collar), sky blue pantaloons, black leather accoutrements.’ In 1814-1815, white coatee, waistcoat, breeches and piping; sky blue cuffs; pewter buttons; black gaiters.
<b>Soria</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks; pewter buttons; black half-gaiters.	<b>Leon</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; white collar, turnbacks and waistcoat, scarlet lapels and cuffs; pewter buttons.
<b>Cordoba</b> Two companies detached to Mallorca in 1812 had ‘blue jackets, crimson facings (lapels), buff cape (collar) and cuffs.’ In 1814-1815, blue coatee, pantaloons and half-gaiters; buff collar and cuffs, crimson lapels, white buttonhole lace; pewter buttons; shako.	<b>Irlanda</b> Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; grey greatcoat; white summer pantaloons; shako.
<b>Guadalajara</b> Grenadier companies were seen at Mallorca in July 1812 in a ‘blue jacket with buff cape (collar) and cuff, buff accoutrements.’ In 1814-1815, blue coatee; yellow collar and piping, scarlet cuffs; pewter buttons; black gaiters; eight-point star at collar and on turnbacks.	<b>Cantabria</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; green collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; brown greatcoat; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters.
<b>Sevilla</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks; pewter buttons; black gaiters.	<b>Asturias</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, scarlet piping; gold cross badge on collar, brass buttons.
<b>Granada</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping, turnbacks and sword knot; pewter buttons; badge of the fruit symbolic of the city worn at the collar; black gaiters; shako.	<b>Navarra</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; green collar and cuffs, sky blue lapels, white piping; pewter buttons; grey greatcoat; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
	<b>Hibernia</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; white collar, cuffs, lapels and waistcoat; scarlet turnbacks and piping edging the coatee; pewter buttons.

*(continued ...)*

- Ultonia** Sky blue coatee and lapels; buff collar and piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat, pantaloons.
- Aragon** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs, turnbacks and sword knot; brass buttons; grey greatcoat.
- America** Blue coatee and pantaloons; buff collar and cuffs flaps, scarlet turnbacks and piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat.
- Princesa** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, lapels and cuffs; white cuff flaps, turnbacks and waistcoat; pewter buttons; shako.
- Extramadura** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; shako.
- Malaga** Blue coatee; buff collar, cuffs and piping; pewter buttons; white breeches; black gaiters; shako.
- Ordones Militares** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks edged scarlet; pewter buttons; black gaiters.
- Borbon** Sky blue coatee; scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks, yellow lapels, white piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat and pantaloons.
- Baza** (raised 1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar, scarlet lapels and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat.
- Fernando VII** (1808) Blue coatee; crimson collar, green cuffs, white lapels, piping of opposite colours; brass buttons; white pantaloons.
- 1st Badajos** (1808) Sky blue coatee; scarlet collar and cuffs, white lapels.
- Lena** (1808) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, sky blue lapels and cuffs, white piping; brass buttons; black gaiters; shako.
- Almeria** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; straw-coloured collar, cuffs, lapels and piping; pewter buttons, buttonhole lace on collar; black gaiters; shako.
- Pravia** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks; pewter buttons.
- Palma** (1808) Blue coatee, cuffs, lapels and pantaloons; white collar, piping, lace and waistcoat; pewter buttons.
- Castropol** (1808) See Plates B and G.
- Canga de Tineo** (1808) Brown coatee and pantaloons; straw-coloured collar, cuff flaps and piping, green cuffs and lapels; brass buttons; white summer pantaloons; grey greatcoat; black gaiters; shako.
- Benavente** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping, white horizontal lace on collar; pewter buttons.
- Voluntarios de Madrid** (1808) Blue coatee, collar and pantaloons; scarlet lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons, two gold buttonhole laces on collar; white waistcoat.
- Granaderos** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar and cuffs, sky blue lapels with white lace at the buttonholes, white piping and turnbacks; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.
- Almansa** (1808) Blue coatee; crimson collar, cuffs and lapels, white turnbacks, yellow buttonhole lace; brass buttons; white waistcoat and pantaloons; black gaiters.
- Baylen** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white turnbacks; pewter buttons; shako with plume.
- Guadix** (1808) Blue coatee and pantaloons; buff collar, scarlet cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat; brass buttons.
- Barcelona** (1809) Blue coatee; scarlet collar and cuffs, green lapels and sword knot; white piping, turnbacks, waistcoat and pantaloons; shako.
- Alpujarras** (1809) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, lapels, turnbacks and piping, sky blue cuffs; pewter buttons; white waistcoat.
- Union** (1809) Blue coatee with green collar, scarlet cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; small round hat. (1814-1815) Blue coatee and lapels; green collar, scarlet cuffs and turnbacks, white piping and waistcoat; pewter buttons; blue or grey pantaloons.
- Carinena** (1809) Blue coatee; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks, piping and pantaloons; pewter buttons; shako.
- 2nd Princesa** (1809) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; double pocket flaps; pewter buttons; shako.
- Leales Manresanos** (1809) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs, turnbacks and piping, sky blue lapels; brass buttons; white waistcoat.
- 2nd Asturias** (1811) Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar, scarlet cuffs and piping; pewter buttons.
- San Fernando** (1811) Blue coatee and pantaloons; blue Walloon style cuff flaps, crimson collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and piping; brass buttons; shako.
- Cadiz** (1811) Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white summer pantaloons; black greatcoat and gaiters; shako.
- Arlanza** (1811) Brown coatee, waistcoat, pantaloons and gaiters; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping.
- Granaderos de Castilla** (1811) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, white piping.
- 2nd Guadalajara** (1811) Blue coatee and pantaloons; Walloon style cuff flaps, straw-coloured collar, cuffs and piping, crimson lapels; brass buttons.
- 2nd de Mallorca** (1811) 'Blue jacket, red cuff and cape (collar), blue (? - probably black) leather accoutrements, blue pantaloons' - Lt. Woolcombe, 1812.
- Mataro** (1812) Sky blue coatee; yellow collar and piping, white lapels and pantaloons; brass buttons; black gaiters; shako.
- Reunion** (1812) Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, sky blue lapels; pewter buttons.
- Veteranos de la Patria** (1813) Blue coatee, lapels and pantaloons; yellow collar, cuffs and piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat.
- General de la Reserva de Andalucia** (1813) The 'General of the Reserve of Andalucia' in 1813 was the Count of Abispa. Blue coatee and pantaloons; crimson collar and cuffs, white piping, white buttonhole lace on collar; pewter buttons; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- General del Primer Ejercito** (1813): The 'General of the 1st Army' was Francisco Copons. Blue coatee; scarlet collar and piping; green cuffs, piping at collar and sword knot; white lapels, turnbacks and pantaloons; brass buttons.
- General del Cuarto Ejercito** (1814): The 'General of the 4th Army' in 1814 was Manuel Freire; the regiment had one battalion of 600 men. Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons.
- Imperial Alejandro** (1814) Planned as a large corps of five battalions which was to number up to 5,000 men, originally raised by Alexander O'Donell in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 2 May 1813, named in honour of Czar Alexander I of Russia. Actually recruited about 2,000 men in three battalions. Incorporated into the Spanish line infantry in 1814. Amalgamated into the San Sebastian Regiment in 1823.
- Uniform (1814-1815)** Blue coatee, lapels and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks; brass buttons; shako.
- Swiss Infantry:**
- 1st Wimpffen** Blue coatee; light brown collar, scarlet lapels, cuffs and turnbacks; pewter buttons; white waistcoat and pantaloons.
- 3rd Kaiser** Blue coatee; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels, white piping, waistcoat and breeches; pewter buttons.

**Table 2: Light Infantry Regimental Uniforms 1814-1815**

- 1st Voluntarios de Aragon** Sky blue coatee, lapels and waistcoat; straw-coloured collar and piping, scarlet cuffs; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- 1st Voluntarios de Cataluna** Blue coatee; crimson collar, lapels and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white or brown pantaloons; black gaiters; grey greatcoat; shako.
- 2nd Voluntarios de Cataluna** Blue coatee and pantaloons; Walloon style cuff flaps, green collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; shako.
- Voluntarios de Tarragona** Blue coatee, cuffs and pantaloons; yellow collar and piping; brass buttons.
- Voluntarios de Gerona** Sky blue coatee; black collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white waistcoat and pantaloons; black gaiters.
- 2nd Voluntarios de Aragon** Blue coatee, collar and pantaloons; scarlet lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons.
- 1st Voluntarios de Valencia** Colour of coatee not given; crimson collar, cuffs and lapels, white piping; pewter buttons; white or brown pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- Cazadores de la Corona** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping and two vertical bars on collar; pewter buttons.
- Campomayor** Blue coatee and collar; crimson lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; shako.
- Voluntarios de Navarra** Blue coatee; sky blue collar, green cuffs and turnbacks, white piping; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- 1st Voluntario (or Cazadores) de Barbastro** Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white lapels, piping and waistcoat; pewter buttons.
- Cazadores de Valencia** Sky blue coatee; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- Tiradores de Cadiz (1808)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue cuffs and piping, silver lace edging the cuffs and three laces on the collar; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.
- Voluntarios de la Victoria (1808)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar with anchor badge, sky blue cuffs and lapels, white piping and turnbacks; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.
- Voluntarios de Merida (1808)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and lace; pewter buttons.
- Carmona (1808)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; brass buttons; white summer pantaloons; grey greatcoat; black gaiters; shako.
- Tiradores de Baza (1808)** Blue coatee; sky blue collar and cuffs, white lapels, piping, turnbacks, waistcoat and pantaloons; brass buttons; black gaiters.
- Voluntarios de Leon (1808)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, one horizontal lace on the collar.
- 1st Tiradores de Castilla (1809)** Blue coatee; green collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks; grey buttons and pantaloons.
- Voluntarios de Ribero (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; green collar, scarlet lapels and cuffs, white piping; brass buttons.
- Cazadores del Rey (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs.
- 1st Tiradores de Cantabria (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, blue buglehorn badge on collar.
- 2nd Tiradores de Cantabria (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping.
- Voluntarios de Guadalajara (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; pewter buttons.
- Bureba (1809)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons.
- Voluntarios de Soria (1810)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; straw-coloured collar and cuff flaps, green lapels and cuffs; pewter buttons; black gaiters.
- Voluntarios de Molina (1810)** Blue coatee; crimson collar, cuffs and turnbacks, yellow lace on collar; brass buttons; brown pantaloons and greatcoat.
- Voluntarios de La Rioja (1810)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white turnbacks and breeches; black gaiters; shako.
- Voluntarios Numantinos (1810)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar, lapels and cuffs; pewter buttons.
- Legion Extremena (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar, scarlet lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping and waistcoat; pewter buttons.
- Tiradores de Sigüenza (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; red collar, lapels and cuffs, scarlet turnbacks, white piping; brass buttons; shako.
- Voluntarios de Alicante (1811)** Sky blue coatee, cuffs, collar and piping; straw-coloured lapels, Walloon style cuff flaps; pewter buttons; blue pantaloons.
- Voluntarios de Asturias (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons.
- Cazadores de Castilla (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; crimson cuffs, green lapels, white piping, turnbacks and waistcoat; pewter buttons.
- Voluntarios de Jaen (1811)** Brown coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar and cuffs; pewter buttons.
- 1st de Iberia (1811)** Blue coatee; green collar, cuffs and piping; grey pantaloons and gaiters; shako.
- 2nd de Iberia (1811)** Blue coatee; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, white lapels.
- Tiradores de Cataluna (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; green collar and cuffs, crimson lapels and turnbacks, scarlet piping; pewter buttons; black gaiters.
- Cazadores de Cataluna (1811)** From 1812, blue round jacket; scarlet collar and cuffs, three rows of pewter buttons; black shako with white plate and chinscales, white bands and cords, red plume and a long red bag ending in a tassel. This peculiar fashion is said to have originated from the Catalanian beret and was used to distinguish the cazadores from the French at a distance. The uniform is also given as a blue round jacket with scarlet pointed cuffs and wide scarlet edging the front and the collar; brass and yellow trim on the shako. (1814-1815) Brown coatee; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping and turnbacks; pewter buttons; mixed cloth pantaloons; black gaiters; shako.
- Voluntarios de Cardona (1811)** Blue coatee; crimson collar, cuffs and lapels, white piping, waistcoat and pantaloons; pewter buttons.
- Cazadores de Mallorca (1811)** 'Uniform the same as the 95th Regiment' according to Lt. Woolcombe, and the 1815 army register. Green jacket; black collar, cuffs and shoulder straps piped white; pewter buttons; green pantaloons; green shako plume and cords, white metal bugle badge; black crossbelts and musket accoutrements - not known to have had rifles.
- Voluntarios de Madrid (1811)** Blue coatee and pantaloons; red collar, white cuffs, scarlet turnbacks; pewter buttons; Walloon style cuff flaps.
- 3rd de Iberia (1812)** Blue coatee; crimson collar, cuffs and turnbacks; brass buttons; black gaiters.

*(continued ...)*

**Cazadores de Cuenca** (1812) Blue coatee and pantaloons; green collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons; black gaiters; Walloon style cuff flaps.

**1st de Voluntarios de Vizcaya** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; white collar and piping, scarlet cuffs and lapels.

**2nd de Voluntarios de Vizcaya** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels, white piping; pewter buttons.

**3rd de Voluntarios de Vizcaya** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and lapels; pewter buttons.

**3rd Tiradores de Cantabria** (1812) Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.

**1st de Guipuzcoa** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs; pewter buttons; brown gaiters; shako.

**2nd de Guipuzcoa** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and piping, scarlet lapels and cuffs, white turnbacks.

**Cazadores Extranjeros** (1812) Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar and cuffs; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.

**3rd de Guipuzcoa** (1812) Brown coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; pewter buttons; brown gaiters.

ordered the Spanish troops with his army to wear white armbands in June 1813, before the battle of Vittoria.

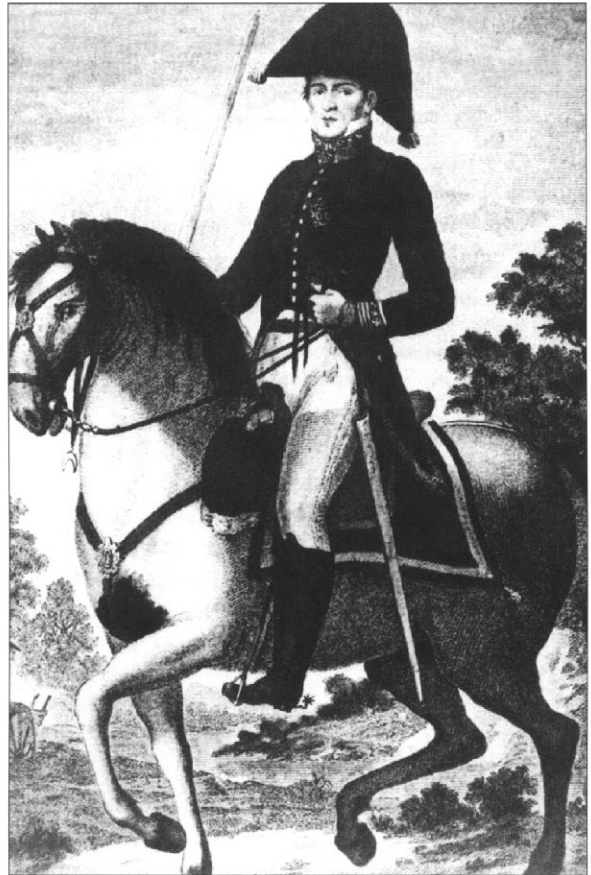
Another clue is given by the Spanish historian General the Conde de Clonard, who published the classic histories of the Spanish Army in the 1840s and 1850s when many of his readers and critics were veterans of the Peninsular War. His works recorded many uniforms and were illustrated with colour plates and engravings (a number are reproduced in this book). His Spanish infantry of 1812 wore the single-breasted coatee and a conical shako with coloured ribbon ties which could be fastened under the chin or over the top (the latter is usually shown), and shako plates as per the order of 12 December 1811.

In July 1813 Captain Bragge wrote of Wellington's 'very powerful Spanish Army, all well armed, clothed and equipt'. On the other hand, George Bell's impression at that time was that 'The Spaniards were not particular about their dress – a coat, like Joseph's, of many colours, seemed most in fashion – and with a ration of beef (raw), or any bit of plunder, stuck on the bayonet, they passed on their own rollicking, independent way, more like banditti than soldiers.' Bell presumably describes unsupplied troops who had been long in the field. As the 1815 army register reveals, the Spanish military were in fact quite concerned about their regimental uniforms.

### Line and Light Infantry 1814-1815

The infantry uniforms described in the register published in 1815, and compiled mostly in 1814, reveal an astounding variety of regimental dress. For many units it seems certain that the basic uniforms supplied from Britain were altered and improved with various regimental distinctions. When compared with the 1808 register (see MAA 321) the changes were startling; the regular infantry and provincial militias had changed from white uniforms to blue, sky blue and brown. The uniforms described in the accompanying **Tables 1 and 2** are taken mainly from the registers; additional unit details are inserted, where known.

**Brigadier-General José Manso, who raised the Cazadores de Cataluna in 1811. This print shows him in the uniform for field officers: a blue coat with scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks and silver buttons. The brigadier's single broad band of silver embroidery edges the cuffs and collar, the cuffs also bearing the three laces of a colonel.**



**Table 3: Provincial Militia Regiments 1814**

<b>Jaen</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; buff collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and buttonhole lace; pewter buttons.	<b>Tuy</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and waistcoat; brass buttons.
<b>Badajos</b> Blue coatee and turnbacks; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, two yellow laces on collar, yellow lace edging cuffs; brass buttons; white pantaloons and gaiters; shako.	<b>Betanzos</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping, cuff flaps, sword knot and pantaloons; brass buttons; shako.
<b>Sevilla</b> Blue coatee; sky blue collar, cuffs and turnbacks, white piping and lace 'instead of lapels'; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; black gaiters.	<b>Guadix</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet cuffs and piping, a lace at the collar, white cuff flap; brass buttons; white or brown pantaloons; black gaiters; grey greatcoat; shako.
<b>Burgos</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, sky blue lapels, white buttonhole lace; pewter buttons; black gaiters; shako.	<b>Ronda</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; white piping; brass buttons; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters; brown greatcoat; shako.
<b>Lugo</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, buff cuff flaps and piping; brass buttons; white waistcoat.	<b>Cuenca</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; yellow collar, scarlet cuffs, white piping and buttonhole lace; pewter buttons.
<b>Oviedo</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, straw-coloured triangle collar patch; brass buttons.	<b>Mallorca</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; brass buttons; shako.
<b>Murcia</b> Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping.	<b>Alcazar de San Juan</b> Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, straw-coloured badge on the collar; brass buttons.
<b>Truxillo</b> Blue coatee; sky blue collar and cuffs, white turnbacks and piping; pewter buttons.	<b>Chinchilla</b> Scarlet coatee; green collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, buttonhole lace and pantaloons; pewter buttons. Obviously a British Army uniform.
<b>Logrono</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; shako.	<b>Mondonedo</b> Blue coatee, pantaloons and cuff flaps; crimson collar, cuffs and piping; white waistcoat and pantaloons; shako.
<b>Sigüenza</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; crimson collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters; brown greatcoat; shako.	<b>Ciudad Real</b> Sky blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping; pewter buttons; white summer pantaloons; black gaiters; blue greatcoat; shako.
<b>Toro</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs; pewter buttons; shako made of cloth.	<b>Plasencia</b> Blue coatee and lapels; buff collar and cuffs, white turnbacks, piping and buttonhole lace, a silver lace edging the coatee; pewter buttons; white pantaloons; shako.
<b>Soria</b> Brown coatee; white collar and turnbacks, blue cuffs, scarlet piping; white pantaloons.	<b>Monterey</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs, two horizontal white laces on collar, white piping; pewter buttons.
<b>Laredo</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; sky blue collar and cuffs; brass buttons; (yellow?) lace on chest and cuff flaps.	<b>Compostela</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and sword knot, white piping; pewter buttons.
<b>Ornese</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar and cuffs.	
<b>Santiago</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet collar, cuffs and piping; brass buttons; black gaiters; shako.	
<b>Pontevedra</b> Blue coatee and pantaloons; white collar, piping, buttonhole lace and waistcoat, sky blue cuffs and lapels; shako.	

Besides the regiments listed in the tables, there were several others which had disappeared by the time the 1815 register was published. One was the Cortes Regiment raised in Cadiz. Its officers' uniform is shown in a Denis Dighton painting as a scarlet coat with white collar and cuffs edged with gold lace, two rows of gold buttons on the chest in the British style (this may be buttoned-over white lapels), white breeches, black hussar boots, crimson sash, gold epaulettes, bicorn with red and blue cockade (for the alliance with Portugal?) with gold cockade loop and drooping red plume.

Another unit shown by Dighton but not listed is the **Medina-Sidonia Regiment**. Medina-Sidonia is a town about 20km east of Cadiz, and this unit was probably a volunteer or local embodied militia corps, raised after the French evacuated the area in August 1812 and probably disbanded in 1814. Its uniform was a brown coatee with sky blue collar, pointed cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, the collar with white 'MS' cipher in scroll, sky blue wings edged white, and pewter buttons; a white waistcoat and breeches, and short black gaiters; a black shako with a half-red, half-blue round badge in front with a round white centre bearing 'F VII', and a sky blue pompon; and white accoutrements.

## Provincial Militia

The provincial militia regiments (see Table 3) were mustered out of service from 21 July 1814; but on 16 October that year 42 regiments of provincial militia were re-established, which must have had a negative impact on the National Militia (see below). Each regiment had eight companies – six fusilier, one each grenadier and light infantry. They were now all to wear the same uniform – blue coatee and pantaloons; scarlet-piped white collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; brass or gold buttons; shako, and brown greatcoat. Weapons, accoutrements, uniforms and pay when on active service were to be furnished by the government.

## Offshore Islands and Presidios

**Canary Islands** The Canarias Regiment was fighting in the peninsula in 1812 and was declared a permanent line regiment in October 1814. It remained in Catalonia and Andalucia until sent to America in 1818. The 1814-1815 uniform was a blue coatee and pantaloons with scarlet piping, yellow lapels, pewter buttons, white waistcoat, and shako. The Canary Islands militia detachment in the peninsula was sent back to the islands.

**Mallorca** had many regular units, described above.

**Ceuta** had its regular garrison battalion in 1814-1815, still wearing white coatees with white lapels, waistcoat and breeches, green collar, cuffs and piping and pewter buttons. In March 1815 the regiment was ordered expanded to three battalions, numbered 27th in the line and assigned a blue coat with yellow collar, sky blue cuffs and lapels, red turnbacks, white lace and pewter buttons.

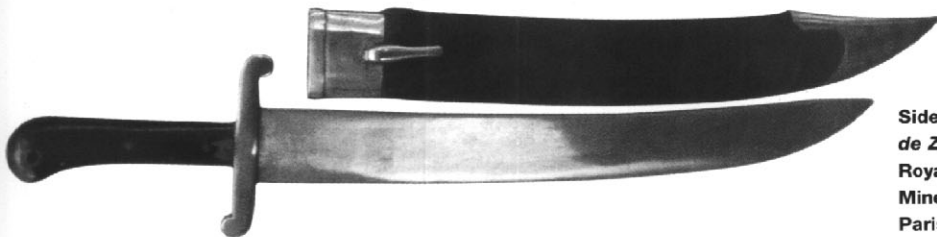
## SPECIALIST TROOPS

**Artillery** The organization of the field units of the Royal Corps of Artillery during 1812-1815 consisted of five field regiments of foot artillery, four (later six) squadrons of horse artillery, and five companies of artificers-artisans. As Spain was gradually liberated additional companies of garrison artillery came on to the rolls – 21 by 1814. The company of gentlemen-cadets went back to Sevilla.

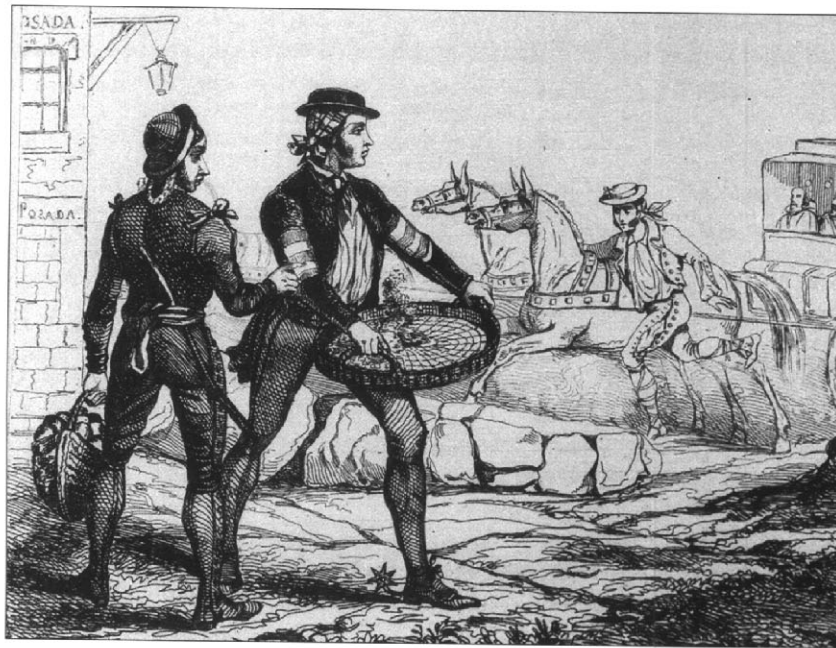
One of the handicaps of the Spanish artillery was its reliance on civilian contractors to move the ordnance. As the Spanish Army increasingly became a regular operational force the problem was addressed by the corps commander, General Garcia Loygorri, who on 4 April 1813 ordered the creation of five French-style 'Tren de Artilleria' (Artillery Train) battalions; a sixth was formed subsequently.



Horse artillery officer, c.1812-1815; the exact unit is unidentified. Blue coatee with scarlet collar, lapels and turnbacks (and presumably pointed cuffs, hidden by the gauntlet gloves); gold buttons, epaulettes and flaming bomb badge on collar; white waistcoat; red Mameluke-style trousers; black fur busby with red bag and gold tassel; blue sabretache laced gold, red belts edged gold, gilt-hilted sabre in steel scabbard. (Print after Giscard)



Sidearm of the *Regimiento Real de Zapadores y de Minadores* – Royal Regiment of Sappers and Miners. (Musée de l'Armée, Paris; photo R.Chartrand)



Spanish muleteers and wagonners, c.1813; generally dressed in blue, grey or brown short jackets and breeches, 'the more buttons they can show on their waistcoats and trousers, the finer they are dressed in their own opinion', according to Edmund Weathley. The armies relied upon muleteers for carrying much of their supplies; they were hired by the British army's Commissariat. Weathley recalled them as 'rascals (who carry long knives in their breeches and they do not scruple using them at times'. Note the intriguing bands worn on both jacket sleeves by the centre figure.

1811 the artillery adopted a black shako with a brass flaming bomb badge, red cords and pompon, and red cockade with yellow loop. The uniforms otherwise remained officially the same as before, but there were variations in certain instances (see Plate E). When on Mallorca in 1812 Lt. Woolcombe noted the uniform of the artillery as 'blue jackets and red facings (lapels – artillery normally had blue lapels piped scarlet), cuff and cape (collar), same cap (shako) as the infantry, red feather'. He noted that of the artificers as 'blue jackets, red cuff and cape, red feather and a leather apron.' This would have been the newly formed 5th Regiment of the corps. Another variation is noted in Wellington's *Dispatches* for April 1812 when he mentioned uniforms from England for the Spanish garrison of Badajoz including shakos 'which are to be of black felt, and 400 suits of the same description (blue jackets with red collar and cuffs) for artillerymen'. See Plate E2 for Artillery Train uniform.

**Engineers and Sappers** The organization of the Royal Corps of Engineers and of the six-battalion *Regimiento de Ingenieros* (renamed *Regimiento Real de Zapadores y de Minadores* – 'Royal Regiment of Sappers and Miners') remained basically the same in these final years of the war. By 1812, however, the officers' uniform again displayed black velvet lapels – indeed, it may be that many officers of the corps adopted these from 1809 instead of the blue lapels which made them look like artillery officers. From 1811-1812 all had blue coats with scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks, black velvet lapels each with seven silver laces, silver turret collar badges, silver buttons, scarlet waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and a silver-laced bicorne with a red plume. A white waistcoat and pantaloons were allowed in warm weather.

The Royal Regiment of Sappers and Miners wore the same colours as the Engineer officers but with some differences. They had coatees rather than long-tailed coats, the black lapels were of cloth, and the men's lapel

The types of guns they moved and served were obviously varied. British howitzers were issued to General Abadia's 'pretty good squadron' of horse artillery in Galicia at the end of 1811, and more British guns went to the Spanish artillery in 1812 (PRO, WO 1/261). However, most guns appear to have been of the French Gribeauval system which had been adopted by the Spanish before the war. Being already familiar with this system they preferred it, and went back to it after the war.

By orders of 12 December

lace was white; the cuffs had white lace, the white collar badge was the crossed pick and fascine, and a black leather helmet with black hair crest was the official headgear. Shakos would have been adopted from 1812 bearing the corps' crowned white metal plate bearing the battalion number and the corps name, with red plumes for the sapper companies, white-tipped red for miners and red-tipped white for pontoneers. The officers had silvered buttons, lace and shako plates. There were obviously variations in the field. In April 1812, for instance, Wellington requested from England black felt shakos and '200 suits of grey for pioneers' stationed at Badajos.

**Transport** The transport system of the Spanish armies was practically non-existent from 1809 to 1812. Traditionally, the services of pack mule trains were contracted out. On 31 August 1813 a regulation brought the muleteers under more military control. The organization was called the Brigade of Mule Trains (*Brigada de Acemileros*); overseers (*capataces*) were militarized, and were to wear a uniform of either blue or brown jacket and pantaloons; blue, brown or white waistcoat; scarlet collar and cuffs with the letters 'AM' in blue on the collar; and a round hat with a badge bearing 'AM', the number of the army and the number of the brigade.

**Invalids** For all companies except those in Madrid the uniform was a blue coat and breeches, white cuffs and waistcoat with pewter buttons. The companies in Madrid had a blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, crimson collar, cuffs, lapels and piping with a laurel on the collar, and pewter buttons.

**Guerrillas attack a French convoy. These ambushes were not mere skirmishes, but sometimes involved thousands of men in well co-ordinated actions. Leaders such as Espoz y Mina could put forces of brigade strength into the field. The heart of Mina's guerrilla 'kingdom' was central Navarra, where the French planted a strong garrison in Pamplona. Mina blockaded the city from 1812; even sorties to gather food and firewood could cost the French hundreds of casualties.**



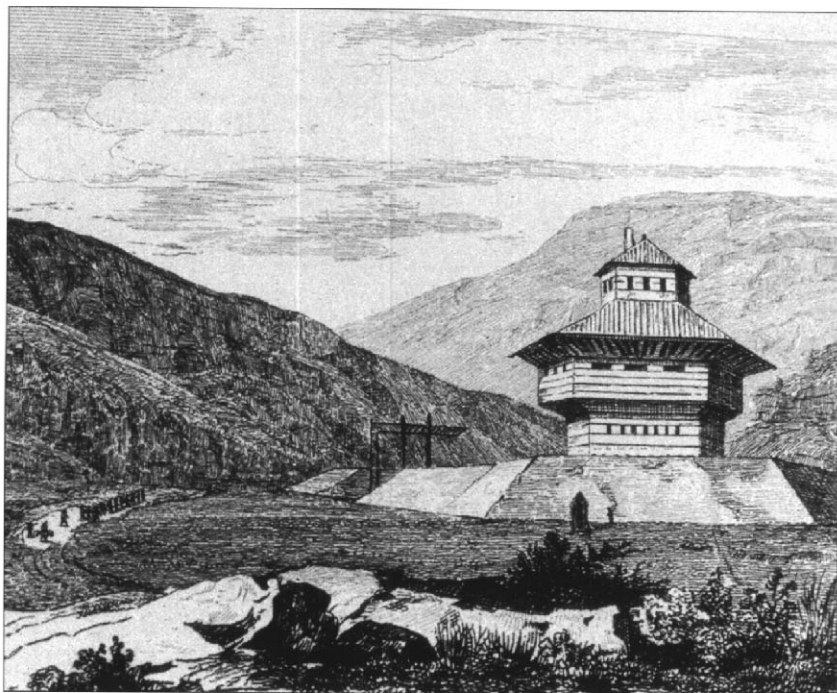
## GUERRILLAS AND MILITIAS

At the beginning of 1812 the most potent Spanish forces operating in territory occupied by the French were the guerrilla bands (see MAA 332 for more specific details). They controlled the countryside, limiting real French control to towns and fortified posts. They also greatly hampered communications by daring raids on French convoys in spite of strong escorts. Furthermore – and possibly most important to the British – they proved to be outstanding scouts, providing excellent and detailed information to Wellington as his army advanced into Spain.

To the British forces the best known of the guerrilla leaders appears to have been Don Juan Sanchez, who was even seen by Rifleman Costello of the 95th walking 'linked in arm with the Duke'. However, the most powerful contingent was the small army created by Espoz y Mina in Navarra, which eventually totalled nine infantry and two cavalry regiments.

For this force as for the others, the new challenge was a smooth integration into the Spanish field armies as the national territory was liberated (or to convince them to go home rather than turning to banditry). Planned since December 1811, the integration was mostly achieved in 1813. Mina's forces became the Navarra Division. From February 1813 most of his battalions were supplied with British-made uniforms consisting of blue coatees with scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, blue pantaloons, short black gaiters, shoes, and black tronconic shakos with white plumes. The 6th and 9th Battalions, however, had brown coatees, pantaloons and greatcoats. In March 1814 the division received 4,000 blue uniforms, half with red and half with green facings, by which time it was a regular force. General Mina also had a personal escort of hussars wearing scarlet dolmans and fur caps.

The French built elaborate blockhouses to protect the roads in northern Spain; these strongholds could generally resist guerrillas armed only with muskets. So the guerrilla leaders asked the British for light calibre artillery. By 1812 enough had been delivered to ensure that the blockhouses were no longer safe refuges and forward bases for contra-guerrilla troops.



- 1: Lieutenant-Colonel, Royal Corps of Engineers, 1812-15  
2: Infantry fusilier, northern Spain, 1812  
3: Infantry fusilier, Espana's Division, 1812-13



WRV.99

1: Fusilier, Castropol Infantry Regiment, 1812-13

2: Field officer, line infantry, 1812

3: Trooper, Olivenza Cazadores, 1812-13



- 1: Line infantry fusilier, southern Spain, 1812
- 2: Infantryman, fatigue dress, 1812
- 3: Line infantry fusilier, 1812



- 1: Fusilier, Walloon Guards, 1813
- 2: Trooper, Fernando VII Hussars, 1813-14
- 3: Trooper, d'Éroles' Catalan Lancers, 1813



- 1: Gunner, Foot Artillery, 1812-15
- 2: Driver, Artillery Train, 1813-15
- 3: Captain, Foot Artillery, 1812-15



WRY. 99

1: Grenadier, line infantry, 1813-14

2: Sergeant, line infantry, 1813-14

3: Bugler, light infantry, 1813-14



- 1: Trooper, Voluntarios de Madrid, 1814-15
- 2: Colonel, Mallorca Infantry Regiment, 1814-15
- 3: Fusilier, Castropol Infantry Regiment, 1814-15



KING JOSEPH'S ARMY

1: Fusilier, 6th Malaga Infantry Regiment, 1810-12

2: Senior officer, Sevilla Lancers, 1811-13

3: Fusilier, 1st Castilla Light Infantry Regt., 1809





### Urban and National Militias

The system of urban militias which had existed up to 1808 was all but completely wrecked during the years of invasion, occupation and guerrilla warfare. In many ways the guerrillas and the armed peasantry replaced the volunteers and militias. The few cities unoccupied by the French, such as Cadiz, generally had a militia organization (see MAA 332).

When Madrid was first liberated by the British a *Milicia Nacional Urbana de Madrid* was raised from 26 August 1812. This embodied militia, which was to serve as garrison and in the field in the vicinity of the capital, had eight battalions of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. The infantry uniform was a blue long-tailed coat with scarlet-piped white collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, pewter buttons, a white waistcoat and breeches, black gaiters, and a plain bicorne hat with a white cockade loop. The cavalry had a light green coat with crimson-piped white collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks, pewter buttons, white waistcoat, light green pantaloons, black half-boots, and a bicorne with white lace edging and cockade loop.

In 1814 the government wished to re-establish the pre-1808 organizations, and the 1815 register lists those city units with the old uniforms (see MAA 321). However, a new *Milicia Nacional* came into being on 15 April 1814. This had a streamlined organization, and was to mobilize all able-bodied men from 30 to 50 years of age in their local units according to a scale based on the village's or town's population. A

Spanish infantry uniforms adopted in 1815 were colourful, each unit having blue coats with distinct regimental facings. **Left**, private of a light infantry regiment; **centre**, line infantry grenadier; **right**, line infantry fusilier. (Anne S.K.Brown Military Collection, Brown University; photo R.Chartrand)

village of a thousand souls was to furnish 20 men, increasing by 20 per additional thousand, so that e.g. a town of 6,000 would furnish a complete company of 120 men. These were to be infantry formations, but cavalry companies could also be formed in isolated rural areas.

The uniform of the National Militia was decreed to be a blue coatee and pantaloons, with crimson collar and cuffs, blue cuff flaps with three buttons, blue lapels and turnbacks, pewter buttons, black gaiters, and a round hat or shako having a plate with the name of the town or province. Officers and sergeants wore long-tailed coats instead of coatees. Weapons were to be furnished by local authorities.

\* \* \*

### 1815 and after

On 2 March 1815 a massive reorganization of the infantry reduced the number of line regiments to 47 and the number of light regiments to 12, nearly all units being amalgamated into the pre-1808 'old' regiments. Each now had two battalions, each with a company of grenadiers, a company of cazadores and six of fusiliers. The company organization remained the same as in 1812, but there were now only two drummers (or buglers), four second corporals and 48 privates. The cavalry also went through a reorganization from the end of 1814, the most notable effect of the inevitable reductions being the cutting of the number of dragoon regiments to five from 1 June 1815. There were four regiments of hussars, four of mounted cazadores, 15 of heavy cavalry including three of cuirassiers, and two of lancers. From 1815 infantry and cavalry alike adopted a new and elaborate system of uniforms.

The revolutions which broke out in Spain's colonies in South America and Mexico drew many troops across the Atlantic. On 12 May 1815 many regiments raised in Spain during the Peninsular War, as well as old regiments, were allocated to the Americas. These were renamed *segundo regimiento* of their name, or even given another name. Thus the Leon Regiment was the 2nd Leon in Colombia, while the Murcia Regiment became the 1st Americano in Mexico. In 1818 the term *segundo* was replaced by the more appropriate *espedicionarios* (expeditionary) to avoid confusion.

It was a transformed army in a deeply perturbed country, largely ruined by the War of Independence – as the Spanish call the Peninsular War. Spain's previous eminence as a naval power was no more, and thus she lost much of her influence in world affairs. Much of her vast colonial empire was gone by the mid-1820s. Internal politics also remained turbulent, with liberals and conservatives confronting one another in a repetitive cycle of civil wars, which would once again draw French and British soldiers – many of them veterans of the Napoleonic campaigns – south of the Pyrenees.

Fusilier and grenadier, Asturias Regiment of line infantry, 1815. This regiment was assigned sky blue collar, cuffs, lapels and wings; scarlet turnbacks; buff piping and buttonhole lace, and brass buttons. Cords and fringes were yellow for fusiliers and red for grenadiers. (Print after H.Knotel)



## THE ARMY OF KING JOSEPH-NAPOLEON



A factor of the Emperor Napoleon's 'Grand Plan' for regenerating Spain was the imposition of his brother Joseph as King of Spain and the Indies. Joseph was not entirely thrilled with the idea, being already happy as King of Naples, but he nevertheless bowed to his imperial brother's will and started for Spain in June 1808. The reception he received from the Spaniards was equally unenthusiastic. News of the disastrous defeat of the French army under General Dupont at Bailen obliged Joseph and his staff to evacuate Madrid in July. By the end of the year Napoleon had to march into Spain with an army of 200,000 men. Madrid was taken in December, and King Joseph was installed once again.

From December 1808 steps were taken to organize for Joseph a 'Spanish' army along French lines. French officers and men were transferred to the new force, and Napoleon made sure that the most senior regiments of his brother's Guard were French. Recruiting Spaniards to serve the French cause was no easy task. The effective strength of Joseph's army is open to conjecture, estimates varying from less than 6,000 to over 17,000 men. Of these, about half were actually French or of other nationalities; most of the rest were Spaniards forcibly impressed into the ranks. The quality and loyalty of such an army could not be high. Soldiers deserted at the first opportunity, fully equipped, to a guerrilla band. Indeed, a common joke was that Joseph was the clothier of the guerrillas! Some of King Joseph's Spanish troops served faithfully, but French generals always doubted their reliability.

It is of interest to note that the Count de Teba, a Spanish officer of the Guard light artillery, remained loyal to Joseph and found refuge in France; and four decades later his daughter Eugénie became the Empress of France.

**King Joseph-Napoleon of Spain, c.1809, wearing the blue uniform of his Guard Grenadiers. Joseph was a puppet-king – almost powerless at the hands of his brother, ignored by rapacious French marshals, and despised by Spaniards (who nicknamed him 'Pepe la botella' for his alleged love of the bottle). Ironically, he had more genuinely liberal and progressive ideals than Fernando VII would ever display when he eventually returned to his throne. But all the Spanish people wished was to be rid of the French, whose taxes and depredations ruined an already struggling economy, and whose savagery towards civilians reached unprecedented levels. (Print after Wicar)**

### Rank Insignia

From 28 January 1809 rank badges for regimental officers in Joseph-Napoleon's army were the same as in the French army, epaulettes being worn by all officers. NCOs, however, kept the old Spanish system mixed with French features: first sergeants had two woollen epaulettes, second sergeants one, first corporals two laces of the button colour edging the collar and cuffs, second corporals one lace; grenadiers had three laces on each cuff and two laces on the collar and grenades on the turnbacks. The *tiradores* which were the equivalent of French *voltigeurs* had collars of a different and unspecified colour, probably buff. The cockade was ordered by royal decree of 18 August 1809 to be scarlet for all troops of Joseph's army.

### Generals

On 8 February 1809 the uniform of generals was ordered (in summary of a long regulation) to be, for full dress, a blue coat without lapels and with scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks, scarlet waistcoat and breeches. The ordinary uniform was an all-blue coat, white waistcoat and breeches – very similar to that of French generals. Both uniforms had gold

The French army's rapacious behaviour in Spain, from generals down to privates, was condoned by Napoleon himself. This illustration is based on a real incident, when his Guard Grenadiers ransacked the palace of the Bishop of Burgos in his presence. The soldiers are depicted with an amusingly raffish air; but there was nothing remotely amusing about the fate of many thousands of the common people at the hands of the occupiers. Inevitably, this cruelty was repayed in kind whenever opportunities offered: French stragglers dreaded falling into the hands of the guerrillas, with good reason. (Print after JOB)



buttons, epaulettes and embroidery. For the rank of captain-general three embroidered laces embellished the collar and cuffs, the bicorn had a white plume border and gold lace, and a gold sash was worn. Two laces, a bicorn with gold lace and a scarlet and gold sash identified lieutenant-generals; one lace, a bicorn with a white plume border and a green sash were specified for *Mariscales de Campos*. The turnback ornaments were gold lions and turrets.

### The Royal Guard

All were French except for the Fusiliers, Hussars and Royal Horse Gendarmerie, who were Spanish. The artillery appears to have been mixed. The Guard was raised from December 1808 and disbanded on 25 November 1813.

**Company of Halberdiers** Palace guard company which accompanied Joseph from Naples; 70 men in 1809, disbanded in 1813. Blue coat; scarlet collar and cuffs; silver buttons and buttonhole lace; white waistcoat and breeches; bicorn edged with white plumes and with a tall red plume.

**Regiment of Grenadiers** Two battalions. In December 1808 some 400 white waistcoats and blue breeches were issued to the Guard, probably to this regiment. General Hugo later recalled that 'the Grenadiers of the Royal Guard wore the same uniform as the Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, but the breeches, instead of being white, were of a yellowish fabric'. The uniform was thus a blue coat with

blue collar, white lapels and white three-pointed cuff flaps, red cuffs and turnbacks with orange grenades; red epaulettes; brass buttons; white waistcoat; yellowish (buff?) breeches; bearskin cap with brass plate, white cords, red patch with a white grenade, red plume; blue greatcoat; blue forage cap with white piping, orange lace edging turn-up and orange grenade badge edged white in front.

**Regiment of Voltigeurs** Two battalions. Blue coat with buff collar, red lapels and cuffs piped white, white cuff flaps piped red, red turnbacks; green epaulettes with yellow crescents; brass buttons; white waistcoat; buff breeches; shako with yellow bands and cords, brass plate and green-tipped yellow plume.

**Regiment of Fusiliers** Two battalions. Blue coatee and collar, white lapels piped red, red cuffs piped white, white cuff flaps, red turnbacks; white epaulettes; brass buttons; white waistcoat; buff breeches; shako with yellow bands, white cords, brass plate and scarlet plume.

**Regiment of Light Horse** Four squadrons. Green coatee, green lapels piped yellow with yellow buttonholes, yellow collar and turnbacks; green shoulder straps piped yellow; brass buttons; white breeches; black hussar boots edged yellow; white gloves with pale buff gauntlets; brass helmet with black caterpillar comb, black fur turban and red feather; white accoutrements; light cavalry sabre and dragoon musket; green housings edged yellow with crowned 'JN' monogram. Officers had gold buttons, lace, epaulette and aiguillette, a helmet with a leopardskin turban and white plume, and leopardskin housings. Trumpeters wore the same as the men but with a red comb and white plume on the helmet, a yellow coat and lapels piped red, yellow-piped red buttonholes, red collar edged with yellow lace and tassel, red and yellow shoulder knots and trumpet cords.

**Regiment of Hussars** Two squadrons. Black bearskin busby with scarlet bag, red and yellow plume; scarlet dolman; scarlet pelisse edged with black fur; white breeches; brass buttons; yellow cords; sky blue housings edged yellow.

**Foot Artillery**, one company, **Horse Artillery**, two companies, and the **Train**, two companies, were organized, equipped and uniformed generally the same as in the French Army. The horse artillery had a gold flaming bomb badge on the collar of the coat, and a shako with a gold flaming bomb plate and red plume instead of a busby.

**Elite Gendarmerie** This single platoon had the same uniform as the Elite Gendarmerie of the French Imperial Guard.

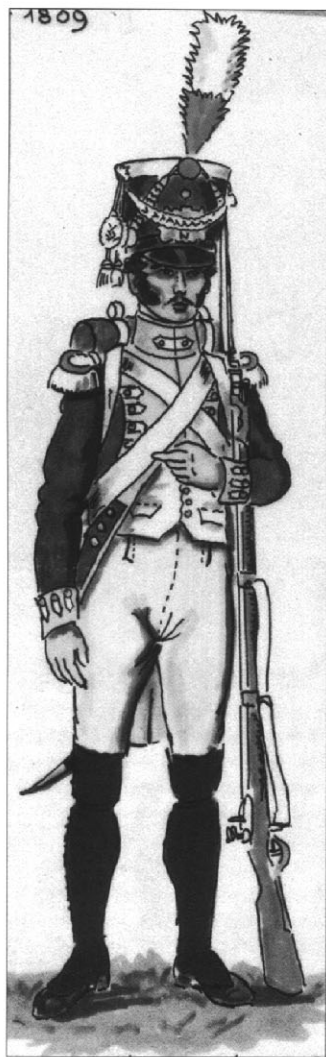
**Royal Horse Gendarmerie Company** The *Compania de Gendarmeria Real a Caballo* was to have 73 officers and troopers, and was to be the senior unit in the army. It was raised from 22 February 1811 for service in Madrid, and vanished the following year when Joseph evacuated the capital. The uniform was a long blue coat with blue collar and cuffs, scarlet turnbacks, white aiguillette, and pewter buttons; a buff waistcoat and breeches; a hat laced white; buff gauntlet gloves; high boots; white shoulder belt and waistbelt with square brass square buckle bearing the king's cipher; black cartridge box with brass grenade; Spanish-style saddlery, with blue housings edged white. Each trooper was armed with a carbine, a sabre and a pair of pistols.

### Line Regiments, Corps and Militias

The troops of the line were raised from late 1808. They were rarely up to establishment, and some were never formed. Some units apparently did moderately good service, although they were rarely deployed alongside the French regulars; the foreign units were the most dependable.



**General Nicolas Guye, 1773-1845.** He came to Spain as aide-de-camp to King Joseph whom he had served in Naples since 1806. In January 1810 he was promoted *mariscal de campo* in Joseph's Spanish army (in which uniform he is depicted here), and was also governor of several provinces. He campaigned with some success against the guerrillas of 'El Empecinado' in 1812. Following the French defeat at Vittoria Guye was transferred to the French army and later served in the Pyrenees, the defence of Paris in 1814, and at Waterloo. This portrait was painted by Francisco Goya in September 1810; he wears a blue coat with gold epaulettes, embroidery and buttons, and holds a hat with white plume border. His gold aiguillettes denote his appointment as one of the king's ADCs. Around his neck and on his breast are the stars of the Order of the Two Sicilies, of which he was commander, as well as the cross of the Legion of Honour. The breeches are buff-white, which was allowed in summer instead of scarlet. (Print after Goya)



Infantryman of King Joseph's army, c.1810; the unit is probably the 4th or 5th Bn. of the Royal Foreign Regiment, or the 5th Regiment of line infantry. The soldier belongs to an elite company, possibly the grenadiers. The uniform is brown with yellow collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; white pointed buttonhole lace, brass buttons, and white epaulettes with red crescent; white waistcoat and breeches; shako with white top band and cords, brass plate, red cockade and white-over-red plume. White accoutrements; blue-grey roll on top of knapsack; brass-furnished (Spanish ?) musket. (Sketch by R.Forthoffer after Lecomte)

**Royal Foreign Infantry Regiment** Raised from 14 December 1808, *Royal-Étranger* was composed of Germans, Austrians and Italians. It was to have had four field and a fifth depot battalion totaling 6,000 men, but actual strength was about 2,000; down to two battalions when disbanded in January 1814. The uniforms were most colourful: the 1st Battalion had yellow faced with blue, the 2nd blue faced scarlet, the 3rd white faced scarlet, the 4th and 5th brown faced yellow. (General Hugo, who commanded part of Joseph's army, mentions this; but also says that the 2nd had white coats and the 3rd blue.) Red waistcoats and breeches, and hats were sent to Madrid in December 1808 for this unit; later issues were probably shakos and white waistcoats and breeches.

**Royal Irish Infantry Regiment** Raised from March 1809. Two battalions deployed in Guadalajara in 1810. The regimental commander and more than a hundred men deserted to the British in 1811. The number of Irishmen in the ranks seems to have been very low; the unit was apparently merged into *Royal-Étranger* in about 1812. Brown coat and lapels, buff collar, cuffs, turnbacks and piping; grenadiers had busby-shaped fur caps, others shakos.

**1st Castilla & 2nd Murcia Light Infantry Regiments** Raised from March 1809. The 1st Castilla was in the Spanish division attached to the French army in 1811 and 1813. It had 71 officers and 861 men in two battalions when disbanded in January 1814. The 2nd Murcia appears to have been dissolved in late 1812. For the uniform see Plate H.

#### Line Infantry Regiments:

Each regiment was to bear the name of a Spanish city, with two field battalions and a third depot battalion. The first two regiments were raised from 23 January 1809, the others following the invasion of Andalucia during 1810. Only the 2nd Toledo Regiment appears to have been fully recruited and organized. By mid-1813 only remnants of the 1st and 2nd were left, these being incorporated into the 1st Castilla Light Infantry. All were to have had a brown coat with white turnbacks, facings as listed, white waistcoat and breeches, brown campaign trousers with facing-colour stripes, black gaiters, and French-style shakos with red cords for grenadiers, green for tiradores and white for fusiliers. (However, see commentary to Plate H1 for an example of actual issue.) The coat facings were to be:

**1st Madrid** Brown collar; scarlet lapels, cuffs and cuff flaps; white piping; brass buttons.

**2nd Toledo** Brown collar; scarlet lapels, cuffs and cuff flaps; white piping; brass buttons. Appears to have also had, or changed to, sky blue facings.

**3rd Sevilla** Black collar, lapels and cuffs; yellow piping; brass buttons.

**4th Soria** Violet collar, lapels and cuffs; white piping; brass buttons.

**5th Grenada** Yellow collar, lapels and cuffs; brass buttons.

**6th Malaga** Blue collar, lapels and cuffs; white piping, pewter buttons.

**7th Cordoba** Red collar, lapels and cuffs; brass buttons.

**Mounted Chasseurs** These four regiments of *Cazadores a Caballo* were to have had a thousand men each, an establishment that remained wishful thinking. The 1st Regiment was raised from 29 August 1809, lost a squadron at Guadalajara in August 1812, and had 349 men when disbanded in December 1813. The 2nd was raised in 1810, and had

398 men when disbanded in December 1813. The 3rd was raised in 1810 having initially 162 men; there were only 148 in November 1813, a month before disbandment. The 4th was raised in 1810, and had about 360 men; it served with Marshal Soult's army, was at Albuera in 1811, and was dissolved in late 1812.

The 1st Regiment was to have had a crimson dolman trimmed with black fur and white cords, green pantaloons, shako and half-boots, and for service a short green jacket with crimson collar, cuffs and piping, and baggy trousers. Uniforms for the other regiments are unknown in any detail but they were apparently brown and cut after French *chasseurs à cheval* fashion.

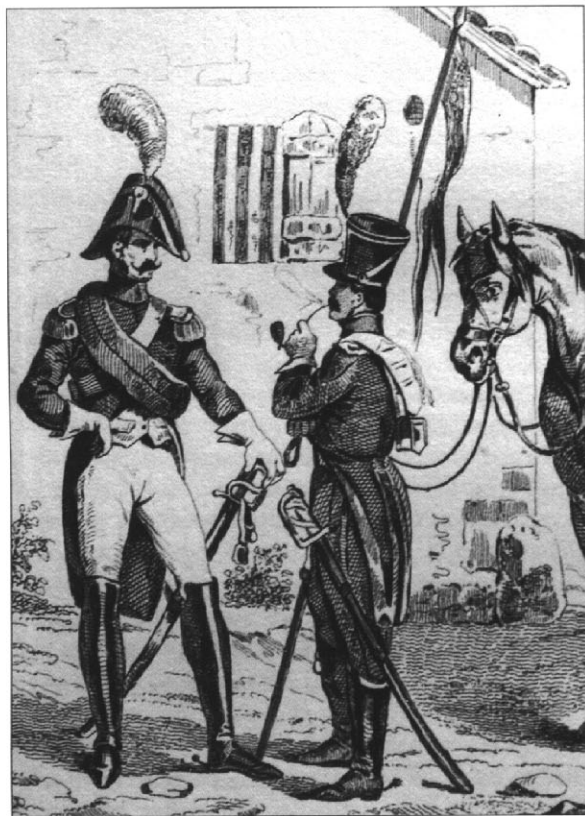
**Heavy Cavalry** These regiments, supposed to have been recruited from 1809, existed largely on paper. The 1st Regiment may have been partly raised, and some cadres for the others were probably appointed, but none appear to have been actually formed and deployed. The uniform was to have been: brown coat with lapels of regimental facing colours, edged with yellow lace and with yellow laced buttonholes; white turnbacks; yellow aiguillette on right shoulder and yellow shoulder strap on left; white waistcoat and breeches; brass buttons; high boots; bicorn laced yellow; white belts with brass buckles; brown housings edged with facing colour lace. Regimental facings were to have been: 1st and 2nd, scarlet; 3rd, sky blue; 4th, amaranth red; 5th, black; 6th, green. Officers had gold distinctions instead of yellow. Trumpeters of the 1st Regiment wore a red-over-yellow plume, yellow lace edging the coat and accoutrements, blue and yellow wings, and red and yellow trumpet cords.

**Sevilla Lancers** Raised in Sevilla from 4 October 1810, also called *Lanceros del Duque de Dalmacia* (the Duke of Dalmatia, Marshal Soult) and *Lanceros de Aguado* after the commander, Colonel Alejandro Aguado Ramirez. Formed with the assistance of the Polish 7th Light Horse; sometimes also mentioned as '7th Cavalry'. It was to have had two squadrons, but actual effective strength was only between 42 and 75 men. Served with the French army in the provinces of Huelva and Sevilla; campaigned from mid-1812 with Suchet's army in central Spain; disbanded in March 1813. For uniform see Plate H.<sup>1</sup>

**Guadalajara Hussars** Raised in April 1812 by former guerrilla Saturno Albuin, consisting of a squadron of 100 men; up to 13 officers and 164 men when disbanded in January 1814.

**Artillery** Two battalions and independent garrison companies raised from 1809; down to one company when disbanded in January 1814. Uniform generally the same as French artillery, but often with brown trousers with scarlet stripes.

The Gendarmerie of Spain was formed by Napoleon's orders from January 1810, to control the guerrillas. This corps of 4,000 French gendarmes detached for service in Spain saw much action but had only patchy success. It was dissolved on the retreat from Spain in late 1813. At left, a gendarme wears a blue coat with red collar, cuffs, lapels, and turnbacks with blue grenades; red epaulettes; pewter buttons; yellow-buff waistcoat and breeches; bicorn edged white with a red plume. At right is a trooper of the Gendarmes Lanciers.



<sup>1</sup> This unit was nearly always assumed to be the *Lanceros de la Mancha* until extensive primary research by Luis Sorando Muzas revealed the confusion. See 'El Primer Regimiento de Lanceros Espanoles' in *Researching & Dragons*, Vol. II, No. 4 (1997).

**Sapper Battalion** Raised as a battalion in 1809 but only a company existed when disbanded in January 1814. Possibly a brown coat, red-piped black collar, cuffs and lapels, yellow lace, brass buttons; white waistcoat, grey breeches. The Engineer Corps officers who commanded this battalion had the same uniform but with gold buttons and lace and wore gold-laced bicorns.

**Gendarmerie** Raised in 1809 with two squadrons, but down to three officers and 54 men when disbanded in January 1814. Blue coat, red collar edged with white lace, red lapels with white buttonhole lace, red turnbacks, white shoulder trefoils, pewter buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; high boots; bicorn edged with white lace; white gauntlet gloves; white belts; blue housings edged white.

**Catalonian Guides** The *Guides Catalans* were raised in 1810 with 50 mounted and 100 unmounted men for convoy escort duty; disbanded in January 1814. Blue coatee with blue pointed cuffs and turnbacks, medium green

collar, yellow piping edging the front, the cuffs, collar and turnbacks; pewter buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; plain bicorn; boots and cavalry sabres for mounted guides, black gaiters and muskets for foot.

**Urban Militia** In April 1809 King Joseph decreed the levy of Urban Militia units in Madrid and the towns of the nearby provinces of Toledo and La Mancha. They were assigned a blue coatee with crimson collar, cuffs, piping and sabre knot, white waistcoat, and blue pantaloons. This militia was amalgamated into the Civic Militia the following year.

**Civic Militia** Following the experiment with the Urban Militia, Joseph decided to expand it to other cities. In February 1810 he decreed the formation of a Civic Militia, sometimes called a Civic Guard, in Cordoba, Jaen, Grenada and Sevilla, with other cities to follow suit. The Urban



**Trooper of the Gendarmes Lanciers, formed in Spain at the end of 1810 by training two squadrons of French mounted gendarmes in Aragon to use lances and light cavalry tactics, in an effort to match the Spanish lancers. They were disbanded in 1814. The uniform was a blue coat, blue pointed lapels piped red, red collar, pointed cuffs and turnbacks; white aiguillette; pewter buttons; red hussar waistcoat with white cords; blue hussar breeches with white cords; boots edged white; black shako with white metal plate and chinscales and red plume; white belts; red-over-white lance pennon; blue housings edged with white lace, and white grenade. (Print after Martinet. Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University; photo R. Chartrand)**

Militias already existing were to be amalgamated with the new organization. As before, its 'sole and special purpose' was insuring 'public tranquillity' – which included, of course, chasing 'bandits'. (Under the circumstances this phrase obviously embraced both common criminals and patriotic guerrillas.) The Civic Militia was organized into battalions of six companies, each company having 94 officers and men. A town would have one or more battalions; the city of Madrid had ten. There could also be troops of light cavalry.

The uniforms were to be, for the infantry, a blue coat with scarlet collar and cuffs, blue cuff flaps, and pewter buttons, with white waistcoat and breeches. The cavalry were to wear a blue dolman and pantaloons, white cords, and half-boots. From February 1810 members of the Civic Militia not in uniform but under arms were to wear on their civilian clothes a scarlet armband and a scarlet cockade. The organization seems to have collapsed in 1812.

**Provincial Militia** This organization was supposed to continue the pre-1808 provincial militia regiments. With the countryside often controlled by guerrillas, these units could exist only in the most secure areas. When they could be conscripted these troops were paid and equipped when on active duty. Uniform was a brown coat with brown-piped yellow lapels; red-piped yellow collar, cuffs and shoulder straps; red turnbacks; brass buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; yellowish gaiters (possibly leather?), with sandals; bicorn with red lace and pompon; and white accoutrements.

Another type of provincial militia was a company of *Migueletes de Navarra de José Napoleon* raised from 19 December 1809. They were to wear blue jacket and trousers with crimson collar, cuffs and edging, and a cap with a white company number; arms and equipment were a musket, bayonet, pistol and belly box with 24 rounds.

**Contra-guerrillas** These were small independent units in French pay raised especially in Catalonia among *migueletes* or mountaineers. Relatively few seem to have existed, and they appear to have vanished by 1813. They usually wore brown round-bottomed jackets with red collar and cuffs, brown trousers with red stripes, red sashes, and round hats with tricolour cockades.

### **Spanish Units in the French Imperial Army**

Besides Joseph's army a number of Spanish units were raised for the French Army; most were posted away from Spain, for obvious reasons.

**Joseph-Napoléon Regiment** Raised in Spain from 13 February 1809, to four battalions. Served in Germany and Russia in 1812; reduced to two battalions in 1813; disbanded 25 November 1813. *Uniform:* White coat, light green collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; brass buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; shako with brass eagle plate.

**Catalonian Regiment** Raised in Spain from 2 February 1811 with an establishment of three battalions. Only partly raised when the Allied victory at Salamanca (12 July 1812) caused its disbandment. *Uniform:* White coat, sky blue collar, cuffs and lapels; brass buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; shako with brass eagle plate.

**Spanish Sappers Battalion** Formed from 18 February 1811, this became the 8th French Sapper Battalion in 1812. Nearly all lost in Russia; the remnants became the **Company of Spanish Sappers** in December 1813, disbanded in May 1814. Uniform was the same as French Sappers.

**Spanish Veterans** Company formed from about 1812, in garrison at Avignon until disbanded in 1814. Uniform was the same as French Veterans.

**Battalion of Spanish Pioneers** and two companies of **Spanish Artisans** (*ouvriers*) were formed in Holland from Spanish prisoners on 10 March 1812 and disbanded on 25 November 1813; reorganized as a **Regiment of Spanish Pioneers** on 24 December 1813, and disbanded on 17 April 1814. *Uniform*: Grey round-bottomed jacket with blue collar, cuffs and lapels, yellow piping; grey greatcoat. They carried a hanger and a pioneer's tool, e.g. a pick or shovel. A **Battalion of Spanish Pontonniers** is reported as part of the Danzig garrison in Poland from May 1813 until about May 1814.

**Spanish Pioneer Battalions** Two battalions formed in southern France from January 1814 with remnants of King Joseph's Spanish army; disbanded 1 and 6 August 1814. The uniform, if any was issued, was probably all light grey-blue with pewter buttons. Carried a hanger and a pioneer's tool.

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## THE PLATES

### **A1: Lieutenant-colonel, Royal Corps of Engineers, 1812-1815**

The corps definitively adopted the black velvet facings at this time. Rank is indicated on the cuffs and the corps badge is worn on the collar. Engineer officers had no shakos and wore laced bicorns as shown. (Coat in Museo del Ejercito, Madrid)

### **A2: Infantry fusilier, Northern Spain, 1812**

This figure is based on lists of supplies shipped from Britain to Coruna in January 1812. These included blue coatees faced with yellow, blue pantaloons and kersey waistcoats. As shakos were not mentioned we have shown the ubiquitous round hat. (PRO, WO 1/270)

### **A3: Infantry fusilier, Division of Don Carlos de Espana, 1812-1813**

The 4,000 men of this division received blue uniforms faced with red, with helmets (most likely in the Tarleton style) and black accoutrements from Britain, which also supplied shoes, greatcoats, haversacks and wooden canteens. Don Carlos' division served with Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese army during 1812-1813. It comprised the regiments of Princesa (2nd Bn.), Jaen (2nd Bn.), 1st Sevilla (3rd Bn.), Tiradores de Castilla, Cazadores de Castilla and the Castilla Lancers. (PRO, WO 1/270 and 849)

### **B1: Fusilier, Castropol Infantry Regiment, 1812-1813**

While at Algeciras new uniforms from Britain were supplied to the regiment on 24 June 1812: sky blue coatee with black collar and cuffs and brass buttons, sky blue pantaloons, black gaiters and shakos. (Sergeant Juan de Murias, *Historial del Regimiento de Castropol*, Oviedo, 1817)

### **B2: Field officer, line infantry, 1812**

This figure is after a sketch in the Frankfurt Collection. The officer is shown wearing a blue long-tailed coat with scarlet collar, cuffs and piping. Although he wears the epaulettes of a captain, his bicorn hat and blue overall trousers trimmed with leather (for a mounted officer) suggest field rank. The crimson sash may have been worn by some Spanish officers serving with the Anglo-Portuguese forces.

### **B3: Trooper, Olivenza Cazadores Regiment, 1812-1813**

This two-squadron regiment served in eastern Spain as part of Whittingham's Spanish Division, taking part in the Castalla campaign in April 1813. It wore 'yellow jackets, red cuff and cape (collar), helmet like the British light dragons, red feather'. (Woolcombe's diary)

## **PLATE C: BRITISH-SUPPLIED UNIFORMS, 1812**

### **C1: Line infantry fusilier, Southern Spain**

The 20,000 sky blue uniforms sent from Britain in 1812 were all sent to Cadiz; most were faced with red. The gaiters issued with the sky blue uniforms were also sky blue, not black. Large numbers of black leather accoutrements were also supplied. All 100,000 shakos sent from Britain had red plumes. We show here a black/red cockade indicating the British alliance. (UoS, WP, 1/358)

### **C2: Infantryman, undress**

The supplies sent from Britain also included white or off-white canvas or duck frocks and trousers for each man for undress and fatigues; the frocks were analogous to workmen's smocks. Our figure wears the British-style blue forage cap which was also supplied, along with vast quantities of camp



**Royal Corps of Engineers senior officer's coat, c.1814; cf. Plate A1. Blue coat with scarlet collar, cuffs and turnbacks, black velvet lapels, white piping edging facings; silver buttons, buttonhole lace and turret badge on the collar. The cuffs have the three silver laces of a colonel below the three broad gold embroidered bands of a captain-general. Senior officers could carry gold-pommeled canes. (Museo del Ejercito, Madrid)**

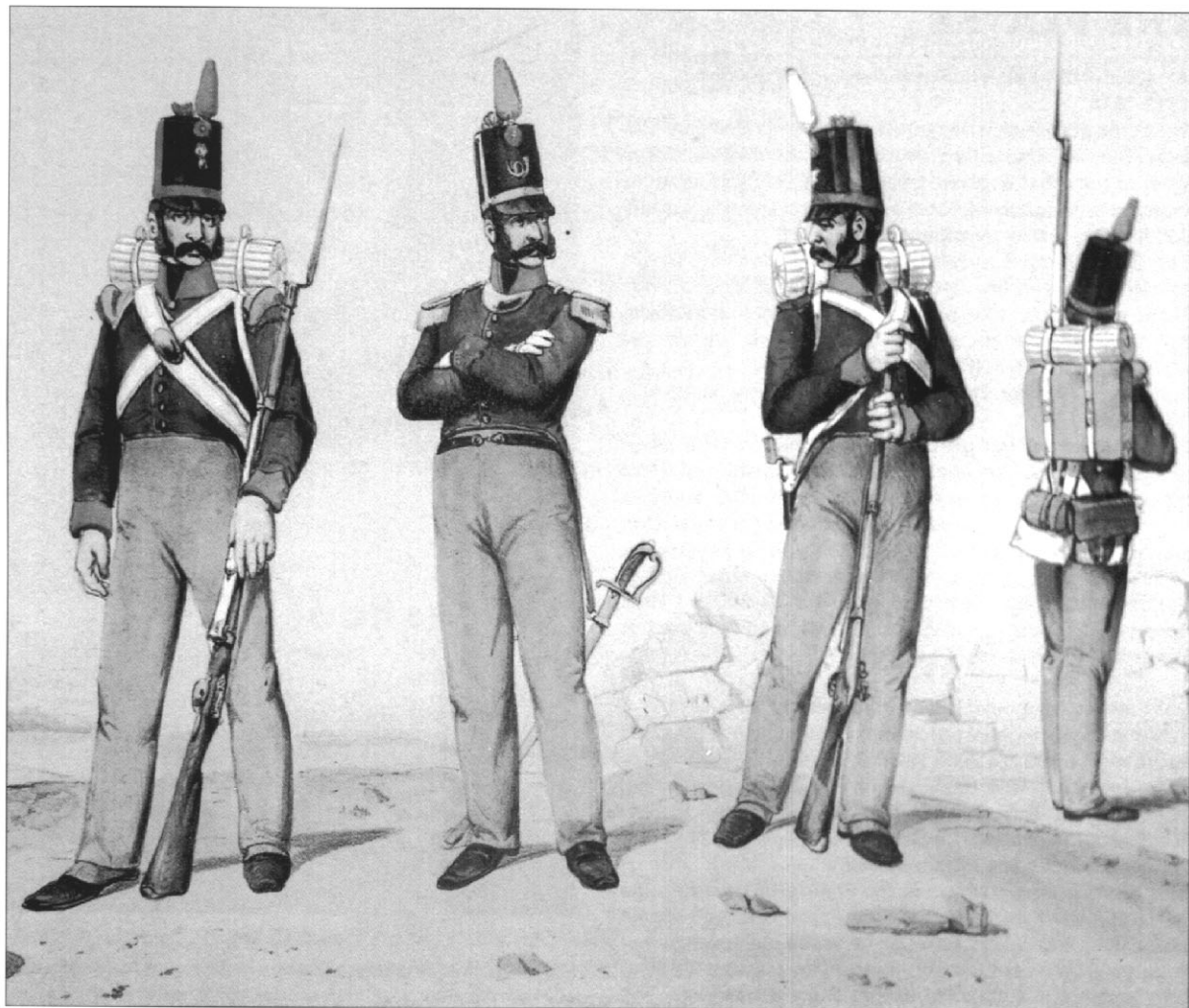
equipment. (P. Connington & C. Lucas, *Occupational Costume in England*, London, 1976)

### **C3: Line infantry fusilier**

Of the uniforms sent to Spain some 80,000 were 'blue' (meaning dark blue) faced with various colours. The gaiters issued with the blue uniforms were black. The sky blue collar and cuffs shown were noted on a shipment of 3,000 uniforms for the troops serving with Wellington's army. (PRO, WO 1/270)

### **D1: Fusilier, Walloon Guards, 1813**

After a painting by Denis Dighton in 1813: a blue coat with scarlet collar, cuffs, lapels and long turnbacks; white lace all around the collar, white pointed buttonhole lace in pairs; pewter buttons, white epaulettes; white waistcoat and breeches, black gaiters over the knees; shako with white bands and cords, oval plate, green pompon; black



**Line infantry, 1812.** This plate by Villegas, made for Clonard's *Album de la Infanteria* published in 1861, has figures essentially copied from Giminez's 1840s plates. The uniforms are almost similar but a few details have changed – notably the wings, which are now red (grenadier) and green (cazador) instead of blue; the white and blue striped linen cover for the rolled blanket or greatcoat; and the larger plumes. The artist forgot to include the bayonet scabbard on the cazador at right. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University; photo R.Chartrand)

accoutrements with brass belt plate; and note belly belt for cartridges. (Painting by Denis Dighton, Royal Collection)

**D2: Trooper, Fernando VII Hussars, 1813-1814**

The conversion to hussars apparently did not immediately put the men into new uniforms. However, in late August 1812 clothing for a hussar regiment was shipped from England to Gibraltar. This must have been rather notable, since it even drew the attention of the Duke of Wellington himself: he wrote in December to the Earl of Bathurst, Secretary of State for War, that the '...hussar dresses

referred to are, I believe, those of the Fernan Nunez regiment, which have been fixed by the Prince Regent himself.' This last remark explains the duke's concern; but even with such high patronage, it was not until about late March or April 1813 that the unit finally received its new uniforms at Alicante. The Prince Regent's uniform design for Count Fernan-Nunez's regiment consisted of a black busby with red bag and plume; emerald green dolman with lemon yellow collar and cuffs; lemon yellow breeches; emerald green pelisse with black fur trim, silver buttons, cords and lace; emerald green housings edged silver, with silver crowned 'F7' in a wreath. (Painting by Denis Dighton, Royal Collection)

**D3: Trooper, Catalan Lancers of Baron d'Éroles, 1813**

General Copons' 1st Army deployed on Spain's east coast included, in 1813, a division of five infantry battalions and two cavalry squadrons under the command of Baron d'Éroles, the talented and obstinate Catalan general. Copons marched to meet Sir John Murray's Anglo-Sicilian corps at Tarragona in June 1812, only to be disgracefully abandoned by Murray, who re-embarked his troops without letting Copons know of his intention. Left to their fate, Copons and his Catalonians skillfully eluded the French

forces bearing down on them. Murray was not censured for his action at the time, but in his monumental history Sir Charles Oman denounced his 'callous betrayal of the Spanish colleague who had done his best to serve him.' D'Érole's cavalry had Tarleton helmets and all-green uniforms. (Painting by Denis Dighton, Royal Collection; Oman, Vol.VI, p.522)

## PLATE E: ROYAL CORPS OF ARTILLERY

### E1: Gunner, Foot Artillery, 1812-1815

With the wide-topped shako and red-faced dark blue uniform, foot artillery gunners resembled their French counterparts. Spanish uniform studies show the coatee lapels cut-away at the front over the blue, red-piped waistcoat. The horse artillery was to have the same shako and coatee but with blue trousers strapped with leather, and were armed with light cavalry sabres.

### E2: Driver, Artillery Train, 1813-1815

The Artillery Train battalions were also given a uniform reminiscent of the French Train. The grey coatee had a blue collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks; scarlet piping; pewter buttons stamped *Tren de Artilleria*; the artillery's flaming bomb badge at the collar and scarlet bombs on the turnbacks. It was worn with a scarlet waistcoat, grey breeches (later replaced by grey pantaloons), and a black leather helmet with fur crest and white metal fittings; a grey greatcoat, and a grey forage cap with a blue turn-up edged with white lace border and scarlet piping, completed the outfit. Rank badges were scarlet for sergeants and white for corporals; rankers were



ABOVE Artillery officer, 1812. Dark blue coat, lapels and cuff flaps; scarlet collar, cuffs, turnbacks, and piping edging the lapels, cuff and pocket flaps; gold buttons, lace and epaulettes; the collar is edged with gold and bears a gold embroidered flaming bomb. Blue pantaloons; black waistbelt embroidered in gold, with gold clasps; gilt-hilted sword. The shako is black with black visor edged gold, gold bands at the top and bottom, gold cords, a round gold plate with crown above, red tuft at the centre. In the background are small figures in blue coatees with red collars and cuffs and white pantaloons. This portrait is dated 16 May 1812, at Guadalajara, Mexico. (Museo Nacional de Historia, Mexico)

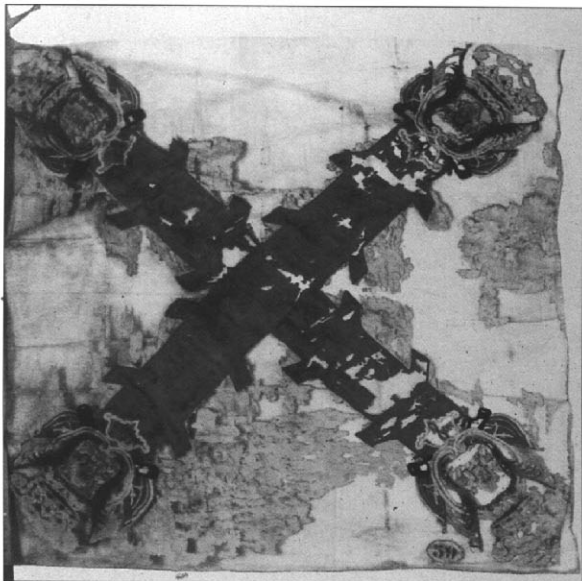


LEFT The guerrilla leader Francisco Tomas de Longa in 1813-1815, showing him in a hussar uniform – possibly that of the Iberia Hussars which he eventually commanded.

armed with a carbine and short sabre. Officers wore the same but with silver buttons and were allowed white waistcoat and pantaloons in warm weather. (Carlos Medina Avila, *Organizacion y Uniformes de la Artilleria Espanola*, Madrid, 1992)

### E3: Captain, Foot Artillery, 1812-1815

This figure is taken from a portrait of an obviously fashionable captain made in Mexico during 1812 and reproduced above. Everything is according to regulations, including the newly adopted shako, and this is a good illustration of what was worn in Spain itself. The lapels are cut square on this portrait but could also be cut-away, as shown in a later portrait of artillery Colonel Novella y Azabal.



**Regimental colour of the Sevilla Regiment, c.1800-1815. Spanish infantry regimental colours had a white field with a red ragged Burgundy cross. The crest of the regiment was at the end of each branch of the cross. The artillery had a blue field, and the sappers and miners a violet field. (Museo del Ejercito, Madrid)**

**PLATE F: BRITISH-SUPPLIED UNIFORMS, 1813-1814**

**F1: Grenadier, Line Infantry**

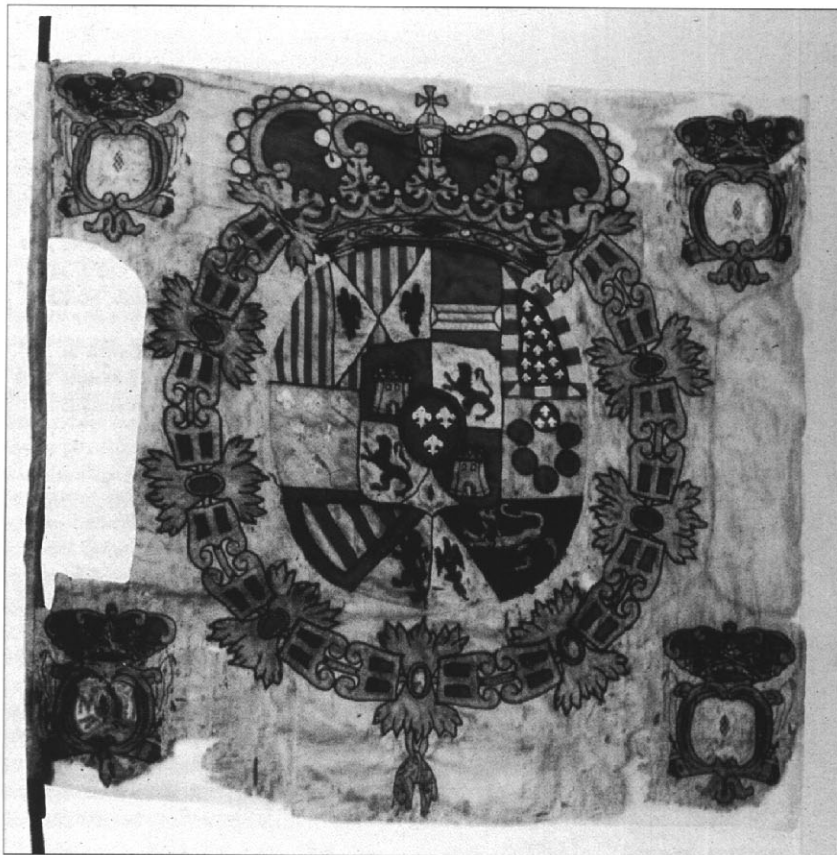
The clothing sent from Britain in 1813-1814 was obviously much the same as that sent in 1812, but simplified. It was in a single shade of blue, and the range of facing colours was reduced to red or green only. The distinctions of grenadiers on all uniforms, be they faced green or red, were British-style red wings with white lace and fringes. The forage cap shown in the British type. The white accoutrements shipped in 1813-1814 were unusual in that they came with white pouches.

**F2: Sergeant, Line Infantry**

The shipping records also indicate that thousands of sergeants' chevrons were supplied, indicating that in some part of the Spanish army at that time the British rank system was used for NCOs. Sergeant's swords with shoulder belts and plates were also worn. We have shown the shako with the linen cover described by witnesses, as there is little information on its appearance.

**F3: Bugler, Light Infantry**

The buglers' uniform appears to have been the same as for the men except for wings. For blue uniforms faced with red, white wings with a buglehorn badge were issued as illustrated; green wings were issued to green-faced regiments. The colour of the badge is not indicated; we have shown it red on the white wings but it may have been in other colours, or made of metal. (UoS, W, 1/358)



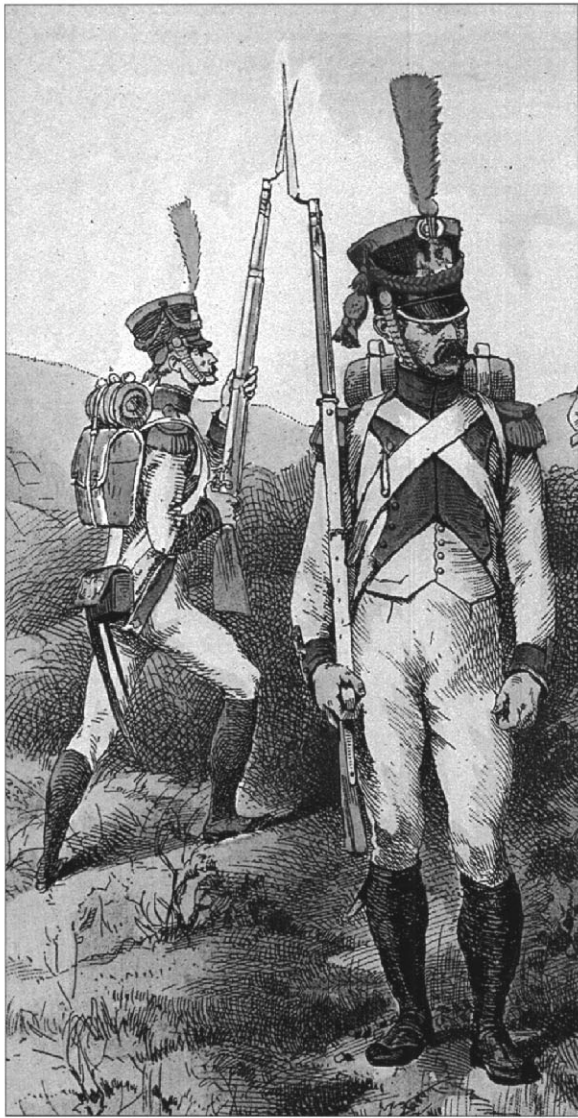
**G1: Trooper, Voluntarios de Madrid Cavalry Regiment, 1814-1815**

By the later part of the war most if not all cavalry regiments had given up bicorns for shakos or helmets. The wide-topped French-style shako was favoured. This figure is based on the description in the 1815 register.

**G2: Colonel, Mallorca Infantry Regiment, 1814-1815**

The 1815 register records a blue coatee and pantaloons with scarlet lapels and cuffs; white collar and turnbacks; piping of opposite colours, and brass buttons. A portrait of the colonel further shows a gold *fleurs-de-lis* at the collar.

**Colonel's colour of the Granada Regiment, c.1800-1815. The colonel's colour of an infantry regiment had a white field with the full colour national coat of arms painted at its centre, and the crest of the regiment painted in each corner. (Museo del Ejercito, Madrid)**



ABOVE Grenadiers of Joseph-Napoleon Regiment, c.1808-1812. White coatee with green collar, cuffs, cuff flaps, lapels and turnbacks; brass buttons; white waistcoat and breeches; black gaiters; shako with red top band, cords and plume, brass plate and chinscales; white accoutrements; cowhide knapsack with grey rolled blanket or greatcoat; French musket. (Print after Courboin)

RIGHT Sword belt buckle, c.1808-1820. (Coll. & ph. John Powell)

### G3: Fusilier, Castropol Infantry Regiment, 1814-1815

On 8 April 1814 the regiment was issued at Pasaje (Guipuzcoa) a uniform consisting of a blue coatee with scarlet collar and cuffs; white cuff flap, piping and turnbacks; gilt buttons; blue pantaloons; black shoes, and black shako with plate. The 1815 register mentioned blue coatee and pantaloons, scarlet collar and cuffs, white piping, brass buttons, white summer pantaloons, grey greatcoat, black gaiters, and shako. (Sergeant Juan de Murias, *Historial del Regimiento de Castropol*, Oviedo, 1817)

## PLATE H: THE ARMY OF JOSEPH-NAPOLEON

### H1: Fusilier, 6th Malaga Infantry Regiment, 1810-1812

According to issue documents of December 1810 in the Malaga municipal archives, this regiment had a brown *surtout*-style short-tailed coatee with scarlet cuffs and piping, red turnbacks and brass buttons. It would appear that this type of coatee, without lapels, was issued to all Joseph's infantry regiments from late 1810 onwards. Waistcoats were not issued since the coatee closed to the waist; it was worn with white pantaloons and white linen half-gaiters. The French M1806 shako was apparently worn, but details are vague; it may have had a brass diamond-shaped plate with the crowned cipher 'JN'. (From research data kindly supplied by Luis Sorando Muzas)

### H2: Senior officer, Sevilla Lancers, 1811-1813

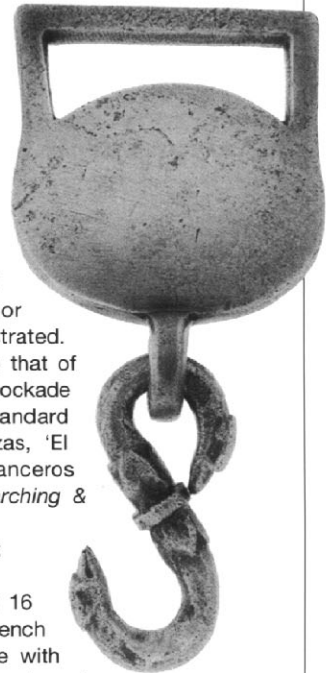
This unit's uniform was influenced by its Polish training cadres, who were drawn from the former Vistula Legion.

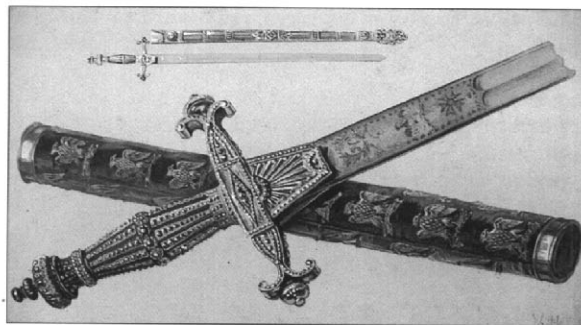
A blue *kurtka* jacket had a yellow-buff collar, pointed cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and piping and pewter buttons; the blue pantaloons had yellow-buff stripes. Officers had silver buttons, lace and epaulettes, and a silver girdle and pouch belt with crimson stripes. A busby with a yellow-buff bag with a silver tassel and white plume is shown in a portrait of Colonel Aguero, suitable for a senior officer in full dress as illustrated.

However, a *czapska* similar to that of the Vistula Legion with a red cockade may have been the standard headgear. (Luis Sorando Muzas, 'El Primero Regimiento de Lanceros Espanoles 1811-1813', *Researching & Dragona*, 1997)

### H3: Fusilier, 1st Castilla Light Infantry Regiment, 1809

The regiment was raised from 16 February 1809. It wore a French light infantry-style blue coatee with crimson collar and cuffs, blue lapels and turnbacks probably piped white; pewter buttons; a white waistcoat and blue breeches or pantaloons; and a hat – probably a round hat – rather than a shako. (From research data kindly provided by Luis Sorando Muzas, after the *Gaceta de Madrid* of 24 February 1809 and the Laforest report of 1 December 1809)





The huge booty of Vittoria included Marshal Jourdan's baton, and King Joseph's gilded and jewelled court sword, captured by the the British 14th Light Dragoons.

## ADDENDA & ERRATA TO PREVIOUS TITLES

**MAA 321** Page 22, Table 10: The 1805 coatee colour for Hibernia and Ultonia should be sky blue.

**MAA 332** A fine testimony is given by Capt. Sherer, British 34th Foot, of the appearance in 1810 of many officers and soldiers of the patriot armies 'which, raised in haste, were not regularly or uniformly clothed, if I except some of the old standing force. Of these you might see the royal carabineer, with the cocked hat, blue coat faced with red, and, instead of boots, the ancient greaves, of thick hard black leather, laced at the sides. The dragoon, in a uniform of yellow, black belts, and a helmet with a cone of brass. The royal, or Waloon (sic) guards in their neat dress of blue and red, with white lace. The common soldier (of the new patriot armies was) in brown; mingled with these was the light horseman, in a hussar jacket of brown, and overalls capped, lined and vandyked at

the bottom with tan leather; here again, a peasant with the cap and coat of a soldier, there, a soldier from Navarre, or Arragon (sic), with the bare foot, and the light hempen sandal of his country...'

On 17 May 1811 Capt. Sherer saw a body of the Legion Extremadura (see MAA 332 page 19), 'a corps raised, clothed and commanded by a General Downie, an Englishman who had been formerly a commissary in our service. Any thing so whimsical or ridiculous as the dress of this corps, I never beheld: it was meant to be an imitation of the ancient costume of Spain. The turned up hat, slashed doublet, and short mantle, might have figured very well in the play of Pizzaro...but in the rude and ready bivouack, they appeared absurd and ill-chosen...the same evening, we could not avoid laughing at the recollection of these poor devils...in their fantastic dresses...of white and red.'

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