



THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS - 1806-1812

BRITISH INFANTRY 1806-1812

The uniform coat for Line and Light infantry regiments was of red cloth, single breasted with small cuffs and turnbacks. The jacket bore regimental facings on collar cuffs and shoulder straps. Lacing was applied across the chest in white or yellow. The lacing could be square ended or 'bastion' ended. (See example on the Foot Artillery section).

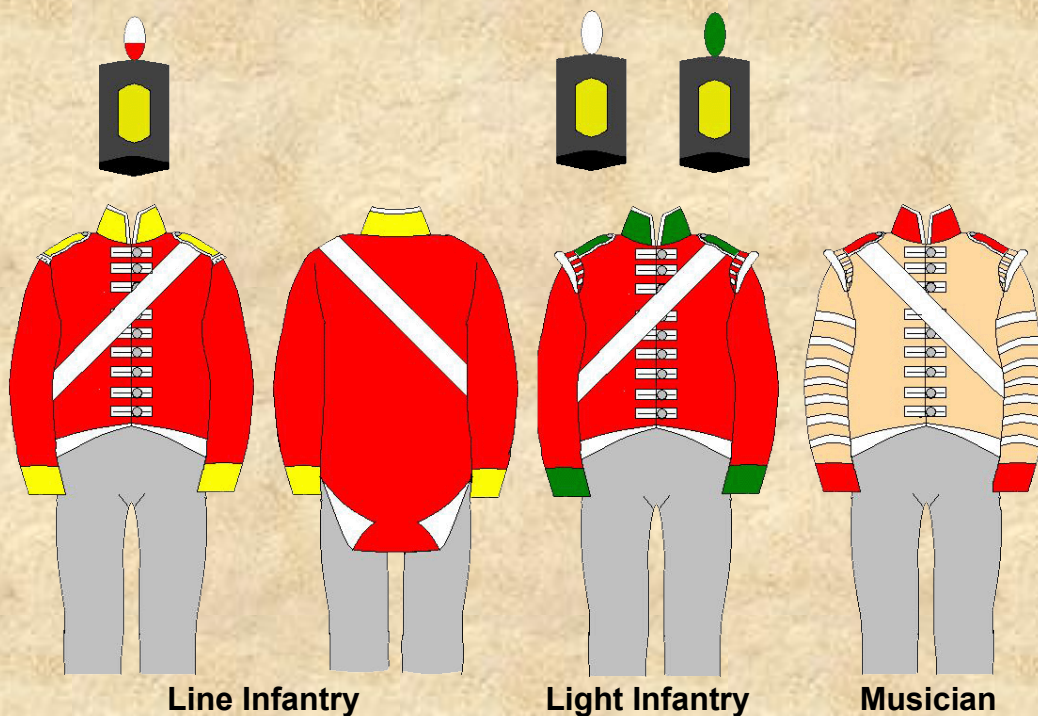
Each regiment contained two 'flank companies'; one each of Light Infantry and Grenadiers. The members of these bore red wings with white lace and a white worsted fringe on each shoulder.

The stovepipe shako was worn up to 1812 and for some time beyond that. Centre companies had a white over red plume, Grenadiers a white plume and Lights a green. All shakos bore a large brass regimental badge on the front.

Officers wore long-tailed coats and large bicorne hats. The coats bore the regimental facing colours. Sashes were worn around the waist.

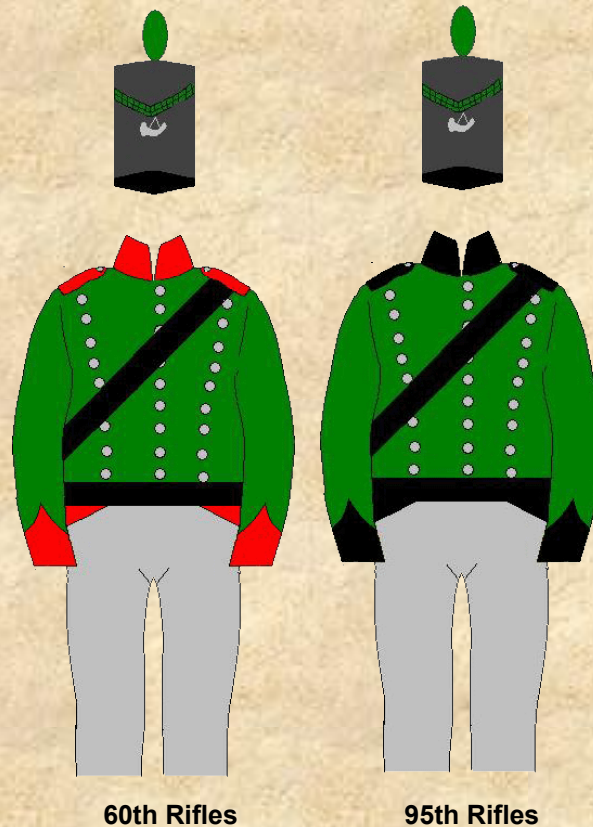
Drummers also had wings and in theory were supposed to wear 'reversed' colours, resulting in coats of the regimental facing colour faced with red. In practice this made them very conspicuous targets and the practice was not universal. The coat sleeves bore lace bands or chevrons.

Equipment belts were white. The cartridge box was of black leather. The rucksack was brown cowhide with a grey greatcoat strapped to the top.





There were two units of rifle-armed soldiers serving in the British Army. The 95th Regiment and the 5th Battalion of the 60th Regiment both wore 'rifle-green' jackets. All leather equipment was black.



Facing Colours

There were over 100 regiments in the British army. Each was distinguished from the other by a combination of facing colour, shape and the spacing of the lacing on the front of the jacket. Because this is a guide for painting 6mm figures, the only identifying feature that is really important is the facing colour.

These were as follows:

BLUE

- 1st (Royal Scots)
- 2nd (Queen's Royal)
- 4th (King's Own)
- 7th (Royal Fusiliers)
- 42nd (Royal Highlanders)



BUFF

- 3rd (East Kent - 'The Buffs')
- 14th (Buckinghamshire)
- 27th (Inniskilling)
- 29th (Worcestershire)
- 31st (Huntingdonshire)
- 40th (2nd Somersetshire)
- 48th (Northamptonshire)
- 52nd (Oxfordshire Light Infantry)
- 61st (South Gloucestershire)
- 62nd (Wiltshire)
- 71st (Highland Light Infantry)
- 81st

GOSLING GREEN

- 5th (Northumberland)
- 36th (Herefordshire)
- 66th (Berkshire)
- 68th (Durham Light Infantry)

YELLOW

- 6th (1st Warwickshire)
- 9th (East Norfolk)
- 20th (East Devonshire)
- 26th (Cameronian)
- 28th (North Gloucestershire)
- 30th (Cambridgeshire)
- 34th (Cumberland)
- 37th (North Hampshire)
- 38th (1st Staffordshire)
- 44th (South Essex)
- 57th (West Middlesex)
- 77th (East Middlesex)
- 82nd (Prince of Wales volunteers)
- 83rd
- 84th (York and Lancaster)



YELLOW

- 85th (Buckinghamshire Light Infantry)
- 88th (Connaught Rangers)
- 91st
- 92nd (Gordon Highlanders)

GREEN

- 11th (North Devonshire)
- 24th (Warwickshire)
- 39th (Dorsetshire)
- 45th (Nottinghamshire)
- 51st (2nd Yorkshire Light Infantry)
- 79th (Cameron Highlanders)
- 87th (Prince of Wales's Own Volunteers)
- 94th

WHITE

- 32nd (Cornwall)
- 43rd (Monmouthshire Light Infantry)
- 47th (Lancashire)
- 59th (2nd Nottinghamshire)
- 74th (Higland)

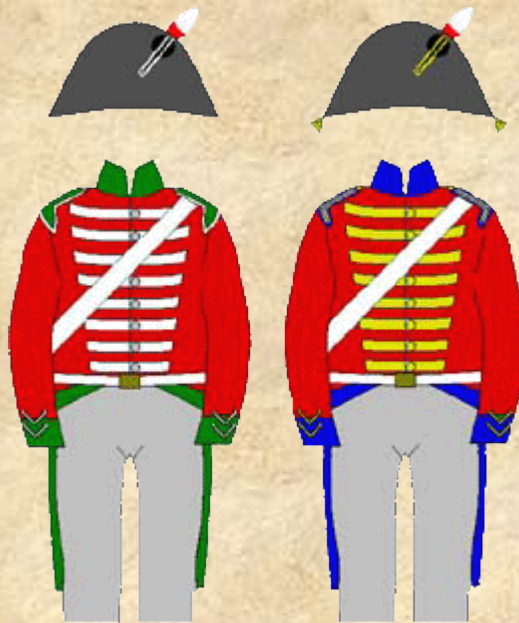
BLACK

- 50th (West Kent)
- 28th (Rutlandshire)
- 89th



BRITISH HEAVY DRAGOONS 1806-1812

Both Heavy Dragoon and Dragoon Guard regiments wore a red, single breasted tailcoat. The coats lace bands across the chest and chevrons on the cuffs and sleeves. Regiments were distinguished by facing colours shown on the turnbacks, cuffs and collar, and the colour of the lace - either white or yellow.



The large bicorne hat was worn until 1812 when it was replaced by the maned helmet.

Officers wore similar uniforms to their men adding chain or scale epaulettes, and replacing white or yellow braid with silver or gold.

The official issue of white breeches and black knee boots was usually replaced by plain overalls on campaign. These were made from local materials and could include a number of plain colours with grey predominating. In a similar fashion decorated shabraques gave way to plain blankets.

Facing and Lace Colours

1st Regt - Dark Blue/ Gold 3rd Regt- Lt Blue/Gold 4th Regt - Green/Gold

3rd Dragoon Guards - White/Gold 4th Dragoon Guards - Dark Blue/Silver 5th Dragoon Guards - Green/Gold

2nd King's German Legion - Dark Blue/Gold



BRITISH LIGHT DRAGOONS 1806-1812

Until 1812 Light Dragoons wore a dark blue braided dolman. Facing colours were displayed at on the collars and the cuffs. The dolman was braided across the chest in white or yellow, in the same manner as the Hussars. A red and yellow barrel sash was worn.



Headgear was the fur-crested 'Tarleton' helmet. Around the base of this was wrapped a fabric 'turban'. Originally in facing colour this was also often black.

Officers were identified by lacing on the cuffs and replacing white or yellow braid with silver or gold.

The official issue of white breeches (buff for those regiments with buff facings), and black knee boots was usually replaced by plain overalls on campaign. In a similar fashion decorated shabraques gave way to plain blankets.

Facing and Lace Colours

9th Regt - Buff/ Silver 11th Regt- Pale Buff/Silver 12th Regt - Yellow/Silver

13th Regt - Buff/Gold 14th Regt - Orange/Silver 16th Regt - Scarlet/Silver

20th Regt - Yellow/silver



BRITISH HUSSARS 1806-1812

Hussars wore a short jacket called a 'dolman' and an over jacket trimmed with fur, called a 'pelisse'. The pelisse was often worn slung over the left shoulder. A red and yellow 'barrel-sash' was worn around the waist and the ensemble was finished off with tight breeches and boots. Both the dolman and pelisse were elaborately decorated with many rows of cord loops. Hanging from the left was the 'sabretache' - a decorated pouch. Headgear was a fur busby with a red 'bag' hanging over the right side.



All British regiments had dark blue dolmans and pelisses. On campaign, breeches and boots were often replaced by overalls and the decorated sabretache with plain black leather version. The elaborate hussar-style shabraque was used by at least two regiments.

Facing, Lace and Pelisse Fur Colours

7th Regt - White/Silver/Light Brown 10th Regt - Yellow/Silver/White 18th Regt - White/Silver/Grey



FOOT ARTILLERY 1806-1812

This was similar in cut to that of the Line Infantry. The coats were dark blue with scarlet facings, and yellow lace straps. Headwear was the infantry shako. Gun carriages and limbers were painted mid grey with black metalwork.

