

# The uniforming of the Hanoverian and English troops on Zealand 1807

## The enemy in 1807

The British forces consisted roughly of 1/3 Hanoverians who volunteered for English service and 2/3 English. Nevertheless, there is a lot of material on the Hanoverians and almost nothing on the English; therefore I have found it convenient to begin with the King's German Legion, so that one may form a picture of the uniforms of 1807, and end with the deviations which characterized the English. However, the scholars disagree - also in our field.

That's why I stick to KGL's Fr. Schirmer's opinion, and as far as the English are concerned to Mr. W. Carman's. As a German source I can mention: Schütz von Brandis, Baron von Reitzenstein and Germany's expert in KGL Fr. Schirmer. As an English source I have Mr. Carman, who is an English expert on Napoleonic uniforms, and although I have corresponded with all the regimental museums of regiments that took part in 1807, their information has been so poor that I simply did not dare to use it.

Fr. Schirmer felt convinced of the following:

1. That KGL's Light Dragoons wore hussar uniform in 1807.
2. That the KGL's line battalions' trousers, which I state as stone grey, may have been gray in a bluish tone (as with our Life Guards) and therefore popularly speaking could be "light blue".
3. That KGL's line battalions and foot artillery wore the so-called "waterloo chakot" already from the start in 1803.

Schirmer motivates the latter with the fact that the KGL got a different chakot than the English one (the stovepipe chakot) because it was about foreign troops, and that, despite abundant material from that time, nothing exists, neither in pictures, letters nor models left behind, that KGL should ever have carried the stovepipe chakot. Mr. Carman claims that the "waterloo chakot" was first introduced in 1811 in the English army and that it did not become common until 1812.

*Helge Scheunchen, 1959*

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## Comment on the above:

When Helge Scheunchen collected his information and wrote in 1959, there really were no better sources than those listed. And today it is not much different, although quite a lot has since been published about both English and Hanoverian uniforms, not least by the Osprey publisher. If you go down in detail, not much new has come to light.

However, a few comments must be attached to the highlighted three points, which Fr. Schirmer felt convinced of the correctness of - without in any way wanting to denigrate Schirmer's work. Schirmer was, and is, probably the one who has known the most about Hanoverian uniforms throughout the ages. A field he worked on all his life and wrote several excellent works on which are still unsurpassed foundational works.

**Ad 1:** The 1st and 2nd regiments of the KGL Light Dragoons were being converted from light dragoons to hussars. This change was only a uniform change, and how far it had gone in 1807 is not known exactly.

What had to be changed was almost cosmetic, headgear, and the dragoons also had to be provided with house armor. The shirt (for hussars called a dolman) which the English light dragoons already wore was already laced just like the hussars, so it must have been usable without major modification. As light dragoons, the regiments undoubtedly originally wore rauphelems or the English form of the hussarschakoten called a Flügelmütze in German. Both parts are seen for English light dragoons before 1807.

It is known that the 3rd Hussar Regiment from KGL in 1806 wore fur caps, as this regiment was created and equipped as a Hussar regiment from the start. R. Knötel has drawn a hussar from the 3rd Hussar Regiment based on the above-mentioned von Brandi's printed information.

What remains are the 1st and 2nd Hussar regiments from KGL, about which nothing more is known about the uniform at Copenhagen - apart from the fact that they were dressed as English light dragoons. However, see below about the helmet from Bornholm's Museum, which presumably originates from the 2nd Light Dragoon Regiment.

**Re 2:** Regarding the color of KGL's trousers, is it surprising to read that the Danish Life Guard in 1959 should have worn gray trousers in a bluish tone?

**Ad 3:** Here is Fr. Schirmer wrong on that one.

The KGL wore essentially identical uniforms to the corresponding British troops.

The English so-called "Waterloo chakot" is a headdress "invented" by Napoleon himself.

This type of chakot was provided to the Portuguese infantry regiments that took part in the French invasion of Russia. Wellington had the same type of headgear introduced into the English army from 1812, but only a few English regiments managed to get it issued before the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Wellington reportedly wanted the "stove pipe" chakot replaced because at some distance it was difficult to see whether it was own or enemy French forces you were facing, as both sides until then wore their chakot feathers positioned frontally.

There is no doubt that infantry regiments in KGL in 1807 also wore stove pipe chakot, as museum director Henrik Vensild has found a stove pipe chakot with a clipped KGL front plate in the Bornholm Museum's depots (see e.g. Chakoten, September 2004 and Våbenhistorisk Tidsskrift Nr 1/2007). From the same article it also appears from the pictures that the Bornholm Museum is in possession of a presumably KGL raupehjelm from the 2nd Hussar Regiment from 1807.

The Danish coat of arms and the metal band that holds it in place are affixed locally. The two brass bands that are riveted at the top are also most likely of Bornholm origin and not fastened under the turban (tamis in Danish).

Bornholm's Museum should try to remove the Bornholm additions, and see if there are traces of the metal regimental nameband that was in front (at best, it could still be there), and also ascertain whether the entire turban has not been white and not light blue as stated in article. It must be somewhat more historically interesting for the museum to be in possession of an original KGL helmet from 1807, it has no other choice than to exhibit local home cloth under the designation Danish dragoon helmet from Fynske lette Dragoner 1794. Because it is under no circumstances.

Memories from Roskilde 1807 mention that there were "Englishmen" who wore helmets. No English troops had helmets, and it can thus only have been the case that the person in question saw Hanoverian light dragoons in the town when Wellington passed through on his way to Køge. TS).

That Fr. Schirmer refers to the fact that English foreign regiments were given different headgear than English line regiments, probably due to the fact that until around 1800-1803 it was the case that foreign troops were most often formed as light troops and were therefore equipped with caterpillar helmets/round hats with caterpillar, while the English line infantry at that time wore double-edged hats of roughly the same model as e.g. of the French.

But KGL was something special in the British army. It was an elite and a (Hanoverian) army in the English army with its own infantry, cavalry and artillery, all equipped and equipped like the English. It was also just missing when the English king, George III, was at the same time Elector of Hanover and actually preferred to stay there, were it not for the fact that Napoleon entered and occupied the principality in 1803.

T. Snorrason, 2007.

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## King's German Legion 1807

*by Helge Sheunschen  
Chakoten no. 2/1959*

### I. Generals, staffs and sub-staffs

As a staff for commanding generals and divisional generals you had:

Quartermasters-Generals-Staff (General Staff)

Adjutant-Generals-Staff. (the assistantship)

The Legion's staff consisted of:

- 1 Colonel in Chief
- 1 Inspector-General-Colonel
- 1 Deputy - Adjutant - General

The number of Brigade-Majors or brigadiers, who mostly held the rank of captain, varied from 6 to 9 according to the composition of the troops.

In addition, there were:

- 1 Military Commissary
- 5 Chaplains (field chaplains)
- 1 Deputy Inspector of Hospitals
- 3 Surgeons
- 1 Purveyor
- 1 Deputy Purveyor
- 1 Pharmacist

Besides this, the Colonel in Chief usually had with him an Aide de Camp from the Legion.

The officers at the staff were all called, regardless of rank: Staff-Officers, while the staff officers at the sub-staffs were called: Field-Officers.

**The uniform** consisted, as in Hanover, of scarlet dresses with dark blue gold-embroidered collar and cuffs and long lapels with white cuffs. 2 rows of 10 hemispherical gold buttons bearing the royal initials with crown above. Gold embroidered buttonholes, both on the outside and inside of the dress chest. The inside

was blue and gold embroidered and could be opened at the top as a kind of lapel.



*English general*

On the right shoulder **of the parade uniform**, the generals had embroidered shoulder straps.

The **staffs' parade uniform** included gold-embroidered epaulettes. Field officers wore on both shoulders, captains only on the right shoulder. For the subaltern officers, also only on the right shoulder and with thinner fringes, if they wore the staff uniform at all.

**The various ranks of the generals** diverged only in the pattern of the collar embroidery. In addition, for the higher ranks, there were embroideries on the chest, as well as chevrons (angles. TS) on the forearm and dress lapels of generals of the cavalry. On the other hand, Field Officer's ranks could not be distinguished from each other, just as little as the lieutenant's rank could be distinguished from that of Ensign and Cornet.

**Generals and staffs** also wore very simple blue uniforms with gold buttons, i.e. without embroidery, lanyards and epaulettes. For the generals, this uniform had wider lapels and a turn-down collar, corresponding to the civilian fashion of the time.

In addition, sometimes a high or upright shirt collar (a so-called patricide) and a white necktie.

The knee-clothes were of white leather or cloth, in addition half-high Hessian boots were worn and on these, as a novelty, spurs were screwed firmly on the heel, instead of the former spurs, which were to be fastened on the boot.

For **parade uniform**, generals wore a golden sash, interwoven with red. Portepé, string and acorn-like tassel were also in gold with dark red.

**Generals and staffs** wore the plain dark red silk scarf with the blue uniform.

As **headgear** was worn "three-masted", black cockade, gold-red string (agraf) and hanging white feather bush. For the blue uniform, only white plumes were usually worn. When on foot duty, the hats had to be worn across.

**Suspenders**, gold, however, it must be added that the suspenders on the small uniform were more at will, often only a dark red string with gags instead of a buckle.

From here hung the crooked **saber** in its steel scabbard. It was a novelty among the Hanoverians, who until now had only known the leather sheath. Often the sabers were oriental with expensive ivory mounts, with portepé of golden, dark red interlaced double cords, with acorns, also for all other officers.

There were no **hats** . **Cloaks** were mostly blue I guess. **Scarecrows** red with gold edges.

**The horses' tails** were spiked, but not all generals and staff officers followed this fashion. .

## II. Engineers

At that time, the British Corps of Engineers still had no personnel except draftsmen and modellers. Where manpower was needed, the excellent corps used the **Military Artificers**, who supplied the foremen, its laborers coming from the footmen, especially from the lumbermen, and probably also from the artillery.

**The engineer officers** wore a dark red uniform with a black collar, insignia and covers on the long lapels. Two rows of gold buttons like those of the staff. A gold epaulette and red sash. Three masts with hanging red/white feather bush. Black cockade, gold-red agraf and portepé. Long light gray trousers with gold stripes. Saber in steel scabbard placed in a black swing pendant, for parade the pendant was gold embroidered.

## III. The foot artillery

The crew had dark blue **dress** with red collar, red Swedish (straight cut) notices. Red flaps on the laps and red shoulder pads. The collar, cuffs, shoulder flaps and lap cuffs were edged with a narrow yellow border. On the notices, 3 buttons with corresponding buttonholes of yellow lace.

The dress was closed with a row of 10 brass buttons and on each side of the chest beyond the buttons a yellow lace that ended in a bastion-shaped point. At the waist on the back there were 2 buttons, and on each of the lapels a vertical pocket flap with 3 buttons. The pocket flaps were edged with yellow lace, and outside the flaps there was a lace trim reminiscent of the one on the chest.

**The officer's dress** was similar to the men's, but had no edges on the collar, cuffs, etc. - instead, a double gold embroidery (2 patches) on the collar. On the post 3 gold-embroidered lids. Gold epaulettes. Front 2 rows of 10 buttons with gold embroidery around the buttonholes. The upper part of the buttoning could be buttoned back like a lapel, so that the red lining came into view. On the lapel pocket flaps, the officers had 5 buttons with gold embroidered buttonholes.

**The buttons** were hemispherical of brass and embossed with 2 crossed cannon barrels, above these was KGA and above that a crown.

The officers' buttons were similar to these, but were gilt, and instead of letters, on a band which went round the guns, was written: King's German Artillery.

The trousers were long, stone gray and uncrewed, moreover the crew wore shoes and leather gaiters that were so wide that the trousers could be tucked into them.

The officers' trousers were like the men's, but with a wide red stripe down the side.



"Stovepipe" chakot  
from Bornholm's museum

**The headdress** was a chakot of black lacquered felt with a straight rounded shade. The pool had the same diameter at the top as at the bottom, below and on the front there was a sheet of black lacquered felt that was rounded at the top. This plate protruded 2-3 inches above the flat puld. On the plate was an oval brass sign with a crown above, and in the center of the sign. a red field with the royal name stroke in the middle. On the left side sat a feather bush that was white above and dark red below. Yellow hanging, the front part braided and the back part of 2 single cords. On the right side, a double cord with mirror and tassel, which reached the lower edge of the chakot. Black leather chinstrap. (The chakot model described above is the so-called Waterloo Chakot, which was first introduced in 1812. The chakot worn in 1807 was the so-called Stove Pipe Chakot ("Tile stove pipe"), which existed in 2 models. One from 1800 of black lacquered leather, and a lighter model from somewhat later made of felt. TS)

The officers wore a triangular hat with a black cockade and a gold crampon, as well as a feather bush (white, with a dark red root).

**The cloaks** were dark blue with a stand-up collar that was closed with a button. It could also be converted into a drop collar. In addition, the cloak had a number of buttons and a shorter or longer shoulder flap that could be buttoned on the cloak.

The officers agreed. with that of the crew, however, the upright collar was not closed with a button, but with a small gilt chain fastened with a gilt rosette on each side of the collar.

**The non-commissioned officers:** Sergeant-Majors wore an officer's uniform with gold lace trim, with the officers having gold embroidery and instead of epaulettes, red shoulder straps with gold lace trim. Same triangular hat as the officers. The other non-commissioned officers wore crew uniforms.

Sergeant-Major 4 angles in gold

Sergeant	3 angles in gold
Fourer or cadet	2 angles in gold
Corporal	No substrate, 2 yellow angles
Bombard	No base, 1 yellow angle
Gefreiter	No base, 1 red angle

The insignia consisted of angles of gold braid with a red cloth backing on the right upper arm. Generally the tips turned downwards, only in non-combatants the tip turned upwards.

On the mantle all the angles were yellow. Sergeants had a red stand-up collar and red notices on the cloak.

**Arms:** The infantry carried a hirschfänger against brass hilt in white shoulder bandols that had a square brass clasp on the breast. Mounted infantrymen carried a saber with a steel grip in a shoulder strap, similar to the bandoliers of the infantry, but equipped with two carrying straps. Sergeants wore: cords in bandoliers.

The officers carried a cavalry saber with a steel grip and steel scabbard in a black sash with gilt lion heads on the front. For the parade, the hanging was made of gold braid sewn onto red leather. Portepé of gold and dark red silk.

The sergeant-major carried an officer's saber in a black officer's pendant; but had saber tassels of white lacquered leather.

**Sash:** The officers and Sergeant-Major wore a dark red silk sash around their waists, and sergeants had a red yarn sash, while non-combatant sergeants wore a blue sash.

#### IV. The mounted artillery

The uniform was the same as that of the foot artillery, but with knee breeches of leather or cloth, as well as Hessian boots and instead of a chakot, a caterpillar helmet of black lacquered leather with a bear skin or horsehair ruff. Along the bottom edge of the pool was a three inch wide band of **black??????** cloth studded with brass chains.

The shade had a brass edge, and on the right side of the pool a sign similar to the one found on the footartillery's chakot - but circular. On the left side sat a feather bush, white at the top and red at the bottom. Schupper of brass.

On the officers' helmets, all brass parts were gilded.

**Leather clothing and weaponry** were like those of the horsemen of the foot artillery.

The officers also had black saber bags with a gilded star, in which the kg1. name feature was located. Also cartridge bag in bandoliers. The daily cartridge bag was of black lacquered leather with the gilded royal name feature with a crown on the lid. The Parade cartridge case was of polished steel with the same decoration as the everyday. The common bandoleer was of white lacquered leather. In front was placed a gilt triangular shield, and somewhat above this a gilt lion's head, having three chains in its mouth. The chains ended in gilded cream pins that were stuck behind the mentioned shield. The parade bandoleret was of gold braid, sewn on red leather. Officers wearing only one epaulette wore a gold cord on the left shoulder to hold the bandolet in place.

Around 1806, the officers of the mounted artillery began to adopt a hussar-like uniform. Instead of a dress, they now wore a kind of dark blue dolman with three rows of 12 buttons that were connected with gold cords. The collar remained red, but instead of the lids it was given a double border of gold cord. The red notices became pointed and edged with gold braid that formed a Hungarian knot above the point. The scarf was changed to a red hussar scarf with gold sliders. Headgear, armament and leather clothing remained unchanged. For parade and gala; dark blue furs with the same equipment as the dolman, collar and cuffs, however, studded with black fur, and otherwise the fur was edged in the same way. The officers only wore the triangular hat off duty.

**Trumpeters (and tambourers in the foot artillery)** wore uniform according to their rank, but with fringe epaulettes of yellow wool and in addition a plaited shoulder cord on the left shoulder.

The cord hung in an arc over the chest to the right shoulder, where it ended in 2 hanging cords with brass knobs. The color of the shoulder strap was yellow with blue and red highlights. The trumpet banner was of the same kind of cord as the shoulder cord.

**The horse's equipment:** Dark blue valdrap with a red edge and in the corners in front and behind it name under a crown.

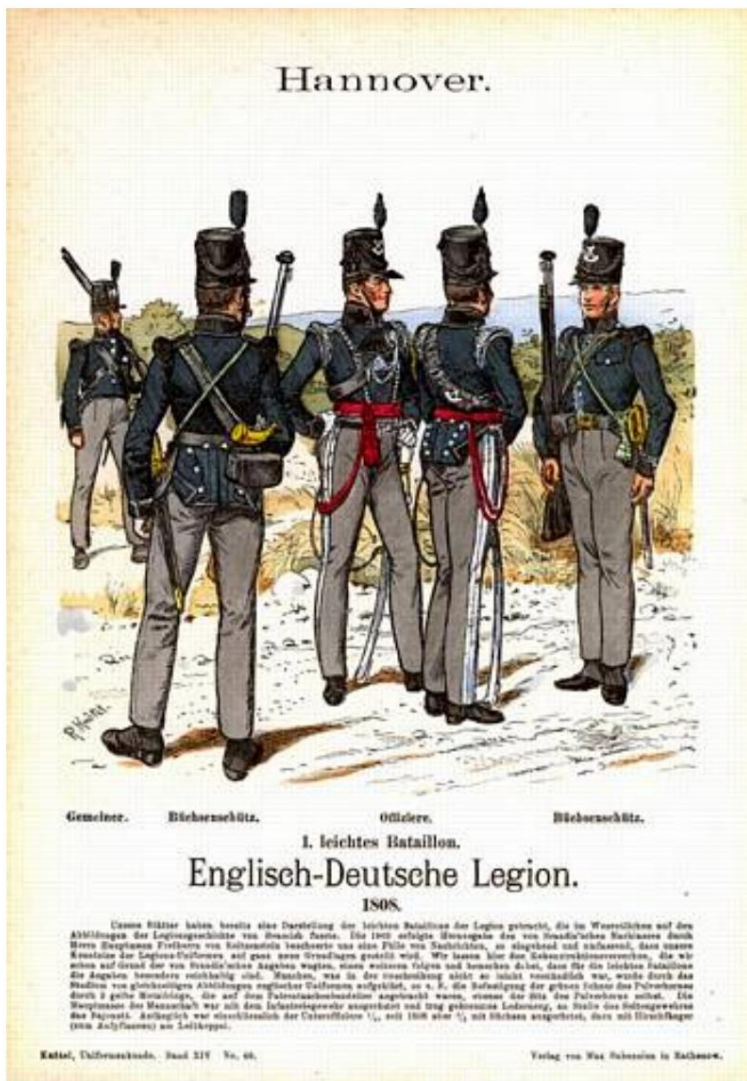
The officers had a gold braid on the red edge and the Kgl. name tag must have been embroidered in gold.

The mantel bag was circular dark blue with a red edge and on the right end surface were KGA and the battery designation in red.

**The train constables** wore the same uniform as the gunners, but without the crest on the chest. In the case of the mounted artillery, they had no scabbard on the helmet, but instead a small crest of leather with a brass frame.

## **V. The light battalions**





KGL - 1st light battalion

The **1st Light Battalion** had a special uniform, at least among the regular rifle corps of the British Army. Furthermore, it was a lighter green than "rifle green", which was first introduced in 1808.

The **men's dresses** had short lapels, a black collar and black cuffs. The uniform was lined with 12 buttons of white metal. On the left side of the chest was a horizontal pocket closed with a white button. The collar, lapels, lapels and the edges of the uniform were studded with black lace. On the lapels there were curved pocket flaps studded with 3 buttons and 2 buttons at the waist.

Black shoulder straps edged with black braid and in the sleeve seams, "Wings" of dark green cloth, edged with black ribbon. Beneath these lay a large bead of black wool, thickest in the middle.

The **officers' dresses** differed from the men's by having 2 rows of 18 buttons, which were very far apart, much like the outermost rows of buttons on a husard olman. The collar, cuffs, lap flaps and the lining of the over-buttoning on the chest were of black velvet, edged with a black silk lace. The cuffs were pointed. The pocket flaps on the lapels had 5 buttons, and the lapels were shorter than the crew's.

The officers' "Wings" were of black velvet edged with a thick silver cord and studded with silver rings.

The crew's **buttons** had a horn with a string, and between the string and the horn was an L number. Above the horn stood KGL under a crown.

On the officers' buttons a ribbon went around the horn and on the ribbon was written "King's German Legion". Above the ribbon was a crown.

The **trousers** were medium gray and the officers' had 2 silver stripes on the sides. Manhood had blacks

leggings and black shoes.

**The headgear:** The crew and non-commissioned officers wore an almost cylindrical chacot of black lacquered felt with a square brim and leather chinstrap. In front was a hunting horn with white metal string, as well as a 6 inch high dark green wool stud. In addition, the chacot was equipped with black hangings with tassels and a mirror on the right side.

The officers' chacot was of black lacquered leather. The stud was of feathers with a tapered top.

**The 2nd Light Battalion** had a dark green uniform with black and silver like the 1st Light Battalion, but with a different cut similar to the British Rifle Corps.

**The crew and NCOs** had 3 rows of buttons, but no house cords. There were 12 buttons in each row. The distance between the rows was greatest at the shoulders and least at the waist. In addition, there were buttons on the breast pocket, the shoulder and the cuffs. The uniform was a jacket without actual lapels and the back part was rounded down. The crew with black caps was like the 1st Light Battalion. Different from the officers, the non-commissioned officers and the crew had wings, which were approx. 1/3 smaller than the 1st Light Battalions, so that they looked like a bullet from the front. The shoulder straps were as with the 1st Light Battalion.

**The officers' dresses** had the same cut as the hussars' dolman with 3 rows of 18 silver buttons. Cords completely like the hussars in black silk. On the shoulder a black double cord - so no distinctions. In addition, it was permitted to groom the fur outside of service.

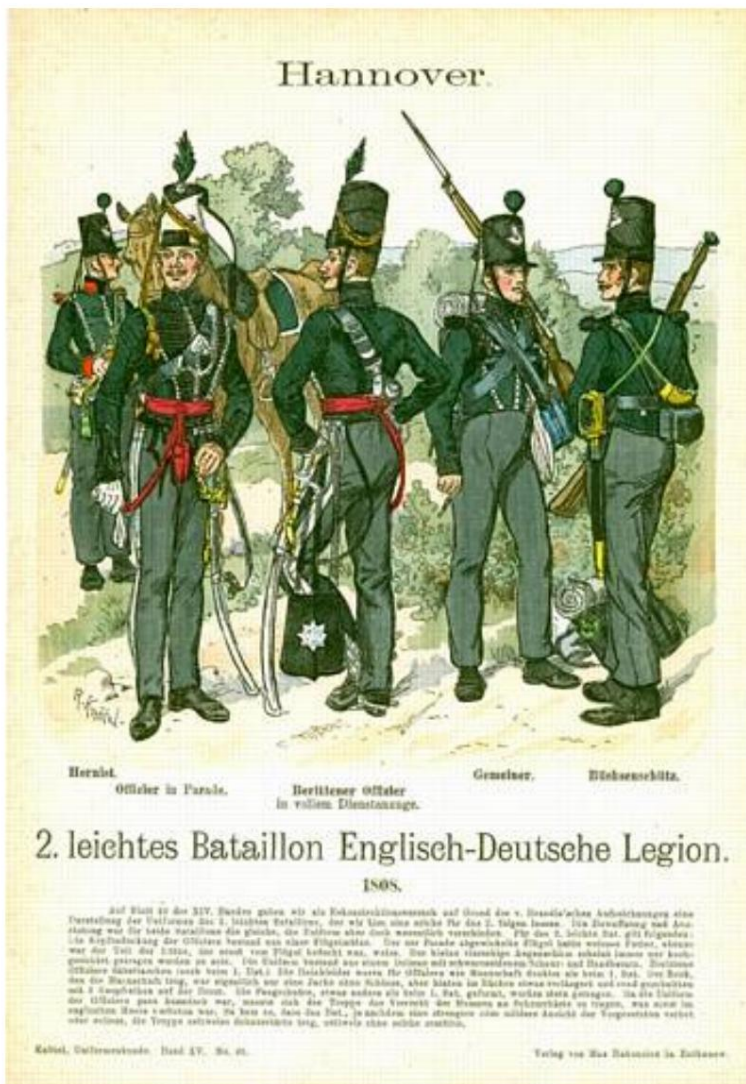
**The buttons** were similar to 1st Light Bataillons - only with the difference that it said 2. instead of 1.

**The trousers** were (different from the 1st Light Battalion) dark grey.

The officers had silver stripes and up each leg - down from the waist a lacing of black ribbon with the point downwards. The band was larger than the one on the notice, but without eyes.

**The headdress** consisted of a chacot of black lacquered felt. Otherwise of the same height and shape as a "Flügelmütze", but with a standing half-round screen. Chinstrap of leather and in the front in the middle of the chacot sat the horn, also at the top like a bush of feathers a dark green "poll" or ball of wool. In addition, black lanyards of the same shape as the officers. These lanyards were always worn.

The officers' headgear was the so-called "Flügelmütze", which was somewhat higher than the chacoten and consisted of black felt, which was not varnished. It had a leather cover on top and a headband and chinstrap. In addition, there was a green stud that was tapered at the top, and at the base of the stud sat a black round cockade with a small silver horn. On this wing cap, the top layer could be detached spirally, so that a pointed long wing with its narrow, hand-width, vertical base was fixed at the top left and with its tip it waved 1 1/2 feet out to the left. The side of the ring that pointed forward was white, just as the part of the pool that the ring otherwise covered was white. Around the pool, a golden-red double cord ran up from right down to left in 2 turns or stripes. Across this white piece, and also from above to the right, hung a golden-red double lanyard with round braid ("mirror") and tassels, as used by hussars. This double lanyard hung far down and was buttoned on the right side. In front, the hat had a small square brim, which, like the earlier grenadier hats, could be turned up or was actually always worn open, it was lacquered on the underside. Off duty, the officers wore the triangular hat, but they could also wear the wing cap, and this was probably always unfolded.



KGL - 2nd light battalion

**Applicable to both the 1st and 2nd Light Battalions:** The officers wore **sashes**, the ends of which ran out into cords ending in closed tassels. The sashes were closed using a gag on the right side.

**Saber** in a steel scabbard, as with the hussars, but in a smaller version and in addition a yellow-red portepé carried in a black pendant with a white lion's head clasp. The parade sash was also black but with a silver-embroidered edge, and the riders had saber pouches with a white star.

**The bandoleers:** All the officers wore black bandoleers with small black cartridge cases, the lids of which were fitted with a horn without number and crown. In front of the bandolier, near the shoulder, was a silver lion's head, to which was attached a silver double chain. At the other end of the chain was a so-called shooter's whistle. This usually sat in a holder on a triangular silver shield, which was placed rather far down on the bandolier, so that the chains hung in a larger arc than the chains for breech pins worn with the other types of weapons. The sergeants wore a similar chain with a whistle, which sat in a ring at the top of the bandolier, while the corporals wore the whistle on a light green string, which went from the button on the right shoulder strap to one of the buttons on the chest, from where the whistle hung loosely in the approx. 2 inch loose end of string. **The hornbill** was black with a light green horn and number.

**The cloak** was grey, **the gloves** white. **The riding clothes** were brown, and one had either a green **saddle cover**, edged with silver braid or a **parade lapel**, which was also edged with silver braid and also provided with a silver star with the crowned royal name in the front and back corners.

**The non-commissioned officers' insignia** had the previously described angles of silver on them. black background or white angles on a black background. The Sergeant-Major wore an officer's uniform with black shoulder pads edged with silver braid. The sergeants wore white gloves, as well as a red **scarf** of yarn, which had the same sh

of the officers, but was worn under the belt.

**Musicians and horn players** had red collars and notices framed. in a black away. The shoulder straps were black. In contrast, their Wings were occasionally frosted red. Bängel or signal horns were carried in bright green cords with tassels. The band did not consist of horn players of the modern pattern. The horn players, like some of the musicians, had waldhorns or other musical instruments. The other musicians had oboes. In addition, there were 4 **janissaries** with their instruments: 1 big drum or timpani, which was carried by a donkey during the march. 1 snare drum, as well as 1 cymbal and 1 triangle. **The uniform of the Janissaries** consisted of green Turkish jackets with red sleeves with red and white string trim in a Turkish pattern, in addition there were variegated stripes on the trousers. On their heads they wore a high wide Turkish chakot with a red and white turban. Among these janissaries and horn players were often people of color, mostly West Indians, who also acted as excellent cooks and barbers. **The staff hornist** or conductor wore a dark blue sash with the green uniform, which must be said to be a sad color scheme. **The diagonal stripes of the drum hoops** were black and green.

## **WE. The line battalions**

The line battalions had a red dress with a dark blue collar, cuffs and shoulder pads. 1 row of 10 white buttons sat under each other in pairs. From each button issued a double lid. The outer ends of the lids were connected in pairs with a single lid; The length of the lids decreased towards the waist. The collar was framed with a lid. The straight posts had 3 buttons, each with a double placket. The flaps and shoulder flaps were also framed with a lid. The short sleeves had white flaps covered with the same pattern as the cuffs and collar. Vertical pocket flaps with 3 buttons with short flaps. Between the two waist buttons was a triangle of white lace.

The men's uniforms were white with a blue center line and the sergeants' were completely white.

**The officers' uniform dress** differed from that of the crew and non-commissioned officers by having 2 rows of 10 pairs of gilded buttons. The buttonholes were dark blue on the underside with gold embroidered buttonholes. The collar was without a border, but studded with a gold embroidered buttonhole. The cuffs were also without a frame, but with 3 buttons with corresponding gold embroidered buttonholes. The long skirts had white flaps and white lining. Vertical pocket flaps, with 5 pairs of buttons with matching gold embroidered buttonholes.

**The buttons:** The pewter buttons of the crew were flat with the letters KGL and below the battalion number (I to VIII).

The officers' buttons were hemispherical and gilded with the reg. name feature surrounded by a ribbon with "King's German Legion, above the ribbon was a crown.

**The trousers** were light gray and the officers had 2 gold stripes on the side or long white trousers. The NCOs and crew wore black shoes and gaiters.

**The headgear:** NCOs and crew wore chakot of black felt with white trim and rounded brim. For a felt board that was 2-3 inches higher than the pool. On this felt plate sat an oval brass shield surmounted by a crown. In the shield it was Kgl. name tag punched out and under red cloth. On the left side of the chakot sat a 9 inch tall white stud. The chinstrap was black leather. (The chakot type described here is the so-called Waterloo chakot, which the British regiments first received during the Spanish campaign. See above. TS)

The officers wore a triangular hat with a black cockade, gold tassels at the tips and a white feather bush. The hat was often carried in a wax cloth case.

**Leather clothing:** White cross bandolier, black lacquered cartridge case in one bandolier and only the bayonet scabbard in it

other things. On the latter an oval brass sign on the 'chest. Dark blue **studs** with white straps (cross strap across the chest). on the left side of the turret, the battalion designation was painted in red. White **bread bag** and light blue **field bottle** with the battalion designation and the man's number painted in white. Both worn over the right shoulder. **Kettle** in white coating on the thorny side. The field bottle's strap was brown, the bread bag's white.

The officers wore a white lacquered bandolier with an oval gilt badge on the chest. In the bandolier sat a sword with a gilded handle and a gold-red portépé.

**Officers' insignia:** Officers had gold epaulettes and crimson silk sash.

**The Sergeant-Major** wore an officer's uniform with blue shoulder patches trimmed with gold braid, as well as gold chevrons on the arm. Card without portépé.

**The sergeants** had their uniforms studded with white stripes and silver chevrons with a dark blue background on the arm. Crimson sash of yarn, lower ranks had white chevrons on dark blue ground on arm for crew uniform.

### **The sharpshooters**

The line battalions of the legion had only fusilier companies, but at each battalion there was a sharpshooter section, whose uniform differed from the previous one by the following: instead of shoulder pads, white "Wings", as in the light battalions. On the lapels was a small round piece of blue cloth on which was embroidered a white horn. Each company had 6-7 sharpshooters.

Officers' dresses bore gilt "Wings". On a blue ground and on the lap flaps a square piece of dark blue cloth with a gold embroidered horn.

**Sharpshooters' headdress:** the chakoten's studs and fringe were dark green, and the officers wore dark green studs in the triangular hat.

**The sharpshooters' leather clothing:** Instead of bandoliers for the bayonet, a white lacquered pendant with a deer catcher was worn. To the right of the belt buckle sat a white lacquered ball bag. The gun strap was also painted white.

The officers had a saber in a black belt, also a black-lacquered cartridge case with a gilded horn on the lid in a white bandolier. On the front of the bandoleer bracket and chain for a flute made of gilded metal. The officers had crimson **sashes** in house style. The sergeants also had sashes in the Hussar shape and a rifle whistle in white metal in a brass chain on the cartridge bag band.

The corporals had a bow in green cord from the button raw right shoulder pad to one. Of the buttons on the chest where the shuttlecock hung 2 inches down.

**Tambourines and pipers** wore the red staff uniform, but the skirts had broad blue slashes. Along the ends of the lids sat a vertical away.

On the sleeves there were 6 chevrons (points up) between 2 borts. Between the buttons at the waist was a fringe, and from each of them a double went away along the seam to the shoulder. In addition, there was a part down the middle of the back from the collar to the waist. **The drums** were brass with dark blue white edged reifers.

The knee leather was white. The hornist at the gunner's divisions wore a tambourine uniform with red swallow's nests, edged with fringe and trimmed with white fringes. Across the swallow's nest 4 went away. Green stud in the chakot. Bügelhorn with light green banderole with tassels and probably also a whistle.

**Battalion drummers and musicians** wore white dress, on which the collar and insignia should have been red, but it is not certain that this was the case with all the battalions. On the dress, there were no seams on the chest, only on the collar and cuffs. Instead of shoulder pads, yellow epaulettes with fringes. The buttons were gilded.

The battalion staff drummer had a yellow, blue, red shoulder cord and the conductor wore a blue sash. **The Janissaries** had red jackets with white sleeves and yellow lacing. A tall felt chacot with a turban and yellow stripes on the trousers. **The drums** were made of wood and painted light blue, and on these were painted the same battalion designation as was on the officers' buttons. The drummers had red and white slashes (the light battalions had black and green). Certain battalions must have used carillons, just as there must also have been blacks among the janissaries.

**The lumberjacks** had white lap leather, a large ax or a saw, as well as a faskin knife in a white sash, on which was also a small cartridge case. Over their shoulders they carried a spade in a brown case and a carbine.

#### **WE YOU. The Hussars**

Although the official name was Light Dragoons, they were still called Hussars as early as 1807 because of their Hussar uniform. Furs, dolmans and hussar scarves were also in fashion both with the infantry and the artillery. All 3 hussar regiments had dark blue dolman with the following regimental insignia:

#### Collar and placket Buttons Drawstrings

1st Hussar Regiment	red	gold yellow
2nd Hussar Regiment	white	gold yellow
3rd Hussar Regiment	yellow	silver white

#### **The buttons**

The crew had 18 small hemispherical buttons in 3 rows.

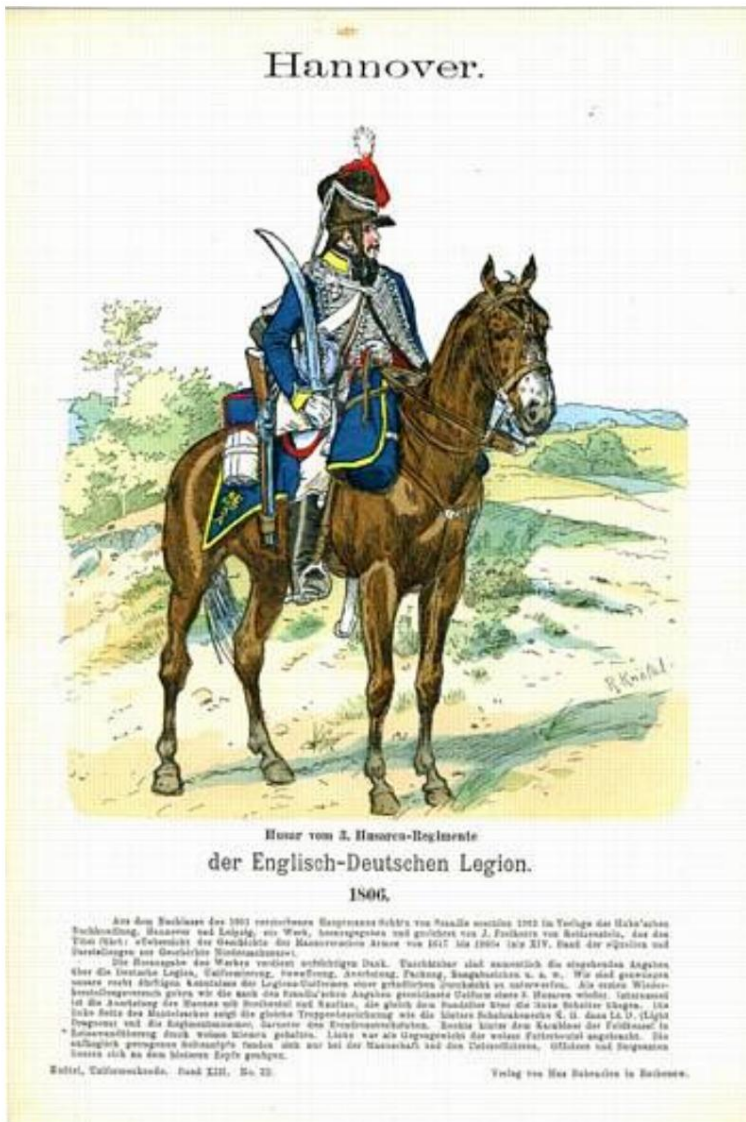
The officers and sergeants had 18 small hemispherical buttons in 5 rows.

On all these buttons were 2 crossed sabres, and above them the numbers 1, 2 or 3. Around these the officers' buttons bore a ribbon with "King's German. Lt. Dragoons", and above this a crown. On the crew's buttons there was no band, and the words were abbreviated to: "KGLt.D" with a crown above.

**The rope crew of the crew:** At the extreme ends of the horizontal double ropes, a rope ran in a zigzag pattern from top to bottom. Furthermore, there was a cord which ran along the chest edge and another along the entire lower edge of the dolman. In addition, they had a double cord on their shoulders.

**The lanyards of officers and sergeants** consisted of gold or silver lanyards in the color of the buttons. In addition to the wide cords, there was a rich setting of fine narrow cords that formed small "eyes" on the chest, back and collar.





**KGL - Light Dragoons (Hussars)**

**The fur** was dark blue with red lining and black fur trim on the collar and cuffs as well as black fur edges.

The string crew was like on the dolman. A string ran along the inner edge of all the fur trim.

The fur was worn on the left shoulder with a fairly strong braided cord, which was passed under the dolman's right shoulder cord.

**Sash:** For the 1st and 3rd hussar regiments the sash was red with white sliders, for the 2nd Hussar regiment yellow with white sliders. The officer's scarf was crimson with gold sliders. The sergeants' were crimson with yellow sliders.

**The trousers** were made of white leather or cloth. According to simultaneous observations in this country, they were wearing dark blue trousers - reasonably well-made trousers. Black hussar boots with cord trim and tassel of the same color as on the dolman.

**The fur caps:** 1st Hussar regiments were wider upwards and had no brim, the other two regiments had cylindrical fur caps with a square brim. All 3 had a red pool that hung down on the right side. diagonally across the front of the hat from the upper right edge to the lower left edge sat a hanging. From its upper end hung 2 lanyards with a mirror and tassels, which were attached to the dolman's right shoulder. Hangings and arresting cords were the same color as the dolman's cords.

The 2nd Hussar Regiment probably wore a caterpillar helmet like the one shown here - minus the Danish coat of arms and rim band in silvered tin, which was later attached to Bornholm. Also the 2 brass bands are presumably Bornholm home bow, to make the helmet more "Danish". The caterpillar is missing, but has gone from the neck all the way down the helmet shade. TS)



*Helmet, possibly from 2. Light Dragoons, KGL 1807  
from Bornholm's Museum*

For the officers, however, they were of gold with a crimson tint. The officers wore plumes instead of studs in a large gilt tulip-shaped plinth. The chinstrap was leather.

**Saber and saber bag:** Steel saber with white saber tassel and white hilt, black saber bag with white straps, white bandolier and black cartridge bag.

The officers had gold portepé with crimson trim and black hangings, as well as a star on the saber case. In addition, there was a shield on the front of the white bandolier, and to this bandolier belonged a black bag.

**The collar** was dark blue with a border in the color of the collar. The rear tips bore the designation **KG** and below that Lt.D. and under the letters the regimental number 1, 2 or 3. Under the numbers, the squadron's letter (A, B, C, D, E, F, G or H) was also placed.

**The officers'** valrap had on the colored edge a wide gold or silver braid according to the color of the button and instead of the department designation the royal name badge with a crown above.

**The mantle sack** was square and dark blue with a red border. on the left end surface was the same designation as on the tip of the valraps - albeit in red.

**Bread bag and field bottle:** In contrast to most other countries, the hussars in field conditions carried bread bag and field bottle on the man and not on the horse. The bread bag was white and the field bottle blue with the regimental insignia as on the mantle sack, painted in white. The strap of the field bottle was brown. Both field bottle and bread bag were carried over the left shoulder.

**Headgear and straps** were brown.

**Standards** were not carried.

**Music:** The hussars had no timpani, but **janissary music**. This consisted of 4 artists with the following instruments: 1 bass drum, that lay across in front of the rider, 1 smaller drum as well as a cymbal and 1 triangle. Janissary musicians and trumpeters in 1807 had "reversed colours", i.e. red, white or yellow dolman and coat, but dark blue collar and insignia. The composition of the band itself is unfortunately unknown.

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## The British troops in 1807





*English uniform jacket.*  
From the Musée de l'Armée

The British infantry must be divided into:

- The Infantry of the Line
- The Guards
- The Fusiliers
- The Light Infantry
- The Highlanders
- The Rifle Brigade

**The line infantry** wore a kind of basic uniform and were structured differently from the KGL's line infantry, which only consisted of fusilier companies. The English line infantry battalion consisted of 10 companies, these were divided into 8 battalion companies. On the left wing were "the light" and on the right wing were the "grenadiers".

The crew had a brick-red dress; collar and posting depended on the regimental color (facings). All crew wore pewter buttons that could be worn singly, in pairs and 3 at a time. Laces came out of each button. The lids were made of white cotton, in which there were threads of different colors - the so-called "worms". - In addition to these antics, they had different shapes on the lids. Those that looked like KGL's infantry, the so-called "squareended", those that ended in points "pointed" and the bastion-shaped, "bastionloops" or "flowerpot". The lids were the same length at the top as at the bottom. The short laps had white flaps, except for the 52nd which had buffalo leather colored facings, hence buffalo leather colored lap flaps. The lap flaps were studded with lace in the regimental pattern.

The same pattern was also on the shoulder flaps and sleeve cuffs as well as the collar. In addition, it was also in the triangle at the 2 waist buttons on the back. The flank companies carried wings - and the battalion companies

wore shoulder straps with white short woolen fringes.



*43rd Monmouthshire Light Infantry 1807* By  
Chr. Würgler Hansen.

The officers' dress was scarlet and double-breasted with a collar and insignia in the color of the regiment. The color of the buttons was either silver or gold - depending on the regulations of the regiment. Also long lapels with white insignia (except in the 52nd) The officers wore no badges, only gold or silver embroidered buttonholes on collar and insignia.

**The trousers** were white over-trousers, and when these were not used, they were satisfied with white tight-fitting "breeches" that reached just below the knee, from where the rest of the leg was covered by a kind of black gaiters "gaiters" or "leggings".

The officers also had breeches and instead of leggings, black Hessian boots with silver or gold trim and tassels were used. The officers occasionally wore light blue trousers.

**The headgear** of crew and non-commissioned officers consisted of the so-called "Stovepipe chakot", which was cylindrical - 18 cm. in diameter - 20 cm. tall and fitted with a rounded black leather shade that protruded 6.5 cm. out. The chakot itself was black and from approx. 1800 made of leather, but in 1807 the same model made of felt was used. In front was a brass sign with a crown above and the British lion below, between which sat the royal initials surrounded by the hose band, decorated on both sides with banners and trophies. At the top center sat a black leather cockade with a regimental button in the middle. Behind this was a plinth bearing a red/white stud. The lower third was red and the upper 2/3 white and this was common to all the battalion companies. "Rifle" and "Light Infantry" wore no brass plate - but a horn on a string and in addition the chakot was provided with a green stud, the grenadier companies wore an all white stud in the same

chakot; it was only in England that they wore bearskin hats - never abroad.

The officers used the "Bicorne", this seems to be the case only with grenadier and battalion officers, whereas it appears that the officers in the. light companies bar chakot. The bicorn had gold or silver tassels at both ends and plumes in colors that matched those of the crew.

Lance Corporal                      1 angle of the regimental border

Corporal                                2 angles of the regimental fart

Sergeant                                3 angles completely in white  
*Just like the others suffer*

Sergeant Major and 4 angles in silver or gold  
Quartermaster Sergeant    *Just like the others suffer*

**The insignia** followed the "Dress Regulations" of 1802, which ordered the angles to be worn on the right upper arm, placed on a piece of cloth in facing colour.

The sergeants wore red **sashes** around their waists and a stripe in the regimental color ran in the middle third.

The officers all wore a red sash. A major wore 1 star on the epaulet, a lieutenant colonel 1st crown - and a colonel 1 crown and 1 star.



*79th Foot, Officer*

**Leather clothing:** Tornyster, bread bag and field bottle as KGL

**Foot Guards:** The officers wore dress of a different cut to that of the men. The officers did not have ornate buttonholes, only metal lids as edging. Corporals wore white chevrons and sergeants and above gold chevrons. The sergeant's sash was blue, white and red.

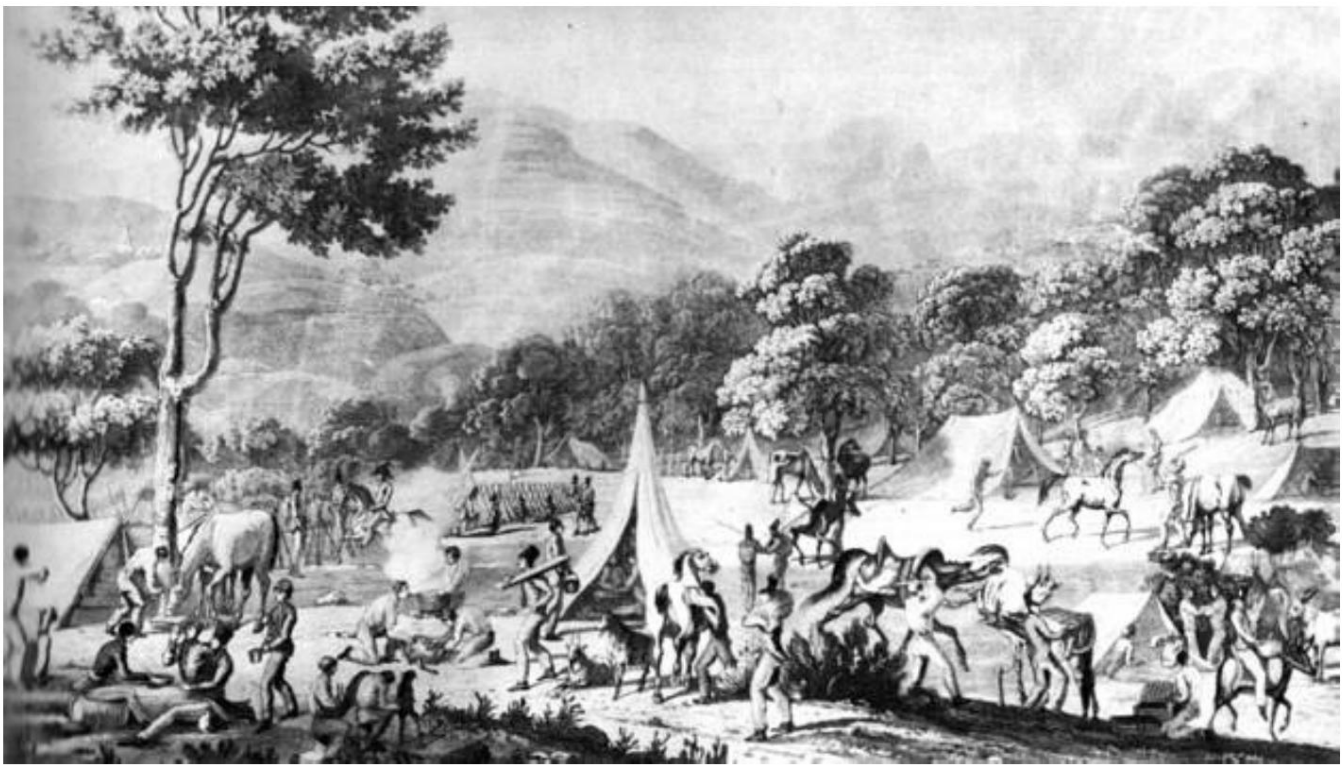
**The fusiliers:** All from the 7th and 23rd wore wings and white stud or feather bush. Field officers wore both wings and epaulettes. By the 23rd the crew wore "bastion loops" and the officers "squareended loops". All sergeants carried non-commissioned officers' sidearms, short guns.

**Light infantry:** None wore epaulettes. All the officers from the 43rd and 52nd wore chakot. All wore wings and green studs. No brass plate on the chakot only horn with band. All sergeants carried rifles.

**Highlanders:** The crew wore skirts, without sporran. The officers wore light blue trousers. Fiddlers and musicians wore "reversed colors" in their studs.

**The rifles:** Wore green uniforms against green trousers. White chevrons on. black cloth, and the sergeants had I black central stripe in the red sash.

**The artillery** was armed and uniformed like the KGL - only with the difference that the English used the Stove-Pipe Chakot and had white lapels.



Camp life

### For any further information:

1. J. Freiherr von Reitzenstein (Ed.): *Übersicht der Geschichte der Hannoverschen Armee von 1617 bis 1866*. 1903. Von einem Hannoverschen Jäger, Hauptmann Schütz von Brandis
2. Im Auftrage des Historischen Verein für Niedersachsen als Manuskript..
3. MikeChappell: *The King's German Legion (1) 1803BB1812*. 2000. Osprey Publishing, ISBN 1-85532-996-4.
4. Otto von Pivka & Michael Roffe: *The King's German Legion*, (Men-at-Arms 42), 1974; ISBN: 9780850451924
5. Stuart Reid & Graham Turner: *British Redcoats 1793-1815*. (Warrior 20). Osprey Publishing. 1997. ISBN: 9781855325562
6. Bryan Fosten: *Wellington's Infantry (2)* (Men-at-Arms 119) 1992; Osprey Publishing. ISBN: 9780850454192
7. Philip Haythornthwaite & Christa Hook: *British Rifleman 1797-1815*, (Warrior 47). Osprey Publishing. 2002; ISBN: 9781841761770
8. Philip Haythornthwaite & Richard Hook: *British Cavalryman 1792-1815*. (Warrior 8). Osprey Publishing. 1994. ISBN 1-85532-364-8
9. Martin Windrow & Gerry Embleton: *Military Dress of The Peninsular War*. Ian Allen Ltd. 1974. ISBN 0-7110-0509-3

(An excellent book with excellent illustrations by Embleton and excellent pictures of original equipment. As well as the English uniforms which are equally suitable for 1807 for both the English and the Kings German Legion - of course you also get French , Spanish and Portuguese uniforms included in the purchase. Antique it can be found for around DKK 200.)

10. [http://www.napoleonguide.com/infantry\\_ukcol1.htm](http://www.napoleonguide.com/infantry_ukcol1.htm)