Smoothbore Ordnance Journal
www.napoleon-series.org

Issue 3(12)
Saxon Foot Artillery Uniforms (1810-15)

by
Gerard Cronin

With the advent of 1810 a far more practical uniform was adopted culminating in the appearance of the French M1810 shako and the closer cut *habit veste*. The hair was now cut short for all ranks.

Saxon Foot Artilleryman, 1813
(After Knotel)

Foot Artillery Gunner (1810-15)

HEADWEAR: The M1810 French style leather bound felt shako, brass rhombic plate white national cockade with gold lace festooned with madder red cords and flounders topped with a tall madder red plume. An oil-skin cover was worn on campaign topped with a red pompom.

TUNIC: Medium-green coat with poppy red lapels, collars and cuffs with brass buttons on lapels and cuffs. Poppy red piping to the green turnbacks and pointed shoulder straps. White linen shirt with black cloth stock.

BREECHES: Dark grey canvas overalls with red arrow heads on the front and red side stripes tucked into short black gaiters. White breeches were worn on parade.

GREATCOAT: Grey greatcoat.

EQUIPMENT: Buff belts. . Brown calfskin pack with white leather straps brass buckles surmounted by the grey overcoat.

SIDE-ARMS: Artillery pattern briquette in brown leather scabbard with brass fittings.

DISTINCTIONS: NCOs had plain brass band around the top of the shako and black tipped white plumes.

Foot Artillery Officers, 1811

Foot Artillery Officers (1810-15)

HEADWEAR: Superior quality M1810 French style shako with gilt edging round the top with the addition of an inverted coronet band surmounted on the royal coat of arms again in gilded brass. A brass fitting held the tall red plume. White cords.

TUNIC: Superior quality medium green long tailed jacket with poppy red collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. Gilded brass gorge bearing the armorial arms of Saxony. White gloves were worn on parade.

DISTINCTIONS:

- *Oberst* [Two fringed epaulettes with gold crescents],
- *Oberst-Lt* [Two Gold buttons with silver crescents].
- *Major/Captain* [Plain fringed and contra epaulette]
- *First Lieutenant* [Plain fringed and contra epaulette with straight carmine lace.]
- *Second Lieutenant* [Plain fringed and contra epaulette with zigzag lace]

BREECHES: White breeches were worn with the calf-length black books or fine linen trouser in summer. On campaign, dark grey overalls with gold distinctions were worn.

FOOTWEAR: Calf-length black boots.

EQUIPMENT: Buff leather waist-belt and cross-belt as the enlisted men.

SIDE-ARM: Straight bladed epee.

Artificers (1810-15)

HEADWEAR: Black shako.

TUNIC: Green coat with poppy red braid on cuffs, lapels and tall standing collar. White linen shirt with black cloth stock.

BREECHES: Buff breeches and black gaiters.

EQUIPMENT: Buff leather cross-belts with black cartridge box.

Artillery Train Uniform (1810-15)

In 1810, the artillery train battalion had 330 men and 134 horses consisted of 1 *Kapitän,* 1 Lieutenant, 1 quartermaster, 16 sergeants, 24 corporals, 2 trumpeters and 100.

Artillery Train Uniform (1810-15)

HEADWEAR: Plain M1810 French style black shako with brass chin scales and rhombic plate. On parade, the white pompom, tall white plume and thick white cords were attacked. Commonly the black oilskin cover was used on campaign.

TUNIC: Sky blue *habit-veste* coats with black cuffs, collar and turnbacks trimmed poppy red. Sky blue shoulder straps and white metal buttons.

DISTINCTIONS: NCOs had a solid upper silver band on their shako with a white plume tipped black. A brown cane tipped in silver with a cord was carried and double half-chevrons upon the sleeve of their tunic. Trumpeters had red shako with white leatherwork and white plume.

BREECHES: White breeches in summer or parade and grey trousers for winter. On campaign, the dark grey overalls tucked into calf length black Hussar boots trimmed with white lace and the distinctive poppy arrow head embroidery was again a favourite dress. Blue overalls with black leather reinforcement were worn by 1815.

FOOTWEAR: Black knee boots.

EQUIPMENT: White leather shoulder belts.

SIDE-ARMS: Steel sabre scabbard.

Saxon Train Soldier, 1813
(After Knotel)

Artillery Train Officer (1810-15)

HEADWEAR: Black shako with white pompom, cords and tall plume. Gilt chin-scales and shako plate.

TUNIC: Sky blue *habit-veste* with black rounded cuffs and collars edged poppy red. Light blue turnbacks edged poppy red.

DISTINCTIONS: Silver bullion epaulettes.

BREECHES: White breeches.

FOOTWEAR: Black boots with white tassel.

SIDE-ARM: White sword-knot. Gilt sabre with black scabbard.

EQUIPMENT: White waist-belt with brass plate bearing coat of arms. White shoulder-belt with gold fittings.

HORSE-FURNITURE: The light blue shabraque had a black border and white wolf's teeth.

Saxon Train Officer, 1813 (Knotel)

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Marcus Stein and NGA Archive for permission to use the illustrations.

Reference As:

Cronin G & Summerfield S. (Mar 2011) "Saxon Foot Artillery Uniforms (1810-15)," *Smoothbore Ordnance Journal,* **3**(12).

References

Angelelli J and Pigeard A. (2002) *La Confederation du Rhin,* Editions Quator Limited Edition, Paris

Cronin G. and Summerfield S. (Dec 2010) "Saxon Horse Artillery 1810-15," *Smoothbore Ordnance Journal,* **2**(09)

Elting J R (2000) *Napoleonic Uniforms,* Volume III, Emperor's Press

Kretschmar, A.(1876) *Geschichte der Kurfurstlich und Königlich Sachsischen Feld-Artillerie von 1620-1820*, Vol I, Mittler

Summerfield S. (2009) *Saxon Artillery 1733-1827,* Partizan Press, Nottingham