

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume II

The Baden Contingent – Chapter 7 Part Ia

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CHAPTER VII

THE UNIFORMS OF THE BADEN TROOPS FROM 1806 TO 1813

(KNÖTEL, "*Uniformenkunde*" and "*Handbuch*".)

The dress of the Baden army was almost always inspired by those of the Prussian army. During the time of the Confederation of the Rhine, however, the French influence was felt in a particular way and our allies in the Grand Duchy borrowed a number of our equipment models: epaulettes, aiguillettes, shakos, hats, etc. .

I. -- Infantry.

The old uniform of the infantry was modified in 1803; the dark blue coat received a new cut, and its lapels, of different colors according to the regiments, descended from there to the waist; the officers wore the sash over their coat; this sash, made of silver, was mixed with red and yellow; the gorget continued to be the insignia of service.

The queue disappeared in 1806, as well as the short-barreled fusil of the non-commissioned officers.

The grenadiers of the Guard took on 21 October 1806 the dark blue coat, with tails a little longer than in the past; the collar, the facings and the lining were red and the patches of the facings were dark blue; Brandenburgs in white lace decorated the front of the coat, and cord of the same braid, on the patches; white aiguillettes were attached to the right shoulder; the breeches were white, the gaiters were black; the furred bonnet, with a white metal plate, was decorated with a cord mixed with white, red and yellow, and a red feather with a white crown.

The infantry of the line took on a little later the dark blue dress with the patches of the facing of the same color; the collar, the cuffs, the shoulders and the turn backs became indistinctly red for all the regiments; the white buttons were arranged in two rows; the breeches were white, tucked in short black gaiters. As a head covering, the troops received a kind of black chenille helmet with yellow trim: the exception being the Life Corps regiment wore a helmet with a white metal trim, as well as white stripes on the collar and on the facing patches.

The officers adopted the epaulettes in the French style in 1807.

In the spring of 1813 the shako replaced the old chenille helmet, so dear to the Confederation contingents; at the same time, the regiments of infantry each took on a special color for the distinctive parts (collar and facings) of their coat: these colors were white, pink, yellow and sky blue; the turn backs, as well as the piping of the shoulders, were uniformly red for the four regiments; two had white buttons, and the other two had yellow buttons; the shako was trimmed at its upper edge with a strip of the color of the buttons.

Foot jäger (light infantry) had dark green dress with black collar and cuffs, French green epaulets and white buttons; their helmet, trimmed with copper, wore a chenille and a plume of green color; their gray breeches were clasped in short black gaiters; like the infantry regiments, they abandoned the chenille helmet for shako at the beginning of 1813; their epaulettes also disappeared at that moment and were replaced by simple shoulders; the buttons turned yellow and facings red, as in the rest of Baden's infantry: but the equipment remained black, in opposition to that of

the infantry, which remained as white as before.

II. -- Cavalry.

Life Guards. -- In 1804, the Baden Guards had the white coat bordered with a red and white braid, with red collar, cuffs and lining; the red sabretache was similarly laced and bears the initials C. F. (Charles-Frederic) surmounted by a crown; the breeches and vest were white and the belt red. At the beginning of 1813, the Life Guards took the white habit doubled of red in two rows of six buttons, with buttonholes of white lace on the collar and the patches which were red; the white chenille helmet was decorated with a white metal trim adorned with the Star of Fidelity; the saddle-cloth, red in color, had a crowned C; the guard of the sword, for the officers as for the troop, was formed of an oval with the arms of Baden supported by the heraldic griffin.

Hussars. -- The hussars of the Margrave of Baden were, in 1802, only a small troop of escorts, with 50 horses; they had the green dolman with a red collar and cuffs edged with yellow, braids and buttons in yellow; the green pelisse edged with white fur with braids and buttons in yellow; the breeches of buckskin for ordinary dress, and of red cloth, braided with yellow, for full dress; the black felt mirliton with flame of the same color and green plume, the green sabretache with yellow initials intertwined C. F. surmounted by a crown; the officers, dressed for parade, wore the short green leather boot.

This body, bearing in 1806 the force of a regiment, preserved the colors of the preceding uniform: only the shako -- with a green plume for the troop, and a red-white for the officers -- took the place of the mirliton; a dark gray breeches trimmed with sheepskins, with piping and a double red band replaced, for the ordinary dress of the service, the red breeches with yellow bands of the full dress. This beautiful regiment was almost totally destroyed in the campaign against Russia in 1812.

Dragoons. -- In 1803, the Margrave Charles-Frederic of Baden was put in possession, by decision of the Council of Empire, of different territories until then owned by the Electorate of Bavaria; at the same time he received a whole squadron of Bavarian light-horse, which, in passing through the service of Baden, took the name of "squadron of light-dragoons"; this body, soon brought to the strength of a regiment, preserved in its uniform the characteristics of the Bavarian outfit: black chenille helmet with white plume and white metal trim bearing the inscription: *Grossherzoglich Badisches leichtes Dragoner Regiment* (the officers took this helmet in 1808); sky blue coat, with collar, reverse squared, cuffs and turn backs red; white buttons; sky blue trousers with red stripe, black sheep skin leather; white aiguillettes on the right shoulder and white equipment; in full dress, the breeches in high boots and, as decoration of the cartridge pouch, the Star of Fidelity.

In the spring of 1813, a second regiment of dragoons was formed in the Grand Duchy to replace the hussar regiment annihilated in Russia. The uniform of this new corps presented some differences with that of the former light-dragon regiment, which became 1st Regiment of Dragoons. The helmet had a higher bomb and a more detached black caterpillar; its trim, in white metal, carried a copper C surmounted by a crown of the same metal. The sky-blue jacket-coat, with collar, returns and cuffs red, had two rows of yellow buttons; the aiguillettes were yellow, as well as the epaulettes of the officers: the latter of the French type; in full dress, white breeches tucked in the boot; in ordinary service dress, blue sky pants with broad red stripes, or dark gray leather trousers, with sky blue stripes. The red lapels had disappeared from the habit of the 1st Regiment, which preserved its white buttons, its white aiguillettes, its silver epaulettes for the officers, and the old helmet of the light-dragoons.

Artillery. -- The Baden artillery uniform consisted of a pair of breeches and a dark blue coat, with black collar and cuffs, and a red lining. The hat, worn until 1806, was replaced by the chenille helmet with copper trim and white plume. At that time, the trousers had wide red bands. Yellow buttons. The cartridge pouch of the officer was decorated with Baden's arms framed between two heraldic griffins. Gold epaulettes of the French model for the officers, and shabracque in black sheepskin, edged with a yellow stripes in wolf teeth.

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