

The Napoleon Series

Flanqueur-Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard: 1813 - 1814

By [Paul Dawson](#)

Organisation

In 1813, faced with massive need for men to fill the ranks of the army, Napoleon decided to activate a second regiment of Flanqueurs, rather drawing the men from the same source as the Flanquer-Chasseurs, it was composed primarily of conscripts. On 28 December 1812, 6000 conscripts out of a levee of 300,000 were used to replenish the ranks of the Young Guard, which consisted of 14 battalions.

Rather than being a specialist light infantry regiment, it was just another collection of conscripts attached to the Grenadier Corps. The regiment was activated on 25 March 1813, with Leonard Desalons (1770-1830), Colonel of the 67eme regiment d'Infanterie Ligne being appointed as Colonel-Major on 6 April, the same day that he was appointed an Officer of the Legion d'Honneur. He was made a Baron of the Empire on 16 August 1813 for his conduct, and was wounded on 30 March 1814. The Chefs-de-Bataillon were Mirabel Magloire and Pierre Gavardie, the Capitaine-Adjutant-Major Anointe Faucon. Jean-Baptiste Everaerts was appointed Officer- Payeur and Marius Paull the Surgeon-Major.

We know very little about the officers and men of the regiment as the paper muster lists cannot be located in the French Army Archives. We do know a little about the officers and men awarded the Legion of Honour on 13 September 1813 from their service papers preserved in the Archives Nationales:¹

Sub-Lieutenants:

Louis Jean Marie Cyr Zenon Dicart

Paul Lafitte, born 28 December 1790. Conscripted to the 3rd Tirailleurs 29 March 1809, he was made corporal 6 April 1810, fourrier 24 June 1812, sergeant-major 23 February 1813. Passed with the same rank to the 8 Tirailleurs 1st April 1813, admitted to Flanqueur-Grenadiers with rank of sub-lieutenant 8 April 1813. Promoted lieutenant 13th January 1814. Wounded by a gunshot to the left leg on 13 February 1811 in Spain, wounded again by a gunshot to the left thigh at the battle of Dresden on 26 August 1813, and wounded for a third time in Paris on 30 March 1814 with another gunshot to the left leg. He was placed on half-pay on 30 August 1814.²

¹ État général de la Légion d'honneur, depuis son origine. p624.

² AN LH/1434/65

Fombaron

Jacques Litzler, was born 26 September 1787. Conscripted to the Fusilier-Grenadiers 21 February 1807, he was made corporal in the 1st Tirailleurs on 21 January 1809, with promotion to sergeant coming on 10 October 1809. Named adjutant-sub-officier 25 August 1812 and passed as sub-lieutenant to the Flanqueur-Grenadiers 8 April 1813. Promoted to Lieutenant 20th November 1813. Transferred to the 5th Regiment of Line 29 on July 1814. At Waterloo he was wounded with a gunshot to the shoulder. He was discharged from the army on 7 March 1817.³

Adjutant-Sub-Officers: Lamoruex, Castera,

Pierre Lavigne born 11 December 1790. Died 14 October 1861.⁴

Other ranks included Corporal Laganeux, privates Plessier, Guillaume, Martin, and Chachineau

Pierre Gavardie was born on 29 June 1771. He volunteered to fight for the Republic on 10 March 1792. Promoted to sergeant-major on 18 June 1792, promotion to sub-lieutenant quickly followed on 20th June 1792. Named lieutenant in the 51st Regiment of Line 19 February 1797, he was promoted to captain 3rd May 1806. Passed as Lieutenant in the Grenadiers-a-Pied of the Imperial Guard 1st May 1807. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on 16 February 1808 and Captain on 5 April 1809. Following the Russian Campaign he was promoted to Battalion Commander on 6 April 1813 in the Flanqueur-Grenadiers. Named Major a la Suite of the 5 Line 29 July 1814, he was placed on half pay from 16 October 1814. He was named Lieutenant-Colonel of the Legion of the Var 12th May 1816.⁵

In total, the Grenadier-Flanqueurs lost 7 officers (two died of wounds in hospital) and had 29 wounded, in combats at Leipzig, Eisenbach, Hanau, Epinal, Brienne, Montmirail, Chateau-Thierry, Craonne, Laon, and Paris.

When created, both regiments consisted two battalions of four companies, the organisation being as follows:

Regimental Staff

- 1 Major Commandant
- 2 chefs de bataillon
- 1 capitaine-adjutant-major
- 2 sous-lieutenants sous-adjutants-majors
- 1 sous lieutenant officer payeur
- 1 chirurgien major
- 1 sous aide

³ AN LH/1646/32

⁴ AN LH/1507/61

⁵ AN LH/1100/11

- 2 adjutants sous officier
- 1 vaguemestre
- 2 coporaux-tambour
- 1 chef de musique
- 8 musiciens
- 2 maitre armuriers
- 3 maitre-ouvriers

Company

- 1 capitaine
- 2 Lieutenants
- 2 Sous-Lieutenants
- 1 sergent-major
- 4 sergents
- 1 Fourier
- 8 corporaux
- 2 tambour
- 200 flanqueurs

This organisation was altered on 16 March 1813 when 4 sapeurs per battalion were added. The Regiment of Flanqueurs was further expanded to three battalions of six companies on 26 December 1813. This totalled 2,400 men, and there were 10 officers and 23 NCOs on the staff, for a total of 2,433 men. On 8 January 1814, in order to administer this expansion, a chef-de-bataillon, a lieutenant sous-adjutant-major, two adjutant sous-officers were appointed to the regimental staff. By a Royal decree of 12 May 1814, both Flanqueur Regiments were incorporated into the line.

Eight regiments of Tirailleurs were created on 23rd March, with the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th regiments of Tirailleur being raised on 6 April 1813, the 9th Tirailleurs being formed from all Pupilles aged 19 or over. The clothing for the Flanqueurs was included in the clothing purchases of the newly raised Tirailleur Regiments.

By creating large numbers of Young Guard formations and taking conscripts directly into them with minimal entry requirements, Napoleon sought to minimize his desertion problems. Napoleon recognized that by putting the label of Guard on his new conscripts and using the popular perception of what a Guardsman was and how a Guardsman behaved, he could hold these potentially reluctant recruits in the ranks. In reality, the elite status of the Guard was used simply to draw anyone who could carry a musket into the army.

The archive paper work for the regiment is very sparse, as it only existed for less than 18 months. The material that has been preserved in the French Army Archives is discussed below.

On 1 July 1813 the regiment was in the field in Germany. The regiment mustered 29 officers, 1,553 men and 36 horses. Of the other ranks, 186 were in hospital reducing the effective strength to 1,367.⁶ On 1 November 1813 the staff, headed by Colonel Desalons, mustered 9 officers and 12 NCO's, with 28 riding horses and 5 draught horses. The 1st Battalion was led by Mirabel, and mustered 12 officers, 98 other ranks, 4 riding horses and 4 draught horses. The battalion had 313 other ranks in hospital, 193 missing and 147 listed as POW. The 2nd Battalion headed by Gavardie mustered 12 officers, 85 other ranks, 4 riding horse and 4 draught horses. In addition, 1 officer and 329 men were in the hospital, 193 were listed as missing and 163 were listed as prisoners-of-war. In total the regiment mustered 34 officers and 1,520 men, but could only field 185 men under arms.⁷

By 1 January 1814 the regiment mustered 16 officers and 301 other ranks. A further 18 officers were on leave, 137 other ranks were in hospital and 10 other ranks were missing, making a total strength of 33 officers and 448 men formed into a single composite battalion.⁸ The putative 3rd Battalion of the Flanqueurs on 21 February 1814 mustered 1 officer and 33 other ranks.⁹ By the 6 March, the battalion mustered 8 officers and 437 men.¹⁰

On the 7 January 1814 General Drouot, titular head of the Imperial Guard, submitted the following report to the Emperor, recommending officers and NCOs be awarded decorations:¹¹ Those from the Regiment of Flanqueur-Grenadiers were:

Name	Rank	Decoration	Comments
Desalons	Colonel-Major	Iron Crown	23 years' service, 5 wounds, 2 of which were suffered in Italy
Mirabel	Battalion Commander	Iron Crown	22 years' service, 3 wounded, 1 received in Italy.
Gavardie	Battalion Commander	Iron Crown	22 years' service, 2 wounded, 1 rec
Faucon	Captain-Adjutant-Major	Officer of Legion of Honour	20 years' service, 1 wound
Fauvauge	Captain	Major in a regiment of Line	15 years' service, 2 wounds
Oussot	Captain	Officer of Legion of Honour	22 years' service, 3 wounds

⁶ AN AFIV 1173 Dossier 1813 Situation Rapport 1 Juillet 1813.

⁷ An AFIV 1173 Dossier 1813 Situation Rapport 1 Novembre 1813.

⁸ An AfIV 1172 Dossier 1814 Situation Rapport 1 Janvier 1814.

⁹ An AfIV 1172 Dossier 1814 Situation Rapport 21 Fervrier 1814.

¹⁰ An AfIV 1172 Dossier 1814 Situation Rapport 6 Mars 1814.

¹¹ An AFIV 1172 Dossier 1814. Garde Imperiale Regiment de Flanqueurs Grenadiers 6 Janvier 1814

Biche	Lieutenant	Member of the Legion of Honour	8 years' service, 1 wound
Desvignes	Sub-Lieutenant	Member of the Legion of Honour	8 years' service
Plateau	Sergeant-Major	Member of the Legion of Honour	8 years' service, 1 wound
Stalraefen	Lieutenant in 119 Line	Lieutenant in the Flanqueurs Grenadiers	8 years' service, 3 wounds

Uniforms

The uniform of the regiment is problematical. Two prints of the regiment show the uniform of the regiment.



Figure 1: Flanqueur-Grenadier from period artwork dated 1813.



Figure 2: Flanqueur-Grenadier by Martinet, published in 1813.

Both prints agree that the habit-veste was green with yellow piping, yellow collar and cuffs, and scarlet lining and facing to the tails. However, Knoetel, Boisselier and others like Andre Jouineaux¹² all ascribe either green or scarlet cuffs and collar. The basis for this assumption by Knoetel, and Jouineau is not given in their work. Clearly therefore, either the modern sources are incorrect, or the identification of the period iconography is incorrect for the Flanqueur-Grenadiers. The answer to this is archive research.

We know a great deal about the uniform of the regiment, as it is preserved in Box Xab 15 Habillement Grenadiers-à-Pied 1804 a 1814 at Chateau Vincennes, Paris. A commentary on the records is presented below, along with the items issued to the 8th through 13th Tirailleurs as these regiments were all equipped en masse from the same supplier.

For campaign use, the regiments were issued:¹³

- 512 marmites in tinned iron costing 8 francs 75 each
- 512 large bidons in tinned iron, costing 3 francs 90 each
- 1024 gamelles in tinned iron costing 2 francs 25
- 512 Sacs a Marmite at 1 franc 92 each

For equipment both the Tirailleur and Flanqueur-Grenadiers Regiments were issued haversacks of the Tirailleur pattern, which were presumably those of the Line and cost 9 francs 25. Also of Tirailleur pattern were the gibernes, which cost 5 francs 50. The giberne and sabre belt were not listed as any specific pattern, presumably those used by the Line. The musket sling with button was also Tirailleur pattern. For all regiments:¹⁴

- 3400 haversacks of Tirailleur pattern
- 7400 gibernes of Tirailleur
- 7400 giberne belts
- 7400 sabre belts
- 7400 musket slings
- 7400 stud for musket sling
- 216 drum carriages
- 216 waist belts
- 216 aprons

The drum sling was issued with a grenade plate and had the characteristic picque stitching of the Old Guard. The apron cost 8 francs, and the apron belt also boasted the picque stitching and cost 10 francs. Vernet-Lami's plate of a Flanqueur-Grenadier shows just the giberne belt being worn. Again the archive sources clearly show the

¹² Officers and Soldiers of the French Imperial Guard 1. The Foot Soldiers 1804-1815. Historie and Collections Paris 2002. Pages 37 - 39

¹³ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 13

¹⁴ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 10

regiment wore the sabre. This single belt has been copied by later artists such as Noirmont.



Figure 3: Late 19 century print of a Flanqueur-Grenadier. The regiment wore the sabre contrary to this depiction, which is based on a print by Vernet-Lami.

For the gibernes 13,400 covers were ordered from M. Duprouvillon costing 55 centimes each. Also from the same supplier were purchased 13,400 habit covers in coustil costing 1 franc 90 centimes.¹⁵

Foot wear wise, 8 pairs of boots for the drum-majors costing 30 francs were purchased, 36 pairs of boots for the adjutant-sub-officers costing 28 francs a pair and 24,000 pairs of shoes were purchased, each pair costing 6 francs. Two pairs per man were to be issued.¹⁶

For all seven regiments, a total of 72 items were purchased. Each regiment had 4 sapeurs per battalion plus a corporal sapeur, making 9 sapeurs in total. However, it seems each regiment had 10 sapeurs. The sapeurs were issued with gauntlets which cost 6 francs a pair, axe cases which cost 36 francs, a Grenadier pattern sabre belt with brass medusa head badge cost 15 francs. The apron cost 24 francs and the waist belt and plate a further 10 francs.¹⁷ 64 sapeurs axes were purchased, with the 8 corporal sapeurs not carrying an axe it seems.¹⁸ Old Madame Aubineau of 213 Rue

¹⁵ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 02

¹⁶ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 01

¹⁷ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 10

¹⁸ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 08

St Honore, Paris was contracted to supply the 72 bearskins needed for the sapeurs.
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Of the putative band of 8 men, this was never formed, and instead a single band for the 'Regiment de Tirailleurs et Flanqueurs' was created. Its clothing was shipped from Paris on 14 August 1813 and comprised:²⁰

- 25 Habits de musician
- 25 Pantalon de musician
- 25 capotes de musician
- 89cm gold lace 24mm wide
- 25 NCO sword knots
- 25 chapeau de musician
- 25 trefoils
- 25 plumes
- 25 waistbelts
- 25 epee's
- 25 pairs of boots

Clearly the band were all dressed alike. The fanciful reconstructions of the musicians uniform by Boeswilwald and Bucquoy are in error. Presumably the band wore blue habits. Regardless of Boeswilwald's later and fanciful reconstruction copied by Bucquoy, the band clearly wore chapeaus and not colpacks.

Buttons used by the regiment comprised eagle buttons large 'massif', small buttons 'massif' for the Habit-veste, and veste, and small buttons in copper for gaiters. The giberne was ornamented with an eagle in copper, which cost 60 centimes. A total of 13,400 giberne eagles were purchased.²¹

The battalion adjutants were equipped with epee's which cost 27 francs 50, of which 36 were purchases and canes that cost 10 francs, again 36 being purchases. The drum majors had sabres costing 48 francs and the mace cost 200 francs. Oddly 9 of these were bought for 7 regiments.²²

The drums were supplied by M. Bellanger, who was contracted to supply 192 drums and 192 pairs of drumsticks. Only part of this order was destined to the Flanqueurs.²³ Strangely some 216 Drum carriages and slings were purchased.²⁴

For the shakos, shako covers made from blackened oil cloth were issued.²⁵ Also associated with headdress were:²⁶

¹⁹ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 145

²⁰ SHDDt Xab 15 Exercice 14 Aout 1813

²¹ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 09

²² SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 09

²³ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 14

²⁴ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 10

²⁵ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 11

²⁶ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 05

36 plumes for adjutants costing 20 francs each
9 plumes for corporal drummers costing 20 francs each
72 scarlet plumes for sapeurs costing 4 francs 50 each

In terms of lace and other sundries under the heading of Passanteries, we find a few items for the Flanqueurs:²⁷

4 pairs Shako cords for Adjutant-Sub-Officer of Flanqueurs costing 70 francs
24 pairs shako cords for drummers of Flanqueurs costing 2 francs 25centimes each
1600 pairs of shako cords for Flanqueurs costing 2 francs 25centimes each
1600 pompoms for Flanqueurs costing 90 centimes.

Bought en masse for the 8th to the 13th Tirailleurs and the Flanqueurs were:²⁸

36 pairs epaulettes for Adjutant-Sub-Officer costing 70 francs
36 sword knots for Adjutant-Sub-Officer costing 20 francs
36 pairs epaulette straps for Adjutant-Sub-Officer costing 1 franc 50
469 sets of four gold embroidered badges for habit of NCO costing 3 francs 50 each
229 meters gold lace 24mm wide
82 meters gold lace 19mm wide
9 pairs of epaulettes for NCO's [Sergeant-Major] at 29 francs each
9 sword knots for NCO's [Sergeant-Major] costing 5 francs
72 bearskins cords for sapeurs costing 3 francs 50centimes
72 cocades for sapeurs bearskins, 18centimes each
72 sword knots of grenadiers for sapeurs, costing 1f 25
72 pairs grenadiers fringed epaulettes in scarlet wool costing 5 francs a pair
72 pairs of crossed axe badges for sapeurs habit at 8 francs a pair
643 garnitures for tail facings of sapeurs and corporals cut from cloth, costing 1 franc 25 per set of 4
513 meters of yellow wool lace 24mm wide
553 meters of scarlet wool lace 19mm wide
11,800 pompoms for Tirailleurs costing 90 centimes each
226 shako cords for drummers at 2 francs 25

Oddly, Bucquoy, Boisselier, and Jouineau give sapeurs a colpack, based on the very much post epoch source by Carl. The Carl Collection shows a sapeur with a colpack with scarlet cords, red bag laced yellow, yellow plume and scarlet over green pompom. Wurtz shows a sapeur with a bearskin. It is clear that bearskins were issued and had white cords and scarlet plume. All three reconstructions are based solely it seems on the Carl Collection, without any questioning of the source or archive research to verify the source. The Carl Collection is, it seems, fanciful interpretation by an artist decades after the regiment ceased to exist. These later illustrators also show the sapeurs axe case belt as being decorated with a medusa head, crossed axes and grenades. No

²⁷ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 16

²⁸ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 16

such devices were ever issued. Medusa heads were issued to ornament the sapeurs sabre belt. Reconstructions showing the sapeurs cross belts with numerous metal fittings are simply incorrect.

Boisselier in his images of the regiment, gives the drummers mixed red and gold lace to the habit. No such lace was ever purchased, and any lace to the drummer's habit if it was sewn on, was either gold or yellow.



Figure 4: Boeswilwalds incorrect depiction of the regiments sapeurs and drum major. The drummer and cornets uniform is fanciful, and seems to be an error also.



Figure 5: Boeswilwald's plate of the band, regimental adjutant and fourrier.

Furthermore, it is clear that only 9 sergeant-majors had the expected NCO type epaulettes. One sergeant-major per regiment had mixed red and gold epaulettes, and are likely to have been issued to a staff NCO. Many re-enactors and illustrators show NCO's with the gold and scarlet epaulettes and cap cords. What is clear is that these items were never used by the regiment nor by the 8th to the 13th Tirailleurs. Furthermore, cap cords for sergeants were not used by the Imperial Guard. The only bearskin cords used by the Grenadiers-à-Pied were white for drummers, sapeurs, privates, corporals, fourriers and sergeants, and scarlet and gold for sergeant-majors.²⁹ If the Old Guard did not have these items, then the Young Guard certainly would not.

What is also certain, that the attribution of traditional or expected items of the NCO uniform such as red and gold epaulettes to the Young Guard, at least in the 8th to 13th Tirailleurs is incorrect. It is also clear that only Flanqueurs had shako cords. All ranks had shoulder straps in either the Tirailleur or Flanqueur Regiments. The only men with scarlet epaulettes were the sapeurs. The drummers cords for the Flanqueurs were clearly different to those of the Tirailleur, as were the Flanqueur pompoms when compared to those of the Tirailleur. Of the 36 adjutants, only those of the Flanqueurs had shako cords.

Period prints do show the Flanqueurs having their own unique pompom but no shako cords, which is odd as they were ordered, made, and issued.

Contemporary prints show the Flanqueurs with yellow lace and tassels to the gaiters. Yellow lace was indeed purchased and may well have been used for this purpose, along with being used for rank and service stripes. However, no tassels were purchased to ornament the gaiters - assuming the paper work is not lost as with the purchase records for the shako's of the regiment.

For clothing, M. Durand-Bonnet was engaged to supply 'Gris-Beige' cloth for the capotes of the regiment. The cloth was 119cm wide and cost 10 francs 50 a meter.³⁰ A M. Dossou was engaged to provide numerous qualities of linen for interlinings and linings of clothing.³¹ For cloth, Mr Prestat of 15 Rue St Honore, Paris was engaged to provide cloth:³²

11,000 meters of blue wool cloth, dyed in the piece, same quality as the line used, for the habits of the Tirailleurs costing 13 francs 50 a meter.

85 meters of blue wool cloth dyed in the piece for habits and bonnet de police of Adjutant-Sub-Officers and Drum-Major's costing 28 francs 77 a meter

²⁹ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1 Mars 1811.

³⁰ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 18

³¹ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 03

³² SHDDT Xab 15 Exercise 1813 No. 08

3000 meters green wool cloth dyed in the piece for habits of Flanqueurs costing 20 francs a meter.

800 meters of white cloth for piping, for Tirailleur costing 11 francs 25 a meter

800 meters of scarlet cloth for piping, for Tirailleur costing 16 francs 50 a meter

24,000 meters white tricot for breeches and waistcoats costing 5 francs 9 a meter

5,900 meters black tricot for gaiters, costing 4 francs 93 a meter

9650 meters white cadis for lining waistcoats costing 1 franc 55 a meter

12,800 meters scarlet cadis for tailing lining and facings, costing 2 francs 70 a meter

720 meters green tricot for bonnets de police of Flanqueurs costing 6 francs a meter

352 meters of Chamois Fonce cloth for piping and facing of Flanqueurs costing 16 francs a meter.

From this it is clear that the Flanqueurs' uniforms were green with chamois facings. Chamois was also the facing colours for Voltigeurs in the Line, and is a distinct colour of a pale yellow/beige shade, as opposed to the yellow used by the Voltigeurs of the Guard.

The only scarlet cloth issued was for the tail facings and linings in milled serge. Therefore, Knoetel and Jouineau are wrong in ascribing green or scarlet facings. The regiments archive confirms what the period iconography shows, chamois collar and cuffs. Of Interest, the Tirailleur regiments formed in 1813 do not seem to have had scarlet collars or cuffs, as each man of these regiments had allocated a strip of scarlet cloth 29cm by 11cm, insufficient to make a collar or cuffs. So clearly uniform differences did exist between the first six Tirailleur regiments and the remainder. This difference has gone uncommented upon by all illustrators of the subject who, it seems wrongly, dress all 14 regiments of Tirailleur identically. It is possible the chamois collar and cuffs were piped green.

Also of comment is that the bonnet de police and sleeved waistcoat were made from tricot. The bonnet de police is highly likely to be made to the pokalem design as no tassels were purchased or issued, neither was any fine cording to decorate the flame of the a la dragon style.

For making up the cloth into garments the following tarrifs were set on the 7 April 1813:

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³³ SHDDT Xab 15 Releve de Tarrif 147 Avril 1813

Habit: 2 francs 75
Veste-Manche: 1 franc 30
Pantalon de Tricot: 1 franc 20
Bonnet de police: 40centimes
Capote: 1 franc 25
Guêtres noir: 72centimes
Guêtres grises: 75centimes
Pantalon de Toile: 60 centimes.

A M. Robert was ordered to supply 13,400 shirts in linen to the six regiments.³⁴

The paper work for the supply of grey gaiters and linen overalls has not survived, neither has the purchase accounts for shakos. However, a document from the 4th Quarter of 1813 does exist which orders en masse for the Young Guard dated 23rd August 1813:³⁵

33,000 pantalons in linen costing 3 francs 30 each
33,000 pairs gaiters in grey linen costing 2 francs 50 a pair
24,000 shirts at 4 francs 75 each
6,000 shirts at 4 francs 75 each
6,000 shirts at 4 francs 75 each
12,000 shirts at 4 francs 75 each
25,000 pairs of shoes in two sizes costing 6 francs a pair
20,000 pairs of shoes at 5 francs 75 a pair
18,000 pairs of shoes at 5 francs 75 a pair
10,000 pairs of shoes at 5 francs 75 a pair
18,000 pairs of black gaiters at 4 francs 75 a pair
15,000 pairs of black gaiters with copper buttons at 4 francs 75 a pair
24,000 giberne covers at 55 centimes each
9,000 giberne covers at 55 centimes each
24,000 habit covers at 1 franc 90 each
9,000 habit covers at 1 franc 90 each
24,000 shako covers at 1 franc 45 each
9,000 shako covers at 1 franc 45 each
24,000 black stocks at 1 franc 20 each
9,000 black stocks at 1 franc 20 each
24,000 haversacks at 8 francs 90 each
9,000 haversacks at 8 francs 90 each

Amongst the 1813 paper work, no records survive of purchase of habits, capotes, shakos. We can be sure however, that the men indeed had shakos as covers were purchased for them and some form of garment was worn on the upper body, be it a capote or habit and veste.

³⁴ SHDDT Xab 15 Exercice 1813 No. 12

³⁵ SHDDt Xab 15 Jeune Garde Exercice 1813 4e Trimestre

In 1814 when the Flanqueurs were disbanded the following items of equipment were deposited in the arsenal of the General Magazine in Paris from the regiments' depot:³⁶

Habits: 11
Gilet de troupe: 8
Pantalon de Tricot: 15
Bonnet de Police: 17
Capotes: 17
Shako, Sous-Officer: 4
Shako, Troupe: 2
Pompom: 15
Giberne: 2
Porte-Giberne : 1
Baudrier: 8
Musket sling: 15
Aigle de Giberne: 4
Sabre de Tambour-Maitre: 2
Epee d'Adjutant: 2
Adjutants Boots: 20
Shirts valued at 4 francs 75: 32
Black stocks valued at 1 franc 20: 2
Black gaiters valued at 4 francs 75: 18
Grey gaiters valued at 2 francs 20: 8
Shoes valued at 6 francs : 40
Shoes valued at 5 francs 75: 263
Haversacks valued at 8 francs 90: 5
Shako covers: 18
Giberne cover: 9
Habit cover: 13

Summary

From the preserved paperwork for the regiment, we see that the uniform of the Flanqueur-Grenadiers was very different to what many authors think it was. Given the regiments' brief existence, it is remarkable we can say so much about its clothing. Sapeurs wore the habit-veste of a flaqueur, but with red epaulettes, crossed axe arm badges, a bearskin with white cords and scarlet plume. They had the sabre belt and axe case with belt, devoid of any ornamentation bar a single head of medusa. Drummers had gold lace, but it seems had swallows nests on the shoulders rather than epaulettes. They had specific pattern shako cords, different than the flaqueurs who had red. The elaborate uniform of the band seems to be an error, as well as the sapeurs wearing colpacks. This demonstrates the importance of archive research to confirm or deny what past and present authors and illustrators tell us a uniform was. The uniform of the flaqueurs has been consistently shown wrongly by all artists which depict the regiment in prints and images produced after 1814. The regiment had chamois facings. From the Weiland Manuscript, we can see that the series shows a

³⁶ SHDDT Xab 15 Arrette de l'Habillement 1 Avril 1814

Flanqueur-Chasseur and not a Flanqueur-Grenadier in that the figure has green facings piped yellow.

Placed on the Napoleon Series: July 2016