



## THE AUSTRIAN ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WAR

The Austrians were the most consistent of all Napoleon's foes and were at war with the Republic, the Consulate and the Empire. Despite suffering catastrophic setbacks and defeats the Imperial forces proved remarkably resilient and proved capable of fielding large armies.

The Holy Roman Empire covered a large range of countries, so Germans, Czechs, Walloons, Poles, Croats, Serbs and Hungarians could all be found serving in what was effectively a multi-national army. The result was the *Kaiserlich und Kongliche Armee* (Imperial and Royal Army). The very disparate nature of this force created problems of inconsistency and headaches for command. As a result for much of the early period of the wars command was dictated from Vienna, resulting in a paralysis of operational command that a young Bonaparte was able to exploit to the full in North Italy.

The litany of defeats at the hands of the French tends to lead wargamers to dismiss the Austrians as a viable wargames army. This view is perhaps a little short-sighted, as the Austrians faced the French army at the height of its power, and coming second best to Napoleon at his peak is not a fair reflection on the qualities of KuK Armee.

On a purely practical note, the Austrians are very easy to paint, and look very smart indeed on the battlefield. In terms of best results for least effort, the Austrians hold all the cards!

### AUSTRIAN INFANTRY 1798-1815

A Line infantry regiment consisted of 3 battalions, each of 6 companies of 140 men. Each battalion theoretically numbered 1340, but campaign losses mean that this was rarely achieved and sustained.

The regimental grenadiers were normally separated and brigaded into composite grenadier battalions.

Each regiment had a Colonel in Chief, (*Inhaber*). While he was in charge, the regiment bore his name. This changed when he was replaced, resulting in a certain degree of difficulty in identifying regiments from OBs.

The uniform coat was of white cloth, single breasted with small, plain cuffs and turnbacks. German regiments wore white trousers and black gaiters. Hungarian regiments had pointed cuffs and wore light blue trousers with the outer seam piped in yellow and black braid. These were worn without gaiters and tucked into ankle boots. Waistcoats and equipment belts were white, cartridge box black and the rucksack of brown cowhide.

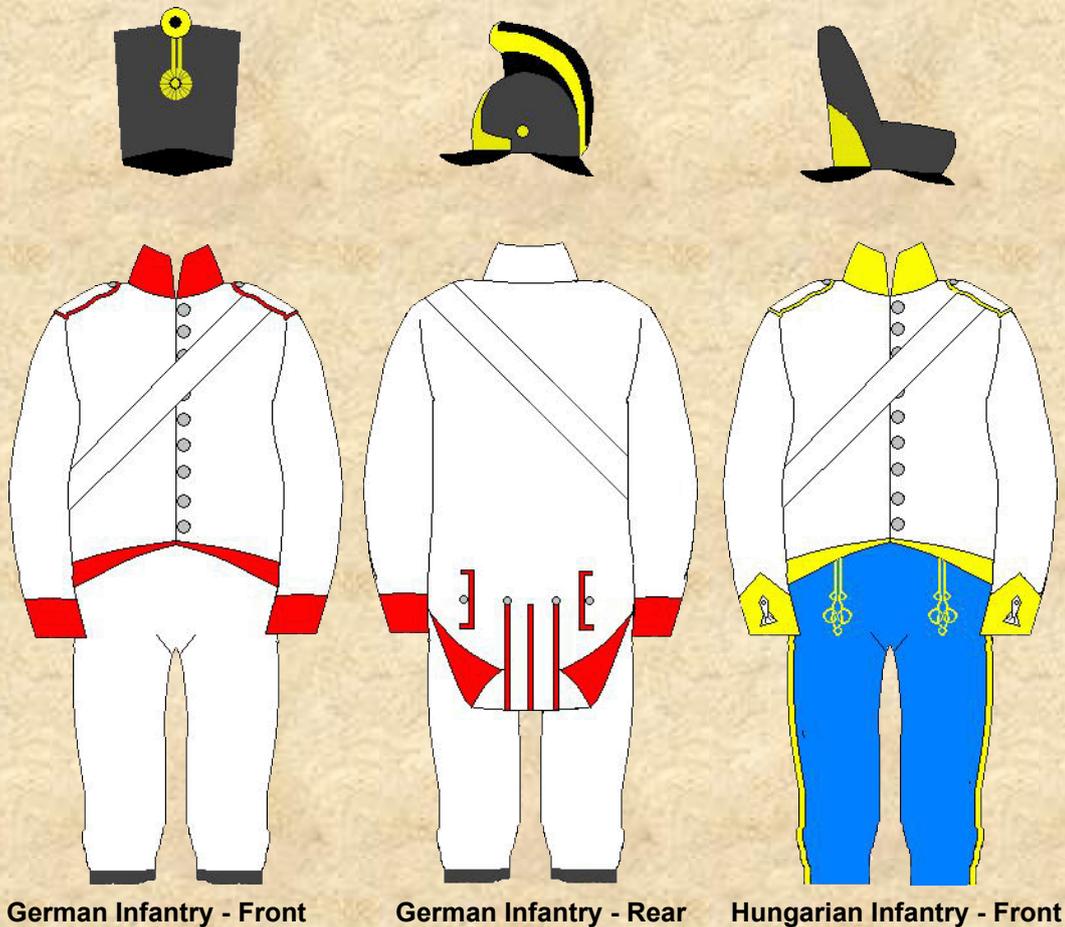
Regiments were distinguished by distinctive facing colours displayed on the turnbacks, cuffs, collars and edging to shoulder straps.

The crested helmet was introduced in 1798. It was officially replaced by a black shako in 1806, but continued to be worn in numbers until 1809. Hungarian regiments were issued with the shako in advance of the German units.



Officers normally wore a grey coat, ('uberrock') on campaign. A gold/black waist sash and a gold band on the shako were also distinctions of rank. Grenadiers wore the same uniform as their line counterparts , but replaced the helmet or shako with a distinctive black fur cap. The large front plate was of brass, while the cloth rear was normally of facing colour laced white. Drummers wore the same uniform with the distinctions of 'swallows nests' in regimental facing on the shoulders. Drums were brass with striped black and yellow drum hoops.

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



German Infantry - Front

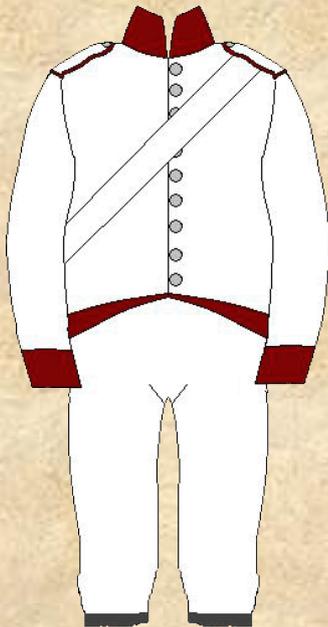
German Infantry - Rear

Hungarian Infantry - Front

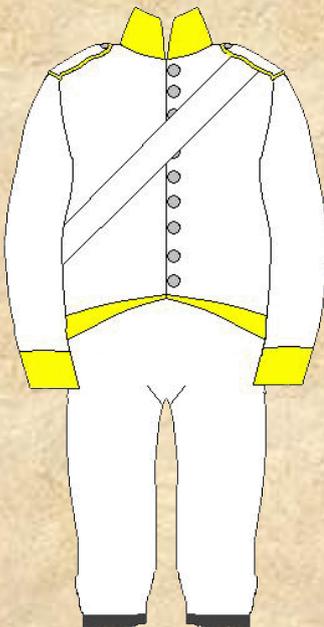
The above illustration shows the single breasted coat common to all Line Infantry. The Helmet was universal issue for all Line infantry from 1792 onwards but was progressively replaced from 1806 onwards. The Grenadier bonnet was also common to both German and Hungarian regiments.



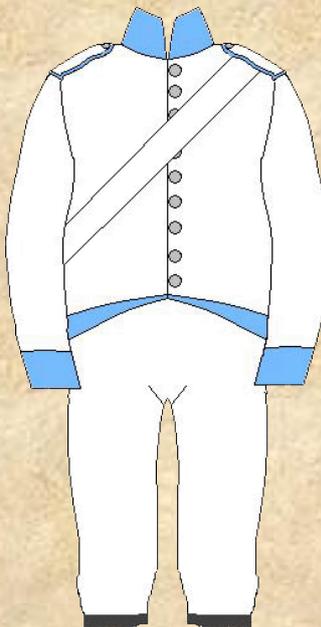
**AUSTRIAN 'GERMAN' INFANTRY 1798-1815**



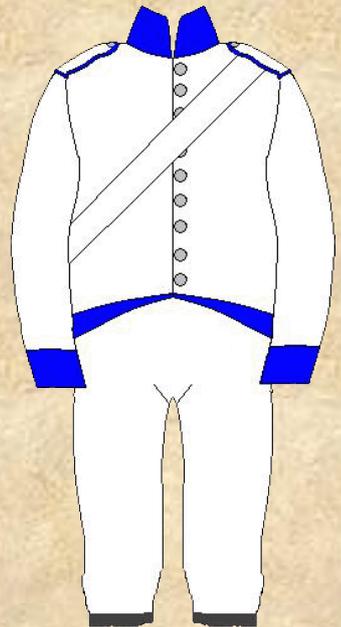
**Kaiser Franz  
Graf Stuart**



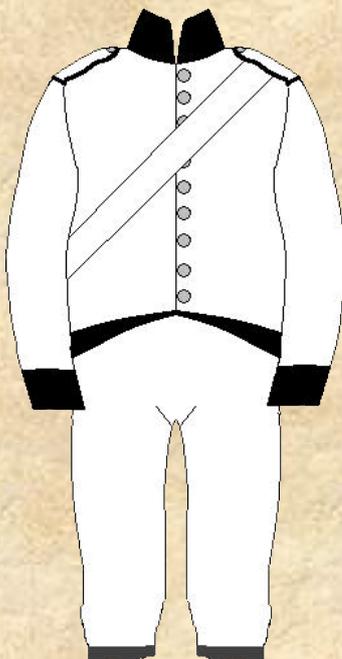
**Erzherzog Ferdinand  
Graf Lacy  
Graf Strassaldo  
FM Baron Bender  
Graf Thurn**



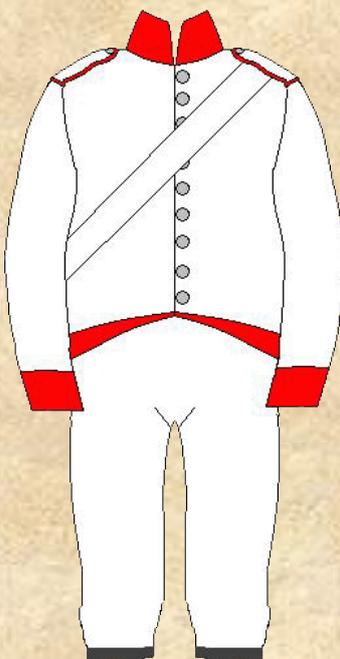
**Erzherzog Carl  
Hoch und Deutschmeister  
Alvincy  
Graf Oliver Wallis  
Graf Murray**



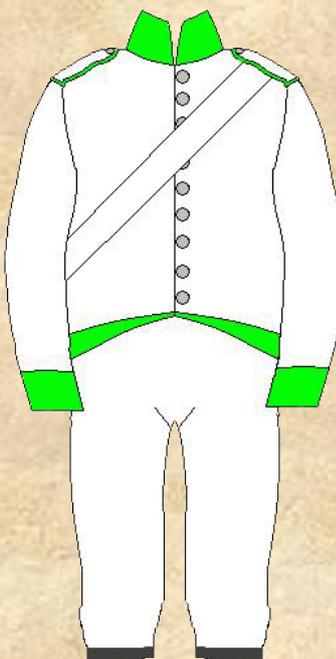
**1st Garrison Regiment  
Baron Preiss  
Baron Neugebauer  
Baron Schroeder**



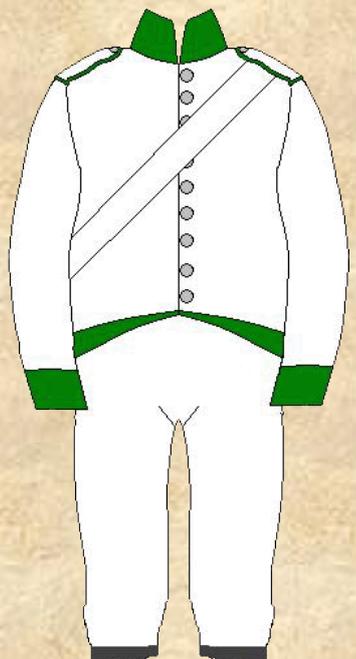
**2nd Garrison Regiment  
Oranian  
Walloon**



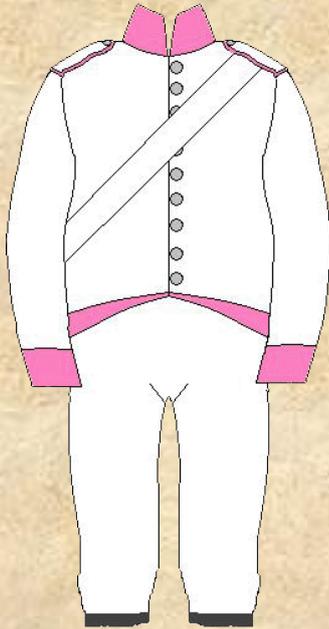
**Baron Huff  
Graf D'Alton  
Wenzel Kaunitz  
Grossherzog von Toscana  
Baron Wenkheim  
Graf Belgiojoso  
Baron Lattermann  
Graf Joseph Mittrowsky**



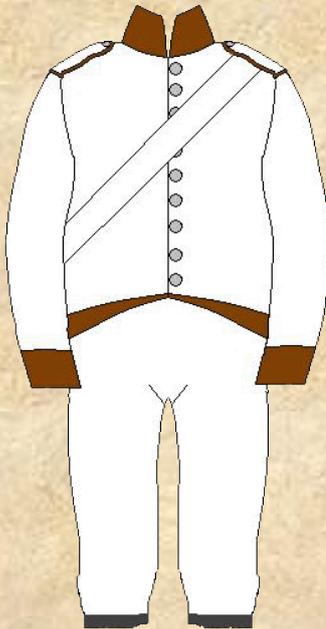
**Baron Kheul  
Reisky  
Hohenlohe-Bartenstein**



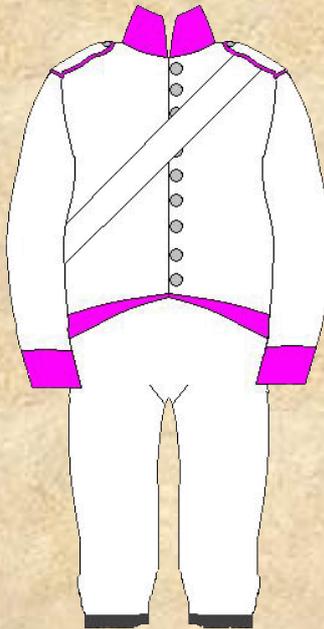
**Graf Clerfayt  
Graf Wartensleben  
Graf Callenberg**



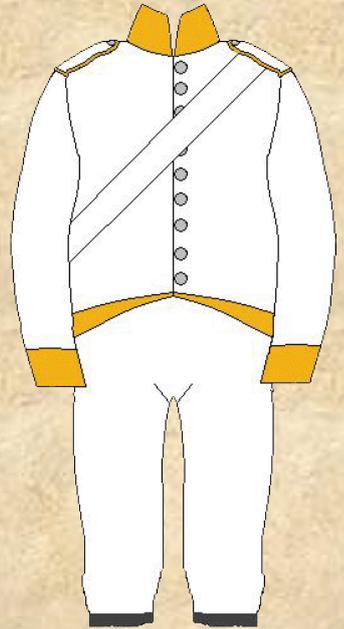
**Graf Michael Wallis**



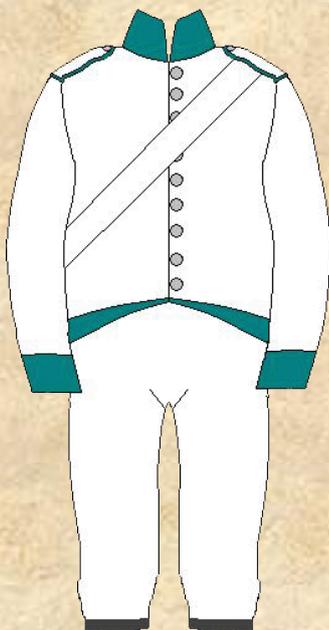
**Manfreddini**



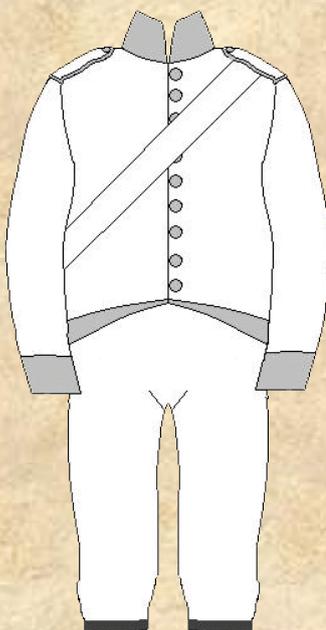
**Baron Terzi  
Graf Stain  
Graf Jose Colledo**



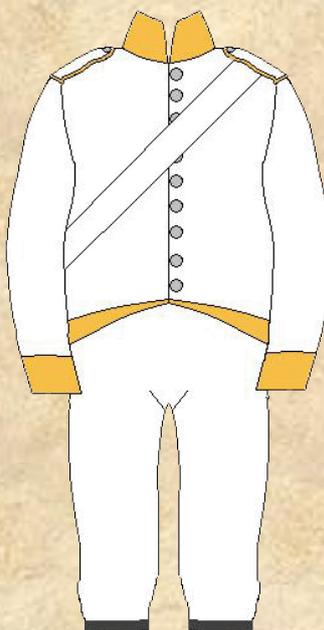
**Furst Wilhelm Hohenloe  
Erzherzog Joseph Franz**



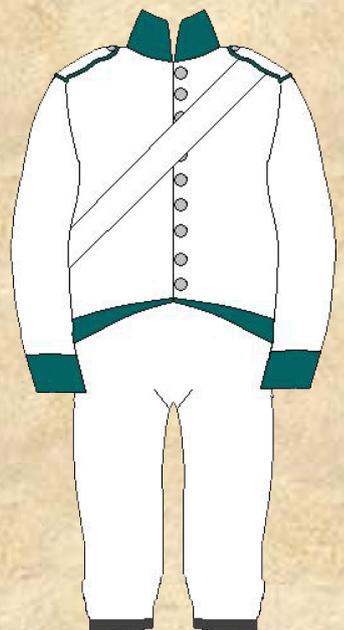
**Baron Gemmingen  
Graf Brechainville**



**Prinz de Ligne  
Graf Pelligrini**



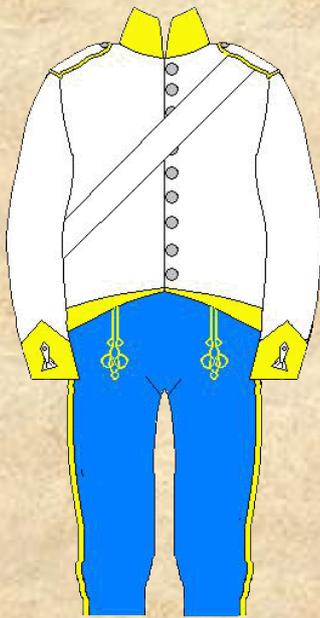
**Graf Erbach  
Jordis**



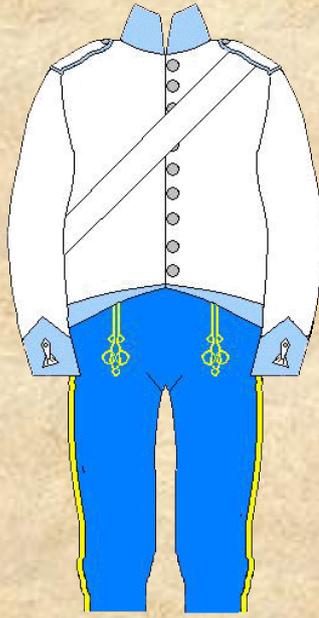
**Graf Franz Kinsky  
Graf Wenzel Colledo**



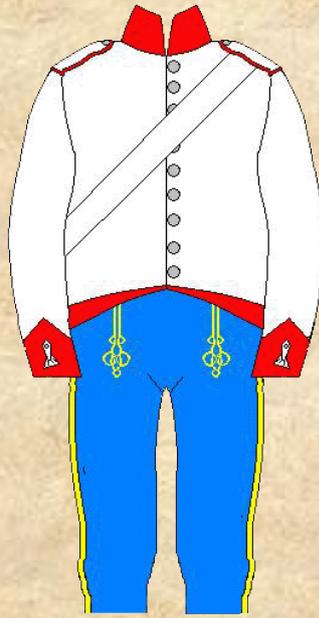
**AUSTRIAN 'HUNGARIAN' INFANTRY 1798-1815**



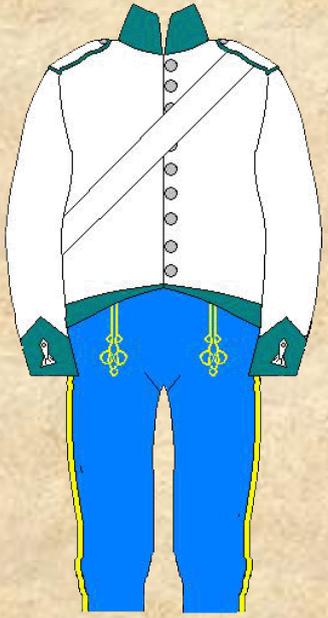
**Erzherzog Ferdinand  
Benjowsky**



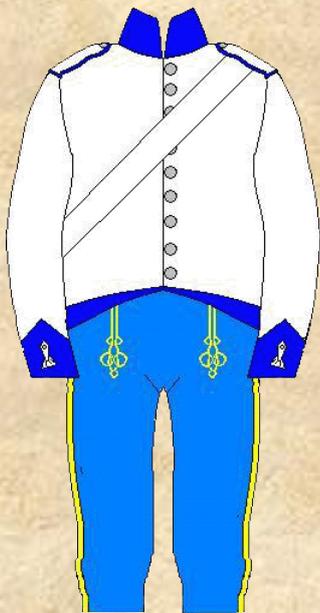
**Alvinczy  
Graf Sam.Gyulai**



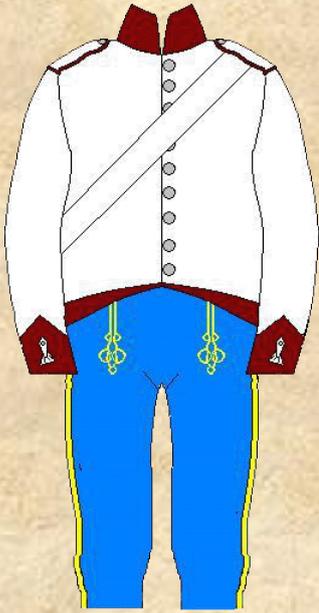
**Furst Anton Esterhazy  
Barond de Vins  
Thomas Nadasdy**



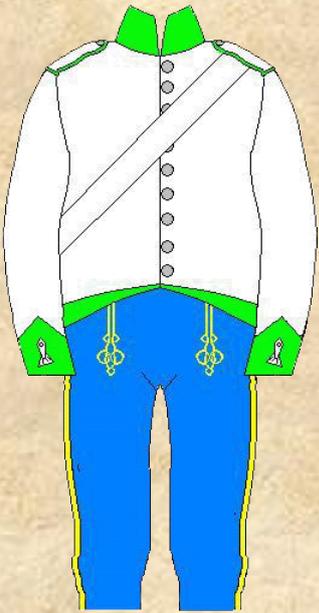
**Vokassovich  
Ignaz Gyulai**



**Graf Sztary  
Baron Splenyi**



**Erzherzog Anton Victor  
Johann Jellacic**

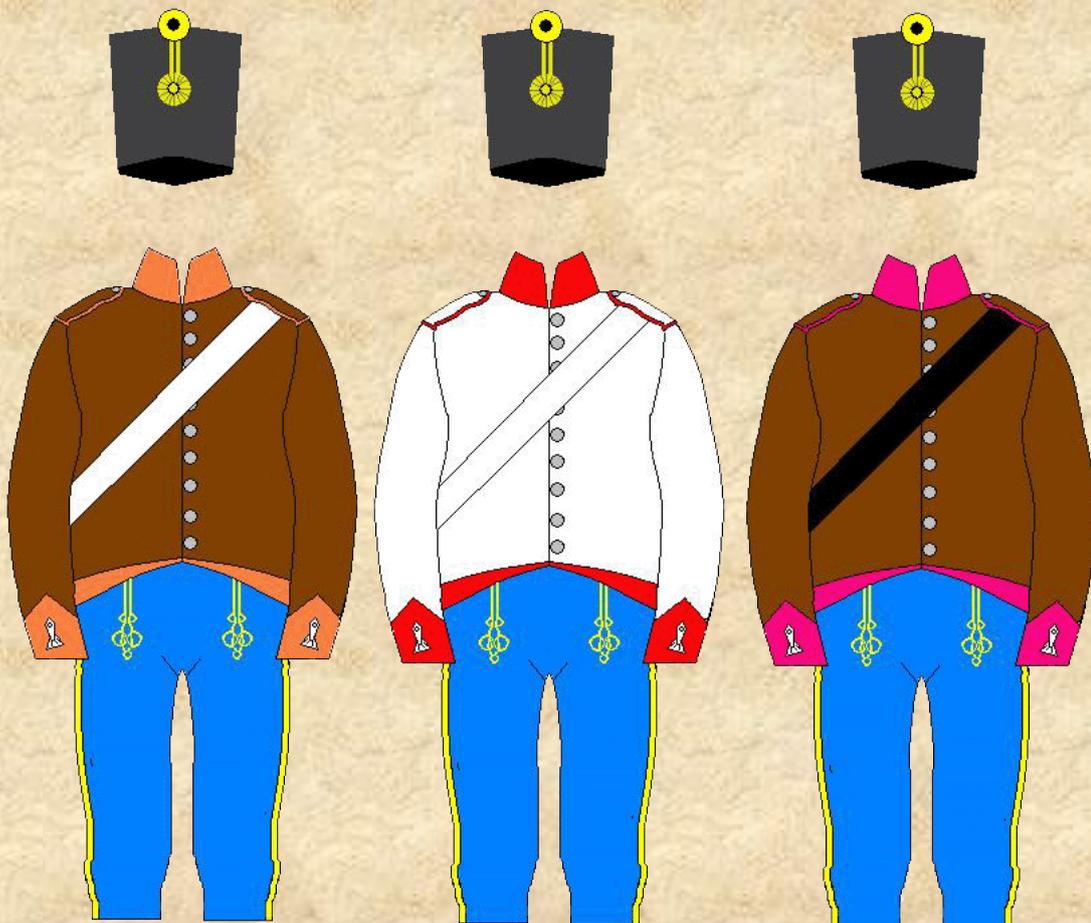


**St Julien  
Franz Jellacic**



## AUSTRIAN GRENZER 1798-1815

**Grenzers** (from the German *grenze* meaning border) were regiments raised along Austria's long border with the Ottoman Empire from Austria's Serb, Croat and Slovenian subjects and had many aspects of a local militia. In peacetime they helped defend the border against Turkish incursions and had an admirable reputation for marksmanship and good morale. Grenzers served under their own officers and were not paid troops, although they did have looting rights and the army provided their uniforms and weapons. Grenzer regiments had between two and four battalions that usually, though not always deployed together. Grenzers wore a colourful Hungarian style uniform, usually in brown with blue pants.



4th Grenzer Regt

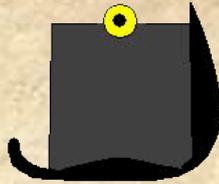
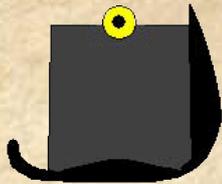
7th Grenzer Regt

14th Grenzer Regt



### AUSTRIAN JAEGERES 1798-1815

**Jaegers** (meaning 'hunter' in German, called chasseurs in some sources) were light infantry skirmishers raised in the Hereditary Lands, often from gamekeepers and foresters. They were considered part of the regular army establishment. Jaegers were organized in units of battalion strength. They wore grey uniforms with grey or white pants (the former being more prevalent) and green facings. They wore a wide brimmed hat called the korsehut (Corsican hat) though early period jaegers wore the typical Austrian infantry helmet.



**Jaegers**



**Chasseurs**

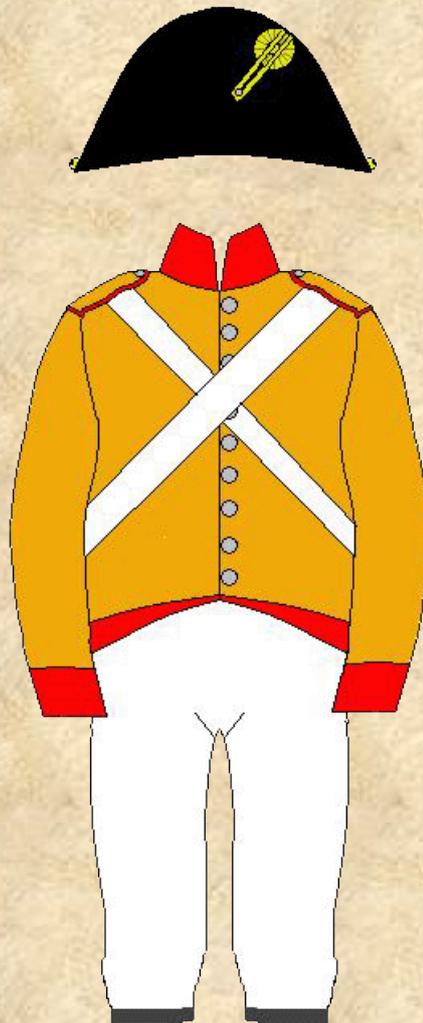


### **AUSTRIAN ARTILLERY 1798-1815**

The uniform was similar in cut to that of the Line Infantry. The coats were brown with red facings, showing at collar, cuffs, turnbacks and piping on the shoulder straps.

Headwear was the Korsehut, (a broad brimmed hat turned up on one side), and from 1805 onwards the bicorne as depicted.

Gun carriages and limbers were painted ochre yellow with black metalwork.





## AUSTRIAN KURASSIERS 1801-1815

In 1801, there were 8 regiments of Kurassiers. Actual strengths varied during the wars but in general, each regiments consisted of eight Squadrons, of companies of 130-150 men. Each regiment therefore theoretically numbered 1040 to 1200.

The coat was white with cuffs in regimental facing colour. Turnbacks were white edged with facing colour. Collars were white with a patch of the facing colour. Waistcoats and breeches were white, Boots were black. The helmet was black leather with a brass front plate topped by a crest of black over yellow.

The cuirass was worn on the front half of the body only. It was painted black and retained by a white leather waist strap.

Trumpeters did not wear the cuirass, and could replace the black and yellow helmet crest with a red version.

Officers wore similar uniforms to their men adding a gold/black waist sash as a mark of rank. Their cuirasses were edged with red velvet, has a brass edging and a downwards pointing brass arrowhead.

Shabraques were red edged with yellow, and were topped by a sheepskin edged in red. These were white for rank and file and black for officers.

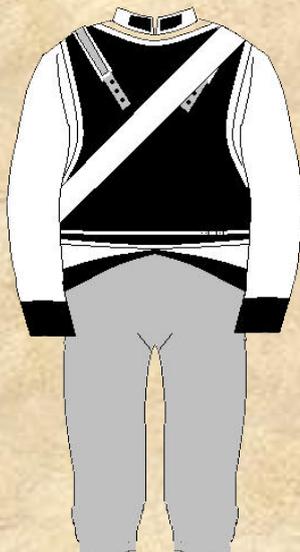


Trooper

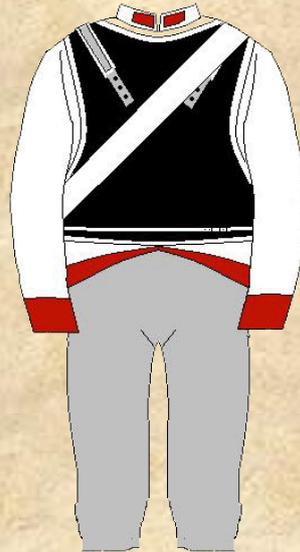
Officer



Kaiser Franz



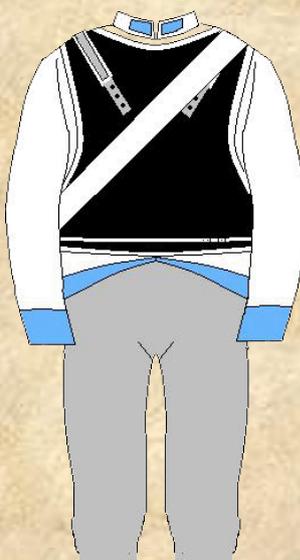
Erzherzog Franz Josef



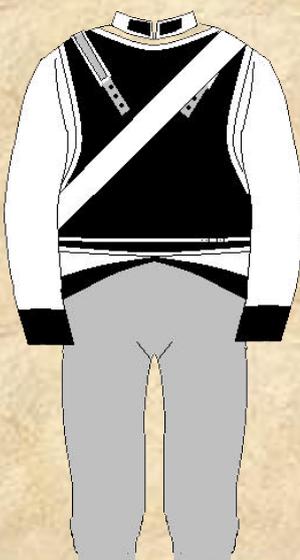
FM Herzog Albert zu



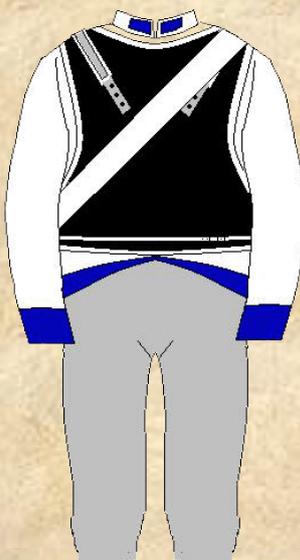
GM Kronprinz Erherzog



GdeC Hannibal Marquis



FML Graf Wallmoden-



GdeC Carl Eugen v



Grossfurst Constantin



### AUSTRIAN CHEVEAUXLEGERS 1801-1815

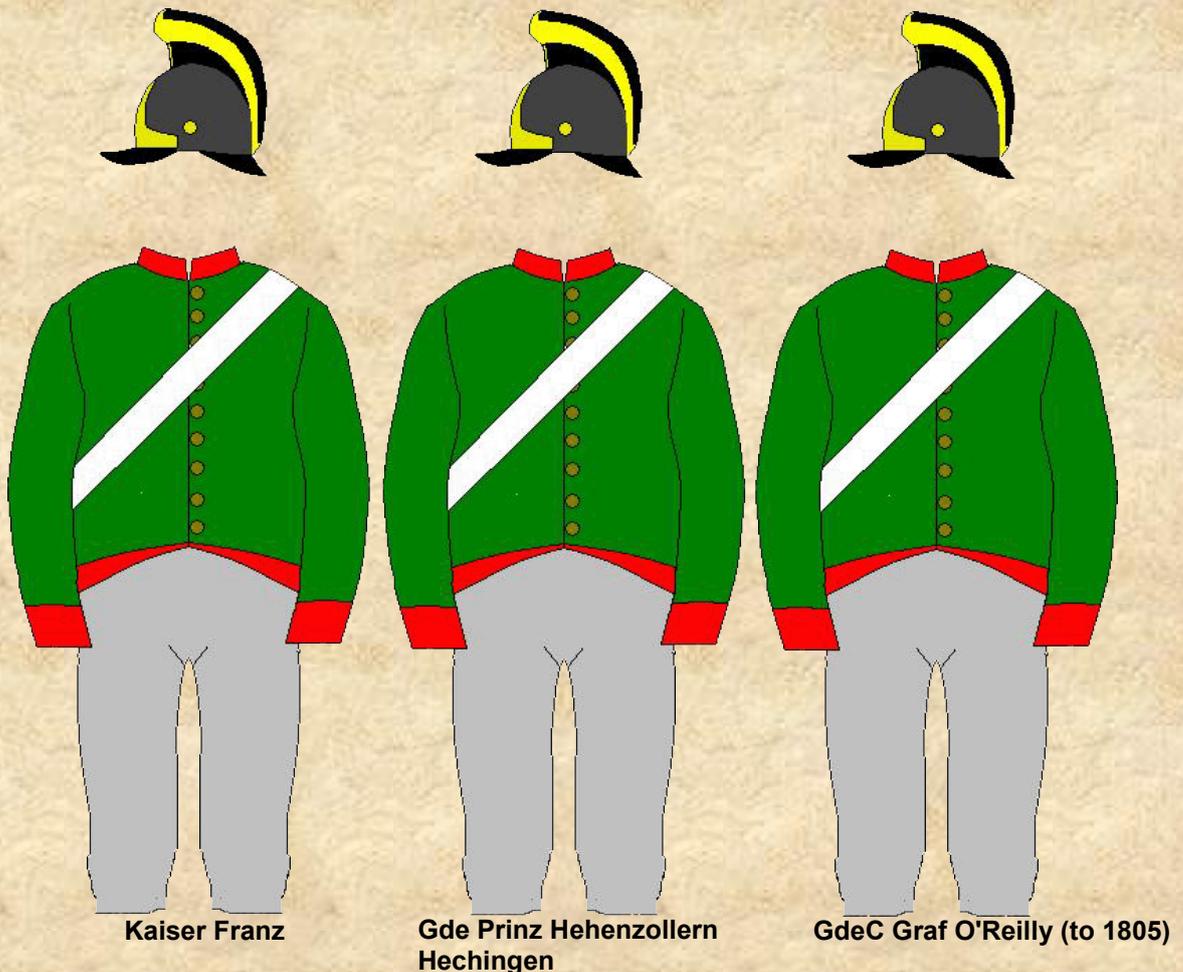
Cheveauxlegers operated as 'Medium' cavalry, and were clothed and equipped in similar style to the Dragoons. In 1801 there were 6 regiments,

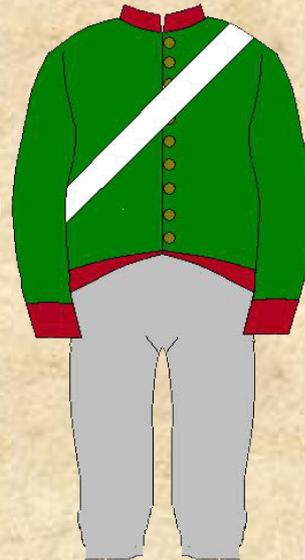
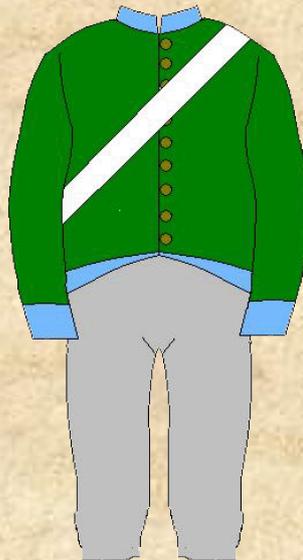
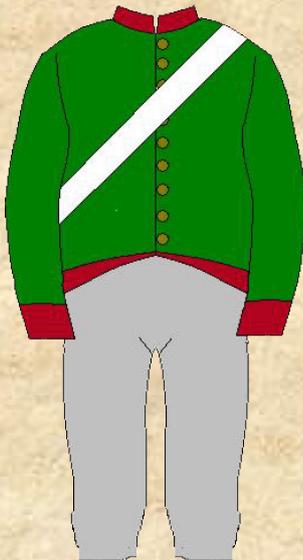
Coats were originally white, but were officially changed to green in 1801. In 1805 this was changed when the 3rd, 5th and 6th reverted to white.

Waistcoats and breeches were white and boots were black, although on campaign grey overalls were used. The helmet was black leather with a brass front plate topped by a crest of black over yellow.

Officers wore similar uniforms to their men adding a gold/black waist sash as a mark of rank.

Shabraques were red edged with yellow, and were topped by a sheepskin edged in red. These were white for rank and file and black for officers.

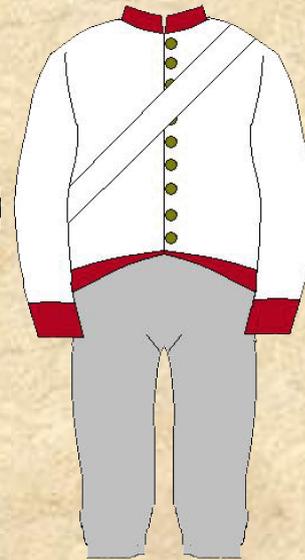
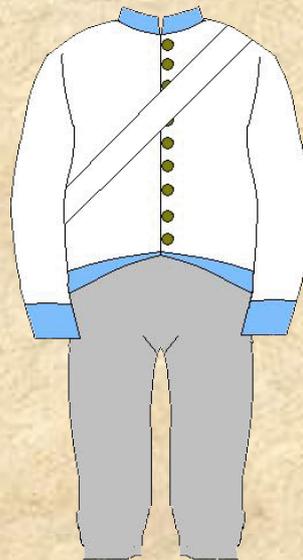
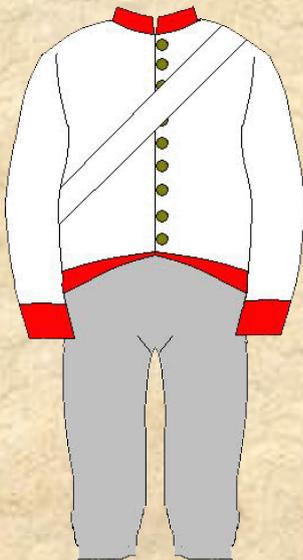




GdeC Baron Vincent

alt Klenan  
(to 1805)

GdeC Furst Rosenberg  
(to 1805)



GdeC Graf O'Reilly  
(from 1805)

alt Klenan  
(from 1805)

GdeC Furst Rosenberg  
(from 1805)



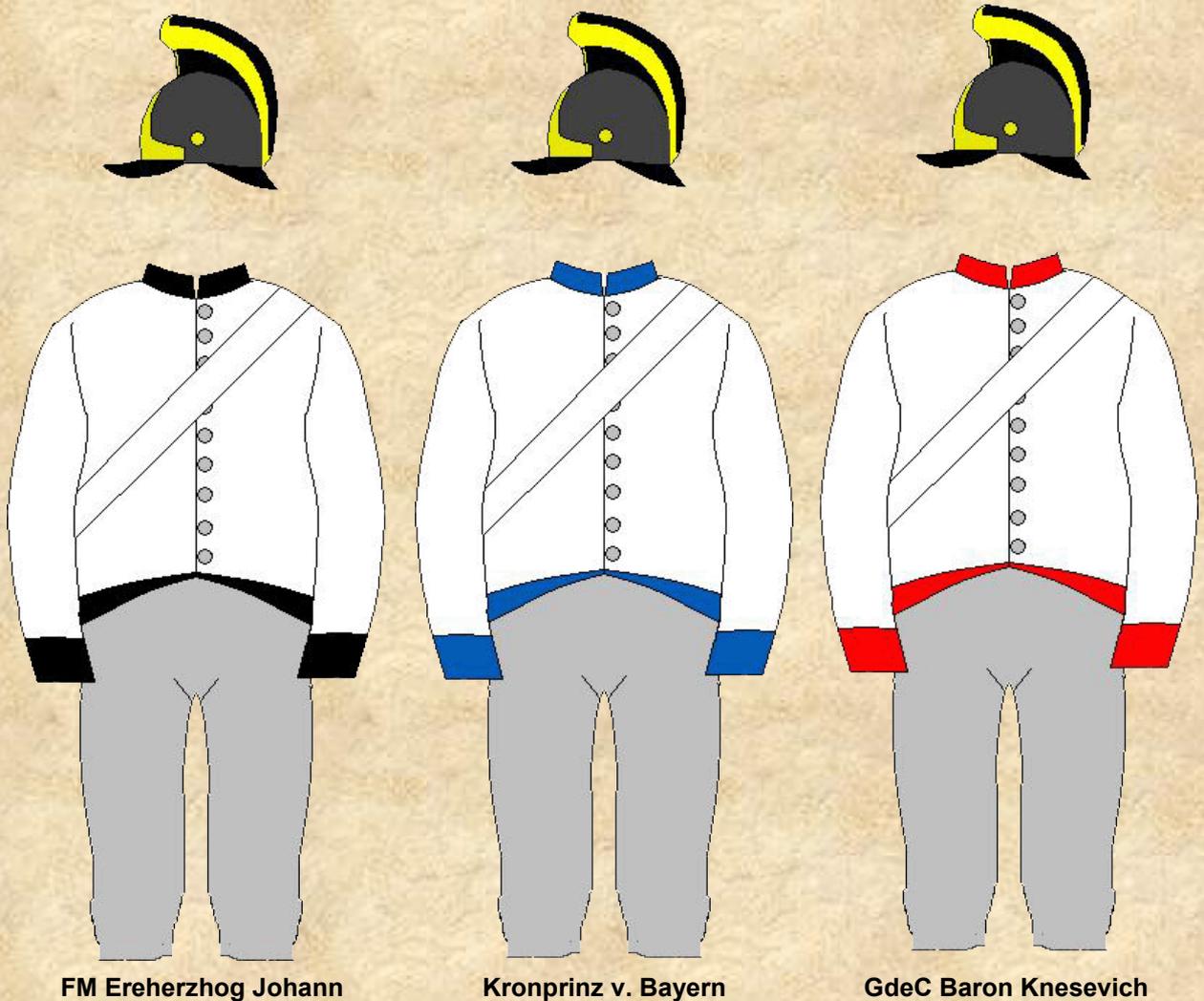
## AUSTRIAN DRAGOONS 1801-1815

Dragoons operated as 'Medium' cavalry. In 1801 there were 6 regiments of Dragoons.

Waistcoats and breeches were white and boots were black, although on campaign grey overalls were used. The helmet was black leather with a brass front plate topped by a crest of black over yellow. Trumpeters wore a red crest and were traditionally mounted on greys.

Officers wore similar uniforms to their men adding a gold/black waist sash as a mark of rank.

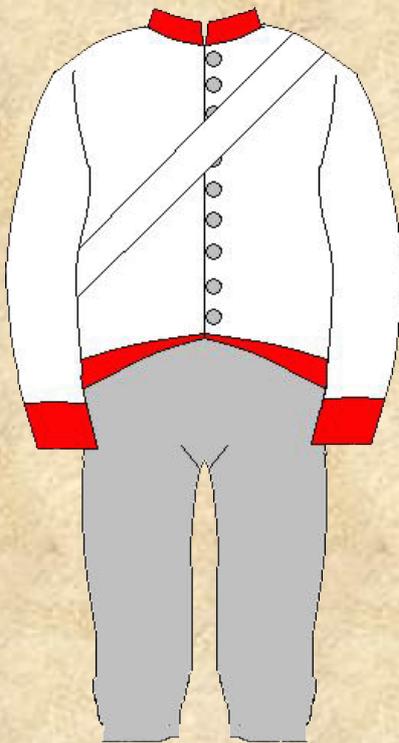
Shabraques were red edged with yellow, and were topped by a sheepskin edged in red. These were white for rank and file and black for officers.



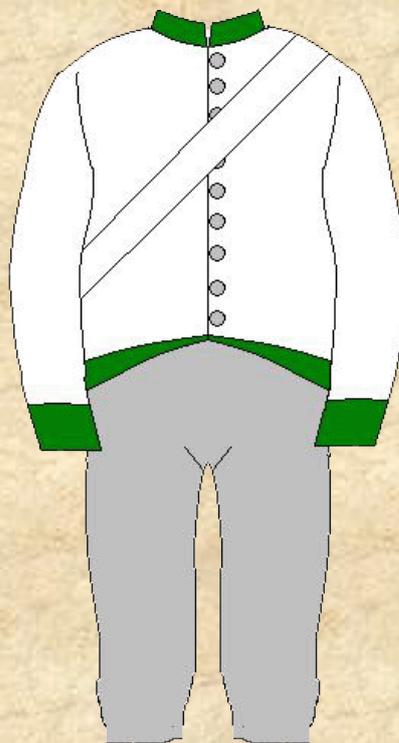
FM Ereherzhog Johann

Kronprinz v. Bayern

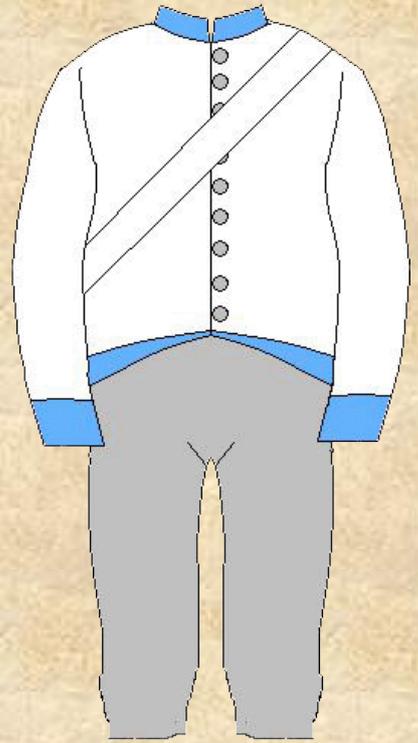
GdeC Baron Knesevich



**Erbgrossherzog v. Toscana**



**Prinz Eugen v. Savoyen**



**GdeC Graf Riesch**

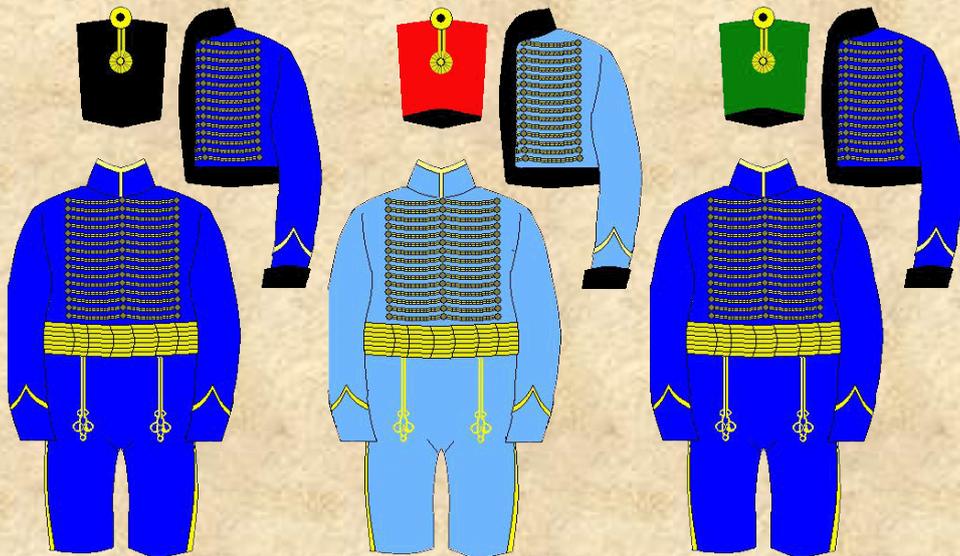


## AUSTRIAN HUSSARS 1801-1815

In 1801 there were 12 regiments of hussars.

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 '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 yellow and black cord loops. Hanging from the left was the 'sabretache' - a decorated pouch. Headgear was a shako in regimental colour.

Each regiment had different colour combinations of dolman, pelisse, breeches and facing colour making them extremely colourful regiments.



**Kaiser Franz**

**Erzherzog Joseph**

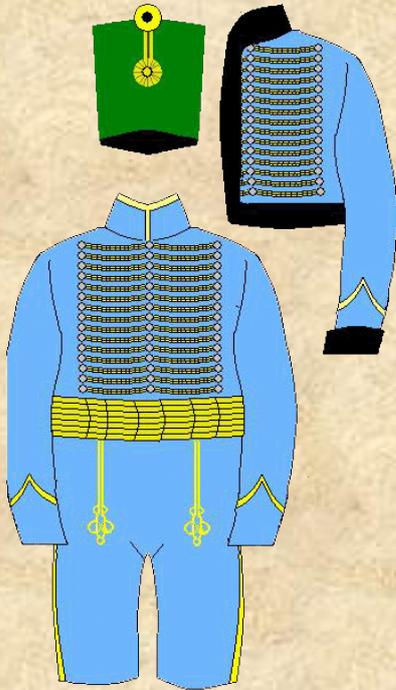
**Erzherzog Ferdinand Carl d'Este**



**Von Vecsey/Hessen Homburg**

**Baron Ott**

**Blankenstein**



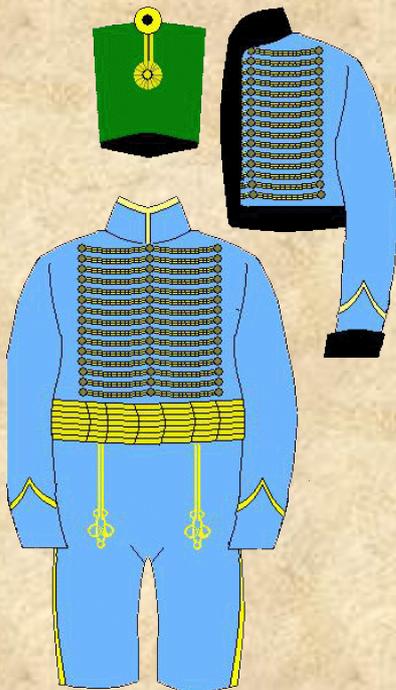
Liechtenstein



Wurmser/Nauendorff



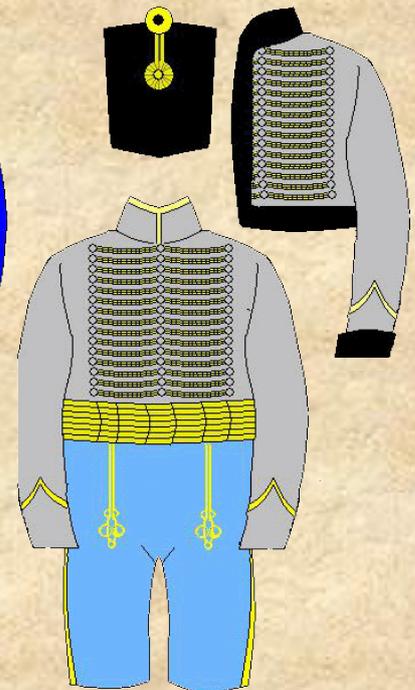
Erdody/Frimont



Meszaros/Stipsicz



Szekler



Palatinal Regt