THE IMPERIALIST ARMY OF THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION

Stu Gibson

General

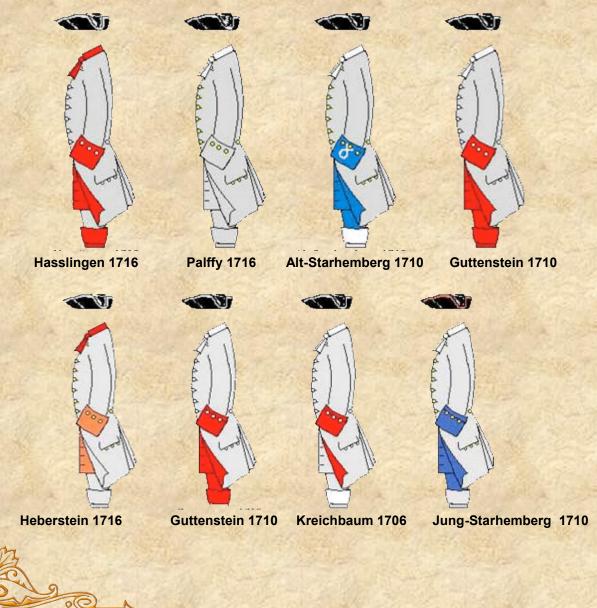
The limitations of web space mean that the coverage of this army is necessarily limited. We do have available for sale a much more in-depth treatment of the subject. Follow this link for more details. <u>>>>click</u> <u>here</u>

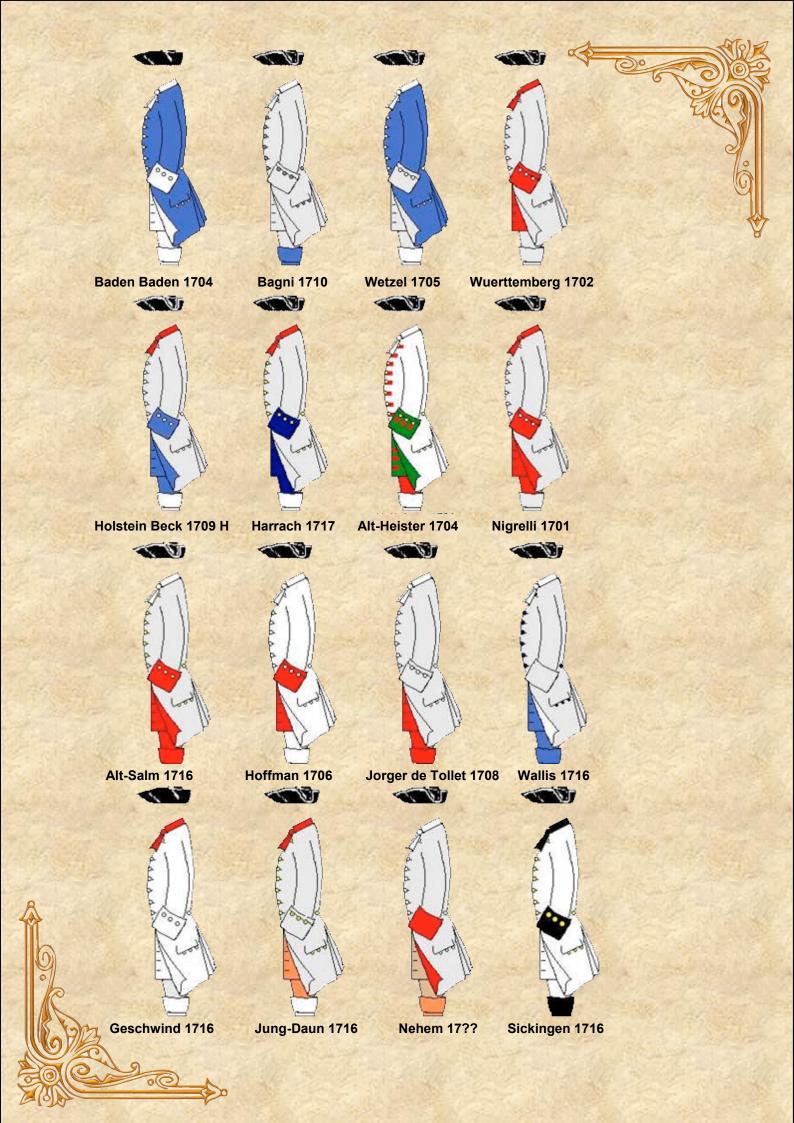
The Foot

The line infantry was composed of two types of regiments: the "French" units recruited from within From 1704 An Imperial Regiment was to consist of 15 companies of infantry each of around 140 men, and 2 companies of Grenadiers, each of 100 men.

The fusilier companies were divided into 3 battalions. The Spanish and Netherlands battalions taken over later on were weaker, having around 1500 men. The above are all paper strengths, and in practice many regiments operated at reduced strength, in only 2 battalions or even 1 battalion.

Equipment was usally buff leather, including the cartridge boxes, although some regiments had blackened cartridge boxes. Knapsacks were generally fur-covered. In the earlier part of the war, Officers and NCO and drummers tended to wear reverse colors to that of the men. Stockings were usually worn, but by late in the war, gaiters began to be worn and were standard by 1720.





The Horse

These heavy cavalry were the shock arm of the Austrian Army. Chosen for their size, the members of the Cuirassier regiments were amongst the largest in the Army. They were mounted on large horses and were armed with a carbine, two pistols and a long sword. The helmet and cuirass were blackened steel.

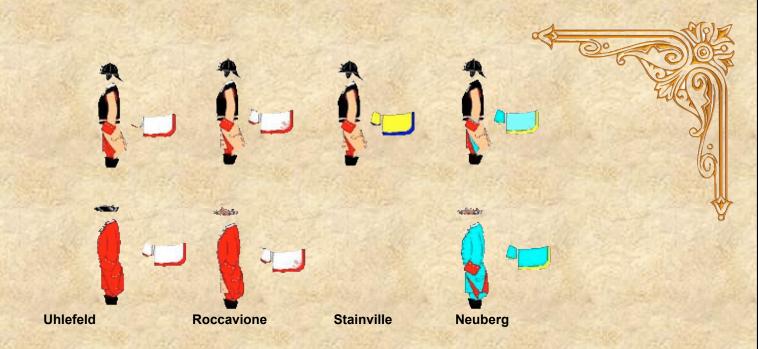
Saddle furniture was usually red with a coloured border. Regiments were organized in 6 squadrons, each of two companies. Squadron strength was between 170 and 210, with the regiment probably fielding about 1000 troops on campaign.

Regiments were commonly referred to by the names of their commander. As a result regiments changed names several times during this period. The uniform depicted is that most commonly worn during the period. Where changes to dress are known they are listed separately.

Musicians tended to wear different colours from the others members of the regiment and were not armoured. Hat plumes have been depicted where the information is available, though it is not known if these plumes were worn in the field.

My sources are limited and I would like to thank Robert Sulentic for his valuable assistance assembling this guide.





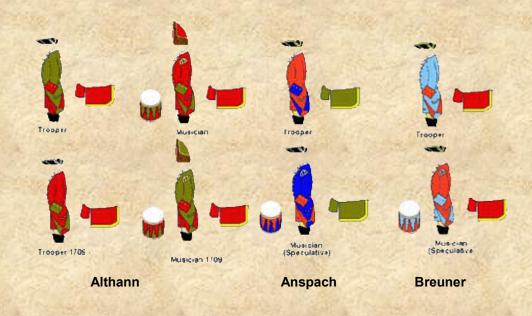
The Dragoons

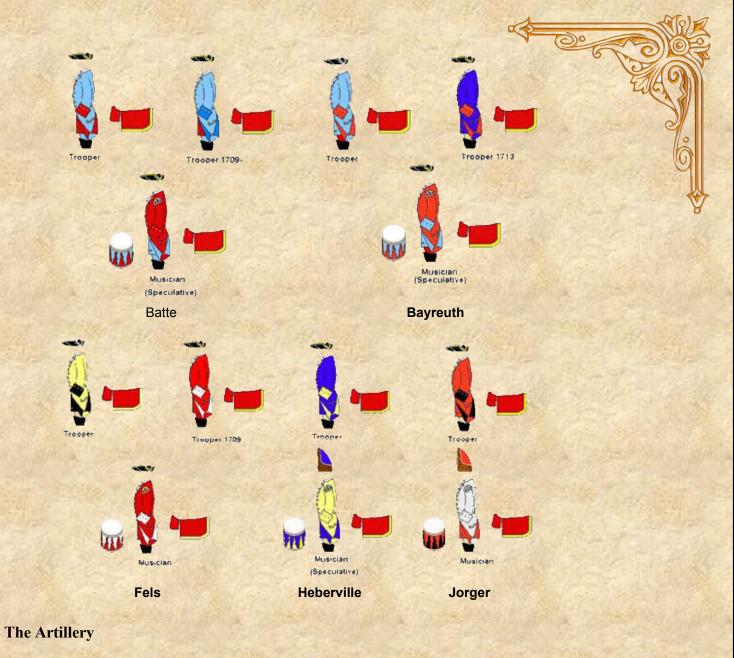
Imperial dragoon regiments were organized similarly to the Cuirassiers. A Regiment was composed of 6 squadrons numbering between 150 and 200 men. On campaign a regiment would field between 900 and 1000 men.

After 1713 one company in each regiment was designated as Grenadiers. These companies were often combined into adhoc formations for specific missions with the companies being returned to their parent formations afterwards.

Horse furniture was red and leatherwork was buff with the exception of boots and scabbards, which were black. Musicians wore a cap similar to a grenadier cap though some regiments switched to a tricorn.

Where information is not available on a musician's dress, the drawing has been labeled as speculative. Officers and NCO's wore the same uniform as the troops with lace at the cuff and buttonholes.







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