

## Appendix 1: Glossary

The following terms can apply to the uniforms of most European armies of the period. Some sections and items such as “Rank Insignia” and “Voltigeurs” refer specifically to the French army. Interestingly, many French words that appear unfamiliar to a modern reader were common parlance for English-speaking military men by 1813.<sup>1</sup> To denote this distinction, words such as “colback” or “czapka” that are common to French, German, Polish, Italian, etc., are *italicized* in this book, while French words that entered English usage such as “chasseurs” and “surtout” are not italicized. As this book is the North American edition, words such as “color,” “armor,” and “gray” are spelled in American English.

**Accoutrements** — Articles worn by the soldier apart from weapons or clothing such as belts, water bottles, entrenching tools, etc.

**Aiguillettes** — Ornamental braided shoulder cords, from the French *aiguille*, for “needle,” in reference to the cords’ pointed metal tips. Secured at the shoulder, the loops fell around or on the arm and breast; the terminations could be secured at the coat buttons (but as often depicted in this collection, the fashion was frequently to drape them across the chest, often securing them beneath a shoulder belt). Under the First Empire, aiguillettes became a distinctive insignia for headquarters staff and the Imperial Guard, as well as for the Emperor’s entourage. Among the Imperial Guard, they distinguished generals, Gendarmes and Guides (as they were attached to headquarters as staff), and the senior squadrons. They were also sometimes to be found on city honor guards, and among other non-French formations such as the Westphalians, Poles, and Italian Royal Guard. The word was incorporated into English by 1816.

**Bearskin** — A tall headdress originally made of bearskin, but in most cases during this period the material came from Caucasian mountain goats (apparently easier to find than hordes of black bears to meet the demand). The bearskin was a status symbol of elite units such as grenadiers, pioneers, sappers, and the Old Guard infantry. Authorized for grenadiers of the line on 27 August 1800, a shako replacement was decreed as early as 24 September 1803 and again on 25 March 1806. Line grenadier bearskins were officially abolished on 9 November 1810, although many units wore them long afterward as emblems of prestige. The cloth red patch with white cross on the top back of the bearskin was nicknamed *cul de singe* (“monkey’s ass”), and was still seen years after it was officially changed to a flaming grenade insignia after the Battle of Austerlitz.

**Braid** — A narrow fabric of intertwined threads used especially for decorative trim.

**Breeches** — Short trousers covering the hips and thighs that fit snugly at the lower edges slightly below the knee.

**Busby** — See “Colback.”

<sup>1</sup> *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* was the source for much etymology and entry-dates of words into English usage.



Aiguillettes



Bearskin



Braid



Breeches

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**Cacciatori a Cavallo** — (It.) Light cavalry; literally, “mounted hunters.”

**Carabiniers** — (Fr.) Literally, soldiers who carry carbines. They were the light infantry’s elite flank company, equivalent to grenadiers in the line infantry, and stood on the right when the battalion was formed in line of battle. The French army also had two regiments of elite heavy cavalry that bore this title, derived from mounted grenadiers armed with carbines.

**Cavalleggeri** — (It.) Literally “light horse,” occasionally armed with lances.

**Chapeau** — Borrowed from the French by 1523, meaning “hat,” the wide brim of which was usually folded up on two sides to form a bicorne. A waxed cloth or a fabric soaked in wax to make it waterproof was worn over hats to protect them from the weather.

**Chasseurs** — A French term that entered English by 1796, literally meaning “hunter.” It denoted the officers and soldiers of the light infantry’s four center companies; they were the light equivalent of the line infantry’s *fusilier*. The French word is functionally related to the German *jäger* (hunter), Russian *yager* (usually spelled *jaeger*; derived from German), Italian *cacciatore*, Portuguese *caçadore*, Spanish *cazador* (hunter, and obviously related), and the English “ranger.” The German and English terms carry a greater sense of specialization, and these troops frequently carried a rifled firearm.

**Chasseurs à Cheval** — (Fr.) Light cavalry, literally “mounted chasseurs,” sometimes translated as “mounted rifles.” The Italian equivalent was *cacciatori a cavallo*.

**Cheveau-Légers Lanciers** — (Fr.) Literally “light horse lancers.”

**Chinscales** — (Fr. *jugulaires*) A metallic chin strap to secure a shako, helmet, or hat on the head. In French service the color normally followed the unit’s button color, being made of brass (copper and zinc) for yellow metal and “German silver” or argentan (copper, nickel, and zinc) for white metal.

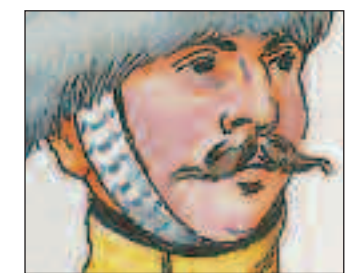
**Cockade** — An ornament usually worn as a rosette on the headgear as a badge. Sometimes fixed by a cockade loop (Fr. *agrafe*).

**Colback** — (Fr.) A “busby,” or cylindrical fur headdress, often with a cloth bag (Fr. *flamme*) in the facing color that hung to one side from the top. Usually worn by hussars, elite French cavalry companies in the light cavalry (*chasseurs à cheval*), and occasionally by pioneers of the light infantry. Apparently of Turkish origin, in the Ottoman Empire it was called a “*kalpak*,” from which derived the French word. Hungarian hussars modified it and made it popular in Europe.

**Collar** — See “Distinctives.”



Chapeau



Chinscales



Cockade



Colback