

Plate 124 | Brun—[untitled]

Study: Line Infantry, NCO Shakos and Bardin Uniform

Originally entitled by Bommer *Linien Infanterie* ("Line Infantry"), this plate presents another Brun copy of Bommer's detailed studies.

The shakos display the rank distinctions for infantry NCOs: a combination of lace trim of varying widths around the top of the shako (see Glossary, "Rank Insignia," for further details) and of cords, the latter of mixed gold and red for grenadiers and *fusiliers*, gold and green for the *voltigeurs*. While the two flank companies (grenadiers and *voltigeurs*) wore pompons and plumes for full dress, the four center companies of *fusiliers* had only colored felt discs. Each of the four *fusilier* companies of the first battalion had these discs in solid colors. For the second and subsequent battalions, the discs had colored woolen rims with white centers, on which the battalion number sometimes appeared. Within the infantry, all four *fusilier* companies used the same colors in this order: dark green, sky blue, orange (as shown), and violet.

The three incomplete sketches of shakos illustrate respective noncommissioned officer (NCO) rank insignia, labeled left to right: sergeant-major, sergeant, *Fourrier* (quartermaster corporal), and corporal. Below, the annotation reads, "Insignia of grades of noncommissioned officers [indicated] by the stripes of the shako."

Perhaps the most valuable information in this plate is gained from the figure of the grenadier wearing the square-cut lapels prescribed by the 1812 Bardin regulations. Brun translated Bommer's original German annotation into French, which may be interpreted as "[the grenadier] shows the cut of the altered uniform which came into use at the end of the summer of the year 1813, straight lapels, short turnbacks, and short gaiters" — interesting, if unconventional, evidence clearly suggesting that the Bardin uniform was not in wide use during 1812, nor most of the 1813 campaign.

Brun N° 57 from Bommer II, 7 >

