

Foot Artillery, Officer and Gunner

Brun derived this plate from Bommer's unfinished black and white original; only the red colors had been painted. Brun colored it based on Bommer's notes.

The left figure is a captain of foot artillery wearing a blue surtout (which is why there is no red piping). The caption beneath translates as "Officer[:] all officers of the foot artillery corps were mounted." Brun unaccountably left the tuft on top of the officer's pompon uncolored — it was normally red. The officer also wears black instead of the regulation white sword belt and slings. The figure on the right is a private, holding his rammer (the bottom end) and sponge (top end), for which the caption reads: "Gunner[:] The musket was carried as by the Pioneers" (see Plate 118). An additional note by Bommer, not reproduced by Brun, indicated that muskets were like those in I, 13 (see Plate 128). Note that the lock and trigger are wrapped in cloth against the weather. One other comment by Bommer, also not reproduced by Brun, observed that artillery drums were like those in I, 14 (see Plate 125).

At the top is a detail of the left "tail of the turnbacks" from an officer's *habit*, with the golden grenade emblems. Gunners' turnbacks had the emblems in blue. Also visible to the right of the vertical piped pocket is a second pocket, *à la soubise*. At the bottom of the plate is a detail of the artillerists' sword knot on their *sabre-briquets* — exactly like that of the infantry grenadiers. Other annotations on Bommer's original indicated that rank distinctions and service chevrons were in gold lace for NCOs, as they were for the infantry, and that artillery officers' *schabraques* were the same as for their infantry counterparts.

The wooden spar of the rammer is painted in the regulation green. In the 1813 campaign, extensive use of both old and captured equipment resulted in a wide range of colors being in actual use, ranging from light blue to red, ocher, and gray. Light blue was the old Gribeauval artillery system color, dating from the days of the *ancien régime* and Revolution. The red paint scheme was even older, harking back to the system of Jean de Vallière that preceded Jean-Baptiste Gribeauval's designs. These ancient pieces were dragged from the arsenals as well but were mainly used in fixed artillery positions. The ocher ordnance indicated Austrian guns, captured in large quantities in 1805 and 1809. Although many were used as regimental pieces in 1812 and lost in Russia, there remained sufficient numbers in French hands to be used against their former owners in 1813. Finally, the gray-painted ordnance was from Hanoverian artillery obtained in 1803 that was subsequently distributed to Polish and apparently also to Westphalian artillery companies.

Brun N° 64 from Bommer I, 25 >



137—Artillerie à pied

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