

General of Division

This is a *général de division* (equivalent to a major general) in full dress. He wears the uniform adopted and revised in 1803 that was almost immediately modified by changing the original red collar to blue as shown here. The cut of the lapels resembles the earlier 1798 uniform model rather than the 1803 revision, as the latter had only one row of buttons down the middle of the *habit* (coat) — one row of buttons would have made it impossible to open the lapels as illustrated. All of the lace is of embroidered golden oak leaves. The white plumage on the bicorne was normally reserved for Marshals of the Empire, but some generals commanding army corps in the 1813 campaign, such as General of Division (GD) Dominique-Joseph-René Vandamme of the 1st Corps and GD Henri-Gatien Bertrand of the 4th Corps, were allowed to use this distinction.

The absence of the regulation sash indicates that the general is off-duty. Under the Empire, *aiguillettes* (ornamental shoulder cords) became a distinctive insignia for headquarters staff and the Imperial Guard, as well as for Emperor Napoleon's entourage. Among the Imperial Guard, they adorned not only the shoulders of generals, but also those of the Gendarmerie and some Guides (as they were attached to headquarters as staff), and the senior Guard squadrons. (Inevitably, the distinction also found its way elsewhere unofficially, to the shoulders of town honor guards, and to various shoulders in non-French formations, such as the Italian Royal Guard, and on several Westphalian and Polish soldiers seen in this collection.) For those of high rank, the cords were made with woven silver or gold thread. Here they are draped across the chest, in an entirely non-regulation, but apparently fashionable, style. (Here the *aiguillettes* seem to be fixed to the buttons on the left side of his *habit*, but in other illustrations such as Plates 9, 10, 15, etc., they may be attached to the button of the epaulette on the other shoulder.)

The method of encircling the cockade on the hat with gold thread instead of using a cockade loop (*agrafe*) is unusual, as is the absence of stars on the large golden epaulettes. The use of the black belt is another unusual detail since it was normally white (or occasionally green).

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