



THE MILITIA
Style Guide No. 3

Prussian Landwehr

KIT REGULATIONS



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Introduction



Welcome to Style Guide No. 3 – Prussian Landwehr 1813-1815

The following pages contain everything you need to know to kit yourself out for our new Napoleonic identity.

Everyone is welcome to take part of course – the only conditions are that you have the correct kit and are willing to help us achieve the very highest standards in historical re-enactment.

As well as the uniform regulations in this guide, we've produced a separate rough guide to Prussia and the Napoleonic period – both files are held on The Militia Yahoo group.

Other than the history and the uniform regs, the key things you need to know are:-

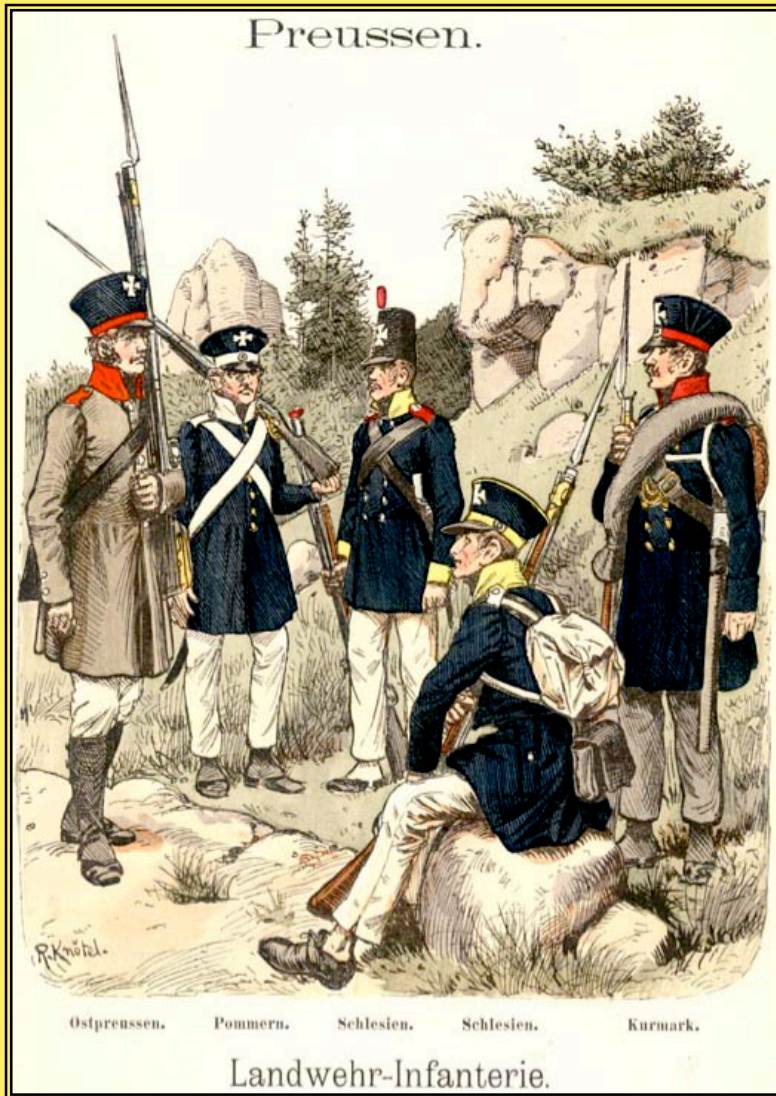
- By the Napoleonic period the infantry fought with the musket - the Prussian Landwehr were no different. Our Landwehr unit will be armed only with muskets
- Napoleonic events do not have a plastic camping tail and members are encouraged to camp under authentic canvas (or get a nice warm B&B!)
- Everything at a Napoleonic event is visible to the public and to other units, high living history standards are important (nothing you aren't already capable of though!)

As well as the fighting side of the unit we are developing a strong living history camp and will provide more information on this as soon as we can.

This is a fascinating period of history and we are very much looking forward to building this brand new unit with you. If you have any questions on any aspect of this Style Guide we're happy to help, just ask!

Auf wiedersehen!
The Militia

Prussian Landwehr



Prussian Landwehr uniform: The Silesian regiments had yellow collars, cuff trim and hatbands. The chap at the front is 1st Silesian Landwehr and the chap in the shako is 2nd Silesian Landwehr.

The unit we portray is the 3rd battalion of the 1st Silesian Landwehr Infantry Regiment.

The Silesian Landwehr regiments were from southern Prussia. They were among the first units raised in 1813. Silesia provided 15 regiments during the Wars of Liberation, probably the most of all the Prussian provinces.

Our portrayal will be based on the Waterloo campaign of 1815, rather than the Wars of Liberation – this is reflected in the precise uniform pattern we have settled on.

The Prussian Army was split into Corps, which were in turn split into Brigades. At the Battle of Waterloo, the 1st Silesian Landwehr was in 16th Brigade, IV Army Corps. The brigade was composed of the following units:-

- 15th Infantry Regiment (regular army)
- 1st Silesian Landwehr Infantry Regiment
- 2nd Silesian Landwehr Infantry Regiment
- 3rd Silesian Landwehr Cavalry Regiment
- 2nd Battery Foot Artillery
- 13th Munitions Column

The brigade was the vanguard of the Prussian attack on Plancenoit where their arrival turned the tide against Napoleon. The fighting at Plancenoit was particularly vicious. The 16th Brigade alone lost 1800 of the 6000 men they attacked with. Nearly a third of the brigade was killed, wounded or went missing as the village was taken and lost and retaken – this was a nasty close quarters infantry scrap against some of Napoleon's best troops.

The Prussians' struggle for Plancenoit was a vital factor in the allied victory at Waterloo.

Style Guide = Basic Kit

This fantastic ensemble is the basic kit for a musketeer of the Silesian Landwehr ...

Hat (*mütze*) - Landwehr pattern cap of blue cloth with yellow hatband and piping, leather peak, chinstrap, Prussian cockade and Landwehr cross.

Landwehr cross (*Landwehrkreuz*) – cross of white metal, with the inscription “*Mit Gott Für König Und Vaterland – 1813*” – *With God For King And Fatherland.*

Coat (*litewka*) – thigh length double breasted coat of blue wool, with yellow stand collar, yellow cuff trim, shoulder straps and white metal buttons. The number embroidered on the shoulder strap denotes regiment, the colour of the strap denotes battalion (1st = white, 2nd = red, 3rd = yellow). Kit was scarce and coats were often adapted from civilian Sunday best.

Shirt – cotton or linen stand collar shirt of period pattern – preferably without a frilled front.

Trousers – drop front trousers in sturdy white cotton, canvas or linen. Braces are an option too.

Socks – thick woollen socks in natural colour.

Shoes – black leather Napoleonic soldiers’ shoes, with ties or buckles. American Civil War brogans are very similar to the Napoleonic rifleman’s boot and are acceptable. *Closed sided black 17th century soldiers’ shoes are acceptable when worn with gaiters.*



Neck stock – cotton or linen stock in black.

Musket – a British Brown Bess, or any standard military musket of Prussian, French or Austrian Napoleonic pattern. Britain provided muskets to Prussia in large numbers, the preferred musket is a late pattern Brown Bess (short land pattern or India pattern).

Bayonet – bayonets are encouraged – the Prussians had them fixed pretty much permanently and they were a key element of the Prussian “look”. If you buy a musket in one of the occasional bulk orders The Militia organises, you may be able to get your bayonet free.

Cartridge box – black cartridge box of period pattern (no insignia). Black is the preferred colour for the cartridge box strap, but white is also acceptable, buff is not.

Haversack – white canvas bag of period pattern and size (approx. 13in deep x 20in wide). These bags held food rations.

Canteen – water bottle of appropriate pattern (see page 15 for more information).

In comparison to earlier periods of history, the Napoleonic period is incredibly well documented, so getting the kit right is super important!

If you need any advice on kit please shout, we’re here to help – themilitia.1815@yahoo.com

Style Guide = Enhanced Kit



These are some options to enhance your kit and achieve the full campaign look ...

Blanket – the Prussians were very fond of a rolled blanket (or greatcoat) slung over the left shoulder.

Knapsack – a white canvas knap sack with a chest strap was the standard pack for the Landwehr – but they would have acquired French cowhide packs or even British patterns along the way.

Bayonet sling – in black or white, not for the bayonet though – for an axe!

Axe – to go in the bayonet sling of course!

Gaiters – short or long black gaiters to be worn over the shoes and under the trousers (which were often worn rolled up).

Cup/mess kit – tin cup and/or period military mess kit. A wooden bowl or tin plate is appropriate too.

Clogs – for wear around the camp (not suitable for battle).

Waistcoat – short waistcoat of period pattern in any low status fabric.

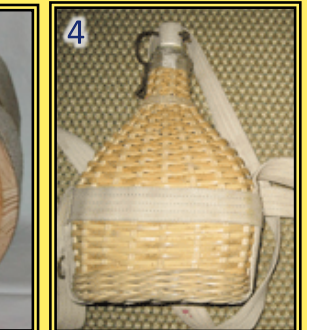
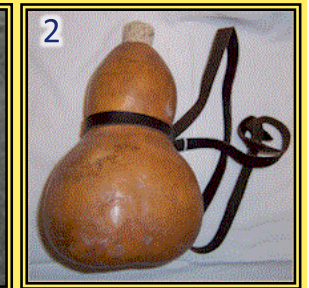
Pack stuffers – living history kit to go in your knapsack – knitted gloves/mittens, pipe, housewife (sewing and repair kit), gun cleaning kit, washing gear, writing equipment, spare socks, rain cover for hat, etc.



Above left: Why not put your bits and bobs in a hairy French sack?

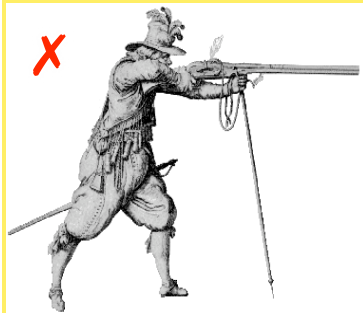
Above Right: Long black gaiters.

Canteen options: 1) tin kidney canteen; 2) gourd; 3) wooden drum canteen; 4) wicker bound glass or stoneware bottle.



Style Guide = Wrong Kit

This page details some kit items that aren't right for the period or don't meet the standards we have set ourselves.



Absolutely no kit from other re-enactment periods, unless stated otherwise in this Style Guide.



No stupid hair, face metal, sunglasses or coloured specs. Glasses are absolutely fine, but please go with a suitably simple or authentic frame.



Napoleonic re-enactment does not provide for plastic camping. Members are strongly encouraged to camp under authentic canvas in the lines or make alternative arrangements locally. Maybe club together and buy a tent. Some communal canvas will be available – please ask for more details.



No anachronistic footwear. Latchets are not acceptable – see page 14 for info on *closed sided* soldiers' shoes.



No pocket watches or wrist watches. Pocket watches and chains were a Victorian fashion. You're too poor for a watch anyway!



Please avoid enamel-ware. Evidence suggests this wasn't available until later. Go for tin or steel mess kit. Try and avoid stainless steel if poss.



No leather bottles please. Plastic bottles in leather covers should be kept in your haversack and used discreetly. See page 15 for approved water bottles.



Cigarettes may have just about existed but were not widespread – in front of the public a clay pipe is the way forward! The bigger the better – we are German after all!



Axes should be of a period design – straighter in the handle and with a narrower head than modern designs.

If you need any advice on kit please shout, we're here to help – themilitia. 1815@yahoo.com

Suppliers

Here are some suppliers we have purchased kit from, or who have been recommended to us, there are many others. Prices and quality vary – so do shop around before you buy.

Hat – supplied by The Militia – ordering details will be provided.

Coat – supplied by The Militia – ordering details will be provided.

Landwehr Cross –

- Historische Marketenderei - www.historische-marketenderei.com - this is a German site, if you put the URL into Google and search it will give you the option to translate. It is probably worth getting together with some other chaps and ordering in bulk.

Shirts and neck stocks –

- Maggies - www.maggiesperiodcostumes.co.uk - be prepared to replace plastic buttons.
 - Chimera Costume - chimera-costumes.co.uk
 - Farthingales - www.farthingalecostumes.com
 - Ark Historic Clothing - www.arkhistoricclothing.co.uk

Waistcoats –

- Charlotte Raine - www.charlotterainecorsetry.co.uk
 - 19th Century Tailor - www.19th-century-tailoring.co.uk
 - Farthingales - www.farthingalecostumes.com
 - Ark Historic Clothing - www.arkhistoricclothing.co.uk

Trousers –

- Maggies - www.maggiesperiodcostumes.co.uk
 - 19th Century Tailor - www.19th-century-tailoring.co.uk
 - Farthingales - www.farthingalecostumes.com
 - Ark Historic Clothing - www.arkhistoricclothing.co.uk

Shoes –

- Andy Burke - www.andyburke.co.uk
 - Sarah Juniper - www.sarahjuniper.co.uk
 - Historical footwear (Gary Soame) – www.historicalfootwear.com
 - Foxblade - www.foxblade.co.uk
 - Re-enactment Shoes - www.re-enactment-shoes.co.uk

Gaiters –

- Born2Late - www.born2late.co.uk
 - Ark Historic Clothing - www.arkhistoricclothing.co.uk

Guns –

- West Point Sutlers (Ron Curley as was) - www.westpointsutlers.org - if you are planning to buy a musket talk to Terry Scarrott first in case there's a bulk order in progress.

Accoutrements –

- Mcfarthingbowls - www.re-enactmentshop.com - loads of cool stuff – good for cartridge box, haversack and pack stuffers (they even do shoes)
 - West Point Sutlers - www.westpointsutlers.org - good value black cartridge box sling.
 - Jas Townsend - www.jas-townsend.com - legendary. Go for their War of 1812 range – American though – beware customs fees.
 - Born2Late - www.born2late.co.uk - leather gear and haversacks.
 - SJ Seamstress - www.sj-seamstress.com - incorporating Redders who can do leather gear including French cowhide packs.
 - Historische Marketenderei - www.historische-marketenderei.com - good for all sorts - tin kit, living history kit and water bottles particularly. It is probably worth getting together with some other chaps and ordering in bulk.
 - Tinkers Tailor - www.tinkerstailor.com - housewife, wash kit, etc.
 - Richard Brown – richard.brown1645@yahoo.co.uk - leather gear – in particular black bayonet sling of period pattern.
 - Your local army surplus store – for a *plain grey* blanket.

Tents –

- Past Tents - www.pasttents.com

Ebay –

Worth a look on ebay – there are various traders on there and some decent second hand gear comes up occasionally – but exercise caution, there's also some right cobblers on there!

If you need any advice on kit please shout, we're here to help –themilitia.1815@yahoo.com