

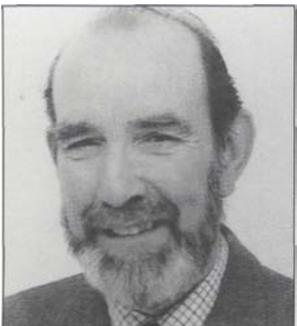
THE PORTUGUESE ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (2)



RENÉ CHARTRAND BILL YOUNGHUSBAND



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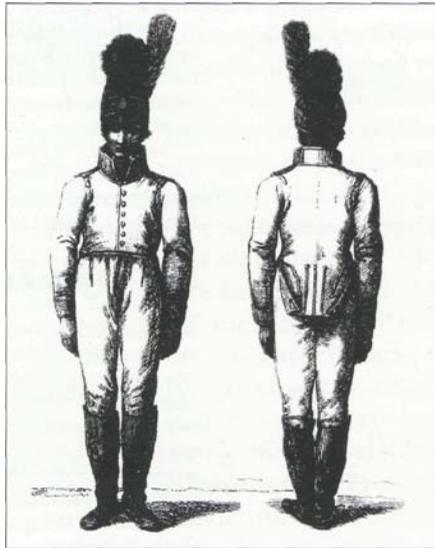
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Author's Note

Wellington's army in the Peninsular War was really an integrated Anglo-Portuguese force, and the Portuguese element was more important than is sometimes realised - between one-third and one-half of the whole at any one time. The first title in this series, **MAA 343**, covers Portugal's political and military situation at the outbreak of war, Marshal Beresford's rebuilding of the Portuguese army, the general staff and the line infantry. This second volume covers the light troops, the Cazadores, the cavalry, the engineers and the many smaller corps of the military and civil establishments, as well as colours and standards. The forthcoming third volume, **MAA 356**, will feature the artillery, militia, volunteers, Ordenanza, offshore islands, colonies and the navy.

Based on Portuguese as well as newly discovered British documents, it is hoped that this three-volume study will form the most extensive source yet published in English on the organisation and material culture of the Portuguese forces between 1793 and 1815.

With regards to the hues of colours described, blue was meant to be a very dark blue; green was also dark. Scarlet or red ranged from the 'brick red' of the common soldiers to a fine scarlet for officers. White, especially for waistcoats and breeches, could also assume a creamy colour.

The spelling of Portuguese follows the adaptations that have long been prevalent in British and American military and historical publications, in particular as expressed by Professor Sir Charles Oman in his *History of the Peninsular War*.

Acknowledgements

The credit for much of the data presented in these volumes is due to the excellent assistance given to the author by Dr Sergio Veludo Coelho, military historian, and curator Dra Alexandra Anjos, of the Museu Militar do Porto in the city of that name (Oporto). The museum's director, Col Manuel Carvalho, gave every assistance, as did the keeper of arms, Sgt Silva. Much kindness and patience was shown by all staff to the author at a time when the museum was undergoing restorations. I am also indebted to the Count of Amarante and Marquis of Chaves, of the Friends of the Museu Militar do Porto.

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THE PORTUGUESE ARMY OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (2)

LIGHT TROOPS

ON 7 AUGUST 1796 a new all-arms light corps was raised at the behest of - and under the command of - General Pedro de Almeida, Marquis de Alorna. Entitled the **Legion of Light Troops (Legiao de Tropas Ligeras)**, it consisted of a battalion of eight companies of infantry; three squadrons of cavalry, each having two companies; and a battery of horse artillery armed with four six-pounders, having 56 men and 40 horses. The establishment totalled 1,339 men. Sometimes called the 'Experimental Legion', it was trained according to Alorna's adaptation of French tactical manuals.

The experiment, however, remained isolated. The Legion was somewhat resented by the more conservative elements in the army, and was treated as a separate entity; the tactical novelties which it practised - and which were being adopted in other armies - largely failed to spread to the rest of the army. Perhaps the only concession that might be ascribed to its avocation of light troops' tactics was the formation of a light infantry company in each infantry regiment. On 7 July 1803 the battery of artillery was incorporated into the Corte Artillery Regiment (see forthcoming third volume, MAA 356). The Legion was little affected by the 1806 regulations and remained a very distinct corps. In any event, the French soon marched in and the Legion of Light Troops was disbanded on 22 December 1807. The pro-French Alorna and some of his officers and men formed the Portuguese Legion (qv) in French pay.

Uniform See accompanying illustrations, and Plate A.

The Loyal Lusitanian Legion

The Legion was sponsored by Britain following an application by Portugal's ambassador, the Chevalier de Sousa, to raise it amongst Portuguese resident in Britain. On 29 July 1808 Lord Castlereagh granted approval. It was to have three chasseur (or light infantry) battalions of ten companies each, totaling 2,300 men, and a company of artillery with four light field guns and two howitzers. The Legion was commanded by Sir Robert Wilson; a few other officers were British, but most were Portuguese. Part of one battalion was raised from Portuguese in Britain, but the rest of the unit was recruited at Porto and Coimbra in Portugal during the late autumn of 1808. A corps of light cavalry of three squadrons was also added to the Legion's establishment at Porto, but in fact only a few despatch riders were enlisted. It is interesting to note that the Chevalier de Sousa, who represented Portugal's interest in the raising of the Legion, could not be persuaded 'to adopt the red clothing. He says that with that uniform every man would refuse to enlist'

This detail from a print of a street scene in Lisbon shows what appears to be an officer of the Cazadores in 1809 wearing a braided dolman and the 1806 shako with the plume on the left side.

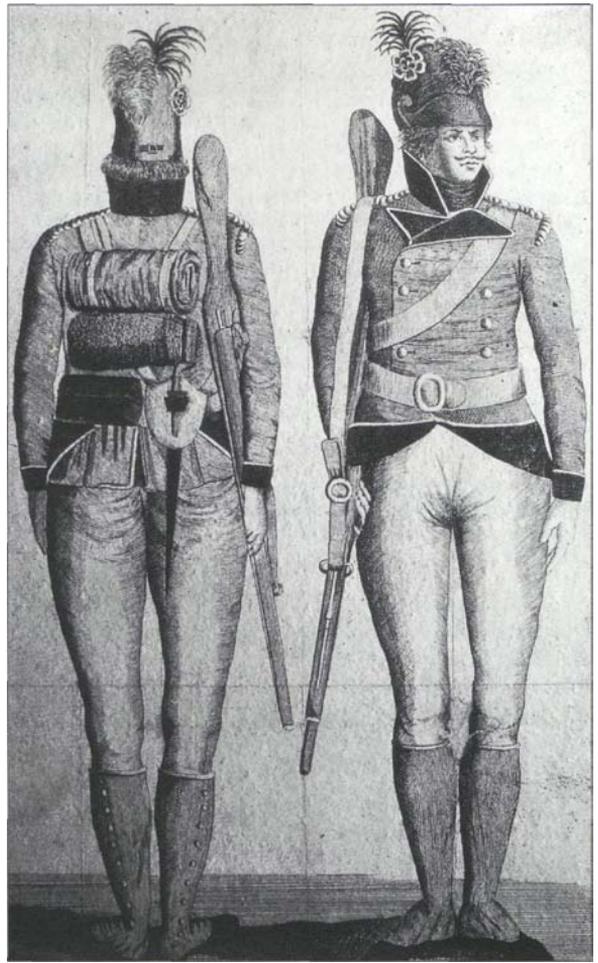


(WO 6/164). In the event, as will be seen below, green was the colour adopted.

Following the withdrawal of Sir John Moore's British army from Spain via Corunna and Vigo in January 1809, the Loyal Lusitanian Legion found itself among the few regular troops guarding Portugal's northern provinces; indeed, it was probably the best equipped and officered unit in the area. Wilson, at his best when independent of senior commanders, left 700 men at the border fortress of Almeida and, with a mixed force of about 5,000 men - the Lusitanians acting as cadres to men who had only held a musket for a few weeks - advanced into French-occupied Spain. He passed Ciudad Rodrigo, attacking French outposts and convoys and spreading false rumours amongst the peasants. The startled French army commander, perplexed by these light troops harassing his rear, wondered in February if this was a 12,000-strong Anglo-Portuguese corps? However, as the French invaded Portugal from the north Wilson and his Legion were soon surrounded. It was only by scrambling through the mountains under conditions of great hardship that the Loyal Lusitanians escaped back to Portugal. Meanwhile, elements of the 2nd Battalion managed to retreat south following the capture of Braga and Porto in March 1809.

In May the 1st Battalion under LtCol Mayne fought a brilliant action at Alcantara against Marshal Victor. In August, during the Talavera campaign, Wilson was leading 300 men of his Legion together with the 2nd and 3rd Cazadores into northern Estramadura when he found himself slipping in behind the French army in the area of Bejar. At one point some scouts from his force were said to have got within nine miles of Madrid. While this was praised as very daring and of the 'greatest use' by many officers, it seems to have been a personal initiative of Wilson's which cannot have endeared him to Beresford or Wellington. Marshal Ney caught up with Wilson, whose force was humbled and scattered at Banos on 12 August. Wellington and Beresford were annoyed by this turn of events, and in October 1809 Wilson left in a huff for England, where he was later joined by Mayne.

The Loyal Lusitanian Legion might have lost its senior officers but its two battalions were still in Portugal. They were now to be incorporated into Beresford's Portuguese army and reorganised as standard battalions of ten companies. In late 1809 the 1st Battalion mustered 877 men and the 2nd had 749; but the Legion's training and discipline had evidently been neglected by Wilson. In January 1810 the Legion was inspected at Castelo Branco: the 1st Battalion had 792 officers and men, the 2nd had 1,146. General Hamilton, the inspecting officer, had 'expected a much more respectable Corps. The first is tolerable, the second bad - tho'



Infantrymen, Legion of Light Troops, c1796. Sky blue coatee with yellow-piped black collar, cuffs and lapels (open only at top) and turnbacks, brass buttons; yellow waistcoat and breeches, black gaiters; black hat or cap with yellow cords and black plume. (Museu Militar do Porto)

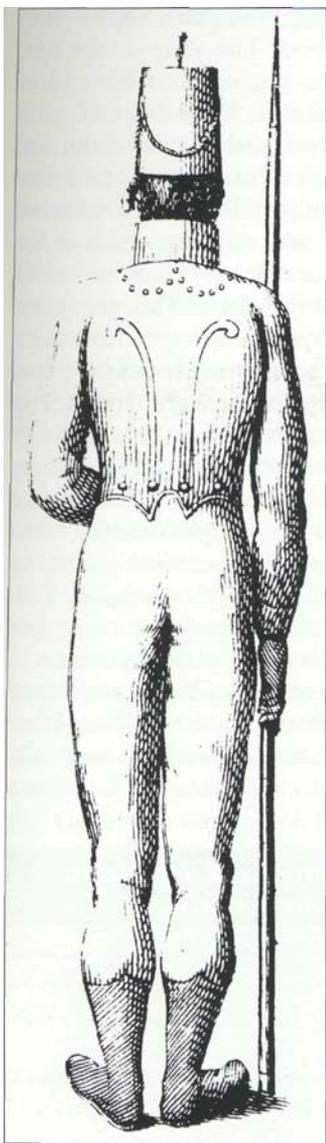
dressed as light troops they have not practiced the movements, indeed I think they are much behind in discipline'. Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, commanding the 1st Battalion, was now the senior officer. The officers and men were considered good material, but until they could be properly trained in light infantry manoeuvres they were really troops of the line. The emphasis was thus placed on training.

Both battalions, totalling 1,646 all ranks, were deployed but not heavily engaged at Bussaco on 27 September 1810. After retreating to the Lines of Torres Vedras the Legion formed part of Gen Campbell's 6th Division. The unit had never been a true legionary corps, and had now become simply two light infantry battalions within the Portuguese army.

The 1st Battalion, 572 strong under LtCol Edward Hackshaw, was part of Beresford's army at the hard-fought battle of Albuera on 16 May 1811. It was heavily engaged and its gallantry helped win the day, but at a loss of 171 officers and men. The 2nd Battalion was also much below strength. Beresford felt that more battalions of light troops were needed in the Portuguese army, and Wellington agreed. To fill this need, Beresford called on the Loyal Lusitanian Legion for a final service. On 20 April 1811 the raising of six new Cazadores battalions was authorised. By the same decree the Loyal Lusitanian Legion was disbanded so that its officers and men could be used to form the 7th, 8th and 9th Cazadores battalions (qv).

Uniform See accompanying illustrations and Plate A.

Back view of a gunner of the Legion of Light Troops, c1800. (Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection, Brown University)



CAZADORES

In the autumn of 1808 the Portuguese army found itself totally without regular light infantry units. The Legion of Light Troops (qv), disbanded in late December 1807, could not be re-formed as most of its men had been used to form the light infantry battalion in the French army's Portuguese Legion (qv). Light infantry would therefore have to be organised, equipped, armed, clothed and trained from scratch. Consequently the Portuguese general staff ordered the creation of a new light infantry arm to be called 'Cazadores', the Portuguese word for hunters or chasseurs. It was hoped that with rigorous training in modern light infantry tactics the Cazadores would become elite units within the army - a hope that was to be vindicated.

The first six battalions of Cazadores were authorised to be raised on 14 October 1808. From 23 November 1809, each battalion was to have a staff of 23 officers and men consisting of: one lieutenant-colonel, one major, one adjutant, one quartermaster, one paymaster, one adjutant-sergeant, one quartermaster sergeant, one chaplain, one surgeon, two assistant surgeons, one artisan, one gunsmith, one bugle-major, one bandmaster and eight bandsmen. Each company had one captain, one lieutenant, two sub-lieutenants or ensigns, one first sergeant, two second sergeants, one third sergeant, eight corporals, eight second or lance-corporals, two drummers, one bugler and 96 private soldiers, giving a total company establishment of 123 officers and men. Each battalion had four ordinary Cazadores companies and one elite Tiradores ('sharpshooters') company. The five companies and battalion staff came to a total establishment of 628 officers and men.

The officers and battalion cadres were organised as far as was possible during the next two months. As in the line infantry, each Cazadores battalion was attached to a town or city. The 1st Battalion was assigned Castelo de Vide, the 2nd Moura, the 3rd Vila Real, the 4th Viseu, the 5th Campo Maior and the 6th Porto.

On 15 December 1808 the order to draft the men was issued, and it was quickly obeyed; many came from local volunteers. The 1st Battalion was formed with the Portalegre Volunteers Regiment in Alentejo province; the 2nd with part of the Transtagana Legion (Regiment of the Honoured Volunteers of Beja) in Alentejo; the 3rd was raised at Vila Real in Tras-os-Montes, the 4th at Viseu in Beira, the 5th with part of the Transtagana Legion at Campo Maior in Tras os Montes, and the 6th in Minho. All these were provinces on the north-eastern border with Spain, where the French were expected to attack next; men with a thorough knowledge of these rough mountainous areas were especially sought-after. Indeed, most Portuguese Cazadores were mountaineers and men from small farms in the hills, familiar with hunting habits and experienced in handling guns since childhood. The state of the new battalions and where they were assembled as compiled at the end of December 1808 (PRO, WO 1/232) is given here as **Table A**.

Some 2,419 men had joined the Cazadores within two weeks, but there were barely enough arms for half of them, and only part of one regiment reported uniforms in wear. During 1809 the number of Cazadores climbed to about '3,000 chasseurs', and stayed at that level for a couple of years. In April 1810 there were a total of 3,018, of whom 2,366 were 'present and fit for duty' (PRO, WO 1/244). This was below the establishment strength, which is not surprising. However, it must be remembered that there were also the two stronger battalions of the Loyal Lusitanian Legion, which were considered part of the light troops. The Cazadores battalions were trained according to British light infantry manuals which were translated into Portuguese by William Warre, Marshal Beresford's ADC.

The good services of the Cazadores, who quickly made themselves a reputation as daring elite troops, and the increased need for light infantry, brought about a consolidation and an increase in the establishment of such units. On 20 April 1811 a decree created six additional battalions of Cazadores, to have the same establishment as previously. As we have seen, the Loyal Lusitanian Legion was disbanded to form

Officer, Light Cavalry of the Legion of Light Troops, c1807. The cavalry had sky blue light dragoon-style dolmans with black collar and pointed cuffs, yellow cords, small brass buttons; white and sky blue breeches, black boots; black leather Tarleton-style helmet with fur crest and white feather (green from 1806); and sky blue housings edged with yellow. Buglers and trumpeters had red coatees or dolmans, the other details being similar to the men's uniforms. Officers had gold lace and buttons and a red sash with silver fringes. (Print after William Bradford)

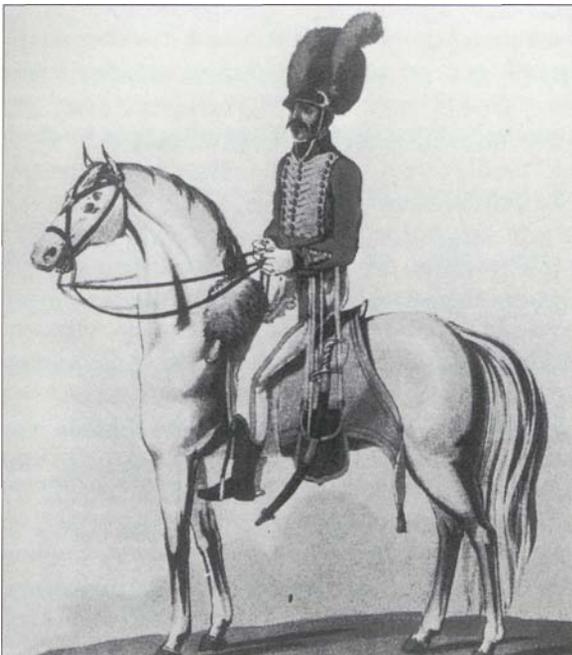


Table A: Cazadores Battalions, December 1808

Battalion	men	arms	uniforms	location
1st	339	250	-	Castelo Branco
2nd	321	260	-	Moura
3rd	239	185	203	Trancoso
4th	614	-	-	Penamacor
5th	120	95	-	Campo Maior
6th	646	500	-	Vila Real



Infantry fusilier's coatee, Loyal Lusitanian Legion, c1808-10. This is all green with white cords and lace and white metal buttons. The basic coatee is original but has had various restorations over the last hundred years. In the back view note the false turnbacks, which are simply a triangle of lace on the skirt. (Museu Militar do Porto)

three battalions: the 7th formed in Guarda, the 8th in Trancoso and the 9th at Lamego. The recruiting area of these three battalions was the province of Beira. The 10th was raised in Aveiro from volunteers in the Porto District. The 11th was raised at Feira, and was said to be 'composed of fine healthy lads from the northern provinces', who 'were in as fine order as any troops in the world' when they passed through Coimbra in March 1812. The 12th Battalion was raised at Ponte de Lima with recruits from the province of Minho. By early 1812 the distribution of the battalions was reported as listed in **Table B** (PRO, WO 1/401). The province was the general area for recruiting the conscripts, who were first drafted by the Ordenanza and trained by the affiliated militia regiment. The quarters were where the units had their depots.

Table B: Cazadores Battalions, early 1812

Battalion	province	quarters
1st	Estramadura	Lisbon
2nd	Algarve	Mertola
3rd	Beira	Aguiar da Beira
4th	Estramadura	Tomar
5th	Alentejo	Campo Maior
6th	Minho	Penafiel
7th	Estramadura	Aldeia Gavinha
8th	Beira	Idanha
9th	Minho	Braga
10th	Porto	Soure
11th	Beira	Guarda
12th	Tras os Montes	Braganza

The Cazadores went on to earn ever greater distinction. In the final years of the war, in 1813 and 1814, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th and 9th battalions fought on the Nivelle and Nive rivers, at Bayonne and Toulouse. By then they were considered elite light troops by both the British and the French. For instance, Lt Woodberry noted that the 2nd Cazadores were on picket duty guarding the general headquarters in January 1814, showing Wellington's great confidence in these troops. When the battalions returned from France to Portugal they were all assigned new HQ and depot locations. The 1st was assigned Portalegre, the 2nd Tomar, the 3rd Vila Real, the 4th Penamacor, the 5th Miranda do Douro, the 6th Penafiel, the 7th Guarda, the 8th Trancoso, the 9th Sao Pedro do Sul, the 10th Aveiro, the 11th Feira, and the 12th Ponte de Lima.

Cazadores uniforms

The dress of the Cazadores battalions was decreed in the regulations of 11 November 1808. The cloth for the uniforms did not come from



Major John Scott Lillie, 7th Cazadores Battalion, c1811-14. The portrait is very dark, but many details can be distinguished. The jacket is dark brown with a black collar, yellow pointed cuffs edged with two gold lace stripes, black buttons and black cords braided across the chest; he wears dark brown pantaloons and a crimson and gold hussar-style barrel sash. The shako on the table at left is black with brass or gilt chinscales, a gilt stringed bugle horn badge with the Roman numeral 'VII' below, green cords and a green plume. The black crossbelt has a silver whistle, and he holds a sabre with a Mameluke hilt. The Portuguese and British medals and orders were painted in later and include the British Military General Service, first awarded in 1848. (National Army Museum, London, 58364)

Charge of Cazadores, 1811-14. *Azujelo* by Jorge Colaco done at the end of the last century to commemorate the battle of Bussaco. (Bussaco Palace)

England; it was a locally produced woollen country cloth called '*zaragoza*', of a medium to dark brown hue, fairly rough but very sturdy - an ideal material both in colour and in texture for skirmishers. The 3rd Cazadores appear to have been the first to report having some uniforms, but the 1st was also clothed at about the same time at Portalegre thanks to a gift of uniforms and equipment from its wealthy lieutenant-colonel. At Bussaco, where all six Cazadores units were deployed, the French noted 'several Portuguese battalions dressed in brown' fighting them stubbornly. It should be noted that the Cazadores' uniforms were made in Portugal.

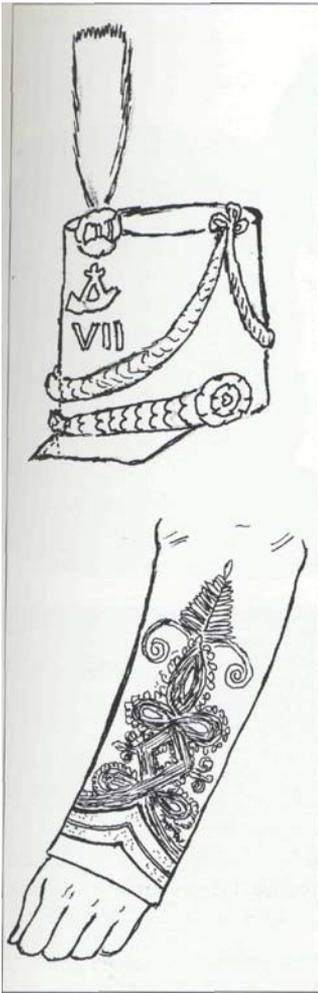
All battalions had a dark brown jacket, with collars and cuffs of the battalion colours as listed in **Table C**.

The jacket was trimmed with yellow cords, green piping and round yellow buttons. The jacket of the ordinary Cazador appears to have had three rows of buttons with yellow cord braiding on the chest, and green piping edging the collar, cuffs and shoulder straps. The elite companies of Tiradores had in addition green fringes to the ends of their shoulder straps. The waistcoat and pantaloons were dark brown or white according to the season, and the greatcoat was to be the same as for the line infantry. The short gaiters were black.

The first shako was the 1806 '*barretina*' as worn by the line infantry. It had a brass bugle horn badge, the battalion number stamped in the brass lower band, and green cords. On the left side the ordinary Cazadores had a green plume while the Tiradores had a black plume. The shako changed in about 1809-10 to the British 'stovepipe' light infantry model with brass bugle horn badge, battalion numeral, and green or black plume in front.

The NCOs were distinguished by yellow silk cords as well as the rank badges of the 1806 regulations. For drummers, buglers and fifers, see Plate B.





Detail of the shako after Major Lillie's portrait; and reconstruction of a Cazadore major's cuff and sleeve lace and embroidery, c1814.

Officers and cadets were to be distinguished by gold cords on their jackets. Epaulettes and rank badges for all ranks were to be according to the uniform regulations of 19 May 1806 (see first volume, MAA 343).

The yellow and gold cap cords cannot have been universally displayed; they were hardly a discreet feature for men acting as skirmishers, and in those ruinous times for Portugal the gold cords would undoubtedly have been an unbearable expense for most officers. No doubt there were complaints; and on 11 July 1809 the colour of the cords and buttons was allowed to be black for all ranks.

Perhaps as early as 1809-10, some Cazadores sergeants started wearing sashes and black chevrons, no doubt in imitation of British sergeants. The sashes were forbidden by Marshal Beresford on 2 April 1810; but in his order of 24 March 1813 he eventually concurred that chevrons with three or four bars of black lace would 'continue' to be worn by Cazadores.

In 1811, as noted above, the number of units was doubled. By a General Order of 30 July 1811, the uniform of all 12 battalions was ordered to be as follows: dark brown jacket with pointed cuffs and collar of the facing colour as listed in **Table D**. The jackets were to be trimmed with black cords and black round buttons. There were three rows of buttons on the front, with cords braiding the chest, black lace edging the collar and cuffs; and dark brown shoulder straps edged black, with black fringes. The waistcoat and pantaloons were to be dark brown. This remained the official dress for the rest of the Peninsular War; see illustrations and Plates B and C (though it may have been simplified during the war for some Cazadores - see Plate C). The shako remained cylindrical until about 1815 when it assumed a bell-top shape.

For officers, the portrait of Major Lillie of the 7th Cazadores shows the battalion's black collar and yellow cuffs on a jacket which is covered with black cords held by three rows of black buttons. It also shows two gold laces above his cuffs; and there are no epaulettes on his shoulders. As Lillie left the Portuguese service in April 1814, this would seem to indicate that the rank badges specified on 24 October 1815 (given below) might already have been adopted unofficially for some years by some officers - as we have seen, this was already the case regarding the rank badges of sergeants.

The rank badge situation was officially solved by the order of 24 October 1815 which brought in a system of laces to denote the rank of officers and of chevrons (now gold or yellow instead of black) for sergeants and corporals, as follows:

Lieutenant-colonel Two wide gold laces edging the cuffs.
Major One wide gold lace edged with a gold cord.
Captain One wide gold lace only.

Table C: Battalion distinctions, November 1808

Battalion	collar	cuffs
1st	dark brown	sky blue
2nd	dark brown	scarlet
3rd	dark brown	yellow
4th	sky blue	sky blue
5rd	scarlet	scarlet
6th	yellow	yellow

Table D: Battalion distinctions, July 1811

Battalion	collar	cuffs
1st	black	sky blue
2nd	black	scarlet
3rd	black	black
4th	sky blue	sky blue
5rd	scarlet	scarlet
6th	yellow	yellow
7th	black	yellow
8th	sky blue	black
9th	scarlet	black
10th	yellow	black
11th	sky blue	scarlet
12th	scarlet	sky blue

Lieutenant Two gold cords.

Ensign One gold cord.

Sergeant-adjutant Four gold lace chevrons on the right sleeve with a gold bugle horn badge at the centre of the top chevron.

Quartermaster-sergeant Four gold lace chevrons on the left sleeve with a gold bugle horn badge at the centre of the top chevron.

First sergeant Four gold lace chevrons on the right sleeve.

Second sergeant Three gold lace chevrons on the right sleeve.

Third Sergeant Three gold lace chevrons on the left sleeve.

Artificer and bugle-major Three gold lace chevrons on the right sleeve.

Corporal Two yellow lace chevrons on the right sleeve.

Lance-corporal One yellow lace chevron on the right sleeve.

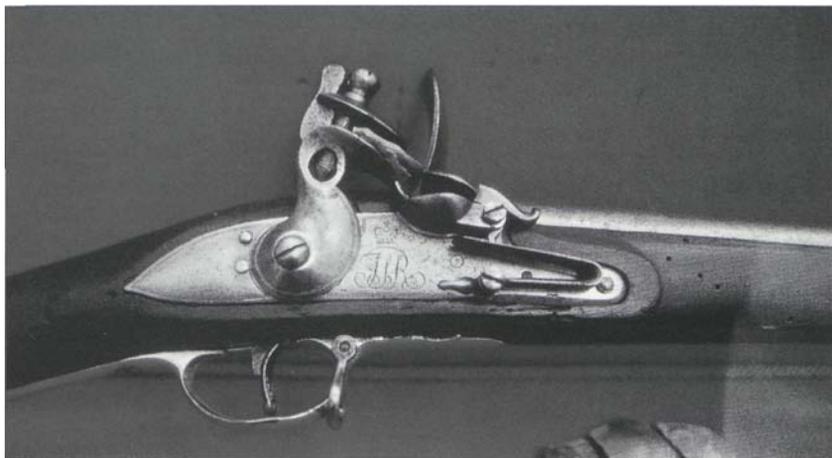
Finally, the unit chaplains supposedly wore their religious garb, but it was different in the Cazadores battalions. Captain Kinkaid of the 95th Rifles described the chaplain of 'our two Cazadore regiments' - the 1st and 3rd Cazadores in the Light Division - as 'a short stout old fellow, with a snuff-coloured (brown) coat buttoned up to the throat' wearing a 'tall cocked hat' and 'mounted on his bay pony in his Portuguese saddle which is boarded up like a bucket (the shape of his seat and thighs)'.

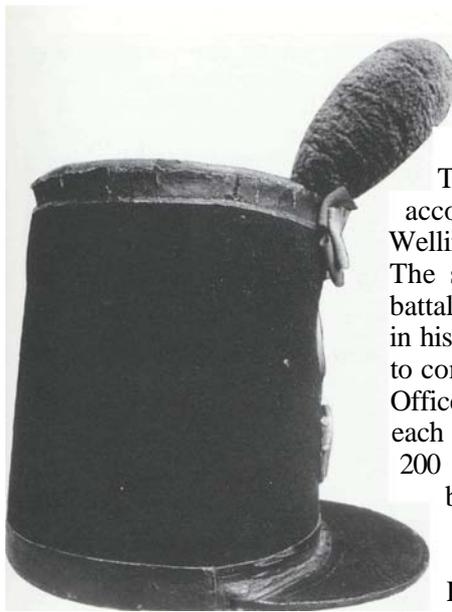
Arms and accoutrements

Officers were to be armed with a sabre. All NCOs and soldiers were armed with muskets and bayonets. All soldiers, drummers, fifers and buglers were also to have a short sword. Drum-majors, drummers, fifers and buglers were to have a pistol instead of a musket. In practice, the short swords and pistols do not appear to have been found for all, nor worn by some or all for very long. With only 1,290 firearms, presumably of all descriptions, for 2,416 Cazadores in December 1808, the priority was to arm everyone with good weapons as soon as possible. This was done in 1809 thanks to the large supplies of British muskets flowing into Portugal. The armament became the standard India Pattern musket with bayonet. British light infantrymen were not armed with sabres and there is no evidence that any were sent for the Cazadores. From 1809, the Cazadores were armed like British soldiers.

Accoutrements were to be black with bayonet and sabre frogs for the waistbelt and a shoulder cartridge box belt for those carrying muskets. Drum-majors, drummers, fifers and buglers were to have a pistol holster instead of a bayonet frog. Again, due to lack of arms, these instructions may have remained largely on paper. In practice, black British accoutrements would have been used from 1809 for the British muskets with which they came. The brass belt-plates appear to have

Lock on a British India Pattern musket marked with Prince Regent Joao's cipher 'JPR', indicating that this weapon was refurbished or reassembled at the Lisbon Royal Arsenal between 1808 and 1816. (Museu Militar do Bussaco)





been left plain. Black rifle accoutrements were issued to the men using rifles from August 1810.

It was originally intended to have rifles for some or all the Cazadores but these were not available in 1808-09. The 2,000 Baker rifles, complete with sword bayonets and accoutrements, which were ordered from England by Beresford and Wellington in June 1809 arrived in Portugal during the spring of 1810. The six battalions then had about 3,000 effective men. Part of each battalion was issued with these rifles in the late summer. D'Urban noted in his journal for 6-7 August: 'The Marshal (Beresford) gives them Rifles to complete. The other Chasseurs are attached to Brigades under British Officers... and will therefore improve rapidly. 200 Rifles ordered also for each of the Chasseurs 1st, 4th, 6th' battalions. There were thus about 200 riflemen per battalion - perhaps somewhat less in the additional battalions raised in 1811, as there is no evidence of further rifles being sent to the Portuguese army. The only addition would have been the maximum of 120 rifles from the disbanded Loyal Lusitanian Legion, giving a total of some 2,100 rifles. Assuming the first six battalions kept 200 rifles each, this left the last six battalions with 150 rifles each - still a respectable proportion of riflemen in any army.



Royal Volunteers of the Prince

While not involved in the Peninsular War, this sizeable regular corps consisting mostly of Cazadores should be mentioned, if only to avoid confusion. The Voluntarios Reales do Principe was ordered raised on 15 May 1815. It consisted of four battalions of Cazadores numbered one to four totalling 4,830 men, two companies of artillery and 800 cavalry. The units were divided into two brigades with staff officers. Formed by drawing volunteers from other units in the army, this corps embarked for Brazil in early 1816. Renamed 'of the King' following the death of Queen Maria I, the corps took part in the capture of Montevideo in 1817.

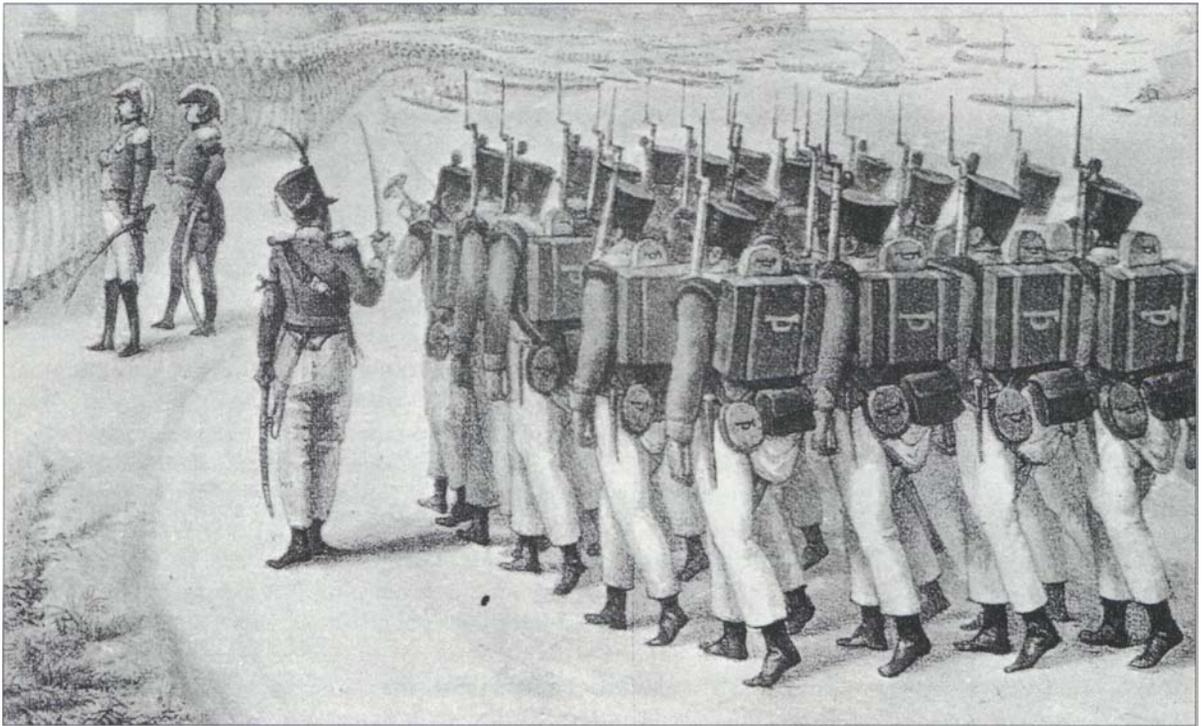
Uniform See illustration.

CAVALRY

The Portuguese cavalry originated in 1640 when a number of permanent companies were mustered as part of the new regular army raised by King Joao IV. They were organised into regiments from 1707, but all were disbanded and totally reorganised from 1715. Regiments of dragoons were added to the heavy cavalry units from the 1730s, and the Braganza Light Cavalry in 1754; the dragoon regiments were Olivenza, Evora, Chaves and Miranda. The Count de Lippe reorganised and augmented the cavalry to 12 regiments which could best be defined as medium cavalry. Although some of the regiments officially kept their titles as dragoons until 1806, they were in fact all similar from the 1760s and were routinely designated as 'cavalry' in almost every document. The arms, equipment and uniform were similar for all regiments. There was no light cavalry such as hussars or light dragoons.

Cavalry regiments, as organised under Count Lippe's 1762 instructions, consisted of eight companies, each with a captain, a

Shako, 6th Cazadores Battalion. Black felt and leather, brass numeral and bugle horn badge, blue and red cockade, green pompon. The badges are of a latter date than the Napoleonic era but generally similar to earlier ones. (Museu Militar do Porto)



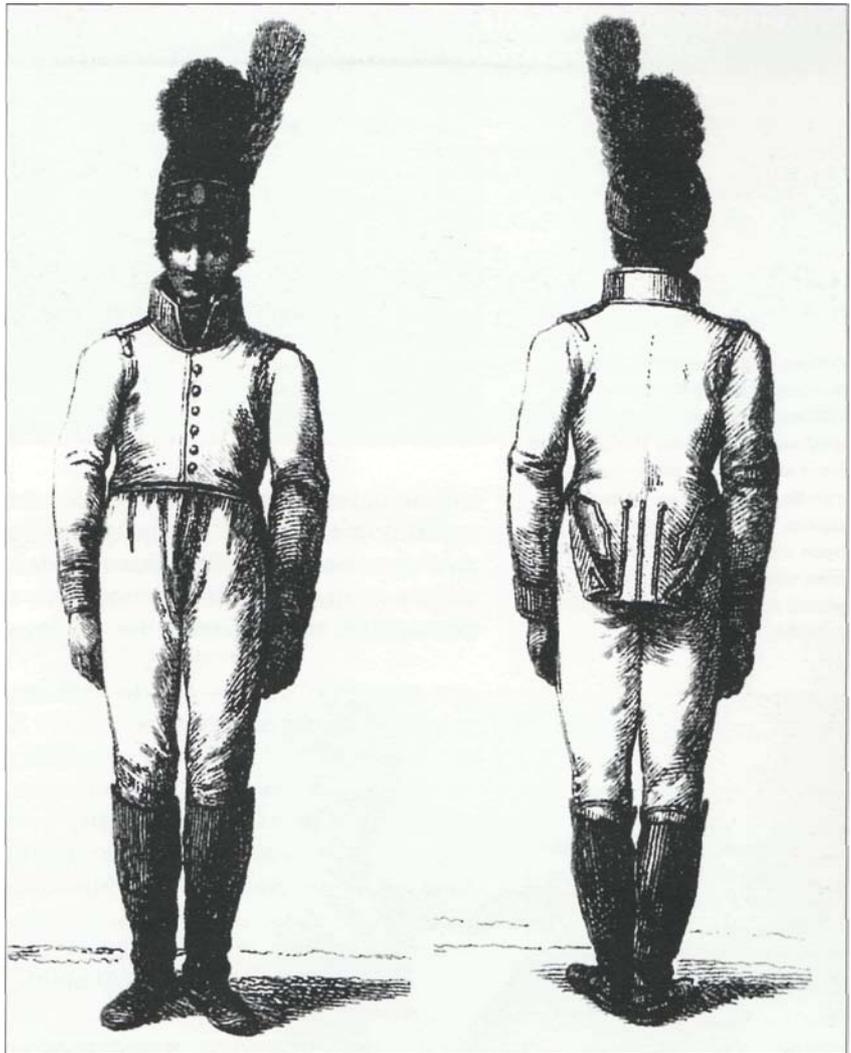
lieutenant, a cornet, five NCOs, a trumpeter, a farrier and 30 troopers, making about 300 officers and men per regiment. This was increased in the 1790s and early 1800s to 470 all ranks. Before the French invasion of 1807 regiments had, on paper, 58 troopers per company with a suitable number of good horses. This was the theoretical strength determined by the army HQ at Lisbon; the reality in the various garrisons was very different. The actual strength of cavalry regiments was much lower than establishment, perhaps as low as half in some cases. There were not enough horses even for these reduced numbers of troopers, and the training appears to have been fairly abysmal.

Tactically, the Portuguese cavalry were not really heavy cavalry, nor were they trained to be dragoons, and they were certainly not light cavalry. Here lay the root of the problem. The general staff never really made up its mind as to what role the cavalry was to fulfil on the battlefield. As a result, the mounted arm was not divided to perform the various tactical functions incumbent on cavalry of the Napoleonic period, as was the case in most other armies. The only tangible effort in that direction was the creation of the squadrons of light cavalry in the 1796 Legion of Light Troops (qv). Even the reforms of 1806 did not really address the problem other than to reorganise that arm into something like medium cavalry. There were no provisions for true shock heavy cavalry, nor were more light cavalry created.

It could be said that Portugal was not quite a 'horse country' like England, France or Spain in terms of breeding a plentiful variety of mounts. The typical horse was a good and sturdy animal, but somewhat too small for heavy cavalry and a bit too slow for light cavalry. Most crucial was the fact that the country could never produce enough horses nor forage for a large cavalry establishment. It was thus the weakest arm

Cazadores, Royal Volunteers of the Prince, 1815-16: detail from a print after J.B.Debret. The uniform of the four Cazadores battalions was inspired by those in Portugal but made somewhat simpler, without black cords. The jacket was brown with a single row of black buttons in front and black turnbacks, green wings, the collar and cuffs of various battalion facings (yellow is shown in this print); white pantaloons, black gaiters, shako with brass bugle badge and green plume, and black accoutrements. Note the white bugle ornaments painted on the black British 'Trotter' knapsacks with mess tins in white covers and white straps; the canteens painted green with black bugle ornaments; and white haversacks. The men are shown armed with muskets. (continued opposite)

Cavalry uniform, 1806-10. The uniform shown is after the plates in the May 1806 regulations. It remained largely the same during the Peninsular War except for the replacement of the helmet by the shako in 1810-11.



Watercolours in the Arquivo Historico Militar show some detail differences from Debret's renderings made in Brazil. The former show the Cazadores' brown jackets with brown cord across the chest and black turnbacks; the 'stovepipe' shakos have brownish cords, a green plume and brass stringed bugle badge with the number. The 1st Bn have brown collar and sky blue cuffs; the 2nd, sky blue collar and brown cuffs; the 3rd, brown collar and scarlet cuffs; and the 4th, black collar and scarlet cuffs. The cavalry are shown with the 1806 pattern blue coatee with white collar, cuffs, piping and turnbacks, brass buttons; and bell-topped shako with yellow top band, oval brass badge and red plume. The artillery have the blue coatee with black collar and cuffs, yellow piping and possibly turnbacks, brass buttons, and black shako plume.

of service in the army. All this explains in large part the lacklustre role it played during the Peninsular War. Following the French occupation at the end of 1807, Marshal Junot considered it next to useless and disbanded it. He correctly believed that the best elements, which included the better light cavalymen from Alorna's Legion of Light Troops, could make useful light cavalry, and formed them into two mounted chasseur regiments in the new French Portuguese Legion (qv).

During the second half of 1808 the Portuguese cavalymen gathered and spontaneously reformed their old regiments, although severely short of horses, arms and uniforms. The cavalry's situation was compiled as shown in **Table E** at the end of 1808 (PRO, WO 1/232).

Thus, in December 1808, the cavalry had 3,641 men but only 629 uniforms and 2,617 horses. Arms were not listed, but a 'great want of harness, carbines, pistols and swords' was noted.

In 1809 Marshal Beresford reorganised the Portuguese cavalry to have an establishment of 595 officers, NCOs and men per regiment, giving a total of 7,140. Each regiment had a staff and four squadrons, with two companies per squadron. There were no elite companies. The