

The Hanoverian Army
1814-15

Infantry

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Infantry

Organisation

Following the general movement towards freedom from French control by the other German states and Kingdoms in 1813 the Hanoverian Army was reformed and by the end of 1814 the infantry consisted of:

- Regular battalions, the Feld-Bataillonen, which included three light battalions (jägers) which were the battalions Lüneburg, Grubenhagen and Bremen, of which the latter was converted to line infantry status in 1815.
- Landwehr infantry consisting of twenty-seven battalions.
- A two-company unit called the Jäger-Korps raised in 1815 from the Freiwilligen unit 'Feldjägerkorps von Kielmannsegge', which was disbanded at the end of 1814.

Of the Feld-Bataillonen, five were put into the field in 1815 as part of the Allied Army at Waterloo and Quatre Bras. Twelve Landwehr battalions also composed part of the Hanoverian divisions during this campaign. All eighteen (*sic*) units serving with distinction and valour, despite the lack of training, equipment and arms which prevailed in all units, only the Feldbataillone Lüneburg and Bremen having seen action previously during the 1813 campaign, as part of the Anglo-German force attached to the Prussian Army, at Gohrde.

Each battalion consisted of four companies, there were no elite companies.

The twenty-seven Landwehr battalions were named in 1814 as:

Munden	Luchow
Northeim	Stade
Osterode	Ottendorf
Hannover	Bremervörde
Hameln	Verden
Einbeck (previously Alfeld)	Osterholz (previously Bremerlehe)
Hildesheim	Hoya
Peine	Osnabrück
Salzgitter (previously Goslar)	Bentheim
Celle	Meppen
Gifhorn	Nienburg
Uelzen	Quakenbrück
Lüneburg	Melle (previously Iburg)
Harburg	

Feld-Bataillone and Landwehrbataillone

Headgear

All uniforms and items of equipment issued to the Hanoverian Army were of British pattern and manufacture many of these being cast-offs from the regular British infantry regiments that

had been re-clothed in 1814. The Feld-Bataillone wore the 'Belgic' pattern shako of black felt with high false front and black leather peak and trim to the edge of the false front. The front of shako was decorated with the British Army pattern plate of brass, which was ovoid with scrolled edging and surmounted by the royal crown, George III being the Elector of Hanover. The plate was embossed with the entwined royal 'GR' cypher, however, one unconfirmed report states that some of the infantry may have been issued with a re-worked plate embossed with the Hanoverian horse motif. Cords and flounders were white and the short plume was white over scarlet and worn on the right side of the cap, fitting into a small brass socket concealed behind the black rosette style cockade. The light companies of the Feld-Bataillone were issued with the conical, or stovepipe, style light infantry shako with plate as for the Ordinar-Kompanien, or centre companies and green cords and plume, the latter being worn at the front of the cap with the cockade.

The Landwehrebataillone infantry wore the light infantry pattern shako with decorations as for the Feld-Bataillone the Ordinar-Kompanien wearing a white over scarlet plume at the front of the cap and white cords and the light companies green plume and cords. The front plate was normally of the same pattern as above, however, several of the battalions would appear to have been issued with the older pattern brass plate with straight sides and scrolled upper and lower edges and without the crown. This style of plate was embossed with the royal cypher surmount by a crown and was notably worn by the Osnabrueck and Peine battalions.

During campaign the decorations were removed from the shako and a black oilskin or canvas cover fitted, lacing at the rear of the cap.

Coat

The coat was the scarlet British pattern infantry tunic, single breasted with short tails, decorated with a single turn-back and high upright collar open at the throat to expose the black stock worn beneath. Many of these coats were refurbished items from British regiments and lace and facings had been hastily changed thus many variations in colour tones appeared. The breast of the coat was decorated with eight white lace battons and eight buttons set in pairs for both the Feld-Bataillone and Landwehrebataillone and the buttons were of white metal for the other ranks of all units. The collars, cuffs and shoulder-straps were of the battalion facing colour the collar being piped with white lace at the upper, lower and leading edges and the cuffs being square-cut with three vertical white lace battons fastened with a button at the upper tip. Shoulder-straps were piped with white and the outer edge decorated with a tuft of white worsted for the Ordinar-Bataillone and with scarlet wing or 'swallows-nest' epaulettes for the light companies trimmed with white lace and white wool at the edges.

The Feld-Bataillone Bremen, however, had until 1815 been a light infantry battalion and although the unit was clothed in the Ordinar-Bataillone scarlet tunic in 1815 black wool rolls were worn at the shoulders by all companies and the collar and cuffs were unpiped. The turn-backs of all units' coats were white and the straight inner edge of the tails piped white. Pockets were diagonal with two buttons and two white lace battons and were piped at the edges with white.

Facing Colours 1815.

Feld-Bataillone

Unit	Facings	Officers' Lace	Buttons
Verden	Light Green	Gold	Gilt
Duke of York	Blue	Silver	Silver
Bremen	Black	Gold	Gilt

Landwehrbataillone

Bremervörde	Blue	Gold	Silver
Hamelns	Blue	Gold	Gilt
Hildersheim	Lemon Yellow	Gold	Silver
Gifhorn	Blue	Gold	Gilt
Munden	Blue	Gold	Silver
Lüneburg	Blue	Gold	Silver
Peine	Lemon Yellow	Gold	Gilt
Osnabrück	Blue	Gold	Silver
Verden	Blue	Gold	Gilt
Osterode	Green	Gold	Silver
Quakenbrück	Blue	Gold	Silver
Salzgitter	Blue	Gold	Gilt

Breeches, Etc.

All battalions were issued with the mid-grey British pattern overall trousers worn over the short black cloth gaiters and boots, however, many of the Landwehr units would appear to have served during the Waterloo campaign in a variety of grey, white and even brown overalls of British, Prussian or French origin. The Feld-Bataillone Bremen continued to wear the dark blue overall trousers retained from the unit's light infantry uniform.

Greatcoats were officially of the British Army pattern, mid-grey with a short cape at the shoulders and deep turned back cuffs, however, few of the Landwehr battalions were equipped with these and many carried only a blanket.

Equipment

The bulk of the infantry equipment was of the standard British pattern, the pouch-belt being of whitened leather with brass fittings and the cartridge pouch black leather with square-cut lid. The Feld-Bataillone and some of the Landwehr units were issued with the second shoulder belt to carry the bayonet in a black leather sheath with brass heel and fittings, however, the majority of the Landwehrbataillone were without bayonets. The Feld-Bataillone Bremen continued to wear the black leather shoulder belts and equipment issued when a light infantry unit. All companies carried the white cloth haversack on a narrow strap over the right shoulder and the packs were of standard British black canvas pattern often with the Hanoverian white horse painted on the back, although some of the Landwehr battalions carried the brown hide captured French packs. Water canteens were of the round wooden pattern and were painted blue-grey and straps were brown leather. Muskets were of the British Tower pattern, the 'Brown Bess' bound with blank iron and had a whitened leather sling, black leather for the Bremen F.B. One section of each light company was armed with the short rifle in place of the musket and these were of assorted British, Prussian and Austrian patterns, the riflemen being issued with powder horns and the long sword bayonet.

Officers and N.C.O.s

The non-commissioned officers of the Hanoverian Army were uniformed basically the same as the other ranks with the addition of the British system of rank chevrons worn on the upper right sleeve. The senior grades of N.C.O. had chevrons of silver lace piped with the regimental colour

and the junior grades, corporal and chosen-man, (lance corporal), white lace chevrons piped with the distinctive.

Sergeant-Major	Four silver chevrons.
Sergeant	Three silver chevrons.
Corporal	Two white lace chevrons.
Chosen-man	One white lace chevron.

The senior non-coms wore a waist-sash knotted at the right hip with a stripe of regimental facing colour through the centre and these could either be the British crimson pattern or the newly introduced yellow sash of Hanover. A single shoulder belt was worn to support a straight bladed sword with brass 'D' hilt and black leather scabbard with brass heel and fittings. The senior grades of N.C.O.s should have carried the 'spontoon' or pike as in the British Army, however, these had not been issued in 1815 and the Ordinar-Kompanie sergeants were armed with only the sword and the light company N.C.O.s wore the pouch-belt as for the men and carried a musket.

Officers of all units including the light companies wore the 'Belgic' style shako with a white metal cypher 'GR' badge at the front surmounted by a crown. The cockade was black silk and slightly larger than those of the other ranks. Plumes were of the Hanoverian national colours white over yellow. Cords were not worn on the officers' helmets. During campaign many officers chose to wear the schiffhut, or bicorn hat of black felt with cockade and small plume, this was normally worn 'fore-and-aft' in the British fashion. The officers' pattern fatigue cap was a Prussian style flat topped cap of scarlet with yellow headband and black leather peak, and this was often worn in the field with the greatcoat to protect the expensive and almost irreplaceable uniform.

The officers' pattern tunic was similar to that of the other ranks but with short tails and was double breasted with two rows of eight buttons. Whilst normally worn closed in the field with only the top two buttons unfastened to expose a triangle of lapel, it could be worn with the lapels fastened back to expose the coloured face of the battalion distinctive. Cuffs were square-cut with three buttons horizontally at the top edge and the collar was unpiped and decorated with a single button. Only the Feld-Bataillone officers wore lace on the collar in the form of a horizontal batton and on the cuffs vertically from the buttons. The officers of the Ordinar-Kompanies wore epaulettes of gold or silver, according to the regimental lace colour and the officers of the light companies' swallows-nest epaulettes with facing colour field and gold or silver trim and tassels at the outer edge.

Ordinar-Kompanie

Colonel, Lt.Colonel	Two full epaulettes with heavy bullion fringe.
Major	Epaulette with heavy bullion fringe on right shoulder only.
Captain	As above, fine fringe.
Lieutenant	Contre-epaulette on right shoulder only.

Light Companies

Captain	Swallows-nest epaulettes with heavy fringe and bugle badge on the strap.
Lieutenant	As above fine fringe.

One source shows the officers of the light companies with turnbacks of white trimmed with gold lace at the edges and decorated with gold bugle-horn badges; however, this may have been only the personal embellishment of an individual officer. Overall trousers were mid-grey and worn with black knee boots, one source showing an officer of the Feld-Bataillone Bremen with a silver stripe on the outer seam. All officers wore the wide silk waist- sash of golden yellow tied at the right hip with a large bow, and the Ordinar-Kompanie officers carried the straight infantry pattern sword with brass hilt. The sword was carried in a brown leather scabbard with brass fittings on a whitened leather shoulder-belt, decorated at the breast with an oval gilt plate embossed with the royal cypher. Officers of the light companies wore the curved sabre on a narrow waist-belt with gilt 'S' buckle and black leather scabbard with brass heel and bindings. The officers of the Bremen F.B. wore black leather belting and all companies wore the light infantry pattern epaulettes.

Musicians

There is no accurate record of the dress of the drummers and hornists of the Hanoverian Army at this time. However, drummers would most likely have worn the coat of the other ranks with white lace chevrons on the sleeves boxed at the front and rear with a stripe of lace. As many of the uniforms were makeshift or second-hand it is unlikely that a special uniform in reversed colours was introduced by 1815. Swallows-nest epaulettes would be worn at the shoulders of facing colour or scarlet with white lace trim and wool edging. The hornists of the light companies would have worn like epaulettes; however, it is unlikely that the sleeves would have been laced.

Feld-Jäger-Bataillone

Headgear

All uniforms and items of equipment issued to the Hanoverian Army were of British pattern and manufacture many of these being cast-offs from regular British Army units, although some items issued to the jäger battalions were of Prussian origin. The Grubenhagen and Bremen battalions were issued with the conical, or stovepipe style light infantry shako of the British Army of black felt with squared black leather peak and black leather trim to the base edge. The front of the cap was decorated with a white metal bugle-horn badge surmounted by the rosette style black cockade fastened at the centre with a white metal button. The short, worsted plume worn at the front of the shako was green, as were the cords and flounders worn across the front of the cap in the British fashion. Several variations of this headwear appear to have been in existence. The Grubenhagen battalion wore the same style cap without a peak during the 1815 campaign with a round pom-pon instead of the plume and the cords wound around the cap. With the conversion of the Bremen battalion to line infantry in 1815, the unit adopted the dress of the other Feld-Bataillone. Headgear for the Lüneburg battalion in 1814 was the British style 'Belgic' shako with false front trimmed with black leather and white metal bugle-horn badge as for the other units. The cockade and plume were worn on the left side of the cap and cords were green. By the commencement of the Waterloo campaign the battalion was wearing the conical shako as above, however, the badge would appear to have been the white metal 'Saxon' horse. Prior to 1814 the battalion had worn the Prussian style fatigue cap with bugle-horn badge and it was in this style

of headgear that the unit appeared at Görhde in 1813. The Jäger-Korps was issued with the same style of conical shako as the other units with horse badge and green plume and cords.

The fatigue cap was a round soft-topped cap of dark green with a wide black headband for the Feld-Jäger-Bataillone and a light green headband for the Jäger-Korps. The peak and chinstrap were black leather and the white metal bugle-horn badge appeared at the front of the headband.

Coat

Coats for all battalions, including the Bremen battalion before 1815, were a dark green single-breasted tunic, similar to that worn by the British rifle regiments. The Grubenhagen and Bremen battalions had black upright collar and pointed cuffs and the front of the coat was closed with a single row of white metal buttons. The tails of the coat were short with a single turn-back and straight inner edges and the turn-backs and piping was black. Tail-pockets were vertical and piped black with two white metal buttons. The Lüneburg battalion coats were of the same pattern with three rows of buttons on the breast and the cuffs were square-cut. Collars were black from 1813 to 1814 and by the time of the Waterloo campaign had been changed to dark green with black trim at the upper and leading edges. The shoulder straps for all three battalions were black with a tuft of black worsted wool at the outer tip. The Jäger-Korps tunics were of the same pattern with pointed cuffs and shoulder straps without the wool tuft and all facings and piping were light green. The coat was closed with a single row of white metal buttons.

Breeches, Etc.

All battalions wore mid-grey overall trousers over short British style black cloth gaiters with cloth covered buttons. The overalls of the Jäger-Korps had a wide light green stripe on the outer seam and those of the other battalions were undecorated. During campaign, overalls were normally worn tucked into the tops of the gaiters or with the cuffs rolled back. The greatcoats were of standard British infantry pattern, and were pepper-grey, single-breasted with white metal buttons and deep turned back cuffs.

Equipment

The pouch-belt worn over the left shoulder was black leather and supported the British-pattern black leather cartridge pouch with plain square-cut lid. The second shoulder-belt supported the curved sabre-bayonet with brass 'D' hilt and black leather scabbard with brass heel and fittings, however, although all battalions were officially issued with the short rifle many carried the musket and were issued with the normal socket bayonet. Variations appear in the belting, some sources showing the jägers wearing the pouch at the front of a waist-belt and other the heavy bayonet on a waist-belt. The Jäger-Korps were issued with the sword-bayonet which had been carried by their predecessors the Feldjägerkorps von Kielmannsegge a straight bladed weapon with solid brass bar hilt and wooden grips and the front of the shoulder-belt was decorated with a brass crowned 'GR' cypher. Those units issued with the rifle carried a wooden or leather powder horn on a green cord over the left shoulder and packs were of the black British pattern for the Lüneburg and Grubenhagen battalions and of the brown hide Austrian pattern with shoulder-strap for the Jäger-Korps and Bremen battalions. Rifles and muskets were bound with blank iron and had brown leather slings.

Officers and N.C.O.s

The non-commissioned officers appear to have worn a variety of distinctions during the earlier period 1813-14, the senior grades of the Grubenhagen Battalion wearing silver contre-epaulettes and heavy silver aiguillette cords across the chest and silver cords to the cap. The other units adopted the chevron insignia of the British Army.

Sergeant-Major	Four silver chevrons on the upper right sleeve, piped dark green.
Sergeant	As above, three chevrons.
Corporal	Two white lace chevrons.

The senior N.C.O.s wore the crimson light infantry pattern waist-sash of the British Army with cords suspended on the right hip, however, by 1815 these had been replaced with a sash of yellow, the Hanoverian national colour. N.C.O.s' armament and equipment was as for the other ranks.

Officers' headwear was as for the men with all metal work silvered and shako-cords silver with long rackets. Field officers' plumes were white and those of the company officers green. For campaign wear many officers preferred the schiffhut, or bicorn hat, of black felt with black silk cockade and short plume, the hats of the field officers often being decorated with silver tassels at the tips and silver cockade strap. The officers' coat for the battalions Grubenhagen, Bremen and the Jäger-Korps were a single-breasted surtout of dark green with high collar and long tails extending to the rear of the knees, with double turn-backs. The collar, cuffs and turn-backs were as for the other ranks and all buttons were gilded. Both the light infantry style wing epaulettes and the fringed epaulettes are shown in use by the Grubenhagen and Bremen battalions and in many cases this distinction may have been left to the individual discretion of the officers concerned. The field officers certainly wore two gold heavy-fringed epaulettes and the junior grades mostly wing epaulettes with grade rank distinction.

The officers of the Lüneburg battalion wore a dark green hussar style dolman with black braiding on the breast, three rows of white metal or black glass buttons and black piping to the front and base edges of the coat. Cuffs were of the pointed pattern and were black and surmounted by a black lace 'Hungarian' knot, those of the senior grades often extending as high as the elbow of the sleeve. The collar was dark green with black lace trim at the upper, lower and leading edges with black braid piping forming a box within the edging and terminating at an Hungarian knot to the leading points. The rear of the dolman was decorated with black braid 'trees' extending from the shoulders to the base edge of the coat with treble knots at each tip. All officers wore the light infantry pattern sash of crimson in 1813 and gold from that date. Breeches were grey for the Battalions Bremen, Grubenhagen and Jäger-Korps and worn with black leather 'Hungarian' boots with shaped tops and gold lace trim and tassels and the overall trousers were grey and tight fitting. The Lüneburg Battalion officers wore tight cornflower-blue overalls often with a wide silver stripe on the outer seam.

Pouch-belts were black leather with silver or gold lace trim to the edges and pouches black with lace edging. One source shows an officer of the Lüneburg Battalion with belt and pouch completely covered with silver lace. Waist-belts were black leather and of the narrow light cavalry pattern with double slings to support the sabre which had a silvered hilt and polished steel scabbard. Sabre-straps were silver for the Lüneburg and Jäger-Korps battalions and gold for the other units.