

Armies for the Waterloo Campaign in 6mm

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Several years ago I started forming armies for the Hundred Days Campaign in 6mm using Heroics and Ros figures. Almost immediately I found the uniforms of the various contingents confusing. The following was compiled at the time from various sources and has been occasionally updated. I trust that it is of some use to others.

As to uniform guides I particularly found “Uniforms of Waterloo” by Philip Haythornthwaite useful when building these armies. This excellent source, supplemented the Volley & Bayonet scenario book “Napoleon Returns” by Frank Chadwick, proved particularly useful.

All product codes referenced can be found in the Heroics & Ros catalogue.

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PRUSSIAN

The Prussian range is mostly complete with a few exceptions.

With respect to the infantry some additional variety can be added. The 21st Regiment wore a British style uniforms so use MBN19 Infantry in stove pipes for two battalions and MBN4 Riflemen for the third battalion are ideal. The 18th Regiment has a Prussian style uniform but in grey with white trousers. Finally, the 31st Regiment is in Russian colours and wear the Russian ‘kiwer’ shako, so use MRN7.

There is considerable variation in the Prussian Landwehr cavalry where sources often differ especially around the headgear. Generally, there seems to be a mix of headgear types including shako and czapkas. The purist may like to undertake some conversions or modifications to the headgear to add interest, though I haven’t been so bold.

NETHERLANDS

The Dutch/Belgian are rather complicated.

The Belgians wore British Belgic-type shakos, the Dutch a wider shako with one source calling it an Austrian style. Therefore, for the Belgians use MBN1 or MBN22 in Belgic shako, and either MBN19 or MBN21, or MAN1 or MAN13 for the Dutch. Some of the militia wore British stovepipe shakos, so use MBN19 or MBN21 for these. The Nassau units wore a French-style uniform in green. I used MFN14 supplemented by some MFN26 Line Fusiliers Attacking. The 1st Regiment with White shako covers and the 2nd Regiment with black.

I represented the Dutch/Belgian heavy cavalry regiment with French MFN19 Line Dragoons, alternately I understand that you could use French MFN16 Carabiniers. For variety British MBN27 Heavy Dragoons in Bicornes could be used to represent troops not using the 1815 uniform regulation, though I didn’t as I didn’t have any of these figures to hand. The light

cavalry are represented in Volley and Bayonet by two brigades and each comprising a mix of light dragoons and Hussars. Use a French MFN12 Hussars to represent the hussars and Austrian MAN7 to represent the Light Dragoons. Again, I modelled both types on my brigade bases.

Dutch/Belgian artillery wore British type uniform, but with Austrian-type shakos. Use British MBN3 for the Dutch. For the Belgians use British MBN3, but replace the British cannon with French cannon.

HANNOVER

For the Hannoverians line use MBN1 Infantry in Belgic Shako and MBN19 or MBN21 for the Light Infantry. The Hannoverian militia wore a range of uniforms. Theoretically it was the same as the regulars with Belgic shako, but one battalion (Bremervorde) is noted at Waterloo in green jackets and blue trousers. Several other units had blue jackets faced red – the opposite of the regulations. What headgear they scrounged is anyone's guess. Picking figures for this lot is difficult, but I would suggest MBN19 and MBN21 both with British with stovepipe shako, supplemented by Prussian Landwehr MPN20 and MPN21.

BRUNSWICK

The Brunswickers all had shakos with tall falling horsehair plumes, and the infantry wore hussar-type dolmans, though being black, and in 6mm, this detail can be overlooked. I used MFN14. In addition, I used Austrian MAN3 to represent the Avante-Garde Battalion.

The Brunswick cavalry comprised a regiment of Hussars (690 men) and a squadron of Uhlans (232 men). For Volley & Bayonet these are combined into one brigade base. For the Hussars use French MFN6 while for the Uhlans I used Austrian MAN9 due to the plumes. In my Brunswick cavalry stand I had mostly Hussars due to the numeric significance.

In the latest edition of Volley & Bayonet the draft army lists include an increasing number of dedicated guns. To provide interest I often model dedicated guns on bases and for the Brunswick infantry I used French foot artillery and crew to represent dedicated guns on the Light and Line brigades. For the horse artillery I used French horse artillery crew (MFN25) with British cannon.

FRENCH

The French are pretty self-evident, except that it's worth noting that both the infantry and cavalry had basically dispensed with colpacks for elite companies by this period. That is everyone was in standard headgear for their arm of service (shakos for infantry, chasseurs a cheval and hussars, combed helmets for heavy cavalry and line lancers.

When painting up French infantry include figures with brown and grey overcoats using MFN28 and consider grey, brown, cream, buff and white overalls instead of breeches and gaiters.

For Volley & Bayonet four stands of Old or Middle Guard will be required. The Heroics & Ros Old Guard figures have the traditional bearskin which wasn't worn by all the Guard. Further, Heroics & Ros do not make a French figure in the soft field cap which was often

worn in this campaign, especially by the guard. It would therefore be possible to mix in line infantry to give an impression of a guard unit that is not uniformly dressed. In particular the 4th Grenadiers 3rd Chasseurs of the Guard were particularly poorly uniformed in part as they were mostly veterans taken from their parent units and not given a new uniform.