

Regimental History during the Restoration and Waterloo Campaign.

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On 6th May 1814 the King decided to constitute a Superior Council of War, charged with the re-organisation of the army. On 12th May an ordinance came out limiting Line Infantry to 90 Regiments, which would follow immediately.

Each Regiment was comprised of a regimental staff (*etat-major*) and three battalions. For each Regiment there was a Colonel, a Major, three heads of battalions (*chefs de bataillon*), three adjutants-major, a quarter-master treasurer, a standard-bearer (*port-drapeau*), a surgeon major, an assistant surgeon-major, three sub-adjutant officers, a drum major and corporal, eight musicians (one a chief) and three master-tradesmen – being a tailor, a cordwainer (cobbler/leatherworker) and an armourer).

Each of the three battalions consisted of a company of grenadiers, four companies of fusiliers, and a company of voltigeurs. Each company included a captain, a lieutenant, a second-lieutenant, a sergeant-major, four sergeants, a corporal-fourrier (*quarter-master corporal*), eight corporals, two drummers (replaced by cornets in the voltigeurs), and fifty-six grenadiers, fusiliers or voltigeurs. Each company might have two "enfants de troupe" (*sons of common soldiers, supported by the state*), not forgetting a corporal and twelve sappeurs spread through the ranks of the three companies of grenadiers. That gave a total for each regiment of sixty-seven officers and 1312 men.

On 1st August 1814, at Conde, the former 45th Regiment took the number 42. It was formed with the help of the survivors of the 45th, the First Battalion of the 10th Regiment of Tirailleurs (*light infantry*) of the Guard, the 2nd Battalion of the 129th, a detachment of the 141st and the survivors of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 154th. On the following 28th October the new 42nd was placed under the command of Colonel Guillame Chapuzet, former Major of the 154th and Officer of the Legion d'Honneur (*Legion of Honour*).

The ten premier regiments each took a name as follows: The King, The Queen, Dauphin, Monsieur, Angouleme, Berry, Orleans, Conde, Bourbon, and Colonel General under the command of the Prince of Conde.

Each regiment had only one flag, the 42nd got theirs in September 1814. Like all the others it was made of white taffeta, its' sides 1.5 metres long, and moreover alongside the inscriptions and gilded border it bears the arms of France in an azure oval.

The year ended calmly and on 16th January 1815, the King returned the Sabre Briquet (*a short sabre*) to all the companies of Voltigeurs, with a ban on keeping them as souvenirs when the soldier got his final leave!

But the 1st March 1815 everything "seesawed" afresh. Napoleon was coming to disembark in Golf Juan with his army of "Grogards" (grumblers/moaners) and march on Paris. Since the 6th, he is declared a traitor and rebel, but in reality his advance is triumphal.

The 11th March, at Lyon, he re-institutes the tricolore cockade and on 20th he enters Paris without having spilled a drop of blood. But an uneasy Europe mobilises its forces, and despite his pacifist declarations the Emperor prepares for war, and from 28th March he invites all the old Officers and soldiers to resume their service, and promises to let them go back to civilian life at the signing of Peace (declaration). He hesitates to re-establish conscription, done away with by the King Louis XVIII and deeply unpopular. The 9th April 1815, Napoleon announces the manufacture of new Eagles. The 90 Infantry Regiments of the Line take back their old numbers, and each of them is formed into 4 Battalions. So as to deal with first things first, the first 2 will be completed with 720 men. The 3rd must take volunteers and men returning from leave.

In the near future one must foresee the formation of a fourth and then a fifth battalion.

The 12th May 1815, the 42nd becomes once again the 45th of the Line. Colonel Chapuzet is now kept in his post, that is not the case for the Lieutenant Standard Bearer Thomassin who, judged too "royalist", is replaced by Lieutenant Pierre Guillot but it's not until the parade of 10th June 1815 close to Valenciennes that the new tricolore flag will be presented to the Regiment.

Whilst fighting in Spain in 1809, Pierre Guillot took a shot in the right foot. Still in Spain in 1811, he suffered a lance wound in his left flank. 2 years later he was wounded in the right thigh. Yet again in Spain, he was taken prisoner by the English on 1.11.1813. Freed on 18.6.1814, he returned to the town of Conde where his regiment had its base. Guillot was born on 2.9.1771 at St Remy de Provence, and was laid off with his regiment on 26.9.1815 in France.