

UNIFORMS OF THE SPANISH NAVY IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS PERIOD

Notes on officer's uniforms

There were two basically uniform regulations for officers in the period of the Napoleonic Wars, the regulation of 1793 and the regulation of 1802. The main difference between the two uniforms was that the 1793, has The Jacket with red lapels and gold lace in the border of the lapels, the 1802 uniform has closed lapels with the top open as the British uniforms, with gold edged lapels. In the two cases the jacket has long skirted coatte, without turnbacks. Due to the implantation of the regulations, in the time of Trafalgar some officers wear the 1793 uniform model.

The bicorn was carried in "en bataille" style, right to left, not front to rear. In very few cases the officers wear the bicorn front to rear (image Navy11).

The rank epaulette for the officers was very different of the English and French. From Captain to above they do not wear epaulettes; the rank was carried only in the cuffs. Note the image 22 explains the ranks of the Spanish navy, to understand them, the equivalences with the British army are:

Admiral	Capitán General (no epaulettes)
Vice admiral	Teniente General (no epaulettes)
Rear Admiral	Jefe de Escuadra or Brigadier (no epaulettes)
Colonel	Capitán de Navío (no epaulettes)
Lieutenant Colonel	Capitán de Fragata (no epaulettes)
Major	Teniente de Navío (two epaulettes)
Captain	Teniente de Fragata (two epaulettes)
Lieutenant	Alferez de Navío (right epaulette)
Ensign	Alferez de Fragata (left epaulette)

This is an approximate equivalent; we can say that a Post Captain in the British Navy is a Capitán de Navío, and a Master and commander or new Captain is a Teniente de Navío.

Notes on Marine's Uniforms

The "Infanteria de Marina" was the equivalent of the Royal Marines, and they were divided in Infantry and Artillery, all have on board duties. The infantry was divided in Musketeers and Grenadiers.

The Artillery has long skirted coatte, the Musketeers and grenadiers has short ones. The two with turnbacks.

The uniform does not have suffered changes in the period since the change of the uniforms of the Infantry in 1810, with English material uniforms. This corps has two kind of uniforms, the on board service uniform, and the land or offshore uniform.

Sailors

The Sailors, have non specific regulation uniform, wearing very similar clothes of the other navies uniforms, the most Spanish characteristic of his clothes was the barretina cap, but the round cap was usual too.

Explanation on the images:

All the figures are explained from left to right of the image, with the number above it (if they have number).

For officers the “old” uniform is the 1793 regulation, and the “new” the 1802.

Navy 01

- 131.- Alferez de Navío in old uniform, service onboard dress.
- 132.- Teniente General in old uniform.
- 133.- Capitan de Fragata in court uniform.

Navy 02

- 134.- Capitan de Fragata in new uniform, service dress on board.
- 135.- Back view of the officers uniform (is the same for the new and old).
- 136.- Midshipman new uniform.

Navy 03

- 137.- Non commissioned officer, sailing officer. Called in Spanish Piloto
- 138.- Navy War department officer
- 139.- Surgeon

Navy 04

- 137, 138.- Sailors.
- 139.- Non Commissioned officer, deck officer.

Navy 05

143.- Grenadier of Infantería de marina. Back view of the headdress in plate Navy 23.

144.- Grenadier in onboard service dress. The musketeer has the same uniform with out the chevrons in the cuffs.

145.- Musketeer of infantería de marina.

Navy 06

146.- Artillery of the navy on onboard service dress.

147.- Artillery of the navy. Note the long skirted coatte.

148.- Alferez de Navío in combat dress, dressed in the old uniform with the lapels buttoned.

Navy 07

Sketch of the back view of the officers dress.

Navy 08

Contemporary print of an Teniente de Navío with the new uniform

Navy 09

Capitán the Navío in old uniform

Capitán de Navío in new uniform onboard dress

Sailor

Navy 10

Sailors and NCO in onboard battle dress

Navy 11

NCO Service dress

Midshipman battle dress

Alferez de Navío in new uniform. Note the fashion of carrying the bicorne front to back.

Sailor

Navy 12

Teniente de Navío in old uniform (winter colours)

Teniente de Navío in new uniform

Teniente de Navío in old uniform

Navy 13

Piloto, NCO of sailing

Marines onboard uniform, post 1810 uniform

Musketeer post 1810 uniform

Navy 14

Artillery of the navy. Note the long skirted coatte.

Surgeon

Marines on onboard service dress.

Navy 15

Contemporary print of the old officer's uniform.

Navy 16

Contemporary print of a Musketeer of the Navy.
Contemporary print of Marine on onboard dress and sailor

Navy 17

Contemporary print of Marine on onboard dress.
Contemporary print Artillery of the Navy.3

Navy 18

Contemporary print of Piloto. Sailing NCO

Navy 19

26.- Artillery of the Navy.
27.- Marine on onboard dress.
28.- Musketeer of the Navy.
29.- Teniente the Navío in new uniform.
30.- Marine Volunteer of the war.
31.- Musketeer post 1810 Uniform
32.- Grenadier post 1810 Uniform
33.- Onboard dress 1810 Uniform
34.- NCO post 1815 Uniform

Navy 20

Plate of the Marine Artillery

Navy 21

Picture of a contemporary Navy officer with the new uniform.

Navy 23

Back view of the grenadiers headdress.

Navy 22

Rank epaulettes and cuffs of the officers.

If you have any doubt, please contact me in mcosta@ono.com