

France 1805-07

By 1805 the French Army had reached a point where it had evolved from the *Levée en Masse* of the revolution to a well trained and highly experienced force. With the exception of the British Army whose linear method of fighting was the antithesis of the French emphasis on the mobile column, this was without doubt the most effective Army in Europe, aided by the youthfulness of its main leaders, unencumbered as they were by the shackles of historical priviledges and obligations encountered in the armies of the reactionary monarchies.

What the French had retained from their revolutionary roots was the emphasis on speed. This crystalised with an emphasis being placed on efficient systems of drill and the imbuing of the troops with a martial, aggressive spirit and belief in the bayonet to settle matters. However, the French soldiers of this period were also sufficiently well trained to trade musketry with an opponent. In short, this was the most well-rounded French Army of the entire revolutionary and Napoleonic period and it was to win its laurels with some style.

Here we have three forces presented. Line troops, Light troops and a mobile column. The first is a force of French Line infantry from one of their standard battalions.

French Line Infantry
Leader Status III Leader Status I Three Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Muskets
Leader, Status II Two Groups of 8 Line Infantry, Muskets
Leader, Status II Two Groups of 6 Voltigeur Skirmishers, Muskets
Point Value: 77

The second list represents a force from a light infantry battalion. Here there emphasis is on a nucleus of formed troops accompanied by a swarm of skirmishers to harrass the enemy and protect the main body as it closed with the bayonet.

French Light Infantry
Leader Status III Leader Status II Four Groups of 8 Chasseurs, Muskets
Leader, Status II Leader, Status I Three Groups of 6 Voltigeur Skirmishers, Muskets
Point Value: 79

Finally we have a mixed column made up of light troops and with attached cavalry.

French Mixed Mobile Column
Leader Status III Three Groups of 8 Chasseurs, Muskets
Leader, Status II Leader I Two Groups of 6 Voltigeur Skirmishers, Muskets
Leader, Status I One Group of 8 Dragoons, Carbines & Sabres
Point Value: 68

Force Specific Characteristics:

These French forces use the Pas de Charge and Cuirass rules from the Peninsular War section in the main rules.

French Line Infantry, 1805 to 1807					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	2	2	2	Pas de Charge, Aggressive
French Legere Infantry, 1805 to 1807					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	2	1	1	Pas de Charge, Aggressive
French Grenadiers, 1805 to 1807					Type	Elite
Points Value	8	Weapon	Muskets		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	1	1	Pas de Charge Aggressive
French Voltigeur and Chasseur, 1805 to 1807					Type	Regulars
Points Value	7	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	First Only	2	1	2	Pas de Charge, Aggressive, Sharp Practice
French Carabinier, 1805-1807					Type	Elite
Points Value	8	Weapon	Musket		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	1	1	Pas de Charge, Aggressive, Sharp Practice
French Voltigeur and Chasseur Skirmishers, 1805-1807					Type	Light Infantry
Points Value	9	Weapon	Musket		Size	6
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	-	-	2	-	Sharp Practice, Aggressive
French Cuirassiers, 1805 to 1807					Type	Impact Cavalry
Points Value	9	Weapon	Sabre		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	-	-	-	2	2	Tally Ho, Cuirass, Aggressive

French Dragoons, 1805 to 1807					Type	Dragoons
Points Value	8	Weapon	Sabre & S/B Carbine		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	2	Tally Ho!
French Hussars & Chasseurs 1805 to 1807					Type	Scouting Cavalry
Points Value	6	Weapon	Sabre		Size	8
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	No	No	-	2	2	Tally Ho!
French Artillery 1805 to 1807					Type	Artillery
Points Value	7/8/9	Weapon	Gun		Size	5
Formation	First Fire	Controlled Volley	Crashing volley	Step Out	Drill	Characteristics
Always	Yes	Yes	2	2	2	