

## Notes on the infantry flags of Portugal & Spain during the Peninsula war

### Portugal

These flags (based on the decree of 1806) are well documented, though some sources show slightly different interpretations of some aspects of the design. I have chosen not to include the later additions to some regiments' flags as these were almost certainly not issued until the war was nearly over. For the same reason I have not included the special 'honour' flags issued to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> battalions of Cacadores as it is unlikely that they were actually carried in battle.

### Spain

These flags are based on the decree of 1768 which gives a description of the designs but no indication of the relative sizes of the various parts. The few surviving fragments make it clear that the implementation of the decree did not produce flags of identical layout, even though they met the description.

In the corners of the flags are, according to the decree, "the coat of arms of the kingdoms or province, and the particular emblem they have had or have used with my royal approval". Sadly most of these 'approved' emblems have not been preserved and I have had to use coats of arms associated with the regiment's regional title. In most cases this is not a problem but a few have involved using a relatively modern emblem where a contemporary source could not be found.

So many regiments/battalions were formed during the war, often from remnants of others, that few actual flags of the provincial, militia & volunteer units have been preserved. I have included some designs created from captured flags (or illustrations of such) and descriptions but some are conjectural, taken from elements mentioned without details.