

French & Italians in 1859

Last Updated: 12th February 2024

The following article originally appeared on the “Vendheume Fighters” website. It has been compiled by Jean-Marc Largeaud and reproduced here with permission. Some minor editing has been completed by Keith McNelly.

The miniatures are all from the Heroics & Ros Franco-Prussian War range unless noted otherwise.

FRENCH

Guard Chasseurs: NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

Guard Zouaves: NCF 10 French Zouaves Attacking.

Guard Grenadiers: Nothing's perfect here. You can use MFN 5 French Old Guard Grenadiers and MFN 20 French Old Guard Chasseurs A Pied. (Napoleonic French range). Alternately MAN 15 Austrian Grenadiers Attacking is usable with some work on the bearskins. (Napoleonic Austrian range).

Guard Voltigeurs: MBN 19 British Napoleonic Infantry Stove Pipe Shako Attacking. Again some attention to headgear is needed. (Napoleonic range).

Guard Cuirassiers & Guides: NCF 11 French Cuirassiers.

Guard Dragoons: NCF 6 French Dragoons.

Guard Lancers: NCF 12 French Guard Lancers.

Guard Chasseurs: NCF 4 French Chasseurs à Cheval.

Note that after 1865 Line Carabiniers are included in the Guard cavalry: MFN 16* French Carabiniers (Napoleonic range).

Guard Artillery: MFN 9: French Guard Horse Artillery (Napoleonic range) with French FPW guns.

Line Infantry: In campaign dress use NCF 1 French Infantry Marching and NCF 2 French Infantry Attacking. Otherwise consider MBN 19 British Infantry, Stove Pipe Shako Attacking (Napoleonic range).

Chasseurs: NCF 3 Chasseurs Attacking.

Zouaves, Tirailleurs Algériens: NCF 10 French Zouaves Attacking or MACW 8 Zouaves or MACW 17 Zouaves Skirmishing (American Civil War Zouaves).

Line Cuirassiers: NCF 11 French Cuirassiers.

Line Carabiniers: MFN 16 French Carabiniers (Napoleonic range from 1852 to 1865).

Line Dragoons: NCF 6 French Dragoons.

Line Lancers: NCF 12 French Guard Lancers.

Line Chasseurs: NCF 4 French Chasseurs à Cheval.

Line Hussars: NCF 5 French Hussars.

Line Artillery: MBN 26 British Foot Artillery crew (need some attention to headgear) and French FPW guns.

PIEDMONT

Line Infantry & Grenadiers: Nothing is really equivalent here. If you want a shako close to the Italian ones try MBN 19 British Infantry, Stove Pipe Shako Attacking (Napoleonic range). If you prefer the greatcoat, use NCF 1 French Infantry Marching and NCF 2 French Infantry Attacking.

Light Infantry - Chasseurs des Alpes, Chasseurs des Appennins, Carabiniers génois: NCF 1 French Infantry Marching and NCF 2 French Infantry Attacking and/or MACW 3 Federal Infantry Skirmishing (American Civil War Range).

Bersaglieri: MACW 6 Confederate Infantry Skirmishing or MACW 19 Confederate Infantry Attacking (American Civil War range).

Heavy Cavalry: MBN 17 British Napoleonic Household Cavalry (Napoleonic range – note lances are needed).

Light Cavalry: MBN 11 British Light Dragoons (Napoleonic range. Some attention is needed to the headgear. Two regiments carried lances so if using the above these must be added). Alternatively for these regiments use MACW 15 Rush's Lancers instead (American Civil War range).

Artillery: MBN 26 British foot artillery crew (Napoleonic range) with French FPW guns.