

# French Republican Army 1870 in 6mm

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

This guide references the Heroics & Ros (H&R) range of miniatures. It covers a range of troops from Catholic troops (Volontaires de l'Ouest, Volontaires de Cathelineau), Republicans and more revolutionary forces (Garibaldiens). These are a colourful range of formations with an often politically diverse source.

Figures are drawn from the Franco-Prussian War range (NCF) or American Civil War range (MACW).

Infantry unit strengths are indicated using the actual strength in men or the number of battalions, companies. If cavalry the strength is noted as squadrons.

This guide also includes basic uniform details. Haversacks and gaiters are black unless otherwise noted. Blankets on haversacks are white unless otherwise stated. Bands on kepis refers to the base of this headgear.

## ARMÉE DE LA LOIRE

### **Volontaires de l'Ouest (or Zouaves pontificaux, papal Zouaves):**

Strength: Three infantry battalions. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

Officers in light/azure blue zouave jacket with gold braid on sleeves, black decoration on the jacket front, light/azure blue trousers with black seam, red sash, light blue kepi with gold band, black boots. Men in blue grey zouave vest with red braid, red cuffs, medium blue grey trousers with red seam, red sash, light blue kepi with red band, white gaiters. Before Loigny and in this battle (2 December 1870) the 1st battalion, officers as above, men in grey zouave vest with red braid, red cuffs, grey trousers with red seam, red sash, light grey kepi with red band, white gaiters. The zouaves reverted slowly to the first uniform when the right blue grey cloth was found in Nantes.

### **Francs-Tireurs de Paris:**

Strength: 1800 men. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

All blue uniform. Officers with golden band on kepi, gold "galons"(stripes), sky blue sash. Men with white gaiters, black belts, sky blue sash.

### **Francs-Tireurs de la Sarthe:**

Strength: Four Companies. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

1st uniform: All blue uniform, blue kepi with green band, pants with green bands, Officers with green parements on vests. 2nd uniform: All brown uniform, red sash, white equipment.

**Francs-Tireurs de l'Indre et Loire:**

Strength: Four companies. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking  
All blue uniform, dark red sash.

**Tirailleurs Girondins:**

Strength: One company, 200 men. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.  
All grey uniform, black bands on kepi and pants, white gaiters.

**Tirailleurs de la Seine:**

Strength: One company. NCF 1 French Infantry Marching or NCF 2 French Infantry Attacking.  
All blue uniform, white gaiters, belts were buff.

**Volontaires de Cathelineau:**

Strength: 845 men, excellent unit. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking or MACW 23 Confederate Cavalry Dismounted.  
All black uniform including hats, sky blue band on pants, sky blue sash, haversacks and equipment, belts were white, white gaiters. Note all had a red "Sacré Coeur" upon white on chest (left side, of course).

**Chasseurs garibaldiens du Havre:**

Strength: One company. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.  
Grey pants with red band, red vest, sky blue sash, red kepi with grey band.

**Garde Mobile du Loir-et-Cher:**

Strength: Two infantry battalions. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking or MACW 3 Federal Infantry Skirmishing.  
Officers in dark blue tunic with red collar and cuffs (no epaulettes), dark blue trousers with red band, dark blue kepi with red band. Men in white or off white tunic, light grey trousers with red band, white kepi. Equipment in various colours. Note the 2 battalions were part of the 75th Regiment de Mobiles, the 3rd battalion of this regiment being a battalion of Garde Mobile du Maine et Loir.

**Eclaireurs Algeriens à cheval:**

Strength: Three squadrons. NCF 4 Chasseurs à Cheval.  
One squadron (150 men) in Spahis uniform. Two squadrons in Algerian white Burnous (with red band on top) and djellabas/manteaux), red boots. Horse equipment red.

**Eclaireurs à cheval des volontaires de l'Ouest:**

Strength: One squadron. NCF 4 Chasseurs à Cheval.  
Green vest with red cuffs, red collar, green kepi with red band, grey pants with red band. Horse equipment red.

**ARMÉE DU HAVRE****Francs-Tireurs Mocquart:**

Strength: Three battalions with four companies each. Excellent troops. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.  
Green/dark green uniform, light green bands on kepis/pants, red sash, brown blankets.

## ARMÉE DES VOSGES

### **Garibaldiens:**

Strength: Eight battalions. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

Seven battalions with the following uniform: Red vest, grey pants, sky blue sash, white equipment and white gaiters, black belts, headgear is red cap (with green band), similar to the 1813 Prussian landwehr cap but smaller.

One battalion of "Carabiniers génois" in red vest, green pants, white gaiters, green kepi.

### **Francs-Tireurs et Marins de Marseille:**

Strength: One battalion. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

Blue vest, red pants, red kepi, white equipment, brown blankets.

### **Francs-Tireurs d'Oran:**

Strength: One battalion in five companies. NCF 10 French Zouaves Attacking.

Violet uniform, with red distinctive colours in similar pattern to Zouaves/Turcos line units.

Fez is red.

## OTHER UNITS :

### **Garde nationale de Saint Quentin:**

Strength: One battalion. NCF 3 French Chasseurs Attacking.

All black uniform, red collar, red band on black kepis.

### **Mobilisés de Seine et Marne:**

Strength: Three battalions. NCF 1 French Infantry Marching or NCF 2 French Infantry Attacking.

Blue pants with red band, brown coats, blue kepis, white gaiters, white equipment.

### **Mobilisés de la Côte d'or:**

Strength: Seven battalions. MACW 3 Federal Infantry Skirmishing.

All uniform is royal blue, dark blue kepi, dark blue blanket roll, white equipment.