Napoleon's Hussars

Text by
EMIR BUKHARI

Colour plates by
ANGUS McBRIDE
**Organisation**

Doubtless the most distinctive of all forms of light horse, the hussars originated in eastern Europe and, by means of their dress, their roots can be traced all the way back to a cavalry corps of the mighty Ottoman Empire: the Gunalis, whose rather eccentric fur-covered, tall conical caps and fur-lined jackets, perilously draped over the left shoulder, were to set a military fashion from Turkey to Hungary and thence, by way of Germany and France, to the rest of the world.

In contrast to their fellow light cavalry, the numerous regiments of indigenous French *chasseurs à cheval*, the hussars consisted of only fourteen regiments during the Empire. Six of these existed well before the massive reorganisations of 1791 and the rest were raised over the following years: the 7th and 8th regiments in 1792; the 9th, 10th and 11th in 1793; the 12th in 1794; the 13th in 1795; and, finally, the 14th in 1814.

These regiments were composed of four squadrons, themselves comprising two companies each of which in turn consisted of two troops or *peletons*. See *Napoleon's Dragoons and Lancers* and *Napoleon's Cuirassiers and Carabiniers* for the precise hierarchy of inter-regimental command, enumerating company and *état-major* NCOs and officers. In this title the role of light cavalry will be examined in the same manner in which we studied that of the heavy and medium.

Both the offensive and defensive roles of light cavalry consisted of reconnaissance on the one hand and advance, flank and/or rear and outpost protection of the main column on the other.

Although the hussars made their first real impact in 1806 with their astonishing pursuit of the Prussians over 1,160 kms from the river Saale to the Oder in twenty-five days (capping this feat on arrival when, by dint of audacious demonstrations by the 500 men of the combined 5th and 7th Hussars, the 6,000-strong Prussian garrison was bluff into capitulating its fortress at Stettin along with 160 cannon), the large-scale use of flying
A squadron of hussars in column by fours. Drawn up in this formation, a squadron would present a frontage of 4 metres and extend approximately 138 metres.* The column by fours, and even by twos when necessary, was most commonly reverted to when the squadron or regiment was obliged to keep to the roads; on a fair surface, the column would travel at around 6 or 7 kilometres an hour.

* All measurements are calculated exclusive of outriders.

A lead squadron of hussars in colonne par pelotons. Of troop frontage, a column so ordered would occupy a frontage of 12 metres. In order that the individual troops might be wheeled right or left into line (seeDragoons and Lancers, p. 28), they marched at a nose-to-nose distance of 12 metres from one another. Overall length of this formation would be about 42 metres. Trailing squadrons would march in the following order: first, third, fourth then second.

A lead squadron of hussars in colonne par divisions. With the troops of each company now riding abreast, the squadron's frontage would expand to 24 metres and its depth would contract to 30 metres. Notice that the companies are drawn up in such a manner as to enable the rearmost to wheel to right or left without hindrance.

Key to the figures on pp. 4 and 5:
A: Adjutant (adjutant)
AM: Adjutant-major (regimental-sergeant-major)
B: Brigadier (corporal)
Bf: Brigadier-fourrier (quarter-master corporal)
C: Capitaine (captain)
L: Lieutenant (lieutenant)
M: Maréchal-des-logis (sergeant)
Mc: Maréchal-des-logis-chef (sergeant-major)
Sl: Sous-lieutenant (second lieutenant)
T: Trompette (trumpeter)

columns of blitzkrieg-style cavalry was never developed. Imaginative employment of highly mobile spearheads was confined to patrols of between twenty and a hundred men and consequently when, in October 1806, twenty hussars led by a sous-lieutenant walked unopposed into Leipzig, the bulk of the Grande Armée was bogged down 80kms away at Jena, incapable of exploiting the opportunity.
Confined for the most part to scouring the countryside in the vicinity of the main columns, the hussar regiments would deploy their squadrons in battle order and sweep the surrounding landscape. Upon contact with the enemy, a troop of the leading squadron would disperse at the gallop to form a screen of sharpshooters about the regiment’s front. If engaged, the hussar skirmishers would discharge their carbines at less than a hundred metres from a stationary position, their primary targets being enemy officers. Then, pistol in the right hand and drawn sabre hanging from the swordknot at the wrist, they would charge home, passing the handgun to their left hand and setting-to with cold steel.

Where such a charge required the back-up of the entire regiment, the squadrons would advance in extended waves staggered obliquely to either right or left, for maximum strike value.

Their defensive role might be described as the same as above but in reverse: maintaining surveillance of the enemy by forcing a contact, thereby eliminating any element of surprise, and masking the true movement of the main column by feints and general harassment.

This trouble-shooter role created a strong esprit de corps which resulted in the light cavalry believing itself to be rather more than just a cut above the rest. Indeed, such was the audacity of the hussars that their arrogant indiscipline brought a specific rebuke from the Emperor: ‘These hussars must be made to remember that a French soldier must be a horseman, infantryman and artilleryman, and there is nothing he may turn his back on!’

Nowhere is evidence of their excesses, indulgences and pure egotism better illustrated than in their near-anarchic mode of dress.
Dress and Equipment

Hussar costume consisted principally of a short shell-jacket, the dolman; tight Hungarian riding breeches; calf-length Hungarian boots; and a second jacket slung on the left shoulder—the pelisse. Equipment comprised a shako, musketoon, curved sabre, sabretache, cartridge-pouch and attendant webbing. Accessories included short gloves, swordknot and barrel-sash. It is the enormous variety of these objects in their differing cuts, models and patterns that render hussar uniforms so complex; the following descriptions are therefore basic outlines, and readers are referred to the numerous black and white illustrations and their captions for further detail. This bewildering diversity of costumes represents just some of the costumes worn by just one regiment in the span of eleven years.

The hussar regiments were colourfully distinguished from one another by the different base cloths used in the manufacture of the dolmans, pelisses and breeches, and also by their facings and lace colours, as the chart below indicates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regt</th>
<th>Dolman</th>
<th>Collar</th>
<th>Cuffs</th>
<th>Pelisse</th>
<th>Breeches</th>
<th>Lace</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Dark green</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Indigo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Brown</td>
<td>Sky blue</td>
<td>White/silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Scarlet</td>
<td>White/silver</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Examples of rank distinctions (see Line Chasseurs, p. 30). (A) Colonel. (B) Major’s lace of alternating silver and gold on breeches (1) and on rear of dolman cuff (2). (C) Typical combination of lace and piping on the outer seams of superior officers’ breeches. (D) Chef d’escadron’s lace on front of pelisse cuff (1), (2), and on rear of pelisse cuff (3), (4). (E) Capitaine’s dolman cuff from front (1) and rear (2). (F) Lace on outer seams of subaltern’s breeches (1) and on front of lieutenant’s (2). (G) Sous-lieutenant’s dolman cuff.

those on the dolman. For fatigue-duty, a dark green single- or double-breasted linen stable-jacket was worn, occasionally equipped with shoulder-straps.

The 1812 Regulations prescribed the following changes: a slim braid shoulder-strap was to be sewn to the left shoulder of the dolman and pelisse to secure the webbing; the waistcoat, or gilet, was henceforth to be plain and single-breasted, fastening by means of ten cloth-covered buttons; and the stable-jacket was to be knitted and single-breasted with ten uniform buttons.

Rank distinctions were indicated by chevrons of lace above the cuffs, as shown in the illustration on this page. Further reference is available in Napoleon’s Line Chasseurs, p. 30.

Legwear
Riding breeches were of the tight-fitting Hungarian pattern with lace ornamenting the outer seams and the edges of the front flap which disguised the button-up fly, where it took the form of Hungarian knots, simple trefoils or bastion-loops. From Republican times, however, it was found more practical to envelop them in overalls in order to save wear and tear.

Overalls were cut of blue, grey, green and even red material. They opened down the side by means of eighteen bone or pewter buttons along the outer seams. The inside leg and cuffs were reinforced with leather to varying degrees. For fatigues, they would be replaced by overalls of rough, unbleached cloth.

The 1812 Regulations specified that the ornamentation of the front flap of the breeches should consist of the simple bastion-loop. They also officially recognised the overalls and required them to be cut of dark green cloth with eighteen blackened bone buttons and leather cuffs rising to a height of 11 cm. By this date, however, overalls had developed as a garment and we might more readily identify them nowadays as trousers; they were equipped with a front fly concealed by a flap, but frequently still bore lace or piping and/or buttons the length of the outer seams. Some examples have buttons at the calf to facilitate their use over the high riding boots, others have the leather cuff extended to the height of the boots and the top scalloped in imitation of them.

Capes and greatcoats
Hussars were issued a cape with hood of immense proportions dating back to the Monarchy; re-
Trooper in campaign dress, 1807. In keeping with the 1791 Regulations, this trooper’s 1806 model shako boasts a black plume tipped in the regimental colour. In an equally outdated manner, his shoulderbelts, cartridge-pouch, swordbelt, sabretache, sabre and musketoon are all of 178b pattern, little changed by the 1801 Regulations save that the swordbelt is no longer of black leather. The chevron on his left upper-arm represents between eight and ten years’ service in the army; his splendid moustache and elegantly fashioned hair attest that those years were certainly all with the light cavalry. It was the custom to intertwine a pistol ball in the ends of the side plaits in order that they might hang at a strict vertical. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

Trooper and brigadier in drill uniform, 1807–10. These figures afford us a good look at the bonnet de police fatigue-cap common to all troops of the Grande Armée; although here smartly tucked within the turban of the cap, the long flamme was allowed to tumble elegantly about the shoulders when off-duty. Both figures also wear the woollen stable-jacket, with matching waist-pockets of which the left one was simulated for the sake of symmetry. The twin chevrons of lace on the brigadier’s cuff proclaim his rank; for brigadiers or sergeants they would be of cloth of the same colour as the lace on the dolman, whereas for more exalted NCOs they would be the equivalent in either silver or gold. The chevron on his left upper-arm represents between eight and ten years’ service in the army; his splendid moustache and elegantly fashioned hair attest that those years were certainly all with the light cavalry. It was the custom to intertwine a pistol ball in the ends of the side plaits in order that they might hang at a strict vertical. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

Accessories
Boots were the classic Hungarian variety with superior edge bordered with piping of white lace and a tassel, although some varieties were similarly ornamented but in black leather. Troopers generally wore clogs in their place for all fatigue duties. Officers’ patterns were identical save that the decorative piping and tassel were of silver; for full dress they sometimes indulged in goatskin versions of red, green or even yellow. Both officers and men used wrist-length white gloves when riding.

Headgear
The variety of hussar shakos is illustrated on p. 32 of Napoleon’s Line Chasseurs. Around 1802 the 1801-model shako, 190mm tall by 220mm in diameter, lost its flamme and detachable peak, and the cockade and plume were removed to the front. Soon after that came the addition of a shako plate placed beneath the cockade; the 1st, 6th and 12th Hussars are recorded with a lozenge-shaped plate out of which the regimental number has been cut. At this period the headgear was maintained in place by a strap which passed beneath the wearer’s queue, and a cord was attached to the uniform to prevent
its loss should it be toppled. Around 1805 these were replaced by chinscales which were universally adopted by the close of 1806. By then the shako had become taller and more bell-shaped and, with the amendments mentioned above, is generally regarded as a model in its own right. Although redundant, shako cords were still employed in a decorative capacity.

A circular dated 9 November 1810 required the final abolition of the shako cords, along with the much-prized tall plumes which were replaced by a simple lentil-shaped pompon; unabashed, the commissary persisted in selling cords and tassels as late as December 1811 and we may be sure that their customers gladly parted with the price of one franc per set.

Further to the 1812 Regulations, an inventory dated 17 September 1812 indicates that shakos of centre companies were to be devoid of the neck-covers folded inside the crown common to models in use at this period. It further informs us that those of elite troops were to be identical to the shakos employed by the grenadiers in the infantry: 10mm taller and wider than that of ordinary troopers, with upper and lower bands and side chevrons of scarlet. Elite troops, however, persisted in wearing their bearskin colpacks till the end of the Empire if they had been previously issued them.

Despite the 1812 Regulations, a new shako made its debut in 1812, the shako rouleau. This pattern was somewhat taller than its predecessor; it exceeded 200mm and consisted of a reinforced black felt cylinder, often covered in coloured fabric of which the most popular was red, black leather peak and fold-down neck cover at the rear. The 6th and 8th Hussars are known to have worn it during the Russian campaign of 1812 and, by the end of the Empire, its popularity eclipsed that of the bell-topped shako, although it never made regulation issue.

Off-duty, hussars would sport the bonnet de police or, after 1812, the pokalem variety of fatigue-cap; the bonnets de police, consisting of a turban and long flamme with tassel, were of all combinations of the regimental colours.

Besides their own patterns of all the above headgear, officers also wore a bicorn hat in everyday wear and, particularly in the early years, even on the battlefield.
Colonel in full dress, 1810. This superior officer wears the officers’ pattern of the 1810-model shako, loftier and wider than any preceding example and possessing two further distinguishing features; unlike its predecessor, it reverted to the simple cockade and loop of the 1801 pattern, and, instead of chinscales which were by then universal, it boasted a chin strap composed of interlocking rings upon a bed of leather. In this instance it is also extravagantly embroidered about the crown. The metal devices visible on his crossbelt were frequently so valuable that many officers were obliged to encase the entire belt and cartridge-pouch in a leather cover when on active service in order to protect their investment. (Rouffet. Courtesy NAM)

Webbing
Comprising swordbelt and slings, sabretache, and the musketoon and cartridge-pouch crossbelts, it conformed to the Decree of 4 Brumaire An X (27 October 1801) and was little different from that issued previously save that the swordknot previously of black leather was now of white buff. (See p. 13 of Napoleon’s Line Chasseurs for specifications, which were identical to those of the hussars.)

The sabretache also differed little from preceding models, the flap usually bearing the regimental number encircled by a wreath of laurel leaves although later models incorporated an Imperial eagle. The flap was covered in cloth of a diversity of colours and the elaborately embroidered motifs were such as to make them almost works of art. Indeed they were so valuable that a leather cover was generally slipped over the flap in order to protect it on the march and in action. Officers often possessed a second, plain, sabretache for wear with everything but parade dress; the embellishment on the flap was confined to either the regimental number alone or a combination of this and a shield or Imperial eagle device of metal. The 1812 Regulations simplified the sabretache to this minimum requirement, but the troops possessing the older versions guarded them jealously and they remained common throughout the Empire.

Edged weapons
Hussars were armed with either the 1786-pattern curved sabre, with copper guard and fittings on the black leather-covered scabbard, or the An IV model, with iron hilt and scabbard fittings, in the early years. Around 1807, however, the An IX and An XI models of light-cavalry sabre began to be distributed, with their distinctive N-shaped copper basket guard and iron scabbard. Officers’ patterns were similar save that all copper fittings were gilded. (See Napoleon’s Line Chasseurs for further detail.)

Firearms
Discounting musketoons of foreign origin with which many hussars were doubtless armed, troopers carried both the 1766 and 1786 models at the dawn of the Empire, along with many others of rather doubtful Republican manufacture. The 1786 pattern is certainly the most frequently represented during the Empire period as a whole, but it gradually gave way to the An IX model. The 487mm bayonet which, in principle, accompanied them provides something of an enigma. The author has yet to see a contemporary illustration of a hussar with bayonet fixed or in the bayonet frog of the swordbelt. On reflection, it is perhaps rather difficult to imagine its use as, when it came to close action, the trooper was more likely to rely on his sabre, which was always looped by the swordknot to his right wrist even when he was firing. However,
the Regulations of \textit{Vendémiaire} \textit{An XII} specifically ordered their issue, and records exist from the 1st Hussars, dated January 1808, requesting them. That they were issued is in little doubt and yet no mention is made of them in the \textit{1812} Regulations nor is there a reference to a bayonet-frog in the description of the hussar swordbelt. To confuse the issue, a general inventory of 17 September 1812 refers to \textit{ceinturons à porte-baionnette} (swordbelts with bayonet frogs) as items of hussar paraphernalia. They were therefore an item of equipment with which the hussars were certainly supposed to be armed, but whether they actually used them or not and where they kept them is not known.

NCOs', trumpeters' and officers' armament did not include the musketoon, instead they were, in theory, equipped with pistols as firearms. Unfortunately, the holsters with which the Hungarian saddle was fitted were as often as not empty. All hussars were supposedly issued a brace of pistols apiece but even prior to the Empire these were in short supply: those issued included the 1763 model, various patterns 'bogged' together from bits and pieces during the Republic, and antiques dating back to the first half of the 18th century, newly dusted and polished. Excluding those acquired from captured arsenals after 1805, these types remained in service throughout the Empire along with the newer and very scarce \textit{An XIII} model towards the end.

It should be concluded that firearms were seemingly considered a poor second to the sabre as far as the cavalry was concerned, despite their obviously crucial benefit in such instances as the classic impasse of cavalry versus infantry square or even versus fellow cavalry; consider the following revealing extract from an eyewitness' memoirs, referring to an incident at Eylau in 1807:

'Colonel Castex asked if the carbines were loaded . . . he ordered “Present carbines!” . . . and when the Russians [dragoons] were only six paces away the Colonel gave the order, rapidly, “Fire!” . . . The order was executed by the regiment as if on an exercise. The effect of the discharge was terrible: nearly the whole of the first rank of the dragoons was put out of action . . .'. \textit{(Souvenirs de Capitaine Parquin, 1892.)}

Admittedly the necessity for reserving fire until the last minute might have had less to do with \textit{sang-froid} than the poor range of the weapon, but well-armed light cavalry were full of potential that had yet to be cultivated and developed. Instead, musketoons and carabines were more readily distributed to the infantry who, in the closing years of the Empire, were desperately short of firearms. Had the masses of cavalry, impotently facing the British squares at Waterloo, been deployed in skirmishing order with pouches full of cartridges and the newly developed rifled carabine, the outcome might have been quite different.
Maréchaux-des-logis of an elite and a centre company in full dress, c.1810. Except for their silver rank chevrons, these NCOs demonstrate full-dress attire for all ranks of hussar. The pelisses were originally to be lined with sheepskin but this proved too difficult and expensive, so it was reserved for the facings alone and the interior was instead lined in white flannel. Note that the toggle and loop affair by which means the pelisse was hung on the shoulder lacks the raquettes and tassels with which it is all too frequently illustrated. Although officers' pelisses sometimes bore them, they were bought at personal expense and were by no means an integral part of the garment. (Yvond d’Aubin. Courtesy NAM)

Saddles and Harness

Because of the attractions of the men’s costume, horse furniture is generally neglected in most publications and this in turn has led to neglect of the horses themselves and an underestimation of their importance. Indeed they were generally treated better than the men and were certainly more expensive and less easily obtained. Such was the devastating effect of the massive abuse of horseflesh during the Napoleonic Wars that European stocks suffer to this day.

Hussars were mounted on horses of all colours, with musicians having first claim to greys. At the beginning of the Republican Wars, the minimum height for a light cavalry horse was 147cm and, by An XII, it was 148cm; but, by their end, stocks were so short that in 1805 Napoleon had to drop the height requirement to 138cm, and this still left the Grande Armée short of mounts. With the conquests of large chunks of Europe during the years 1807–13, the army was able to raise the standard to 140cm, but we may be sure that replacements were still a continuous headache considering the numbers of horses necessary to shift the enormous bulk of the Grande Armée’s cavalry and goods. The proportion of men to horses in the Grande Armée of 1812 was 400,000 to 130,000, of which 80,000 were cavalry mounts and 50,000 were draught animals.

This campaign serves as a typical example of hideous wastage. Within the first eight days 8,000 of the beasts had died, and these were the best horses Europe had to offer. After twenty-four days, Murat’s cavalry of 22,000 mounted troops was only able to mount 14,000. Such was the exhaustion of the ill-used animals (the French never walked beside their horses, but remained constantly in the saddle), that during the battle of Winkowo, a mere thirty days from the start of the campaign, a great many of the horsemen were obliged to dismount and drag their mounts by the bridle back to their rallying points. At Borodino the casualties numbered 6,000 and worse was to come. Despite six weeks’ rest, the retreat from Moscow took a ghastly toll: the first 130km of the way to Smolensk produced the staggering figure of 30,000 losses, which works out at an average of around one per thousand men. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)
cadaver every four metres. Murat’s cavalry was reduced to 1,200 horses; thereafter, it is sad to report that the survivors went into the cooking-pot for the most part.

The terrible conditions of the Russian campaign left 200,000 men with 15,000 horses for the campaign of 1813. None of these mounts was saddle-trained and, by the beginning of hostilities, it is estimated that only 3,000 were at all suitable as cavalry mounts. This shortage of cavalry undoubtedly cost France the Empire.

The horse furniture was of Hungarian pattern and has been extensively illustrated and documented in Napoleon’s Line Chasseurs. It consisted of a wooden tree with a suspended seat and a sheepskin schabraque trimmed in scalloped lace of the regimental colour. The wooden tree was naturally extremely hard, and many good animals’ backs were permanently damaged by the negligent use of too thin a horse blanket. Although there was one veterinary surgeon per 500 head, the falling standard of trained riders in the later years, combined with the fact that the mounts were badly broken-in, resulted in the observation that a new detachment of cavalry was most immediately recognizable by the pungent odour of the horses’ suppuring saddle sores. Attached to the tree were a pair of leather pistol-holsters, a leather case for pocketing spare shoes and natural-leather straps for securing the portmanteau, greatcoat and musketoon in position. The portmanteau was a cylindrical valise strapped behind the cantle, the round ends were edged in lace and often bore the regimental number. The Hungarian-style bridle was composed of black leather with white metal and copper fittings.

Officers’ horse furniture was similar save that the tree boasted leather side-panels, pommel and cantle were covered in Morocco leather matching the schabraque, bronzed spurs and pistol-holsters were tipped in gold- or silver-plate. Although examples of schabraques with a false seat of black sheepskin are known, the most common were entirely of cloth, reinforced with leather at the girth. In everyday use, a plain schabraque with piping of coloured goats’ hair was employed, but, for more formal occasions, superior officers would adopt the leopard-skin schabraque; while their subordinates utilised the standard cloth variety, trimmed with lace and ornamented with devices in the corners. The 1812 Regulations regularised the excesses thus: a 50mm-wide lace about the perimeter of the cloth for colonels and majors, with a concentric lace of 15mm-width within it, of identical colour for colonels but of opposite colour for majors; a single strip of 50mm-width for chef d’escadrons; a 45mm-strip for captains; and single strips of 40mm and 35mm for lieutenants and second-lieutenants respectively. The corners of the schabraque were to bear the regimental number inscribed in lace to a height of 80mm. The portmanteau came in for equally precise treatment with the decorative lace confined to a 35mm-width for superior officers, 20mm for all others, and the regimental number no taller than 35mm.

In closing the sections on dress, equipment and horse furniture it is important to stress that in the
first instance hussars travelled without the encumbrance of their entire kit, leaving the depots on campaign in either dolman or pelisse and riding breeches or overalls. Secondly, it should not be assumed that the hussars were ever as fully equipped as official inventories of available stocks might suggest, the regiments did not dispose of unlimited funds and a fully equipped regiment was not only a rarity but probably a myth. Inspection reports for the year 1809 indicate arriving detachments joining the Grande Armée with combinations of the following dress: dolman and breeches; dolman and overalls; some in pelisses; others in fatigue overalls, and a very few with both breeches and overalls. The classic fully dressed and fully armed hussar of popular imagination, all too frequently repeated in print, is a figure, therefore, belonging more to the theatre than the battlefield.

**War Records and Regimental Histories**

**The 1st Hussars**

Regimental history:
1720: Raised by and named after Count Ladislas-Ignace de Bercheny in Turkey.
1791: Renamed the 1er Régiment de Hussards.
1814: Became the Régiment de Hussards du Roi.
1815: Renamed the 1er Régiment de Hussards and disbanded later that same year.

**War record:**
1805: With the Grande Armée at Ulm and Austerlitz.
1806–7: With the Grande Armée at Jena, Eylau, Friedland and Heilsberg.
1808–12: With the Armées d’Espagne and du Portugal at Braga, Santillo, Sabugal and Monasterio.
1813: The 1st Squadron served with the Grande Armée at Jüterbok, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Part of the Armée d’Italie: Mincio.
1815: Engaged at Namur.

**The 2nd Hussars**

Regimental history:
1735: Created partly of Hungarian volunteers in Strasbourg on 25 January, and named Chamborant.
1791: Renamed the 2ème Régiment de Hussards.
1814: Became the Régiment de Hussards de la Reine.
1815: Renamed the 2ème Régiment de Hussards and disbanded in September of that year.

**War record:**
1805–8: With the Grande Armée at Austerlitz, Halle, Crewitz, Mohrungen, Osterode and Friedland.
Brigadiers of a centre and an elite company in full dress, 1810–12.
The two major points of interest in these figures are the shako of the NCO on the left and both their rank insignia. The centre company brigadier has acquired what has now been dubbed the 1810-model shako: officially described on 9 November of that year as a towering 220mm in height and 270mm in diameter; it is thought to have actually been somewhat smaller and narrower. It bore the distinctive Imperial eagle posed on a semi-circle as a cut-out plate. Turning to the rank insignia: despite the fact that the NCOs reviewed so far have had chevrons of the same colour as their uniform lace, both of these individuals’ chevrons are scarlet. Although there are some other instances of this in other regiments, there is seemingly no explanation for it. (Boisselier. Courtesy NAM)

1808–13: Saw service in the Peninsula: Medellin, Alcabon, Ronda, Sierra de Cazala, Gebora, Los Santos, Albufera and Somanis.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Leipzig.
1814: Fought at Montereau.
1815: Attached to the Corps d’Observation du Jura: defence of Belfort.

The 3rd Hussars

Regimental history:
1764: Created by and named after Count Esterhazy, and formed from a squadron from each of the Bercheny, Chamborant and Nassau hussars.
1791: Renamed the 3ème Régiment de Hussards.
1814: Became the Régiment de Hussards du Dauphin.
1815: Renamed the 3ème Régiment de Hussards and disbanded later that same year.

War record:
1805-7: With the Grande Armée at Ulm, Jena, Magdebourg, Gollup, Bartenstein, Langenheim, Hoff and Guttstadt.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Leipzig.
1814: Fought at Brienne, Montereau and Sézanne.
1815: Engaged at Belfort.

The 4th Hussars

Regimental history:
1783: Created by Royal Ordonnance of 31 July for the Duc de Chartres, for whom the title of Colonel-Général of Hussars was created in 1779. Formed from one squadron from each of the Bercheny, Chamborant, Conflans and Esterhazy hussars, and named Colonel-Général.
1791: Renamed the 5ème Régiment de Hussards.
1793: Became the 4ème Régiment de Hussards by Convention Decree of 4 June when the original 4ème Régiment (ex-Hussards de Saxe) emigrated.
1814: Renamed the Régiment de Hussards de Monsieur.
1815: Renamed the 4ème Régiment de Hussards and disbanded in September of that same year.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Austerlitz.
Trooper in campaign dress, Spain, 1811–12. Probably returning from a foraging expedition, the proceeds of which we can see slung beneath the portmanteau of his saddle, this casually-clad hussar's shako sports a rough cloth cover, tied in bows at the rear, and a lentil-shaped pompon of red with a white centre. Note the water gourd of brown leather slung over his right shoulder and tucked beneath his left arm. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

1806-7: Remained with the Grande Armee: Schleiz, Jena, Lübeck, Liebstatd and Mohrungen.
.008-13: With the Armee d'Espagne at Alcamitz, Belchite, Stella, Chiclana, Sagonte, Yecla and the Ordal Pass.
1813: With the 3eme Corps de Cavalerie of the Grande Armee at Gross-Beeren and Leipzig.
1814: Part of the 6eme Corps de Cavalerie of the Armee de Lyon at Lons-le-Saulnier, Saint-Georges and Lyon.
1815: Fought at Ligny and Waterloo.

The 5th Hussars

Regimental history:
1783: Created by Ordonnance of 14 September from the cavalry of the Legion de Lauzun (formed in 1778 and newly returned from the American War of Independence) and named the Lauzun hussars.
1791: Became the 6eme Regiment de Hussards.
1793: Renamed the 5eme Regiment de Hussards by Decree of 4 June.
1814: Became the Regiment de Hussards d'Angouleme.
1815: Renamed the 5eme Regiment de Hussards and disbanded on 1 November.

War record:
1805-7: With the Grande Armee at Austerlitz, Crewitz, Golymin, Watterdorf, Stettin, Eylau, Heilsberg and Königsberg.
1809: Part of the Armee d'Allemagne at Eckmühl and Wagram.
1812: With the Grande Armee at Borodino, Winkowo and the Berezina.
1813: With the Grande Armee at Bautzen, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Fought at Arcis-sur-Aube.
1815: With the Armee du Nord at Ligny, Waterloo and Versailles.

The 6th Hussars

Regimental history:
1792: Created as the 7eme Regiment de Hussards by Convention Decree of 23 November from the Boyer light horse (a free corps alternatively known as the Hussards Défenseurs de la Liberté et de l'Egalité raised in September of 1792).
Trumpeter in campaign dress, Spain, 1811-12. This interesting figure wears a scarlet dolman, faced in sky blue, and sky blue overalls with seams reinforced in scarlet lace. Note the twin chevrons on his left upper-arm which proclaim between sixteen and twenty years service. He is armed with a 1786-pattern hussar sabre and, tucked into the schabraque strap on his left, a 1763-model pistol. The horse furniture consists of a brown sheepskin schabraque, Hungarian saddle, on an ochre saddle-blanket trimmed in blue, and harness embellished with tassels of mixed threads of yellow, red and blue. (Bucquoy, Courtesy NAM)

1793: Renumbered by Decree of 4 June as the 6eme Régiment de Hussards.
1814: Renamed the Régiment de Hussards de Berry.
1815: Renamed the 6eme Régiment de Hussards and disbanded that same year.

War record:
1805: With the Grande Armée at Ulm and Altenmarkt.
1809: With the Armée d’Italie at La Piave, Raab and Wagram.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Krasnoe, Smolensk and Borodino.
1815: With the Armée de Nord at Ligny and Rocquencourt.

The 7th Hussars

Regimental history:
1792: Formed at Compiègne further to the Convention Decree of 23 November, the regiment was initially dubbed the Hussards de Lamothe before becoming the 8eme Régiment de Hussards.
1793: Renumbered the 7eme Régiment de Hussards following the Decree of 4 June.
1794: Augmented by the cavalry of the Légion de Kellermann (into which the 4th Squadron of the Régiment Saxe-Hussards (No. 4) had been drafted upon the regiment’s defection).
1814: Renamed the Régiment de Hussards d’Orléans.
1815: Became the Colonel-Général Hussards prior to being renamed the 7eme Régiment de Hussards. Disbanded in November of that same year.

War record:
1805: Part of the III Corps of the Grande Armée at Mariazell, Afflenz and Austerlitz.
1809: With the Armée d’Allemagne at Peising, Ratisbonne, Raab, Wagram and Znaïm.
1812: With the Grande Armée at Vilna, Smolensk, Ostrowno, Borodino, Winkowo and Malojaroslavetz.
1813: Remained with the Grande Armée: Borna, Altenbourg, Leipzig and Hanau.
1815: With the Armée du Nord at Fleurus and Waterloo.

The 8th Hussars

Regimental history:
1793: Formed from the Éclaireurs de l’Armée (organised in October 1792 at Nancy by Colonel Fabrefonds) further to the Convention Decree of 26 February, and named the 8eme Régiment de Hussards. Renamed the 8eme Régiment de Hussards by the 4 June decree that same year.
1. Sous-lieutenant, 2nd Hussars, campaign dress, 1805
2. Trooper, 2nd Hussars, full dress, 1801-2
3. Trumpeter, 4th Hussars, full dress, 1804-5
1 Lieutenant, 1st Hussars, service dress, 1805-7
2 Trooper, 1st Hussars, campaign dress, 1806-8
3 Trumpeter, 5th Hussars, full dress, 1805
1 Major, 8th Hussars, service dress, c. 1809
2 Trooper, 9th Hussars, full dress, 1809
3 Trumpeter, 5th Hussars, service dress, 1808-12
1 Lieutenant, 6th Hussars, service dress, c. 1810
2 Brigadier-fourrier, 7th Hussars, campaign dress, 1807-8
3 Trumpet-major, 4th Hussars, campaign dress, c. 1810
1 Captain, 4th Hussars, full dress, 1810
2 Sapper, 5th Hussars, campaign dress, 1813
3 Trumpeter, 6th Hussars, campaign dress, 1812
1 Chef d'escadron, 5th Hussars, campaign dress, 1810-12
2 Sapper, 1st Hussars, full dress, 1810-12
3 Trumpeter, 9th(bis) Hussars, campaign dress, 1812-13
1 Captain, 3rd Hussars, full dress, 1809-13
2 Brigadier, 12th Hussars, full dress, 1813-14
3 Trumpeter, 1st Hussars, service dress, 1812
1 Lieutenant, 6th Hussars, service dress, 1814
2 Marechal-des-logis, 4th Hussars, full dress, 1813-14
3 Trumpeter, 2nd Hussars, full dress, 1812-14
1814: Disbanded on 12 May.

**War record:**
1805: With the Grande Armée at Memmingen, Aicha and Austerlitz.
1806-7: Part of the Grande Armée at Jena, Fakembourg, Eylau and the passage of the Passarge.
1809: With the Armée d'Allemagne at Ratisbonne, Essling, Enzersdorf, Wagram and Znaim.
1801-11: Attached to the Armée de Brabant in Holland.
1814: Engaged in the defences of Danzig and Strasbourg and the action at Champaubert.

**The 9th Hussars**

**Regimental history:**
1793: Created by the Convention Decree of 25 March as the 10ème Regiment de Hussards from the 2ème Corps of the Hussards de la Liberte (themselves created by the Decree of 2 September 1792). Further to the Convention Decree of 4 June, the regiment was renamed the 9ème Regiment de Hussards.
1814: Disbanded on 12 May.

**War record:**
1805: With the Grande Armée at Wertingen, Amstetten, Wischau and Austerlitz.
1806-7: Part of the Grande Armée at Saalfeld, Jena, Pultusk, Stettin, Ostrolenka, Danzig, Heilsberg and Friedland.
1809: With the Armée d'Allemagne at Eckmühl, Essling, Raab and Wagram.
1812-13: With the Grande Armée's 2ème Corps de Reserve at Borodino and Mojaïsk.
1813: With the II Corps of the Grande Armée at Bautzen, Reichenbach, Wachau, Leipzig and Hanau.
1814: Took part in the defence of Schlestadt.

**The 10th Hussars**

**Regimental history:**
1793: Formed at Amboise 26 June from various free corps units including the cuirassiers of the Légion Germanique (created in 1792) and named the 11ème Régiment de Hussards.
1803: Became the 29ème Régiment de Dragons.
1806-7: With the Grande Armée at Saalfeld, Jena, Stettin and Pultusk.
1809-11: With the V Corps in Spain: Magalon, Perdiguera, Lincéna, Saragossa, Ocaña, Badajoz, Gebora and Albufera.
1813: With the Grande Armée at Weissenfels, Lützen, Bautzen, Dessau, Wachau and Leipzig.
1814: Engaged at La Rothière, Montmirail, Craonne and Laon.

**Sous-lieutenant in campaign dress, 1811-13.** This courier's spring uniform, recorded in Spain, consists of an officers-pattern 1810-model shako, in theory 220mm tall and 270mm in diameter, standard dolman and scarlet zouave-style overalls. His cartridge-pouch crossbelt is encased in a crimson leather cover and his ornate full-dress sabretache is replaced by a plain leather version bearing an eagle device. His armament comprises an An XI-pattern officers' sabre and a brace of pistols. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)
Colonel Merlin in full dress, 1812-13. Magnificently turned out for dress parade, this colonel has reverted to the shako in place of the fashionable bearskin colpack: it is the *shako rouleau*, or cylindrical shako. Taller still than the 1810-pattern bell-topped shako, it made its appearance in 1812 and, despite being a non-regulation model, it was widely worn throughout the remaining years of the Empire. As we can see, the pelisse was at this point very short indeed, in contrast to the early patterns. The dolman was of correspondingly short cut and the barrel-sash consequently mounted very high on the waist. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

1810: Recreated from the 2ème Régiment de Hussards Hollandais as the 11ème Régiment de Hussards.

1814: Disbanded.

*War record:*

1805-11: See Napoleon’s Dragoons and Lancers, p. 34.


The 12th Hussars

*Regimental history:*

1794: Formed 9 February from the Hussards de la Montagne, a freecorps created at Bayonne in 1793.

1803: Became the 30ème Régiment de Dragons on 20 September.

1813: Re-formed 17 February from the 9ème (bis) Régiment de Hussards. The 9ème (bis) had been created 8 January 1812 from three squadrons of the 9th Hussars detached in Spain.

1814: Disbanded.

*War record:*

1805-11: See Napoleon’s Dragoons and Lancers, pp. 34-5.

1812-13: With the Armée d’Aragon at Barbastro, Diar and Borga.

1813: Three squadrons were with the Grande Armée at Gross-Beeren, Medergersdorf, Leipzig and Hanau.

1814: With the Armée de Lyon at Mâcon, Limonest and Saint-Donat.

The 13th Hussars*

*Regimental history:*

1795: Formed 1 September from the Hussards des Alpes, a freecorps created on 31 January.

1796: Disbanded.

1813: Re-formed following the Imperial Decree of 28 January with recruits from Rome and Tuscany (*départements* of France at this point). Regiment was then dissolved on 13 December and the men integrated into the 14ème Régiment de Hussards.

1814: Re-formed 1 January from the Régiment de Hussards Jérôme-Napoléon, created 5 August 1813. The regiment was finally dissolved on 12 August.

*War record:*

1813: With the Grande Armée at Belzig, Lubnitz and Leipzig.

1813: Part of the Armée d’Italie at Viareggio and Livornia.

*The appellation of 13ème Régiment de Hussards was also applied to the Légion Franche de Cavalerie des Américains et du Midi from its creation on 7 September 1792. The Convention Decree of 21 February 1793 named the unit the 13ème Régiment de Chasseurs à Cheval.*
The 14th Hussars

Regimental history:
1813: Raised in Turin further to the Imperial Decree of 28 January and formed of recruits from Genoa and Piedmont. Disbanded on 11 November following the Allies' violation of the capitulation of Dresden. The regiment was then re-formed on 13 December in Turin from dissolved units of the 13th and 14th Hussars.
1814: Disbanded on 16 July.

War record:
1813: Engaged in the defence of Dresden as part of the Grande Armée.
1814: Attached to the Armée d'Italie.

The Plates

A1 Sous-lieutenant of the 2nd Hussars in campaign dress, 1805
Recorded by Baron Lejeune, a contemporary of the period, this is an officer in very typical service dress. Although issued a multitude of different uniform and equipment items, hussars were rarely anything like fully accoutred and, even in the instance of an officer personally purchasing his additional uniforms, he would leave all but necessaries behind him at the depot. The figure from which this illustration is drawn is mounted, with a black bearskin chabraque edged in scalloped light blue lace. (Illustration after Benigni)

A2 Trooper of the 2nd Hussars in full dress, 1801–2
Formed in 1802, the single elite company of each regiment was accorded a bearskin in imitation of grenadiers of infantry. This interesting early model is literally a fur-covered shako which this regiment retained in use as late as 1805. Only this individual’s cords and tassels inform us as to the occasion, he might otherwise be in marching order;

Sapper in service dress, 1814. Retaining his prized colpack in the face of the 1812 Regulations which prescribed an infantry-style grenadier’s shako for elite light cavalry, this business-like fellow is armed with the old 1786 hussar-pattern musketoosn. His colpack’s flamme would usually be tucked within the bearskin and covered with a leather top for the march. Note the red-trimmed black sheepskin chabraque instead of the white one reserved for all but musicians. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

A3 Trumpeter of the 4th Hussars in full dress, 1804–5
Drawn from German sources this trumpeter’s dress is confirmed by an entry in the Marckolsheim MS for 1807–8 in all respects save the headgear. Unusual for so late a date, we can see that his 1801-model shako retains its flamme, an accessory which was universal to the headgear’s predecessors but

whole detachments are known to have left for campaign without overalls, waistcoats or dolmans, such being the strain on funds and distribution. His horse’s chabraque was of white sheepskin trimmed in sky blue. His lance is a most irregular and unusual form of armament. (Illustration after Rousselot/Cottreau Coll.)
Trumpeter of an elite company in service dress, 1814. He wears a scarlet cloth-covered shako rouleau, white pelisse and red trousers with a strip of white lace down the outer seams. Initially these were overalls with side openings; trousers had by now become a garment rather than an accessory and had ceased to be fastened along the outer-leg, but rather by means of a button-fly concealed behind a wide flap at the front. The trim on the schabraque is light blue and the red woollen portmanteau is edged in white. The trumpet cords are of mixed red and yellow threads. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

which began to be omitted around 1802. The trumpeter of 1807–8 is similar except that he wears an 1806-model shako, covered in red cloth, bearing a lozenge-shaped shako plate out of which the regimental number has been cut. The trumpeter illustrated is the earliest recorded Empire musician of this regiment. (Illustration after Rousselot)

B1 Lieutenant of the 1st Hussars in service dress, 1805–7
In contrast to the manner in which they are most frequently represented, hussars wore either the dolman or the pelisse except on full dress occasions on which the pelisse would be slung on the left shoulder. Prior to the introduction of chinscales in 1805, a leather strap was looped beneath the queue of the wearer in order to maintain the headgear in position. This individual’s horse furniture comprises sky blue schabraque and portmanteau edged in silver lace. (Illustration after Rousselot)

B2 Trooper of the 1st Hussars in campaign dress, 1806–8
The black and white illustrations in this title are all of the 1st Hussars and readers are referred to the illustration on p. 13 for details of this interesting figure’s costume and equipment. (Illustration after Benigni)

B3 Trumpeter of the 5th Hussars in full dress, 1805
The 5th Hussars were the ex-Lauzun Hussars to whom, among others, Hoffmann ascribes red facings at their transformation date of 1793 from the 6th Hussars. Thus, although the 5th Hussars are recorded as having sky blue uniform faced in sky blue and white, the red uniform is quite correct and authenticated, being of inverse colours to that of the troopers, in the popular fashion, despite its seeming inaccuracy. The regiment is known to have briefly experimented with a red dolman for troopers around 1802. (Illustration after Jean/Kolbe)
C1 Major of the 8th Hussars in service dress, c. 1809
Majors of all branches of the Grande Armée were distinguished by a highly individual method: they wore identical insignia to that of the colonel of their regiment, except for the opposite lace colour to that employed by the rest of the regiment. If this figure were, for example, a major of the 7th Hussars (whose uniform was of the same colours but whose lace colour was yellow) we would see gold lace where here we have silver and vice versa. (Reconstruction)

C2 Trooper of the 9th Hussars in full dress, 1809
This rear view allows us the opportunity to describe the barrel-sash’s composition: an unravelled total length of 260cm, it consisted of fifty doubled-over lengths of crimson wool, which were divided into two equal groups of 25 doubled lengths, and then threaded in pairs through a total of nine mobile cylindrical barrels, which prevented the lateral opening-out of the threads. Each end of the belt was permanently secured by immovable barrels; to one end was attached a doubled-over length of cord which terminated in a pair of tassels and had a series of four fixed crimson knots along its length, the last being 10cm from the twin tassels; to the other extremity was fixed another, though considerably shorter, doubled-over cord, terminating in a 4cm-long toggle about which the looped end of the long cord was fastened. The free end of the long cord was then knotted loosely about itself after having been slipped through the threads of the front of the sash. (Illustration after Girbal)

C3 Trumpeter of the 5th Hussars in service dress, elite company
This second trumpeter of the 5th Hussars (see B3) probably dates from between 1808 and 1812. He wears a No. 2 dress, long-tailed surtout, with the usual addition of lapels, strongly reminiscent of the infantry officers’ pattern 1812 habit-veste. His schabraque and portmanteau are sky blue and edged in yellow lace. The blue shako was adopted in 1808 and replaced in 1813 by a scarlet cylindrical pattern. Strange to say, the regiment at this point had trumpeters dressed in both the scarlet-influenced manner shown here and in the modernised inverse-colours: consisting of white dolman, sky blue facings and sky blue pelisse and breeches. (Illustration after Jean/Kolbe)
D1 Lieutenant of the 6th Hussars in service dress, c. 1810
Reconstructed from existing garments, among other sources, this officer in marching order typifies the no-nonsense approach to practical campaign dress. His shako is his sole real extravagance and would doubtless be covered in a black oilskin cover at the least sign of inclement weather. Note that the overalls now open by means of a front fly concealed behind a flap in similar manner to the riding breeches, our first indication of the development of trousers as a garment in their own right thus far. (Reconstruction from existing relics, a contemporary portrait and Baldauf)

D2 Brigadier-fourrier of the 7th Hussars in campaign dress, 1807–8
The quarter-master corporal was nominally in charge of the collective quarter-masters of each company of the regiment. Numbering a total of eight in a four-squadron regiment, their rank conferred upon them the organisational responsibilities of distributing food and drink, as well as billets to the members of their respective companies. The status of fourrier proper was indicated by a single diagonal strip of metal lace the same colour as the buttons on the left upper arm, subsequent rank was designated by chevrons above the cuff in the normal manner. Note his charivari pattern overalls, complete with twin hip-pockets. (Reconstruction)

D3 Trumpet-major of the 4th Hussars in campaign dress in Spain, c. 1810
This trumpet-major, a maréchal-des-logis in rank, occupied a highly privileged position next to the regiment's colonel, from whose side he would never stray in order that he might translate the officer's orders instantaneously into trumpet calls that would then be communicated in turn to the troops by the company trumpeters under his command. The role of trumpeter should not be interpreted as 'musician' since they fulfilled a signals role in an era ignorant of radio waves. Trumpeters received the billets of NCOs and double the pay of a trooper, and it will therefore be appreciated that this individual's rank of sergeant belied his true, considerably higher status. (Illustration after Rousselot/contemporary Spanish illustration)

E1 Captain of the 4th Hussars in full dress, 1810
This high-ranking full-dress figure is of the classic hussar appearance we have endeavoured to avoid, but is no less worthy of comment for that. The alternating chevrons of rank measured 14mm and 23mm respectively, and the bearskin colpack, initially reserved solely for officers of elite companies, was by this time widely adopted by officers generally, irrespective of company. Note the

Hussars in campaign dress, 1814. The leading trooper is armed with the outdated 1796 hussar-pattern musketoon, 109cm in overall length, and the An XI light-cavalry sabre, the blade of which was fully 845mm long. Note the fashion of slinging the manteau-capote 'en sautoir' about the right shoulder instead of strapping it forward of the saddle's pommeI beneath the schabraque; this afforded the wearer some protection from cut and thrust weapons. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)
grenade-shaped plume holder at its top. (Illustration after Hoffmann/Martinet)

E2 Sapper of the 5th Hussars in campaign dress, 1813
The dolman of this colourful figure would have been sky blue with matching collar and white cuffs, and its left upper-arm would bear identical devices to those indicated on the pelisse. His sheepskin schabraque was white with sky blue trim and portmanteau. His most interesting feature is the crossed-axe device on the sabretache; but note also the cuffs on his overalls, cut high in imitation of Hungarian boots. (Illustration after contemporary illustration)

E3 Trumpeter of the 6th Hussars in campaign dress, 1812
The leather reinforcements to his overalls have developed to such an extent that only a tiny area of the base cloth remains visible. A further unusual feature is the white fur of the bearskin and pelisse; relatively common in the early Empire, it was at this period a luxurious rarity. His schabraque is of black sheepskin, trimmed in scarlet, with a portmanteau of light blue, edged in yellow. (Illustration after Hesse/Marckolsheim MS)

F1 Chef d'escadron of the 5th Hussars in campaign dress, 1810-12
Created in 1793, the title of chef d'escadron replaced that of lieutenant-colonel and, until the innovation of a major, was second only to the chef de brigade or colonel. During the Empire there were supposedly three officers of such rank within each hussar regiment. In summer service uniform, this superior officer's horse furniture would consist of sky blue schabraque and portmanteau, both liberally edged in gold lace of 50mm and 35mm in width respectively. (Illustration after Rousselot)

F2 Sapper of the 1st Hussars in full dress, 1810-12
This elite trooper, his enormous beard and crossed-axe patches defining his status of sapper, would ride at the head of the column along with the regimental eagle, forming with his fellow sapeurs a guard of honour about the standard for both parades and battlefield engagements. The fact that hussar regiments rather surprisingly numbered sappers in their ranks, in no way precluded them from counting the more conventional farriers among

Colonel Oudinot in full dress, 1815. The return of Louis XVIII in 1814 heralded the transformation of the leading regiments of each branch of the army into a king's regiment, thus Colonel Oudinot commanded the Hussards du Roi at the time of Napoleon's return for the Hundred Days' Campaign. While royalist emblems such as the white cockade were certainly replaced by Imperial equivalents during the unhappy campaign, it is extremely doubtful that such expensive items as officers' accoutrements, emblazoned as here with royal arms and fleur-de-lis, could have been. Uniforms at Waterloo must consequently have frequently borne royalist devices. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)

Trooper of an elite company and maréchal-des-logis of a centre company in full dress, 1815. The dress of the last hussars of the Empire period is a pleasing amalgam of 18th- and 19th-century costume. The higher-waisted and slimmer cut of the uniform, combined with the shako rouleau's height and style, lends the dress a modern air which contrasts with the plaited and queued hair and outmoded equipment. (Benigni. Courtesy NAM)
them as well; given the title of maréchal-ferrant, their status was indicated by a scarlet horseshoe upon either the upper left or right sleeve. (Illustration after Bucquoy)

F3 Trumpeter of the 9th (bis) Hussars in campaign dress, elite company, 1812–13

The gene (bis) Hussards existed from January 1812 until February 1813, when they became the 12th Hussars. Created from three squadrons of the 9th Hussars in Spain, their uniform was similar in the intervening period. This trumpeter’s dolman would have been yellow with scarlet facings. By 1813 the trumpeters were newly equipped with white dolmans and pelisses, with light blue facings and scarlet lace, and light blue breeches ornamented with white lace. (Illustration after Knötel/Bucquoy)

G1 Captain of the 3rd Hussars in full dress, 1809–13

This extravagantly costumed officer would lead a company of two troops. This uniform would be strictly reserved for full dress occasions and a cheaper, simpler version employed in the field. Such was the enormous expense of these dress uniforms that the Bardin 1812 Regulations were established in order to restrict officially the huge sums sometimes required to kit out officers and heads of column in wasteful and impractical dress. When they came into force they were not totally successful, but they did prevent some of the wilder excesses of the early years being repeated when the Empire was still less able to afford it. (Illustration after Feist)

G2 Brigadier of the 12th Hussars in full dress, 1813–14

By this date overalls as shown here, being of rather better cut than their predecessors, were perfectly acceptable for full dress wear. Although they have buttons down the outer seams, these were by now redundant; the garment opened by means of a concealed button-up fly at the front. On first receipt of the shakos rouleau, hussars were inclined to append their old plumes to them, but this practice was soon quashed, leaving only the company-coloured pompon in its stead. A trooper of the elite company differed from this figure only in that his sleeves lacked the twin chevrons of corporals’ rank, and his shako rouleau was covered in scarlet cloth. (Illustration after Martinet/Carl Coll.)

G3 Trumpeter of the 1st Hussars in service dress, 1812

This trumpeter of a centre company contrasts considerably with those described in the captions to illustrations on pp. 30 and 31, which describe this regiment’s trumpeters in 1814. It could be that those represented in black and white are dressed in uniforms issued under the First Restoration, but it is rather more likely that they simply belonged to different companies or squadrons; for, despite the express specifications of the 1812 Regulations, musicians’ uniform persisted in being as varied as before, save that it was now intermingled with elements of the Imperial Livery, confusing the issue still further. (Illustration after Bucquoy)

H1 Lieutenant of the 6th Hussars in service dress, 1814

This subaltern is clad in typical end-of-Empire style, the classic silhouette of the hussar uniform all but lost within the practical and civilian-influenced outline of the non-regulation cylindrical shako, slimmer-cut and shorter-than-ever pelisse, and trousers, these last reinforced with a double layer of fabric on the inner leg in place of the cumbersome inset leather. (Illustration after Feist)

H2 Maréchal-des-logis of the 4th Hussars in full dress, elite company, 1813–14

This sergeant is dressed and accoutred in the manner prescribed by the 1812 Regulations and it is immediately noticeable, and somewhat ironic, that the regulations devised to modernise and simplify the dress of the Imperial army appear a little to the right side of conservative in contrast to the up-to-the-minute fashions sported by the majority of hussars at this period. Purely for the sake of including it, we have employed a little licence in representing an NCO with the new An LX/XIII-pattern musketoon; in fact, neither NCOs or trumpeters were so armed, and nor, for that matter, was a large number of troopers. (Reconstruction)

H3 Trumpeter of the 2nd Hussars in full dress, 1812–14

In similar manner to the previous figure, this trumpeter is illustrated according to the 1812 Regulations, in this instance in the Imperial
Livery. Designed to rationalise the dress of musicians throughout the Imperial army, it was only grudgingly accepted by the individual regiments, and often replaced with the regiment's own preferences within a very short time; consequently, it only added to the considerable diversity of musicians' uniforms. (Reconstruction after Bardin/Boisselier)

ERRATA
Colour figures A2, D3, F3, and G3 are illustrated wearing pelisses decorated with five vertical rows of buttons. Late information indicates that these figures should in fact be depicted with only three rows of buttons.

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Légendes des planches en couleurs

A1 Sous-lieutenant du 3ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, 1805. Bien qu'il ne manque aucun vêtement, tresse ou bouton à la représentation moderne du Hussard, il était rare de trouver des régiments ayant leur habillement et leur équipement au complet.

A2 Hussard du 3ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1801-2. Seuls les cordonnets et les crochets de son bonnet à poil nous indiquent que cet individu n'est pas en tenue de route.

A3 Trompette du 5ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1804-5. Il porte le shako à flamme décrit par l'arrêté du 4 Brumaire An X qui, peu après sa consécration, n'était déjà plus au goût du jour.


C1 Major du 3ème Régiment en tenue de service, vers 1809. Les majors de tous les corps de troupe de la Grande Armée portaient les mêmes insignes de grade que les colonels, mais se distinguaient par des galons de la couleur inversée.

C2 Hussard du 5ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1809. La ceinture écharpe, un écheveau de cordonnets long de 260 cm, était garnie d'un nœud fixé à chaque extrémité. C3 Trompette du 5ème Régiment en tenue de service, compagnie d'élite. D'après ses effets, nous pouvons constater qu'il date de l'époque 1808 à 1812.

D1 Lieutenant du 6ème Régiment en tenue de service, vers 1810. L'ouverture du petit pont de son pantalon de cheval nous indique que ce vêtement ressemble de plus en plus aux pantalons modernes.

D2 Brigadier-fournisseur du 7ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, 1807-8. Le galon posé diagonalement sur son bras gauche est l'insigne du grade de fournisseur.

D3 Trompette-major du 9ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, Espagne vers 1810. Les trompettes étaient indispensables à la transmission des signaux.


E5 Trompette du 5ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, 1812. La fourrure blanche de son bonnet à poil et de sa pelline, utilisée quotidiennement au début de l'Empire, s'avérait de plus en plus rare lors du crépuscule napoléonien.

F1 Chef d'escadron du 2ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, 1810-12. Créé en 1793, le grade de chef d'escadron était inférieur seulement à celui de chef de brigade.

F2 Sapeur du 1er Régiment en grande tenue, 1810-12. De la même manière que les sapers d'infanterie, les sapeurs de hussards composaient une garde autour du porté-aille à la tête de la colonne.

F3 Trompette du 5ème Régiment en tenue de campagne, compagnie d'élite, 1812. Créé en janvier 1812, ce régiment devint le 1er Régiment de Hussards en février 1813.

G1 Capitaine du 3ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1809-13. La tenue des officiers de hussards étant fort couteuse, le règlement de 1812, rédigé par le Major Bardin, avait pour intention la simplification de l'habillement afin de supprimer les vêtements et les accessoires superflus.

G2 Brigadier du 12ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1813-14. Un simple hussard de la compagnie d'élite aurait porté le mêmeiforme que le sous-officier, mais avec le shako recouvert de drap rouge avec l'exception des insignes de grade.

G3 Trompette du 1er Régiment en tenue de service, 1812. Bien que ce trompette ne ressemble pas à ceux du même régime que nous avons inclus p. 30 et 31 il est vraisemblable qu'ils étaient de compagnies différentes.

H1 Lieutenant du 6ème Régiment en tenue de service, 1814. Nous constatons que la silhouette classique du hussard enfin cède le pas à l'influence de la mode contemporaine.

H2 Marchéchal-des-logis du 5ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1813-14. Bien que les sous-officiers et les trompettes n'aient jamais été équipés de mousquetons, nous avons néanmoins fait figurer le mousqueton de l'An IX/XIII.

H3 Trompette du 5ème Régiment en grande tenue, 1812-14. Reconstruit d'après les détails fournis par le règlement de 1812, ce trompette porte la livrée impériale.

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