

German Armies 1870–71 (1)

Prussia



Michael Solka • Illustrated by Darko Pavlovic



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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| THE PRUSSIAN ARMY IN 1870 | 3 |
| CHRONOLOGY | 5 |
| ORDER OF BATTLE, 1 AUGUST 1870 | 6 |
| UNIFORMS | 8 |
| • Ranks and distinctions | |
| • Officers' uniforms: general officers – staff officers | |
| • Staff command guards | |
| CAVALRY | 11 |
| • Cuirassiers – Dragoons – Hussars – Uhlans | |
| INFANTRY | 24 |
| • Jäger and Schützen – Infantry, Guard & Line | |
| ARTILLERY | 39 |
| TECHNICAL & SERVICE TROOPS | 40 |
| • Engineers – Train – Medical | |
| RESERVES | 43 |
| • Reserve Cavalry | |
| • Landwehr | |
| SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY | 44 |
| THE PLATES | 45 |
| INDEX | 48 |

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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Author's Note

This first volume of a two-part study of the German armies of the Franco-Prussian War covers that of Prussia. The second part, covering the non-Prussian contingents of the North German Confederation and the armies of Bavaria and other southern German states, will be published as MAA 422.

Artist's Note

Readers may care to note that the original paintings from which the colour plates in this book were prepared are available for private sale. All reproduction copyright whatsoever is retained by the Publishers. All enquiries should be addressed to:

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GERMAN ARMIES 1870-71 (1): PRUSSIA

THE PRUSSIAN ARMY IN 1870

THE THIRD QUARTER of the 19th century saw the Kingdom of Prussia, under the guidance of the statesman Otto von Bismarck, steadily achieving predominance over the kingdoms and duchies which then made up what is now Germany. Simultaneously, France – led from 1852 by the Emperor Napoleon III – was displaying a surge of ambition for renewed power within and beyond Europe.

There had been tentative moves towards German unity – such as a customs union – since the 1830s, but these had been hampered by rivalry for dominance between Prussia and Austria. France was encouraged by the performance of her army in the Crimean War of 1854–55, and the more so by victory over Austria in Italy in 1859. Prussia, ruled by the Prince Regent Wilhelm (unlike Napoleon, a professionally trained soldier), planned sweeping reforms of her mobilization system at the instigation of the War Minister, General von Roon.

When these were resisted by the parliamentary assembly, Wilhelm (soon to be king) appointed Bismarck as prime minister in 1862; the assembly was dissolved, the Von Roon reforms were put in hand, and Bismarck became Chancellor.

In 1863–64 Prussia and Austria were allies in a brief war against Denmark, each gaining territory in Schleswig-Holstein; but no settlement between them was forthcoming. Their rivalry came to a head only two years later. At the outbreak of war with Austria in 1866 the Prussian Army consisted of nine Guard and 72 line infantry regiments, totalling 254 battalions; eight Guard cavalry, eight line Cuirassier, eight Dragoon, 12 Hussar and 12 Uhlan (lancer) regiments, totalling 200 squadrons; and nine artillery brigades with 864 guns. The regular army totalled 470,000 men, and the *Landwehr* provided a pool of another 130,000 reservists.

The 1866 Austro-Prussian War lasted just seven weeks, and Prussia achieved a stunning victory at the battle of Sadowa. She subsequently annexed other German states – principally Hanover, Hesse-Cassel and Nassau – into a North German Confederation under Prussian leadership, later joined by Saxony. The south German states of Bavaria, Württemberg, Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt remained independent allies of Prussia.

Lieutenant-General and Minister of War Albrecht Graf (Count) von Roon (1803–79), wearing the undress frock coat. In close co-operation with the Prince Regent, he pushed forward the reforms of the Prussian Army in the 1850–60s. (G.Glasenapp)





The storming of the Red Mountain by the 1st Bn, 2nd Brandenburg Grenadier Regt 'Prince Carl of Prussia' No.12, during the battle at Spichern on 6 August 1870. The grenadiers attacked in the battle formation still usual at the beginning of the war: two companies skirmishing, followed by the closed-up half-battalion, with the colour party in the middle. The old-fashioned infantry tactics of both sides, coupled with destructive new weapons, would cause heavy casualties during all the major battles of the war. Note that some grenadiers (left) are still wearing the old M1860 spiked helmet of taller outline, and with a metal rib at the rear. (Carl Röchling)

During the late 1860s, Prussia increased her army considerably. New units raised were 16 infantry regiments (Nos.73–88); two Jäger or light infantry battalions (Nos.10 & 11; No.9 had previously been raised from reservists); eight Dragoon regiments (Nos.9–16); four of Hussars (Nos.13–16); four of Uhlans (Nos.13–16); three field artillery regiments (Nos.9–11); three engineer battalions (Nos.9–11); and three Train, i.e. commissariat battalions (Nos.9–11). When the contingents of the smaller North German states were added, Prussia's army was formidably impressive. In 1870 its total strength, with reservists, was reckoned at 15,324 officers and 714,950 men, and the *Landwehr* provided a further 6,510 officers and 201,640 men.

War with France was almost inevitable; and tactless French diplomacy over the succession to the throne of Spain – presented in an even more arrogant light by Bismarck's selective leaks from an ambassadorial telegram – provided the ostensible excuse. Napoleon III directed French troops to the Prussian border on 15 July 1870, and the troops of the North German Confederation were mobilized the following day. Three armies were assembled, with an overall strength of about 627,000 men and 1,480 guns. The Prussians greeted the coming of war less with the excited enthusiasm displayed in Paris than with a deep sense of earnestness. It seemed to them not merely a national but a profoundly just war, and they called with every confidence upon the God of Battles to defend their cause. Lutheran hymns mingled with patriotic songs in the celebrations; and British correspondents with the armies were to be reminded more than once of Cromwell's Ironsides.

CHRONOLOGY

1870

15 July King of Prussia orders mobilization.

19 July France declares war on Prussia.

2 August Encounter at Saarbrücken: a greatly outnumbered Prussian observation force is pushed back by elements of the French II and III Corps.

4 August Battle of Wissembourg in Alsace: elements of four German corps overwhelm Gen Douay's division of French I Corps.

6 August Battle of Spichern: elements of Prussian I and II Corps defeat French II Corps. Battle of Froeschwiller: Prussian 3rd Army severely defeats French I Corps. This decisive battle results in the confused retreat of MacMahon's troops to Châlons, thereby splitting the French army into two parts; the remainder under Gen Bazaine withdraw to Metz.

14 August Battle of Borny: a bloody but indecisive struggle between the Prussian I and VII Corps and French III and IV Corps.

16 August Battle of Mars-la-Tour: Prussian III and X Corps succeed – at very heavy cost – in pinning down Bazaine's entire army. Victorious cavalry assault by Prussian Cuirassiers and Uhlans at Vionville.

18 August Battle of Gravelotte-St Privat: the Germans succeed in turning the French right at St Privat after several frontal attacks had been bloodily repelled. This battle results in the permanent immobilization of Bazaine's army.

30 August Battle of Beaumont: Prussian IV Corps, with Bavarian and Saxon support, surprises French V Corps.

31 August–1 September Battle of Noisseville, east of Metz: Bazaine's first attempt to break out of encirclement is frustrated.

Uhlans Regt No.7 at St Quentin, 19 January 1871. On open ground the Uhlans' charge against infantry achieved easy success, but it was brought to a halt at the edge of the nearby forest; the French were reinforced, and counter-attacked. (R.Knötel)



ORDER OF BATTLE, 1 AUGUST 1870

FIRST ARMY (Gen von Steinmetz)

VII Army Corps (Gen von Zastrow):

13th Infantry Division (LtGen von Glümer):

25th Inf Brigade (MajGen von der Osten): 1st Westphalian Inf Regt No.13; Hanoverian Fusilier Regt No.73. 26th Inf Bde (MajGen von der Goltz): 2nd Westphalian IR No.15; 6th Westphalian IR No.55. *Divisional troops:* Westphalian Jäger Bn No.7; 1st Westphalian Hussar Regt No.8; 3rd Foot Unit, Westphalian Field Artillery Regt No.7; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Westphalian Engineer Bn No.7

14th Inf Div (LtGen von Kameke):

27th Inf Bde (MajGen von Francois): Lower Rhine Fus R No.39; 1st Hanoverian IR No.74. 28th Inf Bde (MajGen von Wohn): 5th Westphalian IR No.53; 2nd Hanoverian IR No.77. *Div troops:* Hanoverian Hus R No.15; 1st Ft Unit, Westphalian FA R No.7; 1st Co, Westphalian Eng Bn No.7

Corps Artillery (Col von Helden-Sarnowski): 2nd & 3rd Horse Batteries, Westphalian FA R No.7; 2nd Ft Unit, Westphalian FA R No.7.

Westphalian Train Bn No.7

VIII Army Corps (Gen von Goeben):

15th Inf Div (LtGen von Weltzien):

29th Inf Bde (MajGen von Wedell): E.Prussian Fus R No.33; 7th Brandenburg IR No.60. 30th Inf Bde (MajGen von Strubberg): 2nd Rhenish IR No.28; 4th Magdeburg IR No.67. *Div troops:* Rhenish Jäg Bn No.8; 1st Rhenish Hus R No.7; 1st Ft Unit, Rhenish FA R No.8; 2nd Co, Rhenish Eng Bn No.8

16th Inf Div (LtGen von Barmekow):

31st Inf Bde (MajGen von Gneisenau): 3rd Rhenish IR No.29; 7th Rhenish IR No.69. 32nd Inf Bde (MajGen von Rex): Hohenzollern Fus R No.40; 4th Thuringian IR No.72. *Div troops:* 2nd Rhenish Hus R No.9; 3rd Ft Unit, Rhenish FA R No. 8; 1st & 3rd Cos, Rhenish Eng Bn No.8

3rd Cav Div (LtGen von der Gröben):

6th Cav Bde (MajGen von Mirus): Rhenish Cuirassier R No.8; Rhenish Uhlán R No.7. 7th Cav Bde (MajGen von Dohna): Westphalian Uhlán R No.5; 2nd Hanoverian Uhlán R No. 14. *Div troops:* 1st Horse Bty, Westphalian FA R No.7

Corps Artillery (Col von Bröker): Horse Bty, Rhenish FA R No.8;

2nd Ft Unit, Rhenish FA R No.8.

Rhenish Train Bn No.8

SECOND ARMY (Prince Friedrich Karl of Prussia):

Guard Corps (Prince August of Württemberg):

1st Guard Inf Div (MajGen von Pape):

1st Gd Inf Bde (MajGen von Kessel): 1st R of Ft Gds; 3rd R of Ft Gds. 2nd Gd Inf Bde (MajGen von Medem): 2nd R of Ft Gds; Gd Fus R; 4th R of Ft Gds. *Div troops:* Gd Jäg Bn; Gd Hus R; 1st Ft Unit, Gd FA R; 1st Co, Gd Eng Bn

2nd Guard Inf Div (LtGen von Budritzki):

3rd Gd Inf Bde (Col Knappe von Knappstädt): 1st Gd Gren R; 3rd Gd Gren R. 4th Gd Inf Bde (MajGen von Berger): 2nd Gd Gren R; 4th Gd Gren R. *Div troops:* Gd Schützen Bn; 2nd Gd Uhlán R; 3rd Ft Unit, Gd FA R; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Gd Eng Bn

Guard Cav Div (LtGen von der Goltz):

1st Gd Cav Bde (MajGen von Brandenburg): Garde du Corps; Gd Cuir R. 2nd Gd Cav Bde (LtGen Prince Albrecht): 1st Gd Uhlán R; 3rd Gd Uhlán R. 3rd Gd Cav Bde (LtGen von Brandenburg): 1st Gd Drag R; 2nd Gd Drag R

Corps Artillery (Col von Scherbening): Horse Btys, Gd FA R;

2nd Ft Unit, Gd FA R.

Gd Train Bn

III Army Corps (LtGen von Alvensleben):

5th Inf Div (LtGen von Stülpnagel):

9th Inf Bde (MajGen von Döring): 1st Brandenburg Gren R No.8; 5th Brandenburg IR No.48. 10th Inf Bde (MajGen von Schwerin): 2nd Brandenburg Gren R No.12; 6th Brandenburg IR No.52. *Div troops:* Brandenburg Jäg Bn No.3; 2nd Brandenburg Drag R No.12; 1st Ft Unit, Brandenburg FA R No.3; 3rd Co, Brandenburg Eng Bn

6th Inf Div (LtGen von Buddenbrock):

11th Inf Bde (MajGen von Rothmaler): 3rd Brandenburg IR No.20; Brandenburg Fus R No.35. 12th Inf Bde (Col von Bismarck): 4th Brandenburg IR No.24; 8th Brandenburg IR No.64. *Div troops:* 1st Brandenburg Drag R No.2; 3rd Ft Unit, Brandenburg FA R No.3; 2nd Co, Brandenburg Eng Bn No.3

Corps Artillery (Col von Dreath): 1st & 3rd Horse Btys, Brandenburg FA R No.3; 2nd Ft Unit, Brandenburg FA R No.3.

Brandenburg Train Bn No.3

IV Army Corps (Gen of Inf von Alvensleben):

7th Inf Div (LtGen von Schwarzhoff):

13th Inf Bde (MajGen von Borries): 1st Magdeburg IR No.26; 3rd Magdeburg IR No.66. 14th Inf Bde (MajGen von Zychlinski): 2nd Magdeburg IR No.27; Anhalt IR No.93. *Div troops:* Magdeburg Jäg Bn No.4; Westphalian Drag R No.7; 1st Ft Unit, Magdeburg FA R No.4; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Magdeburg Eng Bn No.4

8th Inf Div (LtGen von Schöler):

15th Inf Bde (MajGen von Ketzler): 1st Thuringian IR No.31; 3rd Thuringian IR No.71. 16th Inf Bde (Col von Scheffler): Schleswig-Holstein Fus R No.86; 7th Thuringian IR No.96. *Div troops:* Thuringian Hus R No.12; 2nd Ft Unit, Magdeburg FA R No.4; 1st Co, Magdeburg Eng Bn No.4

Corps Artillery (Col Crusius): 2nd & 3rd Horse Btys, Magdeburg FA R No.4; 3rd Ft Unit, Magdeburg FA R No.4.

Magdeburg Train Bn No.4

IX Army Corps (Gen von Manstein):

18th Inf Div (LtGen von Wrangel):

35th Inf Bde (MajGen von Blumenthal): Magdeburg Fus R No.36; Schleswig IR No.84. 36th Inf Bde (MajGen von Below): 2nd Silesian Gren R No.11; Holstein IR No.85. *Div troops:* Lauenburg Jäg Bn No.9; Magdeburg Drag R No.6; 1st Ft Unit, Schleswig-Holstein FA R No.9; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Schleswig-Holstein Eng Bn No.9

25th (Hesse-Darmstadt) Inf Div – see Volume 2 of this study, MAA 422

X Army Corps (Gen von Voigts-Rhetz):

19th Inf Div (LtGen von Schwarzkoppen):

37th Inf Bde (Col Lehmann): E.Friesland IR No.78; Oldenburg IR No.91. 38th Inf Bde (MajGen von Wedell): 3rd Westphalian IR No.16; 8th Westphalian IR No.57. *Div troops:* 1st Hanoverian Drag R No.9; 1st Ft Unit, Hanoverian FA R No.10; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Hanoverian Eng Bn No.10

20th Inf Div (MajGen von Kraatz-Koschlau):

39th Inf Bde (MajGen von Woyna): 7th Westphalian IR No.56; 3rd Hanoverian IR No.79. 40th Inf Bde (MajGen von Diringshofen): 4th Westphalian IR No.17; Brunswick IR No.92. *Div troops:* Hanoverian Jäg Bn No.10; 2nd Hanoverian Drag R No.16; 2nd Ft Unit, Hanoverian FA R No.10; 1st Co, Hanoverian Eng Bn No.10

Corps Artillery (Col von der Goltz): 1st & 3rd Horse Btys, Hanoverian FA R No.10; 3rd Ft Unit, Hanoverian FA R No.10.

Hanoverian Train Bn No.10

continued opposite

XII (Royal Saxon) Army Corps – see Volume 2 of this study, MAA 422

5th Cav Div (LtGen von Rheinbaben):

11th Cav Bde (MajGen von Barby): Westphalian Cuir R No.4; 1st Hanoverian Uhlan R No.13; Oldenburg Drag R No.19. *12th Cav Bde (MajGen von Bredow):* Magdeburg Cuir R No.7; Old March Uhlan R No.16; Schleswig-Holstein Drag R No.13. *13th Cav Bde (MajGen von Redern):* Magdeburg Hus R No.10; 2nd Westphalian Hus R No.11; Brunswick Hus R No.17. *Div troops:* 1st Horse Bty, Magdeburg FA R No.4; 2nd Horse Bty, Hanoverian FA R No.10

6th Cav Div (Duke Wilhelm of Mecklenburg-Schwerin):

14th Cav Bde (MajGen von Diepenbroick-Grüter): Brandenburg Cuir R No.6; 1st Brandenburg Uhlan R No.3; Schleswig-Holstein Uhlan R No.15. *15th Cav Bde (MajGen von Rauch):* Brandenburg Hus R No.3; Schleswig-Holstein Hus R No.16. *Div troops:* 2nd Horse Bty, Brandenburg FA R No.3; Field Railway Unit No.4; Field Telegraph Unit No.2

THIRD ARMY (Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm)

V Army Corps (LtGen von Kirchbach):

9th Inf Div (MajGen von Sandart):

17th Inf Bde (Col von Bothmer): 3rd Posen IR No.58; 4th Posen IR No.59. *18th Inf Bde (MajGen von Voigts-Rhetz):* 2nd W. Prussian Gren R No.7; 2nd Lower Silesian IR No.47. *Div troops:* 1st Silesian Jäg Bn No.5; 1st Silesian Drag R No.4; 1st Ft Unit, Lower Silesian FA R No.5; 1st Co, Lower Silesian Eng Bn No.5

10th Inf Div (LtGen von Schmidt):

19th Inf Bde (Col von Henning auf Schönhoff): 1st W.Prussian IR No.6; 1st Lower Silesian IR No.46. *20th Inf Bde (MajGen Walther von Montbary):* Westphalian Fus R No.37; 3rd Lower Silesian IR No.50. *Div troops:* Kurmark Drag R No.14; 3rd Ft Unit, Lower Silesian FA R No.5; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Lower Silesian Eng Bn No.5

Corps Artillery (LtCol Köhler): 2nd & 3rd Horse Btys, Lower Silesian FA R No.5; 2nd Ft Unit, Lower Silesian FA R No.5. Lower Silesian Train Bn No.5

XI Army Corps (LtGeneral von Bose)

21st Inf Div (LtGen von Schachtmeyer):

41st Inf Bde (Col von Koblinski): Hessian Fus R No.80; 1st Nassau IR No.87. *42nd Inf Bde (MajGen von Thile):* 2nd Hessian IR No.82; 2nd Nassau IR No.88. *Div troops:* Hessian Jäg Bn No. 11; 2nd Hessian Hus Regt No.14; 1st Ft Unit, Hessian FA R No.11; 1st Co, Hessian Eng Bn No.11

22nd Inf Div (LtGen von Gersdorff):

43rd Inf Bde (Col von Kontzki): 2nd Thuringian IR No.32; 6th Thuringian IR No.95. *44th Inf Bde (MajGen von Schkopp):* 3rd Hessian IR No.83; 5th Thuringian IR No.94. *Div troops:* 1st Hessian Hus R No.13; 2nd Ft Unit, Hessian FA R No.11; 2nd & 3rd Cos, Hessian Eng Bn No.11

Corps Artillery (Col von Oppeln-Bronikowski): 1st & 3rd Horse Btys, Hessian FA R No.11; 3rd Ft Unit, Hessian FA R No.11. Hessian Train Bn No.11

I & II Bavarian Army Corps, Württemberg Field Division, & Baden Field Division – see Volume 2 of this study, MAA 422

4th Cav Div (Prince Albrecht of Prussia):

8th Cav Bde (MajGen von Hontheim): W.Prussian Cuir R No.5; Posen Uhlan R No.10. *9th Cav Bde (MajGen von Bernhardt):* W. Prussian Uhlan R No.1; Thuringian Uhlan R No.6. *10th Cav Bde (Major-General von Krosigk):* 2nd Leib-Hus R No.2; Rhenish Drag R No.5. *Div troops:* 1st Horse Bty, Lower Silesian FA R No.5; 2nd Horse Bty, Hessian FA R No.11; Fld Rlwy Unit No.2; Fld T'graph Unit No.3

Independent Corps and Divisions:

I Army Corps (Gen von Manteuffel): part of First Army but not involved until Mars-la-Tour.

II Army Corps (Gen von Fransecky): part of Second Army but not involved until Gravelotte-St Privat.

VI Army Corps (Gen von Tümping): part of Third Army but not involved after Sedan.

1st Cavalry Division (LtGen von Hartmann): joined First Army in time for Gravelotte-St Privat.

2nd Cavalry Division (LtGen zu Stolberg-Wernigerode)

1 September Battle of Sedan: two German armies surround and defeat MacMahon's army.

2 September French capitulation at Sedan.

4 September Fall of the French Empire.

19 September Paris encircled by German troops.

28 September Surrender of Strasbourg.

27 October Surrender of Metz.

9 November Battle of Coulmiers: French troops of the Army of the Loire defeat Bavarian I Corps. The battle results in the French re-occupation of Orléans.

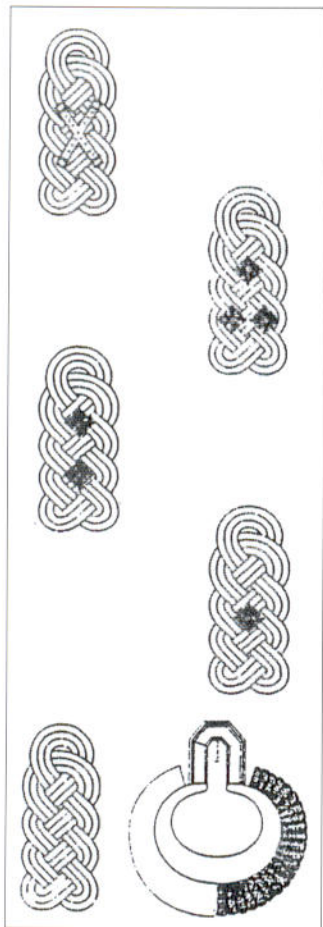
2 December Battle of Loigny: Prussian and Bavarian troops under the Duke of Mecklenburg beat the Army of the Loire under Gen Chanzy.

8 December Battle of Beaugency: under growing German pressure Gen Chanzy is forced to retreat.

23 December Battle of La Hallue: the French Army of the North under Gen Faidherbe gains a hard-fought draw against the Prussian I and VIII Corps under Gen von Manteuffel.

1871

2–3 January Battle of Bapaume: Faidherbe's army again meets elements of Prussian VIII Corps in an indecisive action from which both sides eventually withdraw.



Prussian officers' shoulder ornaments - epaulettes for full dress, and cord shoulder straps for other duties. (Above, from top) field marshal, colonel-general, general, lieutenant-general, major-general.

6-12 January A series of engagements around Le Mans finally destroy the Army of the Loire.

9 January Battle of Villersexel: an indecisive action between Gen Bourbaki's 2nd Army of the Loire and Gen von Werder's XIV Corps.

15-17 January Battle around Belfort: Bourbaki's attempt to relieve Belfort is thwarted by Gen Werder.

18 January King Wilhelm I of Prussia proclaimed Kaiser (Emperor) of Germany at Versailles.

19 January Battle of St Quentin: Faidherbe's troops are finally dispersed by the Prussians under Gen von Goeben. Final sortie from Paris defeated.

23 January Armistice negotiations begin.

28 January Surrender of Paris.

1 February Bourbaki's army retreats into Switzerland and is interned.

26 February Peace treaty signed: France loses Alsace and part of Lorraine.

UNIFORMS

Ranks and distinctions

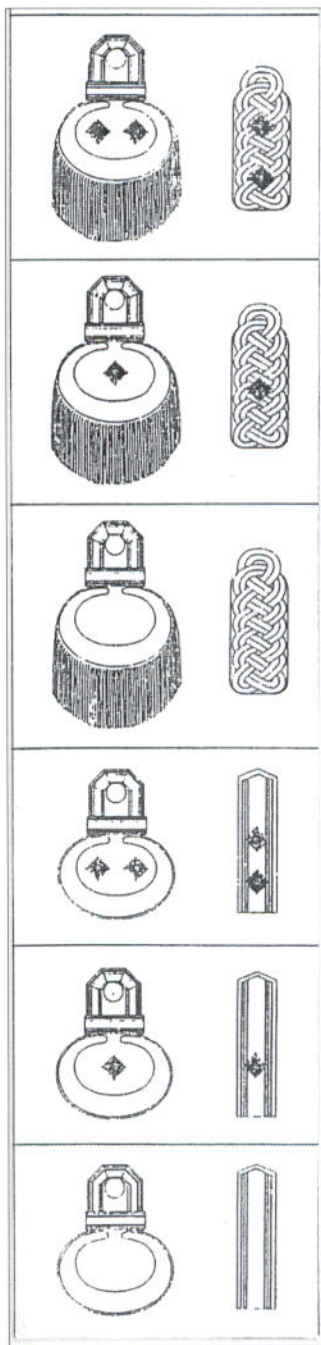
Officers wore two different patterns of shoulder ornament: for full dress and ceremonial, the epaulette (not for Hussars), and for other duties the cord shoulder strap or *Feldachselstücke* (not for Uhlans).

The epaulette comprised a shoulder board in the colour of the full dress tunic, edged with silver/black striped lace, and with a large metal crescent in the button colour. It was retained by a small lace 'bridle' (a loop through which the epaulette passed), and by a button at the collar end. The whole ornament was lined with cloth in regimental facing colour. Rank was indicated by a system of stars, and for field and general officers by fringing of bullion wire in button colour.

The shoulder strap of metallic lace cord also had an underlay of facing colour; a small tab slipped under the bridle, and a button retained the inner end. Rank was indicated by interwoven silver and gold cords for general officers; entwined silver cords for field officers; and straight silver cords for captains (*Hauptleute* or *Rittmeister*) and subalterns (*Seconde-Lieutenants* and *Premier-Lieutenants*). In all cases the silver cord was mixed with black silk darts.

Senior NCOs *mit Portepee*, 'entitled to wear the officers' sword knot', were: sergeant-major (gold or silver lace edging on collar and cuffs, with a large heraldic button on each side of the collar); acting officer (in addition to the lace, shoulder straps with an edging of collar/cuff lace); and ensign (distinctions of a corporal, but as a *Degenführer* he wore the officers' sword and officers' cockade on the helmet and undress cap).

Junior NCOs 'without the officers' sword knot' were: sergeant (gold or silver lace on collar and cuffs, button on each side of collar, special NCOs' sword knot); corporal (gold or silver lace on collar and cuffs, NCOs' sword knot); lance-corporal (small button on each side of collar); one-year volunteer, and re-engaged volunteer (*Kapitulant*).



(From top) Colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, second-lieutenant.

Re-enlisted privates and lance-corporals had a knotted braid at the base of the shoulder straps in white with two black threads. One-year volunteers wore a black and white twisted cord at the base of the shoulder straps (Uhlans wore this as a trim along the metal strip of the epaulette strap). NCOs and lance-corporals who had completed riding school had a woollen cord at the base of the shoulder straps – for Cuirassiers, in the colour of the collar; for Dragoons, in button colour; and for Uhlans and horse artillerymen, red, or yellow for regiments with red shoulder straps. Hussars wore shoulder cords in the colour of the jacket mixed with the colour of the cord. All these distinctions were also worn on the shoulder straps of the greatcoats.

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS

Officers wore two patterns of overcoat: the greatcoat and the *Paletot*, an elegant shorter style. The collar of the *Paletot* always had the colour of the tunic on the inside. The greatcoat was primarily the overcoat used for mounted duties and the *Paletot* when on foot. In addition, the frock coat (*Überrock*) was used when off duty and for undress duty.

With the exception of the Hussars, all officers wore for full dress a woven silver sash around the waist, retained on the left hip by a slide, with tassels falling to knee level. The sash had two black stripes and netted knots above the tassels.

General officers

For parade and ceremonial occasions a dark blue single-breasted tunic was worn, with red (*ponceaurot*) collar, 'Swedish' cuffs and piping on the front edge and rear skirts. Collar and cuffs were heavily embroidered with gilt oakleaves. There were 12 gilt buttons at the front, six at the rear, and two on each cuff. Gold aiguillettes were attached from the right shoulder to the right front tunic buttons by small gold pins.

The dark blue undress tunic (*Waffenrock*) was similar but had no embroidery on the collar (edged dark blue) and cuffs. For full dress, silver epaulettes had gold crescents and bullion fringing; for other duties, bullion shoulder straps of interwoven gold and silver/black cord were worn.

On campaign generals almost invariably wore the frock coat. Generals coming from the artillery or infantry wore this in black-grey, while cavalry generals wore a dark blue frock coat. Collar, piping and breast lining were red, buttons gilt. The shoulder straps were of twisted silver/black cord (*Kantschnur*).

The greatcoat was black-grey in colour, single-breasted, with dark blue collar piped red, and gilt buttons; it was worn with white gloves. Black-grey trousers, tucked into riding boots, were trimmed on both sides of the outseam with a broad red stripe. The spiked helmet (*Pickelhaube*) of polished black leather had gilt fittings and Guard eagle plate, and a white plume for parade dress. The chin scales, spike (or ball finial for generals of artillery) were also gilt. For campaign dress, a peaked (visored) undress cap (*Schirmmütze*) was worn, dark blue with a red band (*Umlaufstreifen*) and red piping round the crown seam.

In most cases generals were armed with the sword of the branch of service from which they originated; e.g., Moltke carried a straight-bladed épée (*Degen*) in a dark blue scabbard with brass

fittings. On campaign the square-cut undress shabraque (*Interims-Schabracke*) was used under the saddle, in dark blue with broad gold edging, together with matching covers on the brown leather pistol holsters.

Staff officers

Staff officers' uniform was as for generals except that the trouser stripes, collar and all piping were crimson, and tunic buttons and shabraque edging were silver. Field officers serving as adjutants with the General Staff wore, besides the tunic, the frock coat with silver buttons and the undress cap of their regiments. The sash passed under the right shoulder strap. A pouch was not worn.

STAFF COMMAND GUARDS

For cavalry Staff Command Guards the headgear was the M1867 Cuirassier helmet. The dark green tunic had red piping and gilt buttons. The collar and pointed 'Polish' cuffs were cornflower-blue, piped red at the top edge only; the collar bore a yellow lace bar (*Litze*). Brass epaulettes had a central cloth field in red. The greatcoat was cavalry style, with rectangular cornflower-blue collar patches, and red shoulder straps with the yellow number of the particular Army Corps. Mid-grey trousers had a narrow red stripe centred on a broad cornflower-blue stripe; they were worn over black riding boots. A French sword of An XI model was worn from a white leather Cuirassier sword belt. A dark green round-cornered shabraque had a broad red edging piped in cornflower-blue. Staff Command Guards had no trumpeters.

As there were insufficient uniforms available at the outbreak of the war, the mounted Staff Command Guards of II Army Corps had to wear the following: tunics and headgear of the Guard Schützen, but trousers, boots, greatcoats, cartridge pouches and shabraques of the 1st Guard Dragoons, and sabres from the Guard Train battalion.

Infantry Staff Command Guards wore the M1867 spiked helmet. The tunic was as for the cavalry guards, except: red shoulder straps with the Army Corps number in yellow; cornflower-blue 'Brandenburg' cuffs with a squared dark green flap piped red. Waist belt and pack straps were white leather. The infantry greatcoat had collar patches and shoulder straps as for mounted guards. Black-grey trousers had a narrow red stripe centred on a broad cornflower-blue stripe, and were worn tucked into boots. Armament and equipment was as for line infantry.

Trooper, Cavalry Staff Command Guard. The uniform of the mounted Staff Command Guards was similar to that of the staff orderlies. Although tight breeches and high boots had been introduced in May 1870, the long trousers with black leather inserts on the inner legs were still used. This man wears the Iron Cross decoration. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)



CAVALRY

In 1867 all cavalry regiments were brought up to a strength of five squadrons, to give a mobilized strength of four field squadrons and one depot squadron for replacements.

On campaign some cavalry officers used, instead of the large shabraque, the square-cut undress blanket (*Interimsdecke*), of the same colour as the shabraque and edged with a narrow strip of facing colour.

CUIRASSIERS

The white single-breasted tunic (*Koller*) was secured by 14 hooks-and-eyes. There were two nickel-silver or brass buttons on the 'Swedish' cuffs, and three on each side of the rear skirts. The armholes and seams on sleeves and back were trimmed in the regimental facing colour of the collar and cuffs (see Table A). This colour was also used for braid (two stripes in facing colour flanking a white stripe) on the 5.3cm-high collar, cuff tops, rear skirts and front edge. The lace of NCOs was in button colour and covered the white

stripe of the collar and cuff braid; it was narrower than that of other troops – 1.3cm for the line regiments, 1.6cm for the Guard regiments.

The two Guard regiments had one white lace bar on the collar and two on the cuffs; those of the Garde du Corps had a red central 'light', those of the Guard Cuirassiers a cornflower-blue light. White shoulder straps were piped in regimental colour. Regt No.6 wore in addition on their shoulder straps the yellow crowned monogram of their honorary colonel-in-chief, the Russian Tsar, and from October 1866 Regt No.1 wore the yellow monogram of King Wilhelm (officers' monograms gilded).

Officers wore a *Koller* like that of the rankers, with gold or silver lace in the tunic braid, and shoulder strap underlay in facing colour. The two Guard regiments had a silver lace bar on each side of the collar. The officers' dark blue undress tunic had collar and cuffs in the regimental colour with braid. Regts Nos.1 and 8 had white edging on the front and the Guard Cuirassiers red, but no edging on the back and sleeves. For garrison duties a dark blue tunic was also worn by the rankers, with dark blue collar and patches in the regimental colour.

The dark blue frock coat was double-breasted, with two rows of six front buttons and a high collar with a rounded front; the very deep cuffs were of plain round design. The rear was slit up to waist level, and two vertical pockets each bore two buttons. The collar, and piping around the cuffs and pocket flaps were in facing colour (red for Regt No.6). The piping of the collar was dark blue, except for the Guard Cuirassiers (red) and Regts Nos.1 and 8 (white). The coat reached to the knee and was provided with hooks-and-eyes so that the skirts could be turned back when mounted. The sword was worn under the coat and suspended from a short strap and clasp.



Major Maximilian Count von Schmettow in dark blue Cuirassier tunic. Schmettow was known as an excellent dressage rider, whose tricks on horseback put even those of circus artistes to shame. On 16 August 1870 Schmettow led the famous charge of Cuirassier Regt No.7 at Vionville. (Author's collection)



A major of the Garde du Corps in parade dress, including the white *Koller* tunic decorated with bars of Guards lace. (Private collection)

Table A: Cuirassier distinctions

| Regiment | Facing | Buttons (White/Yellow) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Garde du Corps | red (<i>ponceaurot</i>) | W |
| Guard Cuirassiers | cornflower-blue | W |
| Silesian Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No. 1 (<i>Leibkürassier-Regt</i>) | black | Y |
| Pomeranian Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.2 | carmine | W |
| E.Prussian Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.3 | light blue | W |
| Westphalian Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.4 | light red | W |
| W.Prussian Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.5 | rose-red | Y |
| Brandenburg Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.6 | Russian blue ¹ | Y |
| Magdeburg Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.7 | yellow ² | W |
| Rhenish Cuirassier | | |
| Regt No.8 | light green | Y |

1 Between dark and cornflower-blue
2 In the Prussian Army, always lemon-yellow

The single-breasted, black-grey greatcoat bore collar patches in regimental colour (Regt No.6, red), and white shoulder straps without piping (crowned monograms for Regts Nos.1 and 6). The officers' *Paletot* was dark grey-blue with a dark blue collar (Guard Cuirassiers, red). White gloves were worn, and for parades white gauntlets.

Long mid-grey overall trousers were in use until 1867, but had proved so impractical in the winter campaign of 1864 that three years later tight white breeches – introduced by the officers of the 6th Cuirassiers in the same year – were declared compulsory for all regiments. At the same time the Cuirassiers took into use the so-called 'old Brandenburg' boots, which could be pulled very high when mounted, but only up to knee height for dismounted duties.

Headgear was a white metal helmet with a front peak and 'lobster-tail' neck guard, a white metal spike and brass chinscales. The inside of the front peak was painted green, the neck guard black; from 1870 officers' peaks were covered inside with green leather – their neck guards had always had black velvet lining. Around the right side boss of the chinscales was displayed the Prussian cockade (black, white, centred black).

Cuirassiers of the two Guard regiments and No.6 wore helmets and chinscales of 'tombac' – an alloy of copper and zinc. Regts Nos.1–5, 7 & 8 had a brass eagle helmet plate, and No.6 a white metal plate. They were completed with a scroll (*Vaterlandsbandeau*) reading 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND'. Under this a second brass scroll (*Auszeichnungsband*), inscribed 'Hohenfriedberg 4 Juni 1745', adorned

the helmets of Regt No.2. The two Guard regiments bore instead a silver Guard star with a small eagle in the centre on a background of red copper, surrounded by a device bearing the words 'SUUM CUIQUE'. For parade and ceremonials the two Guard regiments replaced the spike with a silver crowned eagle with spread wings – except for trumpeters, whose detachable spikes were replaced for parades with a flowing red horsehair plume. The white undress cap (*Feldmütze*) had the band and the crown piping in the regimental colour.

Cuirasses

The bullet-proof cuirass consisted of a breastplate and back piece held together with straps. It was brass-plated in the two Guard regiments and Regt No.6, and of steel in the other units; officers and NCOs of Regts Nos.2 & 6 had cuirasses plated with tombac. All cuirasses had brass (for officers, gilt) shoulder scales and a black waist belt. The lining was black piped with white, this being visible at the neck, waist and arm apertures. The two parts of the cuirass were secured with brass chains. The brass plating (see above) left a small margin of white metal about the edge, into which brass rivets were inserted.

Trumpeters never wore a cuirass. They had the same uniform as enlisted men, with 'swallows'-nests' (*Schwalbennester*) in the facing colour and edged with NCOs' lace. Trumpets were of yellow metal with twisted black and white cords.

Equipment and armament

A black cartridge pouch (*Kartuschkasten*) was worn on a white leather pouch belt. The flap ornament of the two Guard regiments was a star in silver (Garde du Corps) or brass (Guard Cuirassiers). The ornament of the line regiments was a brass circular plate with the Prussian eagle impressed in the centre upon a trophy of arms, drums and flags; Regt No. 2 had in addition two brass grenades. Officers had a black cartridge pouch with the crowned royal monogram in gold.

Cuirassiers carried a straight-bladed sword with brass guard known as the *Pallasch*; the steel scabbard hung from white slings. Between 1814 and 1820 the regiments were issued with two different swords: the Garde du Corps and Regts Nos. 1, 3, & 7 carried the French An XI cavalry sword, as booty of 1814, the other regiments a Russian cavalry sword. From 1820, however, several companies in Solingen produced these swords, with some slight differences, so regiments had no particular patterns.

The sword knots (*Faustriemen*) of troopers had a red leather strap and plaited slide; a white 'crown' for the 1st Sqn, red for the 2nd, yellow 3rd, light blue 4th, green 5th; and a white tassel. The exception was the Garde du Corps with its ten companies (see Table B).

The sword knots of corporals and sergeants had the same strap and slide as the troopers', but the crown and tassel were made of white wool mixed with black. Senior NCOs were entitled to wear the officers' sword knot; this was entirely silver, the strap and slide striped in black silk. Re-enlisted personnel wore a special sword knot with a red leather strap and slide, the crown and tassel of white wool mixed with black; immediately under the slide was a special pom-pom in the squadron colours (see above). Re-enlisted personnel of the Garde du Corps 1st Sqn



Standard-bearer of Cuirassier Regt No.5. The standard bandolier is faced with gold lace and shows the regimental facing colour of rose red down the centre – this shade also shows at the base of the collar, the arm holes, the cuffs and the holster flap. Only the standard bandoliers of the two Guard regiments and Regts Nos.1, 4, 7 & 8 had fringes. (H.Knötel)

**Table B:
Sword knots of the
Garde du Corps**

| Company | Crown | Tassel |
|---------|------------|------------|
| 1 | white | white |
| 2 | black | white |
| 3 | red | red |
| 4 | red | white |
| 5 | yellow | yellow |
| 6 | yellow | white |
| 7 | light blue | light blue |
| 8 | light blue | white |
| 9 | green | green |
| 10 | green | white |



Trooper of one of the two Guard Dragoon regiments, with undress cap and greatcoat. Note the French cavalry water bottle; many Prussian troopers are seen with this piece of war booty in their posed portraits.

(Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

had the special pom-pom until 1888 in white, 2nd Sqn black with a white wavy line, 3rd Sqn in red, 4th Sqn red with a white wavy line, and so forth.

The officers' sword knot (*Portepe*) consisted of a black leather strap worked with three silver stripes; a black plaited slide worked with silver cord; and a silver/black worked stalk terminating in a silver 'acorn' with a black silk core. Officers' pouch belts and sword slings were braided with gold or silver and edged in the colour of the collar.

The rankers' M1850 percussion pistol was worn either clipped to the pouch belt or in the right saddle holster. Officers also carried this, but from 1866 many purchased revolvers privately. These weapons were carried in a holster fastened to a 2cm wide black strap around the waist, or to a black strap worn over the right shoulder to the left hip. The holsters were black or brown – there were no regulations.

Horses and horse furniture

After the reign of King Friedrich Wilhelm IV (1840–57) no new regulations were issued regarding horse colours. Cuirassiers were not to ride greys, piebalds, duns or similar horses. At what date trumpeters began to ride greys is unknown – certainly by 1864.

The square-cut shabraque, with holster housings to the front, was in regimental colour (Regt No.6, red), edged in button-colour braid

with a central stripe of regimental facing colour (black/blue for the Garde du Corps, red for the Guard Cuirassiers). A white star with yellow crown adorned both the holster housings and the rear corners of the shabraque of the two Guard regiments. Since 1854 the saddle was natural brown leather; the bridle was of polished brown leather with steel buckles, tongues, rings, etc. The greatcoat was folded and strapped over the rear of the shabraque – the valise had been abolished in 1854. To the left and right of the greatcoat the two ends of a white linen nosebag were visible. Below the greatcoat on the left side was attached a mess tin in a brown leather carrier; on the right side, a short piece of rope (*Fouragierleine*) and a leather horseshoe pouch. Officers' shabraques had gold or silver edging; the stars of the Guard regiments were silver, the crowns gold. Officers never attached saddle kit over the shabraque – this was carried on a reserve horse led by a servant.

Standards and drums

Standards were square for the Garde du Corps, Guard Cuirassiers and Regts Nos.1, 6 & 7; and swallow-tailed for Regts Nos.2, 3, 4, 5 & 8. All standards had a centred eagle, gold or silver embroidery and fringes. As was usual in the Prussian Army, the standards of the Cuirassiers were decorated with various streamers commemorating campaigns. By 1870 all Cuirassier regiments had kettledrums.

DRAGOONS

A cornflower-blue single-breasted tunic of infantry style was secured by eight front buttons; three more on each side held the rear skirts back. The collar was piped cornflower-blue in the two Guard regiments and Regts Nos.1 to 12; Nos.13 to 16 had white piping, and No.19, none. The collar, 'Swedish' cuffs, shoulder straps and piping on front edge and rear skirts were in regimental facing colour. The exception was Regt No.19, which had white shoulder straps with a red crowned monogram 'A'; in addition Nos.13 to 16 had white trim around the cuffs. Collars and cuffs of the two Guard regiments bore two white or yellow lace bars according to button colour. Trumpeters had 'swallows'-nests in regimental facing colours edged with NCOs' lace; their trumpets were brass with white and black twisted cords.

The dark grey Dragoon greatcoat was single-breasted, with collar patches in the colour of the tunic collar; the patches of Regts Nos.13 to 16 were trimmed white at the rear. The shoulder straps of the two Guard regiments and No.19 were like those of the tunic; all others were cornflower-blue, piped in the tunic collar colour. Buttons were in regimental colour.

Officer of a Guard Dragoon regiment, in cornflower-blue tunic with metallic lace Guard bars (*Litzen*) on the red collar and 'Swedish' cuffs. He wears the new dark blue breeches and knee boots ordered in March 1870. The Guard star is just visible on the breast of the special eagle plate of his M1860 leather helmet. He is armed with the M1852 cavalry sabre. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

Table C: Dragoon distinctions

| Regiment | Collar | Buttons |
|--|---------------------------|---------|
| 1st Guard Dragoon Regt | red (<i>ponceaurot</i>) | Y |
| 2nd Guard Dragoon Regt | red | W |
| Lithuanian Dragoon Regt No.1 | red | Y |
| 1st Brandenburg Dragoon Regt No.2 | black | Y |
| New March Dragoon Regt No.3 | light red | W |
| 1st Silesian Dragoon Regt No.4 | yellow | W |
| Rhenish Dragoon Regt No.5 | red | W |
| Magdeburg Dragoon Regt No.6 | black | W |
| Westphalian Dragoon Regt No.7 | light red | Y |
| 2nd Silesian Dragoon Regt No.8 | yellow | Y |
| 1st Hanoverian Dragoon Regt No.9 | white | Y |
| E.Prussian Dragoon Regt No.10 | white | W |
| Pomeranian Dragoon Regt No.11 | carmine | Y |
| 2nd Brandenburg Dragoon Regt No.12 | carmine | W |
| Schleswig-Holstein Dragoon Regt No.13 | red | Y |
| Kurmark Dragoon Regt No.14 | black | Y |
| 3rd Silesian Dragoon Regt No.15 | light red | W |
| 2nd Hanoverian Dragoon Regt No.16 | yellow | W |
| Oldenburg Dragoon Regt No.19 ¹ | black | W |

¹ The two Dragoon regiments of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg bore the numbers 17 and 18.



The officers' *Paletot* had the collar in the facing colour (and the inside in tunic colour). The frock coat was as for the Cuirassiers, but in cornflower-blue. Most Dragoons rode out in 1870 in their long mid-grey overalls with leather reinforcement, and red piping on the outseams (regiments with carmine or light red collars had piping of the same colour). Black-blue breeches without piping, and knee boots, were ordered into use on 24 March 1870; the 2nd Guard Dragoons and Regt No.8 went to war in this new legwear. Most officers of the other regiments also received the new breeches; they had leather inserts, on the inside of the legs and were worn tucked into riding boots.

Dragoon headgear was the infantry M1860 spiked helmet in black leather with metal fittings in the button colour. A metal rib ran down the rear, and a metal spike was fixed to a quatrefoil mount on the top; it had a square-cut metal-bound front peak, a rounded rear peak, and brass chinscales with the Prussian cockade on the right side boss (in black/silver for officers). Regt No.19 additionally wore on the left boss the Oldenburg cockade (dark blue, red, dark blue centre). The plate was the so-called 'dragoon eagle' with a star and a banderole inscribed 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND'. Exceptions were Regts Nos.1 & 19: the eagle of No.1 was of Grenadier style without a star; and No.19 had on the eagle's chest a yellow star set in a white metal shield bearing the Oldenburg coat-of-arms. The two Guard regiments wore a Guard infantry eagle plate of silver or tombac, the breast embossed with a silver Guard star, and tombac chinscales. For parades the two Guard regiments had white horsehair plumes, the other regiments black plumes, and trumpeters, red plumes.

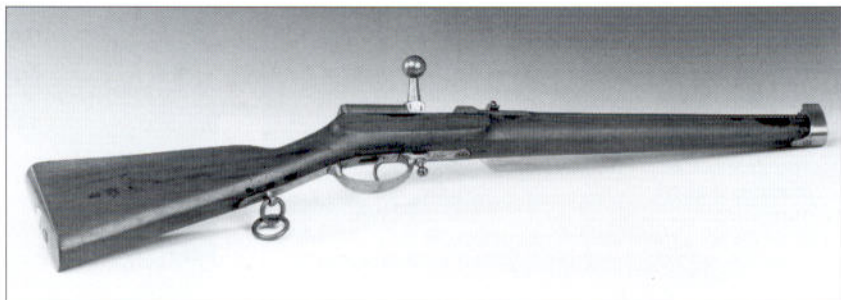
The cornflower-blue undress cap had the band and the crown piping in the tunic collar colour; regiments with black facing had a black velvet band. The Prussian cockade was worn on the front of the cap band; since 1861, Regt No.2 had a small brass eagle above the cockade, peculiar to that regiment; and the Oldenburg Dragoons wore their state's cockade above the Prussian one.

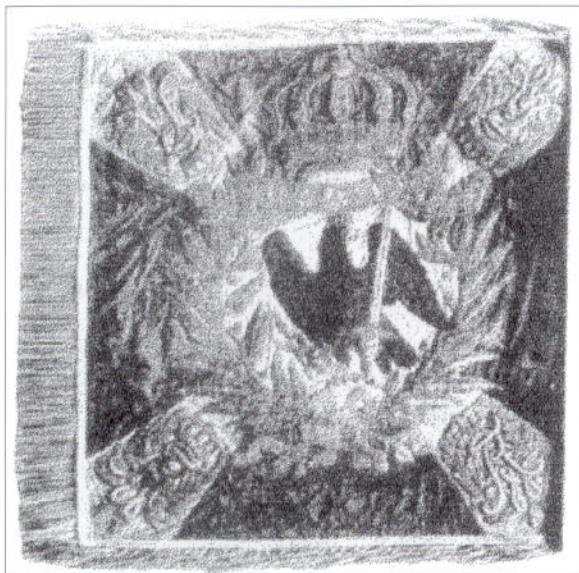
Equipment and armament

The black cartridge pouch was worn on a white leather belt. The flap ornament of the two Guard regiments and of No.3 was a brass star; the other units had a brass circular plate with the Prussian eagle embossed upon a trophy of arms, drums and flags. Officers' pouch belts were of the



Officer of a Line Dragoon regiment in the *Überrock* frock coat worn for undress or off duty. Visible under his shoulder straps are the 'bridles' for securing epaulettes; the Iron Cross is worn on its ribbon from a buttonhole; and note the undress cap on the plinth at left. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)





Pattern for line cavalry standards, 1860–88. (E.Fiebig)

OPPOSITE The M1857 'needle carbine', first issued in 1859 to 16 troopers per squadron. The pioneering Dreyse bolt-action breech-loading system used a long spring-loaded needle in the bolt; pulling the trigger sent it forward through a paper cartridge to strike a primer in the base of the bullet itself. In action the carbine was carried loaded with the bolt closed and the action uncocked, to give the trooper a rapid response to contact with the enemy. Hidden here is a large cheek piece on the left side of the buttstock, which assisted a steady aim. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

tunic colour overlaid with lace in the button colour, the former showing as an edging on either side. Their black cartridge pouch bore a silver Guard star for the two Guard regiments, and a crowned 'FWR' monogram in gilt for the line regiments.

Dragoons were armed with the M1857 'needle carbine', from the pioneering family of bolt-action weapons patented by Dreyse; and the M1852 cavalry sabre with a wooden grip covered with black leather, and a steel guard, carried in a steel scabbard. Sword knots, including those for re-enlisted men, were as for Cuirassiers of line units (see above). The attachment of the carbine was fairly complicated: the weapon was carried inverted, action down, with the muzzle forward. The barrel passed through an aperture in the shabraque into a special housing; a strap went around the small of the stock, passed through the

swivel ring, and was then attached to the top front right side of the saddle. When the dragoon mounted his horse he had to push his right leg under the carbine, which then rested on his right thigh.

Dragoons had a white leather waist belt with square brass buckle, sword slings, and carbine sling. Officers of the Oldenburg Dragoons had silver sashes with black and red threads. Officers and sergeants carried the 1852 cavalry sabre but with the grip covered with fish skin. From 7 February 1861 officers and sergeant-majors of Regt No.1 had been permitted to embellish their sword guards with a small silver-plated eagle; No.2 had brass guards. For undress, officers wore a lion's-head sword.

Horses and horse furniture

The horse colours of Dragoons were brighter than those of Cuirassiers, but very light colours were to be avoided.

The round-cornered cornflower-blue shabraque (*Sattelüberlegedecke*) was trimmed at the edge with regimental facing colour, and had a broad inset stripe of the same. Officers' shabraques were normally as for the rankers, but in the Guard regiments a silver Guard star adorned the front and rear corners.

Standards and drums

Standards were square for the Guard regiments and Nos. 5 to 16, and swallow-tailed for Nos.1 to 4, with a centred eagle on a black field with white wedges, gold or silver embroidery and fringe. The staff was white, and standards were decorated with various streamers; some regiments had a special 1870 Iron Cross streamer awarded to those units which had already been granted the Iron Cross in the spearhead finial for service in the 1813/15 campaigns. By 1870, only Regts Nos.1 & 2 possessed kettledrums.

HUSSARS

Hussars wore a short jacket (*Attila* or *Huzarka*) with five rows of woollen braid frogging (*Schoitasch*) in button colour, the ends looped into rosettes. The toggle fastenings and the caps to the loops were in brass or white

metal according to the braid colour. Piping in button colour adorned the collar (top, bottom and front edges), the front edge and bottom hem, back seams and rear skirts; there were two 'olives' at the top of the rear skirt for the NCOs and troopers of all regiments. The button of the shoulder strap showed the squadron number. The 'Polish' cuffs were edged with elaborate 'Hungarian' knots in button colour. Troopers of the Guard Hussars had a yellow lace with a red central stripe immediately below the piping around the top of the collar, and below the cuff braid. Instead of shoulder straps, Hussars wore doubled shoulder cords (*Schulterschnüre*) in button colour.

The pelisse (*Pelz*), abolished for all regiments in 1853, was reintroduced for the Guard Hussars in 1865: it was dark blue, lined and edged with white fur. Across the chest were five rows of yellow braid frogging, the ends secured to brass rosettes. The pelisse was worn either as an overjacket or slung from the left shoulder, secured by a chain around the neck.

Trumpeters wore NCOs' rank distinctions, and 'swallows'-nests' in jacket colour with gold or silver lace according to button colour. Those of the Guard Hussars wore a pelisse edged and lined with black fur. Trumpets were brass with twisted black and white cords.

For officers the white or yellow braid became silver or gold lace, and metal was gilt or silvered. The upper collar lace had the following widths: 3.5cm for the colonel-in-chief, 3cm for the regimental commander, 2.5cm for field officers, and 1.3cm for captains and subalterns. The lower collar lace was 1.3cm for all officers. Two rosettes of gold or silver replaced the two rear 'olives' of the rankers. Officers of the Guard Hussars also had a rosette above each of the six trefoils which terminated the crow's-feet braid on the skirt of their jackets, and curved pocket slits on the front of the garment. As Hussar officers wore no epaulettes, captains and subalterns had shoulder straps of twisted silver cord mixed with black silk, with gilt stars showing their ranks.

Instead of the frock coat, Hussar officers wore an undress tunic (*Interims-Attila*). This was the same colour as the jacket, except for the Guard Hussars and Regt No.3, which wore dark blue. It had shoulder cords as on the full-dress jacket, but no rank lace on the collar and cuffs; the collar was closed and bordered by a cord. The braid was white mixed at intervals with black silk thread (white or yellow wool for ensigns). All the braid of the Guard Hussars was silver and black. The barrel-sash was not worn with the undress tunic.

A black-grey, single-breasted greatcoat with six front buttons was worn by all ranks; it reached almost to the ground and was cut wider than that of the infantry. The 20–28in-long slit at the rear could be closed by four small horn buttons. The shoulder straps were always in the colour

OPPOSITE **Second-lieutenant, Pomeranian Hussar Regt No.5, in parade dress. The *Attila* is madder-red with silver lace and frogging. The madder-red shabraque has black 'vandyked' edging, trimmed at the top with looped silver piping and at the bottom with narrow silver braid; note the silver embroidered flower pattern, worked in all four corners. (H.Knötel)**

Trooper, 1st Silesian Dragoon Regt No.4. Clearly visible is the carbine carried reversed, passing through an aperture in the shabraque. This regiment had yellow facings and white metal; note the shabraque edged with yellow trim and with a broad inset stripe of the same colour. (H.Knötel)





of the tunic. Collar patches were red for the Guard Hussars and Regts Nos.1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13 & 14; madder-red for Nos.5 & 10; black for No.2; yellow for Nos.4, 15 & 16; light blue for No.8; cornflower-blue for Nos.9 & 12.

Since 1867 the barrel-sash had been in white wool for troopers of line regiments. It had three groups of sliding knots and was fastened at the back by a toggle; from the fastening, two cords hung down and were looped up at the front of the sash. The three groups of knots, the small slides on the cords and the two acorns which terminated the cords were mixed one-third black and two-thirds white. A black and white barrel-sash, with black and white tassels, was worn by the Guard Hussars over the black waist belt.

The officers' barrel-sash was in silver thread mixed with black, with silver bullion knots, slides and tassels (the sash knots were more complicated than those of the rankers). Adjutants wore the barrel-sash together with the usual adjutant's sash.

The tight blue-black riding breeches had white or yellow braid. The knee-length black riding boots were ornamented at the top with white or yellow leather trim which formed a loop at the front. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War some regiments still wore the old long mid-grey overalls.

Hussar headgear was a low fur busby (adopted after tests by the Guard Hussars during the Danish campaign of 1864), of black sealskin. A busby bag (*Kolpak*) in regimental colour hung over the left side. A metal scroll in the button colour, bearing the motto 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND', was worn at the front centre of the busby. Since 8 January 1861, Regt No.7 bore the royal monogram 'FWR' in brass and no scroll. In addition, the busbies of Regts Nos.1 & 2 were decorated with a death's-head badge in white metal above the scroll; this also appeared in miniature on their undress caps above the cockade. The scroll of the Guard Hussars was incorporated in the brass Guard star (silver for officers). Chinscales were tombac for Guard Hussars, brass for the other regiments. An oval cockade was worn at the front of the crown. Troopers had white cap lines; NCOs, white and black; sergeants of the Guard Hussars wore twisted black and silver lines, purchased at the expense of the regiment. The cap lines were attached to the left breast. In full dress a falling white plume (red for trumpeters) was fastened to the front of the busby above the cockade.

The officers' busby was of dark brown otter-fur. Cap lines were silver (Guard Hussars, gold), and braid and metal were gold or silver according to button colour. For parades officers had white plumes rising from a black base and

Table D: Hussar distinctions

| Regiment | Tunic | Braiding buttons | Busby bag |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Guard Hussar Regt | red (<i>ponceaurot</i>) | Y | red |
| 1st Life Hussar Regt No.1 | black | W | red |
| 2nd Life Hussar Regt No.2 | black | W | white |
| Brandenburg Hussar Regt No.3 | red | W | red |
| 1st Silesian Hussar Regt No.4 | brown | Y | yellow |
| Pomeranian Hussar Regt No.5 | madder-red | W | madder-red |
| 2nd Silesian Hussar Regt No.6 | dark green | Y | red |
| 1st Rhenish Hussar Regt No.7 | Russian blue | Y | red |
| 1st Westphalian Hussar Regt No.8 | dark blue | W | light blue |
| 2nd Rhenish Hussar Regt No.9 | light blue | Y | light blue |
| Magdeburg Hussar Regt No.10 | dark green | Y | pompadour-red ¹ |
| 2nd Westphalian Hussar Regt No.11 | dark green | W | red |
| Thuringian Hussar Regt No.12 | light blue | W | white |
| 1st Hessian Hussar Regt No.13 | light blue | W | red |
| 2nd Hessian Hussar Regt No.14 | dark blue | W | red |
| Hanoverian Hussar Regt No.15 | dark blue | W | yellow |
| Schleswig-Holstein Hussar Regt No.16 | light blue | W | yellow |

¹ A shade somewhere between pink and crimson

Table E: Hussar undress caps

| Regiment | Band | Piping |
|----------|---------------------------|--------|
| Guard | dark blue | Y |
| 1st | red (<i>ponceaurat</i>) | W |
| 2nd | black | W |
| 3rd | dark blue | W |
| 4th | brown | Y |
| 5th | black | W |
| 6th | red | Y |
| 7th | red | Y |
| 8th | light blue | W |
| 9th | light blue | Y |
| 10th | pompadour-red | Y |
| 11th | red | W |
| 12th | cornflower-blue | W |
| 13th | red | W |
| 14th | red | W |
| 15th | yellow | W |
| 16th | yellow | none |

gilt tulip; plumes were of vulture feathers for all except the Guard Hussars and Regts Nos.1, 2, 3 & 7, which had heron plumes. When, in 1866, officers of Regt No.7 were transferred to No. 14, they kept their heron plumes.

The crown of the undress cap was of the jacket colour. This was worn for walking-out, in undress, when working, or in barracks. For lance-corporals and troopers it was peakless, officers and senior NCOs had a black leather peak. The crown and upper and lower edges of the band were piped in white or yellow according to button colour; the exception was Regt No.16, which had no piping from 1866 to 1882.

Equipment and armament

The Guard Hussars carried a black cartridge pouch ornamented with a brass Guard star (officers, gilt), from a white leather belt; but the slings for the sword and sabretache were black leather. Rankers of Regts Nos.1 & 2 had a silvered Guard star on the pouch flap, which was unadorned for Regts Nos.3 to 16. Officers' pouch belts and sword/sabretache slings were faced with silver lace edged in the jacket colour. Officers' pouches of Regts Nos.3 to 16 bore the gilt crowned monogram 'FWR'. On campaign a black leather sabretache was worn, with a brass or silver crowned Gothic 'WR' monogram. An order of 1869 directed that the sabretache be carried so that the lower edge was level with the bend of the knee.

Hussars were armed with the M1857 'needle carbine' (carried inverted) and, from 1857, with the M1852 cavalry sword. During the Franco-Prussian War, Hussars sometimes used captured French Chassepot carbines. Sword slings and fist strap were black, the latter with crowns and tassels as for Cuirassiers of the line.

Officers and sergeants carried the same swords as the Dragoons; a silver Guard star embellished the hilts of the Guard Hussars and Regts Nos.1 & 2.

Horses and horse furniture

No regulation governed the colours of the horses ridden by Hussars.

The shabraque had rounded front and pointed rear corners. It was in the colour of the jacket, except for the Guard Hussars and Regt No.3, who used dark blue. The 'vandyke' edging was trimmed top and bottom in button colour. The edging itself was in the following colours: red (Guard, 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 13 & 14); pompadour-red (10); black (2 & 5); yellow (4, 15 & 16); cornflower-blue (8, 9 & 12). All Hussar officers' shabraques were ornamented in the four corners with an ornate gold- or silver-embroidered flower pattern; Guard Hussar officers had the silver Guard star superimposed on all four of these, and the shabraque edged with gold lace. (Troopers of the Guard Hussars did not have the Guard star on the shabraque.) The Hussar officers' undress blanket was of the same colour as the shabraque, but edged with gold or silver cord which formed a knot in the rear corners.

In 1870 only officers of the Guard regiment and No.3 used harness with shell ornaments. The throat plumes were not worn on campaign; they were detached, leaving only the crescent ornament. Bridles of all officers had a cross face piece with a brass plate on the martingale, while rankers used simple bridles.

Standards and drums

Two different patterns of standards were in use. The 1814 pattern was originally the same for all regiments: of black cloth (white for the Guard Hussars), with an orange centre field, a light blue motto scroll, and embroidery and fringes of gold or silver according to regimental lace colour. However, as the cloth became worn out some regiments had the embroidery resewn on to new cloth in 1860; in these cases an alteration was made, adding white wedges to the black field. These modified standards were carried by Regts Nos.4, 5, 9 & 10; and from 1867, by 13, 14, 15 & 16. As usual, the standards were decorated with various streamers commemorating campaigns.

In 1870, Regts Nos.1, 2 & 3 had kettledrums.

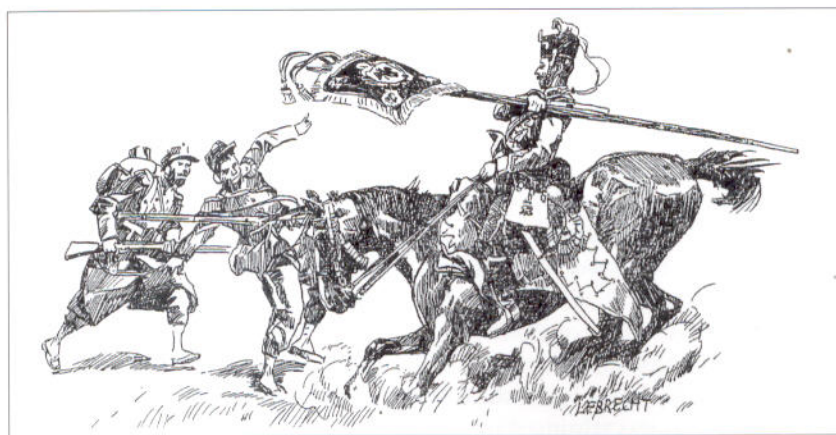
UHLANS

The dark blue double-breasted tunic (*Ulanka*) of the lancers had a row of six buttons on either side of a plastron front. The rear had two buttons at waist level; two vertical pockets, one each side of the central vent, each had three buttons on the flap, and there was a further button at the point of each 'Polish' cuff; until 1895 the cuffs had a rear vent. In accordance with an order of 2 February 1854, the tunic was fitted with a detachable plastron front worn only for parades. This plastron (*Paraderabatte*) was in regimental facing colour except for the 1st Guard Regt, who wore it in white, piped red. Collars (cut square for the Guard units, rounded and piped in dark blue for the line) and cuffs were also in regimental facing colours. The tunic was piped with facing colour along the sleeve seams, the pockets, the bottom edge of the skirt, and down the front in line with the outer edges of the plastron; when the plastron was not worn the pipings traced its shape on the breast.

On each side of the collar the three Guard regiments and Regt No.13 wore two lace bars in button colour – gold or silver for officers, white or yellow wool for NCOs and troopers (NCOs wore only one bar, due to the restricted space left by their edging lace). A lace bar was also worn on each cuff. In the Guard Uhlans each bar had a central light of the facing colour; the bar of Regt No.13 was edged blue and had a blue light. (The latter unit were permitted to wear the bars because in 1866 transferred Guard Uhlans had formed the bulk of the new regiment.)



Trooper, 1st Life Hussar Regt No.1: red busby bag, black jacket with white lace and frogging, red and white barrel sash, mid-grey overalls piped red. The black shabraque is edged with red 'vandyking' and white trim. The origin of the death's-head badge of the Leibhusaren is uncertain, but it was certainly borne by the 5th Hussars in the 1740s. Traditionally the regiment rode white horses. (H.Knötel)



During the battle of Vionville and Mars-la-Tours the standard of the 2nd or 'Zieten Hussars' was in great danger when the standard-bearer's mount was hit twice and fell to its knees, and two French infantrymen tried to snatch the standard away. After a hard fight the standard-bearer, Grothe, managed to knock both Frenchmen down with the staff of his standard, and got his horse back onto its feet. (Lebrecht)



Trooper of a Line Uhlan regiment. Regimental-coloured piping follows the sleeve seams, the pointed cuffs with their large button, and the shape of the parade plastron on the breast. Note the protruding shape of the large, metal-reinforced, fringeless epaulettes. His trousers are not in keeping with the regulations – he is wearing the heavily leather-reinforced type of a Bavarian Chevauleger or Uhlan. Note the French haversack and water bottle. His *Tschapka* is the old model with the heraldic eagle on the front of the ‘mortar-board’ rather than the skull. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

Table F: Uhlan distinctions

| Regiment | Collar | Buttons | Epaulette cloth |
|--|------------|---------|-----------------|
| Guard Uhlan Regt No.1 | red | W | white |
| Guard Uhlan Regt No.2 | red | Y | red |
| Guard Uhlan Regt No.3 | yellow | W | yellow |
| W.Prussian Uhlan Regt No.1 | red | Y | white |
| Silesian Uhlan Regt No.2 | red | Y | red |
| 1st Brandenburg Uhlan Regt No.3 | red | Y | yellow |
| 1st Pomeranian Uhlan Regt No.4 | red | Y | light blue |
| Westphalian Uhlan Regt No.5 | red | W | white |
| Thuringian Uhlan Regt No.6 | red | W | red |
| Rhenish Uhlan Regt No.7 | red | W | yellow |
| E.Prussian Uhlan Regt No.8 | red | W | light blue |
| 2nd Pomeranian Uhlan Regt No.9 | white | Y | white |
| Posen Uhlan Regt No.10 | carmine | Y | carmine |
| 2nd Brandenburg Uhlan Regt No.11 | yellow | Y | yellow |
| Lithuanian Uhlan Regt No.12 | light blue | Y | light blue |
| 1st Hanoverian Uhlan Regt No.13 | white | W | white |
| 2nd Hanoverian Uhlan Regt No.14 | carmine | W | carmine |
| Schleswig Holstein Uhlan Regt No.15 | yellow | W | yellow |
| Old March Uhlan Regt No.16 | light blue | W | light blue |

A detachable epaulette (without fringe) was worn on each shoulder. The cloth strap was edged on each side with a narrow strip of metal scaling; the strap terminated at the outer end in an oval ‘field’ edged with a large metal crescent in button colour. Regt No.3 had the monogram of its honorary colonel-in-chief, the Russian Tsar, in red wool on the cloth strap and in brass (officers, gilt) on the epaulette field. Field officers and general officers had bullion fringing to their epaulettes. It was not until August 1898 that corded shoulder straps were introduced for the undress uniform. ‘Swallows’-nests’ for trumpeters were as for those of Cuirassiers.

The girdle (*Passgürtel*) worn around the waist over the tunic was of leather covered with cloth, coloured in three equal stripes – the centre stripe of dark blue and the outer stripes in facing colour.

The single-breasted, black-grey greatcoat bore collar patches in regimental facing colour and shoulder straps in the colour of the epaulette field. The collar of the officers’ *Paletot* was dark blue when folded down, and showed the facing colour when turned up; regiments faced with light blue wore a white piping along the collar edge. The dark blue frock coat was trimmed in regimental colour.

In spring 1870 blue-black breeches without piping were introduced for Uhlans; however, most regiments went to war with their old mid-grey overall trousers. These garment had outseams trimmed in carmine for Regts Nos.10 & 14, otherwise red.

Headgear was the M1867 *Tschapka* lancer cap in lacquered black leather for all ranks. The 'mortar-board' top had a narrow stem connecting it to the skull, its sides covered with a detachable ribbed cloth in the colour of the collar for parades and ceremonial occasions; the cloth cover was clipped over the swelling, four-sided stem, but the top of the 'mortar-board' was left as exposed black leather. The corners and the edges of the cover were trimmed with white piping. On the left front of the cap a large oval cockade was clipped to the top edge. Chinscales were brass for all line regiments irrespective of button colour, but for the Guard Uhlans in tombac; the small leather front peak was trimmed with button-colour metal. A drooping hair plume was worn from a socket at the rear of the cockade for parades: white for troopers, white with a black top for NCOs, red for trumpeters. The oilskin cap cover was no longer used after 1867.

All regiments had heraldic eagle cap plates on the cap skull. The Guard eagle of the 1st & 3rd Guard Uhlans was silver, that of the 2nd Guard Uhlans, tombac. In addition the caps of all Guard regiments were embellished with a scroll (silver or tombac) reading 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND'. The line regiments had the following badges: Regts Nos.1, 2 & 3 – brass eagle with oval plaque bearing 'FWR' monogram on its breast, above the scroll already described; Nos.4, 9, 10, 11 & 12 – brass eagle with monogram 'FR' on its breast, and the scroll; Nos.5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 & 16 – silver eagle with monogram 'FR' on its breast, and the scroll. The white cap lines were retained by a toggle or hook at the cap's top right corner; NCOs had black and white twisted lines; but sergeants of Guard Uhlans were permitted to wear silver cap lines.

The cloth covering of the officers' M1868 cap included the flat top of the 'mortar-board'. The edges were trimmed with lace according to button colour (officers of Regt No.3 had a broad gold lace from 1862). For officers the white parts of the cockade were in silver; their white plumes were black at the base, and their cap lines of silver mixed with black silk.

The Uhlans' dark blue undress cap had the band and the crown piping in regimental facing colour.

Equipment and armament

Uhlans had black leather pouches on white leather belts with brass fittings worn over the left shoulder, retained under the epaulette strap by a small brass hook on the epaulette itself. A brass Guard star embellished the pouch flaps of all ranks of the three Guard regiments; those of line regiments were unadorned. Officers had dark blue leather belts faced with lace in the button colour. The black leather pouch of Guard officers bore the silver Guard star; those of line officers were decorated with the crowned monogram 'FWR'.

All troopers carried the M1850 percussion pistol, the M1852 cavalry sabre with white leather slings, and a black ash-wood lance. The white-over-black pennon was fixed by six eyelets, and the wrist



Major, 2nd Brandenburg Uhlans Regt No.11, with yellow regimental facings and piping. Clearly visible is the bullion fringing below the gilt crescents of his field officers' epaulettes. This regiment, raised in 1860, participated in the encirclements of Metz, Toul and Paris; it later fought at Loigny, Orléans, Beaugency and Le Mans. (H.Knötel)



ABOVE Trooper of a line Uhlan regiment in regulation uniform, including the dark grey greatcoat of typically generous cavalry cut. Here, too, the *Tschapka* is the old model. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

strap was red-brown. NCOs and trumpeters did not carry the lance.

Horse furniture

The dark blue round-cornered shabraque was edged with regimental facing colour and had a broad inset stripe of the same. Officers of Guard Uhlans had the silver Guard star in each corner.

Standards and drums

Standards were rectangular for the three Guard regiments and Regts Nos.1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16, and swallow-tailed for the other units. The field was black with white wedges, gold or silver embroidery and fringe. The pike head was gilded, and from its base a number of streamers were suspended.

By 1870, only Regt No.7 carried kettledrums.

INFANTRY

At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War there were 102 Prussian infantry regiments and 13 Jäger battalions. The composition of all infantry regiments was the same: three battalions of four companies each, the companies numbered consecutively throughout the regiment (Nos.1-4 in 1st Bn, 5-8 in 2nd Bn, 9-12 in 3rd Battalion). Each regiment also maintained a regimental depot, which carried out recruit training, and dealt with reservists recalled to the colours on mobilization and with battle replacements. Each company comprised 250 men; when the battalion staff was added this gave a battalion a war establishment

of 18 officers and 1,002 men. Jäger and Schützen battalions also followed this pattern, but consisted of four companies only.

On 4 July 1860 the first 12 regiments had been designated Grenadier regiments, while Nos.33 to 40 became Fusiliers; an order of 1 April 1867 also named Nos.73, 80 & 86 as Fusiliers. These titles were purely honorific and did not affect the tactical use of the infantry. All Grenadier and non-Fusilier Guard and line regiments had two line battalions and a (3rd) Fusilier battalion, while Fusilier regiments had three Fusilier battalions.

JÄGER and SCHÜTZEN

In 1870 the designations of these light infantry and rifle battalions were as follows: Guard Jäger Bn, Guard Schützen Bn, E.Prussian Jäger Bn No.1, Pomeranian Jäger Bn No.2, Brandenburg Jäger Bn No.3, Magdeburg Jäger Bn No.4, 1st Silesian Jäger Bn No.5, 2nd Silesian Jäger Bn No.6, Westphalian Jäger Bn No.7 (its personnel drawn from the

(continued on page 33)

1: Gen of Inf Count von Moltke, Chief of the General Staff

2: Wilhelm I, King of Prussia

3: Count von Bismarck



GUARD TROOPS

1: Private, Guard Schützen Bn

2: Private, 2nd Foot Guard Regt

3: Officer, Guard Hussar Regt



CUIRASSIERS

1: Captain, Pomeranian Cuirassier Regt No.2

2: Trooper, Magdeburg Cuirassier Regt No.7

3: Lance-corporal, 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regt



DRAGOONS

- 1: Captain, 1st Hanoverian Dragoon Regt No.9
- 2: Trumpet-major, 1st Brandenburg Dragoon Regt No.2
- 3: Adjutant, Lithuanian Dragoon Regt No.1



HUSSARS

1: Trooper, Hanoverian Hussar Regt No.15

2: Lance-corporal, 2nd Westphalian Hussar Regt No.11

3: Trooper, 3rd Reserve Hussar Regt



UHLANS

- 1: Captain, Rhenish Uhlan Regt No.7
- 2: Trooper, 2nd Pomeranian Uhlan Regt No.9
- 3: Lance-corporal (Kapitulant), Old March Uhlan Regt No.16



INFANTRY

1: Battalion drum-major, 3rd Hanoverian Inf Regt No.79

2: 2nd lieutenant, III (Fusilier) Bn, 2nd Rhenish Inf Regt No.28

3: Captain, E.Prussian Jäger Bn No.1

4: Musketeer, 3rd Westphalian Inf Regt No.16



ARTILLERY, TRAIN, LANDWEHR & MEDICAL SERVICE

1: NCO, Foot Unit, Magdeburg Field Artillery Regt No.4

2: Driver, Train, Jäger Bn No.5

3: Private, Landwehr Regt No.30

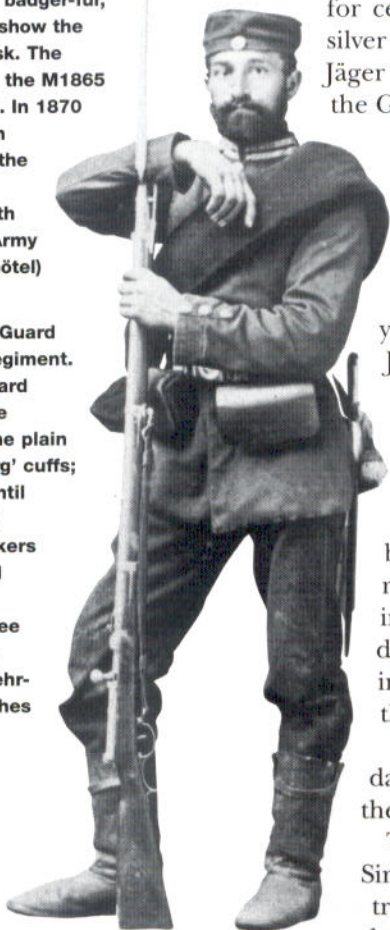
4: NCO, Hospital Orderlies





ABOVE Private, Rhenish Jäger Bn No.8. The shako for this unit had the line eagle plate with 'FR' cipher; the dark green tunic was faced and piped red, with yellow metal, for all battalions. The black leather equipment included a black knapsack with an outer flap of badger-fur, arranged to show the animal's mask. The weapon was the M1865 'needle rifle'. In 1870 this battalion served with the divisional troops of 15th Inf Div, VIII Army Corps. (H.Knötel)

Private of a Guard Grenadier regiment. Note the Guard *Litzen* on the collar, but the plain 'Brandenburg' cuffs; it was not until 4 April 1874 that the rankers of the Guard Grenadiers received three lace bars on the cuff. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)



former state of Schaumburg-Lippe), Rhenish Jäger Bn No.8, Lauenburg Jäger Bn No.9, Hanoverian Jäger Bn No.10, and Hessian Jäger Bn No.11.

The single-breasted tunic was dark green, with red 'Swedish' cuffs, collar and shoulder straps. The collar was piped in dark green, the front edge and rear skirts in red. The buttons were of yellow metal: eight down the front, three on each cuff, and six at the rear. The battalion number in yellow was worn on each shoulder strap, those of the Guard lacking any insignia. Two yellow lace bars (*Litzen*) decorated the collar and cuffs of the Guard Jäger Bn; two were also worn on the cuffs and one on the collar by those men of Bns Nos.10 & 11 (raised in 1866) who came from the Guard Jäger Battalion. (The only Guard officer who went over to No.11 – 2nd Lt von Seel – continued to wear his Guard shako.)

The Guard Schützen Bn had the following differences: black collar piped in red, two yellow lace bars on the collar only; black 'Brandenburg' cuffs piped in red, with dark green flaps piped red.

Buglers had red 'swallows'-nests' edged with gold NCOs' lace. Musicians of the Guard Schützen Bn wore black 'swallows'-nests'; buglers of the Guard Jäger Bn had yellow fringes. The two Guard battalions' assistant musicians (*Hilfsmusiker*) and musicians playing the French horn (*Waldhornisten*) had gold fringes.

Officers were distinguished by red epaulettes with gold crescents for ceremonial dress (gilt battalion number on the field), and silver cord shoulder straps for field duty. Officers of the Guard Jäger Bn wore two gold lace bars on the collars and cuffs, those of the Guard Schützen Bn on the collar only.

For parades mounted officers used dark green round-cornered shabraques with red edging, bearing in the rear corners gold crowned 'FWR' monograms, except for officers of the Guard battalions, who displayed a silver Guard star instead.

The single-breasted, black-grey greatcoat was secured by yellow metal buttons. The collar bore red patches; the Guard Jäger displayed an abbreviated yellow double lace with red inner lights, the Guard Schützen a similar yellow lace upon black patches, with black inner lights. Shoulder straps were red and without insignia for both Guard battalions; and dark green piped in red with yellow battalion numbers for the line units. Grey gloves were worn by the rankers, white by NCOs and officers. Since the modern tactics normally required shooting from the prone position, it proved impractical to carry the greatcoat in a roll around the body during the war of 1870–71. It was thus decided in 1889 that in future it would be securely attached round three sides of the pack.

The officers' frock coat was black with a red collar piped in dark green. The lining to the breast, and the piping around the cuffs and pocket flaps, were red.

Trousers of black-grey cloth had a narrow red outer stripe. Since 1864 it had been customary for infantrymen to tuck the trousers into their short boots, and knee-length black 'jack boots' were introduced in 1866.



Two NCOs of Foot Guards, probably the 2nd Regt; note the NCO braid and Guard lace bars on the collar and cuffs. The NCO on the right displays on his left forearm the Level 3 marksmanship badge. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

The headgear was the M1860 low profile black leather shako, with peaks front and back. On the front was a brass heraldic eagle plate with a scroll, 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND'. Battalions Nos.1, 2, 5 & 6 had the old Grenadier eagle bearing the royal monogram 'FWR' on an oval breast shield; Nos.3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 had the 'line' eagle displaying the initials 'FR'. The Guard Jäger and Guard Schützen had the silver Guard star instead. An oval national cockade was worn above the plate at the front of the crown (black and silver for NCOs and officers). Privates had a black leather chinstrap, NCOs and officers gilt chinscales.

The dark green undress cap had a red band and crown piping. The Guard Schützen differed in having a black band with red piping along the top and bottom edges as well as around the crown seam.

Equipment and armament

The black leather equipment consisted of a brass-buckled waist belt, with two pack straps which passed over the shoulders, attached at front and rear. At the front of the waist belt were two 40-round black leather cartridge pouches, and at the left rear a black frog supported a black leather sidearm scabbard with brass fittings. A light grey canvas 'bread bag' haversack (*Brotbeutel*) was slung by a light grey leather strap over the left shoulder to hang below the waist at the right side. The water bottle, in a black leather

cover, was carried on a hemp rope sling. Instead of the complete infantry entrenching tools a Jäger carried only a hatchet. The black knapsack was covered with a flap of badger-fur, so arranged that the head of the animal showed at upper centre. An aluminium mess tin was attached by two black leather straps to the back of the pack.

All Jäger were armed with the Dreyse M1865 'needle rifle'; to the muzzle of this could be fixed a special hunting sidearm (*Hirschfänger*) with a leather-covered handle and a blade 49.7cm long. Its sword knot was green for privates, silver/green for NCOs; the scabbard was of sheet iron. Officers carried a brass-hilted Fusilier sword, with silver/black sword knot, in a brass-bound black leather scabbard. The pistol or revolver was carried in a black leather holster at the front of the right hip.

Colours

As for infantry – see below.

GUARD and LINE INFANTRY

The backbone of the Prussian Army were the nine infantry regiments of the Guard, and line infantry regiments Nos.1–88, 91, & 93–96. The last four regiments were recruited in formerly independent states: No.93 in Anhalt, 94 in Saxony-Weimar, and 95 in Saxony-Coburg-Gotha and Saxony-Meinigen; the personnel of No.96 came from Saxony-Altenburg (I Bn), Reuß (II Bn) and Schwarzburg (III Bn).

Table G: Infantry shoulder straps and cuff flap piping before the outbreak of war

I Army Corps

(IR Nos.1, 3, 4, 5, 33, 41, 43, 44 & 45): white, white piping

II Army Corps

(IR Nos.2, 9, 14, 21, 34, 42, 49, 54 & 61): white, no piping

III Army Corps

(IR Nos.8, 12, 20, 24, 35, 48, 52, 60 & 64): red, white piping

IV Army Corps

(IR Nos.26, 27, 31, 36, 66, 67, 71, 72, 93 & 96): red, no piping

V Army Corps

(IR Nos.6, 7, 18, 19, 37, 46, 47, 58 & 59): yellow, white piping

VI Army Corps

(IR Nos.10, 11, 22, 23, 38, 50, 51, 62 & 63): yellow, no piping

VII Army Corps

(IR Nos.13, 15, 16, 17, 39, 53, 55, 56 & 57): light blue, white piping

VIII Army Corps

(IR Nos.25, 28, 29, 30, 40, 65, 68, 69 & 70): light blue, no piping

IX Army Corps

(IR Nos.75, 76, 84, 85 & 86): white, yellow piping

X Army Corps

(IR Nos.73, 74, 77, 78, 79 & 91): white, light blue piping

XI Army Corps

(IR Nos.32, 80, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88, 94 & 95): red, yellow piping

Before the beginning of hostilities in August 1870, however, some regiments were transferred, and several Army Corps thus became rather more 'colourful':

Regt No.60 of *III Army Corps* was attached to *VIII Army Corps*.

IV Army Corps lost Nos.36 & 67, and received Fus Regt No.86 from *IX Army Corps*.

VII Army Corps lost four regiments (Nos.16, 17, 56 & 57) to *X Army Corps*, and received regiments from it.

VIII Army Corps transferred five regiments out; and received Fus Regt No.33 from *I Army Corps*, Regt No.60 from *III Army Corps* and Nos.67 and 72 from *IV Army Corps*.

IX Army Corps received Gren Regt No.11 from *VI Army Corps* and Fus Regt No.36 from *IV Army Corps*.

X Army Corps exchanged regiments with *VII Army Corps* and received Nos.16, 17, 56 and 57.

XI Army Corps transferred Regt No.81 as fortress troops to Mainz.



The single-breasted, dark blue infantry tunic of the **line** had eight yellow metal front buttons and six at the rear. The collar was red, with a narrow upper piping in dark blue; the front edge and rear skirt were piped in red. Red

'Brandenburg' cuffs had a squared three-button flap, sometimes piped in colour. Shoulder straps were in the Army Corps colour (see Table G), with the regimental number or a crowned Gothic monogram in either yellow (on red shoulder straps) or red (on light blue, white and yellow straps). Regiment No.2 had instead of the regimental number an 'FWR' monogram above the number 'IV'; No.7, a 'WR' monogram; No.8, an 'FWR' monogram above the number 'III'; No.91, a 'P' monogram; No.93, an 'LF' monogram; No.94, a 'CA' monogram; and Regt No. 95, a 'GE' monogram.

The tunic collar of the **Foot Guards** was also red, piped in dark blue, but decorated on each side with two white lace bars. Button colour was white for the 1st Regt and Guard Fusiliers, yellow for 2nd–4th Regiments. Cuffs were red, in the plain 'Swedish' style, with two white lace bars. Shoulder straps were white (1st Regt), red (2nd), yellow (3rd), light blue (4th), and yellow (Guard Fusiliers). Officers' lace bars were gold or silver, depending on button colour.

ABOVE RIGHT **Fusilier of a line regiment wearing an undress cap, and with his greatcoat 'en bandoulière'. Note the tall old M1860 helmet, and the large Prussian black/white/black cockade round the right hand chinscale boss. It is hanging from the brass hilt of the so-called 'fascine knife' scabbarded at his left hip – note that the separate bayonet is carried fixed to his 'needle gun' at all times. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**

The four regiments of Guard Grenadiers differed in having red 'Brandenburg' cuffs with dark blue cuff flaps. Shoulder straps were white with a red Gothic 'A' monogram ('Kaiser Alexander', No.1); red with yellow 'F' ('Kaiser Franz', No.2); yellow with red 'E' ('Königin Elisabeth', No.3); and light blue with red 'A' ('Königin', No.4). Each cipher had a crown in the same colour. All buttons were of yellow metal, and the two lace collar bars yellow or gold. Officers wore the same tunic as the rankers.

The single-breasted greatcoat of the infantry was black-grey, with red collar patches, and secured by six yellow metal front buttons. Dark blue shoulder straps were piped in the colour of the tunic shoulder straps. Guard troops wore no lace bars on the greatcoat collar. When not worn the greatcoat was rolled up and carried over the left shoulder and across the body over the infantryman's equipment. It was secured to the left shoulder by either a clip or a white cord.

Trousers and footwear were as for Jägers (see above). Headgear was the M1867 spiked helmet with brass fittings. The front peak was brass-bound; the brass chinscales were usually tightened and worn above this. There was no metal rib at the rear. The national cockade was worn around the right chinscale boss; units from territories annexed in 1867 also wore their old cockade on the left boss:

Nos.75 & 76 (Hanseatic cities) red-white

No.83 (Waldeck) black-red-yellow

No.91 (Oldenburg) red-blue

No.93 (Anhalt) green

No.94 (Saxony-Weimar) black-green-yellow

No.95 (Thuringian states) green-white

No.96 (Saxony-Altenburg) green-white; (Reuß) black-red-yellow; (Schwarzburg) white-blue.

A brass disc was mounted on the helmet top, to which a brass spike was attached. The helmet plate was a brass eagle with upswept wings, above a scroll bearing the motto 'MIT GOTT FÜR KÖNIG UND VATERLAND'. Different scrolls were worn by Regts No.1 ('1655'), No.4 ('1626'), No.7 ('22. MÄRZ 1797'), No.9 ('COLBERG 1807') and No.34 ('FÜR AUSZEICHNUNG d. vormalig Königl. Schwedischen Leib-Regt. Königin'). From 1868 Regts Nos.93, 94, 95 & 96 were permitted to wear the coat-of-arms of their states on the eagle, and to replace the word 'KÖNIG' on the scroll with 'FÜRST'. In March 1870, Regt No.91 received Oldenburg's star and coat-of-arms, but kept the Prussian scroll. The eagle of the Guard regiments was in button colour, with its breast embossed with a silver Guard star.

The M1860 spiked helmet, which was taller in shape, could still be found in many units serving in France, since the new helmet could not



Private of the 3rd Magdeburg Infantry Regt No.66, which served with 13th Inf Bde, 7th Inf Div of IV Army Corps, and thus wore red shoulder straps with yellow '66', and unpiped cuff flaps. His hide knapsack and rolled greatcoat are stacked by his foot - note the large mess tin on the back of his pack. A reserve of 40 cartridges was carried in the pack. The cheek piece on the butt of his Dreyse rifle can be seen from this angle. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

be issued in time to all troops. An undress cap might also be worn in the field, peakless for rankers and with a black leather peak for officers. This was dark blue with a red band and crown piping. The national cockade was fixed to the front of the cap band.

Equipment and armament

The leather harness was white for the first two battalions of non-Fusilier regiments, and black for the third battalion and for all battalions of Fusilier regiments. The knapsack adopted in 1867 was made of unshaven calfskin, with brass fittings on the pack straps. The entrenching tools were carried in black leather covers: hatchet, pickaxe, or spade – Jägers (like cavalrymen) carried only the hatchet. The remaining equipment was as described above for Jägers.

Regiments Nos.1–32 and the first four Guard regiments were armed with the Dreyse M1862 'needle rifle'. Those regiments raised in 1860 – four Guard regiments and Regts Nos.41–72 – plus the regiments raised in 1867, and the *Landwehr* battalions, still carried the M1841 'needle rifle'; originally this weapon had an iron barrel. A third 'needle gun' – the M1860 Fusilier rifle – was used by the Guard Fusilier regiment and the 11 Fusilier regiments of the Line. This weapon was 12cm shorter and a bit lighter than the M1841; as it had no sword bayonet, the M1860 sidearm (*Haubajonett*) was fixed to it.

The M1841 sword bayonet (*Tüllenbajonett*), with a 48.3cm blade, was carried permanently fixed to the M1841 rifle. The M1862 sword bayonet, with a 49.4cm blade, was also carried fixed to that rifle – no scabbard was issued. In addition, all infantrymen armed with the M1841 carried the slightly curved, brass-handled 'brush cutter' or fascine knife (*Faschinenmesser U/M*), and those armed with the M1862 rifle the M1852 infantry version of this sidearm. Both sidearms had black leather scabbards with brass fittings, and a white sword knot and tassel were attached. The central section of the tassel was in the battalion colour (1st, white; 2nd, red; 3rd, yellow). The two flanking sections were in the company colour (1st, white; 2nd, red; 3rd, yellow; 4th, light blue).

Drums were of brass, with hoops of red and white diagonal 'teeth', white cords and apron. Drum and apron were attached to the waist belt. The wooden drumsticks were painted black. Buglers, who also acted as fifers, carried the brass bugle with a leather strap; when not in use the fife was carried in a black leather cover with brass fittings which was fastened to the waist belt on the right side. Buglers and drummers were armed only with the sword bayonet. Musicians had 'swallows'-nests' on each shoulder, of red trimmed with white.



The breech-loading M1862 'needle rifle'. Although the Dreyse system was revolutionary at its first issue in the 1840s, by 1870 a new generation of technology had overtaken it, and the 1862 model was in effect only an improved M1841. In theory an infantryman could fire ten rounds per minute, but the average when under fire was about 5–6rpm. Its poor compression sealing reduced its muzzle velocity to only about 30 per cent that of the French 11mm Chassepot rifle, reducing its lethal range to about 550–600 yards; its effective battle range could be as low as 300 yards – only half to three-quarters that of the French weapon. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

BELOW **Officer of a line Infantry regiment in undress uniform; the spurs suggest a field grade officer, who thus served mounted, but under magnification the shoulder straps seem to be of flat rather than interwoven cord. His regiment is one of those which had the cuff flap piped; note that the lower button was generally left unfastened. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**

RIGHT **Pattern for Line colours, 1828-81. This is of the type carried by the 3rd Bns of Infantry Regts Nos.32-38, and Regts Nos.39-72; and also by Jäger Bns Nos.6-8 and Engineer Bns Nos.5-8. (E.Fiebig)**



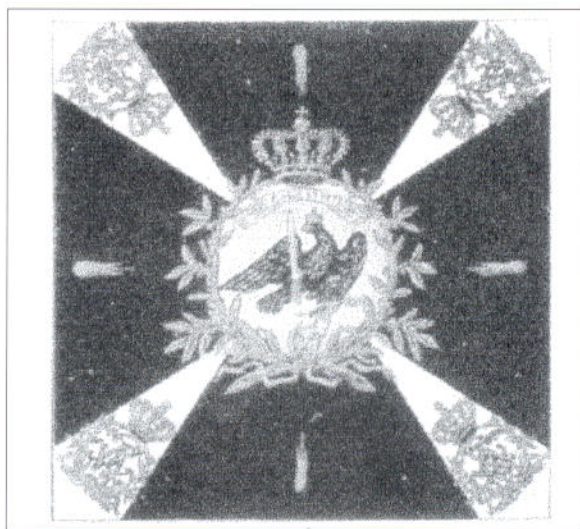
Officers of battalions with white leather harness were armed with a straight-bladed épée, carried in a black scabbard with a brass tip. However, at the outbreak of the war many officers had procured themselves sabres in metal scabbards, as worn by the officers of the Fusilier battalions. Sword knots were of silver and black silk. In addition, officers were armed with a pistol or a revolver carried in a black or brown holster, worn over the left hip on a black waist strap. Unmounted officers carried a black knapsack, with black or white straps according to the leather colour of their battalion. Mounted officers of foot troops used a square-cut dark blue undress shabraque with a button-colour lace edging. They were armed with a trailing sabre (*Schleppsäbel*), or a lion's-head sword.

Colours

The Foot Guards had three patterns. The first (I, II & Fusilier Bns/1st Regt; I/2nd Regt) had a white field, orange centre with black eagle and light blue scroll, silver wreaths and monograms.

The second pattern (I & II/Guard Fusiliers) had a black field with white cross, silver and green wreaths. The third pattern, with a white field, silver and green wreaths, was carried by III/Guard Fusiliers; II & Fusilier Bns/2nd Regt; I, II & Fusilier Bns/3rd & 4th Regts; the Guard Jäger Bn, Guard Schützen Bn, Guard Artillery and Guard Engineer Battalion. Guard Grenadiers had a white field with black cross, four exploding grenades in gold on the black.

Line regiments had three different patterns because of the different dates of award. All patterns had a black field with white wedges, orange centre with black eagle and light blue scroll, gold monograms and crowns in the corners. Wreaths were gold for the pattern of 1815, silver and green for those of 1828 and 1867. The colours of 1867 had additional crowns of a rounded shape. These latter were carried by Infantry Regts 73-88, Jäger Bns 9-11, Engineer Bns 9-11, and artillery units of the IX-XI Army Corps.



ARTILLERY

In 1870 there were 11 regiments of artillery. Each regiment consisted of five units – one horse, three foot and one reserve unit; plus the ammunition columns – five for the artillery and four for the infantry. The horse unit was made up of three batteries (3 x 6 = 18 x C64 light 4-pounders); the foot detachments consisted of four batteries (in each battery, 2 x C67 heavy 6-pdrs and 2 x C64 light 4-pdrs). The reserve unit was divided into one horse, one light and one heavy battery. The guns were breech-loading pieces manufactured by Krupp. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were painted mid-blue, the gun barrels blackened and burnished.

The artillery tunic was dark blue with red piping, and eight yellow metal front buttons. The collar and 'Brandenburg' cuffs of foot artillerymen were black, piped with red, with a dark blue flap. Guard and horse artillerymen had 'Swedish' cuffs. Red shoulder straps bore the regimental number in yellow; Oldenburg artillerymen had a yellow crowned 'A' instead of the number.

The collar and cuffs of the Guard artillery regiment bore two yellow lace bars. Musicians wore black 'swallows'-nests' trimmed white, those of the Guard trimmed yellow. All trumpeters of the horse batteries had gold NCO lace on their 'swallows'-nests'.

Officers' uniform was as for infantry officers with the exception of a ball finial replacing the helmet spike; the black facing colour; and

a gold-laced pouch belt with dark blue lining. Their black leather cartridge pouch bore the gilt crowned monogram 'FWR', or a silver Guard star for officers of the Guard artillery. Mounted officers' shabraques were dark blue, in Dragoon style, edged with a black stripe trimmed red on both sides.

The single-breasted, black-grey artillery greatcoat had black collar patches; dark blue shoulder straps piped in red bore yellow numbers in line regiments, while Guard artillery had red shoulder straps. Trousers and footwear were as described above for Jägers. Gunners of the horse batteries wore the long mid-grey cavalry overalls with black leather inserts; those of officers had no piping.

Foot artillerymen: (from left to right) lance-corporal, NCO, gunner in grey greatcoat, and officer in grey Paletot, its collar faced blue and piped red. Artillerymen were not normally armed with rifles. (C.J.Frankenbach)





Private, Guard Artillery. The helmet has a brass ball finial and trim. The dark blue tunic has black collar and cuffs, piped red, and decorated with yellow Guard bars; the shoulder straps and front piping are red. The brass hilt of the M1852 'fascine knife' has a white knot, the red crown and slide indicating the regiment's 2nd Battery. The white sling under his rolled greatcoat is for the haversack. Note that the red shoulder straps of this unit bore no number or insignia. (H.Knötel)

Artillery headgear was the M1867 helmet with a brass ball finial on a quatrefoil mount; the Guard artillery displayed the Guard star. The two Oldenburg batteries (Regt No.10) wore their state cockade on the left chinscale boss, the Prussian on the right. The dark blue undress cap had a black band piped red at top and bottom edges, and red crown piping; the cockade was worn on the front centre of the band.

Equipment and armament

The natural hide knapsack had white straps for foot artillerymen. The white leather waist belt with a brass buckle supported the M1852 infantry 'fascine knife' sidearm, with a white sword knot and tassel; its crown and slide were in white, red, yellow or light blue. Horse artillerymen wore in addition a white leather pouch belt with a black leather pouch decorated with a brass triple-flamed grenade and the monogram 'FWR', those of the Guard with a brass Guard star. Their sword knots were as for the 1st–3rd Sqns of cavalry units.

Foot gunners were not armed with the 'needle rifle'. Horse gunners carried the artillery sword 'n/A' (an old Hussar sabre), and the M1850 cavalry pistol. Artillery officers were armed with stirrup-hilted sabres (*Bügelsäbel*) or lion's-head swords.

Artillery colours were as for the infantry.

TECHNICAL & SERVICE TROOPS

Engineers

Tunics and legwear were as for the artillery, but buttons were white metal; the shoulder straps bore yellow battalion numbers. 'Swallows'-nests' were as for the artillery, and musicians of the Guard engineers wore additional white fringes. All engineer officers had two silver lace bars on each side of the collar and on the 'Swedish' cuffs. Headgear was as for the infantry, with white metal fittings; the chinscales of the Guard engineers were of tombac, those of the line battalions of brass. The undress cap was as for the artillery. Equipment was of infantry pattern but in black leather. In January 1869 the engineers received the 'engineer rifle U/M', a modification of the old M1854 Jäger rifle. The M1865 engineer fascine knife was carried as a sword bayonet, with a 48.1cm blade. Unit colours were as for the infantry.

Train

The peace establishment of the train consisted in 1870 of 11 battalions – one for each Army Corps. (Since 1857 each battalion had included a detachment of bakers organized on military lines.) The dark blue single-breasted tunic had yellow metal buttons, a light blue collar piped in dark

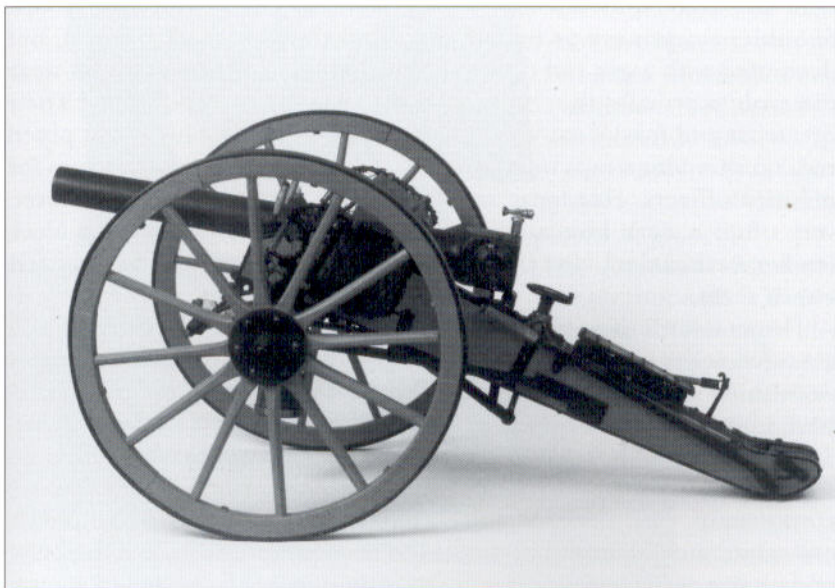
blue, light blue 'Swedish' cuffs, and light blue shoulder straps with the number of the Army Corps in red. The collar and cuffs of the Guard train battalion were ornamented with two white lace bars (gold lace for officers). Musicians wore light blue 'swallows'-nests' trimmed white.

The black-grey, single-breasted greatcoat had light blue collar patches, and dark blue shoulder straps piped in light blue, with red numbers. The Guard battalion had light blue shoulder straps. Legwear was as for the infantry. Headgear was the M1860 shako with a brass eagle for the line, or a silver Guard star. Officers wore instead of the shako the M1867 spiked helmet. The dark blue undress cap had a light blue band and crown piping.

Officers had a gold-laced pouch belt with dark blue lining and a black pouch, the flap decorated with the gilt crowned monogram 'FWR' for the line, or the silver Guard star. Mounted train soldiers wore a white leather pouch belt with brass fittings and a plain black leather pouch. All mounted train soldiers carried the old broad cavalry sabre of the Napoleonic Wars, with a black sword knot, from a Dragoon-pattern white leather waist belt. Foot soldiers were armed with old sword bayonets, and NCOs and lance-corporals also carried pistols. Officers carried the lion's-head sword. The officers' round-cornered dark blue shabraque was edged with piping and a broad inset stripe of light blue; those of Guard officers bore the usual silver stars.

'Troop trains'

Since one train battalion for each Army Corps was insufficient in time of war, the units had at their disposal their own 'train soldiers' (*Truppentrain*) when hostilities broke out. The train soldiers of the infantry, cavalry and artillery regiments, Jäger and engineer battalions wore the uniforms of their units, but no helmets. Their headgear was a so-called 'service cap' with peak and chinstrap. Train drivers of the cavalry wore the sword belt of their branch; those of unmounted troops had a black sword belt worn under the tunic.



Field gun C64 (8cm). These Krupp steel breech-loading 4-pounder guns were superior to the French equipment in every particular: accuracy, rapidity of fire and range. However, the guns were unpopular with artillery specialists of the day, since the difficulty of cooling the steel barrel evenly during the casting process tended to produce hidden flaws, which might shatter it when the weapon was fired. Note that Prussian guns did not feature axle seats. The metalwork is blackened, with some brass details; the carriage is painted a rich mid-blue. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)



Officer, East Prussian Train Bn No.1: dark blue tunic faced and piped light blue, gilt metal and laced pouch belt, silver/black waist sash, gilt '1' on silver cord shoulder straps. Note the Dragoon-style shabraque with rounded corners. During the Franco-Prussian War the battalion saw action at Colombey, Gravelotte-St Privat, Metz, Noisseville, Beaune-la-Rolande, Péronne and St Quentin. (H.Knötel)



RIGHT NCO, Guard Train Battalion. The M1860 shako has the silver Guard star. The dark blue tunic is faced light blue at collar, cuffs and shoulder straps, and piped light blue down the front. The Guard bars at collar and cuffs are white, the NCO braid gold. The trousers are mid-grey, piped red. The shabraque has edging and a broader inset stripe both of light blue. (H.Knötel)

Medical service

A medical corps had existed in Prussia since 1868, but its officers were civil servants and did not have the legal status of military officers. Their single-breasted, dark blue tunic had gilt buttons and red piping; the dark blue collar and 'Swedish' cuffs were decorated with gold lace bars. Shoulder straps were as for other officers, lined with blue velvet, but decorated with a gilt rod of Aesculapius. Medical officers did not wear the sash; normally they wore a sword belt under the tunic. Their greatcoat and frock coat were black-grey, with a dark blue collar piped red; no shoulder straps were worn on the greatcoat. Legwear was as for infantry officers. Headgear was the M1867 spiked helmet; however, very often a dark blue undress cap was worn instead, with a black leather peak, a dark blue band, and red piping on the band edges and crown seam.

Hospital orderlies (*Lazarettgehilfen*) wore a dark blue tunic with a rounded collar and shoulder straps piped in red; legwear and headgear were those of their regiments. Their equipment consisted of a canvas bag, a black 'ambulance bag' attached to the waist belt, and a so-called *Labeflasche* (literally 'reviving flask') slung from the left shoulder.

The tunic of the stretcher bearers (*Krankenträger*) was more conspicuous, with carmine red collar, cuffs, shoulder straps and piping and white metal buttons; their peaked service cap had a carmine band and piping. Stretcher bearers of the Guard displayed a white lace bar on

Surgeon, in a dark blue undress cap piped red around the band edges and crown seam, and a frock coat. By regulation the coat was black-grey with a dark blue collar piped red. However, the tones here suggest no contrast between body and collar, and a lighter colour overall than the black-grey infantry officers' trousers which he wears; the collar, and the very deep cuffs, appear to be piped red. His weapon is the 'lion's-head' sword of artillery officers, slung from an internal belt. The white brassard with a red cross had been worn since 1866. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)



collar and cuffs. Equipment was as for hospital orderlies, but each stretcher bearer was armed with a pistol. Because of their practical length, some 'needle carbines' were fitted with more conventional sling swivels and issued to stretcher bearers. A white armband with a red cross was worn by all medical personnel on the left upper arm.

RESERVES

Reserve Cavalry

A year after the cavalry of the *Landwehr* was disbanded in 1866, the conscription regulations prescribed the raising of Reserve Cavalry Regiments in case of mobilization. In 1870, each of the first eight Army Corps had two mobilized Reserve Cavalry Regiments for service in France: in total, three of Dragoons, six of Hussars and seven of Uhlans.

The Reserve Dragoons wore the uniforms of Dragoon Regts Nos.1, 4 & 12; the Reserve Hussars, those of Hussar Regts Nos.2, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 12. Of the Reserve Uhlans, Reserve Regts Nos.1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 received the uniforms of Line Uhlan Regts Nos.8, 4, 3, 2 & 5; while Reserve Uhlan Regts Nos.4 & 7 wore the uniforms of Cuirassier Regts Nos.7 & 8. For that reason these latter two regiments were titled, on 7 August 1870, 1st and 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiments. All helmets of the Reserve Cavalry had a white metal cross on the eagle plate, and the same cross was also attached to the busbies or mirliton caps of the Reserve Hussars. The troopers of the two Heavy Rider Regiments wore, instead of white Cuirassier breeches, mid-grey overalls with a narrow red trim.

Landwehr

When the districts of the *Landwehr* were reorganized in 1868, the *Landwehr* army was almost a mirror image of the active army, with nearly every regular unit having a shadow *Landwehr* equivalent. Each regular Grenadier regiment had an affiliated *Landwehr* regiment of two battalions, and each regular Fusilier regiment, a *Landwehr* reserve battalion. When the war broke out there were 147 battalions, and 121 of these would be employed in France.

The *Landwehr* uniform was basically as for the regular infantry, but with a shako in place of the spiked helmet. Instead of the eagle the headgear bore a white metal Maltese cross in a white metal oval, and a black/white cockade. Members of the two Guard *Landwehr* regiments and the two Guard Grenadier *Landwehr* regiments displayed two white lace bars on the collar; and on the shako, an eight-point brass star with a silver cross in the centre. Colours were as for the regular infantry, but with a white field and black wedges.



Colour-bearer, 2nd Guard Grenadier *Landwehr* Regiment. The shako badge has a white metal oval and 'Landwehr cross' and a brass Guard star. The dark blue tunic has red collar, cuffs and piping, dark blue cuff flaps, brass buttons, gold NCO lace and white Guard collar bars. Note the brass ring around the pole of the colours – this was engraved with the designation of the regiment and battalion. (H.Knötel)



RIGHT Captain and trooper, 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiment, dressed in Cuirassier uniform; however, in contrast to regulations this captain is wearing the breeches and boots of an Uhlan officer. The trooper wears the long mid-grey overalls reinforced with leather. (Private collection)

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THE PLATES

A: THE STAFF

A1: General of Infantry Count von Moltke, Chief of the General Staff

Helmuth Count von Moltke (1800–91) is portrayed in the campaign frock coat uniform of an infantry general. Moltke became Chief of the General Staff in 1857 and, with Bismarck and LtGen von Roon, transformed the Prussian Army. Moltke was responsible for the rolling of the German armies into France with clockwork precision, leaving no phase of their operations, however slight, to chance. On 16 June 1871 Moltke was promoted to the rank of field marshal.

A2: Wilhelm I, King of Prussia

The future German Emperor (1797–1888) is wearing the frock coat and greatcoat of a general, and is mounted on his golden chestnut Aladin. (After the surrender of the French Army of Châlons at Sedan the horse was renamed Sedan.)

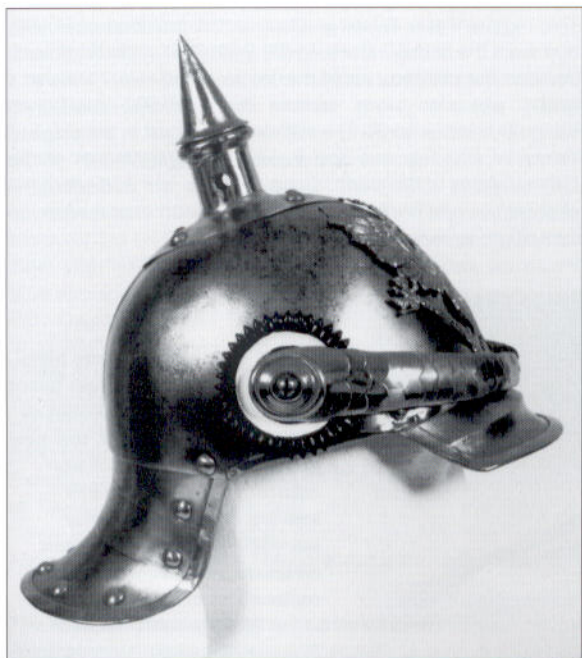
A3: Count von Bismarck

The statesman Otto von Bismarck (1815–98) seemed to embody the physical stereotype of the insufferable, thick-skinned Junker, but brought to his task of masterminding the creation of the German Empire great intellectual gifts and foresight. (During the diplomacy preceding the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, Napoleon III made a more than usually crass misjudgement in dismissing Bismarck as 'not a serious man'). He is wearing the frock coat and undress cap of a major in the 1st Heavy Reserve Rider Regt, identical to those of the Magdeburg Cuirassier Regt No.7.

B: GUARD TROOPS

B1: Private, Guard Schützen Battalion

This rifleman of the Guard 'Sharpshooter' or Rifle unit wears service dress, with his greatcoat rolled and fastened around the body and knapsack. Since its raising in 1814 the Schützen



Bn of the Guard was stationed in Berlin, and enjoyed great popularity in that city. In 1870 the battalion fought at Gravelotte and Sedan, and particularly distinguished itself at the storming of Le Bourget near Paris on 21 December 1870. The losses of the battalion during the Franco-Prussian War were especially heavy: 23 officers, 37 NCOs and 450 other ranks killed or wounded.

B2: Private, 2nd Foot Guard Regiment

The Guard is identified by the star on the eagle helmet plate and white lace bars on collar and Swedish cuffs, the regiment by the yellow metal buttons and red shoulder straps. The 2nd Foot Guard Regt, raised in 1813, was also a Berlin unit. During the bloody frontal attacks at St Privat on 18 August 1870, made without artillery preparation and in antiquated tactical formations, it suffered the highest casualties in the Guard: 39 officers and 1,076 other ranks killed and wounded.

B3: Officer, Guard Hussar Regiment

This officer is illustrated in parade dress, with a heron's plume attached to the busby. Since the 1840s a red jacket and grey fur trim to the pelisse replaced the original blue jacket with yellow braid and blue pelisse trimmed with black fur, and an otterskin busby with the Guard star replaced the shako. In 1870 the regiment fought at Gravelotte, St Privat and Sedan, and later took part in the actions against the French Army of the North on the Hallue, at Bapaume and St Quentin. Its losses were light.

C: CUIRASSIERS

C1: Captain, Pomeranian Cuirassier Regiment No.2

This officer wears the frock coat with the cuirass. Until 1889 officers frequently underlaid the silver shoulder straps with a piece of iron sheet in order to reduce the pressure of the cuirass. This regiment took part in the battles of Colombey-Nouilly, Gravelotte and St Privat, and also fought at Beaune-la-Rolande, Coulommiers and Tours.

C2: Trooper, Magdeburg Cuirassier Regiment No.7

This mounted trooper is wearing the classic Cuirassier uniform. The *Koller* tunic was made of a cloth known as *Kirsey*. Since 1817 the regiment had been armed with French cavalry swords with sword knots of red Russian leather. During the famous charge at Vionville on 16 August 1870 five officers, four NCOs, two trumpeters, and 60 Cuirassiers of the regiment were killed; five officers, 12 NCOs, five trumpeters and 76 Cuirassiers were wounded; 36 Cuirassiers were taken prisoner, and 261 horses died in the attack.

C3: Lance-corporal, 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiment

This unit wore the same uniform as Cuirassier Regt No.8; troopers of the two Heavy Reserve Rider Regiments did not display numbers on their shoulder straps. They carried the M1852 cavalry sabre and the lance. Since they had

Brass-furnished steel helmet of a Line Cuirassier. The large convex chinscales were secured to the helmet body by screw retainers; note the large Prussian cockade around this boss. Like the peak edging, spike base and eagle plate, the rivets are brass, but the spike itself is white metal. (Militärhistorisches Museum Dresden)

M1860 shako of a private in the Guard Jäger or Guard Schützen battalions, with the white-and-black cockade and Guard star plate. The leather chinstrap was attached to the body with blackened screws. (Militärhistorisches Museum Dresden)

previously been designated Reserve Uhlán regiments, their shabraques were those of the regular Uhlans, trimmed red.

D: DRAGOONS

D1: Captain, 1st Hanoverian Dragoon Regiment No.9

This officer is illustrated with frock coat and undress cap, as often worn even in battle. When in 1866 eight new Dragoon regiments were raised, the 1st Hanoverian Dragoon Regt No.9 was formed for the most part from squadrons of the Guard; consequently, the former Guardsmen were permitted to wear one yellow lace bar with white tab on the collar and two lace bars on the cuffs for as long as they served in the regiment.

D2: Trumpet-major, 1st Brandenburg Dragoon Regiment No.2

His rank is indicated by the gold fringes (*Kantillen*) of his 'swallows'-nest' wings. Normally a trumpeter was ranked as a corporal, but could rise to the rank of sergeant or trumpet-major. 'Trumpeter' as a title is in fact a misnomer: trumpeters were musicians capable of playing most of the wind instruments used by military bands of the period. This regiment – raised in 1689 by Margrave Georg Friedrich of Ansbach – was probably the oldest of the Prussian Army.

D3: Adjutant, Lithuanian Dragoon Regiment No.1

The special sash for regimental adjutants was first introduced in 1848; it was secured by a 'bridle' fastening above the left hip, and measured 6–7cm wide, with a black silk stripe about 0.9cm wide spaced 1.5cm from each outer edge. The pouch belt, waist sash and waist belt were not worn by adjutants. Note the silver-plated eagle on the basket hilt of the sword, an embellishment allowed to officers and sergeant-majors of this regiment since February 1861.

E: HUSSARS

E1: Trooper, Hanoverian Hussar Regiment No.15

This hussar wears the lower fur cap of black instead of brown-tinted sealskin adopted after trials by the Guard Hussars during the Danish campaign in 1864; and the old leather-strapped mid-grey overalls with a narrow red piping



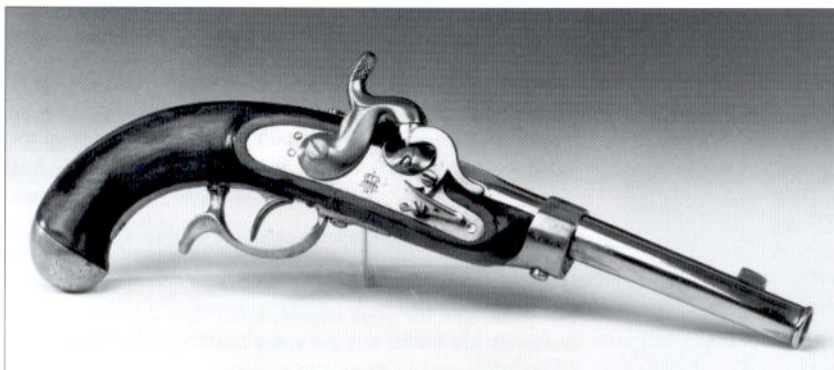
along the outer seam, over short black boots with straight white metal spurs. According to the regimental history, the new tight riding breeches (with a white stripe along the outseam), and high hussar boots with white leather trim and curved spurs, were only introduced 'slowly, and definitively only after the campaign'.

E2: Lance-corporal, 2nd Westphalian Hussar Regiment No.11

The dark green tunic of this regiment, raised on 5 December 1813, dated back to the Napoleonic Wars, when a substantial amount of green cloth from the old Berg Lancers' uniforms was found at Hamm in Westphalia and used to dress the new regiment. The white carbine belt had been lengthened since 1846 and now passed under the cartridge pouch.

E3: Trooper, 3rd Reserve Hussar Regiment

This regiment was raised in Lissa in the province of Posen, and wore the same uniform as the 2nd Life Hussar Regiment. Besides the mirliton cap of the former *Landwehr* Hussars, a busby was also worn, without the skull-and-crossbones badge but with a scroll. The regiment took part in the siege of Thionville and Peronne and in several engagements of the German Army of the North. Since 1836 the rear corners of the shabraque were hooked up during foul weather and when on campaign, to reduce wear and tear.



M1850 percussion cavalry pistol, with brass buttcap, trigger guard and barrel band. First produced at Potsdam in that year, this new pistol has the proportionally reduced lock of the M1839 infantry musket. Even after the 1870–71 war this weapon remained in production to replace lost or damaged small arms. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

F: UHLANS

F1: Captain, Rhenish Uhlan Regiment No.7

This officer is illustrated in service dress. On outpost duty in front of Saarbrücken and during its patrols in the first weeks of the war, the regiment successfully simulated the presence of Cuirassiers by wearing the undress uniform of drill cloth and helmets from the fire brigade.

F2: Trooper, 2nd Pomeranian Uhlan Regiment No.9

Uhlan Regt No.9 was raised in 1860; until 1895 the jacket cuffs had a rear vent. The regiment was stationed at Demmin and fought in 1870 at Gravelotte and St Privat, later taking part in all the engagements of the 1st Cavalry Division, e.g. Courcelles, Montbarrois and Coulommiers. On campaign Uhlans sometimes carried the cavalry pistol tucked into the girdle.

F3: Lance-corporal (*Kapitulant*), Old March Uhlan Regiment No.16

This re-engaged volunteer is wearing the Uhlan full dress tunic; since 1868 the collar had a height of 4.75cm. In 1870 the lancers were still armed with the cavalry sabre with a cast steel hilt; it was only in 1873 that they received the French chasseur sabre. The sword belt was worn under the tunic. It was not until 1889 that the regimental number appeared in the oval field of the epaulette crescent in yellow metal. Three squadrons of this regiment rode in the famous charge at Vionville on 16 August 1870. Four officers, two NCOs, 44 troopers and 172 horses were killed during the attack; nine officers, six NCOs, three trumpeters, 80 troopers, and 32 horses suffered injuries.

G: INFANTRY

G1: Battalion drum-major, 3rd Hanoverian Infantry Regiment No.79

This drum-major is wearing assault order, with the backpack laid aside. Usually the soldiers had to go and fetch them again after the engagement, if there were not enough soldiers of the train to bring them forward to the infantrymen. The tip and ball of the drum-major's truncheon are of brass, the cords (*Quastenschnur*) of yellow wool.

G2: Second lieutenant, Fusilier Battalion, 2nd Rhenish Infantry Regiment No.28

The silver sash with two black stripes passed twice around the waist; officers could choose to lay it aside if they considered it inconvenient. The small knapsack of black leather for dismounted officers was introduced as early as August 1809; the straps were in the colour of the leather accoutrements of the privates – white for 1st and 2nd Bns, black for 3rd Bn (Fusiliers). This regiment served with 30th Inf Bde, 15th Inf Div of VIII Army Corps; the rankers wore light blue shoulder straps and no cuff flap piping.

G3: Captain, East Prussian Jäger Battalion No.1

In addition to its superior cut, the officers' tunic was of a lighter shade of green than the rankers'. The domed buttons followed the sequence of the men's – eight down the front and six on the tail pocket flaps, but in gilt metal. At the officer's right hip hang binoculars in a black leather case. In 1848 the 1st Jäger Detachment became the 1st Jäger Battalion; it was in garrison at Braunsberg from 1848 until 1884. In 1870 the battalion came under fire at Colombey-Nouilly, and after the siege of Metz it fought in northern France at Amiens.

The M1867 water bottle with its black leather cover. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)

G4: Musketeer, 3rd Westphalian Infantry Regiment No.16

This private of the regiment's 1st or 2nd Bn is still wearing the older M1860 spiked helmet of taller outline. The greatcoat continued to be worn after the Franco-Prussian War on undress or walking-out occasions until stocks were exhausted, and was still in evidence in peacetime 1914. The winter of 1870/71 was so cold that most soldiers had to make use of thick scarves, furs, and heavy gloves as additional protection.

H: ARTILLERY, TRAIN, LANDWEHR and MEDICAL SERVICE

H1: NCO, Foot Unit, Magdeburg Field Artillery Regiment No.4

This NCO is illustrated in absolutely regulation uniform, with the artillery's ball-topped helmet. This uniform was worn until 1890, when the field artillery received 'Swedish' cuffs.

H2: Driver, Train, Jäger Battalion No.5

All mounted drivers of the 'troop train' units wore trousers with leather protective inserts. Like the mounted soldiers of the train battalions, he is armed with the cavalry sword of Napoleonic Wars vintage.

H3: Private, Landwehr Regiment No.30

With the exception of the headgear – the *Landwehr* wore the shako shown here until 1881 – the dress of the *Landwehr* soldier followed that of the Line regiment bearing the same number. The colour of the shoulder straps conformed to that of the relevant Army Corps, in this case light blue. The 30th *Landwehr* Regt drew its personnel from the region of Trier, Saarlouis and Prüm.

H4: NCO, Hospital Orderlies

The dark blue shoulder straps worn since 1868 had the number of the Army Corps in red. Mounted orderlies wore the long mid-grey overalls of Dragoons, unmounted the trousers and boots of the infantry. The collar patches of the greatcoat were dark blue. If the spiked helmet was not worn, orderlies used the same undress cap as that of medical officers, with the rankers' cockade.



INDEX

Figures in **bold** refer to illustrations.

- armaments
see also M1841–M1865
artillery 40
cuirassiers 13–14
dragoons **16–17**
guard infantry 37–8
hussars 20
Jäger battalions 34
line infantry 37–8
Schützen battalions 34
uhlans 23–4
artillery **39**, 39–40
field gun **41**
Austro-Prussian War (1866) 3
- Bismarck, Count Otto von (1815–98) 3, 4, **A3**, 45
- Colour-Bearer, 2nd Guard Grenadier Landwehr Regiment **44**
colours, infantry 38
see also standards and drums
cuirasses (plated armour) 13, **C1**, **C2**, 45
- Danish-Prussian War (1863–64) 3
drums *see* standards and drums
- engineers 40
equipment
artillery 40
cuirassiers 13–14
dragoons **16–17**
guard infantry 37–8
hussars 20
Jäger battalions 34
line infantry 37–8
Schützen battalions 34
sword knots 13–14, 34
uhlans 23
- field gun **41**
firearms
M1841 'needle rifle' 37
M1850 cavalry pistol 14, 40, **46**
M1857 'needle carbine' **16**, 20
M1860 Fusilier rifle 37
M1862 'needle rifle' 37, **37**
M1865 'needle rifle' 34
Franco-Prussian War (1870–71) 4
chronology 5–8
fusilier of the line **35**
- helmets and head wear
brass-furnished steel helmet **45**
busbies 19–20
M1860 shako **46**
M1860 spiked helmet **4**
M1867 Cuirassier helmet 10
M1867 spiked helmet 10
- horse furniture
cuirassiers 14
dragoons 17
hussars 20
uhlans 24
- infantry 24–38
shoulder and cuff ornamentation 35
unit composition 24
Jäger battalions 24, 33, 34
Landwehr 3, 4, 37, 43
M1841 'needle rifle' 37
M1850 cavalry pistol 14, 40, **46**
M1852 cavalry sword 20
M1857 'needle carbine' **16**, 20
M1860 Fusilier rifle 37
M1860 shako **46**
M1860 spiked helmet **4**, 16
M1862 'needle rifle' 37, **37**
M1865 'needle rifle' 34
M1867 Cuirassier helmet 10
M1867 spiked helmet 10
M1867 water bottle **47**
medical service 42–3
hospital orderly **H4**, 47
surgeon **43**
Moltke, Count Helmuth von **A1**, 45
musketeer, 3rd Westphalian Infantry Regiment No.16 **G4**, 47
- Napoleon III, Emperor of France (1808–73) 3, 4
non-commissioned officers
Drum-Major, 3rd Hanoverian Infantry Regiment **G1**, 47
foot guards **34**
foot unit Magdeburg Field Artillery Regiment No.4 **H1**, 47
Guard Train Battalion **42**
hospital orderly **H4**, 47
Lance-Corporal, 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiment **C3**, 45–6
Lance-Corporal, 2nd Westphalian Hussar Regiment No.11 **E2**, 46
Lance-Corporal, Old March Uhlans Regiment No.16 **F3**, 47
Trumpet-Major, 1st Brandenburg Dragoon Regiment No.2 **D2**, 46
- officers
2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Rhenish Infantry Regiment No.28 **G2**, 47
Adjutant, Lithuanian Dragoon Regiment No.1 **D3**, 46
Captain, 1st Hanoverian Dragoon Regiment No.9 **D1**, 46
Captain, 2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiment **44**
Captain, East Prussian Jäger Battalion No.1 **G3**, 47
Captain, Pomerian Cuirassier Regiment number 2 **C1**, 45
Captain, Rhenish Uhlans Regiment No.7 **F1**, 47
East Prussian Train Battalion **42**
Guard Dragoon Regiment **15**
Guard Hussar Regiment **B3**, 45
Line Dragoon Regiment **16**
Major, 2nd Brandenburg Uhlans Regiment **23**
Second-Lieutenant, Pomerian Hussar Regiment **19**
surgeon **43**
- privates
see also troopers
2nd Foot Guard Battalion **B2**, 45
3rd Magdeburg Regiment **36**
Colour-Bearer, 2nd Guard Grenadier Landwehr Regiment **44**
driver, Train Jäger Battalion No.5 **H2**, 47
fusilier of the line **35**
guard artillery **40**
Guard Grenadier Battalion **33**
Guard Schützen Battalion **B1**, 45
Landwehr Regiment No.30 **H3**, 47
musketeer, 3rd Westphalian Infantry Regiment No.16 **G4**, 47
Rhenish Jäger Battalion **33**
Prussian army
order of battle (1870) 6–7
strength in 1860s 3–4
- rank insignia 8–9
Roon, Count Albrecht von 3
- Sadowa, battle of 3
St. Quentin, battle of **5**
Schleswig-Holstein 3
Schmettow, Major Maximilian Count von **11**
Schützen battalions 24, 33, 34
Spichern, battle of 4
standard-bearers
Colour-Bearer, 2nd Guard Grenadier Landwehr Regiment **44**
Cuirassiers **13**
standards and drums
cuirassiers 14
dragoons 17, 17
hussars 20, 21, **21**
infantry 37, 38, **38**
uhlans 24
Zieten Hussars **21**
surgeon **43**
sword knots 13–14, 34
- train troops 40–1
troop trains 41
troopers
see also privates
1st Life Hussar Regiment **21**
1st Silesian Dragoon Regiment **18**
2nd Heavy Reserve Rider Regiment **44**
2nd Pomeranian Uhlans Regiment No.9 **F2**, 47
3rd Reserve Hussar Regiment **E3**, 46
Guard Dragoon Regiment **14**
Hanoverian Hussar Regiment No.15 **E1**, 46
Magdeburg Cuirassier Regiment No. 7 **C2**, 45
Uhlans Regiment of the line **22**, **24**
- uniforms
artillery **H1**, 47
cavalry 11–24
cuirassiers 11–13, **C**, 45
distinctions 12
dragoons 15–16, **D**, 46
distinctions 15
engineers 40
general officers 9
guard troops **B**, 45
hussars 17–20, **E**, 46
distinctions 19
infantry **G**, 32–4, 34–7, 47
landwehr **H3**, 43, 47
medical service **H4**, 42–3, **43**, 47
rank insignia 8–9
reserve cavalry 43
shoulder ornamentation **8**, 8–9, **9**, 35
staff command guards 10
staff officers 10
technical and service troops 40–3
train battalions **H2**, 40–1, **42**, 47
uhlans 5, 21–3, **F**, 47
distinctions 22
- Wilhelm I, King of Prussia (1797–1888) 3, **A2**, 45

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