

Warrior

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Hungarian Hussar 1756–1815



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This book can be read with the following Osprey titles:
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HUNGARIAN HUSSAR 1756–1815

A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES

Unequaled in any other army, the Hussars became a source of skilled light cavalry, which could be rapidly called up and then stood down to save money in peacetime. They were particularly proficient in reconnaissance, harrying the enemy, surprise attacks and raids or pursuing a beaten enemy. The name 'Hussar' derives originally from Latin *cursarius*, meaning raider, and originally referred to marauders in the northern Balkans. However, it was adopted by the Magyar people of Hungary as the name for irregular light cavalry. The uniform was based on the style of another Turkic group, who had arrived with the Magyars – the Jazygier and Kumanier peoples – all of the units raised in their areas retaining their light-blue uniform. Hungarian folklore ascribes its origin to *husz* meaning twenty and *ar* meaning price – hence the value of twenty other men. The Jazygier and Kumanier people settled in the upper Theiss valley and their fashion was widely adopted and developed by the Hungarian nobles. Under the direct control of the Palatine (Viceroy) of Hungary, their Insurrection (local militia) units would be regularised several times to raise new army

Oberst (Colonel) Josef Simonyi leads his men from the 4th Hussars over a burning bridge after Wagram in 1809 (Tull) (HAM). Simonyi also distinguished himself at Salo, Neresheim, Neuburg, Legenfeld, Kulm, Giesshübel and Leipzig. He was awarded both the Maria Theresa Order and the Order of Leopold to mark the extraordinary career of 'the most valiant Hussar', or as he is more widely known, 'the craziest Hussar'.



regiments. Another Turkic people associated with the Magyars were the Szeckels, who were moved to guard the eastern Carpathian passes following the reconquest of Hungary in the 17th century. They would provide the core of the Szeckler (later numbered as the 11th) Hussars in addition to two Grenz (Military Frontier) infantry regiments.

The oldest regular regiment (9th Nadasdy) was formed in 1688 and by 1756, with the formation of the Kaiser Hussars and regularisation of a Jagzyier-Kumanier unit in that year as the Seven Years War (1756–63) began, there were 12 regiments. Each regiment was made up of five squadrons totalling 600–610 officers and men with 365–400 horses. That winter, with a large intake of horses, the regiments expanded to 800 personnel and the same number of horses, organised in six squadrons (divided into two companies each). The wild irregulars of the early 1700s were steadily regularised into army units, albeit financed by their *Inhaber* (proprietary Colonels), who were drawn from the magnates and major landowning nobles of Hungary. However, following the first regulation of 1751, these light cavalry began fighting on the battlefield. While maintaining their reputation for swift movement and unexpected appearances, they became more effective on the battlefield. Six regiments massed for a decisive charge during the first defeat inflicted on Frederick the Great of Prussia at Kolin in June 1757, employed in the same way as *Schlachtenkavallerie* (battle cavalry – Kurassiers and Dragoons). Four months later in October, Andreas Hadik raided and ransomed Berlin. From the end of the Seven Years War, light cavalry began to play a larger part in battles, often attacking infantry or supporting the main attacks by heavy cavalry with a mix of firing weaponry and sabres. They had to be able to deal with both European and Turkish troops, especially the latter, who relied on light cavalry in their own armies. The 12 Hussar regiments were now reduced to 730 men, although in reality some were down to 685. The 1769 reforms introduced a single numbering series for all the cavalry, the Hussar regiments maintaining a peacetime strength of 1,536, rising to 2,248 in wartime. In addition to the *Inhaber's* name the companies were abolished leaving the division (of two squadrons) as the main tactical unit. The regiments now had a peacetime strength of 1,558, expanded in wartime with larger squadrons of 170–180 men and an extra division expanded from the depot squadron to 2,248. In reality, it was about 1,400 in peacetime with as few as 824 horses. However, after 25 years of almost complete peace, the eight regular and the Szeckler regiments were able to field a total of 14,700 men at the start of the last Turkish war in 1788, where they were particularly effective in countering Turkish light cavalry. The Hussars continued to prove their capabilities in the more difficult Italian terrain of the French Revolutionary Wars (1792–1801). The formation of three new regiments and the regularisation of the Szeckler regiments in 1798, each with a strength of four divisions, provided 12 regiments for battlefield use during the Napoleonic Wars (1805–15). Prior to the 1751 changes, Hussars had been raised and financed by their *Inhabers*, being paid mostly in loot and from the *Inhaber's* largesse. He would continue to exercise considerable power over the unit until 1769, appointing and promoting officers as well as deciding who could marry and imposing disciplinary punishment. The regiment was commanded by an Oberst (Colonel) with an Oberstleutnant (Lieutenant Colonel) as deputy and was formed from three to four divisions, each under the



Rear views of a 1767 1st Hussars trooper (J.C. Brand – left) and a reconstructed 1798 Wurmser Hussar without equipment (BA – right). Note the different styles of shako, length of Zopf (ponytail) and positions of the sabre, hooked up and unhooked.

command of a staff rank officer, after whom each division was named – a total of eight squadrons, which were reduced to three divisions plus a depot squadron in 1772, totalling 1,022 men per regiment. A First and Second Rittmeister led each division, with Oberleutnants and Leutnants. Each squadron had a Wachtmeister (sergeant major) and eight Korporals (junior NCOs) with two Vize-Korporals, learning the duties for promotion. The squadrons were subdivided into two *Flügel* (wings) further subdivided into two *Züge* (platoons). These split into two *Korporalschaften* and then into three patrols (or *Kameradschaften*) who shared a tent. Each division now had a single standard carried by the *Estandartenführer*.

As Austria's heavier cavalry became outnumbered, the Hussars were deployed in increasing numbers and larger formations on the battlefield – nine regiments would be deployed at Dresden in August 1813. Nevertheless, their origins were never forgotten by local populations. A Hussar sporting a beard arrived in a Styrian (south east Austria) village, where he was asked by a superstitious old woman: 'Is it true that Hungary is inhabited by cannibals?' Jokingly, the Hussar answered: 'There are some, but they are becoming fewer. My grandfather ate man for lunch, but my father ate man only on Fridays.' The old lady became rather anxious and asked: 'And you, Mr Hussar?' Wishing to avoid inquisitive younger locals, he laughed and replied: 'I only like children, but not too much and only occasionally.' The children disappeared from the village and didn't disturb the Hussar's sleep that night.

CHRONOLOGY

1751	First uniform and drill regulation.
1756–63	The Seven Years War.
1757	Six regiments in Nadasdy's charge at Kolin; Hadik's raid on Berlin.
1769	Lacy's reforms: new drill and service regulations.
1778–79	War of the Bavarian Succession against Prussia.
1784	Consolidated regulations issued.
1786	Consolidation of the Cavalry and other regulations.
1788–91	Last Turkish War.
1792	Outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars.
1796	Four regiments fight at Würzburg.
1798	Regularisation of 11th Hussars and formation of two regiments.
1801	Treaty of Luneville ends the French Revolutionary Wars.
1802	Length of service standardised at 12 years for cavalry.
1805	New interim regulations formalise two ranks as the usual formation. The Napoleonic Wars start – five regiments fight at Second Caldiero.
1806–7	New regulations issued alongside the new more humane <i>Dienst</i> (service) Regulations.
1809	Five regiments fight at Wagram.
1811	Length of service extended to 14 years.
1813	Nine regiments fight at Dresden, five at Leipzig.
1815	End of the Napoleonic Wars.

RECRUITMENT

Under a 1715 law, all recruitment of Hussars was on a volunteer basis, drawing men from those authorised for recruitment by the local Hungarian and Siebenburgen authorities (*Stände*). Officially, the cavalry were only to take men who had already served in the infantry, but this was never enforced. Most men came from what was then Hungary, which included modern Hungary and Slovakia, together with part of Romania, which in 1780 had a population of approximately 3.35 million Magyars, 0.9 million Germans, 1.2 million Slovaks, 1.5 million Romanians, 65,000 Croats plus about 400,000 others. There was no systematic recruitment in the areas to the south, which made up the civil parts of Croatia and the Banat. These areas were used to raise part of the four short-lived but separate Grenz (Military Frontier) Hussar regiments, but were mostly used to raise infantry and support the Frontier areas facing Turkey. At the end of the War of the Austrian



To avoid suspicion that it was a cover for the unpopular infantry, the recruitment party would display a full uniform and equipment, while ensuring a plentiful supply of beer and a lively atmosphere as the *Werbungsdudach* (piper – see Warrior 24) played in the background (ONB). The party itself was made up of an officer, a *Wachtmeister*, a *Fourier* (clerk), a *Feldscher* (medical orderly) plus assorted musicians, a *Korporal* and a *Gemeiner*, the last being chosen 'from the best and the tallest men in the regiment' for effect.

Succession, Empress Maria Theresa decreed in December 1748 that there was to be 'constant recruitment', but selection was to be strict so that the recruits taken were useable and under no circumstances were they to include 'dishonourable professions (hangmen and horse butchers), notorious people, gypsies, Jews, and any foreigner born outside the Imperial lands or Holy Roman Empire' (Jews were recruited from their 90,000 strong community from 1781). The recruits were not to be less than 18 nor more than 30 years old since 'the former are too weak for the military drills and the latter are too stiff and awkward' (grey hair was considered an automatic bar) and preferably over 5 *Fuss* 4 *Zoll* (1.68m) tall. The volunteers would sign a *Capitulation* to serve for two to three years or, during wartime, for the duration of hostilities (see Plate B). The reforms of 1802 standardised all cavalry service to 12 years, although this was extended to 14 in 1811. Until 1781, recruits received a *Handgeld* (bounty) of 1 Ducat (1 Ducat = 8 Florins/Gulden). This was then increased to 5 Ducats (40 Gulden) or 2 Ducats for transfer from another unit.

Mounted regiments looked for men brought up with horses and used to hard work – blacksmiths, ploughmen, cart drivers and cattle drovers. Although they had to be careful not to clear the area of men for the infantry, the potential pool was more than adequate as mounted service was seen as less strenuous than the infantry and the potential for seizing battlefield booty was much greater for Hussars than other troops. In 1757, the Mayor of Koberdorf could report that 'there are more than enough men, who know the Hungarian or Croat language and could serve as Hussars in the future'. However, after the initial enthusiasm, the following morning brought the reality home: 'The first night,' Cognazzo pointed out at the end of the Bavarian Succession War, 'on the hard bed in the recruitment house can destroy the image portrayed by the recruiters and the recruit may regret his decision on waking,' but he went on to say that recruitment of volunteers was better than by force, as there were many reasons for joining up: 'love of the homeland, drunkenness, escaping the miseries of life, love of idleness, avoiding useful employment, pressure of paternal ambition, self-denial of comfortable living, educated hopes of freedom, disgraceful crimes and the fear of punishment, doubts, and all the immoral reasons of a good-for-nothing'. For most, the prospect of excitement and the glamorous uniform compared with the humdrum peasant life would have been sufficient encouragement.

The Hungarian *Stände* imposed difficult limits on recruitment, since their priority was to maintain the agricultural workforce. After 13 years of near-continuous warfare, 2nd Hussars were only permitted to take 400 men from 17 towns in Siebenburgen in 1802 and the recruitment parties were only allowed to work on Sundays. Two years later, the *Stände* only put up 28,000 Gulden, enough for 280 Wallachian ponies, when the regiment

required one for each recruit. In all, the regiment was 300 men and horses short. As casualties mounted in the Wars of Liberation (1813–14), the depot division (7th and 8th squadrons) was formed around the officer and NCO cadres, along with a small number of dismounted men. The local *Stände* found itself unable to supply enough men to form a new depot squadron as the numbers of men in the base varied by 50–60 per day (due to a mix of new recruits, unfit men made supernumerary and deserters), and so were forced to resort to the services of a *Seelenkäufer* (literally: buyer of souls) called Moischel Schein, who travelled the neighbouring imperial provinces of the Banat and Bukovina and brought in about 60 men by offering the 5 Gulden *Handgeld* (bounty).

The requirements of being skilled in patrolling and small unit leadership also held open the possibility of faster promotion in the light cavalry so that, unlike the infantry, most officer cadets (who paid a fee to hold the rank) would advance through the ranks before being commissioned. Joseph Paczanyi joined 1st Hussars as a 15-year-old cadet in 1797, gaining the formal rank of Korporal in November 1800 and then Wachtmeister in December 1804. Commissioned as an Unterleutnant in September 1805, he was promoted to Oberleutnant in March 1809 before being killed, aged 27, in that year's campaign. Those men winning the gold bravery medal, such as Michael Molner of Esterhazy Hussars in 1762, were usually promoted automatically to Unterleutnant. Volunteer troopers had an equal chance of advancement, especially if, like Joseph Dutsek of 1st Hussars, he '*auf beständig assentiert*' (volunteered for life). Recruited in May 1795, he was promoted to Vize (acting) Korporal in June 1800 and (substantive) Korporal in November. The 1805 war brought further promotion to Wachtmeister and in 1809 he was commissioned as a Leutnant before being quickly promoted to Oberleutnant by September. Joining the 1812 Auxiliary Corps in Russia, he died from 13 wounds engaging Cossacks at Szechniowice. Originally a butcher's apprentice, Josef Simonyi, volunteered as a Gemeiner with 8th Hadik Hussars, before being commissioned and leading new troopers in 1st Uhlans as an Oberleutnant (for which he won the Maria Theresa Order). He then returned to the 4th Hussars and rose to become its commanding Oberst,

The familiar image of the Hungarian Hussar, with his long side-plaited hair and smoking the ubiquitous pipe in the mid-18th century style of uniform worn before the 1769 reforms. This style, with the pelisse worn off the left shoulder, would become popular all across Europe and later, North America. (Gerasch)



winning the Commander Cross of the Order of Leopold in 1814. Western volunteers, especially better-educated southern Germans, were welcomed, including the famous Constantin von Ettingshausen, who had taken a boat trip down the Danube from his home in near Mainz and presented himself in Vienna to join the 1st Hussars as a Gemeiner. Rising rapidly through the NCO ranks, he became the Oberst commanding the 9th regiment before being promoted to the Generalcy. Although a German, he was able to demonstrate the two most important Hussar ideals – honour and real intelligence.

Although Vienna was increasingly deploying its eastern cavalry in central Europe, the authorities still had to watch the military frontier with the Turks. Aside from the four regiments of Grenz Hussars, an additional regiment was raised in 1762 from the south eastern Military Frontier. Known as the Szeckler, it recruited from both the Szeckel and Romanian populations (usually known as Wallachs, these Romanians came from the Haromszak and Aranya districts), although its officers were a mix of Germans from the colonies in southern Siebenburgern, local Szeckels, Hungarians and adventurers such as the Swiss Ludwig von Buckhardt. The Szeckels themselves were described in a 1792 report as:

a beautiful and strong people, of a stocky and medium-sized build. The usual shape of the face is oval and their features [include] a flat forehead, small bent nose, small mouth with smooth protruding lips, a completely rounded chin ... a pair of fiery eyes. Their complexion is rather brownish and the hair is usually black, although often blond amongst the younger men of the Upper Csik district ... Their simple way of life allows them to enjoy long-lasting good health. The ordinary man has ... great good sense, is very superstitious, stubborn and honourable, but is also good natured, industrious, loyal, brave in war deriving from a mix of circumspection and inborn courage.

Farms were held by families in return for military service and every male was enrolled at birth. Those in the Frontier districts were liable for service from the age of 14, but no more than one brother per family could serve at any one time. There was no possibility of purchasing a replacement, but those who could prove they were crucial to the smooth running of their farm could exchange their liability to service with another volunteer.



Laszlo (Ladislaus) Skulteti, standard bearer of the 8th Kienmayer Hussars, who was probably the only Hussar to have served across the entire period. Born in 1735, he volunteered as a Gemeiner in 1752 and retired in 1825, aged 90, after 73 years of service. (BA)

TRAINING

The 1751 *Regulament und Ordnung für gesammte k.k. Husaren-Regimenter* largely copied the regulations for the heavy cavalry. Whilst it attempted to standardise the uniforms and equipment, which became more glamorous, and was soon copied by most European armies, it made no special allowance for the Hussar style of warfare, except in the key emphasis on the lowest ranks to use their own initiative.

The drill regulations began with the *zu Fuss* (foot) drills, where men learnt basic dismounted drill which emphasised the mass use of firing weaponry to guard outposts. The men learned to stand in ranks, adopt positions and make turns; the correct handgrips and loading of weaponry; volley fire and *Laufffeuer* (rolling fire); forming two or three ranks from *Züge* (axes of march); turns and wheels. Most drill was conducted in two ranks with marching at 80 and 120 paces per minute. One tall, 1.8m recruit faced a short Korporal. 'Stand upright and keep your head up!' shouted the Korporal. 'In that case,' came the reply, 'I will have to say goodbye to you, Korporal, because I'll never see you again.'

Beyond the more heavily populated areas around Pest and Pressburg, on 'the treeless Hungarian plain ... [where] towns of 10–12,000 inhabitants are scattered far from one another', most Hungarians learned to ride in childhood, and when out riding soon acquired a natural sense of direction, making them the ideal recruits for light cavalry duties. Those less proficient began their training on a wooden frame 'to learn the correct posture' and the handgrips required on the bridle and saddle. Having progressed to a horse, each recruit learned the seated position, improving their balance by riding the horse without and then with stirrups, while the instructor controlled the horse on a long rein. Next he would learn to ride in small units to practice regulation manoeuvres, after which he would practice jumping fences and ditches. Units initially moved at the walk, then progressed to a trot at about 300 paces per minute and finally the gallop at 500 paces per minute. The stirrups were positioned so that, when standing in them, the man was 15cm above his saddle. Firing the carbine was conducted by individual and volley fire, both on foot and mounted.

The greatest Hussar commander of all, Andreas Hadik (1711–1790), who raided and ransomed Berlin in 1757 (HAM). A brilliant organiser and skilled strategist, he was a daring and imaginative cavalry leader, whose men were devoted to him. Joining as a Hussar ensign in 1732, he rose to Major early in the Succession War (1740–48) and by its end was a Generalmajor. Fluent in Hungarian, German, French and Latin, his surprise attack at Lobositz on pursuing Prussian cavalry prevented a disaster, while at Kolin he led his brigade in Nadasdy's charge.



Once riding was mastered, the men learned *zu Pferd* (mounted) drills. The first of these, conducted in ranks, were mounting and dismounting, postures and small unit formation. These were followed by training 'on the square' (see Plate C), opening and closing ranks, turns, turning about, sabre grips, loading the carbine and pistol, volley and rolling fire, moving forwards and back in line, the three gaits, halts and echeloned advances, and wheels (conducted at the gallop close to the enemy). In the *Züge*, the men learned: defiling by files, weapon drills, turning about, axes of advance, halts, and echeloned advances and wheels. From two ranks, they would form one, plus deploying for skirmishing and mounting/dismounting drills.

A 1st Hussars *Beschäftigungsjournal* (training diary) from a large drill camp held in the late summer of 1776 reflects a typical week's training (during which it was recommended to the officers that they 'treat their men with firmness, but in a good way'):

Monday, 22nd August: Morning – Mounted drill: Mounting and dismounting; position on the horse; moving off from the halt at the walk, trot and gallop; march to the rear; deploying into line to the left and right. After drill: Officer and NCO training. Afternoon – Drill on foot: Positions; hand grips for drawing and holding weapons; march to the front at various paces; turning to the right and left.

Tuesday, 23rd August: Morning – Mounted drill: Various positions; march in line forwards at the walk, trot and gallop, march to the rear; march to the front, together with deploying into line to the left and right, and wheeling in line to the right and left. After drill: Officer and NCO training. Afternoon – Drill on foot: Loading and firing to the front and rear, then by ranks formed from *Zugs*; volley fire, rolling fire (one man after another down the line); and the preparatory orders from: *Man wird laden* (the men will load).

Wednesday, 24th August: Morning – Mounted drill: Opening and closing the ranks; opening the files and forming small detachments by doubling up the third ranks and reverting to the usual formation; loading at the halt, while advancing and retiring; turning on the spot; marching forwards in line and deploying to the left and right in line. Afternoon – Drill on foot: Turning in column; turning to face in various directions; marching in files and making turns; marching in files and at the double; marching in files and passing a defile. Withdrawal to the rear and various turns pivoted on the third rank.

Thursday, 25th August: Morning – Mounted drill: A repeat of yesterday's drills etc.

On most bases, the lack of covered riding schools made mounted training almost impossible during the winter and also limited it during the other seasons. By Tuesday, 30 August, it was raining heavily, so the men practised sword drills, while in the afternoon there were extended training sessions for NCOs and officers. Throughout the period, there was increased use of massed cavalry formations in battle, but the cost of the drill camps required to practise this kept such training to a minimum in the Austrian Army. Only the 3rd and 11th Hussar



Training a Hussar cavalryman. Just after the Napoleonic wars, a man learns the correct posture on a horse, carrying just the blanket over the saddle. The trainer exercises control on a long rein and uses a light whip. (HAM)

regiments attended the *Übungslager* (drill camp) held at Minkendorf in 1803, alongside 21 battalions of infantry and three Kurassier regiments.

Although their service regulations were essentially the same, it took much longer to train cavalry than infantry, so most men remained with their units in peacetime. Light cavalry were the most multi-skilled part of the Army and had to be trained for a wide range of functions. All regulations were issued in German and all officers and NCOs had to be literate in the language so that they could then explain the instructions to their men in their native language. The newly recruited men had to learn many complicated names and orders. One new recruit posted as a sentry on a road saw a figure approach. 'Halt! Who are you?' The reply came back: 'Deserter'. Thinking 'Deserter' was a high rank, the recruit responded: 'Then pass.'

LIFE IN THE GARRISONS

It was considerably cheaper to garrison cavalry on the vast Hungarian plains, and the authorities also based several German regiments in western Hungary. The Hussars were dispersed over central and eastern Hungary and south into Croatia, with some units sent into the territories acquired under the First Partition of Poland (1772) and the Bukovina, taken from the Turks in 1775.

The 1751 regulations put the Hussars on a regular footing, no longer reliant on plunder. The Hussar was now granted regular pay, food and lodging, each man also receiving a *Mund-Portion* or *Brot-Portion* (food/bread ration) with a *Pferde-Portion* (fodder) for the horse. The pay scales from 1759 were as follows (1 Florin (fl)/Gulden = 60 Kreuzer (kr), 1 Kreuzer very approximately having the purchasing power of US\$1 in 2000) and were no different across the period, since the army ensured that food, which the men bought, was supplied at a fixed price:

Wachtmeister	22kr; two bread, one horse rations per day.
Korporal	12kr per day (13 in wartime); one bread ration.
Gemeiner	6kr per day (5½kr for dismounted men; 7 in wartime); one bread ration.

Korporals and Gemeiner received 15kr monthly for horse furniture, 6lb of straw and 8lb of hay. Each man who was fit for duty received 1fl 50kr monthly, paid on an annual basis.

The new Cavalry *Dienst* (Service) regulation of 1769 laid the primary emphasis on taking the oath of loyalty, obedience and devotion to the monarch as the primary duties of every soldier. 'Cleanliness must be observed thoroughly' as it was good for the soldier and his health. The men were to 'wash their hands daily with soap, comb their hair and wear it in the regulation style and powder it regularly; put on a clean shirt at least twice a week; shave often enough that any facial hair was worn in the regulation style; cut his finger- and toenails regularly'. Cleaning his kit was equally important: 'The *Montur* [uniform] is to be brushed daily to be clean and polished ... work shoes are to be brushed daily, have black wax applied and swapped over [shoes were not left or right] for

BELOW Camp scene from the 1790s (Kobell – ALB). These appear to be irregular Hussars, although they retain common features with their regular counterparts – note the large quantity of hay carried by the horse on the right. The men wear wraparound shako covers – note the large haversack carried on a cord above the sabretasche. This was moved to a hook on the right front side of the saddle in the 19th century.



even wear, but boots only had to be cleaned as often as they were worn.' The carbine belt and box and all leather equipment was to be waxed in black as required, while white parts were cleaned with pipeclay and chalk, although gums and rubber solutions were not to be used as they caused the leather to harden and crack. Flints were secured with a lead surround and the man was always to carry a ball extractor and touchhole clearer. At all times when on duty, including on foot, the man was to wear his sabre hanging on his hip, or hold it in his left hand or under his arm.

Whether the Hussars were in camp, garrison or billeted out in townhouses, the day began with *Tagwacht* (Reveille). If the whole regiment was in one place, the trumpeters would assemble outside the Oberst's quarters at regimental headquarters. They would sound *Tagwacht* at each cardinal point of the compass, and then if in a town, repeat the call in the main squares. There was no set time – just 'when it was possible to see to read', followed by the *Gebet* (call to prayers), which was also sounded during the evening. Following prayers, the troops fed and watered their horses, saddling and equipping them if necessary, for which approximately an hour was permitted (more in the mid-18th century) as packing scythes and fodder-ropes for marches or long patrols took time. As preparations were concluded, the *Abbruch* (dismiss) was sounded, at which the men would parade in their designated unit positions, where their commanders called the roll and inspected men and equipment. All was done with the men dismounted at *Rast* (at ease). After muster parade, the troops moved to the departure point or drill area. Except when collecting fodder, if a squadron or larger unit was to leave the base, the colour was collected, without which they were not permitted to leave the camp or barracks. The standard bearer who was to carry the colour was guarded by two NCOs and a *Halbzug* under an officer, and the party would go to headquarters to collect the colour. The HQ guard received them with drawn swords and handed over the colour, which would then be cased on leaving the town or garrison under a protective canvas cover.

Guard duties, for which the Hussars were usually dismounted, began and ended at noon, when the *Mittagsbettstunde* (an hour's break) was



Three Hussars, probably attending an 1804 drill camp (Kobell – ALB). The length of the cloak is clear from this and all three men are wearing overall trousers, although one man wears the full plume.

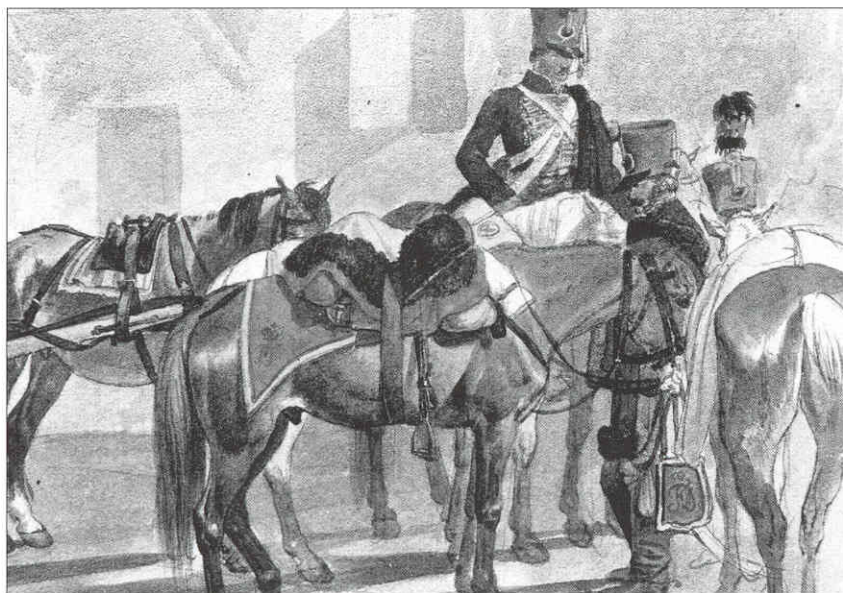
sounded. Half an hour before, the men designated for that day's duty would assemble for a full inspection on the garrison square or if in camp in front of the tent line. The *Retraite* (or *Zapfenstreich* – Last Post) was ceremonial, usually happening around 8 pm, although the unit or garrison commander would designate a time depending on nightfall. When it was sounded, the gates and barriers were closed and all cooking fires had to be extinguished. The *Profoss* (provost) would make a tour of inspection and close the drinks tents, marking barrels with chalk. The night guard was kept in three watches, changed at three-hour intervals, small patrols led by a *Gefreiter* moving between the posts. Towards dawn, the *Tagwacht* (day guard) took over and its buglers would sound Reveille.

HORSES AND THEIR CARE

The Hussars preferred Hungarian and Transylvanian horses or Polish ponies between four and seven years old, standing 14–15 hands, which were purchased by both the regiment/central military authorities and partly by the Hungarian provinces. Horses had to be at least 14 *Faust* (hands) 2 *Zoll* (inches) high, although a suitable good-quality horse a *Zoll* shorter was acceptable. Hungarian horses were similar to the lighter version of the modern Nonius breed, usually coloured wholly dark bay, brown or black, although each squadron tried to maintain as little variation in colour as possible. Most horses were around 14 hands. Each cavalryman employed in buying horses was instructed to look for those with 'a lively temperament, combining speed and stamina. A narrow head and neck, lively eyes, even shoulders and muscleless shanks usually signify such horses', noted the 1807 regulations. Each officer on the buying party would carry a horse measure ('Hippometer'), more than 18 *Faust* high and a finger-thickness in width. The special status of the Szeckler as part of the Grenz system required each family with a farm of 50 *Joch* (acres) or smaller combined family units to provide a horse. Once acquired, the horse was

branded with the imperial cipher and on reaching the regiment was branded with a number. However, as early as 1770, the shortage of horseflesh forced the authorities to buy in horses from Russia, and in wartime, demand was outstripping supply. By 1780, the price of a Hussar horse had reached 50–105 Gulden and 115–140 Gulden by 1788. The last Turkish war required 6,136 horses from Hungary and 5,438 from Siebenburgen, driving prices to 15 Ducats and as high as 19 Ducats in Galicia (southern Poland).

Hussars in 1814 (Klein), illustrating the actual horse sizes. The blanket is just visible under the saddle and the outer girth strap is clearly shown. (Nurnburg)



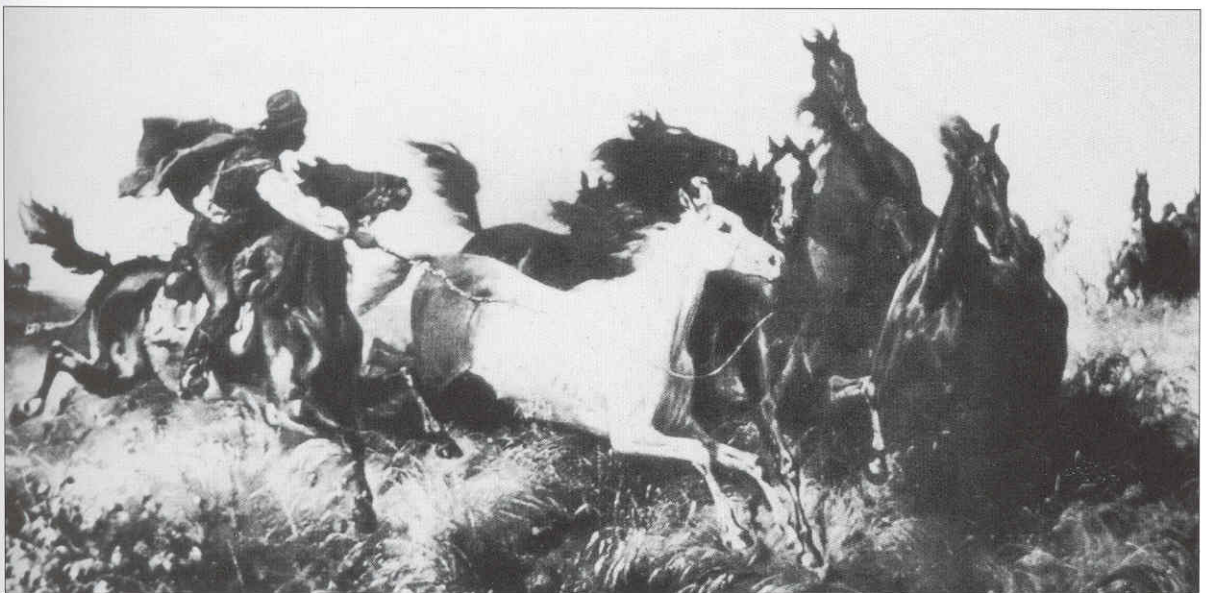
Horses were broken in on the ranches or by their vendors, but training them was the primary duty of a subaltern officer and was considered a rewarding activity as maltreatment or mishandling could lead to troopers falling and suffering serious injury. One Hungarian trick to stop a horse biting was '[to] hold a boiled piece of mutton or calf leg, as soon as it is off the fire, in front of such a horse and if the horse bites, it burns its lips and tongue and thus warned, it doesn't bite again'. The German Kurassier officer von Thielen considered this too unreliable a method. Without a covered riding school, it was difficult to conduct much mounted training in the winter (when lighting fires was a major activity), so this was the ideal time to get the horse used to the saddle and bridle, ready for the new recruits in the spring.

A well-trained horse was as important as its rider's skills: 'The horse is the inseparable companion of the rider in the most important moments of his life,' declared the 1807 Dienst Regulation. 'It carries him to glory, it helps him to be victorious, it rescues him from danger; reasons enough that he should love it, care for it and cherish it! It is however an expensive item for the Monarch and he must endeavour to keep it for as long as possible.' The *Reitsdoceur* had been introduced in 1776, whereby 12 years use of the same horse was rewarded with six Ducats, altered in 1807 to ten years but with a reduced reward of three Ducats and one more for each year thereafter. Horses that could not be trained for effective use in action were auctioned off locally.

The 1769 *Dienst Regelement* (Service Regulation) emphasised the importance of feeding, watering and cleaning the horse:

[The rider] must in particular love his horse, never in the slightest drag it away from its allotted food as a severe punishment, but must clean its stall, feed and water it at the right times, and also groom it diligently, ensure that the eyes, mane, main body, feet and tail are clean and also that the hair does not become matted, comb it apart, and at the time of the new moon,

Hungarian ranchers worked on the 'militärische Stuten' (imperial breeding ranches), which were established in 1770 in eastern Hungary and in 1807 in the Bukovina. The ranches were also a good recruiting ground for cavalymen.



clip it; the long hair around the mouth, chin, eyes and feet is to be gently plucked, but shorn around the ears ... the hooves must be regularly smeared with hoof blacking ... In wet weather, the tail will be tied up short or the tail bound up to half its length, but otherwise it will hang freely.

The man was to feed his horse at approximately 5am, 8am, 12noon, 4pm and 8pm every day. The horses were given salt and checked by regimental vets every eight days. From 1 November until the end of April, horses were fed on hard tack, while throughout the summer until bad weather set in, they were out on the grazing meadows. The *Pferdefutter* (forage) had to be adjusted in July for the rest of the summer because of the shortage of old hay and straw. It then comprised a third of old hay, with half of the hay portion being made up of forage straw, while a third of the hay portion was made up of barley or corn. The more humane 1807 regulation emphasised that:

The rider should get to know the nature and temperament of his horse and treat his animal accordingly; he should never mishandle it, but seek to stop its bad habits with patience and affection ... after each strenuous ride or in hot weather, he must first lead it round, loosen the bridle, nosestrap, girth and tail straps, wash its eyes and not feed or water it until it has cooled off or calmed down.

Every day, the stalls were to be cleared of excrement, which was to be placed on designated heaps. After taking the horse outside and hooking it to a picket stake, the man was to clean the hay and equipment racks, remove any cobwebs and air the stall.

If the horse became unfit, it was the responsibility of the Korporal to make the initial examination and then inform the smith but, as immediate attention would not always be possible, the 1769 regulations required the Gemeiner to know about potentially dangerous conditions such as worms and frothing around the mouth, and the initial treatment required.

ON CAMPAIGN

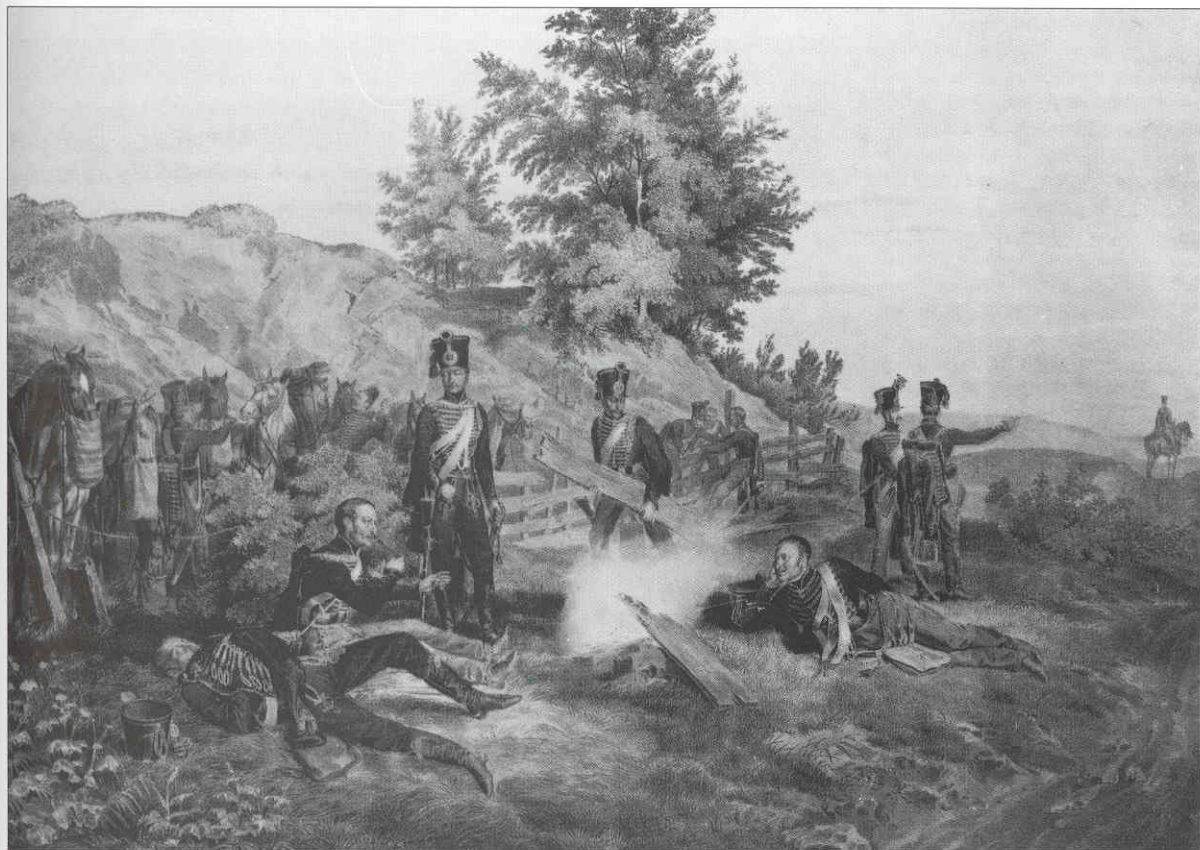
When a unit left its base, the men would carry: two *Zopf* (ponytail) bands, a comb, two neck stocks and one spare neck-stock button; two German pattern shirts, a spare pair of overall trousers, forage cap and two handkerchiefs; a pair of plain boots without spurs, a boot brush and a clothes brush; knife, fork and spoon; shaving kit and a water bottle (most also took a brandy bottle). The Mantel cloak was rolled and secured with two leather straps and carried across the horse's shoulders. For his horse, the man would need a horsebrush, curry comb and cleaning sponge/rags; a tail comb and band; cordage for securing hay and forage; two horseshoes and 30 nails; a picket stake and a small scythe. Each *Kameradschaft* also required a tent, three poles (each in three pieces) and 30 tent pegs, a cooking pot with its cover, three barrels, a large two-handled scythe with its cover, a *Zelthacke* (hatchet), a hammer and a sharpening stone. For baggage, each squadron had three

draught animals with a driver (in the Netherlands, a four-horse wagon) plus a four-horse provisions wagon. Each regiment had two field smithies and, from 1776, a field chapel tent wagon. To present a disciplined impression on the march, the 1769 Service Regulation expressly prohibited the smoking of tobacco, eating and drinking, 'chattering, shouting and racing about' on the march and at no time, even when off duty, was the Gemeiner to be drunk.

In the mid-18th century, there could be long periods of little activity on campaign. A Swiss mercenary in the Esterhazy Hussars observed the routine in the camp in Marklissa in Bohemia:

There was a great crowd of sutlers and slaughtermen there. Throughout the whole day, along all the long rows, there was nothing but boiling and roasting of food. There everyone could have what he wished or more accurately, what he could pay for: meat, butter, cheese, bread, all types of fruit and so on. Aside from the guards, everyone could do as he wished: Playing skittles or other games, walking around inside and outside camp. Only a few sat idly in their tents; one busied himself with cleaning his gun, another with his washing; a third cooked, a fourth patched his trousers and a fifth his shoes; a sixth made something out of wood and sold it to a local peasant. Each tent had its six men and one supernumerary. Among these seven, one was always relieved from duties (or '*gefreit*', which was the origin of the later rank of

2nd Erzherzog Josef Hussars on picket duty. A man is on duty on the far right facing in the presumed direction of the enemy, while an NCO and officer discuss the deployment. The men attend to various activities – collecting wood to maintain the fire was a key priority, once the horses had been fed. (BA)



Gefreiter), as his duty was to maintain discipline. Of the remaining six, one would be on guard, one had to cook, another had to fetch supplies; one sought out firewood, another located straw; the last was the purse-holder, arranging everything for this small household and its table.

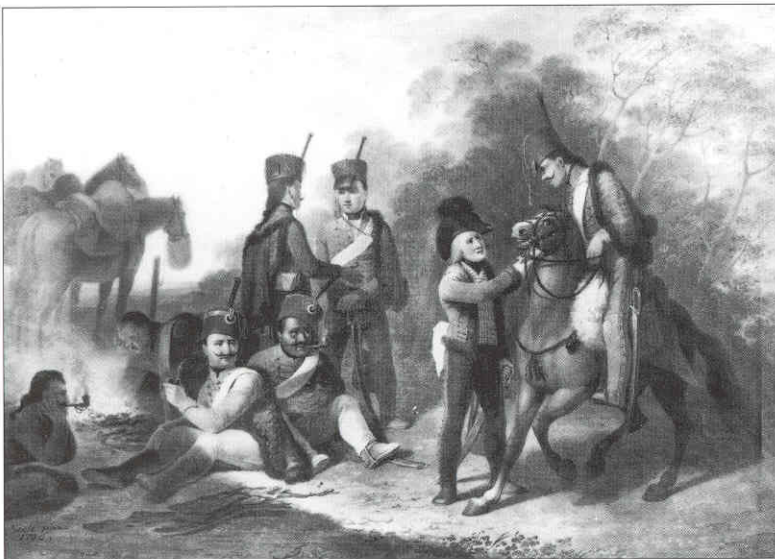
Although playing cards for money was prohibited, a favourite pastime amongst the Hussars was dancing, the Szeckler using the same style as the Hungarians, the men often dancing with spurs still on their boots, giving maximum effect as they jumped and struck their heels together. The dances would begin with a few steps in a circle as the spurs were hit together. As the music, often the popular 'Turkish music' played on the regimental drums and assorted wind instruments, was played increasingly faster, 'the moves become more complex with more frequent moves of the whole body, until his feet get tired and he is forced to stop ... The music reflects the national character, [played at] a raucous rapid allegro [fast speed], which drives the dancer to ever more rapid moves.'

On campaign, the light cavalry were expected to be able to move about 60km per day across open, flat land, the troops making a brief halt after every 30 minutes at the trot. When working with the main armies, the troops could be allocated daily supplies – at Koblenz in 1793, the men were allotted 2lb of bread, ½ lb of meat, vegetables, two *Seidel* (pints) of beer or a pint of wine in return for a payment of 8kr; the horses were allocated 6lb of oats, 10lb of hay and 3lb of straw at a cost of 18kr. However, on long-range patrols, the Hussars could only carry two to three days' supplies and so could only sustain themselves by obtaining additional sustenance through force when in enemy territory, which would often turn into looting:

Each man stuffed his haversack with anything he could – as it was understood in foreign lands – 'lay his hands on'. Cornmeal, turnips, strawberries, chickens, ducks and the like, and whoever couldn't

get hold of these things, was roundly mocked by his comrades, something which regularly happened to me. What a lot of panicked hubbub went up from the women, children, geese, pigs etc. when we went through a village. Then every man had to grab everything he could carry off. Hush! Wring its neck and put it in your haversack. Then the men broke into all the stalls and gardens, thrashed about in the trees and ripped off branches with their fruit ... No-one could complain about it, if the officer allowed it or turned a blind eye.

Hussars from 1799 around a campfire (Seele), wearing the 1769 shako with its improvised sun visor at the back, so the shako had to be turned round for use and plumes covered in black cloth covers. Nearly all the men have moustaches in the narrow Hungarian style and some are wearing the service overall trousers with an understrap. (BA)





Not even the formal prohibition of torture across the Imperial Lands in 1776 could restrain the wilder elements and despite attempts during the Napoleonic wars by the senior command, this kind of activity continued even in areas such as southern Germany, where they wished to gain popular support. Forage for the horses was obtained by foraging parties from local peasants (usually for payment) or each Gemeiner used his own scythe or the large two-handled version to collect grass and corn.

Outposts and pickets were a key role for the Hussars on campaign, men found drunk or asleep on outpost duty being subject to execution. Whether during the day or night, they were only permitted to take cover in the *Schilderhaus* (guard shelter) in wet or bad weather. If no *Schilderhaus* was available, then the men would protect their loaded carbines by holding them muzzle downwards and under the cover of the left side of the long cape. Eating and drinking on guard duty were strictly forbidden as were playing games, shouting and squabbling, as well as firing weapons. No gifts, be it money or food, were to be accepted from local people. Led by senior Gemeiner or Gefreiter, there would be a line of outposts together with patrols moving between them and ahead of them, formed by about half the force. The other half remained formed up, such as at Judenburg in 1805:

Hussars on picket duty 1799 (Seele). This small group has been left by the main column, which continues up the road to the left. These small pickets were a significant training ground for NCOs (Umhey). Sentries and pickets were usually dismounted to spare the horses. In 1809, Gemeiner Miklós Bozóky was on sentry duty, when he perceived the presence of enemy soldiers sneaking up on him. 'Be quiet, Hussar,' he heard in German. 'Red shako! The enemy are coming!' shouted the Hussar, just as he was bayoneted, but he had been able to alert his comrades.

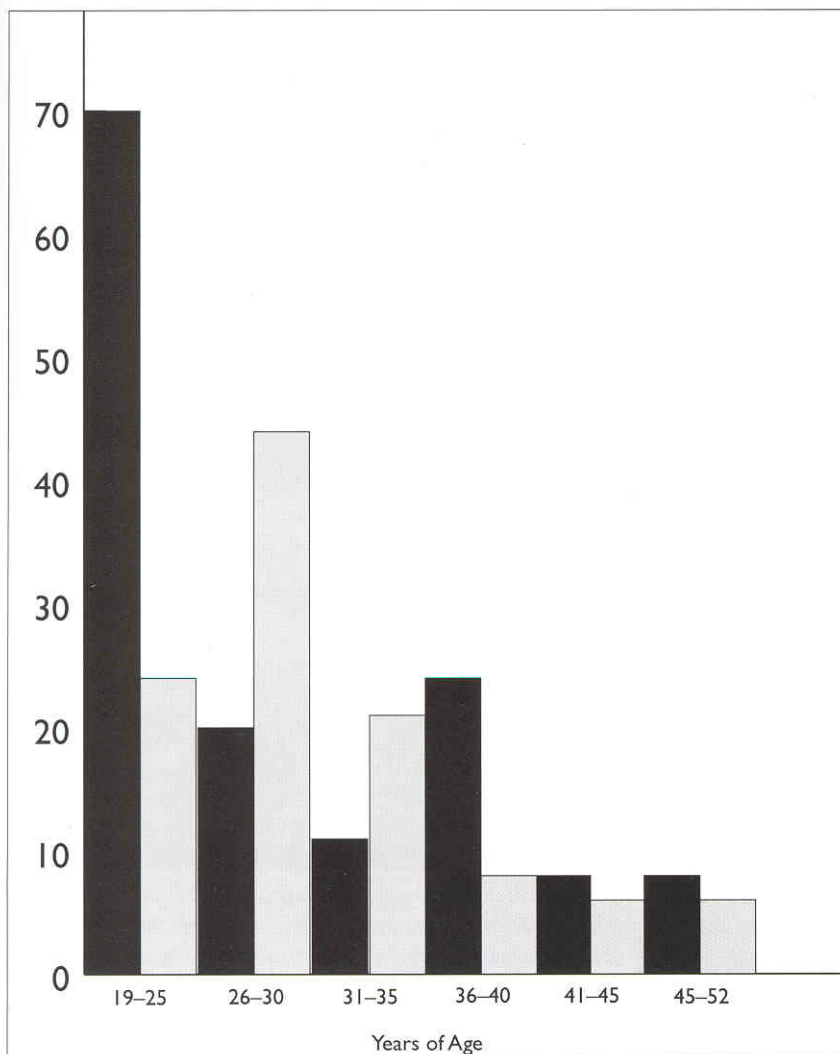
The 3rd and 4th squadrons were manning the outpost line. The 3rd squadron held the forward posts with the 4th forming the support behind them. Around noon on 12th November, enemy cavalry approached the outer outposts of 3rd squadron, which was commanded by Korporal Szentpeteri, who was the senior



The speed of cavalry attacks meant that a man who was wounded or whose horse fell rarely avoided capture. However, Oberst Ott of the 2nd Hussars was rescued by two of his bravest men at Bellheim on 17 May 1792. (Umhey)

Korporal. (The enemy formed up 130 men and attacked the outpost.) Our outposts were already mounted up; ignoring the enemy superiority and their rapid assault, Korporal Szentpeteri led his ten troopers against them, halted them and until the whole lot fell on him in the narrow defile and Oberlt. Szarvas could come to their aid, they held the enemy on their own. In the course of this, the Korporal was badly wounded by a sabre blow, his horse was killed under him and all his comrades suffered a similar fate. The Korporal ignored the danger and grabbed the horse of a man who had been felled, mounted it and encouraged the troopers coming to help and despite his wounds, again attacked the enemy so that the rest of the squadron could arrive in time and engage the enemy. The enemy superiority eventually forced the Korporal and Oberlt Szarvas to fall back on the support (and the enemy continued to attack). However, the support squadron had arrived, amongst whose ranks Wachtmeister Dzurik and Korporal Martin Barnat set the example to their men with extraordinary bravery ... their example had the desired effect and a murderous cavalry massacre took place.

After the Seven Years War, the Hussars were increasingly armed with short carbines and rifles, together with a pair of pistols. As well as mounted duties in *der kleiner Krieg* (literally: the small war) and firepower in battle, they were essential for dismounted outposts, such as one led by Gemeiner Boj of the 6th Squadron of the 2nd Hussars near Brescia, Italy, on 31 May 1796. Based with five men in a house, he held off a French advance guard with carbine and pistol fire until reinforcements



Age profiles of the mounted men of the 3rd Squadron Gemeiner of the 3rd Esterhazy Hussars in 1759 (light) and 1785 (dark). This regiment recruited to the west of Budapest, although having taken some men from disbanded units, the 1785 squadron includes a large contingent of Slovaks from the Neutra area east of Pressburg (Bratislava), with others from the Jagyzier/Kumanier peoples and Tolna district. Three years into the Seven Years War, 91 of the 141 Gemeiner had served three years or less, whereas in peacetime, just one out of 113 had served less than six years. In both cases, nearly all the officers and NCOs are aged 35–50. Most horses are aged five to eight years old, although some are as old as 17 and 18; the majority were 14.2–14.3 hands, although overall they vary from 15.1 to 13.3. The taller and shorter men appear to have been allocated the taller horses. The detailed 1785 records show 11 men taller than 5 Fuss 6 Zoll and eight less than 5 Fuss 3 Zoll. There were just two Lutherans, the rest being Catholic, while 15 had a former trade, including carpenters, miners, coachmen, metal workers and farriers. The horses were mostly dark-brown Wallach ponies, although some were honey and light brown. (Based on muster rolls in the KA)

arrived. The two local regiments, the 2nd and Szeckler Hussars, were also deployed defensively to support the infantry guarding the main Siebenburgen passes of Vulkan, Torzburg and Rotenthurm, into Turkish territory during the 1788–91 war.

Four Hussar regiments joined of the *Austrian Auxiliary Korps* which endured the same terrible weather as the infantry (see *Warrior 24: Austrian Grenadiers and Infantry 1788-1816*, pp. 29 & 61), formed the right wing of Napoleon's invasion of Russia in 1812. During the retreat, on 30 November, the 7th Hussars were bivouacked behind the Muchiavac at Pulkow as the main Korps fell back to reach Slonim by 7 December. Although Oberleutnant von Tamassy and 60 volunteers had gained some supplies by mounting a raid against Russian troops on the Divin causeway, during which 60 wagons were captured, the desperate state of the area was described by Oberst Fürst Hohenlohe:

The area around Slonim was very lacking in supplies anyway, but has already been so stripped out by the presence and passage of various forces, that many local inhabitants had fled and those who

RIGHT Esterhazy Hussar making a sweeping slash No.5 from his left side (Morier c.1750) (Royal Collection 2003). The Esterhazy family were the most powerful Hungarian magnates and could afford to equip their Hussar regiments in ornamental horse furniture. On the chest joint was a large leather rosette and a black leather square with a cut pattern and a brass button in the centre, together with the tassels.



BELOW Female camp follower (Engelbrecht) probably from Siebenburgen. Her dress is a copy of the Hussar style, which was widely worn as civilian attire in this area. Soldiers' wives usually washed clothing and cleaned barrack rooms. Duffy's analysis suggests about 8 per cent of troopers were married.



had remained behind survived mostly on roots and meat without salt and without any bread. There had not been any talk of regular supplies for some time. The cold had however become much worse; towards morning, the temperature fell to minus 23–24 degrees. The outposts and guards had to be changed every fifteen minutes and even in this short period, many men suffered frostbitten fingers. Packs of wolves broke into the camp and thereby spread an awful panic amongst the horses of 1st Hussar regiment; they also attacked the outposts, who had to fire whole volleys to defend themselves, causing more fear amongst the already exhausted troops.

Reconnaissance patrols from the 1st Hussars reached Luck and Witjebesk, while Pauliny led a raid on Minsk and won the Order of Maria Theresa at Kolodessno in January 1813. The horses however were unable to survive the winter and many of their riders were forced to walk on the retreat: 'The men have neither food nor

tobacco; there hasn't been any pay since August, but despite everything,' complained one letter home, 'the officers and men endure these hardships with a stoic calm. Amidst their ranks, their devotion to duty still produces self-denial, good order and unquestioning discipline.'

DER KLEINE KRIEG

A Hungarian proverb reflects the real role of Hussars: 'Hussars are first on the field and first off,' because their inborn traits suited them to reconnaissance, harrying the enemy, ambushes, surprise raids and pursuing beaten enemy. It was as the armies closed that Hussars were most effective – they would establish the first contacts with the enemy in *der kleine Krieg* as they undertook reconnaissance patrols, foraging and skirmishing with enemy outposts. Small raids and laying ambushes both unsettled the enemy and gathered intelligence on their positions, especially from captured enemy dispatches. The Hussar regiments had been reduced to about 400 men at the start of the Seven Years War and, mounted on horses of poor stock, they had lost their traditional dominance in these duties, as well as being unfit for battlefield service, senior commanders maintaining that 'they can only be employed if the main action turns out well and then only to pursue scattered enemy'. However, this was more related to poor deployments by those commanders and, once new recruits were trained, the Hussars soon returned to their traditional activities.

Small-scale operations assumed great importance in the more mountainous and forested parts of Europe, where small Hussar units often operated with Grenzers. During the advance into Saxony in 1757, 300 men of the Esterhazy Hussars were accompanying 1,000 Grenzers on a raid towards Kamnitz. On 18 July, near the village of Hasel, they encountered a Prussian convoy and its cavalry escort. After a brief exchange of carbine fire, the Prussians gave up, but aware of large Prussian forces nearby, the Austrians could not carry off all their plunder.

Instead, they smashed up the ammunition wagons, nailed the cannon touchholes and rendered the pontoons unusable, but were still able to carry off some 500 horses back to their camp. In 1794 in Belgium, Korporal Franz Poor of the 1st Hussars led a small unit on his own initiative to take a convoy of ten French wagons loaded with bread and forage, cutting down the escort and freeing a captured comrade in the process. Two years later, Rittmeister Graf Wallmoden led a raid which captured a complete French depot at Bruchsal.

The psychological effects of Hadik's 1757 raid on Berlin (see Plate E) prompted more *Handstreich* (large raids) into enemy territory,

1762 manuscript illustration of a man on foot (Albertina). The two men are from the Hadik (left) and Kalnoky (right) regiments. The Hadik trooper is smoking the popular long pipe. Both wear the Turkey (madder) red trousers and have their *Inhaber's* symbols on the sabretasches. (ALB)



including a spectacular raid on Halle in August 1759:

[these Hussars] had made appropriate preparations for the expedition and brought along the necessary equipment, such as axes, hatchets and jemmies. When the householders were slow to open the doors, the Hussars burst them open and pushed their sabres at the householders' throats, threatening to hack them to pieces on the spot if they did not unlock all the doors and chests and yield up their money and treasure.

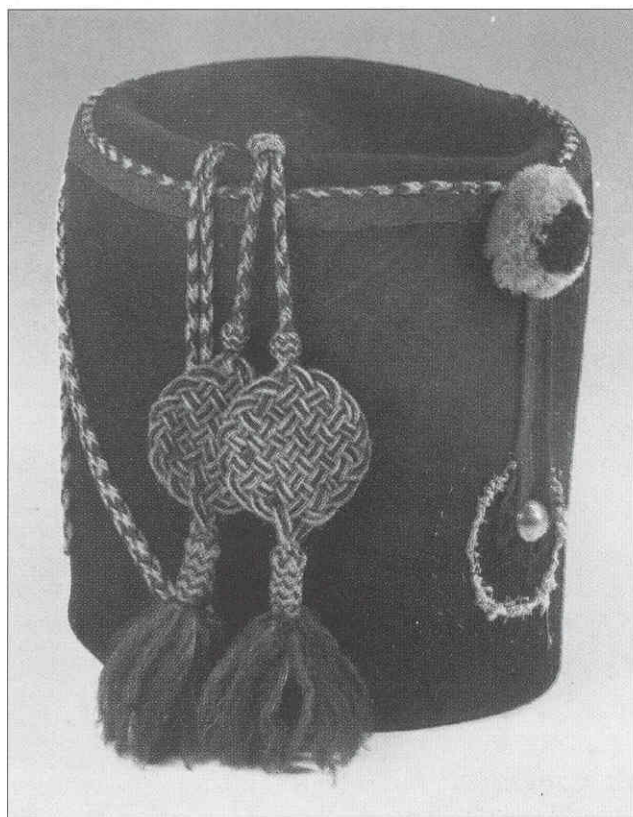
The tactic continued through the Seven Years War – Oberstleutnant Kiss of the 1st Hussars won the Maria Theresa Order for his many raids, reaching as far as Windisch-Borna in Silesia in 1762. These light troops thus spread fear amongst central Europe's peasants, but could expect no mercy from these people if they fell into their hands – a major factor in the low rates of desertion from the Hussars and Grenzers.

Following raids into Serbia in 1790, the Hungarians still spread fear among their opponents during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, especially veterans in their forties, who had joined soon after the Seven Years War. At Christmas 1799, there was a peasant insurgency in the Alpine valleys west of Turin. Major Mesko of the 7th Hussars found it sufficient to 'dispatch a Korporal and six men to restore order'. Lightning raids continued to prove equally effective – Major Graf Gattenburg of the 1st Hussars captured a French battalion in a surprise raid on Jedlinsko in Poland in 1809. Even towns were no problem – during Bonaparte's

advance across Italy in 1796, 30 men from the 8th Hussars launched a surprise raid on the French-held city of Brescia on 30 June and quickly chased the guards from the walls. The gates were opened and the rest of the squadron swept in, reaching the town drill square, where the garrison troops were scattered and many taken prisoner. The 1st Hussars adopted a typically resourceful approach when facing the barricaded gates of Bamberg in August 1796. Ordered by the senior command to break it, they simply ripped the hinges from the wall and the gates fell in.

Leadership of both light infantry and cavalry beyond the main battle lines required both officers and NCOs to demonstrate independence and initiative. Most officer cadets would learn their trade as NCOs in the 'small war' for up to ten years before being commissioned and for the Gemeiner, it was the quickest route to promotion. He would initially be made a Vize-Korporal (Acting Korporal), which required that he be able to write to the same standard as he could read and could undertake all the duties of a Korporal, especially setting a good example to the men. 'Mounted patrols,' noted the 1769

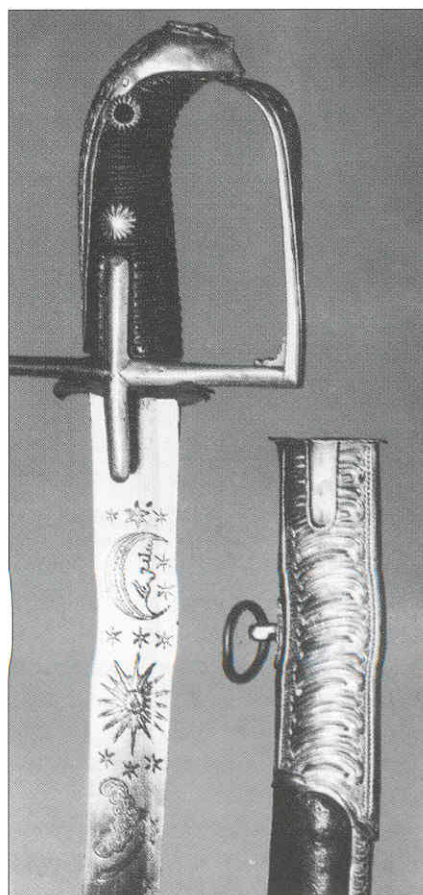
1780 shako of the simpler construction without the outer housing. Its elaborate decoration to the side (the flat *Vitezkötes* – warrior knots) contrasts with the very simple rosette in the centre and pom-pom below the rim. (HAM)



Service Regulations, 'are one of the most important functions for a cavalryman; consequently, all normal caution is required.' Their primary purpose was gathering intelligence about enemy movement, and so small patrols of a few men under an NCO or larger units under junior officers were dispatched. The first message sent back might typically be one sent by an Oberleutnant of the Szeckler Hussars leading a *Zug* in Germany in 1796, reporting that: 'the enemy is advancing from Turkheim with large infantry and cavalry units and this force has already reached Ellstadt'. Once contact had been established, small patrols would be dispatched in all appropriate directions, whose reports would then be collated by the junior officer for onward transmission by messenger to headquarters. A Korporal leading a patrol would now try to assess the numbers involved and report back: 'the advance, by my judgement, is of a thousand-strong force of French cavalry, who are heading at a steady trot towards Karlsruhe and are now up in line with the main French column'. Other useful information an Oberleutnant would add might typically be 'that this road is now also blocked by the French'. Pauliny had been promoted to Wachtmeister by March 1794, when he led his first major patrol against the French Revolutionary troops in Belgium:

Along with one Korporal and eight troopers, I was ordered to get as close as possible to the fortress at Cambrai and report back on enemy positions and movements. [Approaching] Boussieres, I could see the seven windmills there and from the movements of their sails, I realised that the millers were signalling my approach to the French. However, this also meant that I was aware that the enemy were nearby, just as the two Hussars riding at the front informed me of the advance of a large enemy column by firing two shots as they reached a small rise in the ground. I ordered the patrol to halt and remain silent, galloped to a nearby hill, and observed two squadrons of French Dragoons, whose commander was just preparing to dispatch some patrols to assess my own patrol's strength. I ordered my patrol to fall back as quickly as possible and designated the point where they should await me, at which stage, I challenged the enemy commander to a duel by firing a single shot. In a flash, he charged me with 20 Dragoons, so that I and my brave horse had hardly the opportunity to escape and rejoin my men. We withdrew, fighting all the way, but then halted as the Dragoons had captured Gemeiner Ernei and severed Gemeiner Stephan Nagy's right hand. My instruction to save our comrades was immediately answered by the brave Hussars, as they ferociously engaged the enemy, who were twenty [!] times stronger. Korporal Menyhard shot one Dragoon and fatally wounded another. Fortunately, I managed to fight my way through to Gemeiner Ernei and after taking five wounds myself but also drawing blood from several Dragoons ... freed him.

Having successfully withdrawn, Pauliny dispatched Ernei to the local outpost with the news and Leutnant Barga was soon rushing to his aid.



Sabre of Andreas Hadik – note the sun and crescent moon symbols, which are often seen on Hussar sabres and reflect an adoption of the Muslim alongside Christian symbols. Although gold mounted, it is still the simple pattern of handle, summing up the paradox of Hussar life. (HAM)



LEFT The local people are obviously rather impressed as Hussars sweep through their town in the late 18th century in their impressive uniforms (the officer still wears the Kalpak and is carrying holster covers). The carbines are too long, but were carried upright. Note the fodder sacks on the forward right side of the saddle. (A. Greil – ALB)

Long-range patrols were effective in causing confusion in the enemy rear. In 1814, the 4th Hussars under Simonyi swam the Rhône near Lyons to cut the communications of the retreating French Army. Patrols were not to enter a village or defile without first sending forward one or two men (depending on their own strength) and checking around the left and right flanks. In open ground, they were to ride up on to the slightest rise or small hill, to obtain a better view of the locality and continue from there. Pauliny was leading another patrol towards Katzenellenbogen in September 1795, when:

With the help of a local guide, I managed to make my way through the enemy outposts unnoticed to reach the first houses in the town and discovered that two squadrons of French Chasseurs à Cheval were fast asleep. As it was pitch black and raining heavily, I was very keen to risk a surprise attack; however the small size of my patrol prevented me undertaking one, and so I decided to wake the enemy from their slumbers with some pistol shots and loud shouting. We fell back on to a nearby hill and to our great amusement, saw everyone running about the roads with lanterns, the buglers blowing the Alarm and the outposts standing to, without any of them knowing where their enemy were.

The most difficult terrain was encountered typically in northern Italy and southern Germany – ground covered with bushes or small areas of



ABOVE A Hussar uses his two pistols to launch a surprise attack on French revolutionary light cavalry down a side street (Seele – ALB) as he stands up in his stirrups. His sabre is suspended from his right wrist on its leather strap, while he uses his left hand to control his horse. Note the angle of the pistol to ensure ignition of the charge.



Hussars engage French Dragoons during the Napoleonic wars, by H. Cotta. The man in the centre is using his sabre at the drilled angle both to parry the French Dragoon's sabre and to protect his head in particular.

woodland. On approaching such ground, the main unit halted and men were despatched from the front 15 to 30 minutes march ahead to check for ambushes. If there were tracks leading off the main route through, then side patrols of two men each rode along them, however this meant that there was always a danger of being cut off, so it was recommended that they returned by a different route.

The other main role of the light cavalry was explained in detail in the 1806-7 drill regulations, which required that:

In no circumstances is a cavalry force to march without advance- and rearguards or side patrols; these detachments will themselves send their most reliable, capable and best-mounted men out as flankers and pickets, and these are the ones directly designated to seek out the enemy, engage their outposts, harass them while retreating or repel them during our own withdrawal and to mask the movements of the main army.

In battle, the regiments were usually deployed by divisions to guard the whole army, such as at Second Caldiero in 1805, where the three divisions of the 3rd Hussars were deployed ahead of the main parts of the army in the villages of Castelveccchio, Villanuova and San Pietro, although the regimental staff remained at Caldiero. During night movements close to enemy positions, the men were forbidden to sleep and had to be wide awake – being alert was not to be achieved by lighting a pipe. Leading a ten-man flank guard for an infantry column at Magnano on 5 April 1799, Korporal Timko was moving through 'broken terrain, cut up by numerous ditches and impenetrable hedgerows'. He used the terrain to launch an attack through a hedge to surprise French infantry, taking 70 prisoners. The Hussars continued to operate with Grenzers in both advance- and rearguards to protect the army. Near Drausendorf in August 1813, the 1st Hussars were fending off French pursuers, when:

Sixty-nine Peterwardein Grenzers led by Oberleutnant Drasenovich arrived and after the enemy had put up determined resistance and beaten off several attacks, some Hussars sprang from their horses and joined them in an action on foot. Among them was Korporal Johann Videky, who was able to break down a post from the manorhouse outbuilding and followed by Gemeiner Stephan Csernus and thirteen brave Peterwardeiners, broke his way into the manor through this opening, spreading fear and confusion amongst the enemy and taking 39 prisoners.



Attack by Hussars. A slightly later illustration shows the lead being taken by the officer and the bugler. With the emphasis on speed, Hussars were not boot to boot as heavy cavalry were. (BA)

These small units would also interrogate prisoners – in 1797 a Hussar major interrogated a captured enemy soldier. ‘From which regiment are you?’ asked the major. ‘I’m an Italian volunteer on the French side.’ ‘The whole regiment is the same as you?’ ‘Yes, we are all brave.’ ‘Well, in that case you go back to your colonel. I wish all good to him. Tell him that we will meet in your field fortification.’ This was not unusual, as the versatile Hussars could be used against established positions, and even in urban actions. Two squadrons from the Szeckler Hussars stormed a ditch held by French infantry at Famars in 1794, while the 9th Hussars participated in the assault on the Riazanstadt suburb of Belgrade in 1789.

Der kleine Krieg continued after the battles. Korporal Andreas Nagy, of the 5th Squadron of the 7th Hussars, was leading a four-man patrol in Italy in 1799 when they encountered a group of Austrian prisoners from IR41 being escorted by French infantry. Nagy led a surprise attack, freeing his colleagues and capturing five of the escort. That same July, while forming the last rearguard outpost covering a retreating force, Gemeiner Johann Sinkovits of the 1st Hussars fell into a deep ditch and finished up under his horse. The French Chasseurs à Cheval who were pursuing him dragged him out to take him prisoner. However, Wachtmeister Siga Kakonyi and Gemeiner Paul Ursik saw their comrade’s predicament and rode in to save him, assailing the Chasseurs and putting them to flight. Other Chasseurs then advanced and Ursik quickly dismounted, helped Sinkovits up and then the two dragged the horse out, while the Wachtmeister called in further troopers to engage the French.

CHARGE!

The style and swagger displayed by the Hussars was justified by their bravery and their greatest advantage was their speed – in surprise attacks, which they would launch by firing their weapons, following through with their sabres, they would attack at full gallop, causing panic and heavy casualties amongst their enemy in a few minutes. The first



tactical directive to the Hussars had been issued in 1722 and reflected *Furor hungarius* – skilled and rapid movement to outflank and disrupt enemy formations:

The Hungarian cavalryman customarily prefers to use the sword at every opportunity in battle. Therefore, he advances upon the enemy and heads for him in a calm, courageous fashion. He dashes from his position, heads for them and is upon the enemy like a speeding bullet. He attacks front on and strikes the enemy with his sabre. If the enemy flee, he gives chase, and until he catches them, fires carbine and pistol, not allowing them to turn and face him. If the enemy does turn, then he attacks them with his sabre, as he must save his carbine ammunition as much as possible. If the enemy should regroup, then let him forcefully turn and face them again, reorder his unit, fire on them with his carbine and again try with all his might to break the enemy unit up and put it to flight. If the enemy is reinforced, then he must withdraw in good order.

In a reference to the ‘one worth twenty’ of the Hungarian ‘husz’, during the Napoleonic Wars four Hussars wanted to attack 40 enemy light cavalrymen. Their Oberleutnant ordered them to fall back as they were so outnumbered. ‘Eh?’ grumbled an unhappy Gemeiner, ‘I have never heard that we have to count the enemy before we attack.’

In common with the other cavalry types, the 1751 regulation decreed that the Hussars would fight in three ranks usually, although two ranks were not uncommon, and by the end of the Seven Years War, Oberst Nauendorff was already pressing for Hussars to be trained for standard cavalry actions, despite their real usefulness in *der kleine Krieg*. Aside from the last Turkish war, there was less emphasis on cavalry firepower in the

Erdödy Hussars engage Turkish cavalry (Heicke), illustrating the similarity between the Turkish scimitar and Hussar sabre. Heavy cavalry had proved ineffective in the Turkish wars and on difficult Balkan ground, Hussars bore the brunt of the fighting. (HAM)



A triumphant Erdödy Hussar rides off with his captured Turkish trophies. These could be ransomed for considerable amounts of money.

later 18th century, in preference to the shock of the sabre. The light cavalry would usually deploy on the flanks as battle was joined, preferring the effect of sabres in an attack or any pursuit which might result. On the battlefield, Hussars could fire their carbines by squadron, and for morale effect they were held high during an advance against Turkish troops. Under the 1769 changes, the cavalry also used columns on the field of a squadron, *Zug* or four-man frontage, while all *Pauken* (kettle-drum) signals were abandoned in favour of verbal orders and bugle calls.

The provisional regulations of 1805, confirmed in 1807, set two ranks as the normal formation. 'Good, reliable and well-mounted men,' especially the tallest, were placed in the front rank, recruits and less able men in the second, and the third rank comprised the senior and brightest troopers. The most determined and steadfast men held the flanks. The key feature was riding closely together to prevent the opposition breaking through. Hussars would also often accompany the Cavalry artillery batteries on the battlefield to provide protection and to support them in any move to attack or defend key points on the

battlefield. From the late 18th century, Hussars often supported heavy cavalry to achieve local numerical superiority or to mount diversionary attacks.

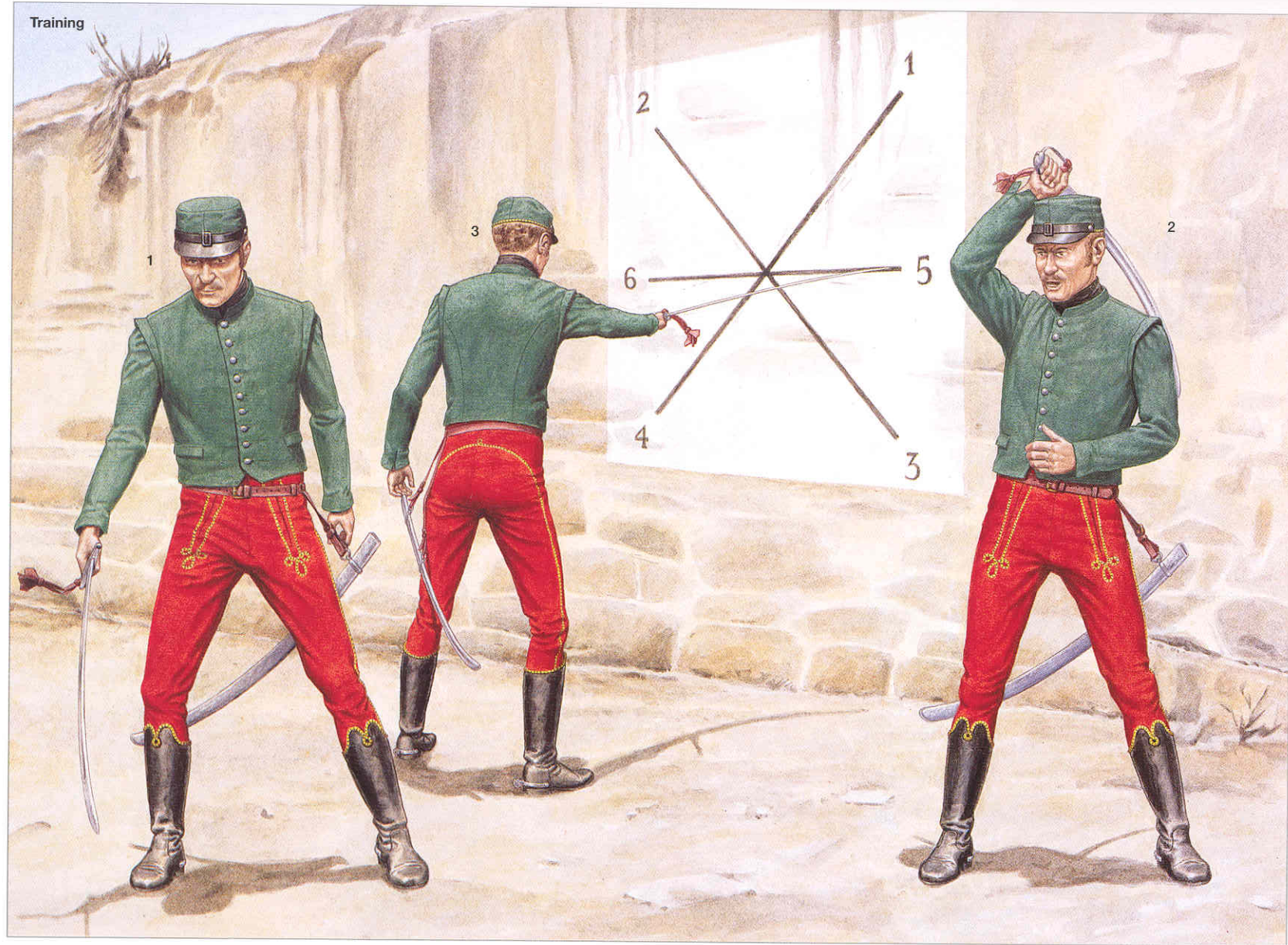
From the time of the 1751 regulations, flank squadrons would gallop forward in skirmish formation to within 35m of the enemy and fire on them with carbines to unsettle the target while the rest prepared to charge. Forming up, the main force's ranks would be separated by just 2 with 3 *Pferdlängen* (horse lengths or roughly 9 *Schritte* – paces) between the squadrons. The charge would then be mounted by increasing the speed through the gaits of *Schritt* (walk – approximately 100m per minute), *Trab* (trot – approximately 210m per minute) and *Galopp* (gallop – approximately 300m per minute). The *Signal zur Attacke* was first blown by the *Stabstrompeter* (regimental bugler) and would be answered by the squadron buglers. Then the *Stabstrompeter* would sound the '*Trompetenstoss*' (*einfache Stoss*) at which the divisional commanders

A Nadasdy Regiment Hussar during the Seven Years War with equipment and weapons



Swearing in





Hussars over run a picket



October 1757

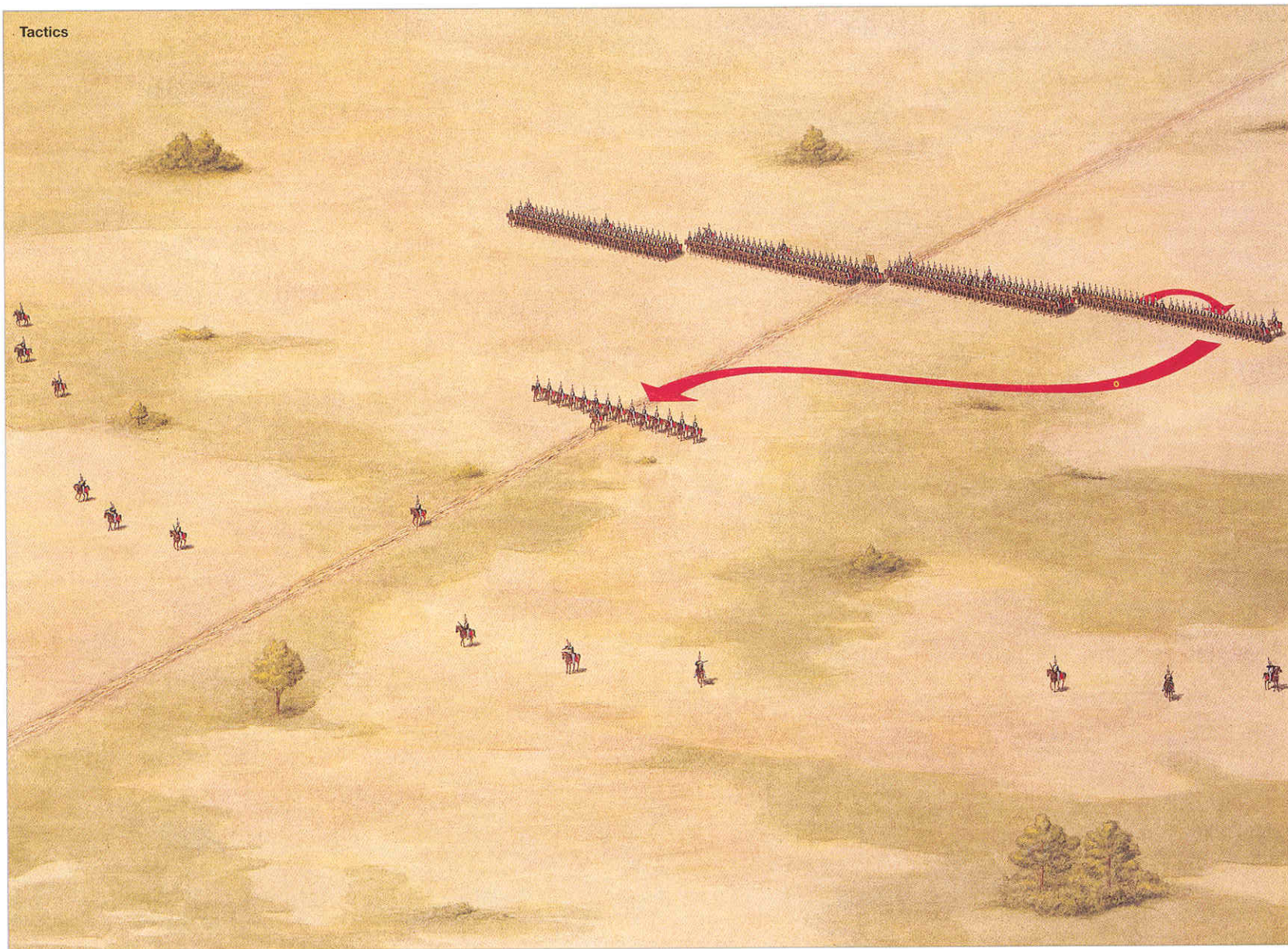


A Hussar at the end of the Revolutionary Wars (1801) of the 1st Kaiser Regiment





Tactics





ABOVE Hussars clash with French cavalry at Verona in April 1799. Austria had a key cavalry advantage, but it was limited by bad boggy ground and agricultural practices in Italy. (HAM)



LEFT Midnight alert – this picture by Emele is from shortly after the Napoleonic Wars, but this was a common occurrence on the outposts. The alarm was sounded and some shots fired by the guard posts, the men focusing on mounting up quickly. To avoid false alarms, the firing of weapons was not permitted without an officer's permission and buglers only practised at 9–10 am or 5–6 pm. (HAM)

would shout, 'Im Schritt, Marsch!' and the unit would move off at the walk. When two 'doppelte Stösse' were sounded, the divisional commanders would order 'Im Trab, Marsch' and the horses would move to a trot. On reaching 200 paces from the enemy, three 'doppelte Stösse' were blown at which the order 'Im Gallop, Marsch' was given, to be followed 40 paces later by the shout 'Marsch', at which the unit increased its speed. The speed was again increased at 120 paces distance with another 'Marsch' and it was at just 80 paces distance that the unit broke into a full charge as the *Stabstrompeter* and all the squadron buglers blew the 'Alarm' and the commanders ordered 'Marsch, Marsch'. From within

An officer of the 6th Blankenstein Hussars, who presumably has ignored the 1798 order to exchange his Kalpak for a shako, directs his men in a charge at Günzburg on 9 October 1805.

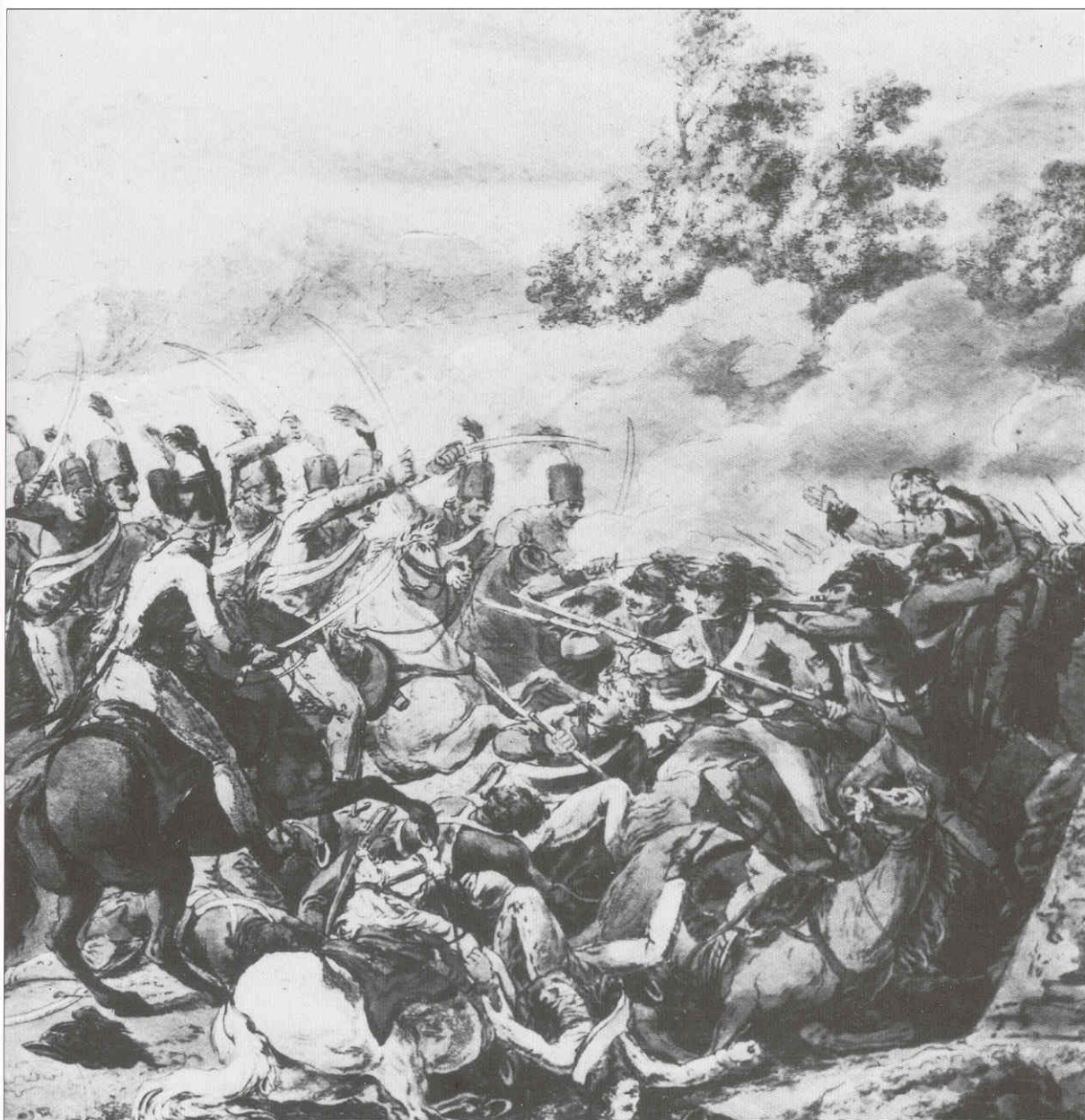


the Hussar units would come the cry 'Ratja' (Attack) as at this moment each man pressed both spurs into his horse and waved his sabre above his head. Although the reins were now held more loosely, the horse was still kept under control as not all horses could move at the same top speed, to maintain reasonable order in the ranks.

Once the attack had been made, the buglers blew 'Halt' and the units re-formed. Then, from each squadron, a Korporal would lead eight Gemeiner from the flank of the third rank to lead the pursuit followed by the squadron. In the event of a retreat, the regiment would withdraw *en chequier* (chequerboard style), the odd-numbered squadrons pulling back first. Should it be necessary to break the line when the unit was under superior attack or had fallen into disorder, the *Vergatterung* (Retreat) was blown and the unit scattered before reassembling on the buglers, who would have ridden to the new position.

AFTERMATH

Graf Wartensleben, the brave and crafty Oberst of the 6th Blankenstein Hussars, found his unit part of Jellacic's capitulation at Bregenz in 1805,



but a typically cunning ruse fooled the famous French author Baron Marbot into allowing them to escape. At midnight one night in late October, Marbot heard the regiment mounting up and was informed that the Austrian command was anxious about clashes with French infantry. Wartensleben claimed that the French Marshal Augereau had agreed that the regiment move out early to take a longer route, but thought that written orders must have been delayed en route, so he had sent an officer to the outposts. Marbot found this so 'convincing' that he rode off with the Hungarians. Circumventing the nearby French camps, Wartensleben then talked his way through a French cavalry patrol, persuading Marbot to provide the password. The following morning, the Hussars halted to feed and water their horses. When the horses were

A Zug of Hussars attacks French Revolutionary infantry in 1799. The light cavalry tended to move in small units of *Züge* up to a division (squadron), performing the main tasks of advance guards and raiding in conjunction with light infantry. (BA)

Dort drunt im schönen Ungarland,
Wohl an dem schönen Donaustrand,
Da liegt das Land Magyar.
Als junger Bursch da zog ich aus,
Ließ weder Weib noch Kind zu Haus,
Als Blankensteinhusar.

Chorus:

Duna, Tisza, Drava, Sava,
'Eljen!' rief ich, 'hej: Magyar!'
Te-de-rei, te-de-ra, te-de-rei, te-de-ra
Als Blankensteinhusar.

Das Roß, das mir mein Vater gab,
Ist all mein Gut, ist all mein Hab,
Sein Heimat ist Magyar.
Es ist geschwind als wie der Wind,
Wie alle Heldenpferde sind
Vom Blankensteinhusar.

(Repeat chorus)

Ein Saraß aus dem Türkenkrieg,
Der mir vom Urgroßvater blieb,
Geschliffen in Magyar.
Gar mancher muß ihn spüren schon,
Gar mancher lief vor ihm davon,
Vom Blankensteinhusar.

(Repeat chorus)

Im letzten Dorf da kehrt ich ein
Und trank dort den Tokayerwein,
Tokayer aus Magyar.
Tokayer du bist mild und gut,
Du bist das reinste Türkenblut
Fürn Blankensteinhusar.

(Repeat chorus)

Down there in the beautiful Hungarian land,
Right along the beautiful banks of the Danube,
There lies the land of the Magyars.
As a young man there, I set out,
Leaving my wife and child at home,
To be a Blankenstein Hussar.

Danube, Theiss, Drave, Save [major rivers],
'Viva!' I cried, 'shout: Magyar!'
Te-de-rei, te-de-ra, te-de-rei, te-de-ra
To be a Blankenstein Hussar.

The horse, which my father gave to me,
Is all I have, everything I own,
His home is the Magyar land.
He is as swift as the wind,
As are all the heroic horses
Of the Blankenstein Hussars

A sabre from the Turkish wars,
Handed down from my great-grandfather to me
Polished in Magyar style.
Many must have felt its impact,
Many must have fled from it,
Fled from a Blankenstein Hussar.

In the last village I arrived
And there drank Tokaj wine,
Tokaj from the Magyar land.
Tokaj smooth and fine you are,
You are the purest Turkish blood
For a Blankenstein Hussar.

tethered, the Oberst gathered his men round him and, to a rousing cheer, announced in Hungarian that they were now 18 miles ahead of the nearest French and would escape to Moravia to rejoin their king (Emperor Francis II). A song in German was composed to reflect the impact of the Hussar 'fashion'.

At the same time, Simonyi was leading his small party of Hussars, uhlands and infantry north through Prussia to avoid the French pursuit after Ulm. When three of his men grabbed a local merchant, the Prussian cried out and locals came to help him. The Hussars only said, 'Don't hurt the Hungarians!' and eventually made their way to Bohemia. Nine years later he led his men into Fontainebleau Palace and, imitating Hadik, emptied his pipe on Napoleon's throne. For most, the rewards of battlefield booty fulfilled their ambitions on enlisting, but

RIGHT Reconstructed 1805 Hussar wearing the bad-weather Mantel cloak, which extends to the knee when worn on foot (Umhey) and provided some protection for the horse when mounted (see also MAA 181, p.39). The cloak was made of white felted material and lined with Boy (an inner lining) across the shoulders and to half its length, the lower edge describing three-quarters of a circle when fully opened out. The broad 15cm collar could be turned up in bad weather.

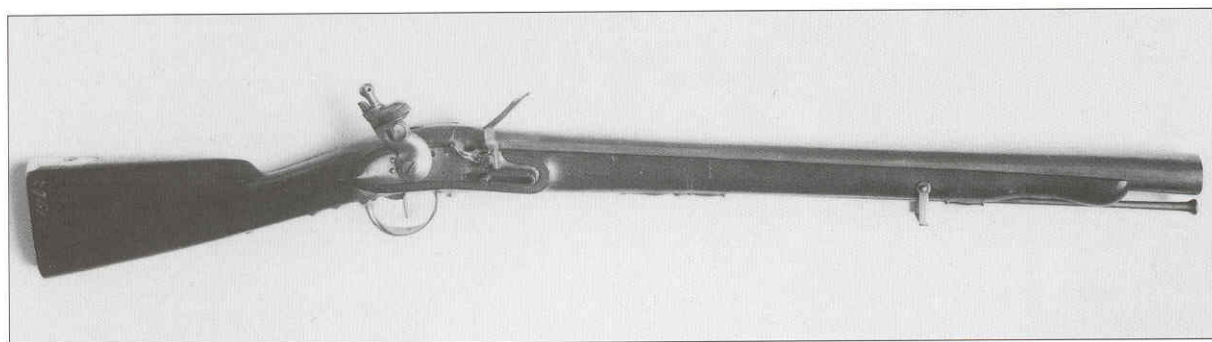
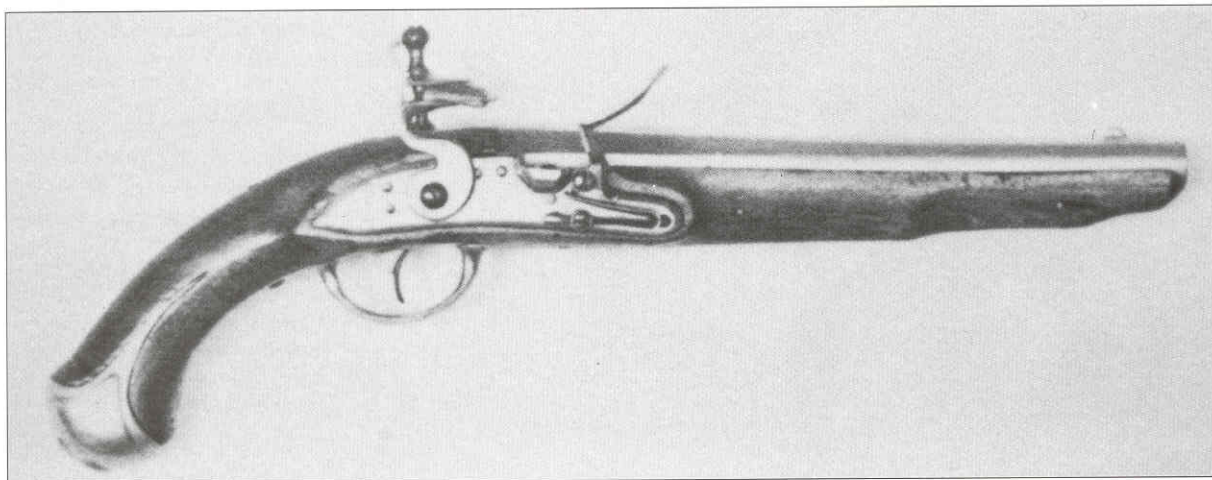


Pauliny was probably the unluckiest. After the defeat of the Turks at Martinje in September 1788, he captured a Turkish wagon, which in accordance with the regulations, he sold to a *Marktender* (sutler) for 1 Florin. Only later did he learn that it had been loaded with valuable Damascus sabres, guns and Turkish horse furniture.

The primary function for light cavalry at the end of a battle was the pursuit of defeated enemy forces or acting as a rearguard. The attitude of the wilder Hussars to their enemy was summed up by G.M. Buccow in a letter to F.M. Daun early in the Seven Years War: 'We have some prisoners, but the Hussars captured very few, as they cut most of them down.' The officers were soon able to curb such excesses, however, telling their men that it was a question of honour and the usual practice to treat anyone who surrendered fairly. The ordinary troopers looked at the situation more in terms of what they could exchange for their prisoners. In 1809, a Hussar had captured two French soldiers at Raab. While riding back with the retreating army, he encountered some Grenadiers who attempted to kill the Frenchmen. 'Stop that!' cried the Hussar. 'If you want to kill them you have to capture some for yourself!'

Treatment of casualties was the same as for the infantry. However, the speed of cavalry attacks meant that for those who were wounded and fell from the horses or were trapped under a fallen horse near to the enemy, there was little prospect of rescue by their comrades, and they would often be captured. On 2 June 1788, Oberleutnant Geitz of the Szeckler was unfortunate enough to be captured by the Turks:

I was moved from Kloster Sinay to Constantinople in ten days; we rode in such a



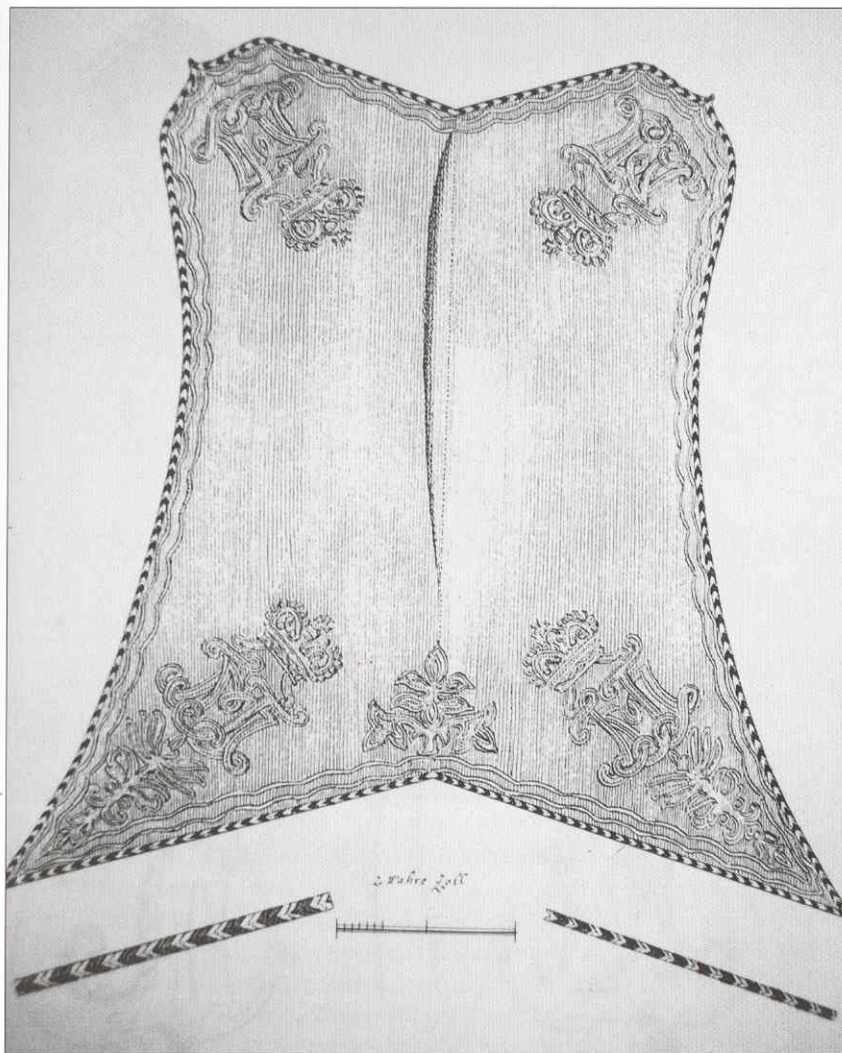
ABOVE TOP The 1784 cavalry pistol was slightly modified from the 1770 pattern issued after the 1767–69 reforms. This also has the octagonal firing chamber end to the barrel, but was modified with a conical touchhole, which was bored at an angle to reduce fouling.

ABOVE BOTTOM Known to have been issued to the 9th Hussars for the last Turkish war, when it was carried by 12 men per squadron, the *Trombon* (blunderbuss) was 1.03m long. At the muzzle the barrel width was 44cm, but flattened across the top and bottom for the usual 26mm vertical calibre. It was loaded with 12 small balls for scatter effect.

way that I thought I would break my neck and twice I actually fell with the horse. It was impossible for me to be thrown clear, as we had been put on large packhorses, my hands tied to its back, and my feet tied under its stomach. We were treated in the worst way imaginable. We felt that at this moment, we had fallen into the hands of barbarians. On 12 June, we arrived in Constantinople. Here, the heads of twelve beheaded Christians were hung round my neck and we were then led through the city and subjected to the mockery and laughter of the population. Even women spat in my face.

Over 56 per cent of all losses during the Seven Years War were due to capture, nearly four times as many men being lost in this way as from the *Schlachtenkavallerie* (battlefield cavalry). However, the conditions were not much better in Europe as Johann Khevenhüller of the Esterhazy Hussars discovered at the hands of the Prussians in the winter of 1757:

The first days were very hard as we marched on foot through the whole night and much of the next day in the most awful weather and through snow and marshland; we had to be satisfied with bad army bread and very little of it. Then we had to sleep all across one another through the next night in a very miserable, cold shelter like cattle with another sixty or so prisoners.



1769 regulation schabraque. No holster covers were used by Hussars, as the shabraque covered them, although some illustrations (see MAA181, p.10) show them cut with separate covers (Baulesch). The shabraque, made of madder red material and lined with ticking, was trimmed with yellow/black braid, with the imperial cipher in the four corners with a crown and decorative foliage. On the outer edge, cord braid was used, but the rest was plain Sujtas.

They were then marched the rest of the 200km to Frankfurt an der Oder. Many were soon exchanged or sometimes ransomed – in 1758, the going rate for a Gemeiner was 5 Florins and for his Oberst 650 Florins.

Language remained a problem in the Army as more Balkan troops joined. On the eve of Austerlitz (2 December 1805), Gemeiner Strojce of the 11th Szeckler Hussars, who was illiterate and only spoke Romanian, was struggling with his wretched and undernourished horse. Ordered to the rear with 'Ihr könnt nach Haus gehen', he took 'Haus' literally to mean 'home', rode off along minor trackways past the French forces, crossed Hungary and arrived back in the regimental base of Sepsi St Georgy with all of his equipment and a now well-fed horse. Ludwig von Buckhardt of the 11th Szeckler Hussars, wrongly implicated in the murder of French envoys at Rastatt in 1799, was badly wounded during that campaign and, promoted to Major for bravery, spent the rest of his life as a Real-Invalid at the regimental garrison base, as did many who could still perform supernumerary duties. For others of all ranks, there were six invalid houses, at Neulerchefeld (near Vienna where Pauliny died in 1836), Prague, Pettau (Styria) and Tynau, Leopoldstaf and Pest (Hungary).



Top parts of a 1769 sabre and scabbard. The blade is engraved and has similar sun and moon markings as Hadik's sabre. This finely balanced weapon will stand upright without being grasped on the handle and has a fine blade thickness, making it an ideal slashing weapon. (Private collection)

Rewards for bravery were usually provided by the *Inhaber* – Gemeiner Fekete, Prزيمةjate and Lörinz of the 9th Hussars each receiving three Ducats from Graf Erdödy for rescuing officers at Haslau in 1779. In 1789, Emperor Joseph II instituted the Gold and Silver Bravery medals for army-wide recognition, although the *Inhabers* could still make payments. The number of Gold and Silver Bravery Medals won during the Turkish, Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars was:

Regt	1788–91	1792–1801	1805	1809	1812–15
1st	4/49	11/72	–/13	6/28	4/22
2nd	3/52	12/88	–/–	4/19	–/17
3rd	–/–	20/140	4/5	6/7	7/24
4th	1/1	11/127	3/25	2/7	4/29
5th	–/–	(5/27)	2/11	9/18	8/21
6th	–/–	20/141	1/2	3/17	10/28
7th	–/–	(2/21)	2/4	1/5	4/33
8th	1/4	27/126	–/–	2/15	5/14
9th	2/46	13/70	3/2	1/12	3/20
10th	8/69	8/87	–/–	–/5	1/5
11th	1/41	4/64	–/–	–/3	1/13
12th	–/–	–/–	2/12	–/18	5/11

(The awards in brackets for the 5th and 7th Hussar regiments relate to men transferred into them on their establishment in 1798). From 1780,



Left – officer's sabretasche from about 1750, displaying the *Inhaber's* arms, but provided by the officer himself. Below – the man's was much simpler, as this example from Forchtenstein shows. (BA – Burg Forchtenstein)

those achieving 30 years distinguished service, such as Gemeiner Samuel Hemmer (who had engaged a large Cossack patrol by himself in 1812) were granted nobility as a *Freiherr*.

In wartime, the Army usually operated far from its home depots, so horses that became ill or were lightly wounded in combat were treated in *Feld-Tier-Spitäler* (field veterinary hospitals) behind the Army, which were run by a senior officer and a *Tierarzt* (vet) with an assistant and a chemist, supported by smiths plus supernumerary junior cavalry officers and NCOs. All of these non-specialists were drawn from retired cavalymen or from the depot garrisons; the vets and chemists from the *kk Tierspital* (animal hospital). On their arrival at the *Spital*, the horses would be checked for their condition and whether there was any likelihood of them returning to the Army. Troopers accompanying the horses remained with them and one Gemeiner would usually be allocated to feed, water and guard every four horses. Care of these horses would then be financed from the Imperial Treasury and from squadron funds, which were sent directly to the *Spital*. Those horses which failed the initial examination were marked for disposal and put down. In all, 29 per cent of horses were lost during the Seven Years War.



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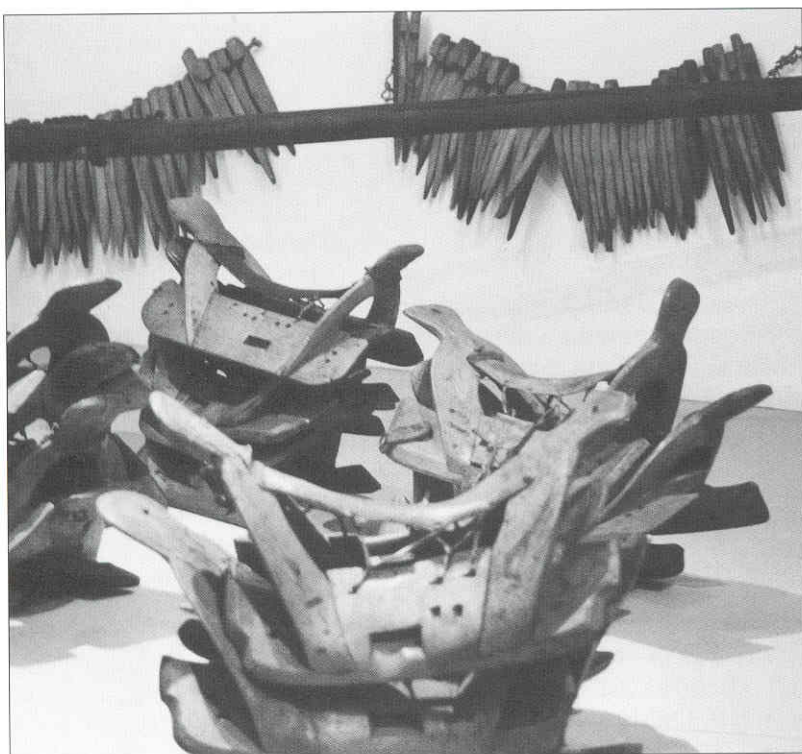
Pauliny's story was published in the OMZ 1848 II, 1867 III and IV as: 'Bruchstucke aus dem Tagebuche eines alten Husaren'.

The main books in English are the recent general surveys: Duffy, *The Army of Maria Theresa* (republished 1990) and *Instrument of War* (2000) which cover the 18th century wars, the later work including interesting army-wide statistics from the Seven Years War (and particularly 1759, some of which have also been included here). Rothenburg, *Napoleon's Great Adversary*:

Archduke Charles & the Austrian Army 1792–1814 (republished 1995) covers the Napoleonic period. Zachar, *The Illustrated Hussar* (2000) is a colourful overview of the whole history of this genre.

The Hungarian Army and National Museums together with the Army Museums in Vienna have large collections. There is a superb collection of equipment in the beautiful Esterhazy Castle depot at Forchtenstein, near Eisenstadt, east Austria (<http://www.burg-forchtenstein.at>) and a small collection of weapons at the Nadasdy Museum at Sarvar, Hungary. The Dorotheum Auction House in Vienna regularly sells weaponry (<http://www.internationalauctioneers.com>).

Wooden saddle frames on display at Forchtenstein Castle with large tent pegs in the background; light construction and higher bow at the front, lower bow at the rear to allow the man to lean back. (Burg Forchtenstein)



COLOUR PLATE COMMENTARY

PLATE A: A NADASDY REGIMENT HUSSAR DURING THE SEVEN YEARS WAR WITH EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS.

The regulation of 1751 standardised the uniform and equipment, which would become the glamorous style with the fur Kalpak headgear and a range of weaponry, soon copied by most European armies. The *Inhabers* lost the right to decree the uniforms and officers now had to wear uniforms matching their troopers. The light-brown fur Kalpak was 10.5 Zoll (27.5cm) high with a bag hanging 1.4cm below the lower edge and fixed with a small fastener, so that it didn't wave about. Secured at two points on the right side of the Kalpak was a 95cm yellow cord wrapped round twice so that both ends were fixed to the upper edge, which was slung around the man's neck in battle in order that he did not lose his headgear. For the stylish look, it was hung so that there was a short loop down to the bottom of the ear and a longer loop, which would then be slung around the neck. A tall felt *Csakelhaube* (shako) was worn as an everyday alternative, the outer tail-shaped cover being 18 Zoll long and bound at the end to prevent fraying. Inside the main part was a leather lining which was 3 Zoll at the front and 5 Zoll at the rear, the rear part being turned outwards as some protection for the neck in bad weather.

The dolman was cut to fit tightly and long enough for 1 Zoll (2.7cm) of the material to appear below the waist sash. The plain yellow braid is threaded across three buttons on each side, although several units have the buttons much closer together than the well-known style. The dolman made of the same material had a linen lining and similarly 15 buttons plus 30 *Gombassel* (half-buttons). At the end of the sleeves there is short pointed yellow facing and the traditional knot. The collar is low.

Under the 1751 regulations, the pelisse was to be cut so that the soldier could comfortably button it up completely, especially in bad weather, but still be able to reach his shoulder with his hand and move about freely. The inside was lined with white sheepskin and the outer edges were trimmed with black. When the man was seated, the lower edge of the fur lining was 1.5 Zoll (4cm) above the saddle, when worn

buttoned up. The sleeve, which was divided 5.5cm from the elbow with an edged slit, had to be lined with ticking, so that it was not too thick and ended at the wrist. On both sides of the collar, the cord (*Mentekoto*) was fixed. On the front part of the pelisse were 15 buttons and 30 decorative half-buttons (*Gombassel*) to the sides and on the back, at the waist 8 half-buttons. The black neckstock was made of a wool-cotton mix, 158cm long and 10.5cm high and fitted with tassels at the ends, but the shirt is visible above.

The waistsash, which wrapped round three times, was made up of cords of wool in *Inhaber's* colours and was secured to the front with 18 buttons in three rows and at the back with two buttons. The leather gloves with white stitching were not to be too narrow and the unstiffened turnbacks were to extend 8cm beyond the wrist.

Cut in the same style as for the Hungarian infantry, lined with linen and decorated with yellow/black wool braid, the trousers reached as high as the hips and were cut so that the man could walk, kneel and sit comfortably. Overall trousers were initially made from white *halina* or *kepernek* (Slovak woollen cloth), but from 1789, they were made from ticking in the same pattern as the German cavalry and had 12 buttons down each side. The *Tschismen* boots in Hungarian style were finished off at the top with yellow/black braid. Most were dyed yellow or crimson. The spurs were made up of a 2.2cm long bar and an 8-pointed wheel 2cm in diameter, fixed directly to the heel.

A black leather cartridge box was carried on an 8cm wide white leather bandolier, fitted with a buckle. In addition to the ammunition – 24 live and six blank rounds – the box contained the oil bottle, ball extractor and clearing spike.

Hungarian saddles (*Bock* or *Fured-Art*) and harnesses were lightly constructed with front and rear bows. Under the rear of the saddle and on the rear part of the wooden sides were iron rings for the pack belts. A black sheepskin saddlecover, lined with canvas or ticking, covered the saddle and holsters, secured with an outer girth strap. The *Mantelsack* (portmanteau) in madder red had a rounded end of 18.5cm diameter and strips of material covering the main seams. A flap secured with four brass buttons formed the securing lid. Between 1767 and 1779, a calfskin version lined with linen

was briefly in service. Emulating the Turks, the saddlecloth had become extended to a point at the rear in the Hungarian style and was richly embroidered. Its colour was a decision for the *Inhaber*, whose cipher appeared on the rear point until the design was standardised in 1769 as



The green regimental standard of the Szeckler Hussars issued in about 1769. These beautiful standards were embroidered on to thick material in the Turkish pennant style. The adoption of the HR11 would suggest this was still in use after 1798 when the Szeckler were regularised. (HAM)

madder red with the Imperial cipher. In the earlier 1700s, the stirrups were worn short and the spurs held against the horse's side, which could make close-formation riding difficult.

The black leather furniture comprised the bridle: forward and rear parts, the pistol strap, the upper strap including the reins, the lower strap, a pair of stirrup straps, the carbine shoe belt, the headband strap or a halter with the bridle and three straps to the portmanteau. A double harness was used during the Seven Years War, so the square bridle had wide rings to accommodate both sets of leather reins. The straps had leather rosettes and squares at the joints, to which were attached short leather tassels.

1) Close to the Ottoman Empire and for 150 years under Turkish rule, Hungary's cavalry adapted features which had begun in the Muslim world: the famous curved sabre, a cut and slash weapon, was derived from the Turkish scimitar, and was so effective that it underwent few changes over the centuries. The weapon's effectiveness lay in its balance and ease of use, combining lightness and an effective impact, as the force was focused through a short part of the blade on impact. The curved blade also allowed a tired man to strike at least his opponent's horse without the effort of raising the weapon and made it easier to remove or draw the blade through the wound.

Until 1748, the sabre was essentially a matter of choice for the individual man or the *Inhaber*, although certain parameters did exist: the extent of the curve was 4–8cm, so that for a blade of 72–84cm, this represented a curve of up to 10 per cent. The point was oblique cut down the leading edge, the double-sided sharpening extending 20–25cm, and the top edge was often extended similar to a scimitar. The earlier designs from around 1700 were significantly lightened in the 1734, 1741 and 1748 patterns, which weighed 1.1–1.2kg. Most 18th century weapons were engraved. 'Maria Theresia Rex. Hungariae.' sabres date from the 1740s, but thereafter the *Doppeladler* (Imperial double-headed eagle) became the norm. From 1748 to 1768,

the sabre became more regulated, although the shape of the grip and the decoration remained a matter for the *Inhaber*. The curved blade was 79–84cm long with a curve of 5cm, with a point sharpened on both sides and a concave channel ground out on both sides. The 1748-pattern sabre was 79cm long and had a 3.5cm wide blade. On the grip was attached a plain brown/red (usually known as Russian) leather handstrap (*Schlagriemen*) which was tied around the grip to help the man keep hold of the sabre. The 1751 regulations merely specified that the blade was to be 82cm long and 3.5cm wide. A plain red leather handstrap (yellow/black in wool for NCOs and silk for officers from 1769). The sabre had a curved iron blade and a grip of polished iron.

The blade was punched through to secure a grip made of birch wood, which was covered in leather and finished off with a brass or iron cap at the top, often with some decorative nails. The parrying handle was almost always plain, but from 1740, the leading side was extended into a bulbous guard. Most were brass, except for the Palatinal and Warasdin Grenzer Hussars, whose weapons had iron decoration (older patterns with no guard usually had a small chain which joined the grip top to the leading end of the parrying bars).

The scabbard was made from two shaped pieces of dark ash wood, which were covered with horse, calf or pig leather and attached along the rear edge with nails. The nails were knocked through a strip of tin (replaced by plate iron in 1775) which finished off the basic scabbard. This was partly covered by strips of copper or iron, which went round the scabbard, held in place by studs, alternately on the front and rear edges. These had heart-shaped holes punched in them, through which was visible red material forming a decoration reinforced with brass mountings. A small throat decoration at most 20cm long and a covering sheet extended halfway up from the point of the scabbard, above which the leather was visible. Two carrying rings were 35–40cm apart.

2) A specialist weapon reflecting the Hussars' eastern origins was the *Panzerstecher*, used until the late 18th century as an alternative to the lance against Turkish cavalymen wearing chain mail. Costing six times as much as a 1741 sabre (and consequently usually only used by affluent minor nobles), the weapon had a fine 3- or 4-edged blade up to 1.5m long, so that it was carried on the right side under the saddlecloth when not in use. The blade was made of finest steel, the grip of black leather and a scabbard being similar to a sabre pattern mounted in iron.

3) Horseshoe bag in plain brown leather with an iron buckle.

4) The 1744 pistol was 48.5cm long. This is a brown walnut-wood weapon mounted in brass with its own iron ramrod supported on two rings. The barrel is octagonal towards the lock end. In the earlier part of the 18th century, cavalry weapons were of 5/4 L  th calibre. The pistol holsters had a ring on the inside of the upper part, so they could hang on the saddle frame and the left-hand holster also carried the *Zelthacke*. The carbine was 90cm long and based on the 1744 musket, although longer weapons were often used.

5) Horse's nosebag, made of light-coloured canvas.

Papal standard 1814 presented to the 4th Hessen-Homburg Hussars. The devoutly Catholic Hungarians were very proud that a national unit escorted the Pope on his return to Rome in 1814. This one is square and painted on to thick material with a religious pole spike. (BA)





A Rittmeister with the traditional moustache worn by officers and men, although some junior officers from the late 18th century appear not to have worn them. One Rittmeister, Miklos K., had reluctantly joined up merely to follow the family tradition. At Castiglione, in 1796, he encountered a troop which he thought was heading for camp, but found himself leading a charge. He served with distinction for the next 20 years. (Umhey)

6) The Hungarian-style stirrup, made of iron with a black leather strap, differed from the European style and was a remnant of the Magyars' Asiatic origins. It was more rounded with a wider base, so that the man rode with the arch of his foot, rather than his toes, in the stirrup. With shortened straps, he could stand up in his stirrups about 15cm higher and thus put more force behind a downward sabre blow, but this exposed him to the danger of his foot being caught in the stirrup if he fell. The stirrup, shaped like a lyre with an

almost circular shape, was 13.2cm high and 14.5cm wide in its inner measurements.

7) *Sabretasche*. The tight uniform prevented a Hussar carrying anything in his pockets, so personal items and papers were carried in a *sabretasche*, a light-brown leather bag with a cloth cover decorated with the *Inhaber's* chosen symbols.

The 4cm wide *sabretasche* belt was worn round the waist under the waistsash, but the straps emerged over the top of the waistsash. The belt was comprised of four parts made of red (or Russian) leather linked by three rings to support the scabbard and *sabretasche*. On the first and third rings hung the sabre scabbard suspended on two straps. The *sabretasche* hung from three short straps, each suspended from one ring, which were shortened when riding. Its lid was made of madder red material and finished off around the edge with yellow/black woollen braid, in the middle of which was the Imperial cipher surrounded by foliated decoration in the same material. The height of the lid was 39cm, the upper width 29cm and the lower 33cm. The scabbard was hooked on to a short strap sewn towards the front to hang nearly upright when dismounted.

8) Wooden saddle frame and blanket.

The frame had a black leather support across the top and the bone button joints at either end. The circle marks the position of the round *Mantelsack*, which carried the gloves and forage cap, overall trousers when not in use and other spare clothing. The saddle blanket had no seams and measured 8 *Schuhe* by 5½ *Schuhe*, (254cm by 174cm), made in the *Karansebes* (a town on the central Military Frontier) style. It was folded under the saddle eight times, but to the front on the horse's shoulders, under the forward part of the saddle, it was folded 12 times, to relieve the direct pressure on the horse as the Hungarian saddle had no padding. Otherwise it had to be laid so that it was visible to the sides to a good hand's width. Originally in 1751, the food for man and horse was carried in a *Haabersack* across the man's shoulder, but from 1769, this food was placed in one of the two *Tornister* bags carried on hooks either side of the front part of the saddle, which now carried: in the right-side bag, bread for two days, horseshoes and nails; in the left-hand bag, horse-cleaning items, meat and vegetables. Forage was carried in the cordage to keep the overall equipment balanced.

9) Official issue water bottle, made of tin and carried on a white leather strap with iron buckle, although the older wooden bottle remained in general use (see Plate E).

A 1741 list sets out the relative costs of each piece of equipment:

Pelisse and breeches	4 Fl 30 Kr
Dolman	5 Fl 30 Kr
Mantle cloak	5 Fl 30 Kr

Shako	1 Fl 54 Kr
Boots	1 Fl 42 Kr
Waistsash	1 Fl
Ammo pouch and carbine strap	1 Fl 54 Kr
Carbine and pair of pistols	9 Fl
Saddle	2 Fl 30 Kr
Saddlecloth	3 Fl 30 Kr
Stirrups and harness	30 Kr

By November 1760, it was reckoned that the full cost of equipping a Hussar, including his horse, was 140fl.

PLATE B: SWEARING IN

Having volunteered, a new Gemeiner in the Esterhazy Regiment swear allegiance to the Empress before a priest in 1770. A Korporal NCO stands on the right, an officer on the left, wearing the Kalpak with a bag in the same colour as the troopers' shako (in units wearing black shakos, officers wore ponceau (scarlet) bags). The officer wears plain overall halina trousers, a Kalpak with a white brush over a yellow/black and black support. The lining of his dolman and pelisse is made of white fox scruff (i.e. neck and thicker) fur. His sabre is mounted in gold with a yellow/black gold thread portepee. His cane was the symbol of rank at this time – the light-brown thinner Spanish *Rohr* with a yellow/black cord. The NCO Korporal carries a brown cane and his shako has a single yellow 1.3cm wool ring near the top. He did not carry a carbine, so he only had the cartridge box and belt, with the ramrod still on the cartridge box in the old style. The men carry the 1769 sabre with iron mountings and red leather strap, secured through the hole on the guard. In the background are two six-man tents, made of white linen with blackened wood poles. The standard belt embroidered in gold or silver was made of plush velvet or fine material and was

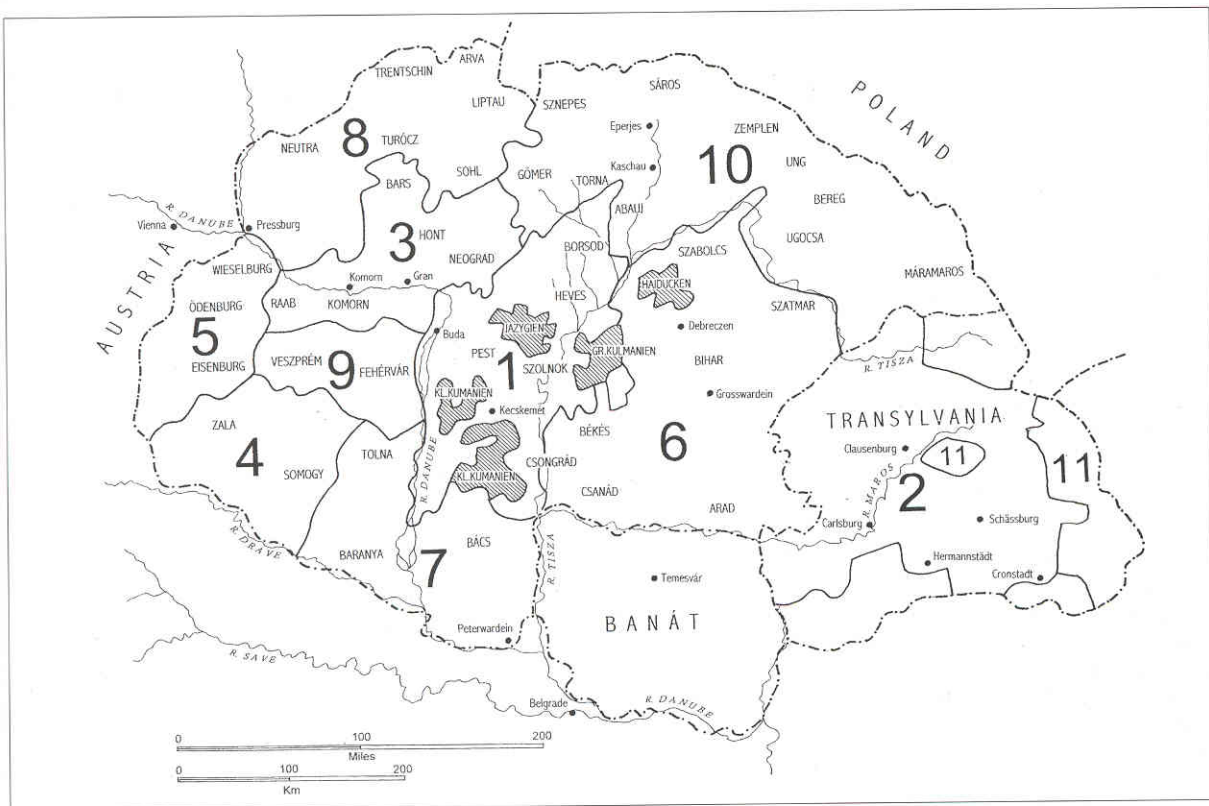
Ferenc Nadasdy (1708–83), whose charge at Kolin took him right into Frederick's camp. Other commanders who made their name leading Hussars and mixed units in *der kleine Krieg* included the Generals Buccow, Brentano, Loudon, Beck and Andreas Hadik, followed in the French wars by Frimont, Nauendorff, Karl Hadik, von Ettingshausen, Vecsey and Ott.

kept in a cover when not in use. The ceremonial *Ehrenbände* were only attached on ceremonial parades.

Written in German, one *Capitulations-Schein* for a recruit into the 1st Hussars has survived and was signed by the Wachtmeister and regimental Oberst:

Das der Recrout *Michaelis Bujdosa* von *Solnak* aus dem *Pester Comitatz* gebürthig 27 Jahr alt. *Cath. Religion Bauer* Profession *jollag*. Standes — vorhero niemahls gedient, auf Allerhöchste Bewilligung und dieser wegen untern 14. Febr 1756 ergangen hohen Verordnung auf 3 Jahr a dato der Assentirung nemlich vom dem *Jan. Monaths* Tag 7 1758 in die KAISERLICH-KÖNIGLICHE Dienste getreten ist, ein solches wird hiermit zu seiner Legitimation unter Kriegs-Comissariatischer fertigung attestiert und ihm dieser Capitulations-Schein hiermit extradiert.





The Kingdom of Hungary was divided into four parts – above/below the Theiss (Tisza) and above/below the Danube, although the main centres of population were in northern and western Hungary because of the devastation of the Turkish wars. The 12 regiments existing during the Napoleonic wars mainly recruited from: HR1 – Pest, Heves, Borsod; HR2 – Siebenburgen; HR3 – Raab, Gran, Komorn, Neograd, Hont, Bars; HR4 – Zala, Somogy; HR5 – Ödenburg, Eisenburg; HR6 – Bihar, Bekes, Csanad, Arad and the left of the Theiss; HR7 – Baranya HR8 – Pressburg, Neutra; HR9 – Veszprim; HR10 – Abaujvar, Gomor, Szepes; HR11 – Szeckler Districts of Haromszak, Csik, Aranya and part of the Hunyad Comitate; together with – Jagyzier, Kumanier and Hayduk districts.

SIGNAT den 13. Monats Dec. 1757

(That the recruit Michaelis Bujdosa born in Solnak in the Pest District, aged 27, Catholic by religion, a peasant by occupation of free status, having never served, has entered into Imperial & Royal service by gracious Imperial permission under the Instruction issued on 14 February 1756, for three years from the date of enlistment, namely 7 January 1758, this document is hereby formally authorised under the War Commissariat procedures and a copy of this document has been given to him. Signed, 13 December 1757).

Alongside his religious duties, the regimental chaplain, usually a Franciscan or Capuchin monk, taught soldiers' children to read and write.

PLATE C: TRAINING.

Recruits from the 5th Radetzky Hussars learning sword drill in 1811. On a whitewashed wall to the right is a six-pointed star with numbers round it. It is the target which the man aims at when swinging his weapon and the centre is at shoulder height.

The three men are wearing a simplified dress of a forage cap, Leibels waistcoat, blue trousers and boots and wear the sabretasche belt which only has the scabbard on it. Their headgear is the simple round *Holzmutze* (forage cap) in the shako colour with a black leather belt across the front. The man has short-cropped hair and no *Zopf*. His black wool neckstock is 10.5cm high and the shirt could not be seen above it. Over his shirt, he wears the Leibels coat, which was made from old uniforms. From left to right:

1) This man is making an attack on an infantryman. The sabre was kept at a low angle in an attack. The first move was to extend the right arm directly forwards from the shoulder, so that the right eye was looking at the top of the guard with the blade's leading edge facing the enemy, but the sword blade itself was angled sideways at about 15 degrees, so that it gave some protection to the man's head. From that position, he could lower the sabre in a straight (and so angled) line and lower the point further. The rear edge of the sabre was then used to scoop the enemy's bayonet upwards and strike down with the front edge of the sabre against the unprotected target as the Hussar now stood in his stirrups and leaned to the right to produce the maximum force behind the slash. Thus the advantage for the curved sabre was that it kept the infantryman's musket up, whereas the straight sword blades often had a small nick to catch the bayonet.

2) This man is practising bringing his sabre straight down on an enemy's head. The man starts with the sabre in the same initial position as in (1) and then raises it straight back and down. This was used in closed-up formation.

3) This man is performing the sideways cut along the line from '5' on the wall. The arm is outstretched and the sabre is now over at about 60 degrees, so that the arm can sweep horizontally along the line to the centre of the drawing on the wall, while the blade offers some protection to his head as it moves in front.

Once the full drill was mastered with both sabre and pistol, it was then practised against 'Turkish heads' – dummies made out of wood and straw. The regulations added the Caracollieren exercise, which for the light cavalry was to come 'as second nature'. The man would ride on to a rectangle and moving to the right, would work his way round a series of targets. First he would turn round to his right and at the halt, load and fire his carbine at Target A, calming his horse gently if necessary (and not by using his spurs or reins). Letting his carbine fall to his side, he would then grasp his sabre and hold it in the slanted

upright position to protect his head, before galloping to within 5–8 paces of the first corner. There he would slow to a walk and make three slashes (at the same angles as 1–3 of the painted target) and straight thrust against the first Turkish head, followed by turning his horse to the left but making a protective parry to his right side and rear. Then he would resheath his sabre and walk on to the next target. There he would turn about to his left and trot 20 paces back towards the previous corner, when on the order 'grosse Tour', he would ride in and around the second head, leaning in his saddle and looking constantly towards it. From here, he would grasp his left pistol and with the arm held straight ahead, so that the sabre hanging on the strap did not injure the horse, speed up to the trot, and, quickly taking aim, shoot at the third head, holster his pistol quickly and grasping his sabre in the slanted upright position, ride past at the trot and resheath his sabre. Then he would turn about to his right and using his right-side pistol to fire to his left, make a similar pass against the second head. Having passed the target, he would ride round it to the left and head for the first head; 15 paces

from it, he would undertake a right-side slash (No.6) and slow to a walk. Turning towards the third head, he would speed up through a trot to a gallop, and turning slightly to his left at ten paces distance, make a left-side slash (No.5), before parrying to his right rear again and swerving past the fourth head to avoid an imagined strike. Letting his sabre drop on its strap, he would return to a walk or slow trot and reload his left-side pistol, keeping his elbows in and filling the pan completely with powder as some was bound to blow away. Then he would gallop to within 25 paces of the fourth head and at the halt, fire at it. Assuming the enemy was at most only lightly wounded, he would reholster his pistol, grasp his sabre and gallop at the head, attacking it with the No.6 slash. Then he would head for the second head, riding round it before turning inwards, make another No.6 slash and turn



Hussars during the 1799 campaign (Seele), showing a small outpost, with the troopers in the new 1798 shako and one uncovered plume. The Korporal on the right holds his Hazel stock cane, which was the symbol of his authority and his plume is uncovered. (Hofschoer)

to the right to resheath his sabre. Heading at the gallop for the first head, he would make a downward thrust (as in (2) above) and at a safe distance from the enemy slow to a walk and allow his horse to catch its breath. Walking to the second corner, he would turn about to his right and gallop to the other rear corner before breaking into a full-speed gallop (*Carriere*) with his body forward and leaning to the left, to make a No.5 slash against the rear of the third head, and a No.6 against the back of the fourth head. To conclude the drill, he would slow to a walk and head to a corner to perform the sword slashes and downward blows. The troopers also regularly practised sharpshooting for *der kleine Krieg*.

PLATE D: HUSSARS OVERRUN A PICKET

Esterhazy Hussars overrun a Prussian picket from the 7th Infantry (Braunschweig, later Owstien) during the Seven Years War. A patrol of three men under a Korporal launch a surprise attack. The Korporal only differs in that he has a brown wooden cane with a black leather strap and yellow/black woollen portepée. He carries the 1741 sabre with a 77cm blade (i.e. 2cm shorter than the man's 1748), although both used the open brass-mounted-style scabbard. The plain brown wood, iron-mounted carbine is suspended from the white belt, with the butt downwards. One Hussar continues the move in Plate C (1), sweeping the back of his sabre upwards to push the infantryman's bayonet up and now, standing about 15cm up above his saddle, he is leaning to his right as he slashes down.

PLATE E: OCTOBER 1757.

Four months after Kolin, Andreas Hadik led a 5,100-strong force through Silesia to raid and ransom Berlin. Three hundred Hussars guarded his lines back to his fortified base at Elsterwerda while Oberst Ujhazy led another 300 west of the Prussian capital (garrisoned by 5,500 men) to protect the flank. The raiding force was 1,100 Grenzers, 2,000 infantry, 500 Hussars and 600 heavy cavalry with four small cannons, his infantry marching 32 miles (50km) and the cavalry as much as 50 miles (78km) per day. Hadik's arrival on 16 October was a complete surprise to the Prussians, who rejected the initial demand for tribute. At the head of 300 selected Hussars, Hadik attacked the city's Silesia gate and after a short hand-to-hand action, entered the city walls as the Prussians hastily dispatched their infantry. As his infantry moved up in support, Hadik reassembled his cavalrymen and charged the centre of the enemy infantry as the Grenzers fell on the Prussian right. After another brief close-quarters fight, the garrison broke and fled. With his men reformed inside the city, Hadik repeated his demands and the authorities offered 200,000 silver Taler, plus an additional 15,000 for the troops (approximately six months' pay per man), which prevented any looting. Hadik himself obtained a

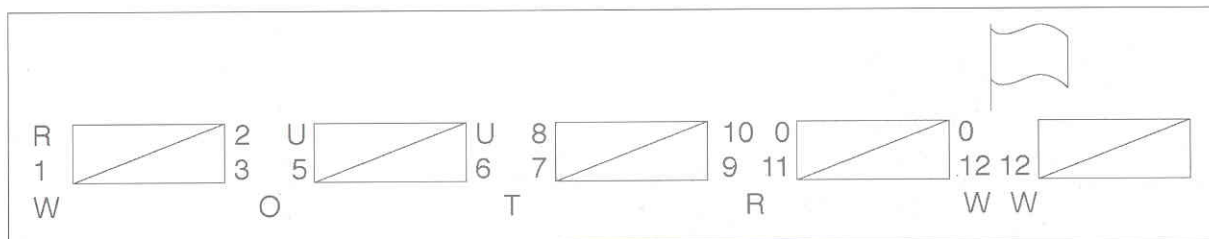
dozen pairs of silk gloves for the Empress. He then sat on Frederick the Great's throne, before (to quote another Hungarian saying) 'taking a Hussar's leave' on the 18th October. His own reward was the Grand Cross of the newly constituted Maria Theresa Order.

Outside the Berlin gold and silver coin mint, a mixed *kleiner Krieg* group from the three Hussar units and a Grenzer examine some of their booty. On the left with his horse is a man from the Hadik Regiment, the support for the carbine protruding from the front of the schabraque, which is decorated with a white swan and to the front, the royal arms of Hungary. The man in the centre is from the Karlstadt Grenz Hussars Regiment, wearing a sprig of green fir in his Klobuk as it is autumn. His *Zopf* was 5 *Zoll* (15cm) long, bound with black cloth, so that 1 *Zoll* is visible. The Hussars at this time wore the same wide red cloak as the Grenzers, the flap buttoning together when in use to form the hood. The man on the right is from the Palatinal Regiment, who has shortened his scabbard straps, so his 1748-pattern sabre hangs in the more horizontal position. The Grenzer is from the Warasdin district (Szuin Grenzer also took part in the raid).

PLATE F: A HUSSAR AT THE END OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WARS (1801) OF THE 1ST KAISER REGIMENT.

The 1751 regulation removed the *Inhaber's* rights to design the uniform, although this was only pushed through in 1767, when the uniforms were standardised and the number of colours reduced. It was intended that facings were added, but the Hussar sleeves only adopted a simplified Hungarian knot in yellow/black braid, a style copied in the early 19th century by riflemen in many armies. From 1798, the pelisse was made in three sizes. The largest size had 17 buttons and 42 *Gombassel*; the medium 16 buttons and 40 *Gombassel*; and the smallest 15 buttons and 38 *Gombassel*. All were trimmed with stiffened braid and 3.3cm wide fur made of black lambskin. The dolman was also in three sizes and made of the same material with a 4cm collar. The largest size had 17 buttons and 34 *Gombassel*; the medium 16 buttons and 32 *Gombassel*, and the smallest 15 buttons and 30 *Gombassel* made of brass or tin. The top buttons had to be tight under the neck and the lowest in line with the bottom of the back. The braid was to extend across the man's chest, because according to the 1769 regulation, 'most Hussars have a broad chest'.

Command and control within the left-side squadron of a division, formed on the standard. (Plate I of the 1807 Dienst Reglement). The 1st squadron was made up of the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th Züge, the 2nd squadron being composed of the even-numbered Züge. The numbers represent the Korporals, W = Wachtmeister, U = Unterleutnant, O = Oberleutnant, R = Rittmeister.



This simpler uniform was now worn with the *Czakelhaube* (felt shako), although officers would continue to wear the Kalpak until 1798. This shako comprised a 21.1cm high main part, initially with an 18.9cm surround (leaving a gap of 2.2cm), secured with a yellow/black wool band. Sticking out of the main part was a yellow/black plume 24cm high. At the front in the middle of the shako was a black roundel of 10.5cm diameter with narrow yellow edging. In the middle was a small yellow or white button and pointing up to the top, a 1.4cm long button strap of black wool braid. This braid was fixed on the upper edge of the shako and covered by a rosette of 5.2cm diameter, black on the inside, yellow on the outside, from which the plume rose. From 1773 onwards, as required, visors were attached on the front lower edge of the shako and then turned downwards. When not in use, the visor was stored between the surround and the top of the felt part. A peak was fixed at three points and a leather chinstrap (known as a bad weather or battle strap) secured the shako. The 1798 regulations made no change to the uniform, except that the shako was now worn on a *Sturmband* (neckstrap). From 1802, a rear peak was added to protect the neck. The forage cap and a pair of gloves were now made from old dolmans.

In 1798, new overall trousers made of grey Croise material replaced the previous white Halina overalls, and were stiffened with leather on the sabre side. The standard black Tschismen long boots were cut in the national style with strong, durable decoration at the top. The heels were 1.4cm high and still carried the metal spurs which were interchangeable between left and right. Between 1780 and 1811, the top of the boot was reinforced with a leather edging. The 1811 pattern reintroduced the yellow/black edging, which was twisted to form a simple rosette at the top front and added a new spur 1.4cm above the sole.

The 1767 regulations anticipated that the shako would last two years; the neckstock one; the pelisse uniform and sabretasche six; the dolman, overalls and *Kittel* (waistcoat) two; trousers, shirts and boots one; sabre, bandolier and cartridge box nine; saddle six; leatherwork and bridle six. The weaponry overhaul of 1798 produced a new short carbine, *Stutzen* (rifle) and pistol for the Hussars.

Following the formation of two new regiments (the 5th and 7th) alongside the regularisation of the Szeckler and Wurmser Hussars in 1798, the 12 regiments were numbered as specific Hussar regiments:

1792-98

CR2 Kaiser Leopold II (April 1792) Kaiser Franz II

CR11 Erdödy

CR16 Blankenstein

CR17 Erzherzog Alexander Palatine (1795) Erzherzog Joseph Palatine (Siebenburgen)

CR30 Wurmser

CR32 Vakát (1794) Erzherzog Ferdinand d'Este

CR34 Vecsey

CR35 Barco (1797) Meszaros

Szeckler Grenz Hussars (formed 1762)

Wurmser Freikorps Hussars (formed 1795)

1798-1815

1st (ex-CR2) Franz II (1806) Kaiser Franz I

2nd (ex-CR17) Erzherzog Joseph Palatine

3rd (ex-CR32) Erzherzog Ferdinand d'Este

4th (ex-CR34) Vecsey (1802) Hessen-Homburg

5th Vakát (1801) Ott (1809) Radetzky (1814) Prince Regent George of Great Britain

6th (ex-CR16) Blankenstein (1814) Wilhelm Erbprinz von Württemberg

7th Vakát (1801) Fürst Johannes Lichtenstein

8th (ex-CR30) Wurmser (1799) Nauendorff (1802) Kienmayer

9th (ex-CR11) Erdödy (1806) Frimont

10th (ex-CR35) Meszaros (1802) Stipicz (1814) King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia

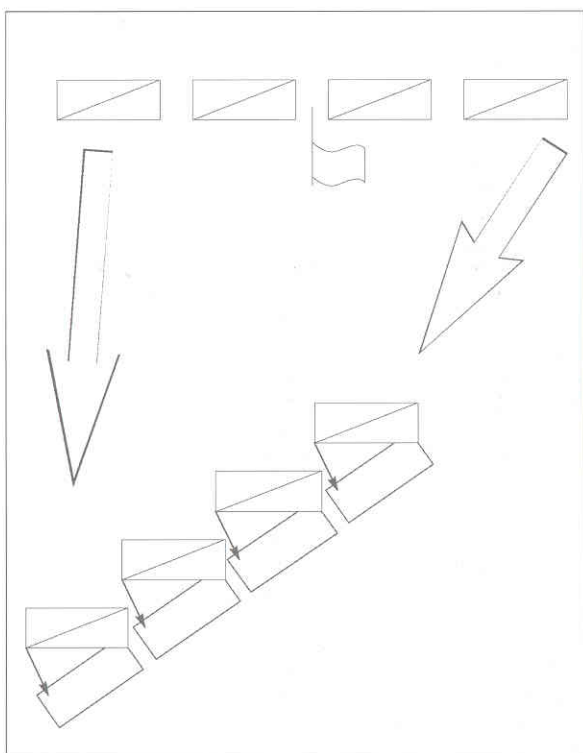
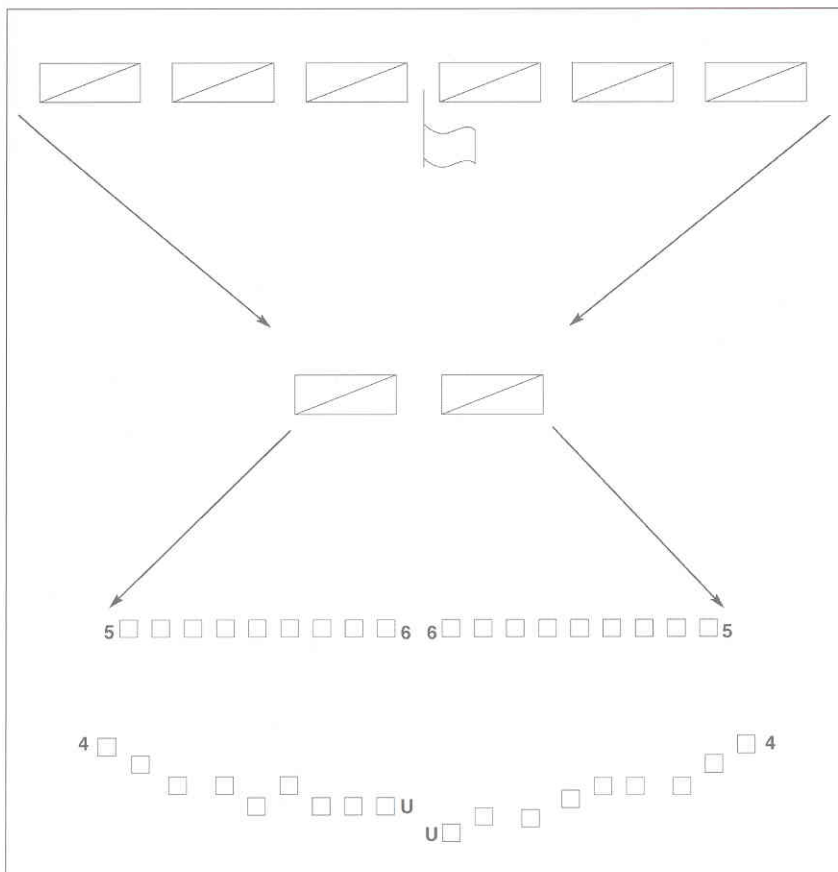
11th (ex-Szeckler Grenz Hussars) Szeckler (no *Inhaber*)

12th (ex-Wurmser Freikorps) Croat-Slavonian Hussars (no *Inhaber*) disbanded 1801; 1802, re-raised as Palatinal

1) 1769 sabre, showing the weapon and its method of construction. The total length of the blade was 84cm and the whole weapon was steel and steel mounted. The scabbard was still carried on the two longer straps of the sabretasche belt, but these now extended from below the waistsash. The red leather strap was secured around the handle and then slung round the guard and back through, measuring 45cm in all. In 1768, a new sabre was decreed made of beaten steel, although it was not introduced until 1772. Blade dimensions, the grip and the scabbard mountings remained largely unchanged, although the channel running the length of the blade disappeared. As a rank distinction from 1784, NCO sabres had brass hilts and the men had iron. The only real changes in the 1795 and 1803 patterns was the appearance of a grip ring for the NCOs; the 1808 order returned these sabres to the same pattern. There was relatively little decoration to the leather scabbard for the men, but officers, who always bought their own sabres, increased the ornate brass decoration around the throat, tip and carrying rings, a style copied by Hungarian infantry regiments. Many were decorated with broader, high-quality blades.

2) 1803-pattern sabre handle and some of the 84cm long blade. This only differed from the 1769 pattern by having a more round top, a slightly different point and a fully iron scabbard, with a more upright handle.

3) The 1798 Hussar carbine. The 1770 carbine, weighing 3.3kg and 90cm long, was a shorter version of the heavy cavalry weapon with the 1767 lock, a slightly conical ended ramrod and three barrel rings. The second ring supported the iron *Reitstangel* (carrying bar), which was also attached to the lock sideplate for carrying the weapon suspended from a 163.5cm long and 8cm wide crossbelt. The ramrod was fixed on top of the cartridge box in leather loops. From 1777, the bar was slightly bent outwards and the weapon was mounted in iron. The black-laquered 1798 weapon was issued in the new 5/4 Löh calibre and mounted in brass. Just 85.2 cm long and weighing 2.45kg, it was again a shorter version of the heavy cavalry weapon with the 1798 lock, but this gave it a disproportionately large butt. At the muzzle was a double Grenadier ring style supporting the sight, but the second ring was iron as was the *Reitstangel*. The short ramrod was now carried on the cartridge box crossbelt and was also used for the pistol. The top of the hammer was rounded and the sight was located between the lock and the last barrel ring. The iron second ring supports the forward part of the *Reitstangel* frame. The short carbine meant there was no shoe under the schabraque and the weapon hung butt downwards. The 1815 Hussar carbine had an even shorter barrel, reducing the overall weapon length to 75.7cm.



4) The first regulation pattern pistol, 48.5cm long and of 6/4 Löh calibre, had only a clasp at the end of the barrel, and was hardly entering service with the Hussars when replaced by the slightly shorter 1770 pattern, which dispensed with its own ramrod and was loaded with the carbine ramrod. Modified in 1784, it was replaced by this 1798 pistol, which would remain in service until 1860, was made of walnut wood and was black lacquered. The weapon was brass mounted with just a single brass double-barrel ring as for the short carbine. The lock was a smaller version of the new, heavier 1798-pattern musket lock with a bulbous hammer (although examples exist with flat hammers). A small brass sight was mounted on the single ring near the muzzle. Next to it is the holster in plain leather, the top being folded over to thicken the leather and reduce the effects of wear. The pistol holsters were tied, not buckled, and included a small cartridge box for eight rounds.

5) From 1788, six sharpshooters per squadron were designated to be issued with rifles on the outbreak of war. The original

pattern of *Stutzen* was based on the Jäger pattern with seven grooves in the 5/4 calibre, but its excessive weight of 4.4kg led to its early replacement by the shorter 1789 pattern modelled on a Prussian design. The 1798 black-laquered and brass-mounted cavalry *Stutzen* was similar to the 1789 pattern, but

LEFT Division forming from line for an oblique attack on an enemy line (Plate 31 of the 1807 Dienst Reglement). First, the line makes an echeloned advance led by the right and obliquely marching in that direction, before wheeling to form a new line. All turns and similar movements were conducted using the *Trab* (trot).

ABOVE Advance guard formed from the flank *Zugs* of a division (Plate 36 of the 1807 Dienst Reglement). The *Zugs* have first moved up in front of the main division and then one has formed a skirmish line with the other acting as a formed support behind. The lines are directed by the Unterleutnants and Korporals, as the Rittmeister and Wachtmeister remain with the main unit. If necessary the *Zugs* now forming the division wings will move half their strength to maintain the usual eight sub-units frontage. From the time of the 1769 Regulations, when formed in three ranks, troopers were dispatched from the rear rank to form a *Kette* (skirmish line) in front of the whole unit. The 1807 Regulation advised the men in the skirmish line to move around to avoid being an easy target.



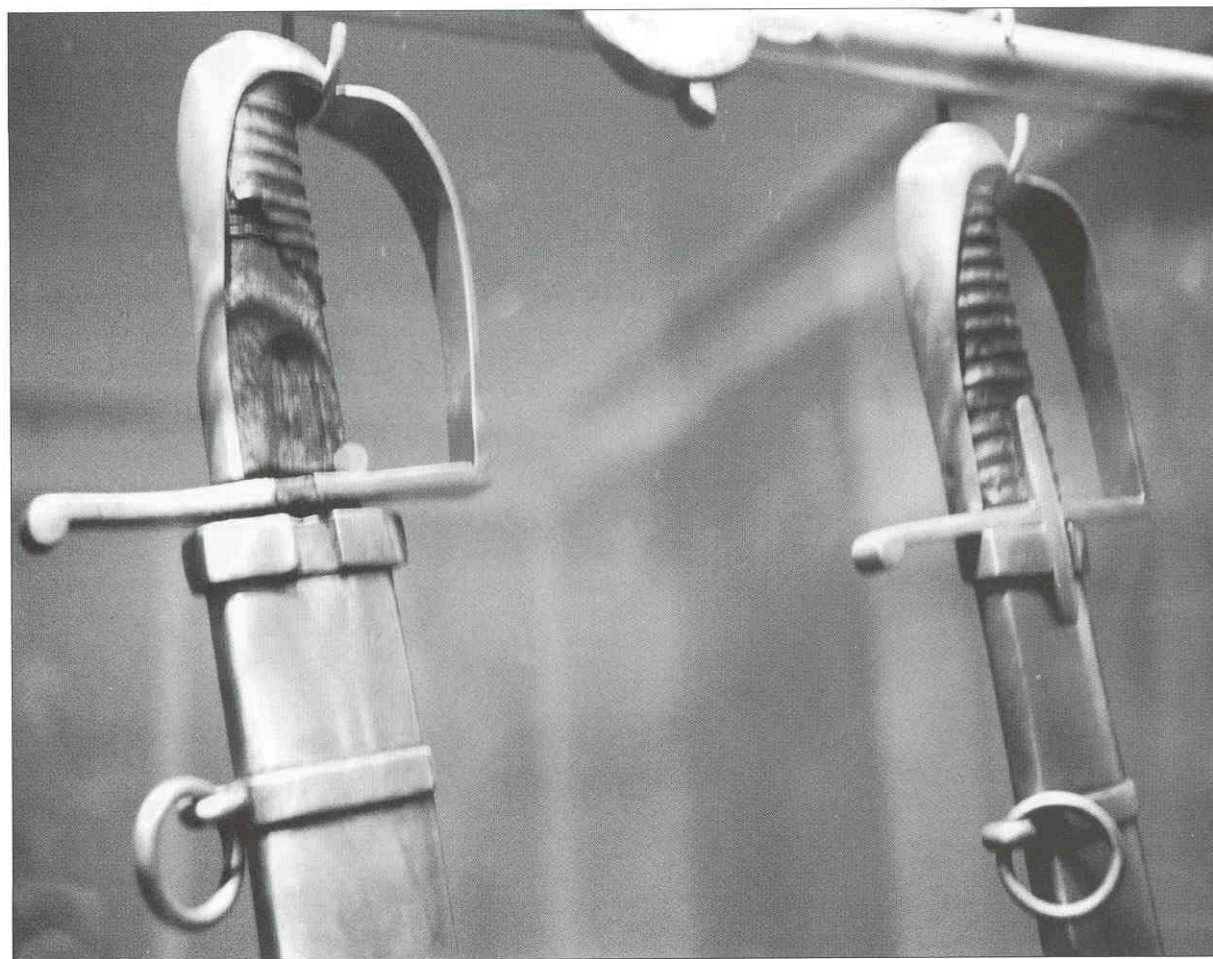
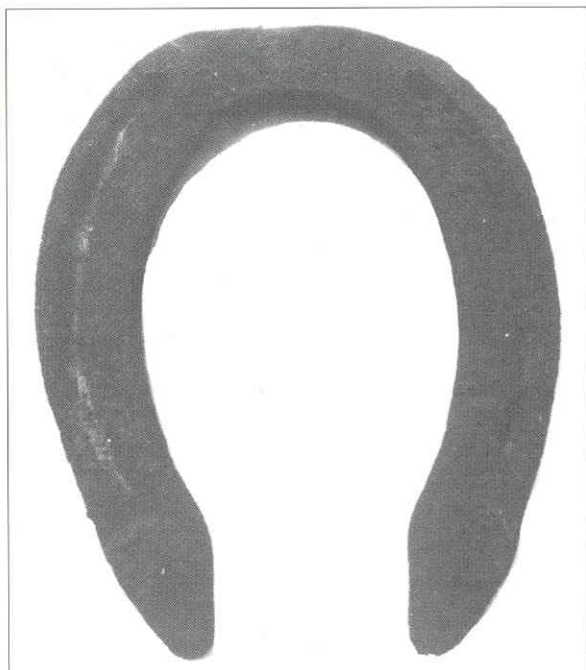
with eight tight grooves, the heavier carbine lock and a bulbous right side to the butt. The octagonal barrel had a sight and a movable brass backsight. The ramrod was carried in the same way as the carbine's. Just 69cm long, it weighed only 2.5kg and was carried on a *Reitsangel* and the ring, which clipped on to the carbine belt.

6) The 1769 cooking pot served 5–8 men as a pot and frying pan. Made of iron, it measured 25cm high when fully assembled. Goulash (a meat and vegetable stew, seasoned with paprika) has always been a particular favourite of all Hungarians and the hotter, the better. 'After a long campaign, some Hussars arrived home and their first wish was to eat

LEFT 1750s Hussar in winter (Ottenfeld). When closed, the pelisse's fur lining wraps completely around the neck. He holds his sabre at the ready on the short leather strap.

BELOW 1811-pattern Hussar bugler in parade uniform and carrying just a sabre (although he also had pistols in the saddle holsters). After the abolition of the kettle drums and their drummers in German cavalry uniforms, all control was conducted by bugle call. (BA)





goulash. All of them put a handful of paprika into the boiling goulash until it became so hot that none of them were able to eat it. Even a nearby gipsy musician and his dog were unable to eat it. That night, the Hussars were only full of laughter.'

7) The pack sack or *Tornister* (saddle pack) was originally made in white halina, a coarse wool material.

8) Horse's head with the black leather and iron-mounted bridle. The chain was hooked across from the right side in place of a bit and hooked to a ring on the left side. It made a curb unnecessary and the chain could also be used to tie the horse up when on outpost duty, making it easier for the animal to drink or eat grass.

9) Ammunition box made of black leather and worn on a white crossbelt. Note the iron pistol ramrod on the cartridge box lid in a white leather housing, with the rod attached to the belt as shown. Brass stamped Doppeladler badge.

PLATE G: IN A FRENCH HOUSEHOLD

After a successful war, men from the 9th Hussars relax in a French household in 1814 (based on a contemporary illustration). The men all have the 1803 iron-mounted sabre and full iron scabbard. The short ramrod was now carried on the cartridge box crossbelt, doubling up for use with the pistol on the narrow strap. One man enjoys a pipe, wearing his dolman open to reveal his shirt and the black wool neckstock, which was 158cm long. He is wearing the grey overall trousers with grey material-covered buttons. The dolman now has a 4cm collar (higher than the 1769 design). He wears a *Feldmutze* (forage cap) and his 1811 pattern boots. Since 1805, the hair had been worn short at about 1 Zoll (2.6cm).

Attempting to ingratiate himself with the woman of the house, the Korporal is holding a plain brown cane and white strap, his rank also displayed on his shako by a single yellow 2.3cm wool ring near the top. His sabre has the yellow/black wool portepée, but he did not carry a carbine, so he only has the cartridge box and belt, with the ramrod still on the cartridge box in the old style. The 1811 shako was 1 Zoll wider at the top than the base and retained the chinstrap dividing over the ear.

PLATE H: TACTICS.

An echeloned advance by a division (two squadrons) with a skirmish screen ahead, based on Plate 35 (advance by the 1st *Zug* of a Division for skirmishing) and Plate 6 (echeloned advance by detachments) of the 1807 Cavalry Exercier Regulation. This division has first sent forward a *Zug* (1/4 squadron) to open the engagement with the enemy, as the whole division advances for an echeloned attack. The Oberleutnant plus three NCOs have gone up ahead to direct the skirmish line, while 15 men form the support. The skirmishers act in pairs while the regulation advises them to move in small circles to reduce their exposure to enemy fire. The division now deploys for an echeloned attack by *Flugel*, each being echeloned behind the other with the standard in line with the left end of the second *Flugel* from the left. Each *Flugel* is then aligned so that the rear of the second rank is just ahead of the front of the next *Flugel*'s front rank. A retreat was usually conducted en *echequier*.

TOP LEFT Horseshoes were a vital part of the horse's equipment (HAM). The regimental Oberschmied (chief smith) supervised the squadron smiths, and each regiment had its own harness-makers and saddlers.

BOTTOM LEFT Brass-mounted 1748 pattern sabres from Forchtenstein Castle – the loss of some of the handle on the left reveals the wooden handle, leather grip and the vertical fixing piece. (Burg Forchtenstein)

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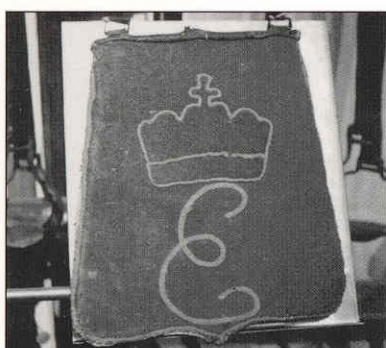
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