

The breeches were blue, very rarely trimmed with silver. Mounted officers wore black riding boots, whilst those on foot wore Hungarian boots, decorated with silver braiding and tassel. The officers' sabre or sword had a gilded hilt, sometimes silver, with a brass guard. The sword knot should have been gold but numerous representations show it as being white even for full dress.

The belt was generally of green leather, sometimes bordered with silver. The belt was closed by means of a silvered plate or hook; in the latter case the belt passed under the opening flap of the

breeches. White or black belts were equally used as well as the sabre cross-belt.

On campaign, officers often wore a single breasted surtout and replaced their shakos with the bicorne; the latter sometimes braided in silver on the edges and sides, but more often it only had the cockade braiding and tassels at the comers. On campaign, cavalry trousers were often worn over the boots. The hussar sabre, slung from a belt by two rings was also frequently used. It does not seem that the gorget was often worn on campaign.

20. *Carabinier, walking out dress, from a German engraving.*
21. *Carabinier from a drawing by Colonel Barbier.*
22. *Carabinier, classic dress.*
23. *Carabinier from le Bourgeois de Hambourg.*
24. *Voltigeur.*
25. *Officer of the 10th Regiment in 1808, from Zimmermann.*
26. *Voltigeur on campaign.*
27. *Voltigeur.*



LIGHT INFANTRY

In the previous chapter we presented an overall study of the light infantry of the 1st Empire.

We now propose to examine this same arm in greater detail and offer several complementary details.

As we have rather neglected the officers, we will start off with them. Figures 1 to 6 are dedicated to them and show clearly the diversity which would exist in their uniform, particularly in their headdress.

The carabinier officer represented in figure 1 is taken from a watercolour in the Ridder collection, presently in the Bibliotheque Nationale; it is dated 1806.

Apart from the bearskin bonnet without any cords, the peculiarities of his dress lie in the silver gorget, decorated with a grenade of the same metal, his waistcoat, piped white only around the lower edges and his silver sword-knot.

Next to him, the officer of chasseurs published by Martinet, figure 2, is a stereotype figure which, when coloured differently, can just as well be an officer of voltiguers. Published as No: 207, it seems to be dated 1810.

His shako, decorated with chevrons and a garland of laurel leaves in silver, is completed with chin-straps, cords and a shako plate of the same metal. The silver gorget has in its centre a vague object which seems to be an eagle with its wings extended. As there were some gorgets which were stamped with a horn, having in its centre a crowned eagle, the wings and head of which extend beyond the circle of the horn, it is possible that this is one of those gorgets.

We can also see on this figure the Morocco leather sword belt edged with silver, which we have already described in page 16, fig. 25.

Figure 3, showing an officer of chasseurs, is taken from the Weilland series, published in 1812.

What stands out most about his appearance is the unusual length of his coat tails and the dimensions of his hat which seem more to belong to the Consulat or very early Empire periods rather than 1812.

1. *Carabinier officer, 1806.*
2. *Chasseur officer, 1810, after Martinet.*
3. *Chasseur officer, 1808, after Weilland.*
4. *Chasseur officer, marching order 1809, after Berka.*
5. *Voltigeur officer, marching order 1809, after Berka.*
6. *Chasseur officer, full dress 1809, after Berka.*



1804-1813

Since a first series by Weilland had been published in 1808, it seems likely that this figure was republished in the second series without any modifications.

Figures 4, 5 & 6 are by Berka; they were published in 1809 or 1810. With their scarlet cuffs and with two of the three having the

same pompom, these three officers could be attributed to the same regiment.

The chasseur officer wearing the shako is in full dress and is wearing a gilt gorget with silver decorations, hussar boots, a red and a silver sword belt and a silver sword knot.

Titus', was in the minority. In a few corps, however, this style was tolerated 'Forbid false queues and allow those men that have had their hair cut short to leave it at a convenient length...' (General Vandamme's order of 21st June, 1805). In other corps, the opposite view was taken ('...from this day forth, any soldier cutting his hair short to avoid wearing a queue... whether he be a ranker or an NCO, will be put into prison.' (An extract from the daily orders of the 64th Regiment, 26th February 1805). The same regiment also forbade the growing of side-whiskers.

The bonnet de police was made of blue cloth with a wing terminating in a tassel, and was piped red along the seams. The turban, either piped or edged with red braid, was sometimes be decorated with the regimental number.

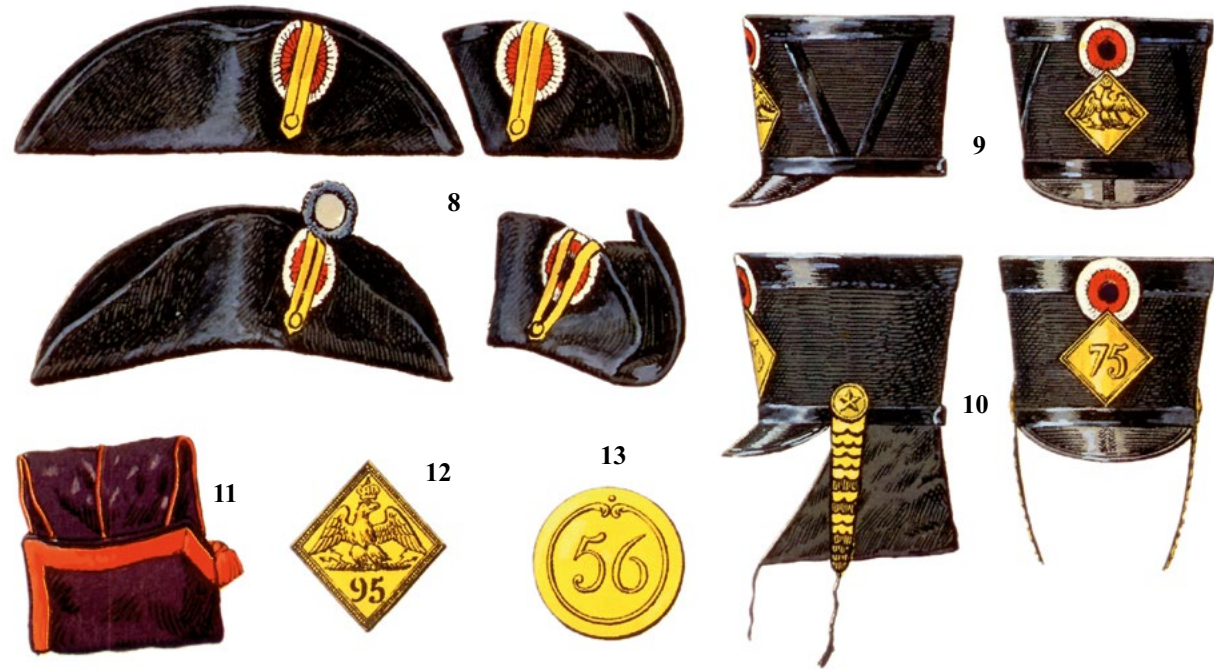
Greatcoats were not regulation wear and, while on campaign, the infantrymen wore various items of civilian clothing; cloaks, or overcoats in a variety of colours.

At the camp at Boulogne, the greatcoat officially began its long career; at first being reserved only for those due for embarkation or on their way to the camp, it was worn only during the winter and was not taken to the garrisons. In the beginning, the coats were manufactured at each regiment's own expense, with several regiments not having sufficient funds to allow them to be manufactured. Those that did have them issued probably kept them for the 1805 campaign, although they did not become regulation wear until the 25th April 1806. In September of the same year, all men of the fighting battalions should have been provided with them; they were manufactured in beige cloth of varying shades, ranging from grey to light-maroon, and were fastened with a row of either cloth or metal buttons.

For fatigues, the regiments made use of overalls or smocks.

Other equipment consisted of, besides the gaiters already decreed, walking shoes and two collars, one black one reserved for parade dress and service dress and one white one for everyday wear. The latter was often replaced by a neck-scarf either of the same colour or multi-coloured which was very thick and deformed the collar of the coat and sometimes covered the lower part of the face. Frequent orders forbidding this practice did little to prevent this fashion from spreading, as contemporary documents reveal. Whilst under arms, the wearing of gloves was forbidden.

The equipment and arms in use confirmed the regulations of the 4th Brumaire, Year X (26th October 1801). The pouch, with a plain flap, was fitted with two bonnet-straps (for the bonnet de police) under the box of the pouch and the bayonet scabbard was attached to the pouch belt. Corporals, sergeants, and sergeant-majors wore only the sabre briquet and the bayonet scabbard was attached to the sabre belt.

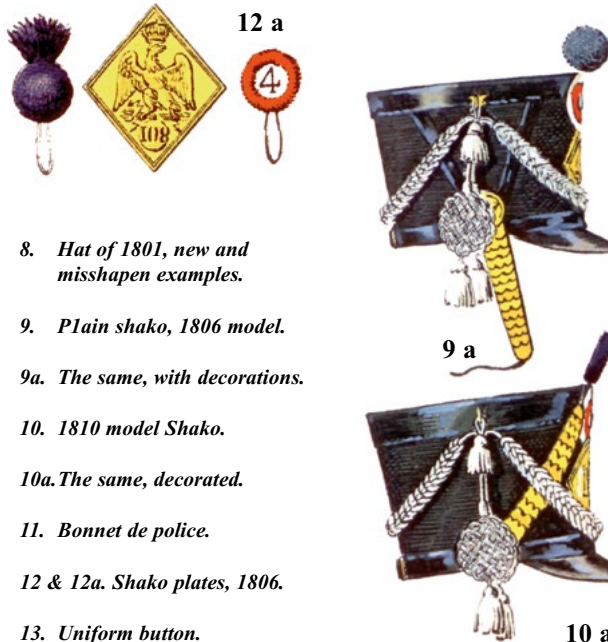


Regiments each had to meet the cost of their own equipment and it is probable that, in accordance with the state of their finances and suggestions received from soldiers and N.C.O's, several changes and improvements were made to the regulation items.

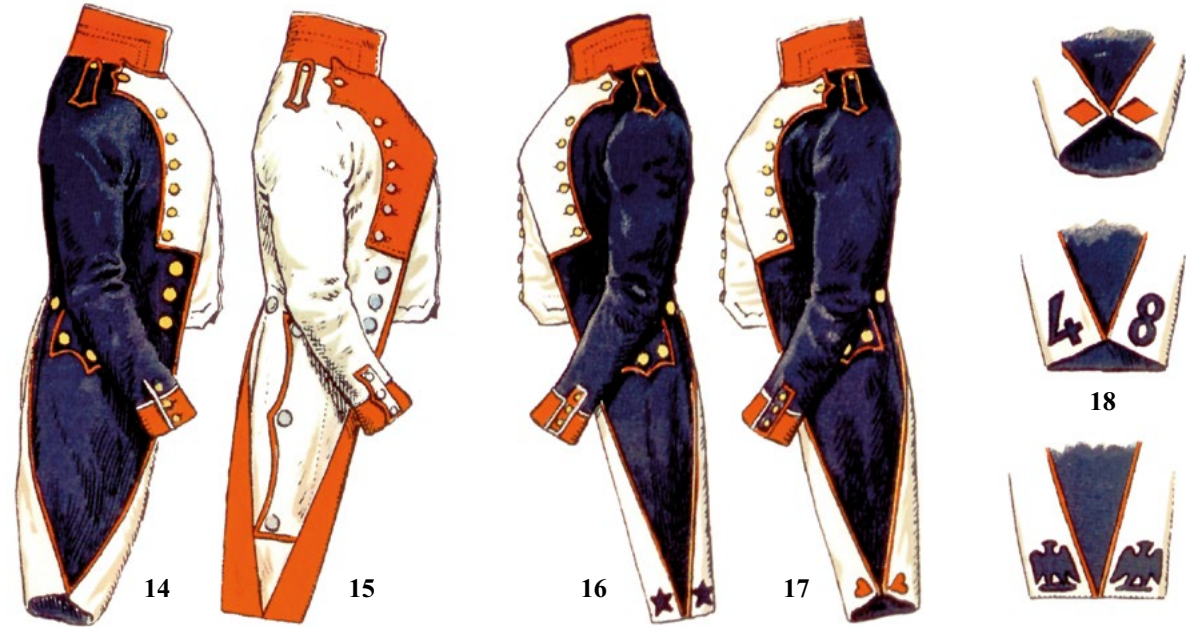
The haversack was also of the Year X model, although two straps were added to keep the rolled greatcoat in place and a third, longer strap in the centre went right around the haversack.

The shortcomings of the headgear, not being waterproof it easily deformed and was not strong enough to protect the wearer from sabre cuts, caused it to be replaced by the shako with a visor, which was stronger and gave better protection. A decision taken on the 25th February 1806, decreed that 'from the time when equipment is renewed in 1807, the shako will become the correct headress for the line infantry'.

A circular of the 27th March 1806 gives a complete description of them, thanks to which we have been able to draw a front and side view of the official model (fig. 9). Figure 9a shows the same shako but decorated with a pompom and with chin-straps and a braided cord finishing in raquettes and tassels. Each regiment finished off their shakos as they pleased; one sees shakos decorated with plumes, with or without chinstraps and with the shako cords positioned diagonally.



8. Hat of 1801, new and misshapen examples.
9. Plain shako, 1806 model.
9a. The same, with decorations.
10. 1810 model Shako.
10a. The same, decorated.
11. Bonnet de police.
12 & 12a. Shako plates, 1806.
13. Uniform button.



The large number of shako plates still in existence reveal a wide diversity in their size, shape and decoration.

The lozenge shape was the most popular, but examples can be found of round ones or eagles cut out and resting on a rectangular base. Some corps adopted a pentagon shape and others a semi-circle with sunburst rays.

On the 25th April 1806, a decree stated that the infantry would be dressed in white coats towards the end of 1806, and on the 25th of July of the same year, the relative texts on the new coat became available.

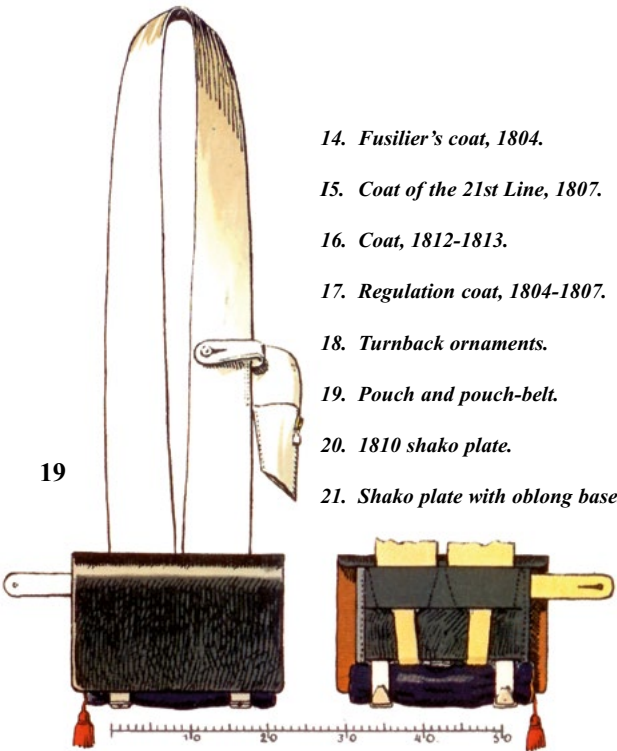
The basic colour of the coat would be white and the turnbacks and cuff-patches would be in the same colour, bordered with piping in the regimental distinguishing colour as were the pockets. These colours were set out in groups of eight regiments, of which the first four had horizontal pockets and yellow buttons, and the latter four, vertical pockets and white buttons.

The first regiment in each half-series had the collar, lapels and cuffs in the distinguishing colour; the second, the lapels and cuffs; the third the lapels and collar and the fourth, the collar and cuffs. Collars, lapels and cuffs, which were white, were piped in the distinguishing colour. The sleeved shirt of white cloth became shorter, its collar and cuffs being the same colour as those on the coat.

The distinguishing colours were as follows: Nos 1 to 8, Imperial green; 9 to 16, plush black; 17 to 24, scarlet; 25 to 32, golden yellow; 33 to 40, violet; 41 to 48; sky-blue; 49 to 56, pink; 57 to 64, aurore; 65 to 72, dark blue; 73 to 80, primrose; 81 to 88, meadow green; 89 to 96, madder red; 97 to 104, crimson; 105 to 112, iron grey.

The 3rd, 4th, 8th, 12th, 14th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 25th, 27th, 28th, 32nd, 33rd, 34th and 36th Regiments were designated to begin the change-over in 1807, but we are unsure if they all carried out the orders received.

Contemporary documents, drawings, texts and actual items, have enabled us to confirm that the 3rd, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 32nd, 33rd, 46th and 53rd did wear, although perhaps only at battalion or even at single company strength, the new uniform (texts for the 3rd, 14th, 16th and 21st; portrait of Colonel Songeon of the 53rd; drawings of the 3rd, 13th, 14th, 15th and 17th from l'album du Bourgeois de Hambourg; of the 18th from the collection of Dubois de l'Estang, of the 19th from 'La Giberne', 11th Year, 32nd from engravings by Martinet, 33rd from the Alsace Collection. Actual objects are; a fusilier's coat of the 21st, which is on display in the Musee de l'Armee, Paris, and marked as being from the 30th Regiment but has yellow buttons displaying various numbers; a fusilier's coat from the 46th in the Fichtner collection. According to



his memoires, Major Bigarre had white coats manufactured for the 4th Regiment, although but he does not say if they were ever worn.

It seems very probable that on the whole, the rules for the distinguishing colours were adhered to.

Two contemporary drawings show the 3rd Regiment as having green cuffs and patches with white buttons; the Alsace Collection gives coloured cuff-patches and turnbacks to the 33rd, the Bourgeois de Hambourg show the 17th as having red turnbacks, and the coat from the 21st in the Musee de l' Armee is the same. Finally, we should add that the 13th, 15th, 46th and 53rd were not officially designated to try out the new coat.

During the 1807 Campaign, the impracticality of the white coats quickly became very apparent, the obvious ones being the difficulty keeping them neat when even the smallest of blemishes appeared as



* TN: Aurore is a colour peculiar to the French and can best be described as a type of salmon pink.

The shoulder straps, of similar composition as before, have two or three small chains; the attaching plates have either straight or wavy edges and the terminal heart is edged with embroidery. The same row of embroidery edges the belt.

These shoulder straps with chains are fixed to the back plate by riveted fastenings ornamented with lion heads (fig. 13, page 137).

All cuirasses were furnished with a scarlet cloth ruff edged with silver braid. Around 1809-1810, senior officers added a second row of braid inside the first (figs. 3 & 4, page 135).

Officers used the sabre, called the 'battle' or 'heavy' sword, which had a straight blade with a very slight curve, blued steel engraved for a third of its length, with four grooves, the point a prolongation of the back. Its hilt was of gilded brass, with an oval and later octagonal grip, covered with leather, the guard consisting of a principal branch forming a cross ending with a quillon, together with a plate jointed to the main branch by four 'S' shaped branches and to the quillon by a smaller one and a small false interior shell. Below was a ring for the locket chape of the scabbard.

The black leather scabbard had three ornaments and two strap rings in gilded brass and an iron tip. The tip is of varying length. The scabbard could be of burnished iron with gilded ornaments sometimes hooped by brass edges.

These sabres could be fitted with curved blades without the necessity of changing the composition of the scabbard.

Many sabres, which can be said to be those of cuirassier officers, have palms surmounted by a grenade. The gold braid sabre-knot was terminated by a tassel of thread or of bullion; that for undress wear, similarly used with the sword for town wear, was of white thread.

Cuirassier officers' harness was made up of a French-type saddle covered with blue cloth with visible quilting, seat and saddle-flaps edged with blue braid, cloth saddle-girths, holsters with silvered ends, bronzed spurs, black leather martingale, chest band and crupper, sil-

vered buckles and slides, headstall and reins of black leather, silvered buckles, slides and upper curb chain, bit with half curved branches, sometimes straight at the beginning of the Empire, silvered, and with the bosses stamped with a grenade, parade snaffle and rein in silver braid, ordinary snaffle of black leather with buckle and slide silvered used even on parade in the last years of the Empire.

The saddle was placed on a large saddle-cloth, which extended from the front of the horse's shoulders to the haunches and slightly further.

The saddlecloth was piped with the distinctive colour and edged with silver braid of various widths, 50mm for colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors, 45mm for captains, 40 for lieutenants and 35

for second-lieutenants. Saddlecloths of colonels and lieutenant-colonels had a second row of braiding 15mm wide.

The rear angles generally had a silver embroidered grenade, this sometimes being replaced by the regimental number.

By regulation, the saddle-cloth would be completed by holster covers in blue cloth, ornamented with the same braid, but nevertheless, in most regiments, officers used a half-shabraque of black sheepskin, bordered with the distinctive colour, held in place on the holsters by a surcingle fitted with a retaining strap.

The half-shabraque had many advantages: first, it protected the saddle, holsters and pistols, then it allowed the rolled cloak to be positioned on top and tied to the holsters, thus enabling the officer to use it easily when it rained.

We must not forget that the officers' French-style harness did not include securing straps nor valise, as it would have been difficult to stow it on a saddle without a hind peak.

Various documents reveal that the half-shabraque was in use in 1804 in the 3rd and 8th Regiments, in 1809 in the 6th, in 1813-14 in the 3rd.

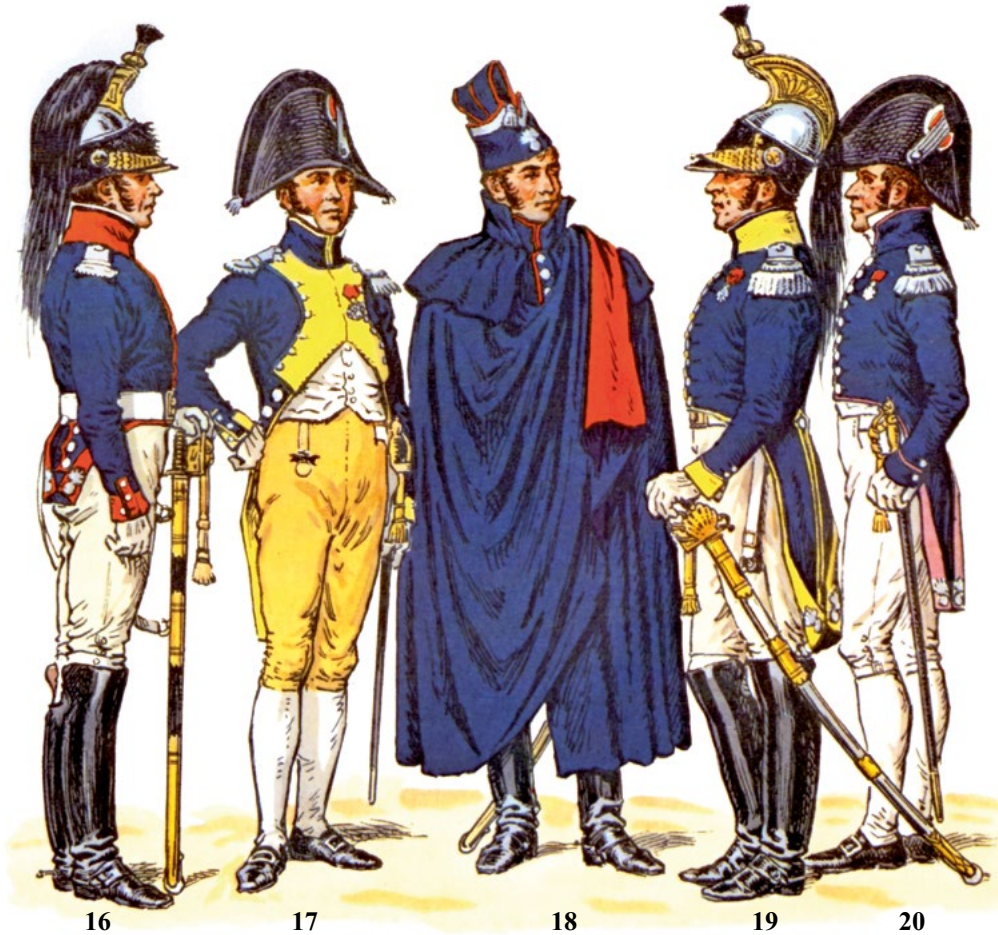
The blue cloth shabraque with long points, similar to those of light cavalry officers, was similarly used; the Dubois de l'Etang collection provides us with two examples with the round valise. Finally, we know it was in service in the 3rd Regiment for a short time in 1813.

According to Carl Vernet, officers of the 6th Regiment had, in 1807, a panther-skin shabraque edged with silver and with red scallops.

Off duty the service saddle covered with a leather saddlecloth was used with the undress saddle-cloth ornamented with blue goatskin braid, without devices in the angles and with blue holster covers.

The English saddle was also used, even in the field; it was then completed with a pair of holsters and a braided saddlecloth.

18. Officer in cloak.
19. Senior officer, 7th Regiment, in long coat (habit surtout), 1809-1812.
21. Officer in society uniform, 1813-1814.



16. Officer, 4th Regiment, in short coat (habit veste), 1804-1809.
17. Senior officer, 11th Regiment, in society uniform.

CUIRASSIERS

For a long time, the documents at our disposal which related to the trumpeters of the regiments of cuirassiers of the 1st Empire were limited to some drawings, most often inspired by the engravings published by Martinet in 1811.

This last, used to represent the trumpeters of several regiments without taking account of the differences which existed between one unit and another, only gives us a very imperfect idea of those men who formed the Heads-of-Column of these handsome regiments.

The trumpeters displayed by Margot and Norman, and by Valmont, the ones that appear in the collection of little soldiers of Alsace, and perhaps those which were drawn by Lieutenant-Colonel Jolly, all probably have their source in Martinet and are interpreted, to a greater or lesser degree, according to the personal conception of the author.

Since 1940, a new documentary source has been available to us. It arises from the Marckolsheim Manuscript, found by chance in 1940 in the town of that name, and now, perhaps, forever lost because of the war.

It contained a number of cuirassier trumpeters and, as such, we are able to fill some gaps.

Doubted by some, accepted by others, this little book is open to question as are all human works; all the same, as many of the types which it contains are confirmed by other documents or by texts, one should not consider it to be of negligible importance.

The plate that includes a set of drawings of cuirassier trumpeters only shows the first six regiments. This was in order to limit the number of colours and thus the individual printing plates required at the original printing.

From the final creation of the regiments of cuirassiers, the Decree of 1 Vendemiaire, Year XII (24th September, 1804), decided that only changes in cut be made to their uniform, which went with the arm of the cuirassiers.

While waiting for their short coats, the old 'habit' coats of the cavalry regiments were kept merely for wear with the armour, and the trumpeters also kept theirs.

1. Trumpeter of the 1st Regiment, 1809-1812, after Martinet.
2. Trumpeter of the 6th Regiment wearing a cuirass, 1806-1807, (Marckolsheim).
3. Trumpet-major of the 5th Regiment, 1808, (Marckolsheim).
4. Trumpeter of the 2nd Regiment in surtout.
5. Trumpeter of the 1st Regiment, 1808 (Reconstruction).
6. Trumpeter of the 4th Regiment in Imperial Livery, 1813-1814.

Trumpeters (I). 1804-1812

As well as the usual stripes, logical ornamentation for a lapel-less habit-veste consisted of double buttonhole braiding loops of white lace placed one at each button.

The adoption of the habit-surtout in 1809 led to a change in the cut of the garment.

This coat with long tails, buttoned straight down the chest like the first habit-veste, but by means of a row of ten buttons according to the official specifications but probably of nine in practice. It lost the

