

The Napoleon Series

The Uniform of the Jerome Napoleon Hussars

By [Paul Lindsay Dawson](#)



Martinet print of 13th Hussar. Note the buff coloured leather belting. The Bleu de Roi Hungarian Breeches were in fact not worn by this regiment. The Dolman was only worn by Adjutants. Neither was the Hussar Barrel sash worn. Collection and Copyright of KM

The uniform of the French 13th Hussars in 1813 has been the subject of discussion by war gamers, historians and illustrators. This paper seeks to present the uniform of the regiment during its short existence of January to July 1814.

By imperial decree of 6 August 1813, Napoleon “presented” his brother Jérôme – King of Westphalia – with a regiment of hussars. The regiment was formed at Kassel under the orders of Colonel Brincard. The cadre were to come French and Westphalian regiments, as well with new recruits from Lorraine. This regiment became the hussar regiment “Jérôme Napoléon” of the Westphalian Guard and was initially supplied with horses from the depot of the Westphalian Guard Chevaux-leger, because the majority of the complement arrived in Kassel without horses. In October 1813, the regiment accompanied the King during his flight to France, becoming on the 1st January the 13th French Hussar Regiment. The regiment was reformed at Masstricht, which become a temporary depot. During the 1814 campaign the regiment was at Acris-Sur-Aube, la Chaussee and fought at Montmirail on 9th February.

With the restoration of the Bourbons, the regiment was disbanded the men transferred to new regiments. On the 11 August, the regiment had 44 officers, namely 1 Colonel, 2 1st Majors, 2 squadro0n commanders, 3 Adjutants, 1 quarter-master, 3 surgeons, 14 captains, 9 lieutenants and 9 sub-lieutenants. For the other ranks, 159 men were present with 118 horses, comprising the following men:

2 adjutant-sub-officier, 1 veterinarian, 1 corporal trumpeter, 3 master workmen, 10 sergeant majors, 24 sergeants, 3 fourriers, 23 corporals, 4 trumpeters, 88 troopers.

All the other ranks were transferred to the 5th Lancers. The senior officers were either sent home or admitted to the 5th Lancers. On the 6th August 1814 19 horses were sold for 1,738francs. [\[1\]](#)

Their uniform comprised on 11 August 1814:[\[2\]](#)

Item	In service, but due to expire in the next year.	In need of repair	To be replaced	Items short	Observations
Pelisse	61	16		15	The effectives are 130 men, including 8 men who had been given their discharge, two have been passed to the Gendarmerie
Dolmans	3	1		126	
Schakos	81	15	3	31	
Cloaks	71	3		56	
Stable coats	65	24	5	36	
Pantalons a Cheval	58	22		50	
Bonnets de police	14	8	9	99	
Trompette	4				

Thus we see that in 1814 the regiment wore Pelisse and Pantalons a Cheval, as opposed to the Pelisse and Hungarian Breeches.

The following items of equipment were in use at the date of disbandment: [\[3\]](#)

Item	In service, but due to expire in the next year.	In need of repair	To be replaced in the next year	To be replaced	Items short	Observations
Waistbelt	104	18		4	4	130
Gibernes	118	12				
Giberne Belt	130					
Sword Knot					130	
Portmanteaux	94	4		2	30	
Gloves					130	
Pairs of Boots	17	21	1	2	89	
Carbine belt	91				39	
Sabretache	58	1		1	70	
Sword Knot	11	1			118	

Harness and Saddlery in use were: [\[4\]](#)

Item	In service, but due to expire in the next year.	In need of repair	To be replaced in the next year	To be replaced	Items short	Observations
Saddles	85	43				118
Curb Bridles	94	36				
Bridoon head piece	58	1			59	
Stable head collars	121	4	1		1	
Bradoons					118	
Breastplate and surcingle	118					
Schabraques	91	35	3			
Saddle Blankets	74		25	17	2	

Armament was as follows: [\[5\]](#)

Item	In service, but due to expire in the next year.	In need of repair	To be replaced in the next year	To be replaced	Items short
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Musketoon	57	11			
Sabres	128	1			
Pistols	10				

Small equipment comprised: [\[6\]](#)

Item	In service, but due to expire in the next year.	In need of repair	To be replaced in the next year	To be replaced	Items short	Observations
Shirts	199					
Cloth pantaloons	6					
Black Stock	59					
Socks						
Pairs of shoes	38					
Oat bags	18					
Musette	43					
Pairs of scissors	12					
Sponges	32					
Comb	35					
Brushes	47					
Curry Comb	46					
Pairs of forage ropes	18					
Pay book	75					

Stocks of material in the regiments depot comprised [\[7\]](#)

Item	Amount	Observation
Bleu de Roi wool cloth	223meters 64	
White wool cloth	58meters 60	
Iron Grey wool cloth	1meter 3	
Iron Grey serge	5meters 98	
Bleu de Roi serge	317meters 43	
Large buttons	92 dozen and 3	
Lambskins	5	
Square lace	1107 meters 70	
Yellow lace	909meters 56	For 18 cordons and tresses

What is noticeable, is the total absence of any scarlet cloth from which to make dolmans. The regiment was in theory dressed like the French 9th Hussars, with a scarlet dolman, faced blue, Bleu Clair for the 9th laced yellow, and a much darker Bleu de Roi

for the 13th, again with yellow lace. The Hungarian breeches were to be Bleu de Roi, The pelisse was also Bleu de Roi. The Iron grey serge [tricot] was perhaps used for the pantaloons a cheval, the white wool for the trumpeters dolman and pelisse.[\[8\]](#) The iron grey wool cloth may have been used for the manteaux.

In the regiment's magazine were the following items: [\[9\]](#)

Item	Quantity
Carbine slings and clip	36
Giberne	39
Giberne belt	35
Sabretache	10
Sabretache slings	13
Waistblets	35

Weapons in the magazine were: [\[10\]](#)

Item	Quantity	Observation
Sabres	44	Also 51 sabre scabbards
Carbines	46	With 51 bayonets
Pistols	0	

Items of harness and saddlery in depot comprised: [\[11\]](#)

Item	New	In good condition	To be repaired	To be replaced	Items short	Observations
Wooden Saddle tree		100	43			
Bridle fittings			14			
Carbine bucket			4			
Over girth		80	24			
Breastplate			2			
surcingle			48			
girth		87				
crupper			69			
Stirrup leathers and irons		137	15	20		

Thus the archives of the regiment at disbandment in 1814 show us that the regiment wore the pelisse and pantalon a cheval during the campaign of France, and never it seems, had Hungarian breeches. Only 3 dolmans were issued, to the regiments adjutant-sub-officers.

Notes:

- [1] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [2] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [3] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [4] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [5] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [6] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [7] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [8] [The 13th Hussars](#)
- [9] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [10] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814
- [11] SHDDT Xc 183 5e et 6e Lanciers 1811 - 1814

Placed on the Napoleon Series: February 2016