

l'Armée Française
UNIFORMS-EQUIPMENT-ARMAMENT



*Drawings by Michel Pétard from various sources
(L'evolution de l'uniforme: 1670 - 1812)*

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EXTRACTS FROM
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DRAWINGS AND DEMENTIONS OF THE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT
EXECUTED BY MICHEL PÉTARD

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L'EVOLUTION DE L'UNIFORME D'INFANTERIE 1670-1812

Introduction

No careful military historian would claim that French troops wore uniforms before the personal regime of Louis XIV (1661-1715), for the evidence points to the contrary. When large lots of clothing were distributed, the same batch was often broken up among many different units. Perhaps if a town supplied a single regiment with a refit of clothing, as in 1627-28, there might have been a moment of uniformity, simply because it was convenient to make similar outfits, but absolutely no policy set color, and it was only a matter of convenience to set the cut by means of sample coats, as in 1674. Instead of uniforms, regiments and entire armies declared their allegiance by wearing emblems or tokens struck in the hatband or some other visible place. For example at the battle of faubourg Saint-Antoine in 1652 (Third Fronde, 1651-58), the army that prince de Condé (1621-86) commanded wore straw, while the king's men wore paper. Such marks of loyalty could be quickly discarded if that loyalty became inconvenient. During the Wars of Religion, which went on and off from 1562 to 1594, troops wore sashes of particular colors to advertise their party and their captain. The wearing of a captain's colors was not uncommon; it dated back to the XV century. By a directive of 9 February 1584, *gendarmes* and archers of the *gendarmerie d'ordonnance* (first permanent troops established on 25 May 1445) were to wear cloaks and *hocquetons* (quilted garment worn under armour) in their captain's colors, a fashion that carried over into the 1600s.¹ But this was not a complete uniform. Perhaps, the earliest true uniform in the French service was that worn by Concini's guard during the minority of Louis XIII, 1610-17.²

The first standardized uniforms for French units came in 1657, when Louis XIV gave his *Maison du Roi* (particularly Gardes du Corps, or bodyguard) companies blue outfits.³ But when the king took power in 1661, no directions for cut or color determined the dress of French line regiments. Daniel claimed that in the same 1661, several companies of the Gardes Françaises wore the following uniforms: the Maupeou's company was dressed in grey with a plume on the hat, the Rubentel's company had grey coats with blue stockings, the Castelan's company had red *justaucorps* or *casaquins*, the Hautefeuille's company – red stockings and fur lined frieze caps; however, they followed little more than the whim of the captain.⁴ Only by ordinance of 16 January 1665 did at least the officers of this regiment adopt the blue *justaucorps*.⁵

In the line infantry a start was made at the same time, and in 1666 *de Carignan-Salières* Regiment in Canada was in brown lined with grey or white, while *de Lyonnois* was seen in grey with red lining, stockings and ribbons. Frémont d'Ablancourt's *Memoirs* claimed that the French corps serving in 1668 under General F.-A. Schomberg in Portugal against the Spanish adopted grey uniforms lined with different colors in imitation of English regiments⁶ (in 1645 for their New Model army; it stipulated only that red would be the color for all regiments).

¹ Philippe Contamine, *Histoire militaire de la France* (Paris, 1992), vol. I, p. 224.

² Audouin, *Histoire de l'administration*, vol. II, p. 157.

³ Louis André, *M. Le Tellier et Louvois* (Paris, 1942), p. 355.

⁴ P. Daniel, *Histoire de la milice française* (Amsterdam, 1721), vol. II, p. 201; *Uniformes* magazine No. 80.

⁵ SHAT, Bib., *Col. des ord.*, vol. 21, # 101, The ordinance explicitly states only what officers were to wear, however, André in *M. Le Tellier*, p. 355, and A. Corvisier in *Louvois* (Paris, 1983), p. 110, do interpret this as meaning the men as well.

⁶ Cited in René Chartrand, *Louis XIV's army* (Osprey Men-at-arms series, No. 203, London, 1988), p. 21.

At a review held at Breteuil in 1666, some regiments stood in uniform, which may have been a product of the generosity or vanity of their colonels, or these units might have been foreign for the line army of Louis XIV, foreign regiments in French pay led the march towards uniformity. When, for example, Minister marquis de Louvois (1641-91) reviewed the German regiment of Alsace in 1669, they were “all dressed in a single fashion”, and at a review a few days later, other Germans in the Furstenburg Regiment were all dressed in blue, faced with yellow.”⁷

Yet when Louvois concerned himself with native French regiments, there seemed no interest in enforcing uniform attire. Although a January 1665 regulation enforced uniform clothing on the mounted troops of the *Maison du Roi*, in his instructions from 20 December 1668 to Jean de Martinet, the lieutenant-colonel of *du Roi* Infantry Regiment the minister cautioned that “it is not at all necessary to ask officers to have their clothing all the same nor made at the same time ... but you must not allow, no matter what, that the soldiers be badly shod or badly dressed, nor that the arms not be in a state to serve, either by the caliber of their muskets or by their quality.”⁸

The monarchy authorized officers to deduct money from their men’s pay packets to pay ever higher clothing bills. This practice had precedents before the personal regime of Louis XIV; however, such deduction only became the rule for the French army by royal ordinance of 24 May 1666. In that year, officers in the Trois-Évêchés region were authorized “to retain 1sol per day from the pay of each soldier in order to clothe him and furnish him with other necessities.” Later on 5 December 1666, he extended this deduction permanently to all the army. The new ordinance commanded that “captains and officers commanding companies of infantry... will retain 30 sols per month from the pay of each soldier, the said 30 sols will be employed by the said officer for clothing, shoes and other necessities of said soldier...”⁹ The accounts were supervised every three month by *commissaires des guerres*.

The cost of soldiers’ clothing rose sharply. In the early 1640s, the War ministry was able to purchase a suit of clothing for an infantryman for from 10 livres 6 sols to 13 livres 7 soles; in about 1650, the cost stood already at 15 livres.¹⁰ The price of an infantryman’s outfit climbed to 36 livres, and by the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14) it had jumped considerably again.¹¹

The period of peace after the Dutch War (1672-79) moved the process along. Correspondence concerning clothing in the early 1680s did not stress uniforms for the rank and file and only insisted on clothing of the same color for officers. In his letter dated 11 May 1682, Louvois wrote concerning infantry: “His Majesty desires only that all the officers of the same regiment be dressed in the same color.”¹² But an ordinance of 1685 prescribed particular colors for regiment in French service: blue for the Gardes Françaises, red for the Swiss and grey for regular French infantry.¹³

Note that from 1687, the French units were obligated to use cloth made in their homeland which often consisted of undyed wool from Languedoc whose color might range from cream white to a steel grey faced with red, blue yellow, etc. Although the army would seem to have adopted uniforms for regular regiments during the Nine Years’ War (1688-97), the first regulation detailing the fabric, color and cut of uniforms in detail appeared on 26 May 1704.¹⁴

⁷ 19 and 24 May 1669, in Camille Rousset, *Histoire de Louvois* (Paris, 1886), vol. I, p. 186.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. 208.

⁹ SHAT, Bib., *Col. des ord.*, vol. 21, # 139,166; in L. André, *M. Le Tellier...*, pp. 340-42.

¹⁰ L. André, *M. Le Tellier...*, pp. 72n, 334.

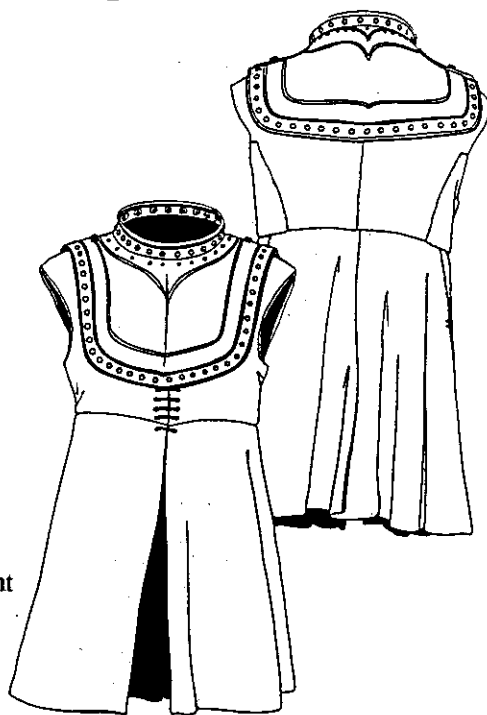
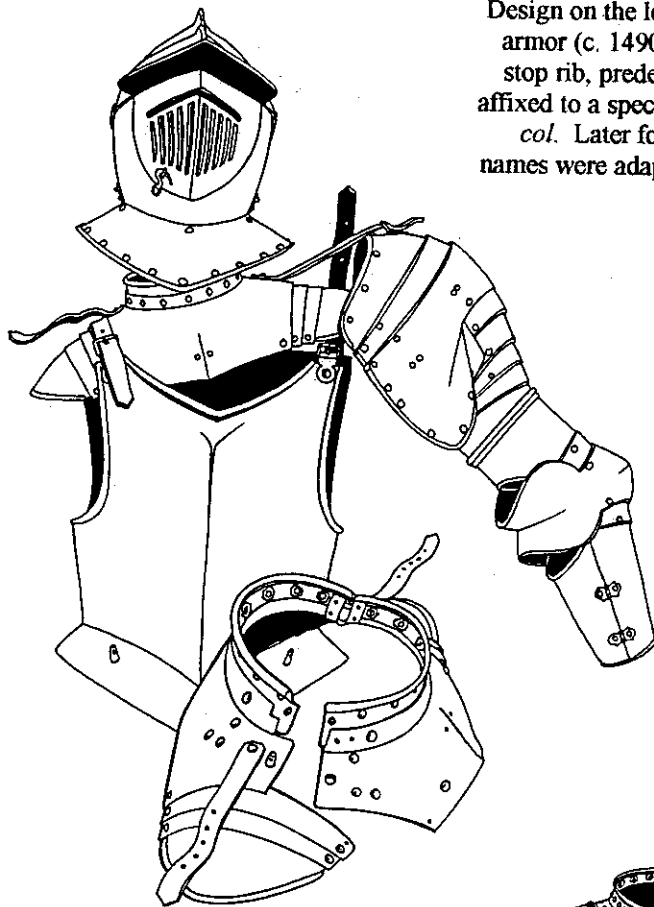
¹¹ Victor Belhomme, *L’armée française en 1690* (Paris, 1895), p. 26.

¹² C. Rousset, *Histoire de Louvois* vol. III, p. 294-95.

¹³ P. Contamine, *Histoire...*, vol. I, p. 406.

¹⁴ Victor Belhomme, *Histoire de l’infanterie en France*, (Paris 1893-1902), vol. II, 396-97.

Design on the left represents part of the German armor (c. 1490) provided with a gardbrace and stop rib, predecessors of the epaulettes. It was affixed to a special chest plastron, called *hausse-col*. Later for this part of equipment the new names were adapted, such as *barbière*, *gorgière*, *gorgerette*, or *gorgerin*.



On the right, a *buffle* (buffalo leather) equipment of cavalier during the Louis XIII reign. This defensive part that changed large *hausse-col* was an effective enough against the cold steel.

Figure 1 – 1667

The garments of the soldier before 1670 were similar to those worn by civilians. Facings rested on the elbow and enclosed very full cuffs.

The hat was round with a relatively narrow brim. Also, from the 1660s the king wanted his officers in regimental uniforms. Rank distinction was attempted by the amount of lace on a coat.

The musketeer's basic equipment consisted of a buff *bandoulière* slung over the left shoulder holding a ball bag and the 12 charges in the cylindrical containers, baptized 'the Twelve Apostles'. Another buff *bandoulière* over the right shoulder, known as *le baurdrier porte-épée*, held the sword.

In 1667 at the *du Roi* Regiment were created first distinctive soldiers – grenadiers; they carried a grenade pouch and cartridge pouch.

This period saw the gradual replacement of matchlock muskets by flintlocks (*le fusil*) first appeared in 1665. General Vauban's invention of socket bayonet spelt the end of the pike.

Figure 2 – 1696

The skirt of the *justaucorps* (coat) was fuller, the back slit decorated with false buttonholes. Up to five dozen buttons might have garnish the coat, usually of brass or pewter. The pocket tabs varied considerably in shape. Waistcoats (which were not an issue item, and may not have been worn by some) and breeches appeared to have often been of the coat color, but the stockings of the facing (lining) color.

The hats, which finally became flatter, were increasingly turned into tricorns from the 1680s. Their brims were usually edged with 'false gold' or 'silver' lace (chip metallic and thread-mixed lace) for the men, real gold or silver for NCO and officers.

In December 1683 new equipment was introduced, consisting of a buff waist-belt

with a sword frog on the left side. In the 1690s the ventral cartridge box, with a wooden form drilled for nine or ten cartridges, was introduced, and slowly became standard equipment. Officers and sergeants had shoulder-sword belts edged with lace, until the early 1680s when waistbelts came into fashion.

Flintlock was soon the only type of musket to be seen and the matchlocks were at last officially abandoned on 15 December 1699. Pikes, which were still carried by Swiss units, were finally abolished on 1 October 1703. At the same time, the first paper cartridges appeared.

Uniform for the grenadiers was the same, except headdress – they wore fur-trimmed caps with the flame *à la dragonne*. They also were armed with sabre for distinction.

Figure 3 – 1710

Around this time, the soldier's coat became increasingly full. Shoulder straps used for securing equipment were often worn on the left shoulder. Very few regiments had coats with laced buttonholes, but many units would lace the waistcoats. The wide-brimmed hat was henceforward three cornered with a cockade, either black or white – there were no set rules; in 1767 white for all was finally ordered.

The equipment gradually improved in quality. The cartridge holder was fixed to the *ceinturon* or waistbelt. The sword frog also served as bayonet frog and the belt holding the powder flask was strengthened.

Figure 4 – 1720

Uniform had hardly changed, although the corners of the hat, which was made of a black felt, were considerably raised. The tricorns for the men were edged with wide false 'silver' or 'gold' lace and were of same color as buttons on the uniform

A new model of musket was adopted pursuant to 1717 regalement. It had the

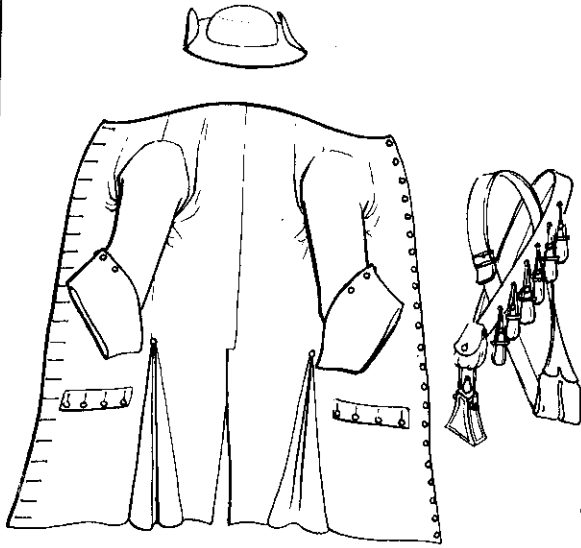


Figure 1
1667

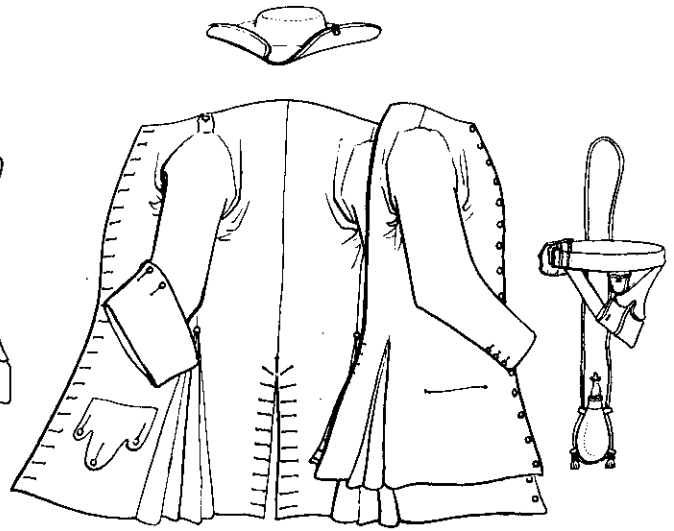


Figure 2
1696

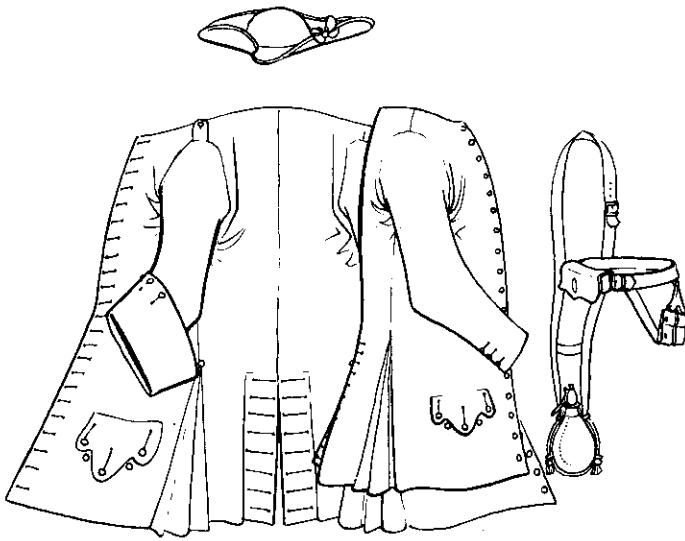


Figure 3
1710

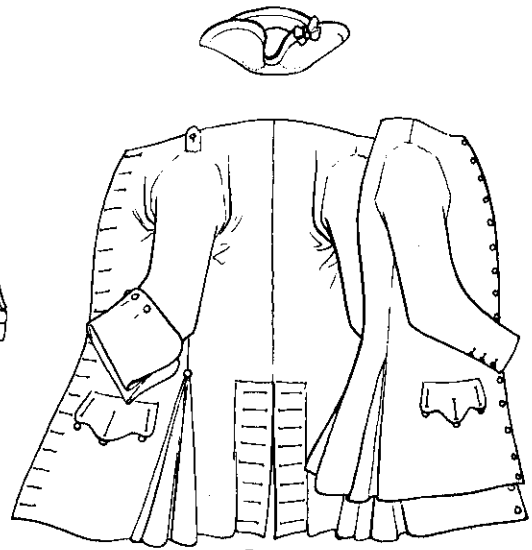


Figure 4
1720

addition of leather sling held by a steel barrel band and swivel screwed into the stock. Bayonets had a long triangular blade with no branch. The soldiers also were issued a chip, straight-bladed sword with brass hilt, often with a cast brass grip.

Around 1720 the grenadier lost his role as a grenade thrower; he became just élite rank.

In March 1729 a first ordinance was issued concerning infantry uniforms ordinance. Officers were henceforth ordered to procure themselves regimental uniforms at their cost and to wear them on duty.

Figure 5 – 1736

The royal ordinance of 20 April 1736 streamlined and simplified the dress of the French infantry. The grey-white coat had folds only on the side; the cuffs were to be ‘boot’ style and half as large as usual with open buttonholes, so they can be unfolded over the hand. Buttons in front were only to go down to the level of pockets and not lower. The coats were single-breasted (double-breasted for sergeants) with 9 to 12 buttons in front. The waistcoats were ordered to be shorter and strictly grey-white; they were not to have pockets or pocket flaps either, but this directive was largely ignored. Turned down collars appeared and the tie was henceforward black. The hat now had lower corners.

By 19 January 1747 the waistcoats were again allowed to be ‘colored’ and to have pockets and pocket flaps, though still no pocket buttons; they were in use until 1753.

Breeches were also grey-white. Also, each soldier was and corporal was to be issued with the pair of gaiters in white cloth for or grey for fatigues. Stockings now had to be paid by the soldiers himself.

The cartridge pouch, formally worn on the sword belt, was henceforward worn on the cross belt – the contents did not change. Such pouch contained 19 to 20 holes and was covered in red or black cow hide.

A powder flask was made of wood with a leather covering and wood stopper to make cartridges. The flask was carried either

fastened to the pouch or hung across the chest on a cloth or leather lace. It could be of reddish brown or black leather with the flap either engraved or stamped with the king’s arms or left plain.

Soldiers were armed with 1728 model army musket with steel barrel bands and wooden ramrods (replaced by steel ones in 1741), bayonets and *épée à la mousquetaire*, worn until 1764.

From the later 1750s a growing number of regiments whitened their belts, a feature that became official after Seven Years’ War.

Regiments were distinguished both by the color of facings and by the shape of their pocket flaps and by the color of the buttons, brass or pewter, which was the same as that of hat lace.

By 1737 officers were ordered to wear uniforms at all times with their troops. On duty they also wore a gilded gorget. Note that French officers first wore epaulettes by ordinance of 1759. Up to the rank of captain they were armed with musket (c. 1755).

Figure 6 - 1762

The ordinance of 10 December 1762 imposed the turned down collar and lapels; in some regiments it was adopted after 1760. Turned up skirt also became permanent.

After the Seven Years’ War, the French uniform began to copy the Prussian model: the garments became tighter, to allow easier use of arms. Facings were close to the sleeves and the jacket was shortened. Buttons were of two sizes and bore the stamped number of the regiment; they were of brass or pewter. Generally, from 1758 the coat cuffs and pockets each had three buttons and most of the pocket flaps were put horizontally.

Equipment barely changed; by 20 March 1764 fusiliers officially abolished the sword, but continued to be carried by NCO’s. Note that grenadiers carried sabres of various sorts until 1767, when a short sabre model with a slightly curved blade was ordered for all infantry NCO’s and grenadiers.

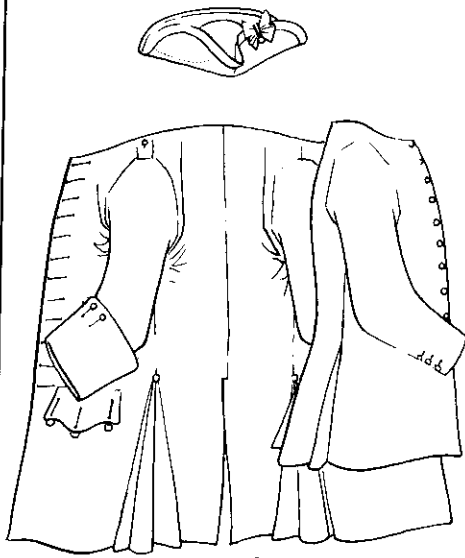


Figure 5
1736

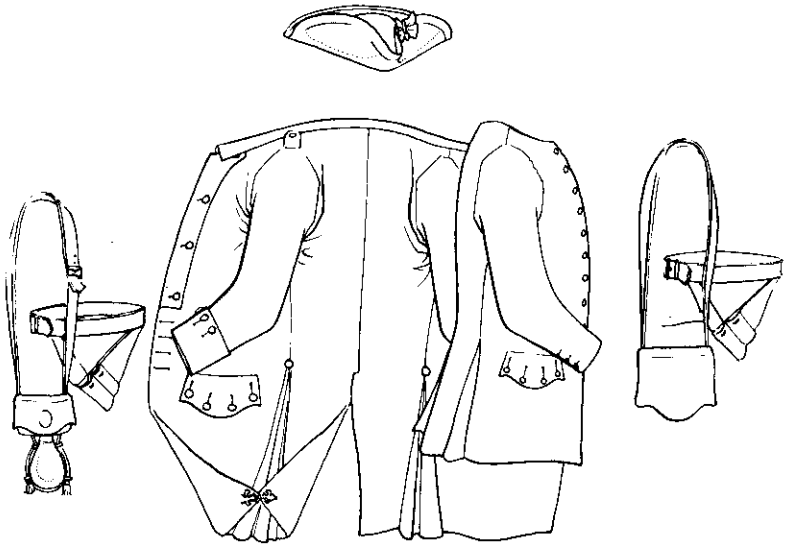


Figure 6
1762

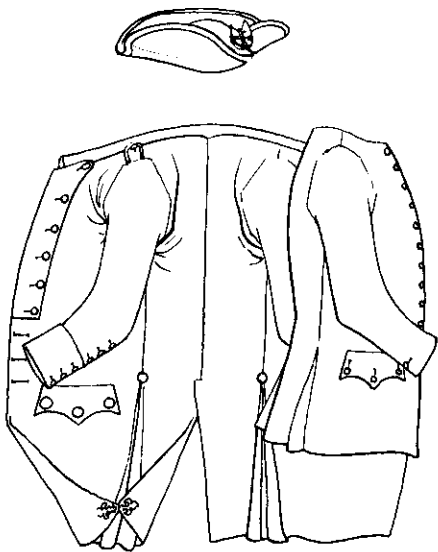


Figure 7
1767

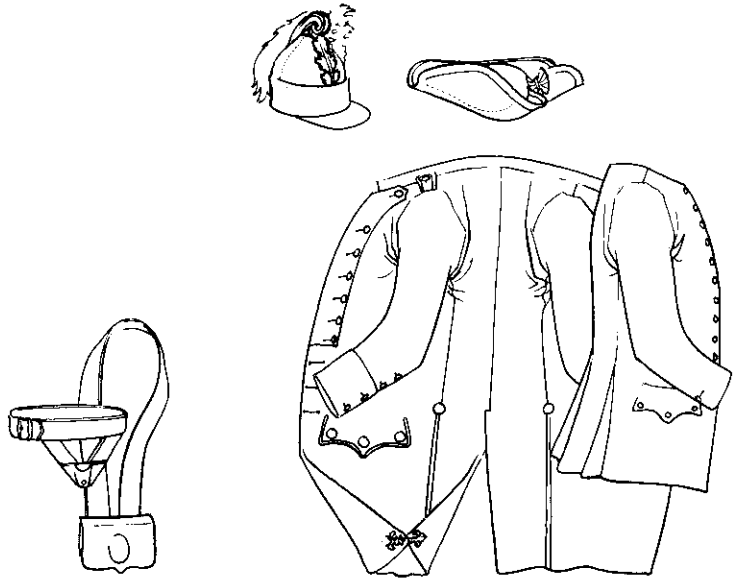


Figure 8
1775

Figure 7 – 1767

New ordinance was brought to effect on 25 February 1767. The coat had a turned down collar onto which were folded the lapels. It also had a shoulder strap piped in the distinctive color. Sleeve facings were now open underneath and fastened with three buttons. Three large buttons were stitched under lapels instead of four as in 1762; the lapels had six small buttons. The real pockets were henceforward concealed in the folds of the skirt.

The tree-cornered hat was unchanged except for the yellow or white woolen braid; the white cockade was affixed by button of distinctive color.

By ordinance of 1767, the breeches were cut with drawbridge files.

The sword belt was worn with bayonet frog and the cartridge pouch had a plate with the king's arms. The musket was 1763 model then 1766. Also, grenadiers received their first *sabre-briquet*.

Officers' uniform was also stipulated by ordinances of 25 April 1767. Note that it only differed from that worn by the troops in the quality of the cloths and the buttons, which were silver or gold plated. No silk lining, gold or silver braid or laces were allowed. Along with the privates, grenadier officers also wore the bearskin hat with golden plate and a cross-shaped silver braid.

Figure 8 – 1775

The new ordinance of 2 September 1775 supplemented to the 1767's and concerned above all the distinctive colors.

The coat had a straight collar, facings had two buttons with two under the sleeve. Side folds were stitched except for the opening to the pocket tucked into the lining. The pocket tabs were merely indicated with distinctive piping and decorated with three large buttons.

By 1771 the French infantry was equipped with helmets (they were first imposed to the dragoons by April 1767), provided by duke

de Choiseul. The skull was of black leather with a brass crest and horsetail. It had a hide band and front peak; white plume on the side.

However, new headdress proved short-lived. The ordinance of 1775 mentioned that all helmets were to be replaced by hats. Only two regiments, *Du Roi* and *Colonel-Général* retained them until the Revolution.

Equipment did not change. Note that fusiliers' cartridge pouch was shallower and the flap was not decorated with grenades. The sword belt in white hide with a vertical bayonet frog.

Figure 9 – 1776

Comte de Saint-Germain, new Minister of War, introduced a new ordinance effective 31 May 1776 – a strongly Prussian style uniform. The coat was completely buttoned, the legs open and a wide belt worn at the waist. Decorations in the way of *fleur de lys* or grenades were worn on the turnbacks; coat now had shoulder-straps on each side. A new model of waistcoat without sleeves appeared; hat became known as *quadricorne* (i.e., four cornered). Facings were opened on the sides and skirts became shorter.

The innovation for equipment became a new bayonet cross-belt, worn with cartridge pouch belt across. Grenadiers still possessed their bearskins' hats.

Figure 10 – 1779

Yet another new ordinance was introduced on 21 February 1779; it further developed problems regarding distinctive colors, which appeared in the 1775 and modified in 1776. Now, distinctive piping was put on the entire coat. Pockets were put horizontally with yellow or white metal buttons.

Epaulettes, given first to officers in 1759, were issued to all élite troops: grenadiers had red ones, with grenades on the turnbacks and a red tuft on the hat; chasseurs had hunting horns on their turnbacks and green epaulettes.

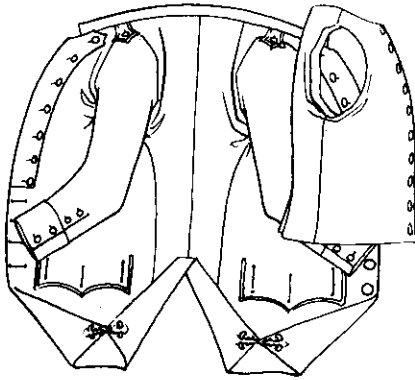


Figure 9
1776

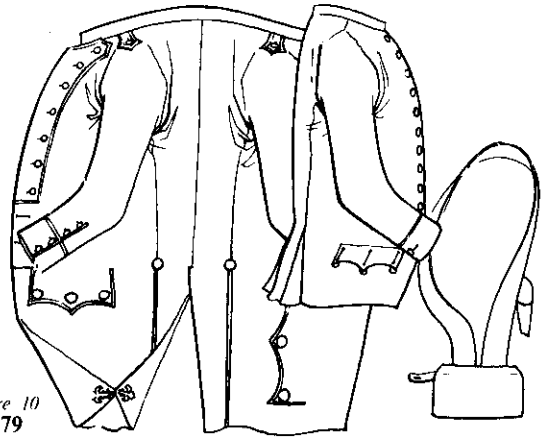
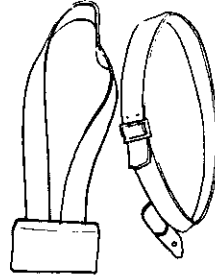
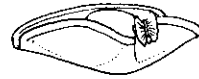


Figure 10
1779

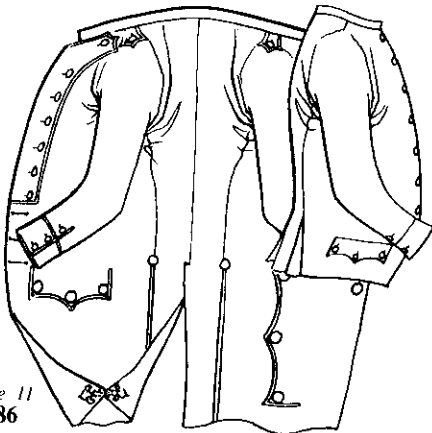
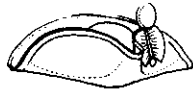


Figure 11
1786

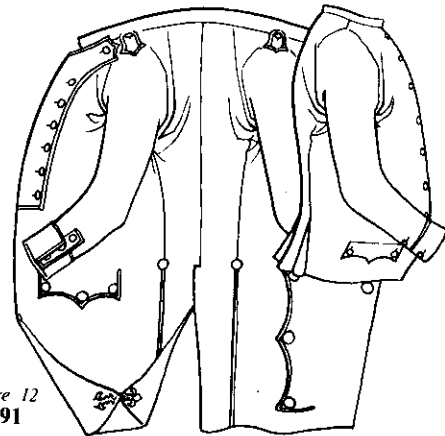
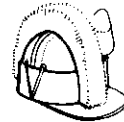


Figure 12
1791

The collar of the coat was straight with distinctive color. The hat, edged with a stripe of black wool, was decorated with a white cockade.

The equipment for the fusiliers was simplified – the cartridge box and bayonet were made in one. The musket maintained was that of the 1777 model.

Figure 11 – 1786

The last pre-Revolutionary ordinance of 1 October 1786 was particularly thorough. Soldiers still in white broad cloth, but all regiments were divided into groups of six units, each group had its individual distinctive color and shape of side pockets.

The three-cornered hat changed into a two-cornered, or *bicorne*. An iron skullcap, *calotte de fer* was prescribed for protection of each soldier.

Grenadiers and chasseurs were distinguished by a round woolen tuft above the cockade, scarlet and green accordingly. They also lost their epaulettes and were wearing the carrot shaped tuft, red or green edged in white. Fusiliers wore these epaulettes in broadcloth of the background color. Epaulettes with fringes were reissued on 17 March 1788. The waistcoat was plain white. Light infantry wore a special legwear: instead of the ordinary breeches and long gaiters, they used short ones, extending only half-way up the calf, frequently decorated with colored lace and the tassel on the upper edge, *à la Hessian*.

Sources:

Michel Pétard, *L'évolution de l'uniforme d'infanterie (Uniformes No. 61, 1981)*, pp. 29-34.

Réne Chartrand, *Louis XIV's army (Osprey MAA No. 203, 1988)*, pp. 20-23.

— *Louis XV's army: French infantry (Osprey MAA No. 302)*, pp. 6-10.

The armament and equipment did not change sufficiently.

On 1 December 1789, all grenadiers were equipped with new bearskin hats by analogy with 1776 regulation.

Tricolor cockade was adopted on 27 May 1790 and since 1 January 1791 all regiments were officially given numbers.

Figure 12 – 1791

During this transitional period, on 1 April 1791 new provisory instructions were issued regulating uniforms; note that alongside with tricolor cockade of the Revolution, soldiers of the old army still used *fleur de lis* and some tambours wore king's livery!

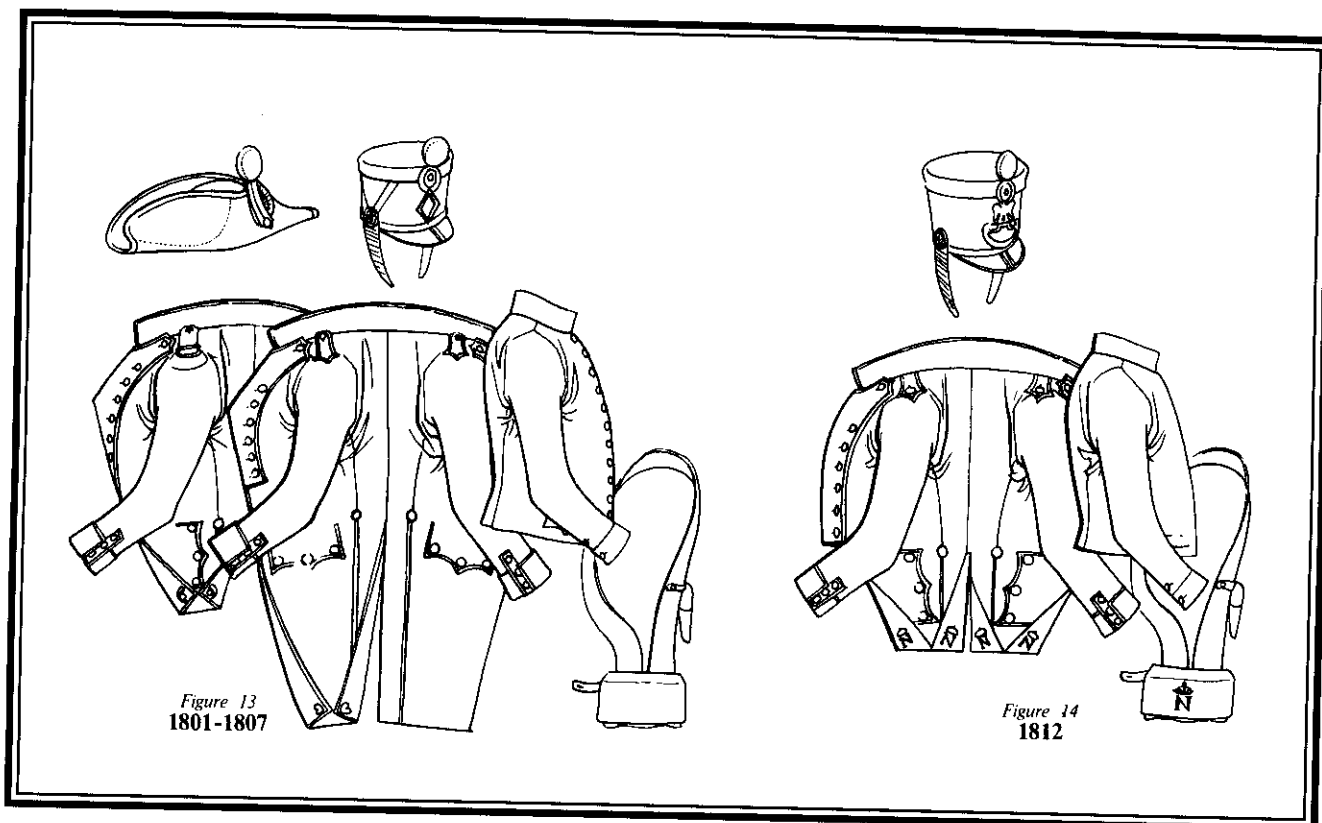
Some details of the 1786 disposition were changed: adoption of the fur-crested 'tarleton' helmet, or *casque à chenille*, which first was issued during the American War of Independence (1780-1783); white plumes with a facing-colored tip for the full dress. The buttonholes under the left reverse disappeared, shoulder tab buttons were stitched close to the collar.

On 20 July 1791 the National Guard adopted uniform in the national colors.

On 4 September 1792, all army tambours were deprived of the king's livery.

On 21 February 1793 newly created demi-brigades of the line infantry also adopted a national color, blue.

On 7 September 1793 the blue uniform was introduced for the light infantry in place of previous green, but they conserved crested helmet decorated with 'fur' until it was replaced by *bicorne* and earlier shakos.



Figures 13 – 14: Napoleonic period

The shape of uniform changed considerably between 1791 and 1812. What had been of use in the coat became purely decorative. Coat and waistcoat collars were raised until they practically touched the ear.

Fundamental chronology for 1801 –1812

26 October 1801: a hat with bright cockade edged in black wool; bearskin caps for grenadiers bore plate with stamped grenade. The first shako was authorized for use by light infantry.

8 December 1802: musicians had adapted a golden lace.

24 September 1803: the term ‘regiment’ was reintroduced; demi-brigade being used henceforth to describe provisional units.

19 September 1805: creation of voltigeurs, with distinctive *chamois* (buff) collar, piped red or green.

27 March 1806: established shako for all troops, including grenadiers. On 25 April a new *la capote*, overcoat of drape beige, was

adopted for the infantry. On 24 July, an attempt was made to dress all infantry in white uniform.

October 1807: blue coat reintroduced.

27 February 1811: fusiliers to have plain shoulder-strap and the company colored pompons in the head dress: green, sky-blue, aurora and violet for the 1st – 4th companies respectively. Effective 30 December, green ‘Imperial livery’ with yellow and green lace was ordered for all drummers and musicians.

19 January 1812: the so-called ‘Bardin’ regulations, named after major Etienne-Alexandre Bardin (1774-1840) responsible for their issues was introduced. It reformed the Light and Line infantry uniform, though in the same way the changes took months, even years, to come into effect.

A new *habit-veste*, short coat now had lapels closed to the waist; white turnbacks bore “N” for all fusiliers, grenades for grenadiers and carabiniers, hunting horns for voltigeurs. Same insignia was carried on cartridge box; shako was decorated with new eagle plate.

Hussar regiments in France, 1752-1830

Originating in Hungary, hussars had made their way into the French army by the 1690s as outstanding light cavalry who excelled as skirmishers and patrols. When Louis XV became a king in 1715, there were two hussars' regiments: Versailles (c. 1705, incorporated into Rattsky in May 1716) and St.-Geniès, c. 1701 (Rattsky, since 1707). They were joined by Bercheny's in 1720, Esterhazy's in 1735 and several more in 1740s. Each squadron had four companies; three in 1742-48. Companies usually had 25 men in peacetime and 50, sometimes more, in wartime. In 1756 companies were raised to 75 men, but this caused the amalgamation of three regiments (Lynden, Beausobre, Ferrary) into the other three (Bercheny, Turpin, Pollerescky). Companies were reduced to 29 men each in 1662, and by ordinance of 10 February 1764, the three regiments of Bercheny, Chamborant (c. 1735) and Royal-Nassau (c. 1758) were reduced to eight companies of 25 men each.

The early hussar units dressed in a most unusual style by western European standards of the time: fur caps, wolf's skins, etc. By royal ordinance of 26 October 1744, all hussar regiments were henceforth to be dressed in pelisses, dolmans and breeches of sky-blue color, equipped with red housing, leaving only the freedom to the colonels to distinguish their regiment by the caps, laces or buttons. In December 1747 marshal de Saxe issued conical mirliton caps of white felt; only Bercheny's hussars managed to keep the red ones.

The next ordinance of 15 May 1752 reinforced the provision regarding the uniformity of hussar dress. It specified that all regiments were to have sky-blue uniform, pewter buttons set in three rows, cords of white threads, red sash with knots of regimental color, white felt mirliton caps except for Bercheny's with wing of regimental color, blue cloak, red sabretache with a *fleur-de-lis* (and a crown above for Bercheny's) and border edged in regimental color. The white cap, never popular, was finally changed to black in June 1755, with lining of the facing color (except for Bercheny's, which kept its red caps).

Table 1. Distinctive colors for hussar regiments in 1752.

Regiments	cuffs	wing of shako	knots of sash
Bercheny	sky-blue	sky-blue/white piping	sky-blue
Turpin (c. 1735)	black	black	black
Pollerescky (c.1743)	red	red	red
Lynden (c. 1748)	yellow	yellow	yellow
Beausobre (c. 1743)	royal blue	royal blue	royal blue
Raugrave (c. 1743)	aurora	aurora	aurora
Ferrary (1746)	green	green	green

Equipment included red leather belts and cartridge box. They were to be armed with a sabre, a pair of 1733-pattern pistols and a carbine. Officers wore uniforms of the same colors and style but of better materials and with some distinguished details: silver cords, buttons, etc.

Towards the end of the Seven Years' War, on 21 December 1762, a totally new uniform was ordered for all hussar regiments. Henceforth the dolman was green with three rows of buttons and pointed cuffs of the regimental facing color. There also a green pelisse edged with black fur, red breeches, pewter buttons, white cords, red sash with facing color, lace and *fleur-de-lis* of the facing color, green cloak, red sabretache with *fleur-de-lis* and lace edging of the facing color. The green uniform remained until 1776.

At the beginning of the 1779 the French hussars consisted of the following regiments: Colonel-General (c. August 1779), Conflans (former Dragoons-Chasseurs de Conflans, c.1776), Esterhazy's (c. 1764), Bercheny's and Chamborant (c.1761). Later, by ordinance of 14 September 1783 the Lauzun's Hussars were created.

The royal ordinance of 25 July 1784 made a new reorganization for cavalry. Regiments were to have four squadrons, each containing a single company; each squadron had six officers

and 104 men. A *porte-etendard* was assigned to each squadron; the regiment had a total peacetime strength of 456 men and wartime strength of 716 men.

Yet new ordinance issued of 17 and 21 March 1788 once again reorganized the hussars regiments directing that they were to have three squadrons, each with two companies. Each squadron had strength of 156 cavalymen. Finally, on 1 March 1789, de Saxe Hussars (formed from Conflans') were added, just several months before the Revolution...

Table 2. Distinctive colors for hussar regiments by regalement of 1786.

Regiments	Colonel-					
	General	Bercheny	Chamborand	Conflans	Esterhazy	Lauzun
Shako	black	black	black	black	black	black
wing	red	red	sky-blue	green	white	sky-blue
lace	white	white	white	white	red	white
Pelisse	scarlet	sky-blue	chestnut	green	grey	white
Dolman	royal blue	sky-blue	chestnut	green	grey	sky-blue
collar	scarlet	-	dark-red	madder	-	-
cuffs	scarlet	madder	madder	madder	red	white
Waistcoat	royal-blue	sky-blue	chestnut	green	grey	sky-blue
Brandebourg	yellow	white	white	yellow	red	lemon
Bouton	brass	tin	tin	brass	tin	brass
Breeches	royal-blue	sky-blue	sky-blue	madder	grey	sky-blue
Sabretache	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet	scarlet
lace	yellow	-	white	yellow	white	lemon
monogram	white	sky-blue	sky-blue	green	white	white
crown	yellow	blue	white	yellow	-	lemon
Portmanteau	royal-blue	red	red	green	red	royal-red
Festoons	scarlet	blue	chestnut	green	red	sky-blue.

There were still six hussars regiments at the beginning of the Revolutionary Wars (less the Regiment de Saxe which defected on 26 May 1792) and many small, independent units which were finally regimented by 1795 to produce fourteen regiments, numbered 1-13 and 7 *bis* (former Hussars de la Liberté; meaning '7th again'). The 13th was disbanded in 1796 and in 1803 the 7 *bis*, 11th and 12th were converted to Dragoons, leaving ten regiments. A new 11th was formed in 1810 from the 2nd Hussars of the kingdom of Holland, then 12th formed again from the 9 *bis* (provisional) Regiment, raised in Spain. In 1813 new the 13th and 14th regiments were formed, disbanded and raised again in 1814.

Organization throughout the Napoleonic period was reasonable standard for all light cavalry regiments, four squadrons of the two companies each (six squadrons 1793-96), with an establishment of about 1,000 hussars. In 1807, for example, each company numbered four officers and 124 men.

Hussar uniform comprised a braided dolman, a furred pelisse, and either tight breeches and 'hussar boots' or campaign overalls; other items originally unique to hussars were the girdle (generally but not always of the facing-color with 'barrels' of the button-color), and the sabretache, which existed in elaborate embroidered versions for dress, and plain leather with number or crowned eagle badge for campaign (distributed in December 1810). The early period head-dress (mirliton cap with a colored wing) was transformed into shako in 1806-07 by the addition of a peak.

Shakos were covered with black cloth, except that of the sky-blue for the 5th and red for the 6th regiments. It was adopted in 1808; shako of the 6th Hussars remained the same until replaced, just before the Russian campaign, by a red cylindrical shako (as well as for the 8th Hussars) which remained in service until 1815. Regular shako was decorated with cords of the

lace color. Plumes varied during the period, but in 1808 (according to contemporary Martinet's print) they were as follows: 1st had red over black, 2nd blue over black, 3rd and 4th yellow over black, 5th white over blue, 6th blue over red, 7th green over red, 8th green with red tip, 9th black with red tip, 10th and 11th black over red.

Table 3. Major distinctive colors for hussar regiments for the 1803-12 period.

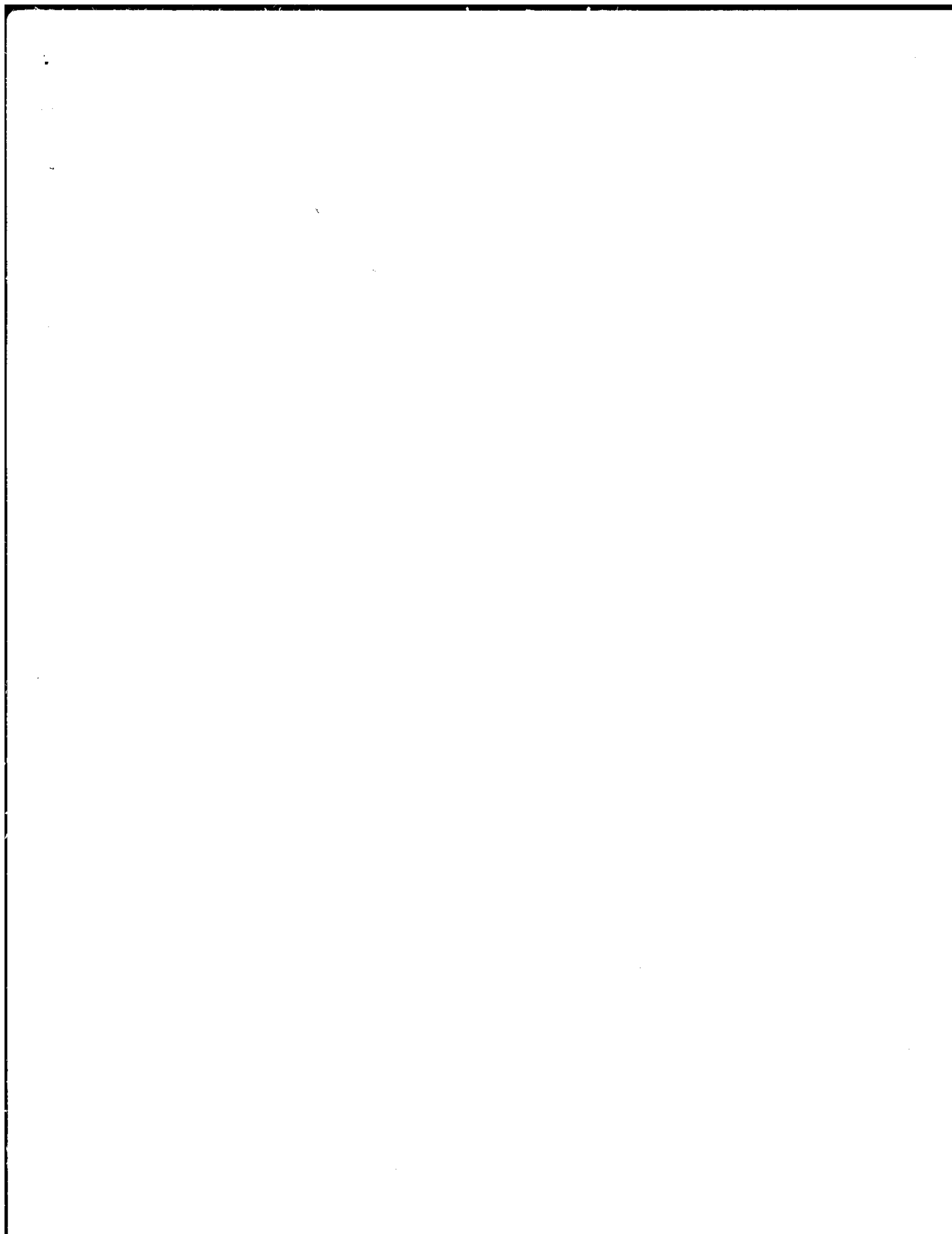
Regiment	Dolman	Buttons/Lace	Pelisse	Breeches
1	deep sky-blue, scarlet cuffs	tin/white	deep sky-blue	deep sky-blue
2	chestnut, sky-blue cuffs	tin/white	chestnut	sky-blue
3	grey, crimson cuffs	tin/white	grey	grey
4	dark-blue, scarlet cuffs	brass/yellow	scarlet	dark-blue
5	sky-blue, white cuffs	brass/yellow	white	sky-blue
6	scarlet, dark-blue cuffs	brass/yellow	dark-blue	dark-blue
7	dark-green, scarlet cuffs	brass/yellow	dark-green	scarlet
8	dark-green, scarlet cuffs	tin/white	dark-green	scarlet
9	scarlet, sky-blue cuffs	brass/yellow	sky-blue	sky-blue
10	sky-blue, scarlet cuffs	tin/white	sky-blue	sky-blue
11	dark-blue, scarlet cuffs	brass/yellow	dark-blue	dark-blue
12	scarlet, sky-blue cuffs	tin/white	sky-blue	sky-blue

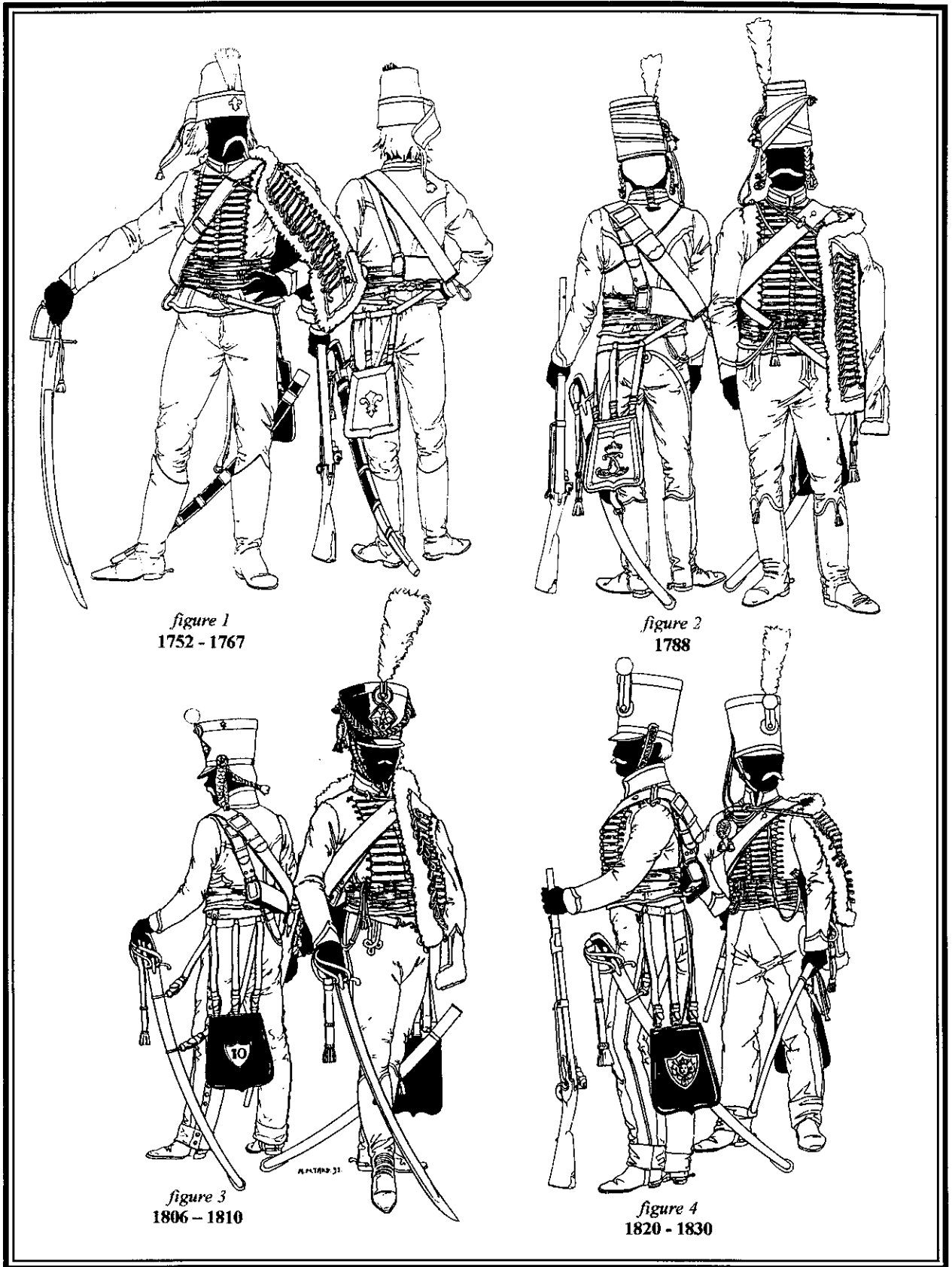
Note that uniformity of dress, difficult to maintain even in peacetime, was not strictly applied from 1813-14, the lack of raw materials forcing the hussar corps to utilize anything they could find...

At the Second Restoration, by the decrees of 16 July and 19 August 1815 there remained only six hussars regiments. They were not officially numbered but they took the names of the departments where they were stationed. From 1815 to 1822, there were various modifications in the uniform. This was specifically intended to reduce the complications of the distinguishing colors, to give more uniformity to the dress, and also to give more substance to the training. The uniform indicated their names and their classifications as described below:

- Jura Hussars: sky-blue pelisse, dolman and jacket with scarlet breeches
- Meurthe Hussars: chestnut pelisse, dolman and jacket with sky-blue breeches
- Mosele Hussars: grey pelisse, dolman and jacket with crimson breeches
- Nord Hussars: light-green pelisse, dolman and jacket with scarlet breeches
- Bas-Rhin Hussars: royal blue pelisse, dolman and jacket with scarlet breeches
- Haut-Rhin Hussars: dark-grey pelisse, dolman and jacket with sky-blue breeches

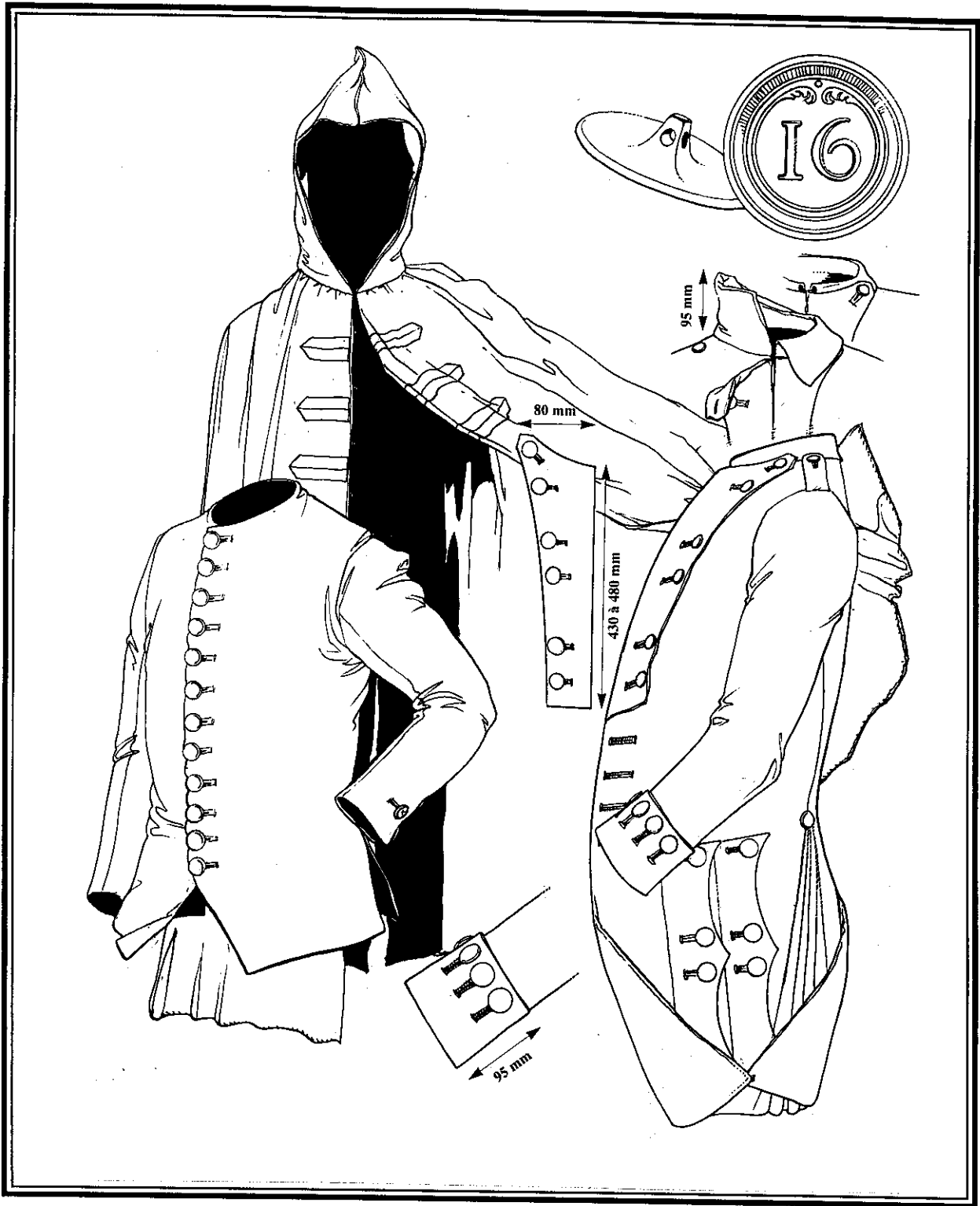
All the hussars uniform had braids of contrasting color mixed with the base color of the uniform. The last three regiments were changed their distinguished color in 1834 to red, dark-blue and green respectively. Under the Second Empire (1852-70) the pelisse was abolished.



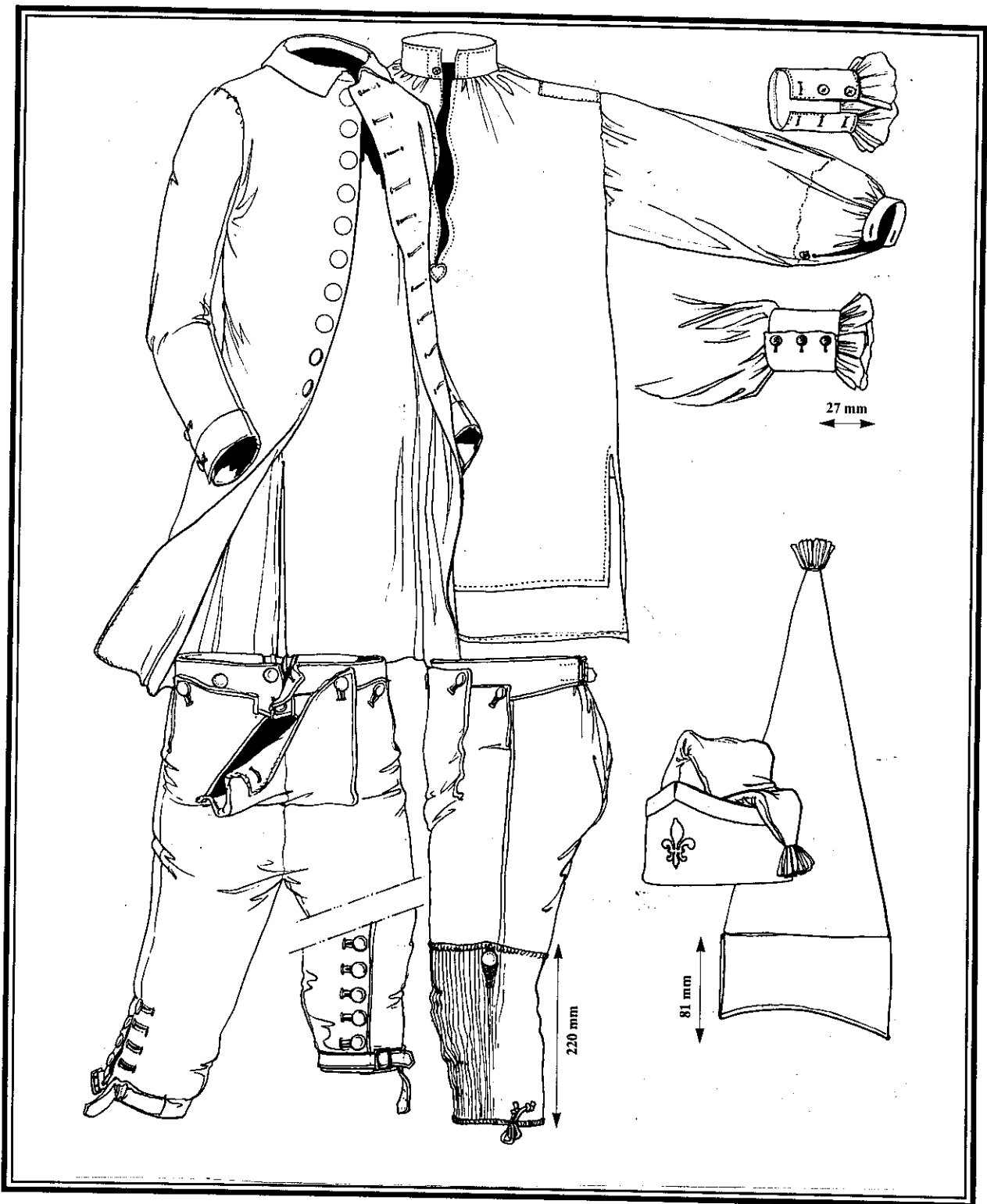


Evolution of hussars uniforms, 1752-1830

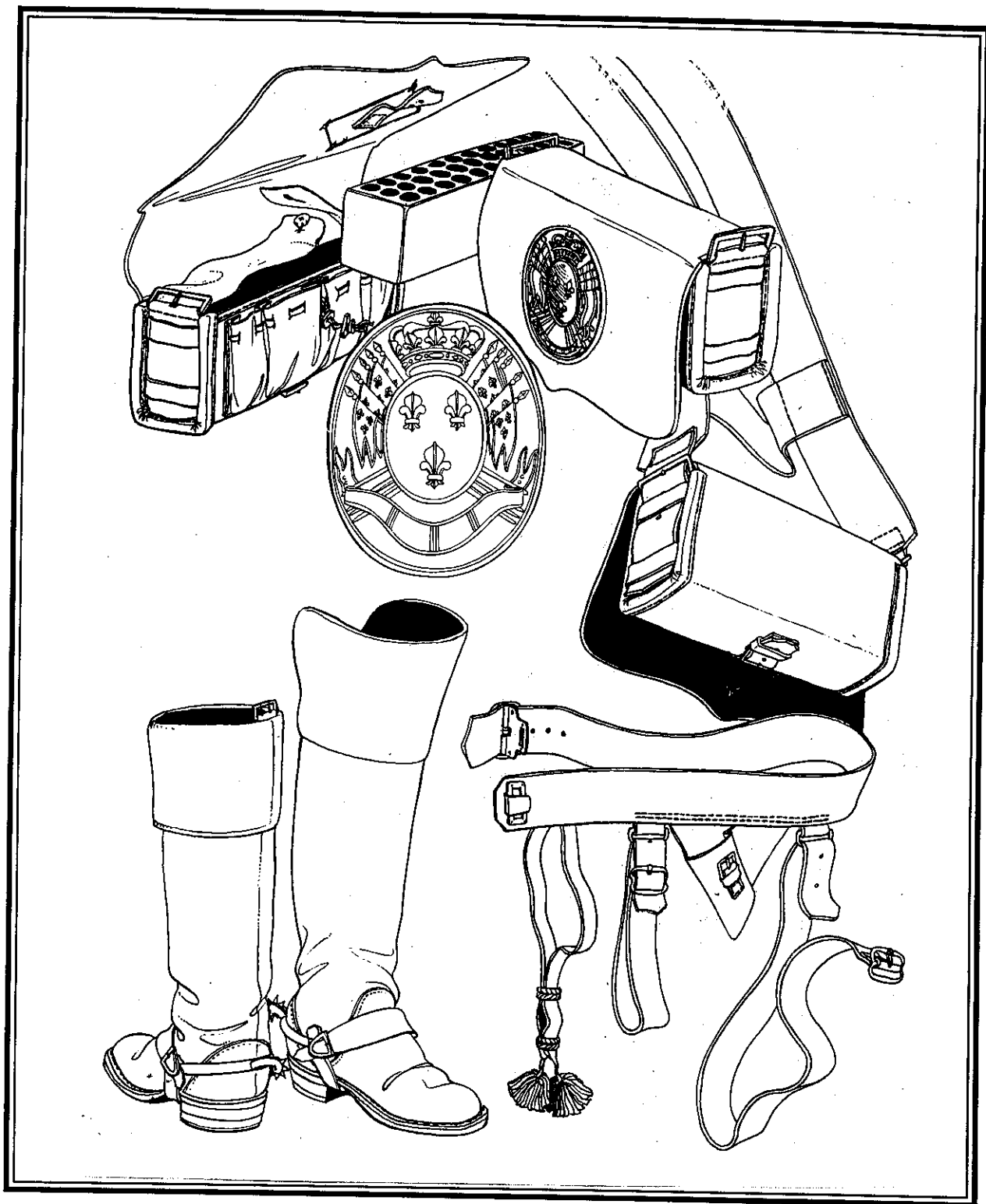
(André Corvisier, *Les Hussars et la France*, 1993)



Dragoons' uniform by regalement of 25 April 1767.
 From left to right: waistcoat of the *chamois* (buff) wool, overcoat with hood, tin buttons.
 Green jacket shows the detail of collar, turnbacks and lapels. The uniform designed
 for *de Languedoc-dragons* (No. 16) according to the disposition of buttons and pouches.

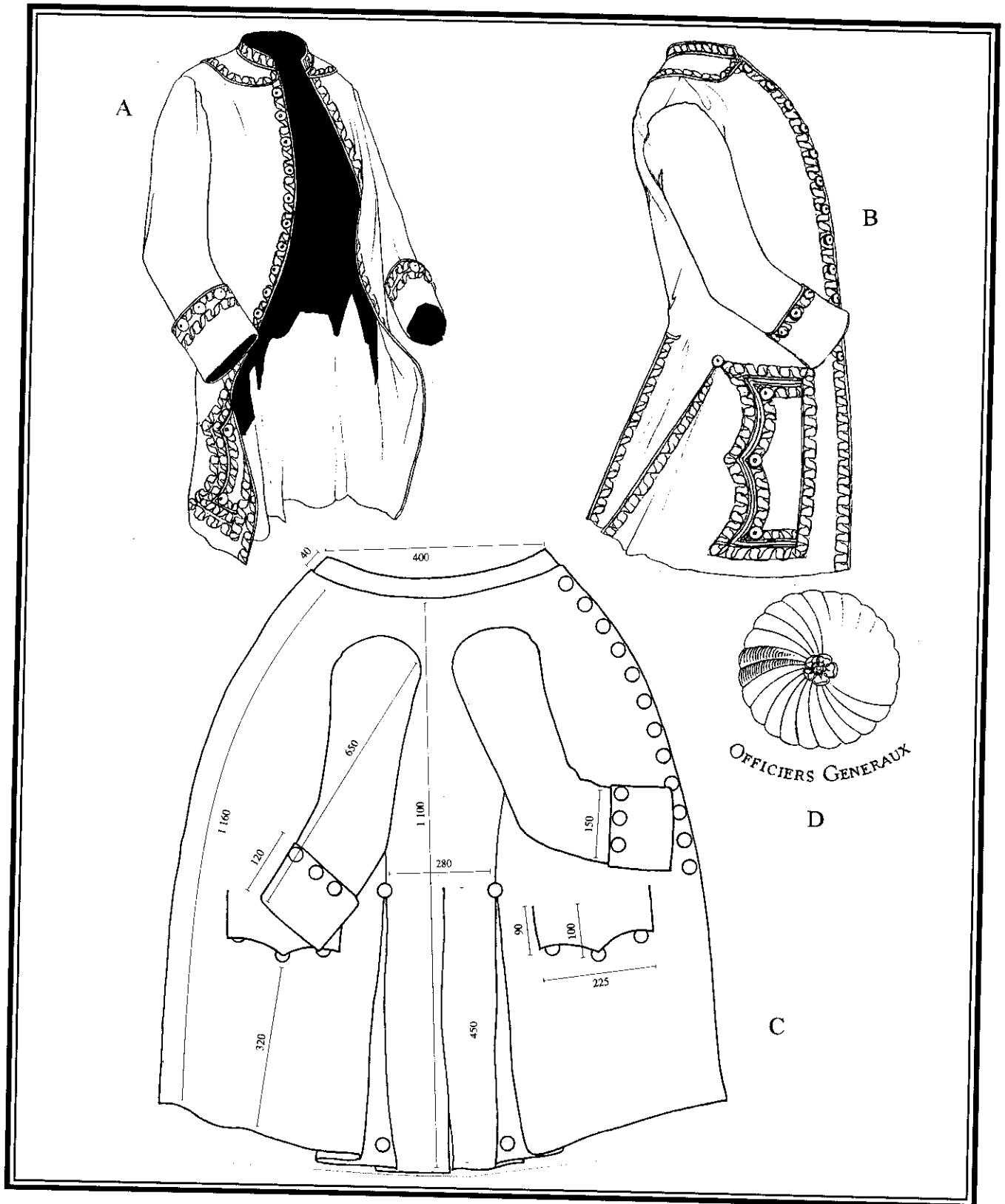


Dragoons' uniform by regalement of 25 April 1767.
 From left to right: surtout, shirt with specifically designed cuffs, which could be detached and replaced;
 breeches also designed in way, so it could be worn along with boots; forage cap.



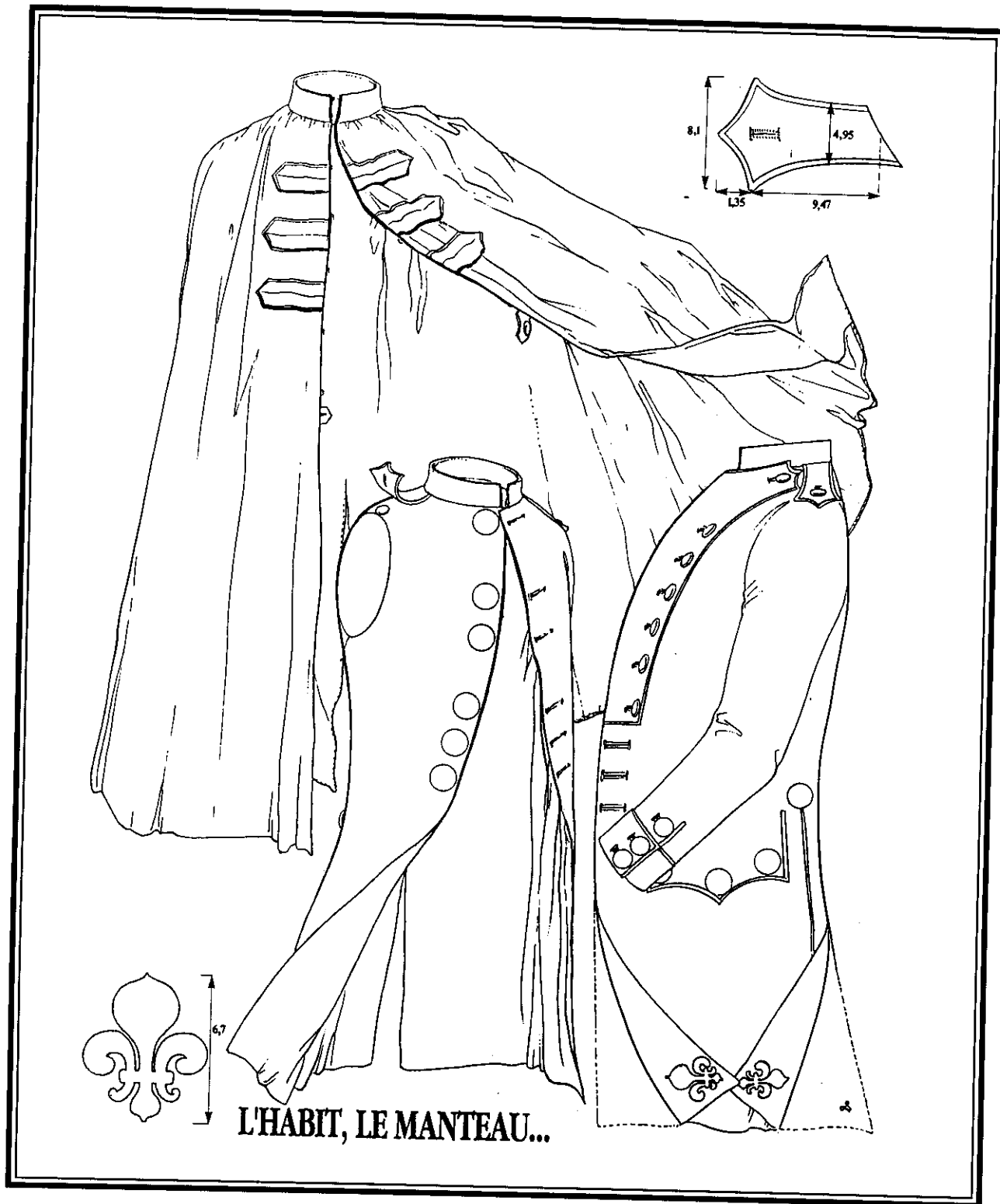
Dragoons' uniform by regalement of 25 April 1767.
From left to right: cartridge pouch decorated with king's arms, along with the shoulder belt;
cavalry boots and waist-belt with attached sword-knot and bayonet frog.

(Les dragons de 1767. Tradition magazine No. 48, January 1991).

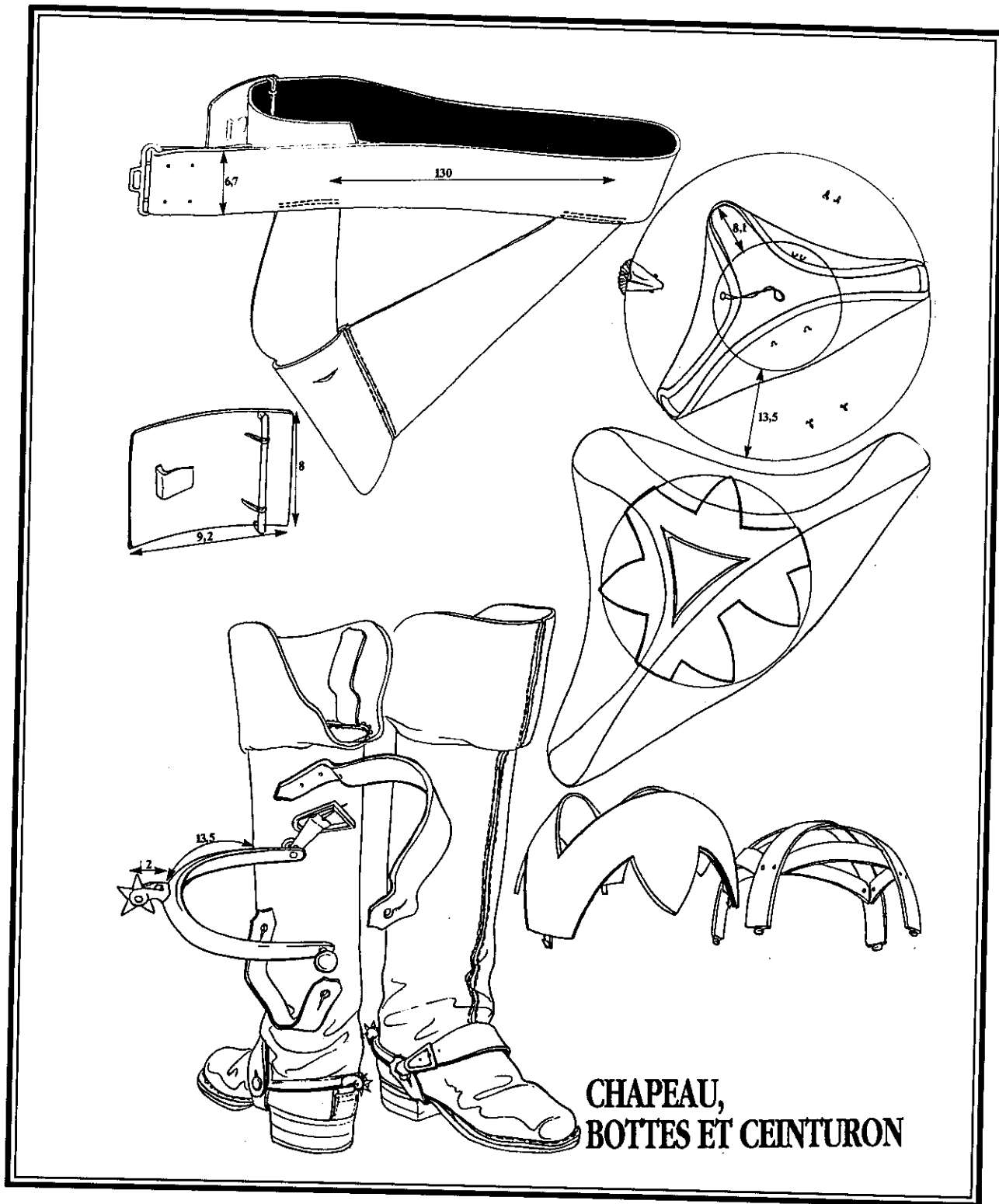


General officers uniform by ordinance of 2 September 1775
 (A) Redingote of lieutenant-general and *maréchal de camp* (B); principal measurements of *maréchal de camp* coat (C), and (D) golden button of the uniform (27 mm in diameter).

(*Maréchal de camp en 1775. Tradition magazine No. 71, September 1992*).

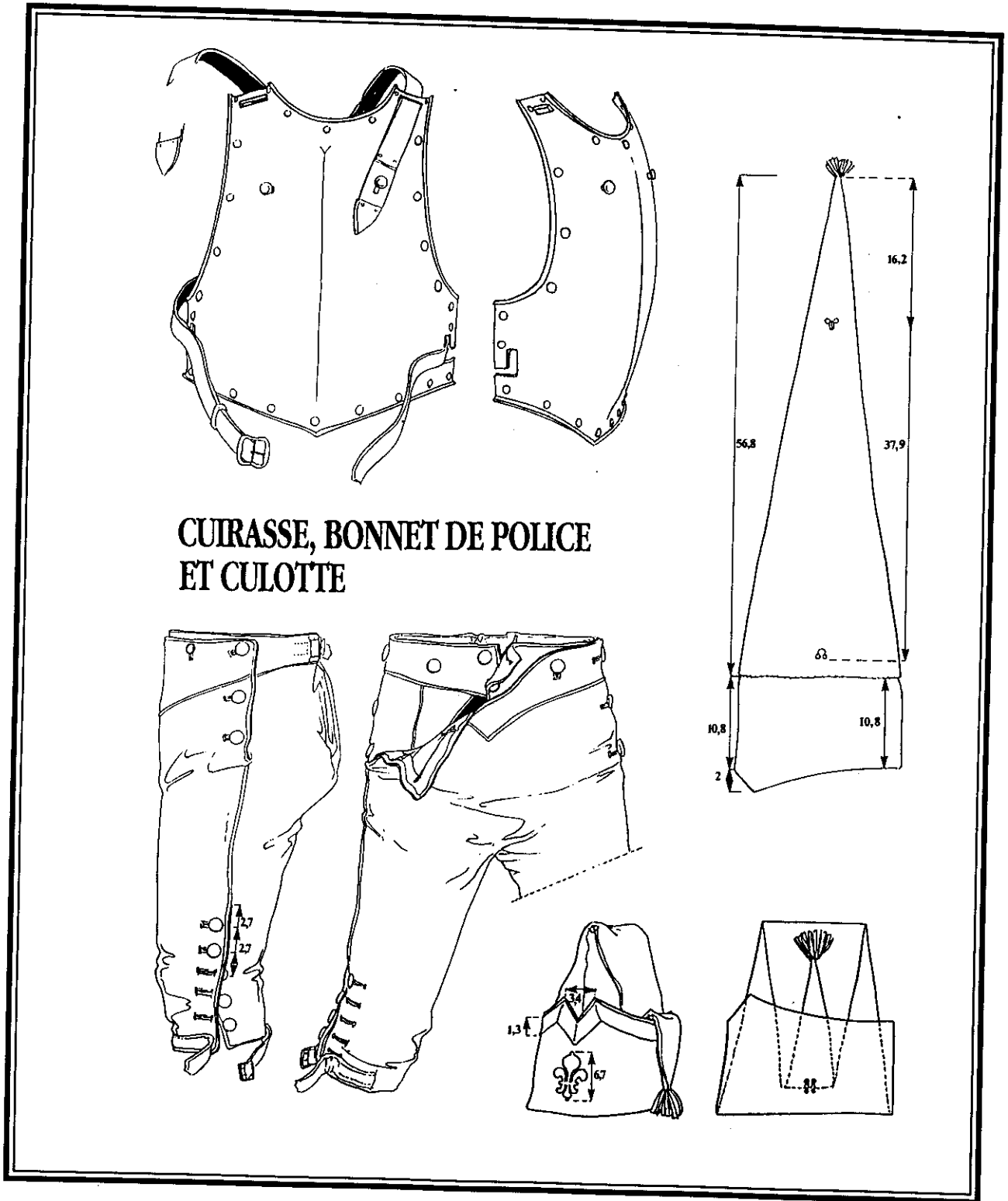


Cavalry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786.
 Was adopted blue uniform with distinctive regimental color for cuffs, lapels and piping of the shoulder-strap, along with livery. Overcoat and surtout; *fleur de lis* were placed on the turnbacks.



**CHAPEAU,
BOTTES ET CEINTURON**

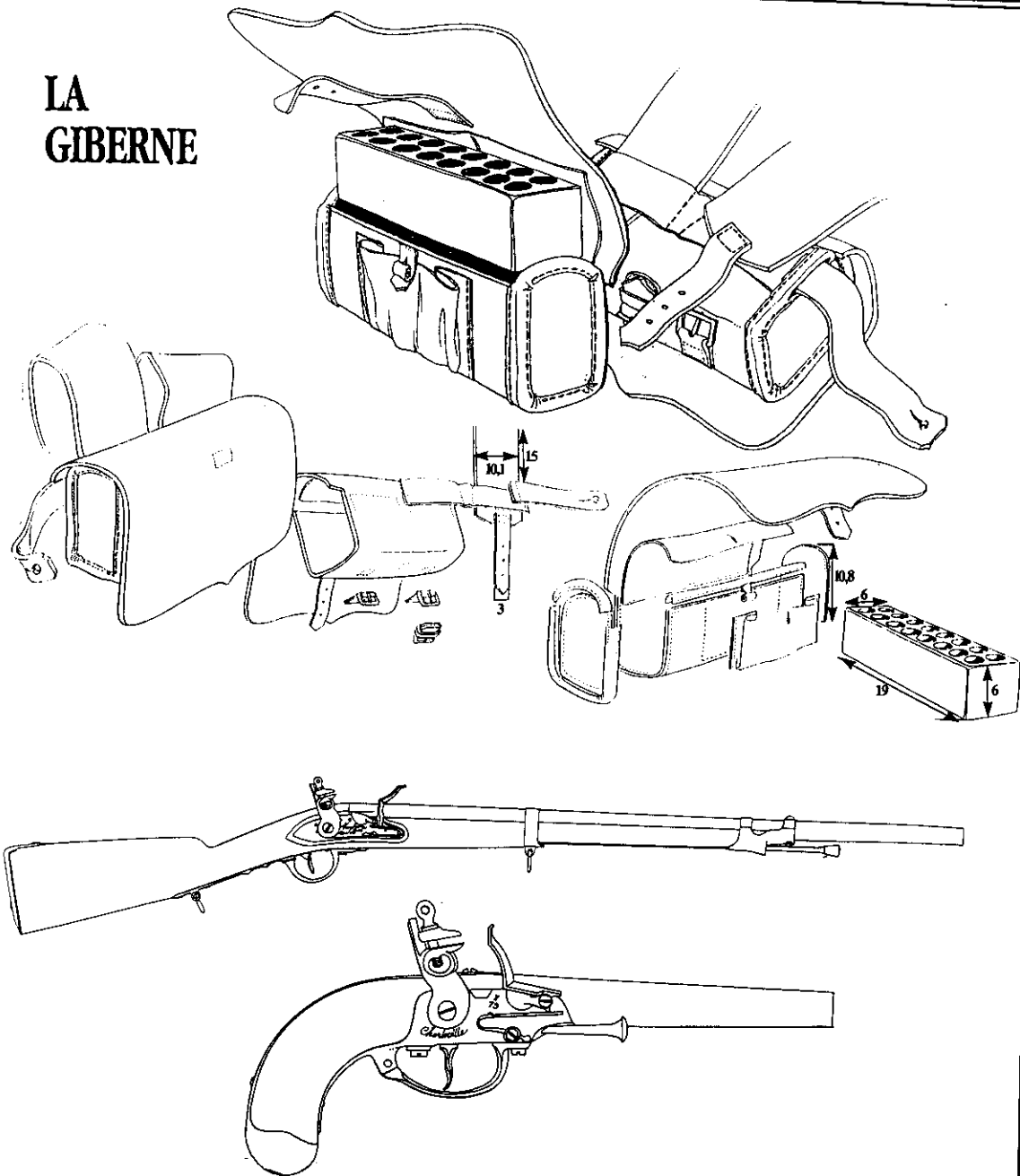
Cavalry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786.
Waist-belt with the sword frog, rear view of the waist buckle. Each cavalrymen was equipped with the tricorns of black felt edged by the black silk lace; white cockade and company's pompon. Each soldier was also wearing an iron cap under his headdress. Boots with iron spurs.



**CUIRASSE, BONNET DE POLICE
ET CULOTTE**

Cavalry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786.
Cuirass (weighing 7 kg.) front plate, worn over the coat and fixed with buff and brass belts and buckles; they first appeared during the War of the Spanish Succession. Breeches continued to be of the buff leather when mounted; forage cape worn when in stables

LA GIBERNE



Cavalry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786.
The armament included cartridge pouch for 16 cartridges; mousqueton of 1777-pattern (total length: 1,72
cm, length of canon 75,8 cm, barrel 17, 1 mm, weigh 3, 21 kg) and pistol of 1777- pattern (total length: 35
cm, length of canon 19 cm, barrel 17, 1 mm, weigh 1, 35 kg)

(*La cavalerie de 1786. Tradition magazine No. 40, May 1990*).

The legacy – from monarchy to the Revolution

When the French Revolution erupted in 1789, the French army was one of the largest armies in Europe. The infantry establishment consisted of 134,236 men organized into 111 regiments. The first of these regiments was the Royal Guard Regiment, or *Gardes Françaises*, which consisted of 6 battalions. The *Garde Suisses*, also of the royal guard, had 4 battalions, as did the Regiment *du Roi*, a line infantry regiment. There were a further 102 line infantry regiments with 2 battalions, 12 chasseur battalions, 7 colonial regiments and 1 marine regiment. In addition there were 106 battalions of provincial troops and 27 “foreign” regiments.

The regulation of 1 January 1791 prescribed the abolishing of the names carried by the regiment and substituted numbers distributed according to their order of seniority at this date. Note that ordinance issued in December 1762 assigned names of provinces to the ‘noble regiments’ whose name changed with each new colonel, and gave to each a number of order corresponding to its rank of seniority. This number was carried on the button of the uniform.

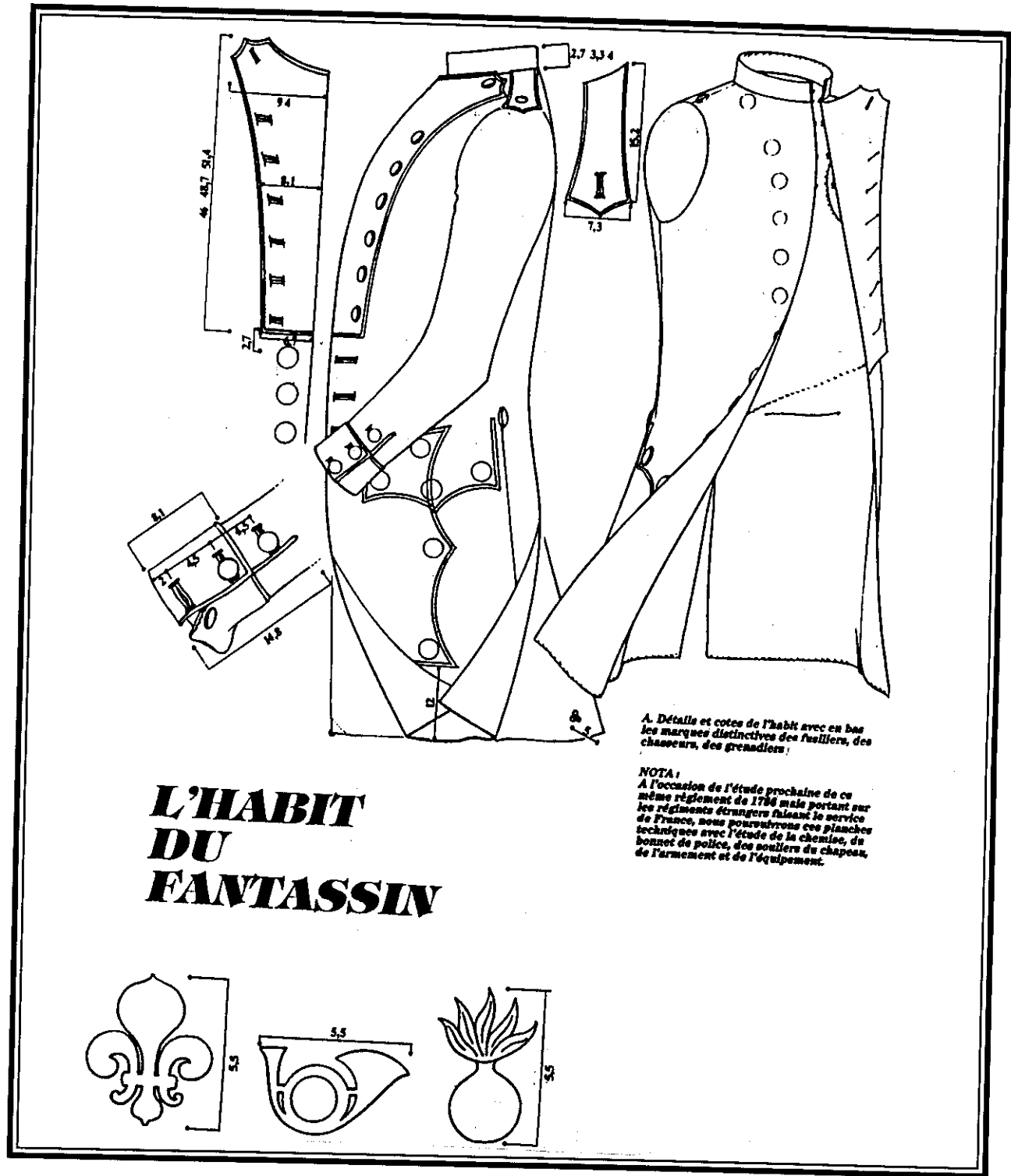
By ordinance of 1786 the regimental cloth of NCO’s and privates was composed of a coat and waistcoat of white broad cloth, and wool breeches and linen gaiters of the same color. All regiments were divided into groups of 6 regiments in their order of ranking or seniority. Each group had its individual distinctive color. The colors adopted were as follows: sky-blue, pane black, violet, iron-grey, pink, yellow, crimson, silver-grey, orange and dark-green. Royal blue was reserved for royal regiments, scarlet for the Swiss and regiments of princes. In each group the regiments were divided by into two sub-groups of three regiments: the first had brass buttons and horizontal pockets; the second – pewter buttons and pockets vertical. The first regiment of each this sub-groups had lapels and cuffs of the distinctive color, the second lapels only and the last third – cuffs only.

In 1791 each group was doubled and then had 12 regiments; the colors adopted were: black, violet, pink, sky-blue, crimson, scarlet and dark blue. Piping marked the pocket flaps in the distinctive color only. Identical piping bordered the lapels and cuffs if these were left white. Three large buttons ornamented the pocket flaps; seven small trimmed the lapel and the cuff closed equally with three small buttons. The expansion of the regular infantry in 1792 caused yet another alteration of facings for regiments.

Coats were supplied with epaulettes and contra-epaulette without tuft, including the seen edge of the backing and bedecked in wartime by a sheet iron rib. Fusiliers wore these epaulettes in broadcloth of the background color. Grenadiers wore them in scarlet cloth backed and edged in white; chasseurs were in green cloth, backed and edged likewise. Note that on 17 March 1788 epaulettes with fringes were reissued for grenadiers and light infantry. Fusiliers’ turnbacks were adorned with *fleur-de-lis* in the distinctive color, those of grenadiers were with grenades and those of chasseurs – a hunting horn.

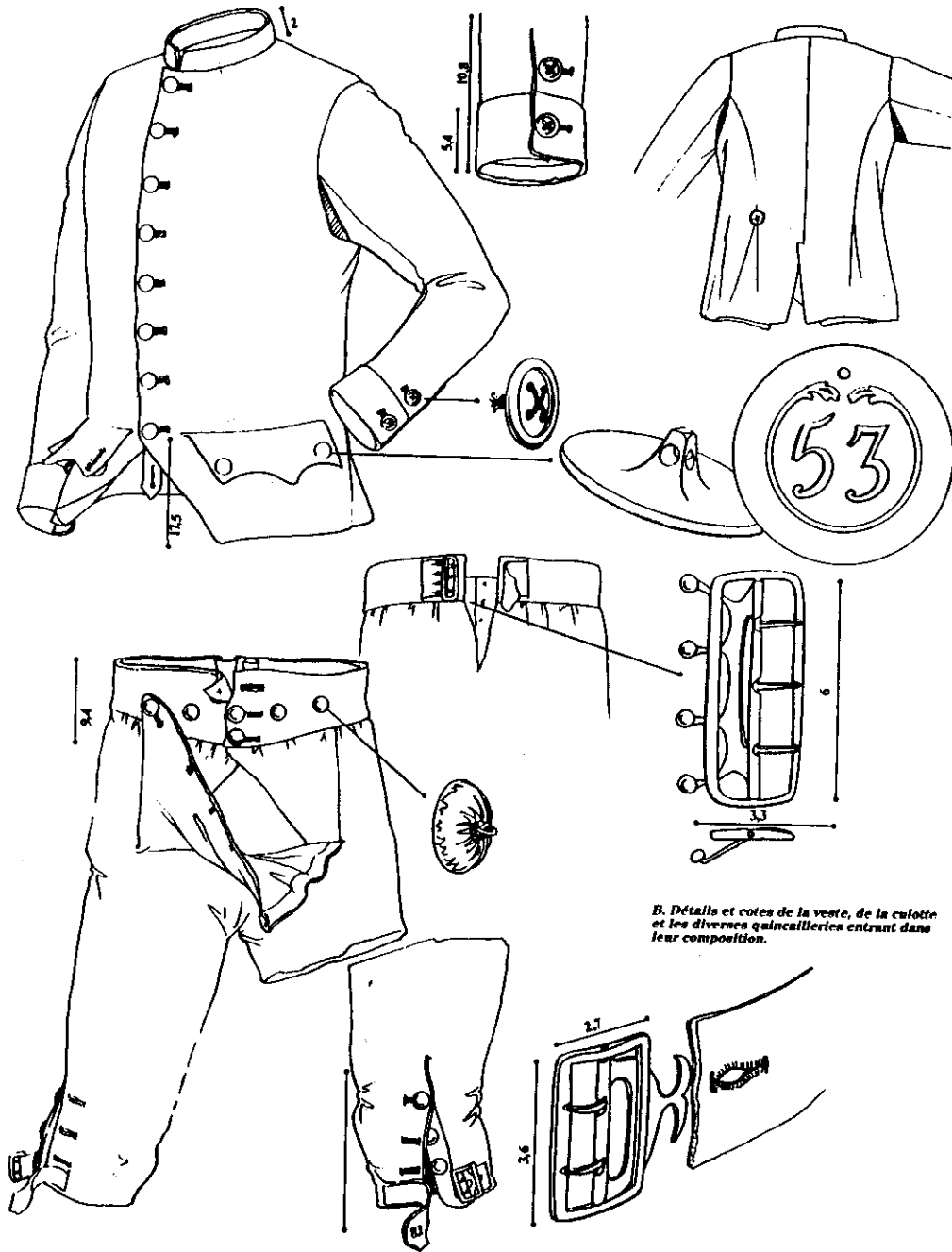
The cocked hat of the infantry was made of black felt and edged with black silk tape, the brims cocked with hooks, and that of the left side was held by a black loop attached to a small uniform button. It was bedecked with a cockade of white dimity, until May 1790, when tricolor cockade was decreed for everyone. A round tuft of wool carried above the cockade distinguished grenadiers and chasseurs, fusiliers wore carrot tuft. In 1786, the centre companies wore this tuft, the color of which varied according to the company and battalion: in the 1st battalion, royal blue for the first company, orange for the second, violet for the third, crimson for the fourth. In the 2nd battalion, blue and white for the first company, orange and white for the second, violet and white for the third, and crimson and white for the fourth. In 1791 fusiliers of the line infantry companies wore white plumes with facing-colored tip in full dress.

The crested helmet introduced in 1791 resembled the British ‘Tarleton’, but often appeared shoddy with imitation fur on its black leather skull. Metal reinforcing-bands of various types ran up the sides of the cap. The helmet was never popular and was not received by all regiments, some apparently retaining the hat.



Infantry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786
 From left to right: detail of the lapel with three big buttons on the right side; infantry coat with horizontal or vertical pockets ornamented with buttons on the pocket flaps; inside view showing hidden pocket on the right; cuff. Below: note that fusiliers' turnbacks were adorned with fleur-de-lis in the distinctive color, those of grenadiers wore a grenade and those of chasseurs – a hunting horn.

VESTE ET CULOTTE

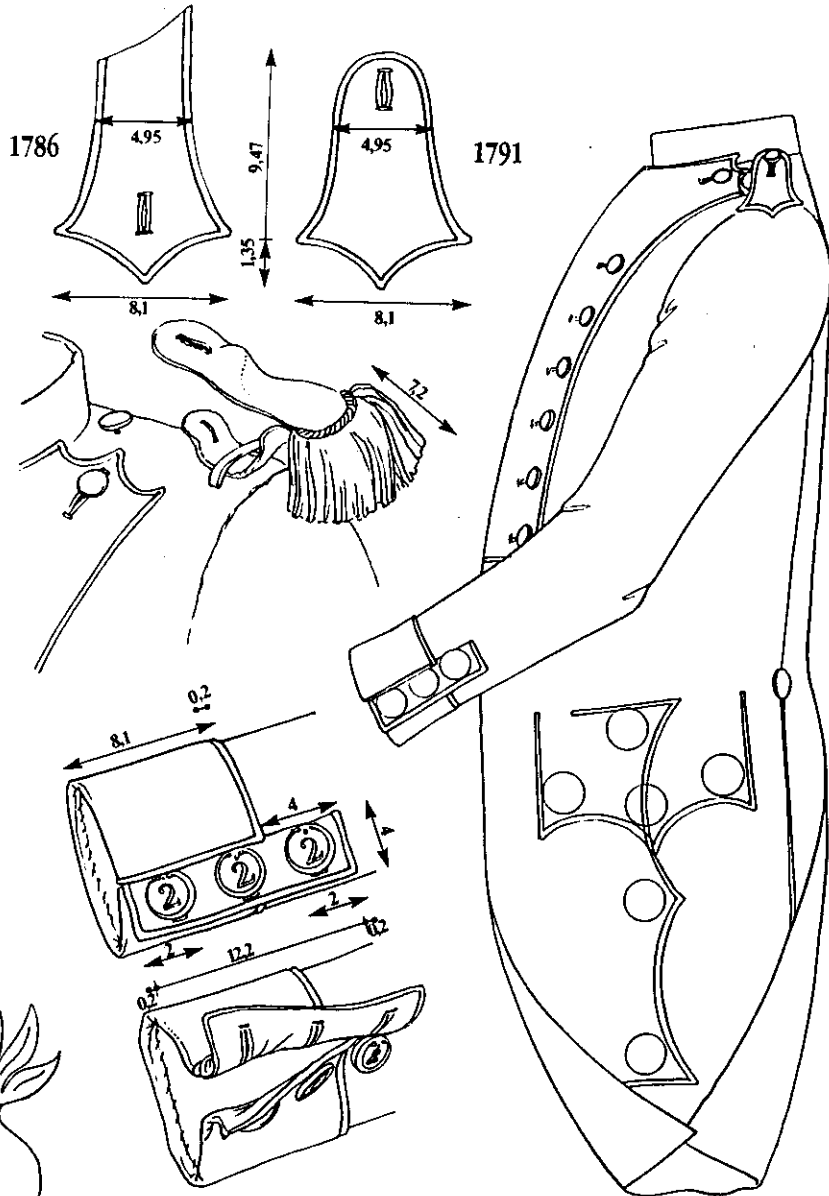


B. Détails et cotes de la veste, de la culotte et les diverses quincailleries entrant dans leur composition.

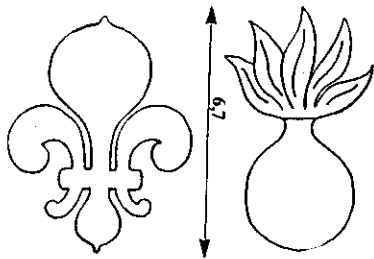
Infantry uniform by regalement of 1 October 1786
 From left to right: waistcoat of white broad cloth; button of the 53rd or *La Fère* Regiment, breeches, showing diverse fixations of the buttons covered by clothes and buckles

(*L'infanterie de 1786. Tradition* magazine No. 30/31, July-August 1989).

A droite, le profil type de l'habit de 1791 qui se distingue de celui de 1786 par ses pattes d'épaules, ses pattes de parements et par l'absence des boutons, anciennement figurées sous le revers gauche. A côté, voici le détail du nouveau parement à patte de la manche. En haut à gauche, les pattes d'épaules de 1786, puis celles de 1791 dont la boutonnière est placée près du collet. Au dessous, une épaulette de grenadier et le détail de son montage. Dessous et en bas, les ornements de retroussis de l'habit et du bonnet de police. Depuis le 1^{er} janvier 1789, l'infanterie légère est nominalement créée et les chasseurs disparaissent, sous ce nom, des troupes de ligne, d'où l'absence de l'ornement en forme de cor de chasse. Restent donc la fleur de lys des fusiliers et la grenade des grenadiers.
(Dessin de Michel Pétard ©)

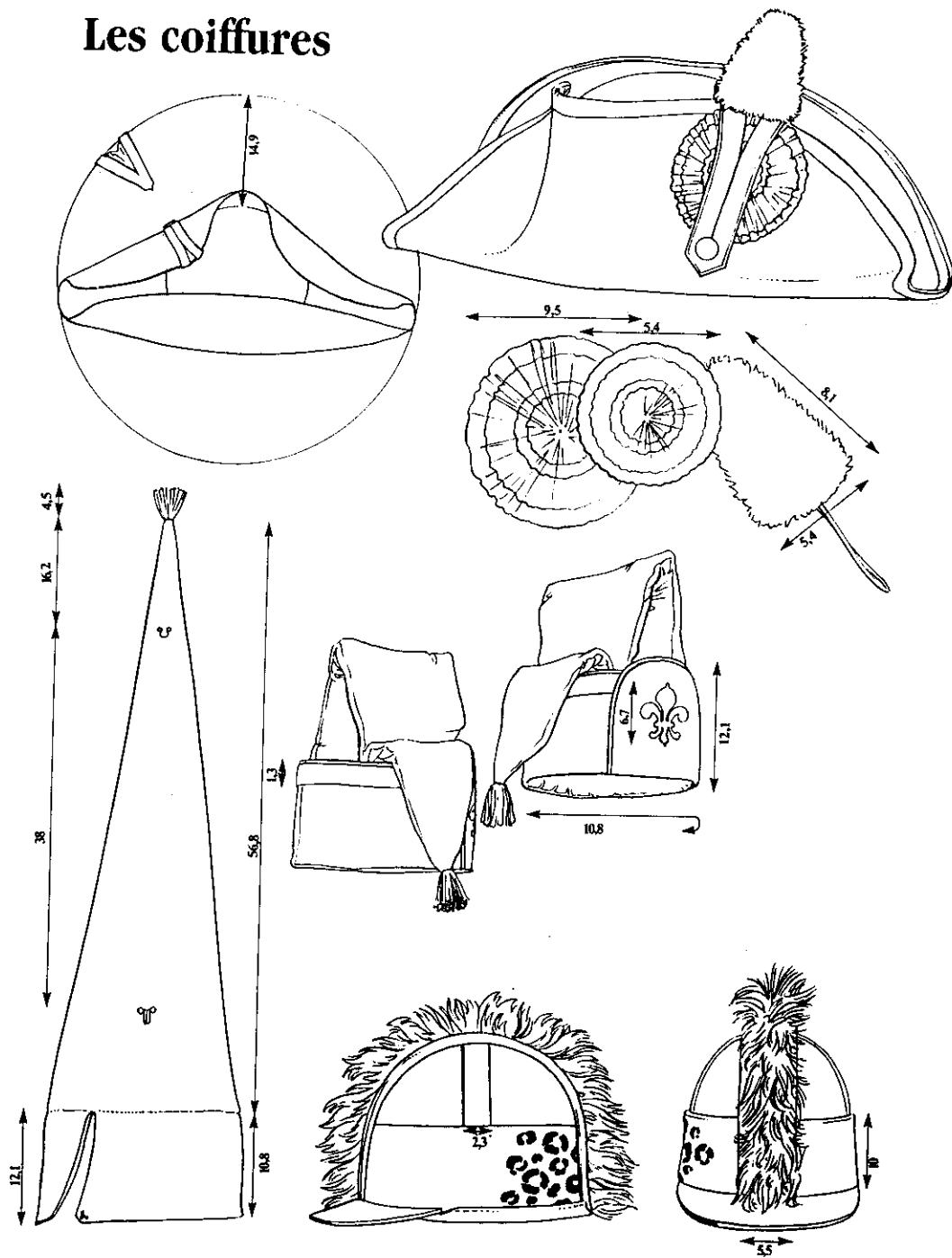


L'habit et ses détails



Infantry uniform by the regalement of 1 April 1791
 Note that grenadiers were resorted their scarlet epaulettes with fringes. Note distinction of the epaulettes from the 1786. In general, uniform remained the same: white for French infantry, dark-blue for German and Royal-Italian, and madder red for Swiss, Grisons and Irish regiments. All regiments were numbered corresponding to its rank of seniority. Below: cuffs of the coat of 2nd (ex-Picardie) Regiment and ornament for turnbacks and forage cap.

Les coiffures



Infantry uniform by the regalement of 1 April 1791
 Bicornes of the infantry; note that tricolor cockade adopted in various designs of red, white and blue concentric circles. Forage cap bore *fleur-de-lis*; facing-colored tuft was worn with ordinary dress. The crested helmet introduced in 1791 was never popular among the troops.

(*L'infanterie de 1791*. Tradition magazine No. 36, January 1990).

Dragoons of the First Consul

Theoretically a regiment of Dragoons comprised a staff and four squadrons each of two companies. In 1802, the regimental staff mustered some 20 officers and men and the companies were each 3 officers, 12 NCO's 2 trumpeters and 74 dragoons, 10 of the later were to be on foot. This organization, decreed on 21 February 1793, remained virtually unchanged into the early Empire except for the increase in the proportion of dismounted dragoons.

The uniform of the 30 French Dragoons regiments in general remained as the one laid down by the provisional regulations of 1 April 1791. It confirmed the Dragoons regiments in their dark green coats and facing color lapels and turnbacks piped in dark-green, shoulder straps of dark-green piped in facing colors, and collars and cuff flaps in facing colors piped dark-green or green piped in the facing color in various combinations according to regiment. Pockets were piped in the regimental facing color and could be either horizontal or vertical, again depending upon the regiment. The turnbacks bore a green grenade and on each coat there were 33 pewter buttons, 22 small and 11 larger ones, all marked with the regimental number.

An undress jacket, or *surtout* was also of mid-green color but single breasted and without the lapels; it was more suited to the rigorous of life in cavalry barracks or on campaign. The *surtout* closed with between six and nine pewter buttons and often was without facing color. Both jackets were worn over a white waistcoat fastening with a single row of pewter buttons. The calf-length riding breeches were usually of buff leather or buff lambskin.

A yellow metal cooper alloy helmet carried a brown fur turban and was supplemented with a black horsehair mane, *chenile* and a black leather peak; brass chin scales (the pattern derived from 1786).

Originally under the Consulate, the Dragoons received a wide variety of muskets and carbines. These were added with the 1777 Dragoon musket, modified in years IX and XI; it was carried butt down on the left. Dragoons also were armed with a pair of 1777 pair pistols, although some same may have been issued with the obsolete 1763-66 patterns. A version of the year IV sword with a brass guard is often noticed, along with straight sword of 1783 pattern, with its *fleur de lis* replaced by a lictor's fascine. Some dragoons, because of the shortages, may have been issued with the curved 1790 pattern Light cavalry's sabre. The black leather and brass scabbard was identical for all models and was worn on two single slings from a white leather waistbelt with a plain brass buckle.

The waistbelt was of white hide, the pouch belt fastening with brass buckle. The black leather cartridge pouch fastened to the belt through two brass rings. The sword belt fastening with a brass buckle, it was constructed of three bands of hide, joined together with two brass rings, these attached to the sword slings. The bayonet frog was sewn on to centre section.

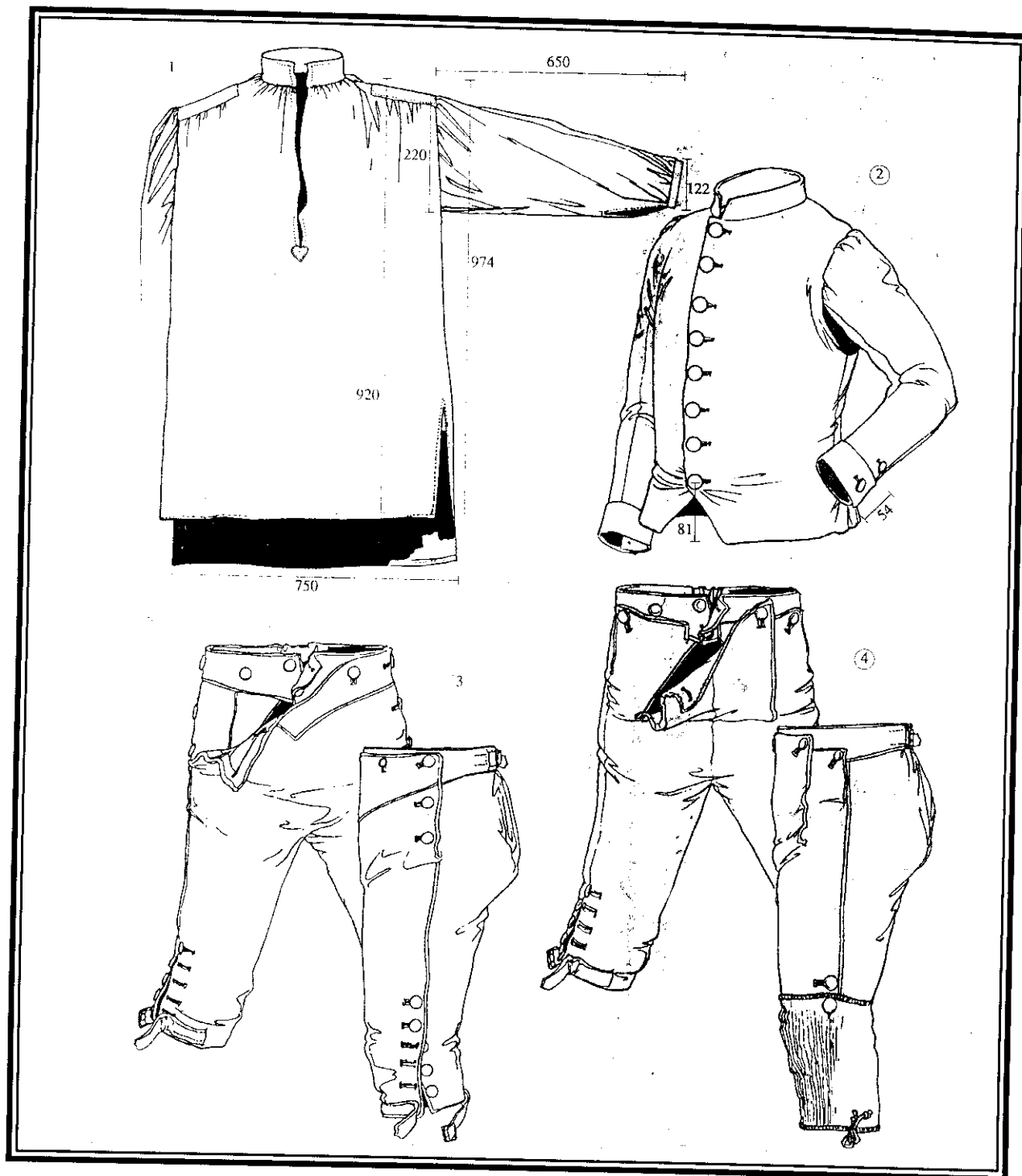
The elite companies were not introduced until 24 September 1803.

Table 1. Dragoon regiments facing colours, 1802-04.

Pocket	Scarlet	Crimson	Pink	Yellow	Orange	Distribution
Horizontal	1	7	13	19	25	L.T. Cu/F. Col.
Horizontal	2	8	14	20	26	L.T. Cu
Horizontal	3	9	15	21	27	L.T. Cu/F. Col.
Vertical	4	10	16	22	28	L.T. Cu/F. Col.
Vertical	5	11	17	23	29	L.T. Cu
Vertical	6	12	18	24	30	L.T. Cu/F. Col.

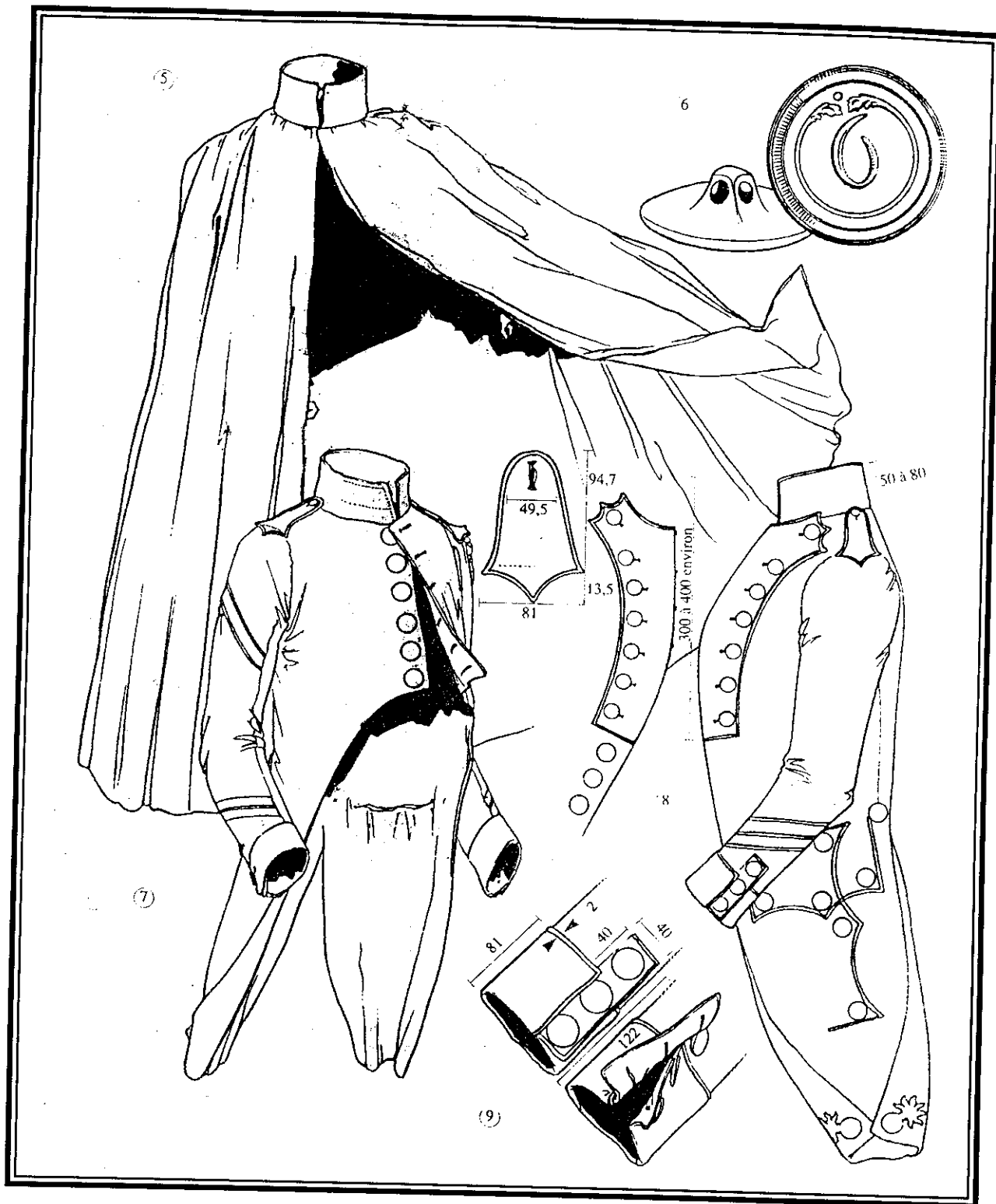
L - lapels
 T - turnbacks
 Cu - cuffs

Cu/F - cuffs and flaps
 Col. - collar



Dragoons of the First Consul, 1802-1804.

(1) the uniform shirt worn under the coat, made of white cloth with tin buttons (2) waistcoat, (3, 4) breeches of buff leather or buff lambskin; the former supposed to last four years to the latter's one. The breeches had knee-cuffs fitted to them to prevent the boots from chaffing.



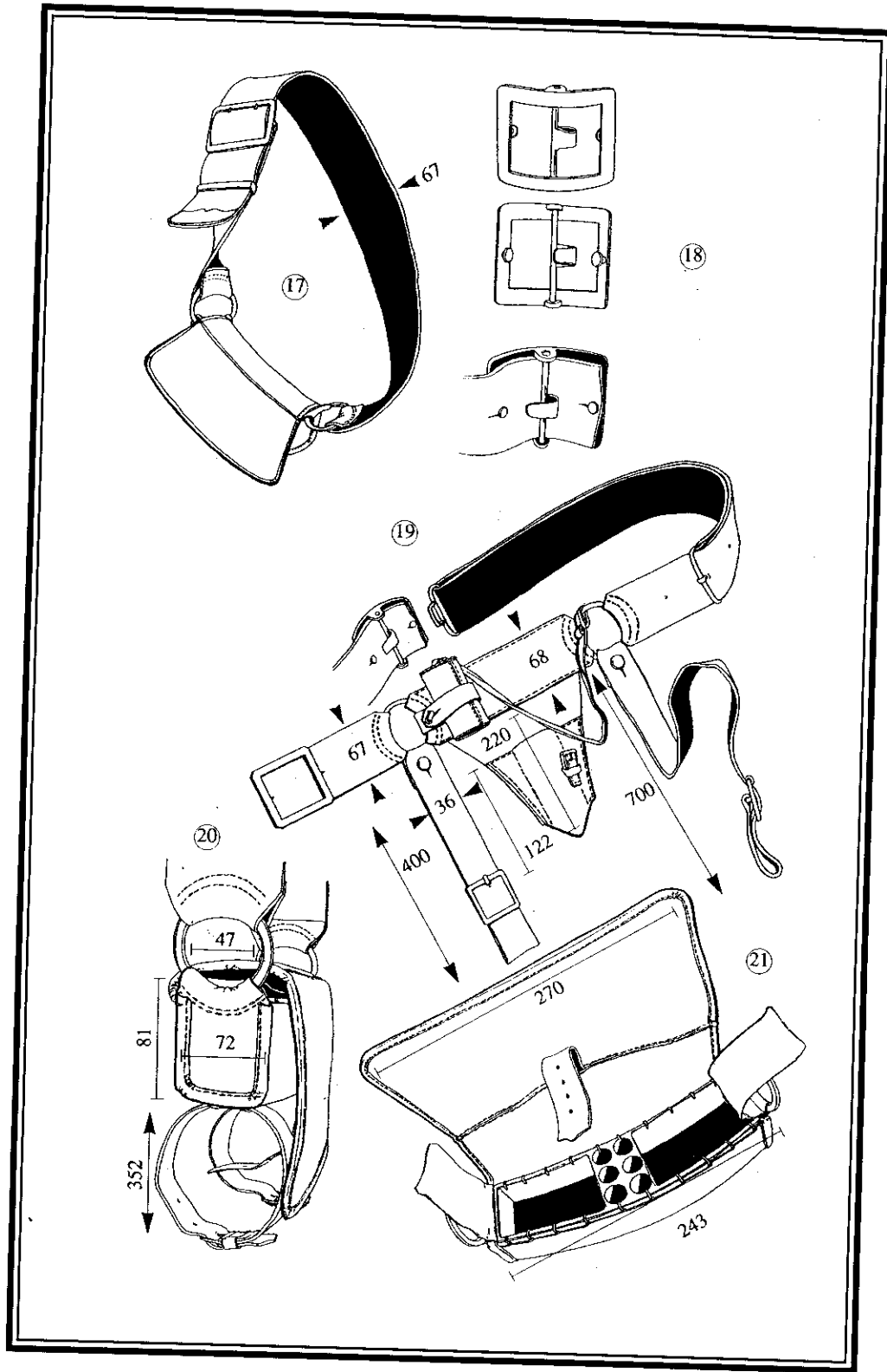
Dragoons of the First Consul, 1802-1804.

(5) the three-quarter length *manteau* or cloak of the white cloth was fitted with a large collar and was without sleeves, (6) tin button displaying the regimental number, (7) surtout of green cloth, was worn for undress, exercises, and walking-out dress, (8, 9) shoulder strap, jacket and cuffs.

For all regiments the lapels, the piping on the pockets, shoulder straps and turnbacks were in regimental color. The turnbacks were decorated with green cloth grenades.

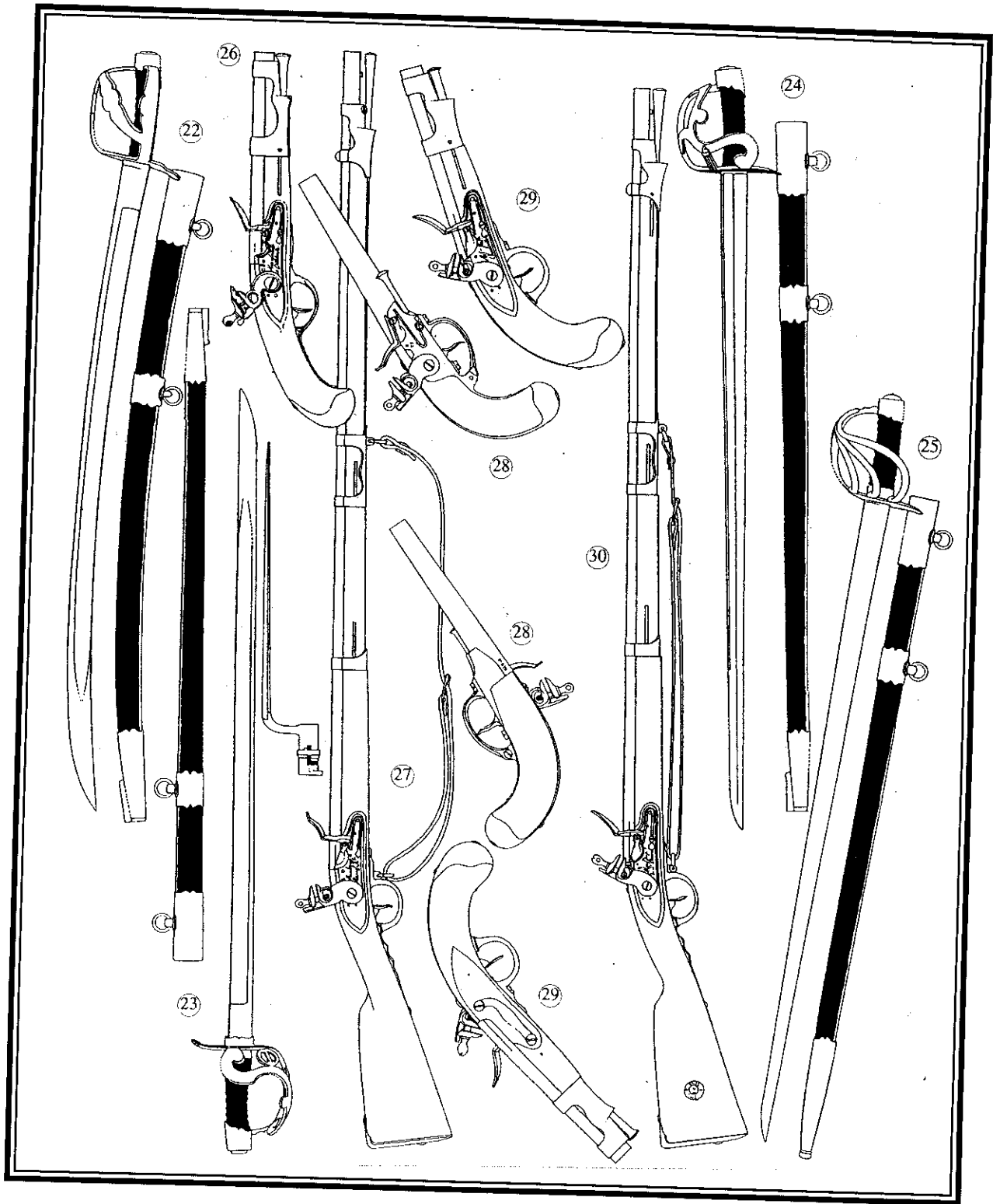


Dragoons of the First Consul, 1802-1804.
 (10) waistcoat of the green cloth, (11) general forage cap by regulation of 1791 – green, piped in the regimental color; white tassel and red grenade, (12) pompon, (13) gloves with buff gauntlets, (14) boots, very supple and were held up with a small leather strap attached to breeches, (15) iron spurs, (16) 1791 dragoon's forage cap, piped in regimental color.



Dragoons of the First Consul, 1802-1804.

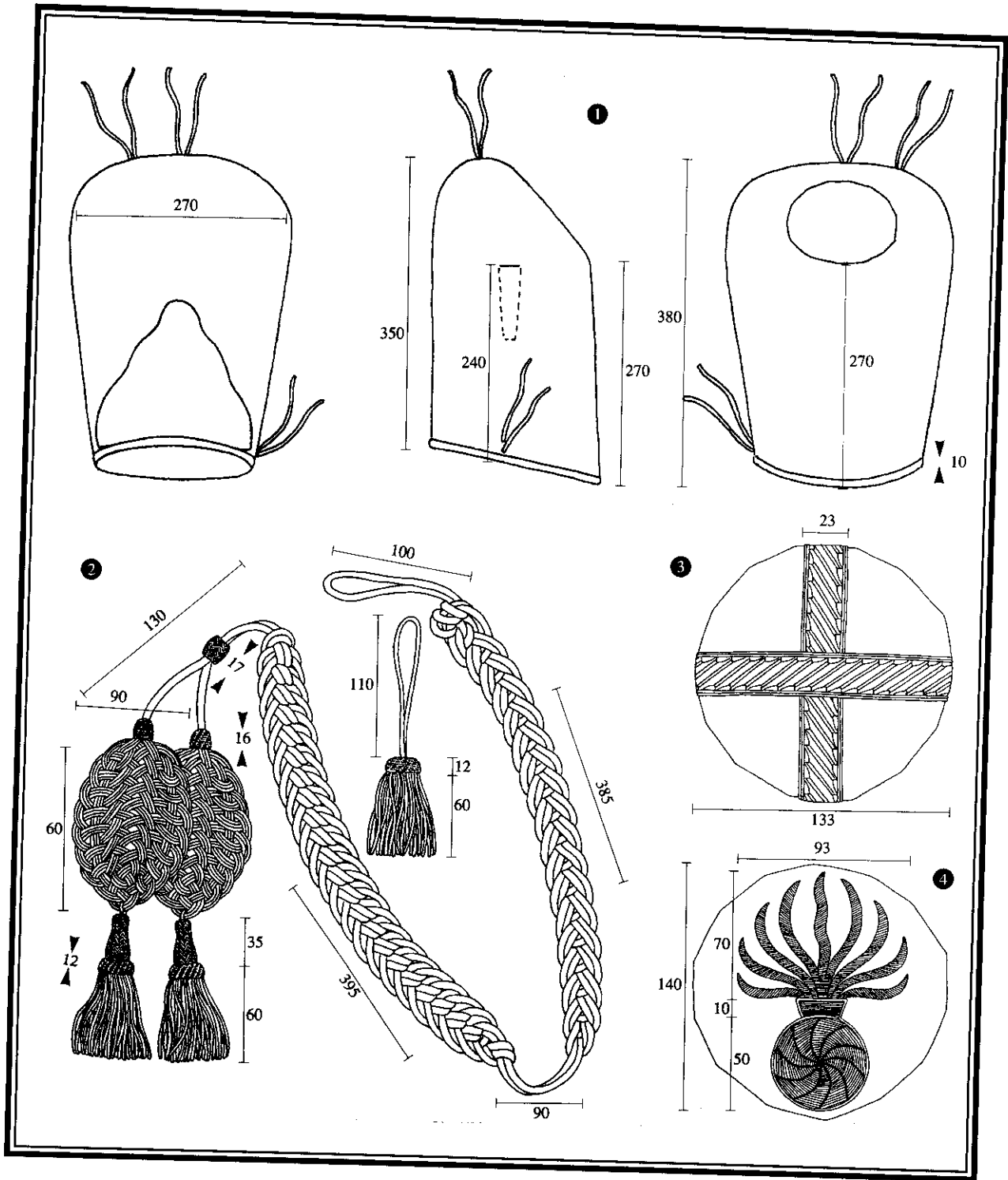
(17, 20) plain pouch with a black flap was fitted with two brass rings which were attached to the end of the pouch belt, (18, 19) the sword belt was fastened with a brass buckle; it was made of three bands of hide joined together with two brass rings to which were attached the sword slings. The bayonet frog of white hide was sewn to the centerpiece, (21) opened view of the pouch.



Dragoons of the First Consul, 1802-1804.

(22) 1790-pattern sabre of the chasseur à cheval, (23) dragoon's sword of the Year IV model, with iron guard and scabbard fitting (24) 1783-pattern sword, with its *fleur de lis* replaced by a lictor's fascine, (25) sword of the Year IX model, brass guard and garniture, (26) pistol of the 1763-66 patterns, (27, 28) cavalry musket and pistols of the 1777 patterns, (29) dragon's pistol and musket of the Year IX model

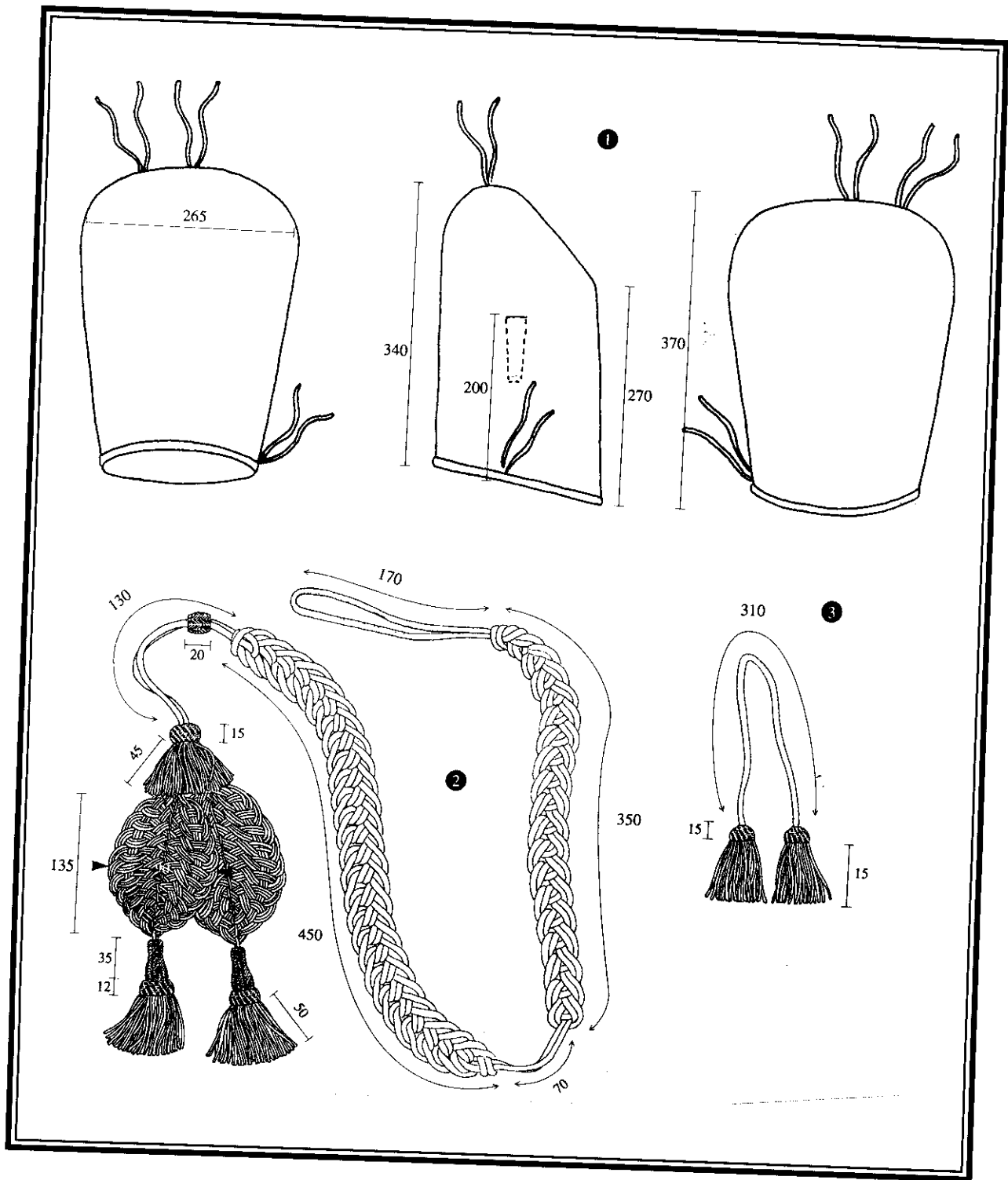
(*Les dragons du Premier Consul. Tradition magazine No's 73-74, Feb/March 1993*).



The bearskin cap (*bonnet à poil*) of the grenadier à pied de la Garde Impériale, 1804.

(1) Colloquially known as the 'beehive' this traditional fur grenadier cap was the most distinctive feature of la Garde Impériale uniform. (2) White woolen plaited cords ending with oval *raquettes* and white tassel hanging at the front from the top. (3) White lace cross on scarlet background worn on rear patch until 1808, and embroidered white grenade from that period. (4) Officer's version of patch grenade, from 1808, in sequined gold embroidery on scarlet.

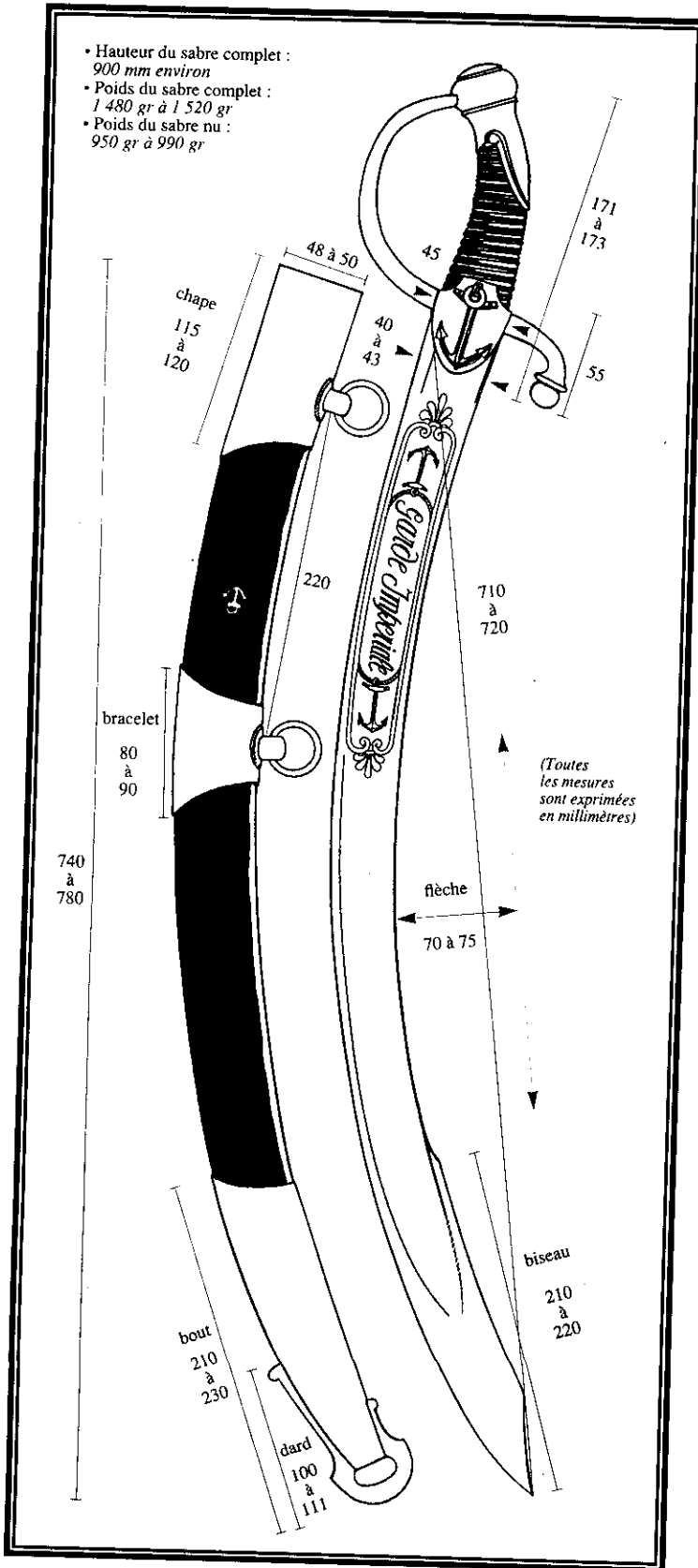
(*Le bonnets à poil des Grenadiers à pied. Tradition magazine No. 83, December 1993*)



The bearskin cap (*bonnet à poil*) of the *chasseur à pied* de la Garde Impériale, 1804.

(1) Chasseurs' fur cap never had a plate, but originally *may* have included a rear patch like that of the grenadiers; it was probably never seen after 1806. (2) White woolen plated cords were like those of the grenadiers, apparently always with two oval *raquettes* and two white tassels (3) hanging at the front from the crown. The plume was always green with the red tip.

(*Le bonnets à poil des Chasseurs à pied*. Tradition magazine No. 84, January 1994)



Battalion des Marins de la Garde Impériale. Sabre, 1806.

The sabre peculiar to the Marins seems to have been adopted at the beginning of 1806 and supplied to the corps by the sword-cutter Duc. This weapon had a broad curved blade, a brass hilt with single knuckle-bow and down-turning quillon, large langets bearing an anchor, and a black leather grip bound with brass wire.

Although the blade and the guard did not change, the ornaments on the scabbard were of several types.

The sabre incidentally was usually worn with the top swivel-carrying ring hung on to a hook attached to the belt. The sword knot was round, of orange wool, and was finished off with the tassel.

(Le sabre des marines de la Garde Impériale. Tradition magazine No. 89, June 1989).

Officer of the Artillerie á Cheval de la Garde Impériale, 1806.

First created as a company of the Light artillery on 28 November 1799 and attached to the Garde des Consuls, the late Artillerie á Cheval was formed into a Regiment by Imperial decree, dated 15 April 1806, and consisted of three squadrons, each of two companies. Each company had 97 men, including 22 officers and sous-officers, 25 vélites, 25 canonniers of the 1st class and 25 that of the 2nd class.

Hussar uniform style was first introduced for artillery after the 1794 reorganization. In general, the officers of the Artillerie á Cheval de la Garde Impériale used the same items as their men, but made of a better material and with buttons and braids of gold. Shortly after the creation of the corps, the four officers who formed part of it adopted the blue pelisse edged with grey fur. The dolman had 18 buttons in five rows, square braid loops and piping ornamentation. Dolman and pelisse both were decorated with gold braid and gold rank-lace on the cuffs: lieutenant two 14 mm bands, captain (chief d'escadron), 23mm band between two 14mm bands; major, two 14 mm alternating with two 23mm; colonel had two 23mm and three 14mm. The waist sash was made up of skeins of red with runners, cords, tassels and "olive" in gold. The sky-blue waistcoat also had five rows of buttons, was edged with a flat braid and a large quantity of piping which formed the buttonhole loops and ran alongside the flat braid.

On campaign in 1805 and 1809 the pelisse was worn over the waistcoat; in 1806-07 the coat was preferred. After 1806, officers uniform, very bedizened with ornamentation, lost their piping braid and only had the minimum of lace striping.

The blue Hongroise breeches had the side seams covered with flat braid and the openings of the fly surrounded by stripes according to rank, placed in the shape of an inverse arrowhead. The side braid and the strip were enclosed by piping in a very complicated pattern.

The colback, which was low and straight in the first place, became more outstanding towards 1801. Its gold cord formed two plaits, which were initially placed at the front, then one plait was passed behind. Finally, the flounders with tassels were firstly on the right side of the headdress, but towards 1802, were placed on the other side below the scarlet plume. The colback bag was scarlet with gold piping cords and a gold tassel.

The chasseur-type coat had gold turnbacks grenades; a gold single epaulette with embroidered grenade on the strap on the left shoulder, and a gold aiguillette on the right. With this garment, officers wore a braided waistcoat, and Hungarian breeches with boots, or a white waistcoat, white or blue breeches and white, black or blue hose, with silver buckled shoes.

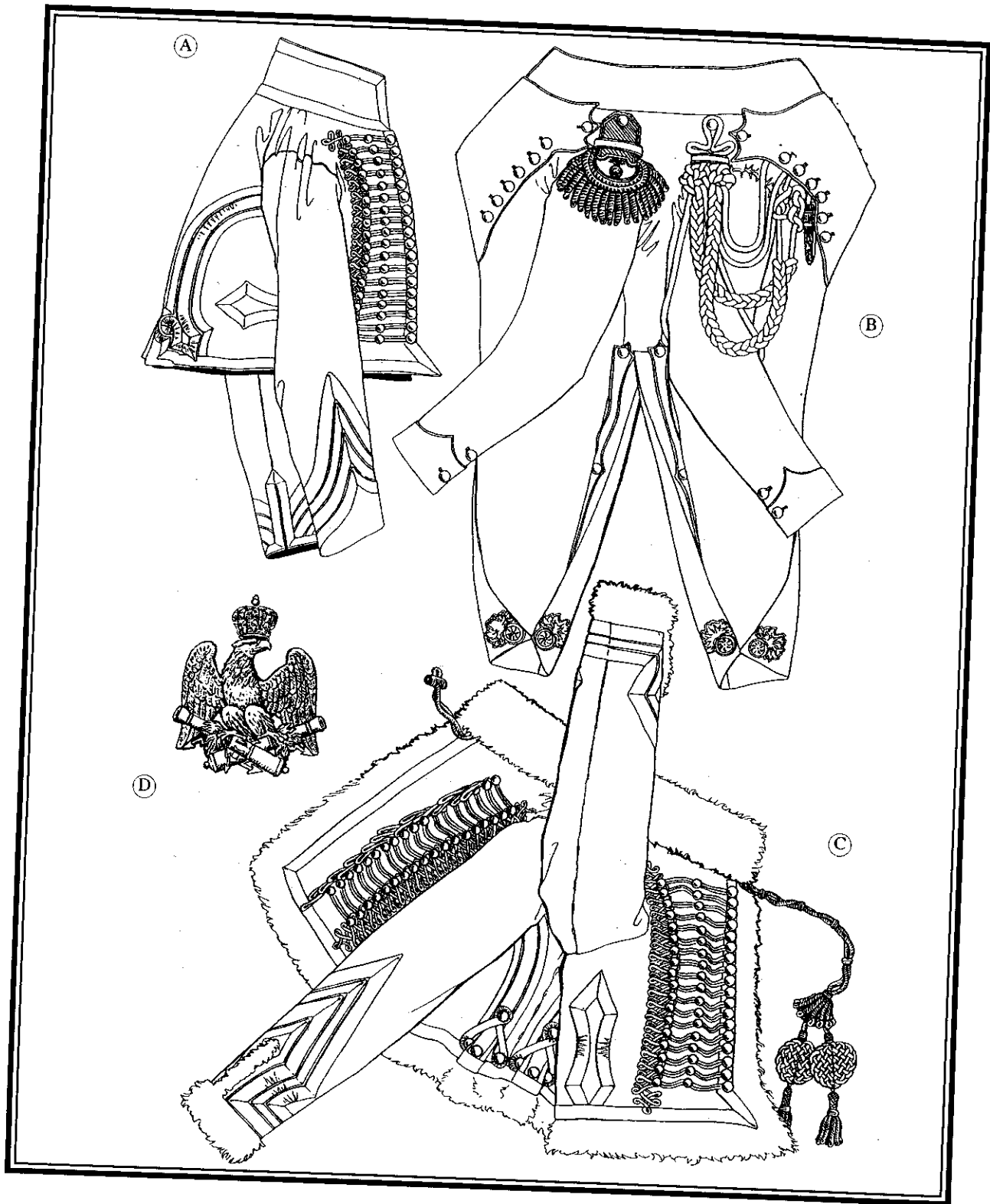
The equipment of red leather varied in its ornamentation. The pouch shoulder-belt seems to have initially been embroidered in gold, and later laced and decorated with gilt items. The flap of the pouch cut *en accolade* (scalloped), was edged with a line of gold and bore, originally, a grenade and then the eagle mounted on two crossed guns.

The background of the officers' parade sabretache seems always to have been scarlet, edged with a stripe and piping in gold. The centre of the flap was decorated with a crowned eagle and two crossed guns, surrounded by oak and laurel leaves, all embroidered in gold.

The armament comprised a pair of Light cavalry horse-pistols, a sabre and épée for society dress.

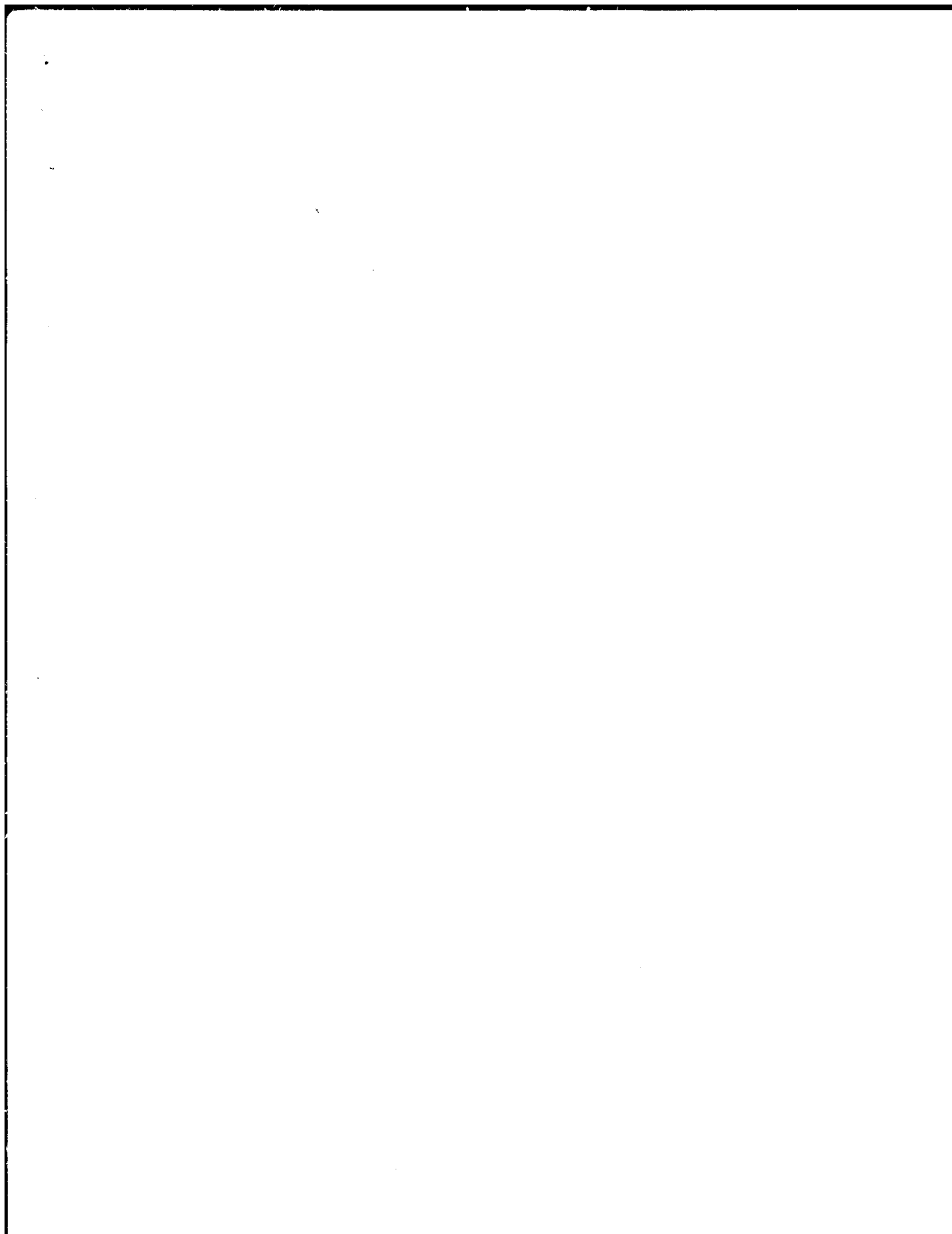
Originally, officers carried sabres with gilt stirrup hilt; that of an officer of Light cavalry or *à la Allemande*, model An IX. Later, when a pattern was produced for the officers of the Chasseurs á Cheval de la Garde Impériale, it is possible that Artillery officers used them for parade, the senior officers more so. But on campaign a more robust weapon was needed and they used model An IX, with a three-branched guard and an iron scabbard. The sabre and épée, worn with undress uniform, were completed by a sword knot of lace or gold cord, ending a fringed tassel or with bullion fringes according to rank.

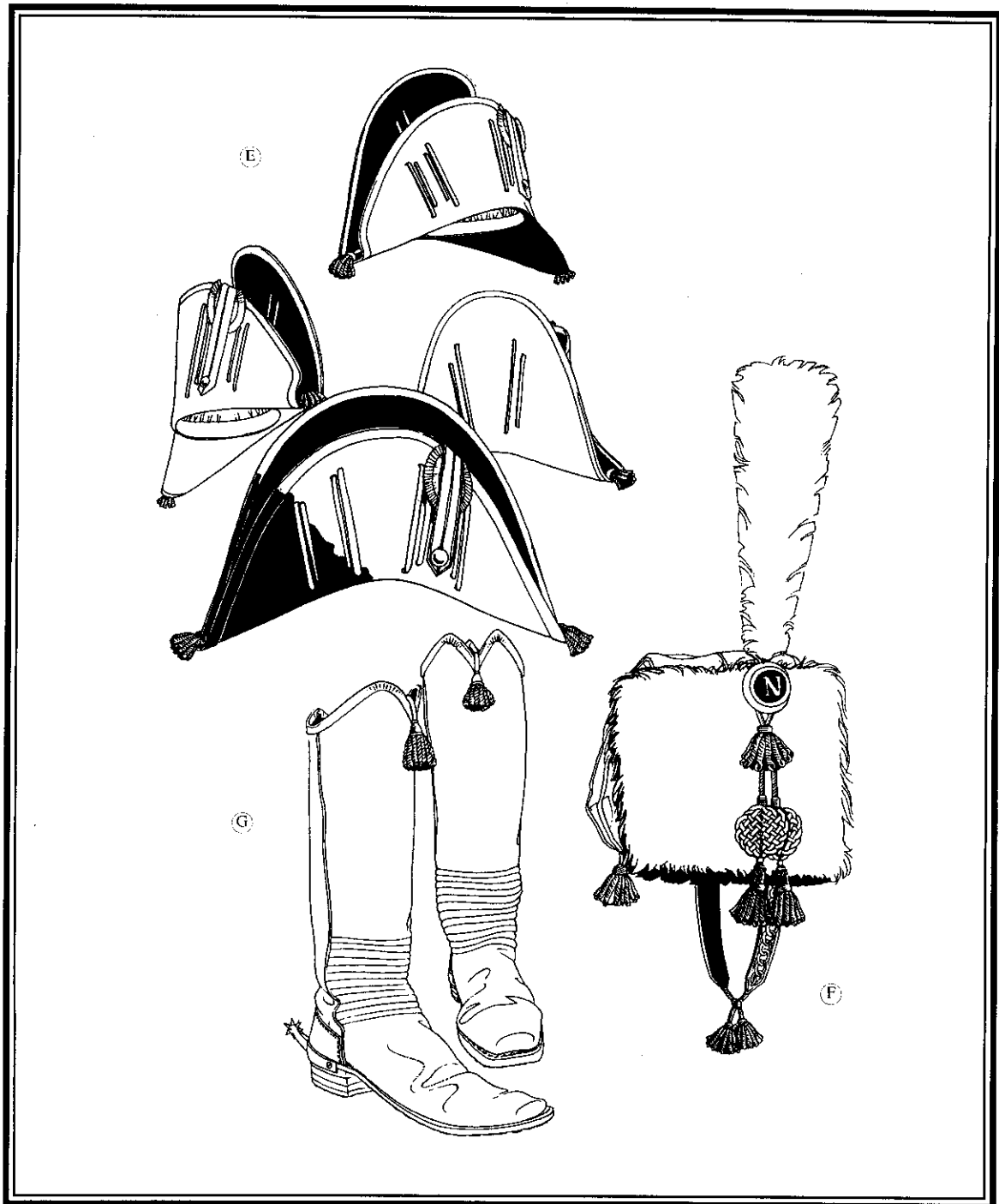
Parade harness comprised a panther-skin shabraque placed over the Hungarian saddle with panels. On campaign shabraque was of blue cloth, sometimes with a panther-skin seat, laced gold and piped scarlet. A blue cylindrical valise was added, of which the ends were piped scarlet and laced gold; the snaffle was of black leather.



Officer of the Artillerie à Cheval de la Garde Impériale. 1806.

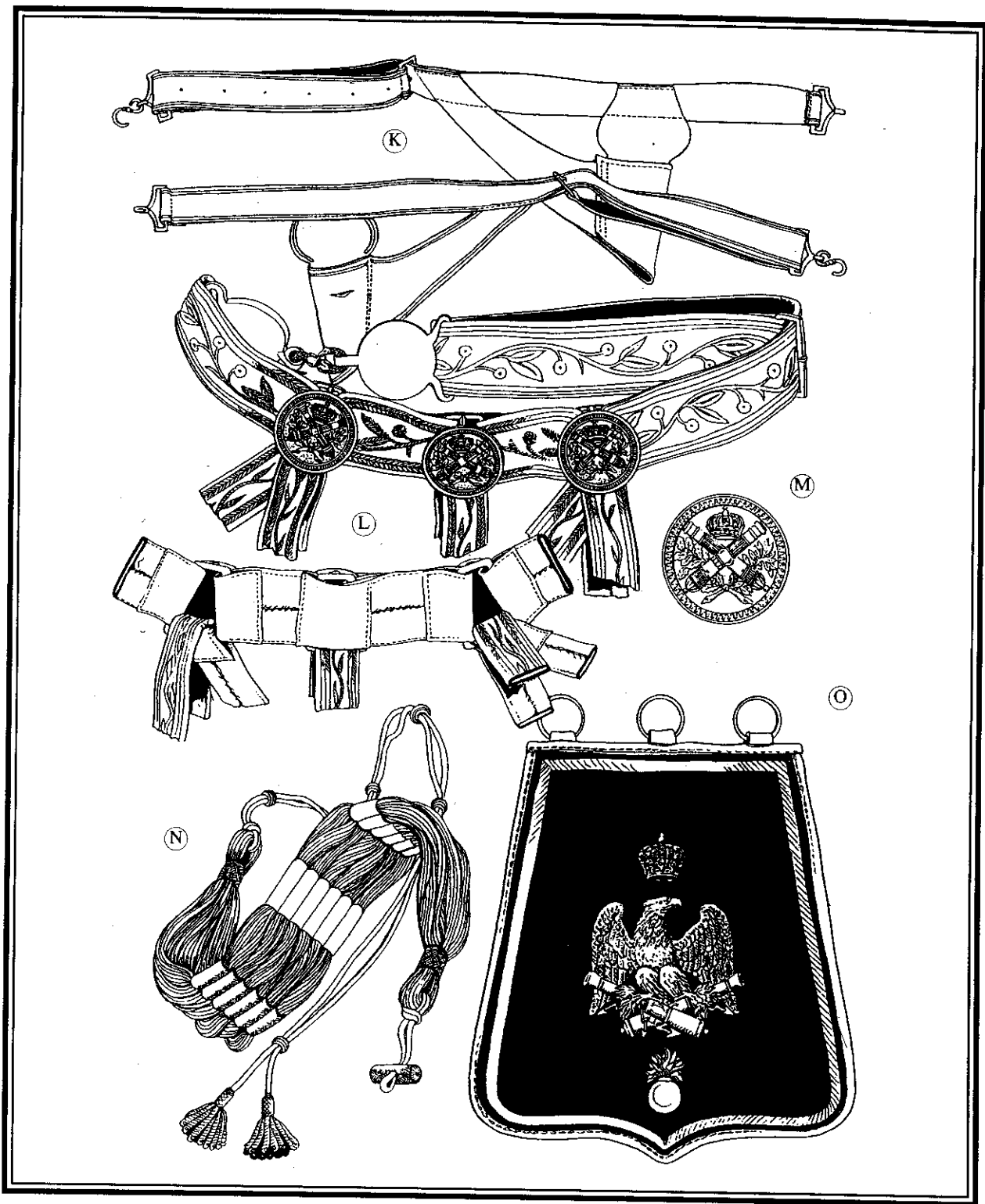
(A) Dolman of the chef d'escadron of blue Imperial cloth, with red cuffs; it bore gilt rank stripes of flat braid, square braid loops and piping ornamentation. (B) Coat of the petit uniform for the superior officer, *à la chasseur*, reflecting the style of the Light cavalry. Blue, with red cuffs and piping on the lapels and collar, it had gilt grenades on the turnbacks. (C) Pelisse of the chef d'escadron. (D) Gilt ornament of the cartridge pouch.





Officer of the Artillerie à Cheval de la Garde Impériale, 1806.

(E) The hat for walking-out dress had all its lacing, cockade loop, small cords and corner-tassels all in gold. (F) The colback of black fur; its flounders with tassels, towards 1802, were placed on the left side below the scarlet plume. The colback bag was scarlet with gold piping cords and a gold tassel. The cockade, 58mm in diameter, had "N" of aurora lace; it was 27mm for 29mm and fixed by an iron rod, 1mm in diameter and 105mm in length. Officers often replaced the white cockade's field in silver, adding "N" of gilt threads. (G) Hungarian boots of the Light cavalry type, were decorated with gold lace and tassels; iron spurs.



Officer of the Artillerie à Cheval de la Garde Impériale, 1806.

(K) Sword belt of white leather, for society dress. (L) Waist belt and slings *à la Hongroise*, were red edged gold, with Creeks scrolls and patterns. The waistbelt bosses were initially stamped with the lion heads; later decorated with the eagles and guns, or simply a crown above crossed guns (M). (N) Waist-sash, 2,60m long, with gold cords and tassels. (O) Sabretache for campaign, covered by back leather with gold lace; decorated with stamped gilt eagle on crossed cannons and grenade.

(Garde Imperiale, 1806. *L'Officier d'Artillerie à Cheval*, Tradition No. 78-79, July-Aug., 1993)

Reform of the uniform: the regulations of the 19 January and 13 February 1812

The 1 October 1786 regulation, the last enacted by the Monarchy, was completely forgotten by the end of the Empire. Many changes had been brought about in the uniform of the troops without anything having been codified and at the time of the flourishing of the Napoleonic Empire, there existed neither "official" samples of clothing nor models to which one might have been able to refer.

The great latitude allowed to the regimental commanders and the Administrative Councils occasioned great irregularity in the cut and design of clothing. Fashion trends drove the military style without having regard to the well-being of the soldier.

The state of things made clear the necessity for establishing standard models. In 1811, the Emperor created a commission for this purpose with the duke de Feltre, War Minister, at its head. He was assisted by comte Boursier, general of division of cavalry, comte Sorbier, general of division of artillery, baron Bardin, colonel of Pupilles de la Garde, baron Dufour, Commissar-ordonnateur de la Garde and also baron d'Autancourt, major of the Chevaux-légers de la Garde.

Colonel Bardin, reporting member on the commission's activities, then proposed to codify everything which concerned the jackets, the trousers, the overalls, the headgear, the equipment, the harness, the rank insignia, etc., in use in the French army and to set out a complete regulation covering all these details.

The work was to last several months and the result remains to us in the form of an extensive text of which there exist two manuscript copies. One of them, that which is kept in the French Ministry of War, was not intended to be published. Part of these regulations relative to the clothing of the foot troops were printed in the *Journal Militaire Officiel*, dated 19 January 1812; then another portion was printed on 7 February 1812, mostly concerning mounted troops. These extracts printed come from the second copy which remained in Bardin's hands and are at present in the library of the Musée de l'Armée.

In addition, the Ministry of War possesses two volumes of drawings, representing a fair number of uniform articles with their dimensions, and a collection of watercolors, some of which were executed by great historical painter and lithographer Carle Vernet (1758-1836).

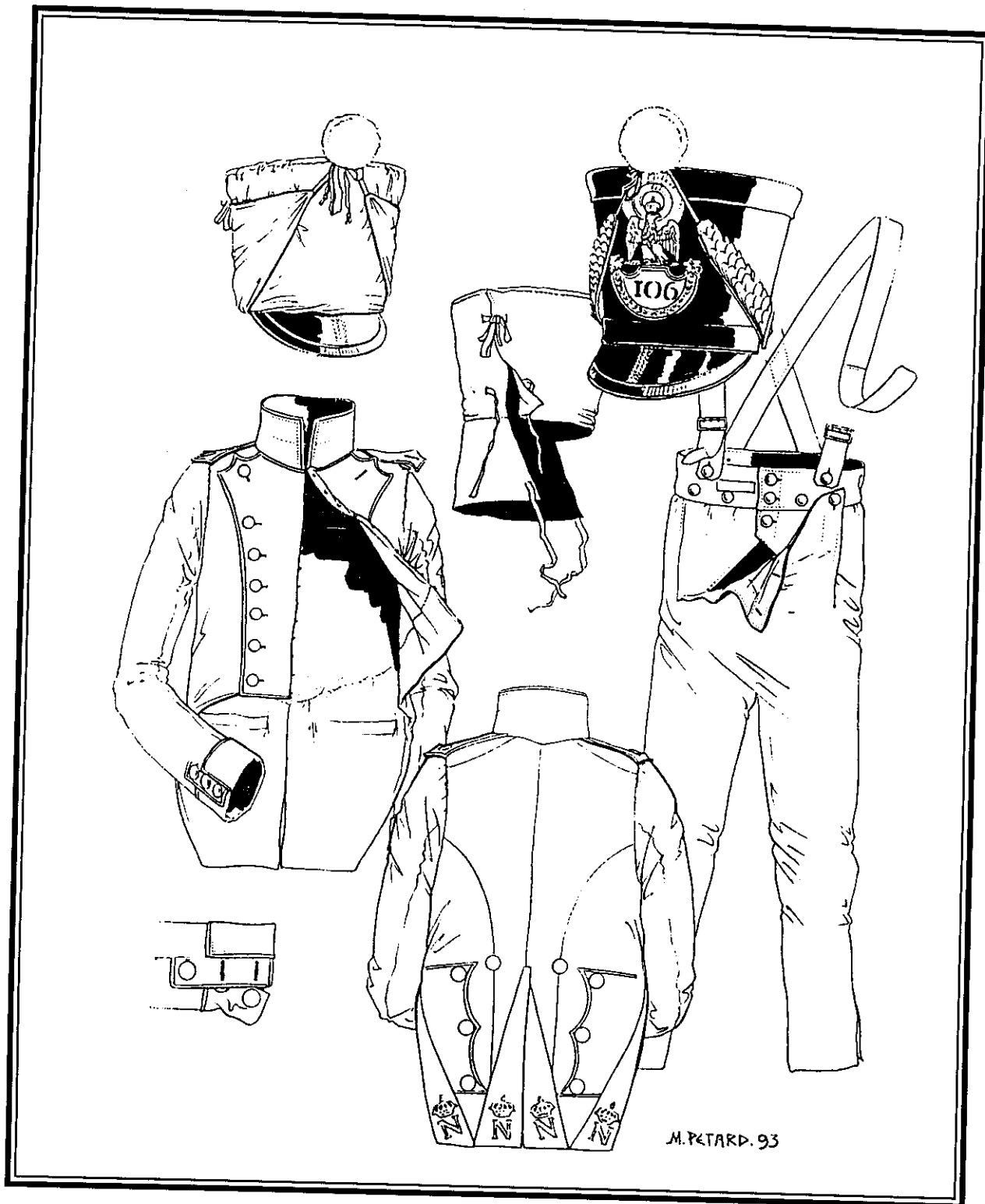
Part of these regulations were also printed in 1812 in *Législation Militaire*, completed in 4 vol's by H. Berriat, the captain of the 4th Foot artillery Regiment.

BARDIN Etienne-Alexandre

Born in Paris, 31 May 1774; he was son of a painter Jean and Marie-Madeleine Legein. Engaged the military career in 1792, was appointed adjudant-major of the 8th battalion of the volunteers *du Loiret*. Served in campaigns 1792 - 96, the *Armée du Nord*; transferred to the 8th demi-brigade of the Light Infantry, served in 1797-99 in the *Armée de Sambre-et-Meuse* under Beurnonville and Jourdan; taken prisoner. Released after the piece of Leunéville, 9 February 1801; named an aide-de-camp to General Junot, governor of Paris. Appointed the chief de bataillon in the 1st Regiment de la Garde de Paris; served in Holland in 1805; named in 1806 a major in the 2nd Regiment de la Garde. Awarded Legion of honour in 1804.

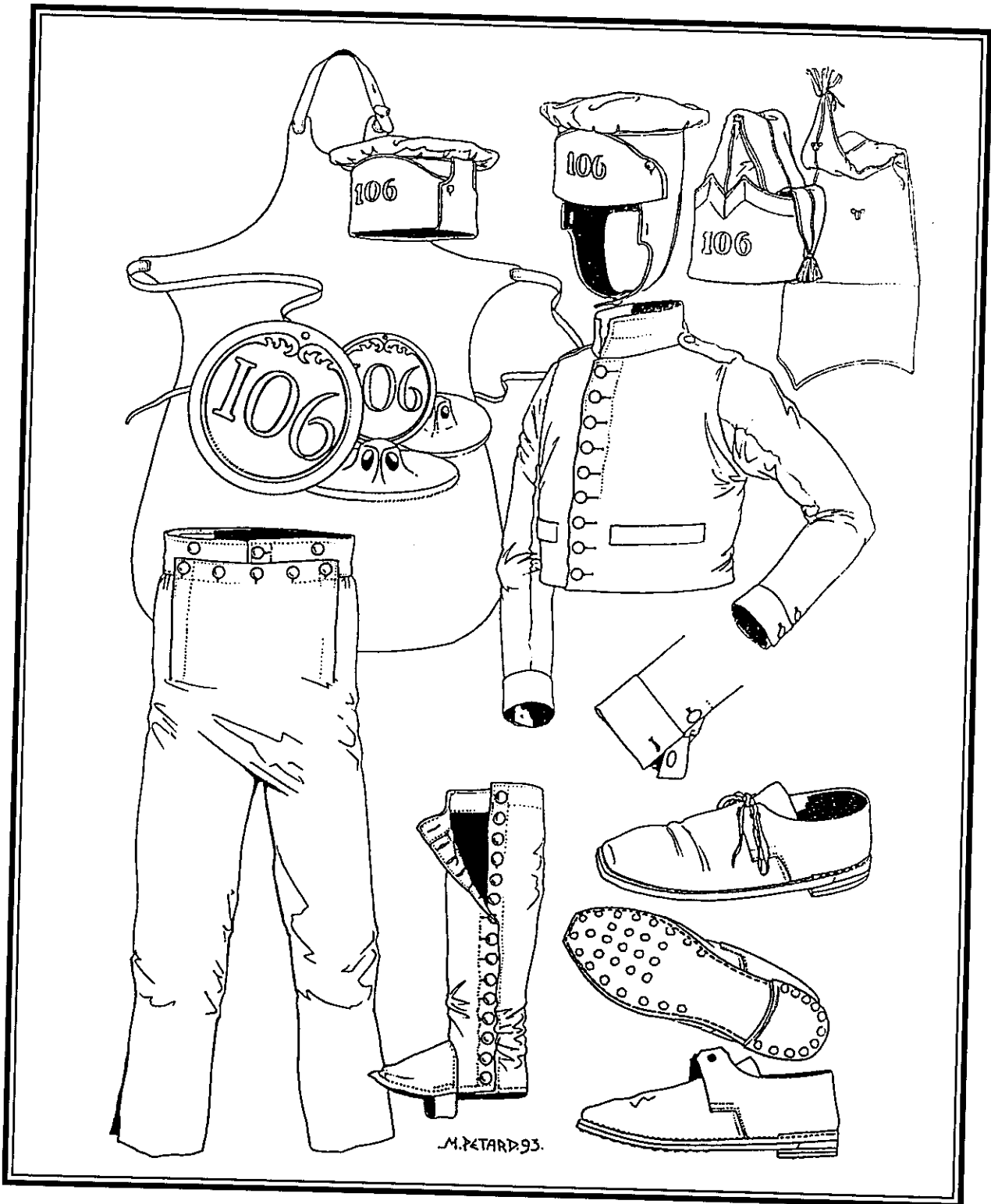
In 1811 he was appointed colonel of Pupilles de la Garde Impériale; distinguished himself at Dresden, 26-27 August 1813, where he commanded the 8th and 9th regiments de Tirailleurs. On half-pay during the Restoration, he later was employed by Military depot with the rank of colonel of General staff. Baron by decree 16 August 1812; he died in Loiret on 28 October 1840.

His other important works: *Manuel d'infanterie* (1807), *Mémorial de l'officier d'infanterie* (1809), *Cours d'instruction à l'usage des élèves sous-officiers appelés à l'École de Fontainebleau* (1814).



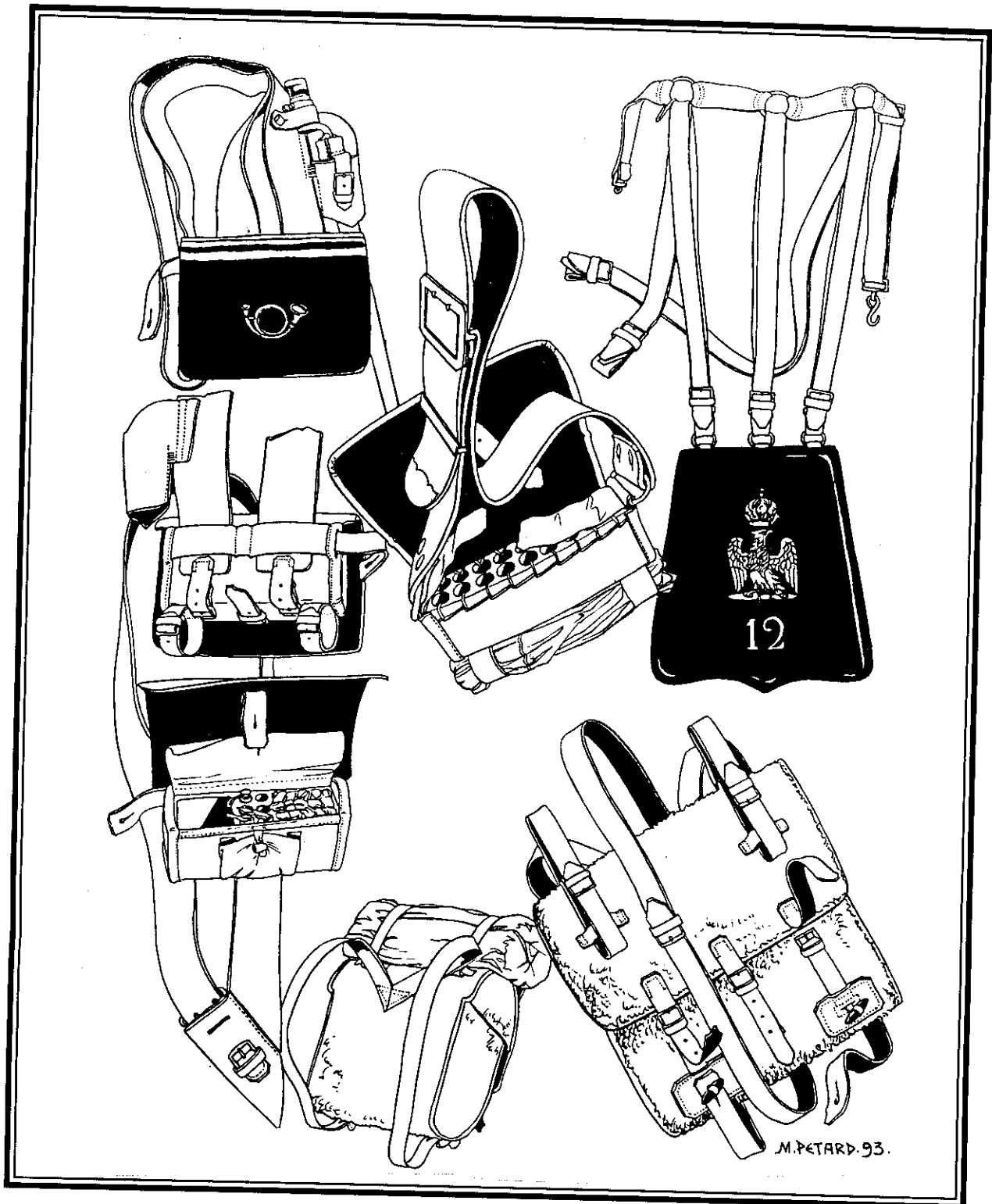
Assembly of the uniform for fusilier of the 106th Line Infantry Regiment,
by Regalement of 1812.

(Alan Pigard, *L'Armée Napoléonienne, 1804-1815*)



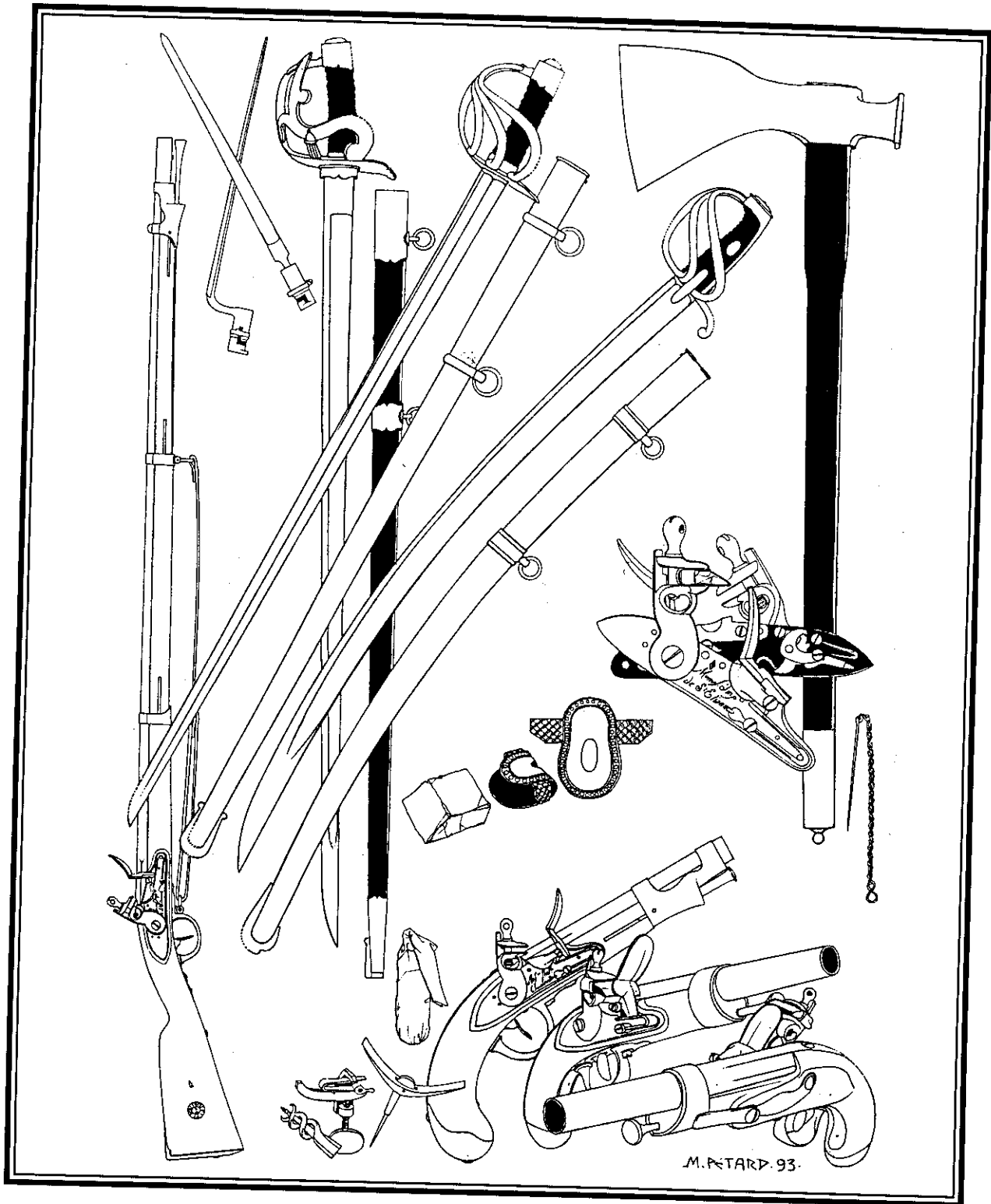
Assembly of the uniform for fusilier of the 106th Line Infantry Regiment,
by Regalement of 1812, cont'd.

(Alan Pigcard, *L'Armée Napoléonienne, 1804-1815*)



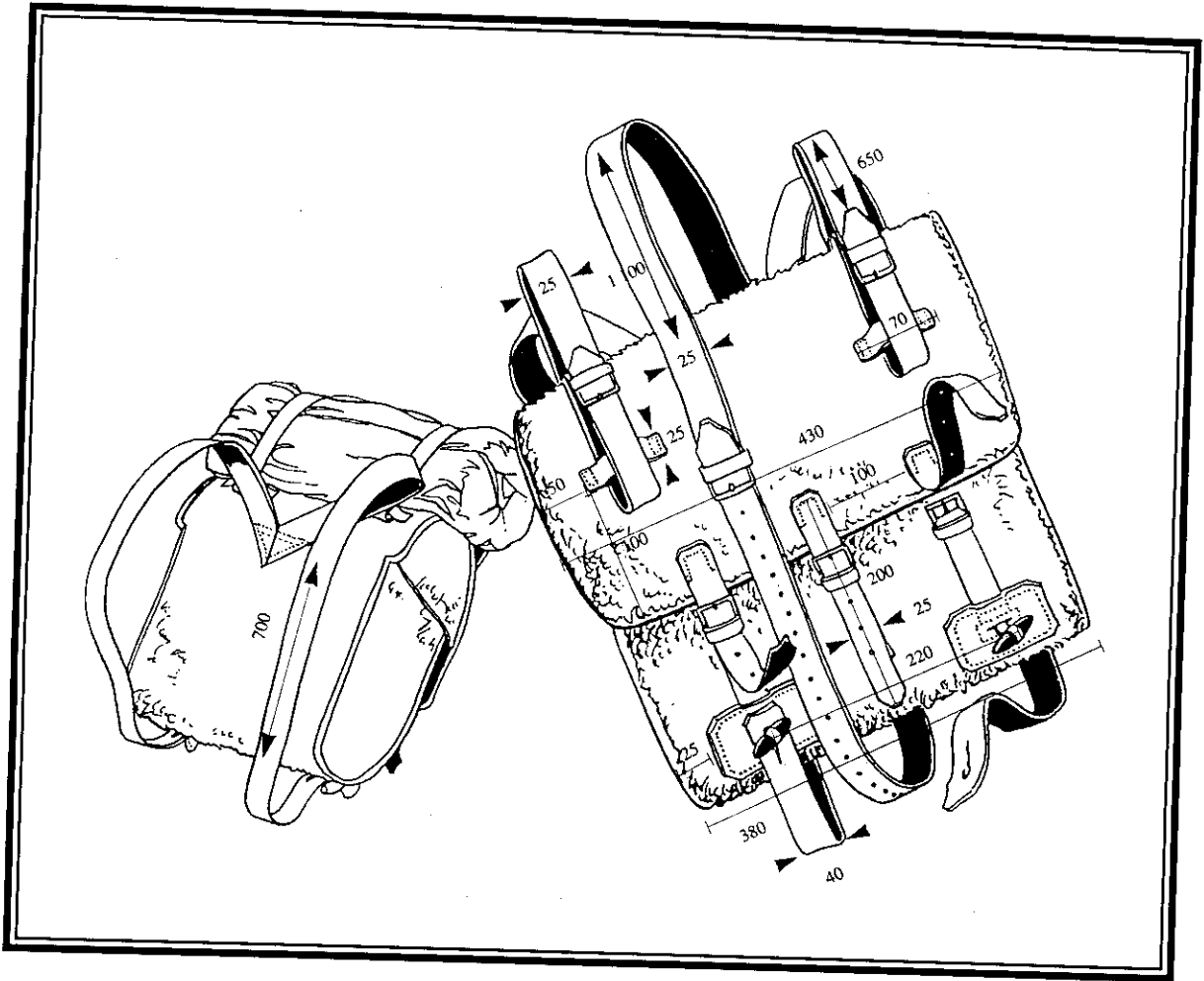
Equipment of the First Empire:
 Cartridge box with a bayonet suspended for voltigeurs companies showing (top) front view,
 (centre) rear view and (bottom) view when opened; sabretache with sabre belt and slings of the
 12th Hussars (right), opened cavalry pouch (centre); cowhide knapsack with folded overcoat (bottom)

(Alan Pigeard, *L'Armée Napoléonienne, 1804-1815*)



Armament of the First Empire:
 Musket model 1777, modified An IX; sword of dragoon, model An IV (left), cuirassier, An XI (centre);
 sabre of the light cavalry, An XI (right). Flintlocks for muskets made at the Imperial manufacture of
 St.-Etienne; pistol model An IX (left) and An XIII (right), an ax, *épinglette*, etc.

(Alan Pigeard, *L'Armée Napoléonienne, 1804-1815*)



Equipment of the First Empire
Cowhide knapsack of the infantry troopers with folded overcoat, 1812-pattern Regulation

(*Tradition* magazine, No. 88, May 1994)

Hussar officers by Regalement of 1812

Officers of hussars had even more numerous and luxurious uniforms than officers of the other arms mentioned above and had no reason to envy them. The essential garments were always more or less in keeping with regulations, but there were differences between regiments in the headdress, equipment and harness. There was a great diversity of uniforms due to regimental traditions, old customs, or because of personal preferences of superior officer of individual regiments who dictated certain peculiarities and distinctions in the cut of closing, style of rank insignia, shape, ornamentation, etc., of equipment and harness. Note that there also were individual preferences amongst junior officers, who were always ready to innovate; it is not surprising, therefore, that each regiment had its individual distinctions and with the aid of distinctive colors, uniforms would appear to be more varied than in other arms.

The Bardin's regulations of 1812 tried to regularize and simplify dress and equipment. As the uniforms of hussar officers was extremely expensive, it was decided to reduce closing costs, the number of items of dress and do away with superfluous accessories. In 1810, a note of service tried to make headgear simpler, without much success, by dispensing with trimmings and plumes for all officers of ordinary companies...

By proposed new regulation, pelisse and dolman were as those of the troop; gilded or silvered buttons, pelisse edged with fox fur and had distinctive marking for the ranks. Cuffs of the general color with piping of the designated color. Strap of the turnbacks of the distinctive color with button. Belt in crimson goat's hair with tassel and knots in gold or silver. Green riding breeches as those of the troop, reinforced with cloth at the crotch.

Shako made of felt of the same shape and dimensions as those of the troop; plates and chinstrap of metal, cockade in thread or silk, dice patterned at the top of the shako which had various dimensions of braid according to the rank of its owner. Newly designed plume should become much shorter; twisted tassel at each end for senior officers only. Note on officers' pompons: it was white carrot-shaped tufts for all headquarters officers; tufts of the following colors for ordinary company officers:

- 1st squadron
 - 1st company (elite): bright-red hair crests
 - 2nd company red with white center

- 2nd squadron
 - 3rd company: sky-blue
 - 4th company: sky-blue with white center

- 3rd squadron
 - 5th company: aurora
 - 6th company: aurora with white center

- 4th squadron
 - 7th company: violet
 - 8th company: violet with white center

Bicorn hats made of black felt. Cloth forage cap in the "*pokalem*" shape of the same color as the pelisse, piping of the distinctive color and regimental number embroidered in gold or silver.

Distinctive rank marking on the pelisse, dolman and breeches; senior officers only had the side seams of the breeches trimmed with double braid. Epaulette, without contre-epaulette, worn on the dress coat with twisted bullion fringes for senior officers and fringes for others. Boots similar to those of the troop, but edged in gold or silver with a tassel. With their dress

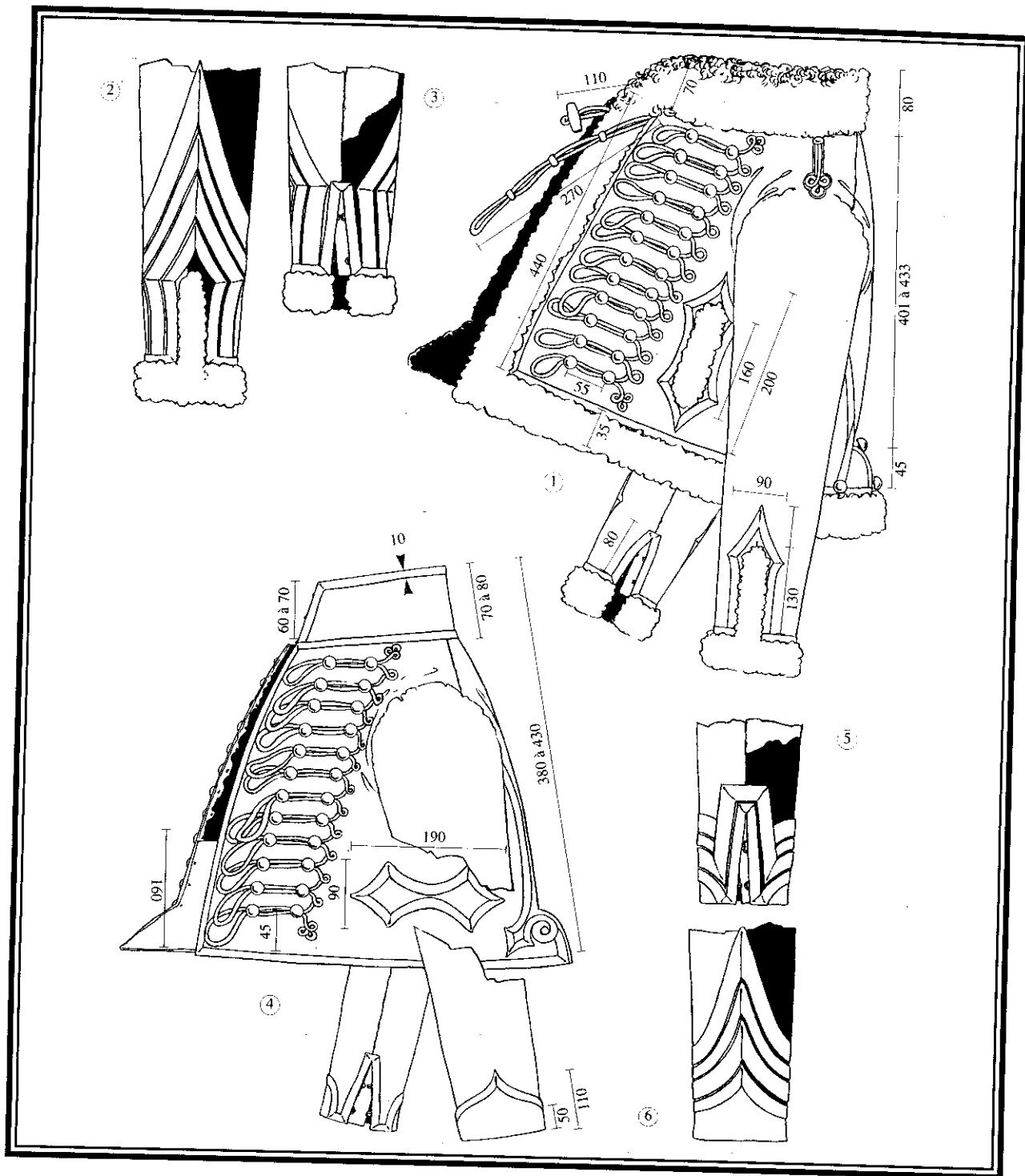
uniform when worn off duty, senior officers could wear Morocco leather boots of their regimental color, garter buckles and shoe buckles with their town dress or coat, breeches or stockings.

Undress uniform included waistbelt of plain black varnished leather; swordbelt of white leather; sabretache with varnished black leather straps and trimmed with gold or silver braid according to the rank, eagle and number in the same metal as the buttons.

Hussar officers were deprived their cartridge pouch; they were wearing waistbelt of red Morocco leather for dress uniform edged with gold or silver embroidery; same for sabre and sabretache slings, waistbelt claps embossed with heads of the Medusa; also same embossing on the buckles and engraving on the sides.

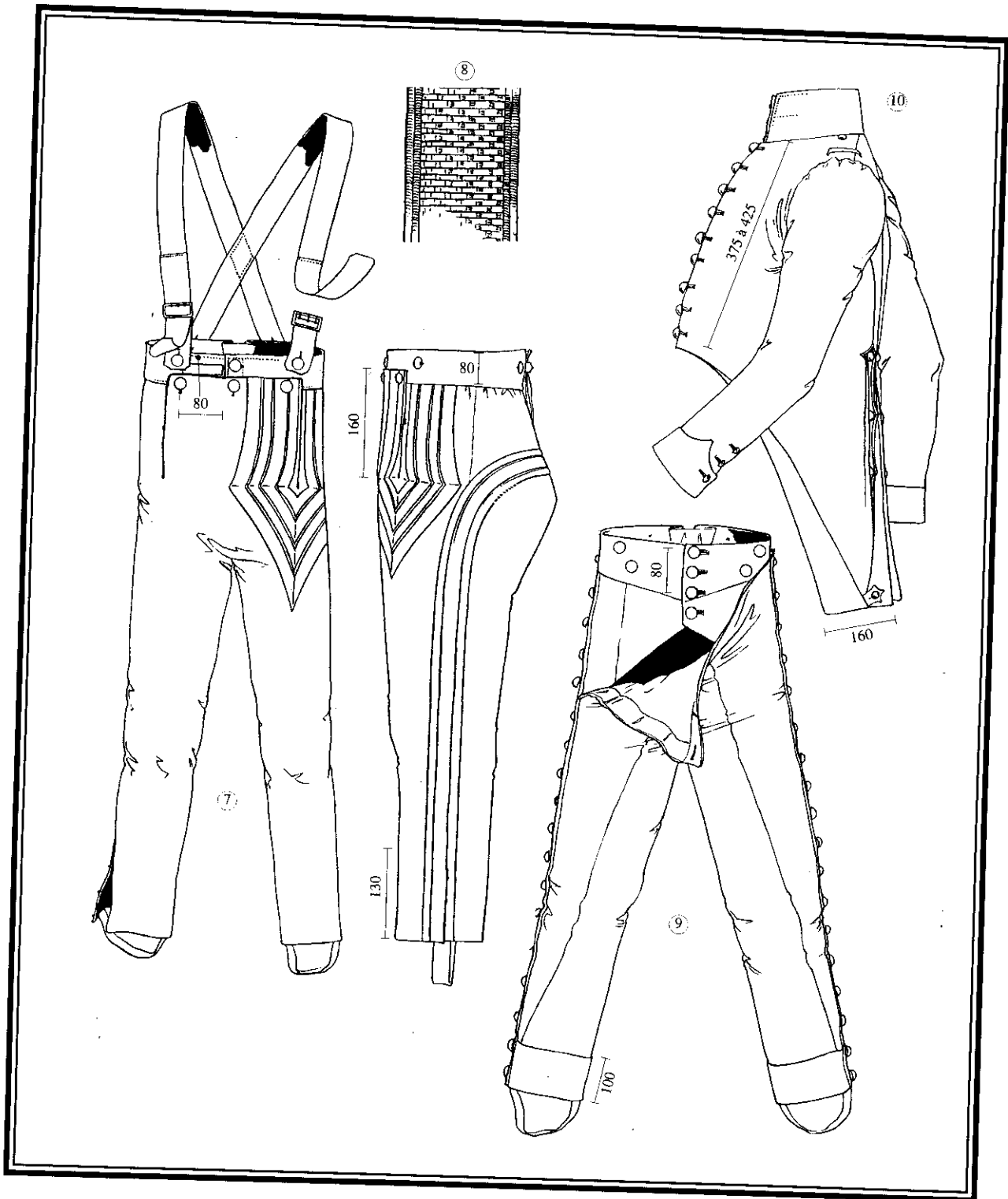
Harness consisted of saddle with holster straps covered with green Morocco leather and trimmed with metal, holsters with caps of cooper, covered by silver or gold. Bronzed stirrups, crupper with metal decorations; sun on the breastplate of the horse; loops, keepers and decorations of the leather bridles, the crescent and other decorations, gold or silver plated. Embossed bit with Medusa's head; parade snaffle lined red; clothe shabraque; reinforcing plates of leather on the sides. Regimental number in the rear corner of the shabraque which were 80 mm high, trimmed with 50 mm wide braid for the colonel, major and chief d'squadron; 45 mm for captains, 40 mm for lieutenants and 35 mm for sous-lieutenants, a second braid on the inside for the colonel and the contrasting color for the major. A cylindrical portmanteau was decorated with 35 mm braid for senior officers, one 20 mm braid for the others. The regimental number placed in the center of portmanteaux and was 35 mm high.

In cold weather, the cloak-coat was worn over the surtout or dress coat; double breasted, it had a cape trimmed with metallic braid which varied in width depending on rank.



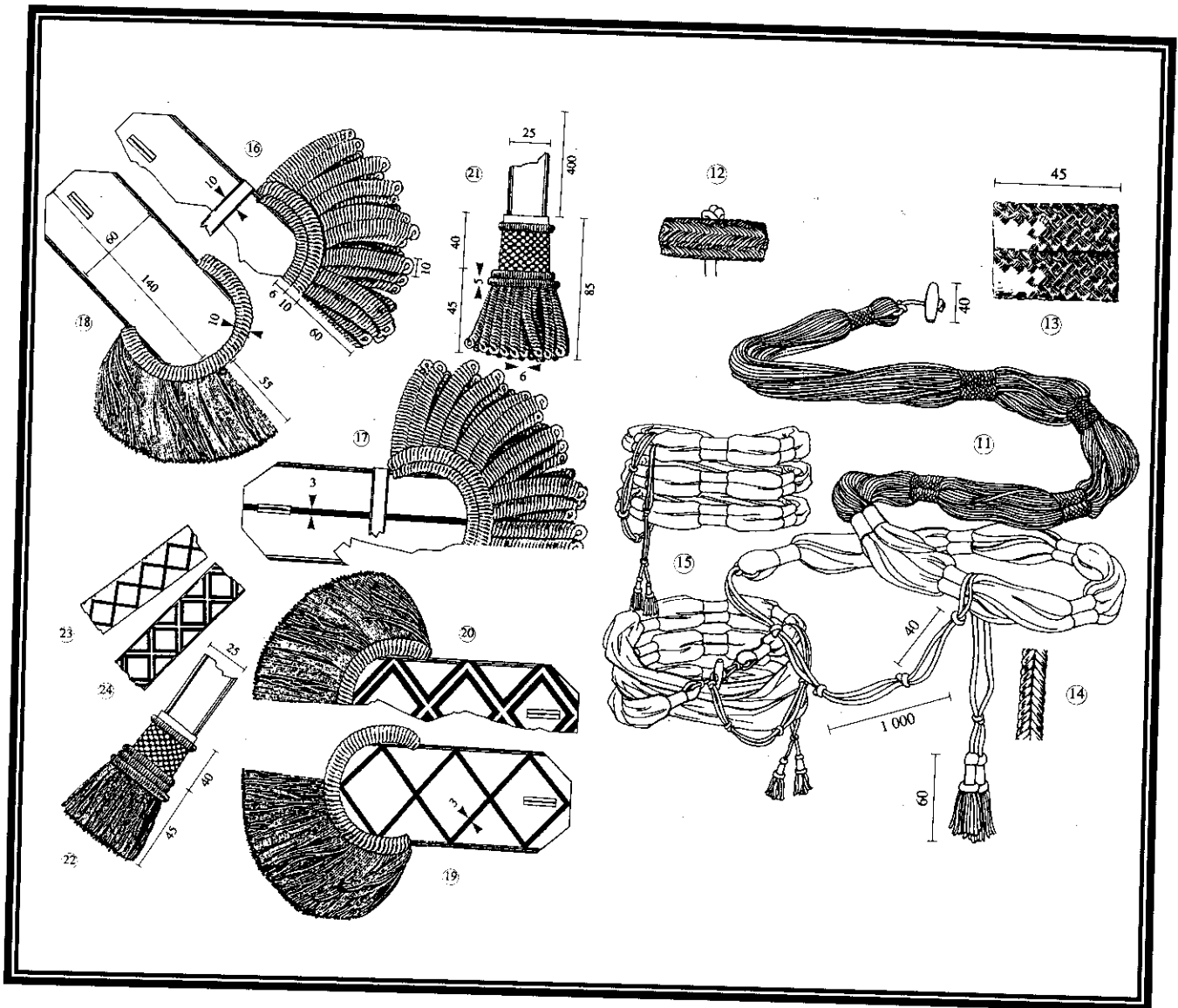
Hussar officers by Regalement of 1812

(1) Pelisse of hussar officer; laces, cords and buttons gilded or silvered. This design also suggest the rank distinction (sous-lieutenant); (2 and 3) detail of the cuff of the pelisse – avers and reverse; four laces designate a superior officer, chief d'squadron; (4) dolman. (5 and 6) avers and reverse for the dolman of the chief d'squadron.



Hussar officers by Regiment of 1812

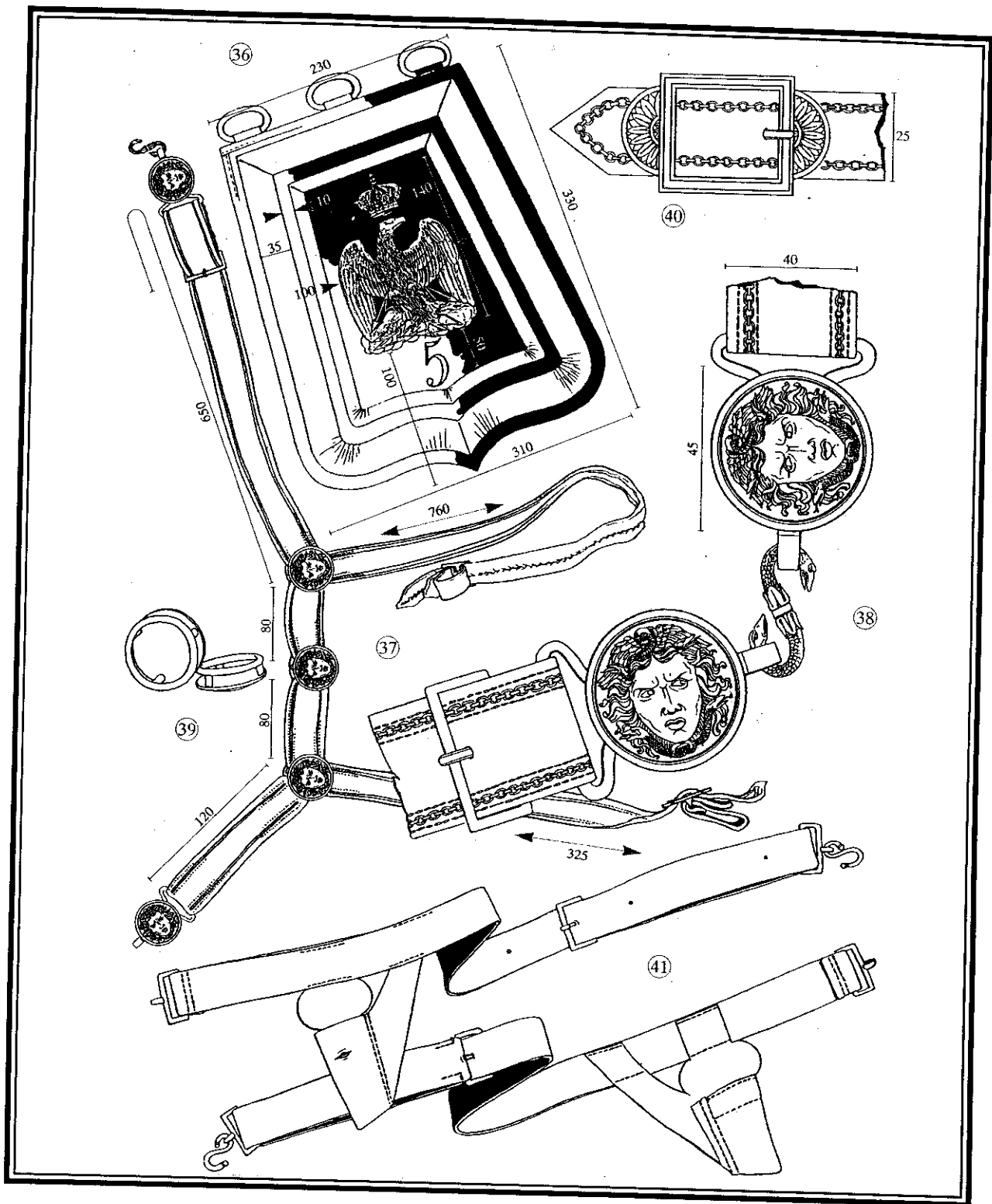
- (7) The Hungarian breeches, with distinctive marking – 5 stripes for the colonel and major (the latter having the second and fourth braid in the same color as the top of the epaulette), 4 for the chief d'squadron (presented design), 3 for the captain, 2 for the lieutenant and 1 for the lieutenant;
 (8) detail of the lace embroidery; (9) breeches for riding (leather reinforcement); distinguished from the troop by buttons, gilded or silvered placed on the each side of lace of distinctive color;
 (10) frog of the officer; with distinctive color for collar, cuffs and piping.



Hussar officers by Regalement of 1812

Right: (11) waist-sash, as those of the troops, except the quality of the material with barrels, cords, knots, olives and tassels of crimson with gold/silver rings; (12) detail of olive (buckle) of the sash; (13) detail of the embroidery, known as *point de Milan*; (14) detail of the cord; (15) two designs of the waist-sash, front and rear (how it was assembled and worn on the uniform)

Left: epaulettes worn on the dress coat with twisted bullion fringes, known as *cul-de-dé*, for senior officers and regular fringes for others; two epaulettes for colonels, majors and chiefs d'squadrons (16), the top being contrasting metal to the button color; (17) epaulette for colonels and majors *en second* with lozenge of distinctive color; (18) epaulette of captains; (19) epaulette for lieutenants, the top being decorated with lozenges in red silk and double lozenges for sous-lieutenants (20). Gold or silver sword knots with tassels and fringes according to rank; (21) tassel for the superior officers; (22) for captain and/or other particular officer; (23) sword knot for lieutenant and sous-lieutenant (24); it also bore lozenges of red silk.



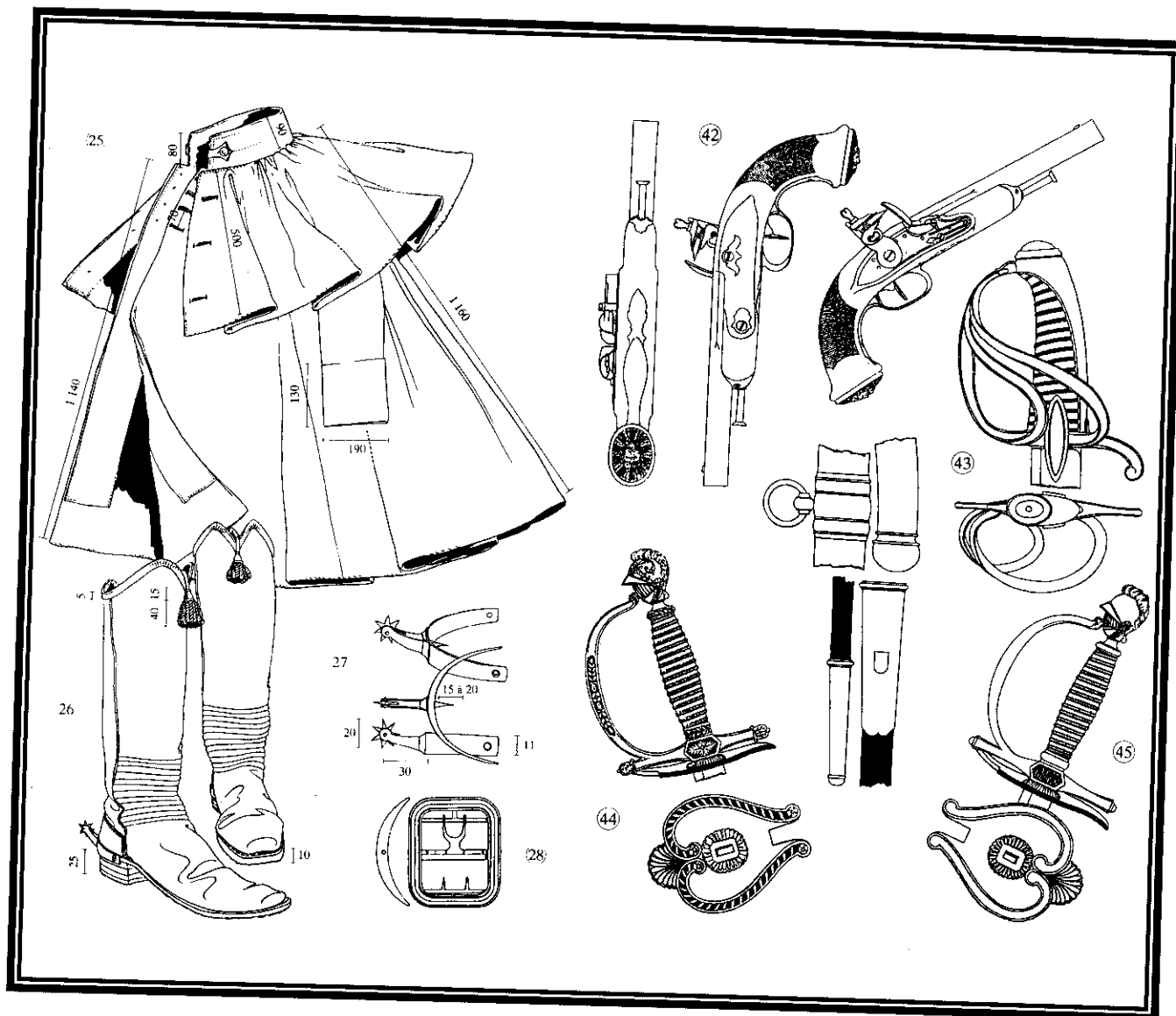
Hussar officers by Reglement of 1812

Sabretache with varnished black leather straps and trimmed with gold or silver braid, 35 mm wide for senior officers, a second braid for the colonel and major (36) but with the contrasting color placement of braids for major; 25 mm for all other officers grades; eagle and number in the same metal as the buttons; (37) cavalry sword-belt; (38) Medusa's head ornament, silvered or gilded; (39) fixture for ornament; (40) buckle; (41) belt for the épée, worn with the petit uniform



Hussar officers by Regalement of 1812

Felt shako the same shape and dimensions as those of the troop; plates and chinstraps in metal; cockade in thread or silk. Dice patterned braid at the top of the shako, silver or gold, which was 35 mm wide for the chief d'squadron, 30 mm for captains, 25 mm for lieutenants and 20 mm for sous-lieutenant. Colonels (29) had the one wide braid plus a small 15 mm one; the major had this second 15 mm braid of the same color worn on the top of his epaulettes; (32) shako plate; (31) plume - all white for colonels; major red over white and all red hair crests (32) for the elite companies; (33) tuft and (34) pompon; (35) bicorne with lace, button and fringes of gold or silver.



Hussar officers by Règlement of 1812

Left: (25) officer's manteau (cloak) with a cape, made of green fabric of better quality than those of the troop; (26) boots *à la Hongroise*, edged with gold or silver lace with a tassel in the manner of the sword knot; (27) iron spurs with brass fixture; (28) buckle for shoes, gilded for the superior officers and silvered for the other ranks.

Armament: (42) pistol of the hussar officers; (43) light cavalry officers sabre, model of An IX with silver furniture, bore engraving "Vive l'Empereur" on the blade; (44) épée for the petit uniform, model of An XII, (silvered or gilded); bore by superior officers; (45) other ranks épée

(*Les officiers de hussards selon de Règlement de 1812; parts I and II. Tradition magazine No's 66-67 August and 68 September, 1992).*)

The French cheveu-léger lancers in 1812.

Napoleon had seen usefulness that Cossacks derived from lances in his earlier campaigns. He first equipped two regiments of the Guard with lances and on 18 June 1811 was ordered the formation of the six line cheveu-léger lancers regiments. These were converted from the equal number of the French dragoon regiments: 1st, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th and 29th. The regulation defining the uniforms, equipment and weapons of the cheveu-léger lancers followed on 15 July 1811. Between the decree of the creation and the Bardin's regulation published in the *Journal Militaire Officiel* on 7 February 1812 is a very little difference, which took place by the end of 1812.

The dress consisted of a short jacket of green cloth with the white lining. The distinctive color for collar, cuffs and lapels were scarlet, aurora, pink, crimson, sky-blue and red madder. The linen turnbacks in the regimental color carried an eagle in linen of the green color. The long lapels were squared off at the tips with fastening from top to bottom so they might be buttoned back across the chest. Brass buttons were stamped with the regimental number; 22 small and 4 big ones on the jacket, 14 small ones on the stable coat and 10 small on the waistcoat. The latter was of white cloth, sleeveless and without epaulettes; it has pocket on the right side with a flap. The piped cuff opening at the bottom is closed three small buttons. Stable dress coat of the base color and was close-fitting on the hips, without piping.

Green Hungarian-pattern breeches (with yellow strips), riding pants or overbreeches in green were also worn, the latter being reinforced on the inside leg with calfskin and bearing the stripe of the distinctive color. They were wide, gone over the boots and were buttoned with 18 bone buttons on the outside; there are no pockets. Regarding the Hungarian breeches note that possibly the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th regiments were wearing ones with inverted arrowheads on the front flap and the 5th and 6th regiments with the Hungarian knot.

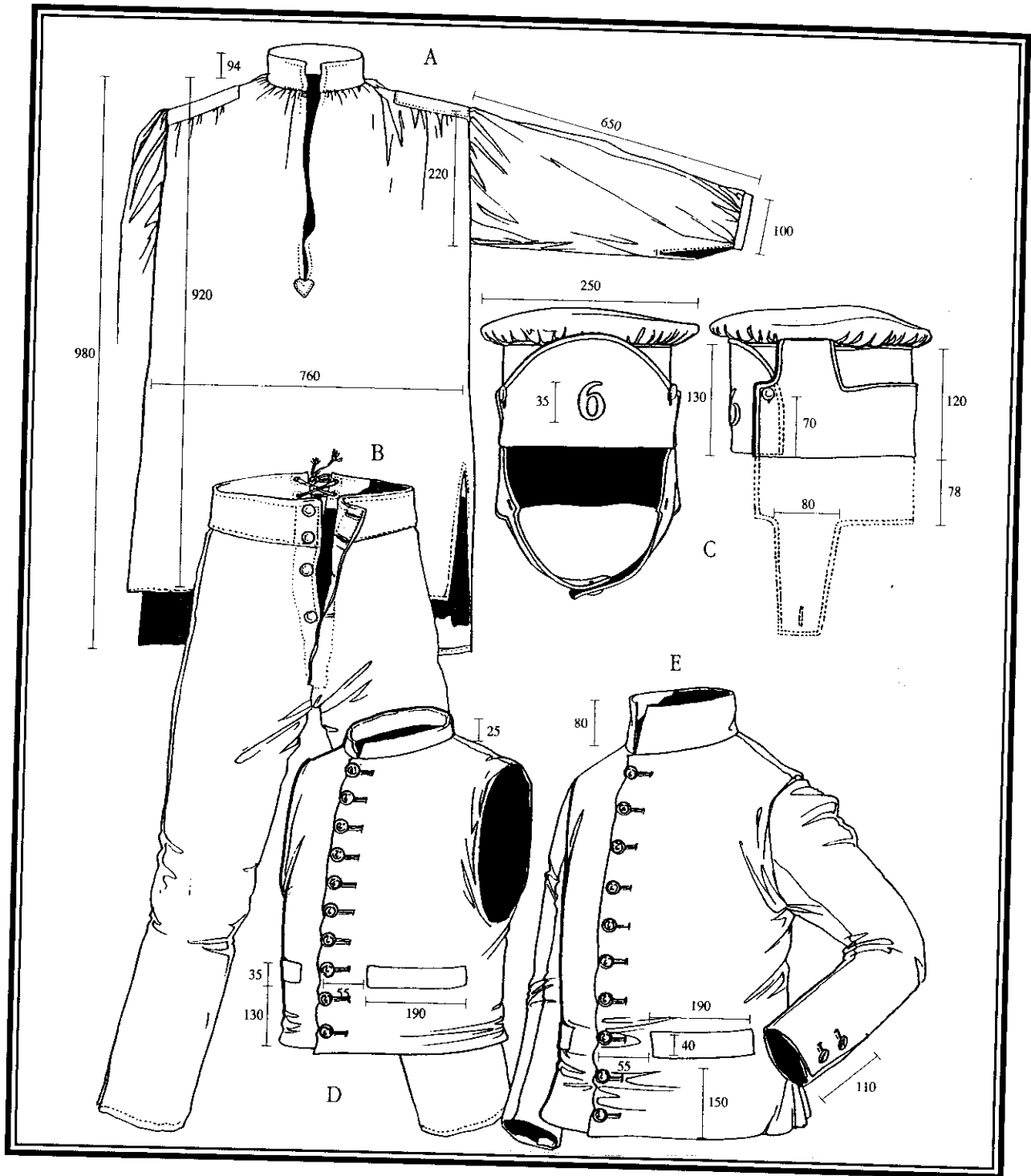
There also was the cloak-coat of white cloths, which had sleeves, stand-up collar and was equipped with cape. It was fixed with 4 buttons in front; however, on 11 September 1811 it was decided that the greatcoat would be worn instead of the cloak. The idea was simple – only a greatcoat with sleeves will allow the wearer to manipulate the lance, held under the arms. It was made from a suitably solute cloth.

Although eagle badges were mentioned in the regulations they do not seem to have been much used. Centre companies were to have three pointed green shoulder straps, piped in the facing color, elite companies wore fringed red epaulettes and plumes.

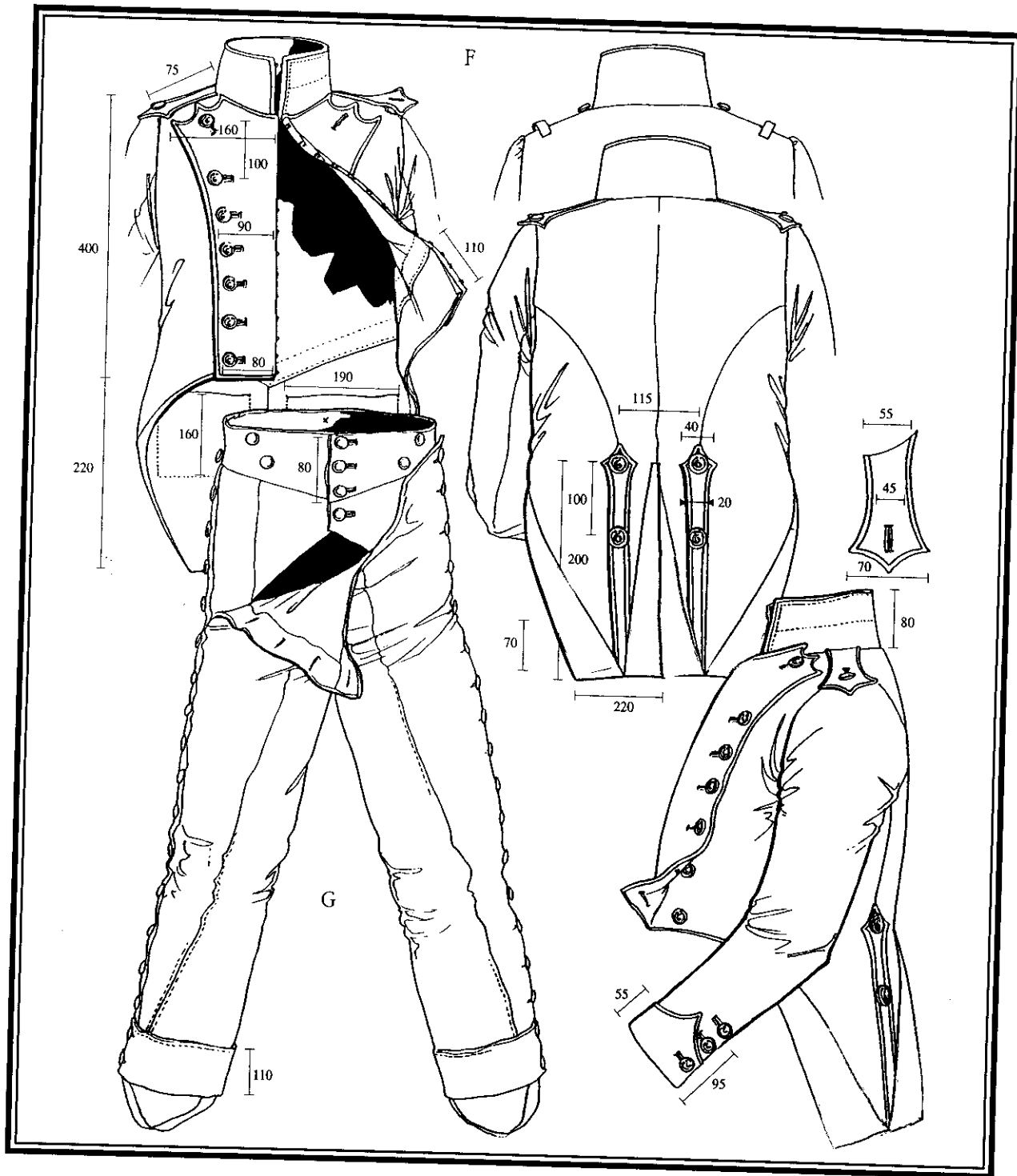
First, helmets were to be of the dragoon pattern. It was considered an unnecessary expense to devise a completely different helmet for six regiments of lancers already equipped with such a headdress, but following Napoleon's creed of meritocracy, and belief in each branch of the army developing its own individuality and personal pride, it was decided to distinguish lancers by replacing the dragoons horse hair mane with the black chenille crest (white for some trumpeters). First proposal was made on 30 August 1811. However, the text of the *Journal Militaire* does not describe the helmet, as does Bardin's manuscript. It weighted 225 g., has strong leather crest with front and sides of pressed metal, the front decorated with the Medusa's head, crossed lances and sometimes the regimental number. To the rear of the helmets was added a leather peak. Two cooper stamped rosettes were fitted to each side of the middle of the turban of sealskin; chinstrap was made of 13 heavy cooper links.

The elite companies of the 1st and 2nd regiments did in fact wear red plumes, whilst those of the 6th Regiment were distinguished by white plumes. Distinguished colors for the pompons worn on the helmets: red, sky-blue, aurora, violet for the 1st company of each squadron; in the 2nd company colors were same with a white center. Trumpeters' helmets carried a white crest and the Emperor's livery laced their uniform; more likely it appeared after 1812.

The horse shabraque was of white sheepskin, edged with a band of distinctive color. The harness by the analogy with the light cavalry where saddle is fitted with padded panels. The portmanteau was of green cloth, braided in yellow and bearing same color regimental number.

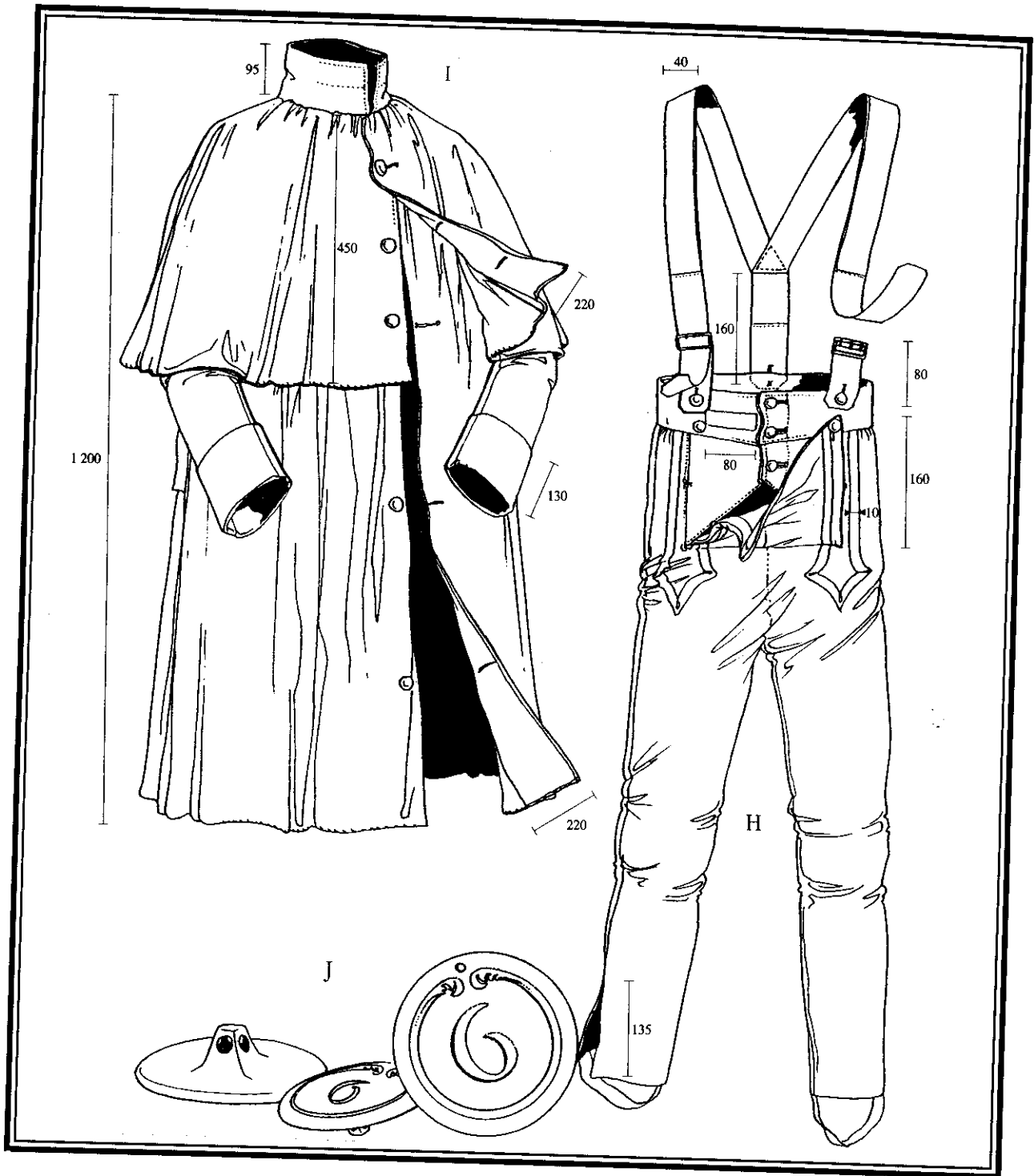


The French *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1811
 (A) the shirt of white canvas, as outlined by the regulation of 4 Brumaire An X, with little variations for the sleeves; (B) underwearing canvas trousers, or *le caleçon*; (C) new type of the forage cap, *pokalem* with flaps down and regimental number; (D) sleeveless waistcoat of white cloth, lined with linen and closed with 10 small buttons; (E) green cloth stable jacket

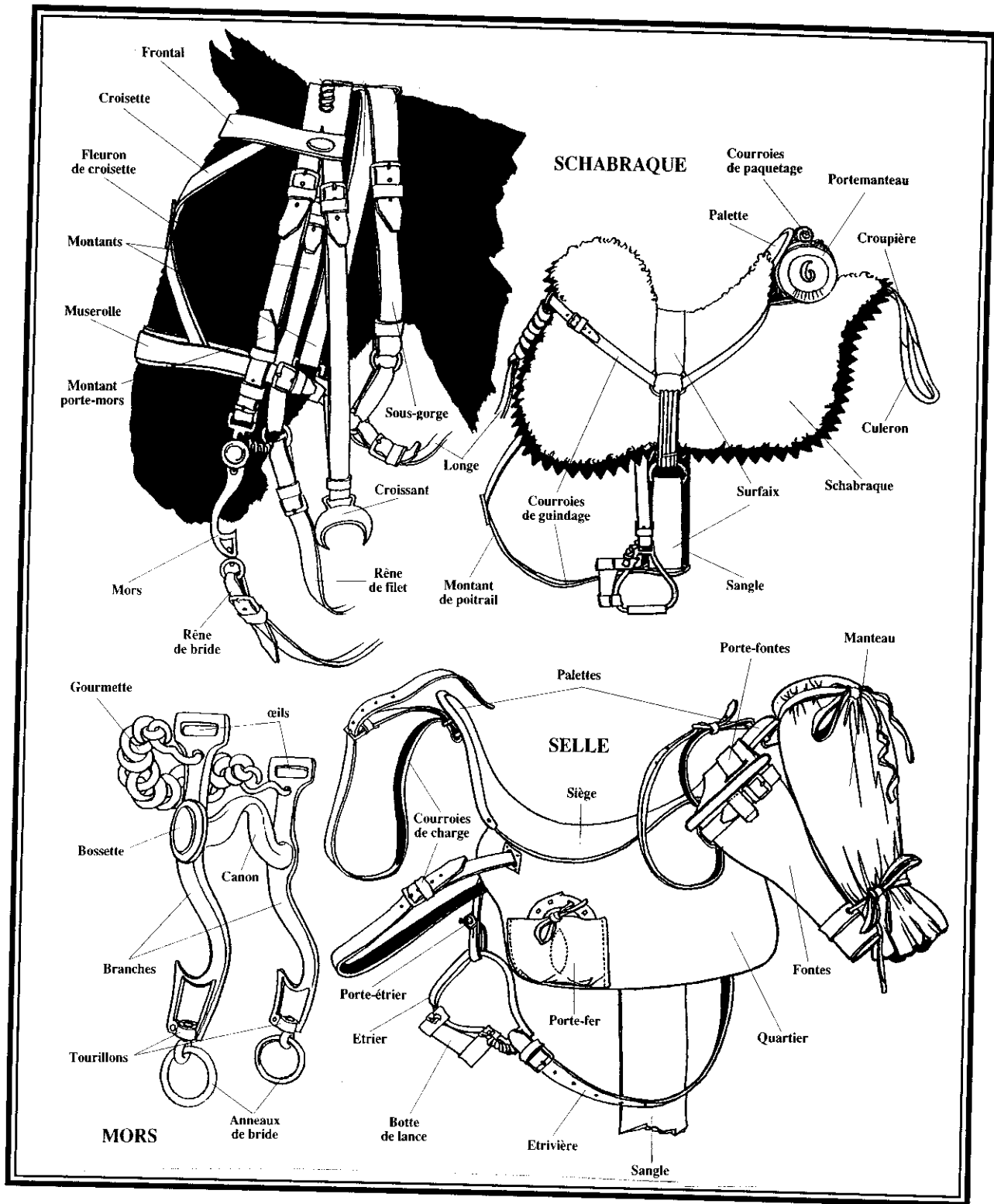


The French *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812

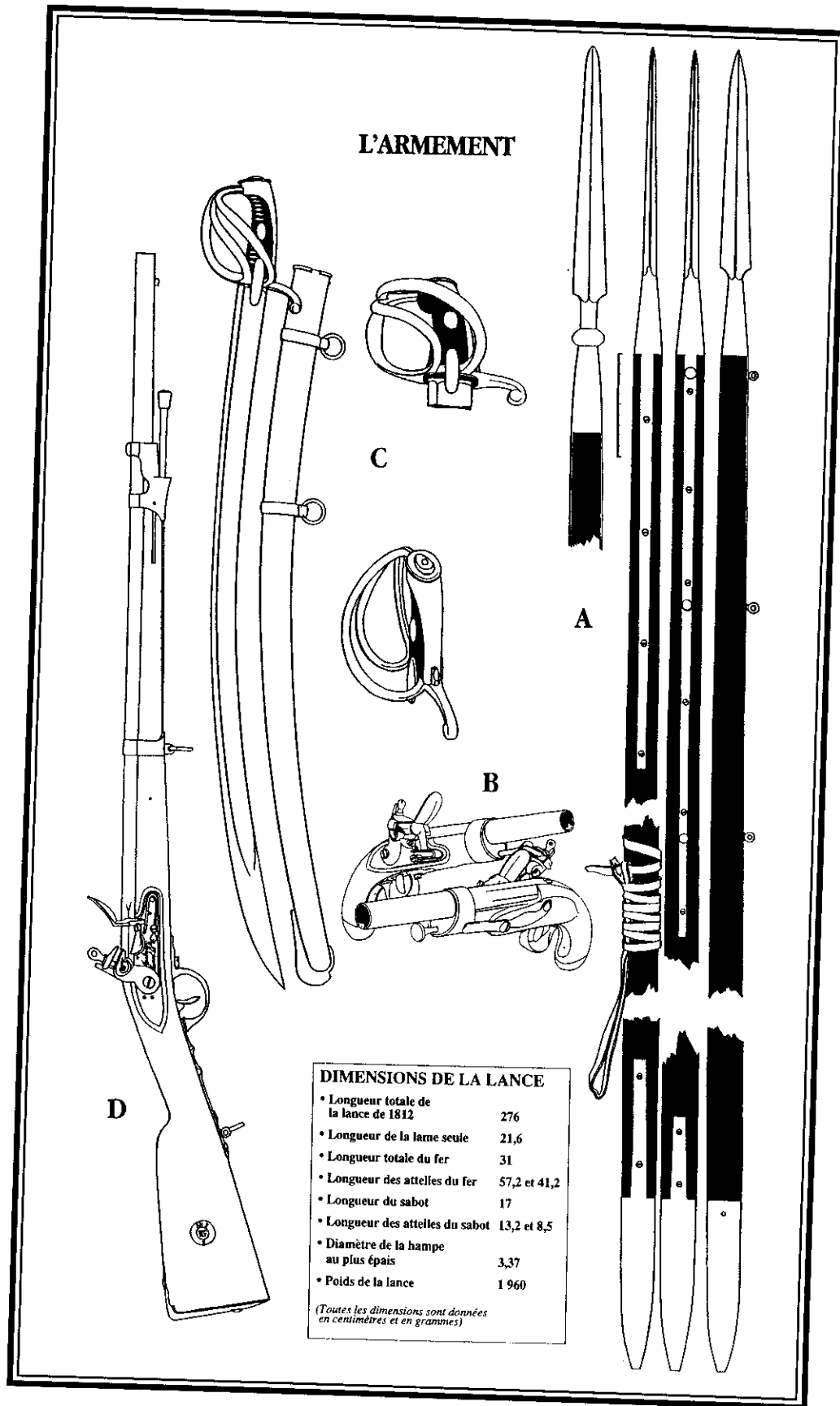
(F) as for the light artillery and chasseurs, the *cheveu-légers* wore new type of the jacket, *habit-veste* of the light infantry, the only difference being that sleeves were a bit narrower and also there was a vertical pocket flap, *a la soubise* set into the two pleats in the back of the coat; epaulette for the elite companies and a regular shoulder strap; (G) raiding pants were wide, gone over the boots and are buttoned with 18 bone buttons on the outside. Each side was bordered with a band of facing color and are fastened under the boots by a strap. A leather lining is sewn between the thighs and the legs; the bottoms have a turn-up of the same leather.



The French *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812
 (H) green Hungarian breeches bore yellow braid and the front flap was embellished at the sides with braid in the shape of a spade (1st – 4th regiments), or a hungarian knot for 5th and 6th regiments respectively; (I) cloak-coat of white cloth, supplemented by the round shoulder cape; (J) brass buttons with the stamped regimental number (hence, for the 6th Regiment). Note that underwear and Hungarian breeches hold bone buttons or those covered by cloth.



The French *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812
 Harness was completed with Hungarian style bridle with crossing straps, and a crescent-shaped martingale across the chest, a snaffle-bit, a dress halter with black leather leading rein, a stable halter, reading rein and a snaffle worn for watering made of Hungarian leather. Each stirrup fitted with a black leather lance but and the gun strap allowing the musket to be carried in this manner.



The French cheveu-léger lancers in 1812, cont'd.
 The armament consisted of a light cavalry sabre (C) with a brass three-branch hilt and curved hollow-ground blade of Year An IX and carbine (D) of the same pattern, a pistol (B) housed in the left hand holster of the saddle and a lance (A) decorated with a scarlet-white pennon.

The Polish cheveu-léger lancers in 1812.

Napoleon watched in 1809 at Wagram whilst some Polish light cavalry employed Austrian uhlans' lances to win a melee. On 18 June 1811 Napoleon ordered the formation of a lancer corps including three Polish regiments. The 1st and 2nd Vistule regiments were to become the 7th and 8th Polish cheveu-léger lancers with the 30th Chasseur à Cheval forming the 9th lancers.

The project proposing dressing and equipping cheveu-léger lancers was presented the Emperor on 9 July 1811; however, the Polish style uniform was retained both for the reason of tradition and economy. The 7 February 1812 regulations imposed as uniform for NCO's and Polish cheveu-léger lancers a jacket, known as *kurtka*, a sash, waistcoat, stable jacket, Hungarian breeches, riding breeches, canvas trousers, overcoat and as headdress the spectacular *shapska*.

The *kurtka*, modified to French taste was a simple jacket with short skirts and characteristic sash. It was made of dark-blue cloth, piped with distinctive colored braid. The garment was lined from the waist to the base of the lapels; the back was in one piece. *Kurtka* had no real pockets but two false pockets simulated with vertical piping. The collar was straight and quite high; dark-blue shoulder straps were piped in distinctive color and stretched at the neck and buttoned at the top of the sleeve. The *kurtka* had 25 large and 8 small tin half-spherical buttons.

The sash worn above the waist and buckled under the right arm. Made of woven woolen thread, it had 4 white and 3 blue stripes. It was lined with grey cloth and had 3 buckles. The cloak-coat was of white cloth and had sleeves, stand up collar and was equipped with cape.

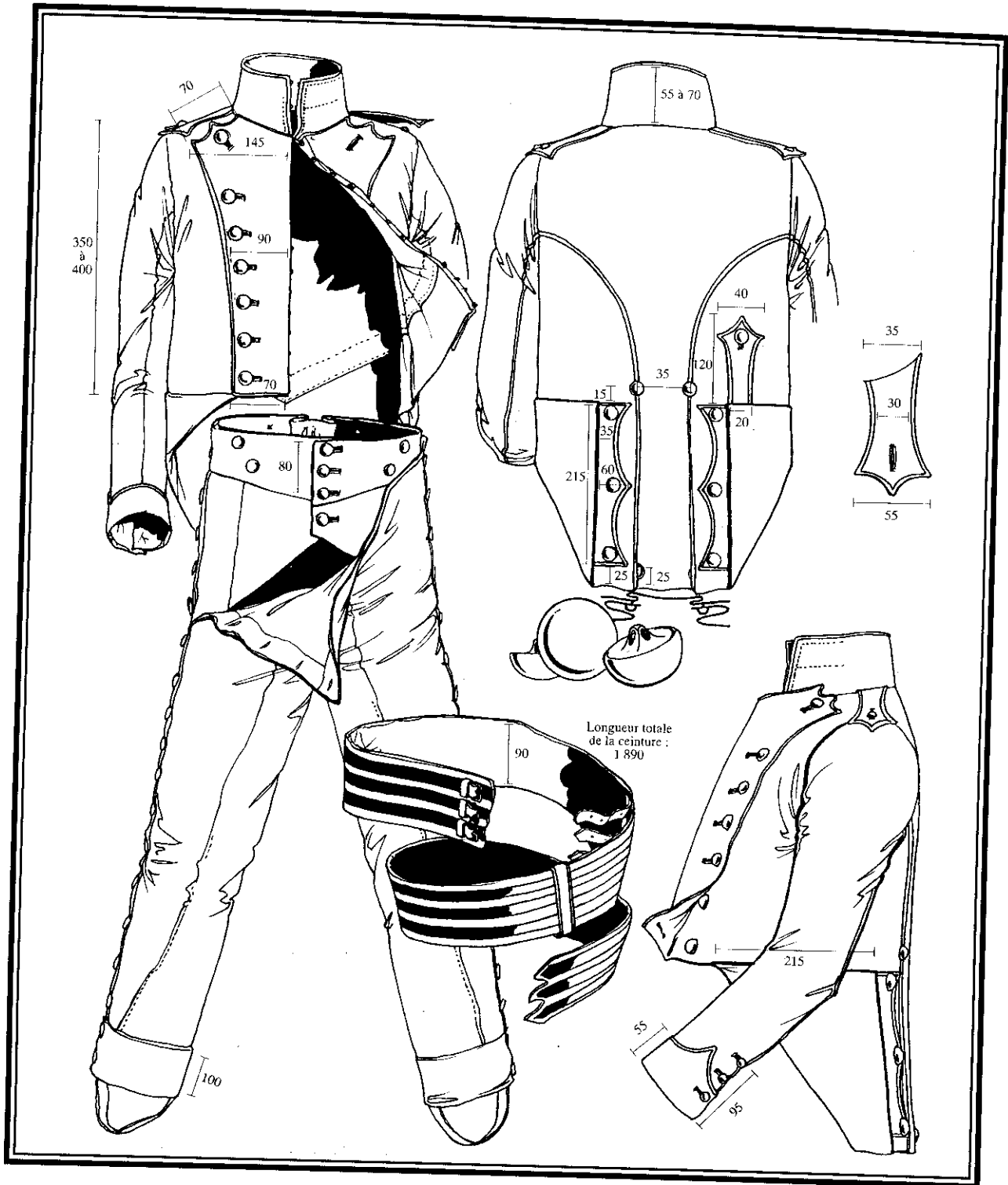
The waistcoat was cut in white cloth, lined with a low collar, it had a right hand pocket with a long flap; the left hand pocket was fake. Stable jacket was made of blue wool with sleeves and fastened with 10 small buttons. Each sleeve was open on the back hem and fastened with two small uniform buttons. Note Hungarian breeches of blue cloth; all openings and side hems were decorated with flat white braid, they had insteps and were worn inside the boots. The riding trousers were buttoned from top to bottom over the boots with 18 buttons on either side. Piping in distinctive color ran down the buttons.

The *shapska* (spelt *czapka* in 1812 regulation) was the most characteristic element of the Polish cheveu-léger lancers uniform. It was covered in dark-blue cloth and a black leather turban around the square top of the *shapska* was piped white. The trencher top corners were marked with a white iron stud. The right-hand stud supported a hook designed to hold the chinstrap of iron chain; either side of the headdress had a lion's head. It also seems that the sunburst brass plate was reserved for elite companies and musicians; there also was a plate with "N" stamped. The rear peak was the same as that of the *shapska*; a wool cockade was placed on the left side with a pompon on the top: plain red, sky-blue, aurora, violet for the 1st company of each squadron and same distinctive color but with a white center for the 2nd company.

The three regiments of the Polish cheveu-léger lancers were equipped and armed in the same way as the French lancers. Equipment included white leather sword and cross belts, and the carbine belt being slightly wider than the cartridge belt, carbines were attached to the belt by a sword hook. Underneath the cartridge box were two white straps to secure the forage cap, or later on the *pokalem*. The boots were different, cut round without a join at the back.

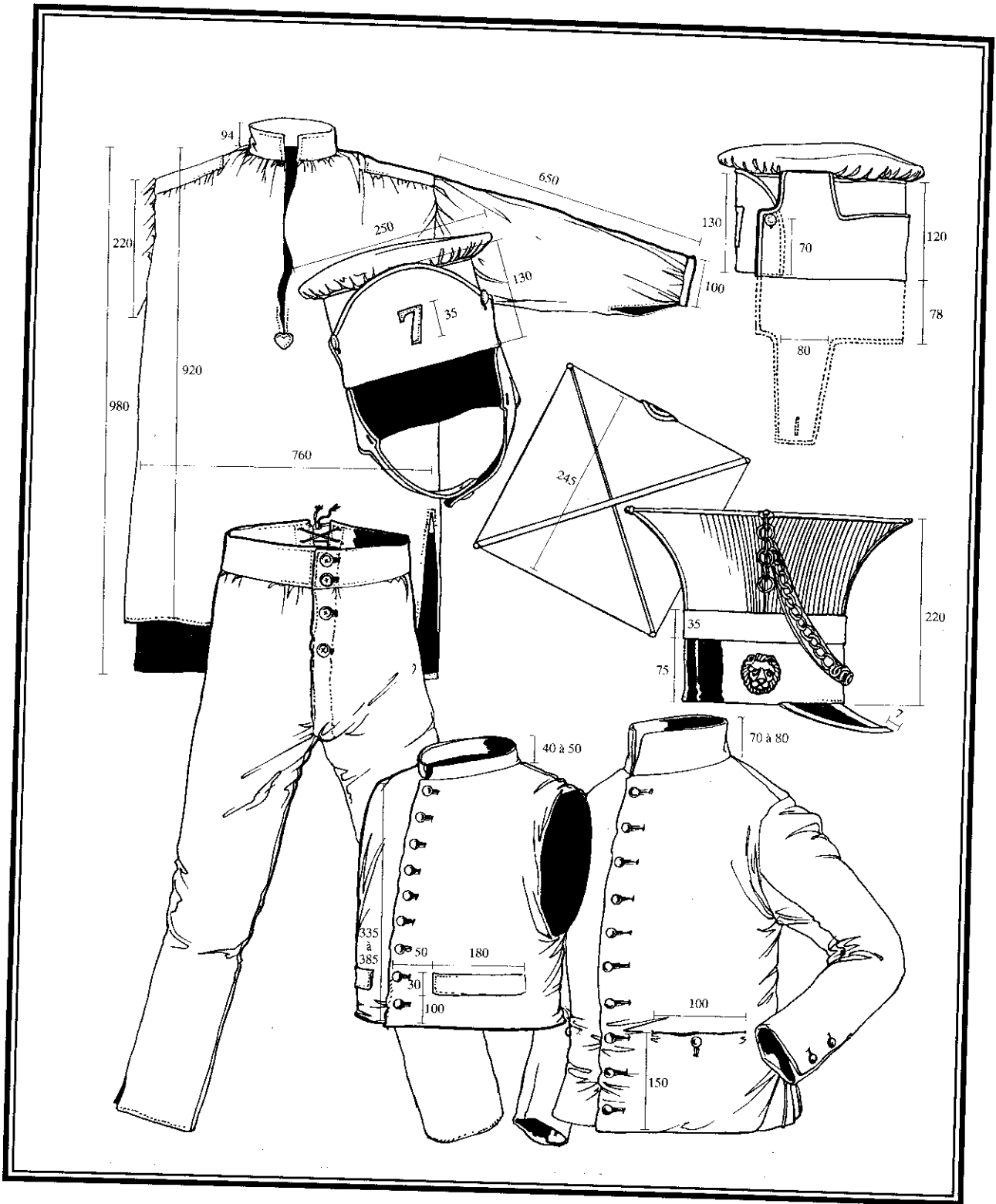
Table 1. Major distinction colors of the Polish cheveu-léger lancers, 1811-14.

Regiments	7 th	8 th	9 th
Collar	yellow	blue	buff
Piping on collar	blue	yellow	blue
Piping on shoulder strap	yellow	yellow	buff
Lapels and laces	yellow	yellow	buff
Cuffs	yellow	blue	buff
Piping on cuffs	—	yellow	—



The Polish *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812

The jacket or *kurtka*, this garment was cut in dark-blue cloth; half-spherical tin buttons; shoulder strap piped in distinctive color, yellow or buff. Riding trousers made of blue cloth and wide, they were buttoned from top to bottom over the boots with 18 buttons on either side. Piping in distinctive color ran down the buttons. The inside and bottom of the garment were protected with calf hide. *La ceinture* or sash, worn above the waist and buckled under the right arm.

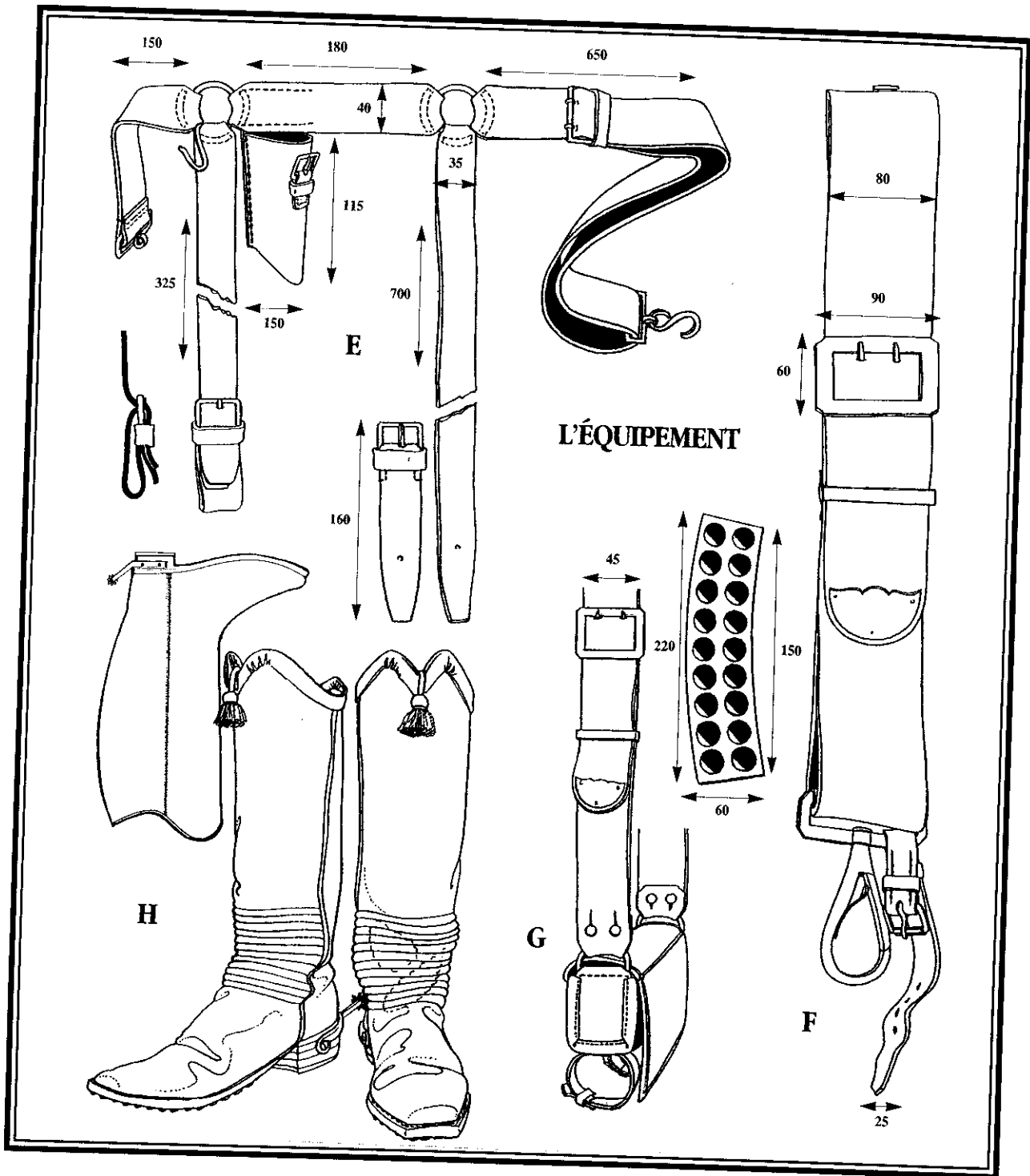


The Polish *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812
 The shirt of white canvas; new type of forage cap, known as *pokalem* with its flaps down with the regimental number of the distinctive color (hence, 7th Regiment). *Shapska*, top and profile; either side of the *shapska* had a lion head, an iron chain chinstrap of 32 links lined with blue cloth was attached to one of the head. Canvas trousers or *le calecon*; the white sleeveless west and stable jacket of blue wool lined and fastened with 10 small buttons.



The Polish cheveu-léger lancers in 1812

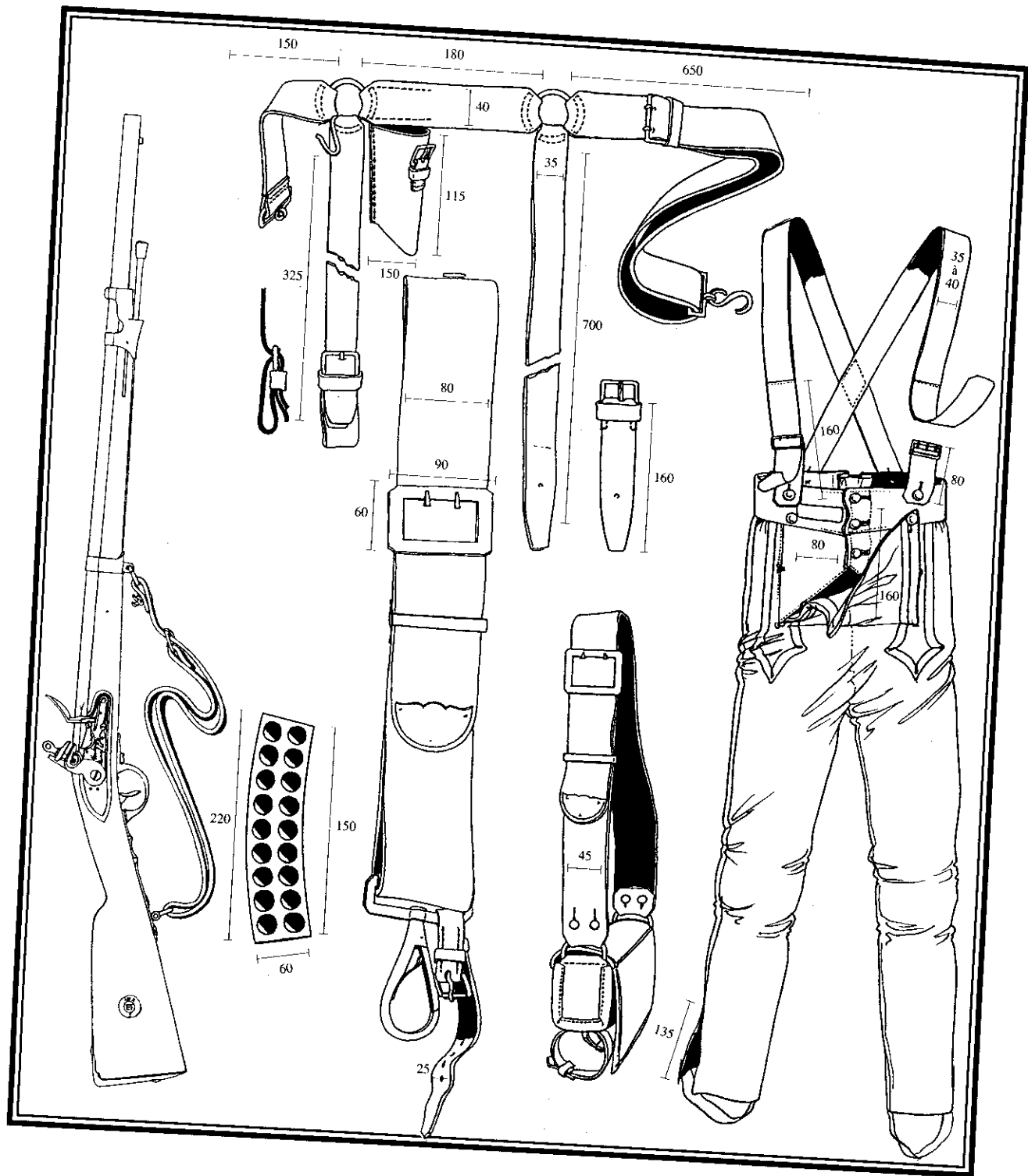
The cloak-coat of white cloth had sleeves, stand-up collar and was equipped with cape. Black boots cut round without a join at the back; iron spurs. Pistols of the Year XIII pattern and sabre of the An XI pattern, commonly used in the light cavalry; cooper three-branch hilt, scabbard and sabre strap fitting of iron. White sword knot for all regiments.



The French cheveu-léger lancers in 1812

The equipment was the same as for the light cavalry. A pouch belt (G) of white leather with a cooper buckle, a loop, an ornament and four buttons of the same metal. The black pouch seems to have been fitted with a crowned "N". At the end of 1811, all the cheveu-léger lancers received short cavalry muskets and the musket belt was added (F), fixed to the pouch belt with a cooper button at chest height. The musket hung by its ring on the clip and was held in place by a strap which itself is fixed to the clip. First, the cheveu-légers were equipped with the same belts as the dragoons, with a belt buckle adorned with an eagle. From 1812, this was replaced by a light cavalry belt with cooper rings and bayonet frog (E). Light cavalry boots (H) with yellow lace and tassel; tinned iron spurs attached permanently to the heels.

(Le Cheveu-léger lancier Français en 1812. Tradition magazine No. 51, April 1991).



The Polish *cheveu-léger* lancers in 1812

The cavalry musket of the Year An XIII had a five-sided barrel, with the end of the breech marked with the pattern year and a clip for the bayonet. The whitened cow hide belt consisted of three parts, joined by two brass rings to which the sabre straps were attached. Pouch belt of leather with a cooper buckle, a loop, ornament, and four buttons. The musket hung by its ring on the clip. Hungarian breeches of blue cloth decorated with flat white braid; lined belt.

(Le Cheveu-léger lancier Polonais en 1812. Tradition magazine No 59, December 1991).