

The French Cavalry 1688 — 1715

C. A. Sapherson

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1688 - 1715

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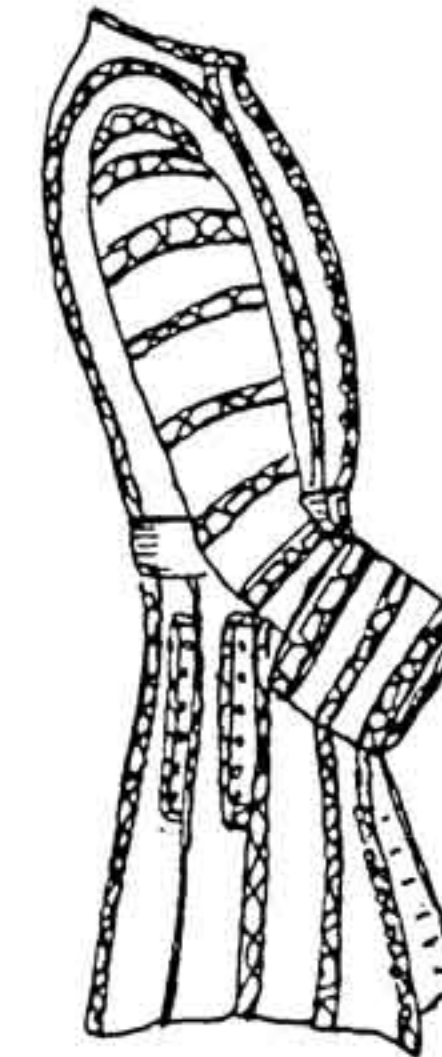
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Trumpeter's Coat

General Introduction

At the end of the Seventeenth Century, France was the most populous and probably the richest nation in Europe. It maintained a large and well organised army which was used in an aggressive manner to foster and achieve the aims of Louis XIV. A series of successful wars during the 1670s and 1680s had bred in it a feeling of superiority over the forces of its opponents.

The cavalry arm was the largest organised mounted body in Europe and was the striking force of the army. During the two conflicts which occurred during the period covered in this booklet, it reached a strength of over 60,000 troops, larger than the entire armies of many of France's enemies.

The first of the two wars concerned was, from 1688 to 1697, the Nine Years War, also known as the War of the Grand Alliance or the War of the League of Augsburg. France, virtually alone, fought the combined forces of Britain, Holland, Denmark, the Holy Roman Empire, the Austrian Empire, most of the Italian states and Spain. The war ended in what was effectively a draw, with both sides having been fought to a standstill. France emerged from it exhausted and near bankruptcy but with a moral superiority, having won most of the major battles.

The second, and far better known conflict, was the War of the Spanish Succession, which lasted from 1701 until 1713. This time, France was allied with Spain, Bavaria, Cologne and, for a short time, Savoy. The opposing armies, although not appreciably superior in numbers, had the advantage of being commanded by some of the greatest commanders of the eighteenth, or perhaps any other, century. The Duke of Marlborough, Prince Eugene of Savoy and the Earl of Peterborough were better generals than any in the employ of Louis XIV. This leadership advantage, plus some additional superiority in the tactical use and training of their troops, meant that as the war went on, the Allies were able to force the French onto the defensive and achieve a moral superiority which lasted almost until the end of the war.

When the Duke of Marlborough was removed from overall command of the armies in Flanders, the initiative went once more to the French. When the British government shamefully withdrew the Earl of Ormonde's forces from the Allied armies, the forces opposing France were much weakened. By the Treaty of Utrecht, Louis was able to make peace on reasonably favourable terms, achieving many of his war aims, although gaining no extra territory for the French crown.

The accession to the French throne of Louis XV, combined with the army reductions resulting from the cessation of the war, saw a large reduction in the number of the mounted regiments. Even so, in 1715, there were still more cavalry in the French army than in any other army in Europe.

Uniforms and Equipment

The French cavalry regiments were formed from four distinct elements. These were :

The Maison du Roi
The Gendarmerie de France
The Chevaulegers, including a small force of Hussars
The Dragoons

With the exception of the Hussars, the first three elements were all basically armed and equipped in the same manner; as, what would be called today, heavy cavalry. They were dressed in the same style of uniform and carried the same weaponry, although the actual quality and details of the uniform varied somewhat.

The dress was a white shirt, breeches, a neckcloth or cravat, long heavy boots, a sleeved waistcoat, a knee length coat and a hat. Gloves were also usually worn. This dress remained virtually unchanged throughout the period. The only noticeable difference was in the design of the hat. In 1688, this was a round, broad brimmed garment, with one or more of its sides turned up. It was often trimmed with lace and decorated with a plume of feathers. By 1700, it had developed into the familiar tricorne shape which was worn through most of the eighteenth century. In the French army, the edges of the tricorne were usually trimmed in white or yellow braid and a black silk cockade was worn over the left eye. Officers usually wore the same uniform, although made of better cloth than that of the men and trimmed in gold or silver lace. They also often had white, short plumes round the brim of the hat.

The coat was lined in a contrasting colour, which was revealed where the cuffs, lapels and tails were turned back. This lining was known as either the lining or the facing colour. By far the majority of the French cavalymen wore a light to medium grey coat, lined in red, with brass, pewter or tin buttons. Some units wore a coloured knot and loop of cord on the right shoulder. These were usually found on the uniforms of the elite regiments of the royal household or the gendarmerie.

The arms carried were a long, straight, heavy sword, two pistols and a carbine or musketoon. The pistols were kept in saddle holsters and the carbine slung from the side of the saddle. Sometimes the carbine was suspended from a bandolier worn by the trooper. The swordbelt, usually buff, or untanned leather, was worn round the waist, under the coat and the bandolier was slung over the left shoulder, crossing the chest, over the coat. It later became the custom for the chevaulegers to wear the swordbelt over the right shoulder crossing the chest to the left hip.

Armour was not usually worn by the troopers, except for the men of the Cuirassiers du Roi, who, as their name suggests, wore a steel cuirass. Officers, however, were strictly enjoined by royal decree to always wear a cuirass. That they did not wish to wear such protection is obvious, as the king's commands were repeated on several occasions during the course of the wars. It is very likely that many cavalry regiments were equipped with steel skullcaps, worn under the hat, although which specific units did so is not certain. It is possible that these caps were supplied at the cost of the regimental chef rather than at the charge of the government.

The horse furniture consisted of saddle, bridle and reins, in black leather. Over the saddle was a saddle cloth and holster housing. This seems to have usually been red or blue, with a white or yellow border. Some of the elite units had other decorations on the saddlecloth.

The Dragoon regiments wore a very similar uniform, but there were some differences. Dragoon boots appear to have been like infantry footwear, with a pair of long leather gaiters. This was to allow them greater freedom of movement when operating on foot. It was not until after this period that dragoons were treated as if they were true cavalry. The French in particular still often treated them as mounted infantry. They had only one pistol in their holsters, the second holster contained a small hatchet, suitable for clearing a way through hedges and undergrowth, clearing a way for the heavier cavalry. Instead of a cavalry carbine, dragoons carried an infantry musket and bayonet.

The most obvious difference in the dragoon uniform was the dragoon cap. This was a stocking cap with a fur or cloth brim trimmed and tasselled in coloured lace. The troopers had a tricorne cap for full dress and on parade, but seem to have worn the cap when serving in the field.

Unlike the chevaulegers, who wore their swordbelts crossed over the chest with their bandoliers, the dragoons wore their swordbelts round the waist and had only the bandolier crossing the chest.

Each regiment of dragoons contained a company of horse grenadiers who carried a grenade pouch in addition to the other equipment. It is not clear if there were any other uniform distinctions to set them apart from the ordinary dragoons, but it is possible that they wore a woollen shoulder knot.

The hussars wore the typical hussar dress of the period and were not in fact treated as regular cavalry in this period. They were formed in emulation of the hussars employed in the Imperial armies, but although their appearance was similar, their performance in no way matched that of the original Hungarian model. Most of the hussars in the French army were, in fact, German, Polish or Slavonic in origin.

The Maison du Roi

These were the troops of the Royal Household. In spite of their name, they were not, in fact, bodyguards to the king. They took their title from the fact that they had been troops raised and paid for on a permanent basis from the king's own personal revenue rather than from taxation or the feudal service of the nobility.

The Maison du Roi was formed from two groups of units. These were the Gardes du Corps; and what was known as the "Maison rouge". This second part was so called from the fact that its companies were uniformed in various shades of red. The two groups of units were always brigaded together.

The Garde du Corps consisted of four companies, each of which had a strength of 400 guards plus officers, giving a total strength of over 1,600 officers and men. The very high standing of this force meant that it was always kept up to strength and that it was superbly mounted. The troopers were armed in the same way as other heavy cavalry, with a sabre, two pistols and a rifled carbine.

The uniform was a medium blue coat, lined in red, heavily trimmed in silver lace. The waistcoat and breeches were red, also trimmed in silver lace. The hat was black with silver trim and a black silk cockade. Buttons were silver.

Each company had a distinctive colour, which appeared on the standards, trumpet banderoles, drum banners, saddlecloths, pistol holsters and bandoliers. Each of the companies was divided into eight 'brigades' of 50 troopers. Four brigades made up a squadron when on campaign, giving each company two squadrons. The companies were sometimes known by the names of their commanders rather than their official titles.

The Units of the Maison du Roi

The companies of Gardes du Corps:

1re Compagnie des Gardes du Corps. Compagnie Ecossoise
Raised 1440. Distinctive colour - white, with red saddlecloths and pistol holsters. The most senior unit of the French army, it was originally formed from a force of Scottish troops brought over by John Stuart, Earl of Buchan, in 1423.

Commanders: 1678 - 1707 Anne-Jules, Duc de Noailles.
1707 - 1735 Adrien-Maurice, Duc de Noailles.

2me Compagnie des Gardes du Corps. 1re Compagnie Francaise
Raised 1475. Distinctive colour - medium blue, including saddlecloths.

Commanders: 1672 - 1704 Jacques Henri, Marquis de Duras.
1704 - 1711 Louis Francois, Duc de Boufflers.
1711 - 1747 Armand, Duc de Charost.

3me Compagnie des Gardes du Corps. 2me Compagnie Francaise
Raised 1479. Distinctive colour - green.

Commanders: 1673 - 1695 Francois-Henri, Duc de Luxembourg.
1695 - 1734 Francois, Duc de Villeroi.

4me Compagnie des Gardes du Corps. 3me Compagnie Francaise
Raised 1516. Distinctive colour - yellow.

Commanders: 1676 - 1703 Guy-Alfonse, Comte de Lorges.
1703 - 1747 Henri, Duc d'Harcourt.

The five remaining units, of the Maison du Roi were similarly armed and equipped to the Gardes du Corps. They consisted of:

Gendarmes de la Garde

Raised in 1602. Uniform, all scarlet, lined in black velvet, heavily trimmed with gold lace. The buttons were also gold. At first, the waistcoat was chamois, but later it became scarlet. The hat was trimmed in gold and had an edging of white feathers. The strength of the unit was about 200 gendarmes plus some 30 officers, NCOs and musicians. It was divided into four "brigades", each with its own standards.

Chevaulegers de la Garde

Raised in 1592. The uniform was almost identical to that of the Gendarmes with the exception that the chevaulegers had silver buttons. The unit was of the same size and had the same organisation as the gendarmerie.

1re Compagnie des Mousquetaires

Raised in 1657. This company was known as the Grey Musketeers, from the colour of its horses. It numbered some 200 men plus officers and was organised into four brigades, like the previous two units. The musketeer companies were trained to fight either mounted or on foot. The uniform was all scarlet, lined in scarlet. The lace and buttons were gold, as was the hat trim. Round the top of the hat were white feathers. The saddlecloth and pistol holsters were scarlet with silver trim. The musketeers carried a musket rather than the usual cavalry carbine. Both of the musketeer companies wore an unusual sleeveless tabard hanging down in front and behind. For the Grey Musketeers, this was medium blue with silver lace round the neck and round the edges. On the breast was a white cross with gold fleur-de-lys at the end of its bars and red flames inside the angles of the cross.

(For the literary buffs, this was the company later commanded by Alexander Dumas' D'Artagnan of The Three Musketeers fame.)

2me Compagnie de Mousquetaires

Raised in 1665. These were the Black Musketeers, who rode black mounts. The uniform and organisation were the same as for the Grey Musketeers, except that the lace buttons and hat trim were silver. The tabard was the same but in the angles of the frontal cross there were gold fleur-de-lys instead of red flames.

Grenadiers a cheval de la Garde

Raised 1676. This unit always led the 'Maison Rouge' into action and was a truly elite force, each man being personally interviewed by the king before being accepted into the corps. The uniform was deep

blue, lined in deep red. The waistcoat and breeches were red. The lace and buttons were silver. The saddlecloth and pistol holsters were blue, lined in silver. The bandolier was yellow, trimmed in silver. The cap was unusual. It was red, trimmed in silver, sweeping to a point at the rear, like a Phrygian cap in reverse. Round the base was a turban of brown fur. After 1700, the saddle holsters held a pistol and a hatchet, before this date they held two pistols. The strength of the unit was 140 officers and men.

This was the Maison du Roi proper. Although there were some other Household troops, these were not field units and did not take part in any of the campaigns of the period. When the king personally took command of the army in the field they would probably be found present as a personal bodyguard, but were never classed as part of the field army.

The Maison du Roi was used as a tactical reserve of the army when in battle. Like Napoleon's Old Guard, it was saved until the decisive moment of a battle and then used to deliver the "knockout punch".

The effect of these 2,600 elite cavalry hitting an enemy battle line could be devastating. It was amongst the most admired and feared cavalry forces to be found in any European army of the period.

The Gendarmerie de France

This corps was next in seniority to the Maison du Roi. It was sometimes considered to be a part of the Maison du Roi, but, in fact, it was a totally separate force. It was the last remnant of what had been the original standing army of France, the Gendarmes de l'Ordonnance. It was recruited from the highest quality manpower and was used, like the Maison du Roi, as a battlefield reserve division. The Gendarmerie was most often to be found alongside the Household troops but on occasion was detached for use as a reserve in another theatre of war. At the start of the War of the Spanish Succession, for instance, the Maison du Roi was with the army in Flanders and the Gendarmerie was serving with the armies in northern Italy.

In 1688, it consisted of 12 companies, organised into six squadrons. In 1690, four new companies were raised, giving a strength of eight squadrons. The Gendarmerie were used as a reserve cavalry division and had a high reputation.

A company had a war strength of:

1	Captain Lieutenant	1	Tympanist
1	Sub-Lieutenant	2	Trumpeters
1	Ensign	80	Gendarmes
1	Guidon		
4	Marechaux de logis		
2	Brigadiers	Total 95 officers and men	
2	Sub-Brigadiers		

Each company was divided up into two brigades.

The uniform was the same as for other heavy cavalry of this period. This was a red coat, lined in red, heavily laced in silver. The breeches were also red. The waistcoat was buff, as was the bandolier. Both were laced with silver. The hat had a silver trim and white plumes round the top. Each company carried its own standards. In the chevauleger companies, the ensign and guidon were

replaced by two cornets. In the squadrons, the first company carried two standards, the second company only one. The armament was a carbine, two pistols and a silver hilted sword.

The companies were:

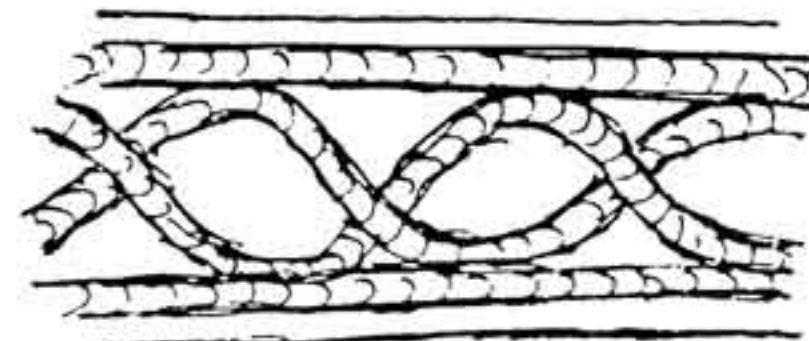
1 Gendarmes Ecosais (1422)	9 Gendarmes d'Anjou (1669)
2 Gendarmes Anglais (1667)	10 Chevaulegers d'Anjou (1690)
3 Gendarmes Bourguignons (1668)	11 Gendarmes de Bourgogne (1690)
4 Gendarmes de Flandre (1673)	12 Chevaulegers de Bourgogne(1690)
5 Gendarmes de la Reine (1661)	13 Gendarmes de Berry (1690)
6 Chevaulegers de la Reine (1661)	14 Chevaulegers de Berry (1690)
7 Gendarmes du Dauphin (1665)	15 Chevaulegers d'Orleans(1647)
8 Chevaulegers du Dauphin (1663)	16 Chevaulegers d'Orleans(1655)

In 1711, the Gendarmes and Chevaulegers de Bourgogne became the Gendarmes and Chevaulegers de Bretagne.

When the Gendarmerie were on campaign, they formed eight squadron sized units by pairing. These pairs were fixed and remained the same throughout the period.

The pairs were :	No.1 and No.11
	No.2 and No.12
	No.3 and No.9
	No.4 and No.10
	No.5 and No.13
	No.6 and No.14
	No.7 and No.15
	No.8 and No.16.

These two groups, the Maison du Roi and the Gendarmerie, were the chief tactical reserve of the cavalry and together provided a mass of some 4,000 of the best mounted troops in the world. Their only weaknesses were the old fashioned tactics used by all the French cavalry early in the period and a tendency to feel themselves superior to any of the forces they came up against. This tendency occasionally led them to underestimate the opposition they faced. The controlled shock tactics employed by the British and Dutch cavalry came as quite a surprise to them and they were never able to counter these tactics successfully until they adopted them themselves.



Pattern of Royal Lace, White on Red

The Regiments of Light Horse

The title "Chevauleger Regiment" is a misnomer. The original chevauleger units were those raised by the French nobility, to back up the standing army cavalry composed of the Gensd'armes d'Ordannance. Even in this early period, they were heavy cavalry, although not as heavily armoured as the Gendarmerie. By the end of the seventeenth century they actually formed the bulk of the mounted regiments. Unlike any of her contemporaries, France continued to use the antiquated title of Light Horse, or Chevaulegers, to describe her regiments of heavy line cavalry and continued to do so until 1762. The chevaulegers formed the bulk of the French mounted troops. There were about 180 squadrons in existence in 1688, divided amongst 81 regiments. Wartime expansion brought the number of regiments up to around 112 between 1688 and 1697.

At the end of the Nine Years War, this total was reduced to 73 regiments. This was done by a mixture of disbandments and reducing units to a cadre of a single company. When the War of the Spanish Succession began in 1701, some 20 cadre units were reconstituted and after the heavy losses of 1704, a number of new regiments was raised. At the height of the war there were 109 regiments, with a total of about 250 squadrons. When the war ended, the chevaulegers were reduced to 59, then 58, regiments. Most of the disbanded units were absorbed into those which survived.

Regimental Organisation

Each regiment consisted of a number of companies. Three companies combined to form one squadron. The majority of the regiments had six companies, but some had nine. The larger units were usually those of the royal princes and the royal regiments. Out of the total of around 110 regiments, about 25 were of the larger type.

A company had:	1 Captain	(Capitaine)
	1 Lieutenant	(Lieutenant)
	1 Cornet	(Cornette, or sous-lieutenant)
	1 Quartermaster	(Marechal des logis)
	2 to 4 Sergeants	(Brigadier)
	1 Trumpeter	(Trompette)
	20 to 60 Troopers	(Maitre)

Total, between 27 and 69 men. In wartime, the strength seems to have been between 40 and 60, giving an average squadron strength of between 130 and 170.

The regimental staff was small, the commander was the mestre-de-camp, or "chef", who was also captain of the first squadron. For the majority of units, the mestre-de-camp gave his name to the unit. In those regiments belonging to the king or the royal princes, the unit's title was used rather than that of its field commander. The mestre-de-camp was seconded by a major, who was also captain of the second company and led the second squadron. Any third squadron was commanded by a second major or the senior captain of the regiment. The rest of the staff consisted mainly of administrative officers such as the paymaster, regimental clerk, surgeon and chaplain. Each unit also had a kettledrummer. The average strength of a regiment of two squadrons in the field was around 250-300 officers and men. The three squadron regiments usually had between 400 and 450 men.

Each company carried its own standard. The mestre-de-camp's company standard was white, with silver or gold tassels and fringes. It sometimes had the colonel's arms on it. The other company standards were heavily embroidered coloured silk. On the obverse there was usually the symbol of the sun with rays, below the motto "NEC PLURIBUS IMPAR". On the reverse were devices particular to each individual regiment or colonel. Both sides were heavily embroidered with baroque designs in gold or silver. It is not clear if all the company standards of a regiment were identical, but it is likely that they followed a common pattern.

The uniforms were, unlike those of many nations of the period, very similar. Apart from those regiments belonging to the royal princes and the king, almost all the chevaulegers wore a medium to light grey coat lined in red. The remaining units wore blue coats, also lined in red. There were a few exceptions to this dress but not many.

There were several German and other foreign units. It is not certain, but these are thought to have also worn blue coats. The saddle cloth and pistol holsters were usually red, with a white border. A few units appear to have had blue housings, with white or yellow borders. Trumpeters seem to have worn the same dress as the other troopers, possibly with decorative lace on the sleeve.

The cuirass was apparently worn only by officers and by the men of the Cuirassiers du Roi regiment. The officers' cuirass was worn under the coat and was bright steel. Many of the officers were quite reluctant to wear the cuirass and Louis XIV had to order them to do so on pain of losing their positions. The Cuirassiers du Roi wore the cuirass over the coat. It had a red lining and was made of darkened steel. The shoulder straps were brass scales.

The Carabiniers

This unit was differently organised from any of the other chevauleger regiments. It was, in effect, a complete brigade rather than a single regiment. In 1679, the king had ordered that each company should have two carabiniers. These were the equivalent of grenadiers in an infantry company. They were classed as elite troops. In 1690, each regiment combined its carabiniers to form a small carabinier company. These carabinier companies distinguished themselves at the battle of Neerwinden (Landen), where they were massed to form a reserve division.

As a result of this success, the king ordered the formation of the regiment of Royal Carabiniers in 1693. The foreign companies were sent back to their parent units, only the French companies were used. Altogether, they numbered 100 companies. They were formed into five brigades, each of twenty companies, organised into ten squadrons, with a total strength of about 4,000 troops on a war footing. Each of the five brigades was effectively a regiment in its own right.

In 1698, sixty of the companies were disbanded and the regiment was reduced to a total of ten squadrons, each of four companies. Each brigade now consisted of two squadrons. This organisation was maintained for the next 100 years, until the French Revolution. At first, the carabiniers wore blue coats, lined in white, but this was later changed to blue coats lined in red. Usually, the Carabinier regiment was kept united, to form a reserve for the army, but it was sometimes split. In the early part of the War of the Spanish Succession, four squadrons (2 brigades) fought in Italy whilst the

other six squadrons were serving in Flanders. The horse furniture was buff, bordered in white. Each squadron carried two standards.

The organisation of a carabinier company was:

1 Captain	
2 Lieutenants	
1 Cornet	Total: 35 officers and men.
1 Marechal des logis	
30 Carabiniers	

This was the peacetime organisation. In wartime, there were about ten more men per company, giving each brigade a strength of about 180 officers and men.

The Hussars

These troops were classed as part of the Chevaulegers. Formed in imitation of the very effective Imperial regiments, they were to remain part of the French army right up to the present day. Unlike the other regiments, they were basically irregular troops, used for raiding, reconnaissance and protecting the flanks of the army. They were never used as part of the main battle line. At first, the hussar regiments were made up of foreign recruits collected by their colonels. There were in fact few genuine Hungarians amongst them, most coming from Poland and various parts of Germany. The first regiment to form part of the army, Kroneberg, were formed in 1692-3 and reached a strength of six companies. Several other units were added between 1694 and 1714, but only one, Rattsky, survived the disbandments of 1714, becoming No.58 on the army list.

They wore the typical hussar dress in emulation of the Hungarians. In 1701, St. Genies wore a blue jacket and red breeches. Over the breeches, reaching the thigh were long blue stockings. The black boots were quite short, reaching to just below the knee. Over the jacket was worn a black fur cloak and the cap was brown fur with a floppy red bag. Long black or white plumes were worn sticking out of the side. Officers often wore a leopard skin cloak with silver lace trim on the jacket. The saddlecloth was blue, pointed at the rear corners. On the rear corner at each side was a large gold fleur-de-lys. A guidon (Swallow tailed flag) of Paul Deak's regiment is known. It was yellow, without fringes. Only the design of the obverse is known. This was a gold sun and rays, below a blue scroll. On this, in gold, was the motto "NEC PLURIBUS IMPAR". Most of the early hussar regiments seem to have worn a red and medium blue uniform.

The strength of the chevaulegers during the period of this booklet was as follows.

In 1688	81 regiments	17 new raised.
1689	98 "	13 " "
1690	111 "	1 destroyed in action.
1691	110 "	6 new raised.
1692	116 "	
1693	116 "	1 new raised, 5 existing disappear from lists.
1694	112 "	
1695	112 "	
1696	112 "	1 new raised, 1 lost.
1697	112 "	
1698	112 "	19 disbanded and 21 reduced to small cadre of 1 company

1699	73 "	
1700	73 "	
1701	73 "	20 cadres built back up to full regiments.
1702	93 "	1 new raised.
1703	94 "	
1704	94 "	1 destroyed in action.
1705	93 "	10 new raised and 1 reformed(Verseilles HR).
1706	104 "	2 new raised.
1707	106 "	1 Spanish regiment taken into service.
1708	107 "	
1709	107 "	3 Spanish taken into service, 1 (Paul Deak HR) left.
1710	109 "	
1711	109 "	
1712	109 "	
1713	109 "	26 disbanded or combined with existing units.
1714	83 "	25 " " " " " " 2
1715	58 "	

Amongst the units listed as lost or new raised in the period 1688-97, were several where there is some confusion as to the succession of colonels. A "new" unit may be one where there is simply a new colonel commanding an existing regiment. In the same way, a "lost" unit may simply be one given a new commander's title.

The number of troops available was approximately 260 squadrons at the peak period of both the Nine Years War and the War of the Spanish Succession. This meant somewhere about 39,000 chevaulegers available for service. On campaign, the cavalry was organised into brigades, commanded by a senior mestre-de-camp or a brigadier. Each brigade seems to have had an average strength of between six and eight squadrons, with between 800 and 1,200 men.

The cavalry brigades would normally be arrayed in two wings, on either side of the infantry and artillery which would form the centre of the battle line. Each wing would be in two or three lines, dependent on how wide the army's frontage. On the flanks of the cavalry wings would be a number of dragoon brigades.

It was not the custom in the French army of the period for there to be a tactical reserve of cavalry kept in a strategic position behind the main battle line.

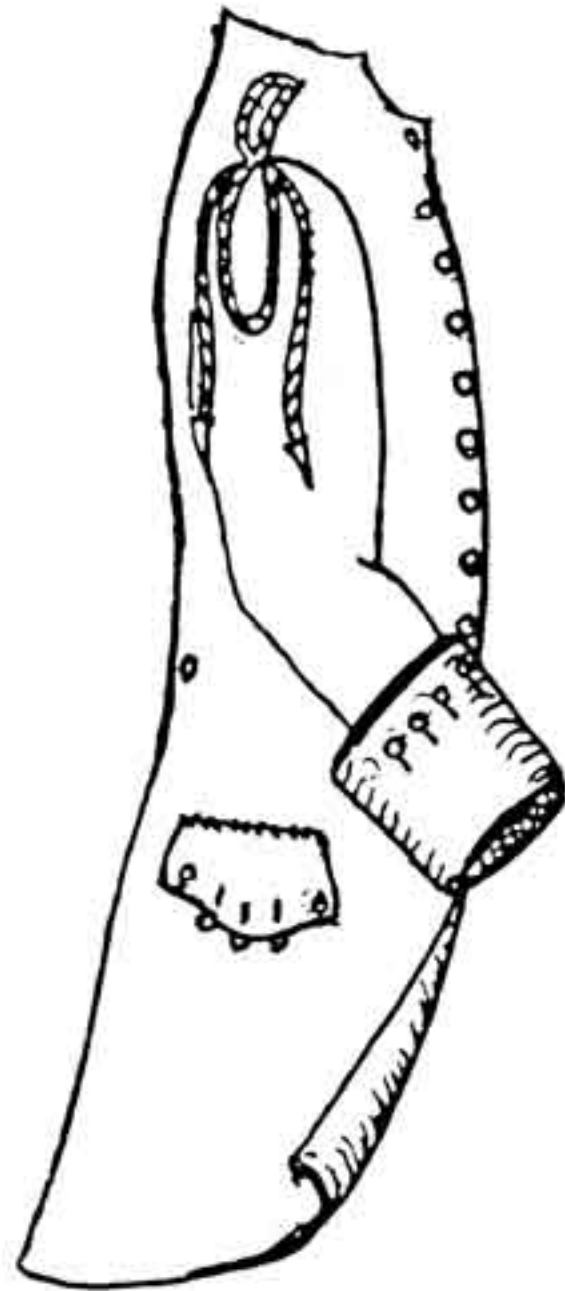
The battlefield tactics of the French cavalry were rather old fashioned compared to those of their opponents. Each regiment formed into two or three lines, one behind the other. They would trot up to the enemy, fire their pistols, then close to hand combat, forming a confused melee. This worked well when facing troops which fought in the same way or when the opposition was infantry not trained to use platoon fire. Once the French had stood the infantry's initial volley, they could close with impunity.

When faced with troops which used more modern tactics, the chevaulegers came to grief. The British and Dutch cavalry of the period had begun to follow the Swedish practice of advancing in close order at a fast trot and charging into contact without a pause. The force of this type of attack was enough to smash up any opposition which stood to meet it without countercharging. Time and again, the French cavalry were broken, until they began to use similar methods. Despite their undoubted courage and elan, the French found themselves at a great disadvantage. They also had trouble trying to close with the Dutch and British infantry, who used rapid platoon fire rather than massive volleys. This meant that the fire coming from the infantry was virtually continuous,

The Chevauleger Regiments

preventing the cavalry from closing. By 1700-1704, moreover, there were few infantry units which were not all equipped with firearms and bayonets, so the cavalry did not find themselves in combat with large blocks of pikemen, which had been almost defenceless against their pistol fire.

In spite of their tactics, the French cavalry were never easy to beat and gave a good account of themselves in battle. Once they had adopted more modern tactics, they usually gave as good as they got and several times proved themselves superior to the opposition.



Trooper's Coat, with Shoulder Knot

This list is in the following order:

1. The 59 regiments remaining in 1715, on the accession of Louis XV, in the order of their seniority.
2. Those units which existed in 1688 and served throughout the period up to their disbandment or amalgamation in 1713-14.
3. Those units created between 1689 and 1698 which were in service up to 1713-1714.
4. Those units which served up to the end of the Nine Years War and were then disbanded.
5. Ephemeral units which only existed for a short time or which changed their "chefs" and where the succeeding "chef" is untraceable.

The information given is:

The date of creation.
Titles by which the unit was known 1688-1715.
Uniform coat colour and lining, where known.
Date of disbandment or amalgamation.

Many units were disbanded to a cadre in 1698 and then re-established later under the same commander. Where this occurs, it is shown by the following symbols - /**/. The re-establishment date will also be given.

Any special notes will be given at the end of the list. The first 58 numbers on the list are official. The following numbers are my own and have no relationship to any given officially either then or later.

Year Raised.	Title in 1688	Later Titles	Dress details.
1.	1657	COLONEL-GENERAL	Grey/Red
2.	1638	MESTRE-DE-CAMP-GENERAL	Grey/Red
3.	1645	COMMISSAIRE-GENERAL	Grey/Red
4.	1635	ROYAL	Blue/Red
5.	1635	LE ROI	Blue/Red
6.	1657	ROYAL ETRANGER	Blue/Red
7.	1638	CUIRASSIERS DU ROI	Blue/Red
8.	1643	CRAVATES DU ROI	Blue/Red
9.	1652	ROYAL ROUSSILLON	Blue/Blue
10.	1671	ROYAL PIEMONT	Blue/Red
11.	1671	ROYAL ALLEMAND	Blue/Red
12.	1643	LA REINE	Grey/Red
13.	1668	DAUPHIN	Blue/Red
14.	1674	DAUPHIN ETRANGER	Blue/Red
15.	1664	BOURGOGNE, 1711 BRETAGNE	Blue/Red
16.	1665	Villars (Grey/Red) 1688 ANJOU	Blue/Red
17.	1671	Villacerf (Grey/Red) 1689 BERRY	Blue/Red
18.	1693	ROYAL CARABINIERS Blue/White, then	Blue/Red
19.	1635	ORLEANS	Grey/Red
20.	1635	CONDE	Grey/Red
21.	1649	BOURBON	Grey/Red
22.	1667	CHARTRES	Grey/Red
23.	1665	Du Bordage, 1688 MAINE	Grey/Red

24.	1674	Praslin, 1693 TOULOUSE	Grey/Red	
25.	1651	Villeroi	Grey/Red	
26.	1668	Bartillat, 1689 Marcilly, 1690 Narbonne, 1702 Du Tronc	Grey/Red	
27.	1652	La Vallette, 1639 Prince Camille, 1702 Prince Charles, 1708 Lambesc	Grey/Red	
28.	1671	Grignan, 1703 Flesche	Grey/Red	
29.	1671	Rohan, 1701 Quintin, 1705 St.Chamans 1706 Vaudray, 1706 St. Aignan	Grey/Red	
30.	1649	Quinson, 1690 Chalons, 1693 Gouffier 1699 Egmont, 1704 Desmarests, 1709 Gesvres	Grey/Red	
31.	1672	Du Gas, 1690 Villequier, 1702 Montmain 1706 Belaccueil, 1711 La Tour	Grey/Red	
32.	1667	Vivans, 1703 d'Heudicourt	Grey/Red	
33.	1652	Servon, 1693 La Toumelle, 1701 Aubusson	Grey/Red	
34.	1665	Florensac, 1693 Talmont, 1705 La Tremouille	Grey/Red	
35.	1667	Tilladet, 1689 Souvre, 1700 Beringhen	Grey/Red	
36.	1674	Chevalier-Duc, 1689 Rocquepine, 1701 Sully, 1706 Vaudray	Grey/Red	
37.	1674	St. Sylvestre, 1690 Bercourt, 1698 Uzes, 1709 Prince Marcillac/La Rocheguyon	Grey/Red	
38.	1674	Melac, 1690 Larrard, 1701 Rassay, 1704 St. Germain-Beaupre	Grey/Red	
39.	1665	St. Valery, 1691 St. Liviere, 1693 Beintz, 1696 Ruffey, 1705 Comte de Marcillac	Grey/Red	
40.	1652	Biran, 1691 Esclainvilliers	Grey/Red	
41.	1682	Duras, 1710 Villequier	Grey/Red	
42.	1647	Bezons, 1689 Balivieres, 1690 d'Auneuil, 1696 St. Pouanges.	Grey/Red	
43.	1674	Pontsegut, 1696 Tournefort, 1699 Livry	Grey/Red	
44.	1653	Cayeux-Gamaches, 1696 La Ferronaye	Grey/Red	
45.	1673	Montbas, 1693 Vienne, 1705 Germinon	???	
46.	1652	Livry, 1689 Clermont-St. Aignan, 1702 Bartillat, 1706 Lenoncourt	Grey/Red	
47.	1672	Imecourt, 1702 Montauban, 1703 Forbin, 1708 Chepy	Grey/Red	
48.	1673	St. Simon, 1693 Du Bordage, 1702 Bouzols	Grey/Red	
49.	1674	Charlus, 1689 Levis, 1704 Vaupaliere, 1707 Du Bessaye, 1713 Novion	???	
50.	1653	St. Germain-Beaupre, 1692 Gournay, 1696 Cosse-Brissac, 1704 Magnieres, 1710 Monteils	Grey/Red	
51.	1673	Courtebonne, 1696 Barentin, 1711 Villepreux	Grey/Red	
52.	1672	Romainville, 1696 Wiltz, 1704 Marteville	Grey/Red	
53.	1635	Rothemburg, 1696 Rosen, 1709 Rothemburg	Blue/Red	
54.	1689	Furstenburg, 1704 Courcillon	???	
55.	1689	Duc de Noailles	Red/Red	
56.	1698	Sheldon Irlandais, 1706 Nugent	Red/Blue	
57.	1707	Prince de Vaudemont (ex Spanish)	Red/?	
58.	1706	St. Genies Hussars, 1707 Rattsky Hussars	???	
59.	1692	Kronoberg Hussars, 1693 Mortany Hussars, 1698/**/1705 Versailles Hussars. (This unit served as independent companies with the army in Flanders until 1705. In 1716 it was amalgamated with No.58)	???	
60X.	1638	Vareennes, 1693 Robin, 1693 Rennepont	Grey/Red	D1714

61X.	1658	Lumbres, 1690 Fiennes, 1698/**/1701 1701 Fiennes, 1705 Villiers, 1710 Croy, 1711 Imecourt La Loge.	Grey/Red	D1714
62X.	1667	Bissy (Sometimes Bissy No.1)	Grey/Red	D1714
63X.	1667	d'Estrades, 1691 Du Plessis 1698/**/1701 Du Plessis, 1702 Merinville, 1706 Aultanne	???	D1713
64X.	1667	Courcelles, 1693 Viennes, 1694 Pelleport, 1698/**/1701 Pelleport, 1709 Putanges	Grey/Red	D1713
65X.	1671	Langallerie, 1702 Simiane	Grey/Red	D1713
66X.	1671	Rassent, 1698/**/1701, 1702 Fourquevaux, 1709 La Tour, 1711 Pardaillan	???	D1714
67X.	1671	Brionne, 1692 Montplaisir, 1694 Broglie, 1704 Verac, 1706 Montmorency, 1708 Marcillac, 1710 Marquis de Noailles.	Grey/Red	D1714
68X.	1672	Crillon, 1689 Forsat, 1698/**/1701 Forsat	Grey/Red	D1714
69X.	1673	Aumont, 1692 La Valliere, 1704 Fontaine	Grey/Red	D1714
70X.	1674	Lery-Girardin, 1696 Bar 1698/**/1701 Bar, 1706 La Mothe, 1710 Joyeuse	Grey/Red	D1714
71X.	1676	Marivault, 1698/**/1701 Marivault, 1702 Vivans St. Christaud, 1706 Beaujeu	Grey/Red	D1714
72X.	1677	Rozel, 1696 Marquis d'Anlezy, 1698/**/1701, 1702 Comte d'Anlezy, 1709 Villequier, 1713 Gouffier	Grey/Red	D1714
73X.	1677	Fontet, 1694 Vandeul, 1702 Cappy	Grey/Red	D1714
74X.	1677	Cibour, 1702 d'Espinchal, 1703 Elboeuf, 1706 La Bretache, 1709 Caubous	Grey/Red	D1714
75X.	1688	Bellegarde, 1693 Melun, 1703 Gand-Melun	???	D1714
76X.	1688	Terrail, 1690 Bissy No.2, 1698/**/1701, 1701 Bissy No.2, 1703 d'Estagnols	Grey/Red	D1714
77X.	1688	Cathulan, 1698/**/1701 Savines, 1702 La Baume, 1704 La Boulaye, 1707 Alzeau	???	D1713
78X.	1688	d'Auriac, 1698/**/1701 d'Auriac, 1704 Coulanges, 1706 St. Phal	Grey/Red	D1713
79X.	1688	Vandoeuvre, 1691 Puyguyon, 1693 St.Lieu, 1695 Marnay St.Andre, 1698/**/1701 Tracy, 1702 Rouvray, 1706 Tourotte	Grey/Red	D1713
80X.	1688	Molac, 1698/**/1700 Montrevel	Grey/Red	D1713
81X.	1688	Montpeyreux, 1703 Gramont, 1706 Maisonthieres, 1708 Campferand	Grey/Red	D1714
82X.	1688	St. Mauris, 1696 Lessart, 1698/**/1701, 1701 St. Mauris, 1703 Parabere	Grey/Red	D1713
83X.	1688	d'Humieres, 1690 Mauroy, 1704 Soucarriere, 1710 Villiers	Grey/Red	D1713
84X.	1688	Montberon, 1689 Du Chatelet-Clefmont, 1698/**/1701 Du Chatelet-Clefmont, 1703 La Billarderie, 1706 Braoque, 1709 Malan	Grey/Blue	D1713
85X.	1688	Boufflers, 1693 d'Ourches, 1705 Cerisy, 1711 Cayeux	Grey/Red	D1713
86X.	1688	Dumont, 1690 Nassau-Saarbrucken, 1693 Villiers de Moxhyer, 1704 Vignoles, 1704 d'Autichamp, 1708 Du Fief	???	D1713
87X.	1688	Le Gall, 1702 Seve, 1704 Choiseul	???	D1714
88X.	1689	Longueval, 1689 Geoffreville, 1698/**/, 1701 Geoffreville, 1703 Tarente, 1709 Bellefonds, 1710 Montauban	???	D1713
89X.	1689	Vaillac, 1698/**/1701 Vaillac, 1702 Saumery, 1706 Paon	Grey/Red	D1713

90X. 1689	Du Bray, 1692 Horn, 1698/**/1701 Horn, 1702 Meuse, 1703 Vignau, 1705 Vaudremont	???	D1713
91X. 1689	Laigny, 1698/**/1701 Resnel, 1702 Marquis d'Anlezy, 1709 Rodemack, 1709 Lessart, 1710 d'Harcourt, 1710 Biran	???	D1713
92X. 1689	Ligondez, 1698/**/1701 Ligondez	???	D1713

The following units with "?" behind the date, appear on the list for 1691. They were either totally new regiments or old units with a new "chef".

93X. 1691?	La Beyssiere, 1697 Prince d'Auvergne, 1703 Bourke, 1706 Masseurbach, 1710 Valgrand	Grey/Red	D1714
94X. 1691?	Phelypeaux, 1691 Courlandon, 1704 Moiria, 1705 Maubeque, 1706 Chateaufort, 1710 Roye	Grey/Red	D1713
95X. 1693	Isle-du-Vigier, 1698/**/1701 Isle-du-Vigier, 1709 Clermont-Tonnere	???	D1713
96X. 1696	Desclos, 1706 Rivoire-Palais	???	D1714
97X. 1702	Tarnault	???	D1713
98X. 1705	La Mothe-Houdancourt	???	D1713
99X. 1705	Cayeux, 1711 Verthamont	???	D1714
100X. 1705	Du Luc	???	D1713
101X. 1705	Harcourt	???	D1713
102X. 1705	Du Chatelet-Clefont	???	D1713
103X. 1705	Gace, 1707 Matignon	???	D1714
104X. 1705	Prince Marsillac	???	D1714
105X. 1705	Roye, 1710 Comte de Gramont	???	D1714
106X. 1705	Montgon, ? La Coste du Plantier, ? Beaucaire	???	D1714
107X. 1705	Raigecourt	???	D1713

Units existing during the Nine Years War

108X. 1648	Locmaria (Given to new chef, name unknown)	Grey/Red	D1693
109X. 1655	Harlus-Vertilly, 1696 Chateaufort	???	D1698
110X. 1667	Arnolfini, (Grey/Red), 1689 Aubusson La Feuillade	Whitish Grey/Red	D1698
111X. 1668	Montgomery, 1696 Imecourt	Grey/Red	D1698
112X. 1671	Magnac, (Given to new chef, name unknown)	Grey/Red	D1696
113X. 1671	Chatillon(" " " " " ")	???	D1693
114X. 1673	Pracomtal, 1693 Aubeterre, 1694 Champlain	Grey/Red	D1698
115X. 1674	Pelleport, 1690 Vienne, 1691 Courcelles	Grey/Red	D1698
116X. 1674	Marquis de Noailles (Combined with No.55)	???	D1693
117X. 1675	Gesvres (Destroyed in action)	???	D1690
118X. 1676	Bethune, 1689 Aubeterre (Combined possibly with No.68X.)	???	D1693
119X. 1677	Massot, 1697 Marquis de Fontaines	Grey/Red	D1698
120X. 1677	Villepion, 1696 Chastillon	Grey/Red	D1698
121X. 1682	Des Fourneaux (Given to new chef, name unknown)	???	D1693
122X. 1688	Merinville, 1697 Uzès	Grey/Red	D1698
123X. 1688	Quadt	Grey/Red	D1698
124X. 1688	Manderscheidt	???	D1698
125X. 1688	Sailly	Grey/Red	D1698
126X. 1698	Prince Paul, 1693 Rozel, 1693 St. Simon	???	D1698
127X. 1689	Bachevilliers, 1692 Esseville, 1693 Cerisy	???	D1698
128X. 1689	Presle, 1697 Egmont	???	D1698
129X. 1689	Coislin, 1691 Sully	Grey/Red	D1698
130X. 1691	Souternon, 1692 Pujols, 1696 Savines	Grey/Red	D1698

131X. 1691?	d'Eglizy or De Glizy, 1693 Alais, 1694 Conflans (This unit was destroyed at Blenheim)	Grey/Red	D1704
132X. 1691?	Souastre	Grey/Blue	D1698
133X. 1691?	Montrevel	Grey/Red	D1698
134X. 1696?	Cosse, 1700 Brissac (missing from lists after 1700, probably amalgamated with another unit)	???	???
135X. 1689	St. Jean. (This unit is not mentioned except in the lists for 1689)	???	???
136X. 1706	Poldeak (Paul Deak) Hussars, 1706 Filtz (This unit was transferred to Spanish service)	???	1709

The following three units were taken over from Spanish Netherlands service and put into French pay. They were returned to Spain at the end of the war.

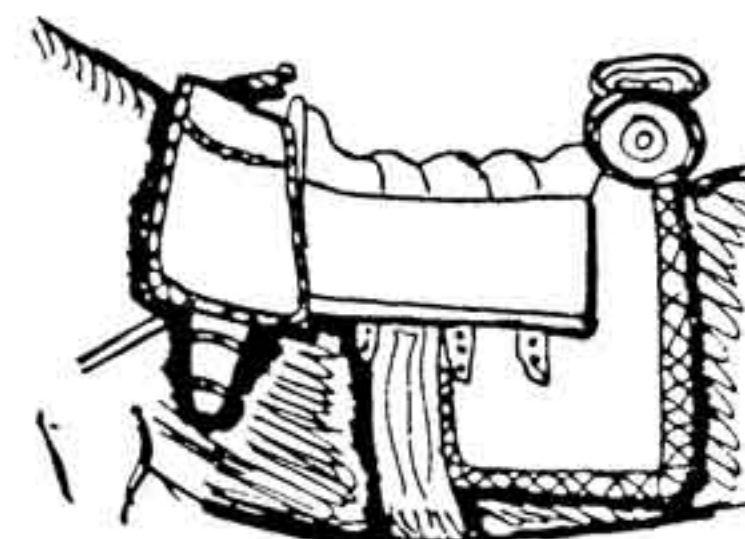
137X. 1709	FLANDRES (Spanish FLANDES)	???	D1714
138X. 1709	BRABANT (Spanish BRAVANTE)	???	D1714
139X. 1709	Dupuy (Spanish Du Puyg)	???	D1714
140X. 1688	Castries. (This regiment appears on lists between 1688 and 1706. It seems to have been some sort of Freecorps or irregular force, not a line unit)		

In 1691, with the permission of Louis XIV, James II formed a small Irish army on French soil. Altogether, these forces numbered nearly 20,000 men. These Jacobite troops fought alongside the French until the Nine Years War ended, in 1697. Many of the units were then disbanded, or combined to form new regiments on the French establishment. These were the original "Wild Geese". The units listed below were the cavalry units of this Irish army. They served in Flanders as part of the French forces there between 1691 and 1697.

141X. 1691	Le Roi d'Angleterre.	2 squadrons.	D1697
142X. 1691	La Reine d'Angleterre.	2 squadrons.	D1697

The uniform was probably red, lined in blue, the royal colours. There was also a regiment of dragoons, but these were never mounted and served as infantry throughout their existence. They were titled "Dragons de la Reine d'Angleterre".

Regiments 141X and 142X were combined to form the Irish cavalry regiment Sheldon, No.56.



Saddlecloth and Holsters

The Dragoons

As in the other armies of the seventeenth century, the regiments of dragoons had originally been intended to perform a dual role. They were expected to be able to fight either mounted or on foot, as the situation required. In reality, they were unable to perform either role properly. They had neither the fire discipline or numbers to take on good infantry nor the training or heavy enough horses to fight true heavy cavalry.

In most armies, the dragoon regiments very quickly developed into pure cavalry, which very rarely operated on foot. In the French service, they tended to retain their mounted infantry role and were rarely found acting as battlefield cavalry until well into the War of the Spanish Succession. Many of the numerous French dragoon regiments were not used in the main field armies, but served as border patrols, as frontier guards or even as "security police", particularly where there were large numbers of Huguenots or ex-Huguenots.

When with the field armies, the role of dragoons was to protect the flanks of the army, to escort supply convoys and to scout ahead of the main forces. They performed, in fact, the traditional tasks of light cavalry.

In 1688, there were 14 dragoon regiments in the French army. Five new units were raised in 1688, thirteen in 1689 and a further ten in 1690. This total of 42 regiments gave Louis XIV some 126 dragoon squadrons. In 1698, at the end of the Nine Years War, 19 of these new units were disbanded and the remaining nine were reduced to a cadre of a single weak company.

During the War of the Spanish Succession, there was once more a rapid increase in the number of dragoon regiments. In 1701, eight of the cadre units were brought up to full strength, in 1702, eight new units were raised. This total of 30 regiments was increased in 1705 by three new units and the cadre of Languedoc No.2 being refomed into a full regiment. A 35th regiment was raised in 1708. The end of the war saw all but the original fourteen regiments being disbanded or combined with existing units.

The organisation of the dragoons was almost identical to that of the chevaulegers. The company was the same, except that there was a drummer instead of a trumpeter and the sous-lieutenant was known as the Guidon rather than the Cornette. All of the dragoon regiments had the same organisation, nine companies organised into three squadrons. The usual strength of a regiment in the field was between 300 and 450 officers and men.

The uniform of the dragoon regiments consisted of shirt, waistcoat, coat and breeches. The coat was lined in a contrasting colour, which gave the unit its facing colours. The long cavalry boots worn by the chevaulegers were replaced by short boots with long leather gaiters, which allowed the dragoon more freedom of movement when operating on foot. The most unusual item of clothing was the dragoon cap. In other armies of the period, dragoons appear to have had both a cap and a tricorne hat. The French dragoons, however, seem to have worn the cap at all times when on campaign. They were armed with a sword, pistol and hatchet. Instead of the shorter cavalry carbine, they carried an infantry musket and bayonet. The leather belts appear to have been natural buff. The horse furniture was the same as that of the chevaulegers.

As was the case with all dragoon units, the quality of the horses was far lower than that of the chevaulegers. They were smaller and

lighter, which meant that they could not stand up to a charge from true heavy horse.

Strength of the French Dragoons.

1687.		14 regiments.
1688	5 new raised	19 "
1689	13 " "	32 "
1690	10 " "	42 "
1691		42 "
1692		42 "
1693		42 "
1694		42 "
1695		42 "
1696		42 "
1697		42 "
1698	28 disbanded	14 "
1699		14 "
1700		14 "
1701	5 re-raised	19 "
1702	11 new and re-raised	30 "
1703		30 "
1704		30 "
1705	4 new and re-raised	34 "
1706		34 "
1707		34 "
1708	1 new raised	35 "
1709		35 "
1710		35 "
1711		35 "
1712		35 "
1713	9 disbanded	26 "
1714	12 disbanded	14 "

This gave the French a force of about 19,000 dragoons during the Nine Years War and about 14-15,000 during the War of the Spanish Succession. Like the chevaulegers, they were organised into two or three regiment strong brigades, which operated on the extreme flanks of the army when deployed for battle.

On some occasions, the dragoons of the army were massed, to form a kind of "rapid deployment force" for specific operational needs.



Dragoon Cap

The Regiments of Dragoons

Number	Raised	Title in 1688	Other Titles	Uniform
1.	1667	COLONEL GENERAL		Red/Blue
2.	1673	MESTRE-DE-CAMP GENERAL		Red/Blue
3.	1656	ROYAL or sometimes DU ROI		Blue/Red
4.	1673	LA REINE		Red/Red
5.	1673	LE DAUPHIN		Blue/Blue
6.	1673	Grammont, 1696 Peyssac, 1699 Listenois, 1710 Beaufremont		Red/Isabella
7.	1673	Barbezieres, 1692 d'Estrades, 1705 Bellisle, 1709 Bonelles		Red/Isabella
8.	1674	Peyssonel, 1690 Gaubert, 1700 d'Albert 1701 d'Amiens, 1702 Du Heron, 1705 Bourmoef 1706 Vasse, 1710 d'Espinay		Red/Green
9.	1675	La Lande, 1696 Verac, 1710 Caylus		Red/Yellow
10.	1675	Caylus, 1696 Lautrec		Red/Yellow
11.	1675	Tesse, 1692 Sennecterre, 1705 Belabre		Red/Green
12.	1676	Fimarcon, 1705 Du Cayla, 1706 Tilladet, 1713 Chatillon, 1714 Goesbriant		Green/Green
13.	1676	d'Asfeld, 1696 Hautefort, 1709 Saumery		Green/Red
14.	1676	LANGUEDOC		Red/Red
15X.	1688	d'Avaray, 1698/**/1702 La Vrilliere 1706 Rouvroy		D1714
16X.	1689	Gevaudan, 1698/**/1702 Vasse, 1705 Pourrieres 1714 Rivarole		D1714
17X.	1689	d'Asfeld Etranger, 1698/**/1703 Bouville	Red/Green	D1714
18X.	1689	BRETAGNE 1698/**/1701		D1714
19X.	1689	La Salle, 1691 La Verchere, 1695 Poitiers, 1698/**/1701 Poitiers, 1704 Despaux, 1708 Conflans, 1711 Coetman		D1714
20X.	1689	Pomponne, 1692 Fontbeausard, 1698/**/1701 1701 Fontbeausard, 1704 St. Chamond	Red/Yellow	D1714
21X.	1690	St. Hermine, 1698/**/1701 St. Hermine 1702 Rohan-Chabot		D1714
22X.	1690	Rannes, 1698/**/1701 Rannes, 1711 Coigneux		D1713
23X.	1690	LANGUEDOC No.2 1698/**/1701		D1713
24X.	1702	St. Sermin		D1714
25X.	1702	Bozelli		D1714
26X.	1702	Villegagnon, 1705 Prie, 1706 Vitry		D1713
27X.	1702	Pezeux, 1709 Broissia, 1711 Clermont, 1714 Balleroy		D1714
28X.	1702	Aubigne, 1706 Lesparre, 1709 Granville		D1713
29X.	1702	La Batie, 1703 Verceil, 1705 La Lande		D1713
30X.	1702	Montmain, 1706 Courtebonne, 1709 Chazelles 1712 d'Auzeville		D1714
31X.	1702	Gaucher-Chatillon		D1714
32X.	1705	GUYENNE (also known as Montrevel), 1707 Granges		D1713
33X.	1705	d'Escorailles, 1707 Saumery, 1709 St. Priest 1712 Bellisle.		D1713
34X.	1705	d'Espinay, 1710 Heudetot		D1713
35X.	1708	Parpaille, (also called FLANDRES)		D1713
36X.	1688	Du Heron		D1698
37X.	1688	Catinat		D1698
38X.	1688	St. Freemont, 1690 Cilly	Red/Red	D1698
39X.	1688	Grammont-Fallon, 1696 Chantran, 1697 Frontenay		D1698
40X.	1689	Wartigny	Red/Yellow	D1698

41X.	1689	Gohas		D1698
42X.	1689	Bretoncelles, 1696 Watteville		D1698
43X.	1689	Du Breuil, 1697 Roux		D1698
44X.	1689	Averne, 1691 Barreau, 1695 Des Aydes		D1698
45X.	1689	Breteuil		D1698
46X.	1689	Marquis de Grammont, 1696 d'Escorailles,	Red/Green	D1698
47X.	1689	Ganges, cadet. (No.14 Languedoc was also known as Ganges, aine or senior)		D1698
48X.	1690	Silly, 1693 Payssac, 1696 Gouffier	Red/Red	D1698
49X.	1690	Verrue	Red/Yellow	D1698
50X.	1690	Montalet		D1698
51X.	1690	d'Anvoile, 1696 Bragelonne		D1698
52X.	1690	Morsan		D1698
53X.	1690	ARTOIS		D1698
54X.	1690	Valencay		D1698

Many of the dragoon coat and lining colours are not positively known. Only those of which I am reasonably certain are actually given in the list. It is more than likely that almost all other units had red coats and that yellow or red linings were most common.



Dragoon Coat

Standards and Guidons

It is not the intention to go into any great detail regarding the patterns of the flags carried by the French cavalry. This section of our booklet will mainly deal with only general details.

Originally, each company of the chevaulegers carried a standard. That of the mestre-de-camp was white, the other standards were in the colour of the regiment. This was usually the colour of the colonel's personal livery. The standards were silk. On one side there was usually an ornate baroque border, surrounding a gold sun and ray. An alternative to this pattern was a sprinkling of gold fleurs-de-lys. On the reverse were the arms of the regimental chef. In 1689, the king ordered that only two standards per squadron were to be carried and this remained the practice throughout the period. These standards were about forty to forty two inches square on a ten foot staff. The standards had fringes and tassels in gold or silver.

The dragoons carried guidons with rounded flies which bore similar decorations to those of the chevaulegers. These were rather small than cavalry standards. The hussar units had similar swallow tailed guidons but with pointed flies.

There are several sources for the patterns on the standards. Here are some of the best known:

Arms and Uniforms, The Lace Wars, L. and F. Funcken, London 1977.

La Maison du Roi, Pengel & Hurt.

(This booklet covers the Seven Years War, but the details for the Maison du Roi standards are the same, as are those for the Gendarmerie)

Drapeaux du Roi, Rene Charrie. Paris.

Trophees de la Guerre de Succession d'Espagne, C. Terana Paris.

The book by Charrie is probably the best, but it is extremely expensive and not very readily available.

Funcken covers the Maison du Roi and Gendarmerie quite well, in colour, but has little on the other regiments.

Terana gives a wide choice of designs. These, however, are in black and white and one needs to read French well. The source is a display panel showing 202 Dutch trophies taken from France and produced in 1713. It is at present in the Hague, Holland. There are about 40 cavalry and 8 dragoon standards portrayed, although there is some duplication where more than one standard was captured from one unit.

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Distribution of the French Cavalry in 1703

Germany and the Rhine: Villars.

2.	Mestre de camp General	3.
4.	Royal	3.
5.	Le Roi	3.
8.	Cravates du Roi	3.
10.	Royal Piemont	3.
14.	Dauphin Etranger	3.
15.	Bourgogne	3.
19.	Orleans	3.
20.	Conde	3.
27.	Prince Charles	2.
31.	Montmain	2.
32.	Heudicourt	2.
33.	Aubusson	2.
42.	St. Pouanges	2.
43.	Livry	2.
44.	La Ferronaye	2.
45.	Vienne	2.
49.	Levis	2.
50.	Brissac	2.
51.	Barentin	2.
55.	Duc de Noailles	2.
56.	Sheldon	2.
63.	Merinville	2.
66.	Fourquevaux	2.
68.	Forsat	2.
69.	La Valliere	2.
71.	Vivans St. Christaud	2.
72.	Comte d'Anlezy	2.
76.	Bissy, No.2	2.
77.	La Baume	2.
78.	d'Auriac	2.
79.	Rouvray	2.
84.	La Billarderie	2.
87.	Choiseul	2.
92.	Ligondez	2.
93.	Bourke	2.
95.	Isle-du-Vigier	2.
97.	Tarnault	2.
131.	Conflans	2.

Gendarmerie de France 8.

Dragoons.

1.	Colonel General	3.
4.	La Reine	3.
6.	Listenois	3.
13.	Hautefort	3.
15.	La Vrilliere	3.
16.	Vasse	3.
17.	Bouville	3.
20.	Fontbeausard	3.
21.	Rohan	3.

Army of Flanders: Villeroi.

6.	Royal Etranger	3
11.	Royal Allemand	3
17.	Berry	3
18.	Royal Carabiniers	6
22.	Chartres	3
24.	Maine	3
25.	Toulouse	3
28.	Grignan	3
29.	Quintin	2
30.	Egmont	2
34.	Talmont	2
35.	Beringhen	2
41.	Duras	2
53.	Rosen	2
54.	Furstenberg	2
61.	Fiennes	2
64.	Pelleport	2
70.	Bar	2
80.	Montrevel	2
82.	Parabere	2
88.	Tarente	2
89.	Saumery	2
90.	Meuse	2
91.	Marquis d'Anlezy	2

Maison du Roi 13

Dragoons.

2.	Mestre de camp General	3
3.	Royal	3
18.	Bretagne	3
19.	Poitiers	3
22.	Rannes	3
24.	St. Cernin	3
26.	Villegagnon	3
27.	Pezeux	3
28.	Aubigne	3

Total 100 squ.

Army of Lombardy: Vendome.

1.	Colonel General	3.
7.	Cuirassiers du Roi	3.
16.	Anjou	3.
18.	Royal Carabiniers	4.
21.	Bourbon	2.
25.	Villeroi	2.
36.	Sully	2.
37.	d'Uzes	2.
39.	Ruffey	2.
40.	Esclainvilliers	2.
46.	Bartillat	2.
47.	Forbin	2.
48.	Bouzols	2.
52.	Wiltz	2.
62.	Bissy	2.
65.	Simiane	2.
67.	Broglie	2.
73.	Cappy.	2.
81.	Montpeyreux	2.
83.	Mauroy	2.
85.	d'Ourches	2.
94.	Coulandon	2.
96.	Desclos	2.

59. Mortany Hussars 2.

Dragoons.

5.	Le Dauphin	3.
7.	d'Estrades	3.
8.	Du Heron	3.
9.	Verac	3.
10.	Lautrec	3.
11.	Sennecterre	3.
12.	Fimarcon	3.
14.	Languedoc	3.

Total 76 squadrons

Army of Piedmont: Vaudemont.

3.	Commissionaire General	3
9.	Royal Rousillon	3
12.	La Reine	3
13.	Le Dauphin	3
26.	du Tronc	2
38.	Rassay	2
60.	Rennepont	2
74.	Estaniols	2
75.	Melun	2
86.	Villiers	2

Dragoons

25.	Bozelli	3
29.	La Batie	3
30.	Montmain	3
31.	Chatillon	3

Total 36 squadrons