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**FROM UTILITARIAN TO ARTISTIC WEAPONS.  
ARMAMENT OF THE ARMY  
OF THE POLISH – LITHUANIAN  
COMMONWEALTH IN XVIII CENTURY**

**A**T THE BEGINNING of the 18th century in almost all European countries the unification process of the equipment of units, military formations and even entire armies had been finished. As far as the armament was concerned the main principle was that all soldiers of an independent unit, i.e. a regiment, had to be equipped with identical firearms and melee weapons.

As early as by the half of the 18th century in some European armies this principle applied to entire formations (infantry, dragoons, cavalry of various types). This was caused by attempts at minimizing the costs of equipping expanding armies on the one hand, and at increasing their combat efficiency on the other. As a result two issues had to be harmonized – the lowest possible price of the equipment, its good quality with regard to certain simplicity of use and efficiency aimed at eliminating the opponent, as well as operational durability. The latter resulted from legal regulations applicable in specific armies, which stipulated that firearms were subject to replacement every 10, 12 or even 15 years. As far as melee weapons were concerned their lifespan was slightly shorter, i.e. 6–10 years. As for the defensive armaments, in the case of cavalry formations where it had been retained, they were to remain a part of the equipment until they could be no longer used due to damage. All those requirements along with manpower count, which in the case of countries operating actively in international political arena amounted to between 180 thousand and over 300 thousand soldiers, effected a large scale of armament production in specialized manufactories. This was conducive

to the standardization of armament, and following the loss of individualisation characteristic of craft manufacturing both firearms and melee weapons lost most of their artistic features. They became ordinary, utilitarian instruments.

The Commonwealth did not implement any regulations, even most general ones, related to equipping an army as a whole entity, and this was not changed during the Warsaw negotiations in the second half of 1716 and at the beginning of 1717. Only for the foreign recruitment units in Lithuania in 1709/1710 and in the Crown in 1717 certain regulations concerning the equipment were introduced, however those did not apply to entire infantry and dragoon formations but to specific single regiments. Separate “rule statutes” prepared for each regiment, however, determined only the quantity of the weapons and the principles of the equipment replacement. Responsibility for following those regulations was placed on the shoulders of the commanders of regiments and companies. The commanders were responsible for the armaments acquisition even though the weapons should have been of the same type and the acquisition should have taken place in the same time for the entire regiment. Weapons were supposed to be replaced every 12 years, except for the officer’s smallswords replaced every 5 years<sup>1</sup>. In fact the decisions concerning the acquisition of new weapons were made by the regiment commanders who up to the 1780-s had difficulty in keeping up with the time limits of weapon replacement specified in the regulations of 1717. As an effect it was quite common that the regiments used carbines and pistols which were over a dozen or even several dozen years old. In the case of the field regiment formed between 1728–1730 the first replacement of firearms simultaneously in the entire unit took place no sooner than in 1756, i.e. after the carbines had been used for 26 years, even though as early as in the second half of 1740-s a large percent of the firearms were described as dilapidated<sup>2</sup>. Infantry regiments of the queen and the great crown hetman Jan Klemens Branicki at the end of 1750-s used carbines over twenty years old. One of the battalions of the latter regiment at the beginning of 1760-s was equipped with weapons in such a bad condition that it was not safe to shoot even using “blank cartridges”. In 1765 a part of Kamieniec Podolski garrison used weapons so old that “by no means it could be used for public matters”<sup>3</sup>. The main reason why the weapon replacement terms were not met was the lack of sufficient financial means. Small budgets of particular regiments were structured in such a way that even a slightest failure in following

the budget system rules or even a minor financial abuse caused by the commanders resulted in the necessity of expanding the operational period of the equipment. Meanwhile the legal regulations were simply encouraging for the commanders to appropriate the regiment's funds for themselves.

Another problematic issue was also the purchase of firearms which actually were not manufactured in Poland. At the beginning of 18th century both carbines and pistols were manufactured on a small scale near Kielce, in the forges of Cracow bishops and in an armoury located in Przysucha<sup>4</sup> owned by the Małogoszcz castellan Antoni Czermiński. In the second decade of the century, the third decade at the latest, those workshops ceased to operate and for the following two – three decades there was simply no armoury workshop capable of manufacturing in a suitably short time even a small lot of carbines and pistols of the same type.

Not before the middle of 18th century weapon manufacturing on a larger scale was launched in an armoury workshop in Pomykowo near Końskie, it was a part of a metallurgical enterprise established by chancellor Jan Małachowski. However, it achieved operational capacity allowing the production of larger orders not before the second half of the 1760-s, for example, in 1766 – 210 flintlock carbines with bayonets for Kamieniec Podolski garrison, and in 1767 – 220 carbines and 226 pairs of pistols for the dragoon regiment of the field crown hetman. Weapons manufactured in Pomykowo presented sufficient barrel durability and good accuracy of aiming<sup>5</sup>.

In the 18th century the main source of firearms supplies was importation. Until the 1760-s the infantry purchased the weapons in a Saxon manufactory in Suhl, and the dragoons purchased the products manufactured in both Saxon and Prussian armoury workshops. They were not always capable of completing the orders sent from Poland, and moreover, during military conflicts quite common in Central Europe, there were also problems concerning the delivery of the manufactured products to the buyer.

The equipment of the soldiers of foreign contingent consisted of the following:

- infantry: privates and cadets – a flintlock carbine with bayonet, a backsword, a mould for making bullets, a kreuzer; carpenters – additionally a small axe; fourier (provisioning officers) – a flintlock carbine and a pair of pistols; drummers and feldshers (field surgeons) –

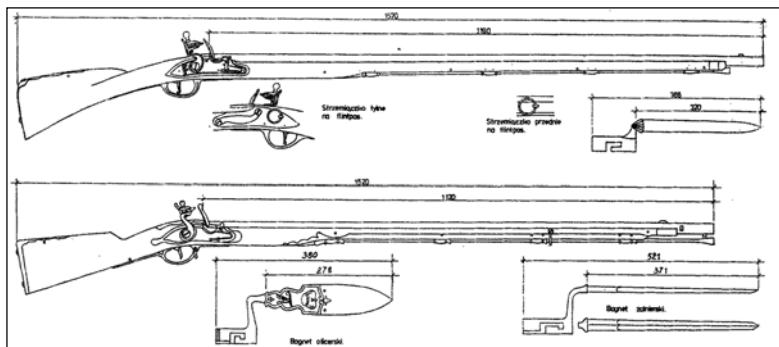
a backsword or a smallsword; non-commissioned officers – a pair of pistols, an sword or a backsword and the so-called “kurzgewehr” i.e. a short spontoon which was mainly a symbol of power; officers – a pair of pistols and an sword, and in the grenadier units a flintlock carbine with a shot bayonet<sup>6</sup>.

- dragoons: a carbine with a bayonet, a pair of pistols, a backsword, a mould for making bullets, a kreuzer; officer and non-commissioned officers did not have carbines, and instead of a backsword they were armed with smallswords<sup>7</sup>.

Without a doubt since the end of the second decade of the 18th century all units of the foreign recruitment were equipped with flintlock weapons, which were introduced in the Crown army as early as in the last decade of the 17th century<sup>8</sup>. Unfortunately, on the basis of the preserved sources it is impossible to clearly specify the types or origins of the flintlock carbines. Infantry used carbines of type 1722 and upgraded type 1744. Inspired on French carbines from 1717, they presented the following parameters: type 1722 – total length 1570 mm (the barrel 1190), calibre 18.3 mm (bullet 17.65 mm), weight 4.8 kg; type 1744 – total length 1520 mm (barrel 1120), calibre 18.3 mm (bullet 17.65 mm), weight 5.1 kg.

The 1722 type had a wooden ramrod with a steel head, and the 1744 type had a steel ramrod with a conical head<sup>9</sup>. The latter was introduced into the crown army as early as in 1749 when carbines with steel ramrods became a part of the infantry guard, followed by the infantry regiment and the “Hungarian” infantry “free” company of W. Rzewuski in 1752 and 1754<sup>10</sup>. Certainly the same type of weapon was purchased for the field regiment in 1756. The dragoons certainly used shorter carbines manufactured in Prussia, type 1720 and pistols of type 1740. Description of the carbine: total length 1110 mm (barrel 730), calibre 19 mm (bullet 17.65 mm); wooden ramrod with a steel or horn head. Description of the pistol: total length 560 mm (barrel 294), calibre 16.5 mm (bullet 14.7 mm), weight approx. 1.45 kg<sup>11</sup>.

Carbines and pistols imported from Saxony and Prussia were typical weapons produced in manufactories, fully standardized. They lacked any ornaments, although contemporary researchers may consider some elements of stock and flintlock trimming as ornaments. It was possible that decorative elements were present on flintlock carbines constituting the equipment of the janissary banners considered to be parade banners<sup>12</sup>.



**Pic. 1. Flintlock carbine with bayonet type 1720 (manufactured in Prussia) and type 1744 (Saxony, Suhl). Source: M. Maciejewski, *Broń strzelecka*, Szczecin 1991, tab. 1**

As far as melee weapons are concerned, undoubtedly the manufactured standardized production consisted of bayonets. Polish and Lithuanian infantry were equipped with socket bayonets imported from Germany, up until 1764 mostly from Saxony. Initially they had flat blade and since the end of the 1740s a triangular one, 320–380 mm long (total length of the bayonet was 460 mm)<sup>13</sup>. This type of weapon completely lacked any ornaments.

Other type of melee weapon included in the equipment of infantry and dragoons was also mostly imported from Saxony, Silesia and Prussia – backswords and smallswords. Backswords were part of the dragoon regiments' equipment and partly of the infantry. The blade was up to 88 cm long, wide, straight or almost straight. These were usually single-edged (fit for cutting) and their hilt was of the sabre type. Officers' backswords sometimes had a more complex guarded basket sabre type hilt, ornamented with the Commonwealth's and royal coats of arms<sup>14</sup>.

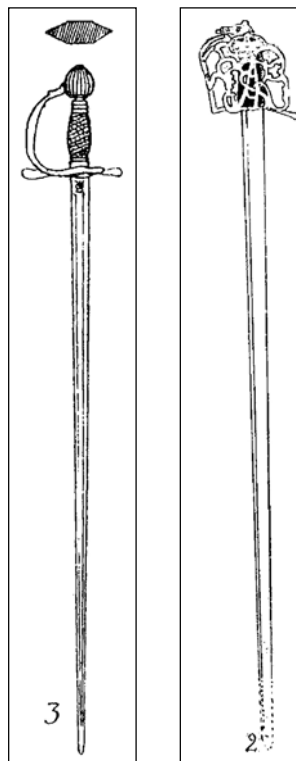
The smallsword was a combination of edged and stabbing weapons. Its distinctive feature was a straight blade up to 90 cm long. In the Saxon times the smallsword became an almost exclusively officers' weapon in the infantry and crown artillery corps. The dominant type was definitely the German army smallsword with brass hilt with a cross-hoop crossguard, with 8-shaped or heart-shaped shell and a double-edged blade of a flattened hexagon cross-section. Officers of particular regiments used standardized smallswords with the royal initials AR imprinted on the blade and with silver or gold-plated brass.

Some of the infantry units used falchions instead of backswords and smallswords – it was an edged weapon similar to the smallsword but shorter. Polish army used two types: “saxonian” and “janissary”. The first one had a blade up to 85 cm long, a closed hilt (brass or a more unique one with a wooden leather-covered grip, with brass quillons and pommel) with a hoop-shaped right-angled crossguard. Janissary falchions were “Polish specialty” and a part of Janissary banners’ equipment. They had an open karabela – type hilt, a cross-shaped crossguard with terminals bending downwards and folded towards the blade. In the middle of the cross, on gold-plated and dotted background there were the AR initials surmounted with a crown. The hilt was brass cast, silver-plated in the case of the non-commissioned officers’ falchions. The blade was short and straight, up to 65 cm long (total length of the weapon 82.5 cm). Scabbards were wooden, covered in black leather with brass ferrules and throat, silver-plated<sup>15</sup>.

It seems that janissary falchions and officers’ backswords were the only weapons in the infantry equipment of more elaborate artistic value.

In the case of the national recruitment units the legal regulations, or more the lack thereof, allowed less unified armaments.

Between 1716–1717 there were no standard requirements regarding the equipment of the hussar, pancerni (heavy), petyhorcy or light banners and within the following decades the hetmans were not particularly eager to introduce any standard equipment regulations even in the case of issues as important as trigger mechanisms of carbines or pistols. Only when the country was facing a substantial crisis related to the death of August III great crown hetman Jan Klemens Branicki decided between



**Pic. 2–3. Officers  
smallsword  
and backsword.**

**Source: Dziewanowski W.  
Zarys dziejów  
uzbrojenia w Polsce.  
Warszawa, 1935. P. 37, 64**

18 and 21 November 1763 to issue universals regulating the matters concerning defence armament, pole weapons and uniforms of the national recruitment units. Pursuant to those universals by 1 May 1764 all soldiers were to be equipped with the following: in hussar banners – lances and full armours; in pancerni (heavy) banners – pikes, breastplates, coifs, bevors, spaulders and vambraces; light banners – only offensive weapons<sup>16</sup>. These regulations were of very general character and as a result until 1775 the national recruitment units used traditional and tested solutions (which were not necessarily suitable for the 18th century conditions) thus granting the rittmeisters great liberty with regard to equipping the banners, and the companions the retinues. They were only required to equip the soldiers with operational offensive and defensive weapons and ammunition.

Since the 1720 some units of the national recruitment began to settle the equipment – related issues, however, it was of “rank-and-file” character, officers themselves and companions participating in banner councils determined the parameters of the armaments, principles of acquisitions and operational time limits.

The national recruitment unit’s equipment ought to be divided into two categories: banner and retinue (“poczec” in Polish). Banner equipment was prepared and maintained by a rittmeister and financed from collective banner funds. It was rather unimpressive as it consisted of a banner or a pennon, drummer’s kettledrums and in the case of hussar banners also trumpets. In the middle of the 18th century as a result of resolutions of banner councils, some banners included into their equipment also defensive weapons, coats and mituks (type of shabrack). The latter were usually property of the companion who presented “poczec” (“retinue”), as well as other elements of the uniform, firearms (carbine, pair of pistols or bandolets), sabre and horses. Newly recruited companions were obliged to join the banner with their fully equipped poczet (retinue) and during the entire military service take good care of maintaining it in proper position. It resulted in some significant expenses, in the case of the hussars the horse alone cost 100–200 ducats (in Poland called “red zloty”). Moreover there were luxurious elements of a companion’s equipment, including a few excessively embellished saddles, bits, bridles, hackamores and other accessories, wolf and leopard furs, a lance, a few karabels and sabres, firearms, charging kit, armour and properly rich apparel, which as a result could amount to even two thousand ducats (red zloty)<sup>17</sup>. It was significantly less expensive to equip

a pancerni (heavy) poczet member – at the turn of 1720s and 1730s approx. 20–30 red złoty (horse not included)<sup>18</sup>.

The armament of particular formations of national recruitment cavalry:

- hussars: a smallsword, a koncerz sword, a bandolet, a pair of pistols;
- pancerni (heavy) and light cavalry: a 180–210 cm long spear, a smallsword, a bandolet or carbine and a pair of pistols.

Pole weapon was withdrawn from use in the cavalry of honourable coats of arms in the last decades of the 17th century – in 1689 hetman Stanisław Jabłonowski ordered the hussars to replace their lances with additional firearms and bandolets<sup>19</sup>. This increased the combat efficiency of a banner, which was favourable during battles with the Turks and Tatars, however, it also meant that using the advantages of heavy cavalry in order to break the opponent's formation was no longer applied. Lances used as training weapons were reintroduced into the hussar's equipment by great crown hetman Adam Mikołaj Sieniawski in the spring of 1725. His order emphasized the meaning of historical war traditions of the Polish cavalry and victorious battles where the use of pole weapons during the attack contributed to the success. However, hetman's motivation had nothing to do with respect for the ancestors or the will to increase the combat value of the troops, he simply wanted to expand the training routine of the units garrisoned in their quarters with another element. Sieniawski himself tested the efficiency of such a solution by equipping his own hussars banner with lances, however, they were reduced to the shaft only, and additionally only 10 pieces were allotted to all the poczets (retinues) at a time<sup>20</sup>. This frugality resulted from the fact that the cost of manufacturing lances was high and it was difficult to find a craftsman capable of producing them. In 1751 in an important military supply centre – Lvov, there was only one craftsman capable of manufacturing pole weapons<sup>21</sup>. At the turn of 1763 and 1764 Andrzej Mokronowski informed Franciszek Bieliński that there was a craftsman capable of manufacturing hussars lances in Białystok, and he suggested that it was a good idea to send a carpenter's apprentice there in order to learn this “very easy to comprehend” profession. Bieliński, however, declined this concept and suggested that Mokronowski should negotiate with the craftsman from Białystok in order to have the lances manufactured for his hussars banner at a reasonable price<sup>22</sup>.

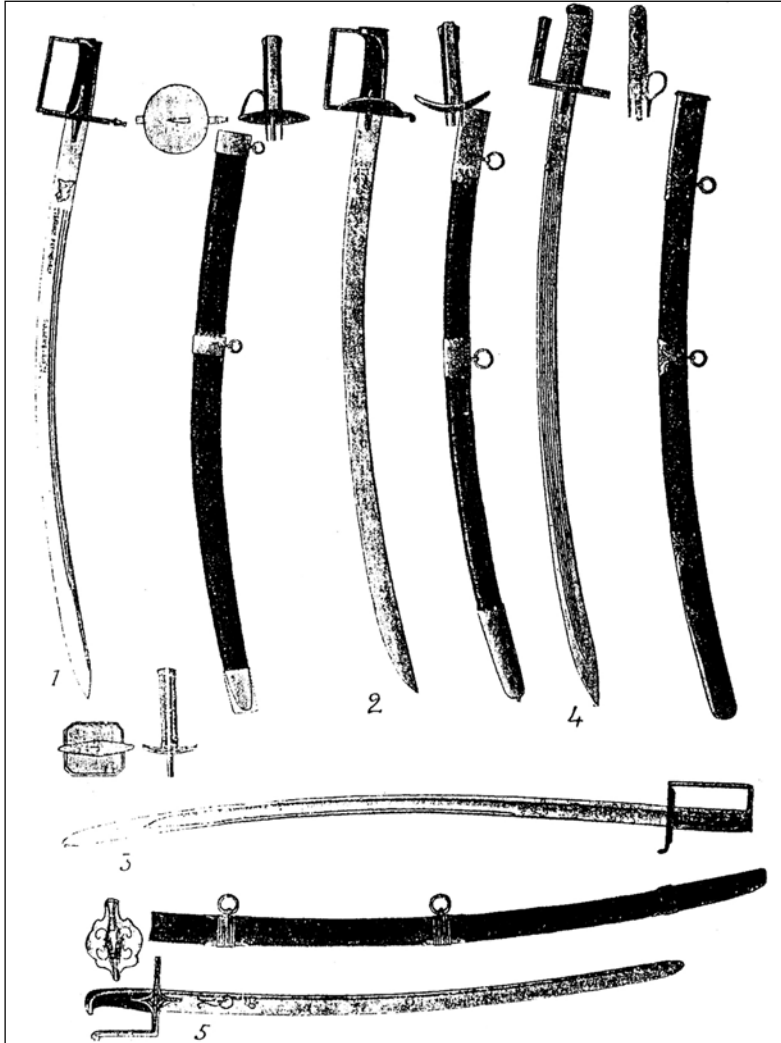
As far as combat pole weapon is concerned, spears became a compulsory element of the equipment of pancerni (heavy) cavalry in

1746 pursuant to the order of hetman Józef Potocki<sup>23</sup>. In 1763 Jan Klemens Branicki with the universal issued on 21 October ordered the hussars had to be equipped with lances and the pancerni (heavy) cavalry with spears<sup>24</sup>.

In the 18th century in Poland melee weapons were replaced with backswords and smallswords of new type, although until the half of the century the hussars banners were still equipped with koncerz swords, and most of the noblemen used older, more or less elaborately ornamented types of sabres, often of karabela type<sup>25</sup>. In the banner of Józef Ossoliński, pursuant to the council's resolution of August 1748, backswords were established as more valuable edged weapon, as they were deposited at the command, and the soldiers of the poczet (retinue) during their "everyday" duty were supposed to use sabres<sup>26</sup>. The following year backswords were purchased for the royal pancerni (heavy) banner, and in 1751 for the pancerni (heavy) banner of Józef Wolski (with a steel basket – type hilt)<sup>27</sup>. In the spring 1763 backswords of "the same modelling", with an eagle embossed on the hilt, were made for all poczets (retinues) of the royal hussars<sup>28</sup>. The backswords used in the national recruitment units varied from the ones of dragoons and infantry. The only thing they had in common was the name resulting from the confusion of definitions – in the Saxon times the term backsword, initially with additional description "hussar", referred to the closed – hilt sabres, and in the provisions regulating the equipment of the Polish army of Stanisław era the term sabre was replaced with "a curved backsword" whereas the actual backswords were referred to as "straight backswords". The backswords used in the national recruitment units were more expensive.

Koncerz sword used only by the hussars was a weapon intended for stabbing only, it was useful in breaking through chain mails. Used in Europe since the Middle Ages, in Poland it became a part of the cavalry equipment in the 16th century. It had a large spherical pommel, a cylindrical grip and a bar or bar – cross-shaped crossguard. The 140–150 cm blade was triangular or square in cross – section. The hilt and the scabbard were usually made of metal or covered with silver, silver- or gold –plated engraved plates, and in the exclusive (parade) variety incrustated with decorative gems. As the koncerz sword was quite long it was difficult to use because it was impossible to take it out from the scabbard attached to the saddle with a single move. That is why many weapon experts claim that it was used by hussars' officers as they did not

use lances and were capable of wielding a koncerz sword from the very beginning of an attack. After lances had been withdrawn from use, the meaning of koncerz sword increased as it was an offensive weapon which



**Pic. 4. Polish sabre from 18th century. Source: Dziewanowski W. Zarys dziejów uzbrojenia w Polsce. Warszawa, 1935. P. 59**

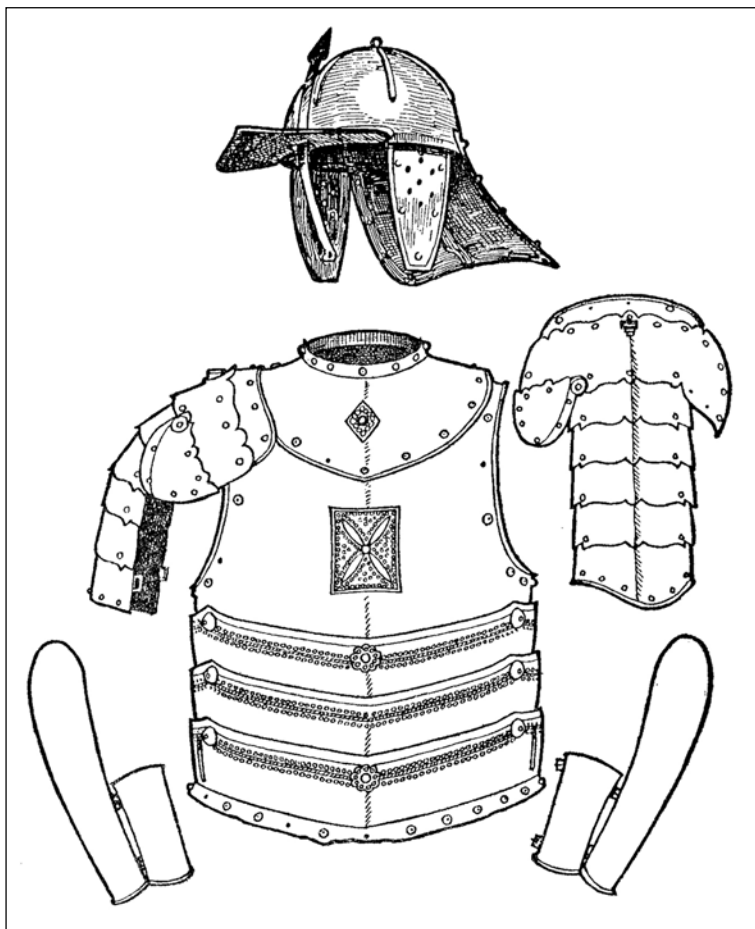
could be used in order to reach the enemy from a distance not allowing the use of a sabre or a backsword. This would be a good explanation of the fact that koncerz sword remained a part of the hussars' equipment for as long as by the half of the 18th century.

The sabre was the most fundamental melee weapon used by the Polish and Lithuanian armies since the second half of the 16th century. It had a single edged, moderately curved blade, no yelmen, 80–86 cm long (the hussar's variety was over 86 cm long), in a more sophisticated variety (and probably the most expensive one) concave on both sides or with one or two fullers from the edge's side and two ridges from the spine's side. Pommels of the military sabres were engraved with the AR initials standing for Augustus Rex. In the case of ornamented parade sabres the hilt was usually open, and in the military ones it was closed (two varieties). Scabbards were made of either iron plate or wood and covered in black leather. According to A. Nadolski the equipment of privates of the cavalry and Hungarian infantry included sabres similar to backswords with the least expensive flat blade with one ridge.

There is not much information related to firearms included in the equipment of the national recruitment cavalry. Within the first years following 1717 a significant percent of them were equipped with matchlock weapons, but gradually it was replaced with flintlock ones. Some of the banners purchased the carbines, bandolets and pistols from Silesian, Pomeranian and Polish gunsmiths. In 1748 the council of the banner of Józef Ossoliński decided to use the hiberna tax means to acquire 25 identical sets of weapons with accessories, i.e. carbines, pistols, backswords, bandolettes and charging kits. The equipment was to be distributed between all "poczty" (retinues) and any remaining extra items were to be deposited at the command post and conveyed to newly recruited soldiers who paid for it from their first soldier's pay. The equipment could also be purchased by additional companions, however, such transactions ought to have been completed in cash. In the case a companion died or left the service, the weapons could be re-purchased by the banner's treasury.

Only the hussars and "pancerni" (heavy) cavalry of the Commonwealth's armies were equipped with defensive weapons. The hussars used armours and karacena armours (kind of scale armour)<sup>29</sup>. At the beginning of the 18th century armours of the so-called "junior" type were popular, they weighed between 12 and 20 kg. Elements of such armours included a breastplate with faulds, bevors, spaulders, vambraces

and a helmet. Instead of the latter pocztowi (retinue) soldiers often used the so-called pappenheimers. Breastplates, which were the basic defensive element, were 38–44 cm long and 37–40 cm wide, weighing 3.3–6 kg. They were made of 4 mm wrought iron plates. In the middle they had a “bone” (a ridge) throughout the entire length. Upper parts of



Pic. 5. Hussars so called “half” armours.

Source: S. Kobielski, Chorągiew husarska pułku hetmańskiego Rzewuskich i jej zbroje, [in:] Studia do dziejów dawnego uzbrojenia wojskowego, cz. 1. Kraków, 1963. P. 46

the breastplates, tips of the faulds, arms and sides there were buckles or orifices for attaching leather straps. Armours had decorative elements varying as far as the level of ornamentation is concerned. For example, in the case of the hussars banners of Rzewuscy these were the following items made of brass: knight's crosses placed centrally in the breastpiece; decorative buttons on pins connecting the tips of the faulds and along the neck and armpit openings; round or diamond-shaped brass rosettes on the faulds; decorative lines of simple circles and stripes embossed on the faulds. Another type of hussars' defensive equipment – karacena armours (scale armour) consisted of a leather plate covered with riveted scales made of metal, metal spaulders and scale helmets. Such a set could weigh up to 25 kg, which in addition to its high price effected its gradual withdrawal from the hussars' cavalry equipment at the beginning of the 18th century. Karacena armours were still in use for some time during mainly as parade or officers' armours, they were finally withdrawn from the hussars' armaments by a hetman's order in 1746<sup>30</sup>. Since May 1764 pursuant to a hetman's universal the hussars banners were to use only full plate armours<sup>31</sup>. As most of the hussars' banners were used as parade units during various public and private celebrations, the hussars' wings' remained a part of the equipment. Hetman Rzewuski's banner replaced their wings with new ones or supplemented the stock as early as in 1766. The hussars' wings and "plain" sabres cost 731 zloty. However, the wings were defective<sup>32</sup>.

In the pancerni (heavy) cavalry the use of kalkan shields (round eastern type shield) was discontinued, and at the turn of 1730ss and 1740s great hetman Józef Potocki suggested that iron kaftans and chainmail helmets – expensive, heavy, undurable and providing little protection against carbine bullets – should be replaced with breastplates with bevors and with the so-called "plate" helmets<sup>33</sup>. Jędrzej Kitowicz sets the date of the defensive armament replacement for the middle period of reign of Augustus III, ensuring that at the moment of that monarch's death only 4 banners used traditional armours<sup>34</sup>. Amongst those who did may have been the royal banner whose companions during the council in December 1740 decided to refit the equipment of poczty (retinues) with armours, chainmail helmets and vambraces, i.e. armaments of earlier type<sup>35</sup>. Since may 1764 pursuant to hetman's order the plates of new type constitute the only statutory standard defensive armament of the pancerni (heavy) cavalry<sup>36</sup>. Apart from the cost of a horse, the purchase of defensive equipment was second largest position in the poczet (retinue)

equipping expenses list. At the end of 1720s a breastplate, vambraces and chainmail helmet cost 120 złoty<sup>37</sup>. Thus it was not surprising that in some banners there were fewer armours than soldiers. Armours of a new type were slightly less expensive, but with regard to their artistic value they were much poorer, even plain.

The majority of melee and defensive weapons used by the national recruitment cavalry was produced locally. Sabres, smallswords, backswords, falchions and bayonets were manufactured in Gorzków, Staszów, Michałów, Świątyniki, Koszniów, Berczów and Warsaw. Moreover, they were manufactured partly from elements prefabricated in forges located in Drzewica, Suchedniów, Samsonów, Konstantynów, Baranów, Ogonów, Ostojów, Majaków and Miedziana Góra. The latter also prepared at least prefabricated elements for manufacturing armours and cuirasses. The metallurgical workshops in Samsonów and Suchedniów also manufactured finished armours – in August 1751 Cracow bishop Andrzej Stanisław Załuski solicited from hetman Jan Klemens Branicki for delegating col. Christian Dahlke to the workshops in Samsonów in order to implement solutions allowing production of lighter and stronger defensive plates more useful for the army<sup>38</sup>.

Until 1775 the armies of the Commonwealth of Poland and Lithuania presented express dualism as far as the issues of armament were concerned. In the foreign recruitment units the equipment included weapons of strictly utilitarian quality, with the most significant requirements being durability and combat operational efficiency. This also concerned the armaments of the units named as guards. There the parade features were present in the uniforms and optional decorative details placed e.g. on the poles of officers' batons and the kurzgewehrs of the non-commissioned officers, or on the hilts of backswords or smallswords.

Utilitarian aspects were also of greatest significance during making decisions related to the choice of armament for the light cavalry banners of the national recruitment, however in the case of Tatar banners in the Lithuanian army they presented some "oriental" features. Artistic features of the used weapons were of greater importance in the case of the banners of hussars and pancerni (heavy)/Petyhorska cavalry and also in the janissary infantry units. Such an attitude also included particularly expensive elements of the equipment constituted by armours and the so-called "plates", which as late as since 1740s had

been replaced with less decorated and thus more durable ones. It also seems that the artistic aspects dominated over the utilitarian ones in the case of those formations and a substantial part of the armament did not present any greater operational value with respect to firearms or edged weapons, however, its distinctive form turned pistols, sabres of charging kits into works of art.

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<sup>1</sup> Biblioteka im. Ossoliński we Wrocławiu (BOss), 282; Biblioteka Polskiej Akademii Umiejętności i Polskiej Akademii Nauk w Krakowie (PAUiPAN), 3870; Archiwum Państwowe w Poznaniu (APPOz), Archiwum Antoniego Kossowskiego (AAK), 1; Archiwum Główne Akt Dawnych w Warszawie (AGAD), Archiwum Roskie (ARos), Militaria (M). Box 6; AGAD, ARos, II, 8. P. 147 and next.

<sup>2</sup> Центральний державний історичний архів України, м. Львів (ЦДІАУЛ). F. 181. Descr. 2, 2676. P. 4–5; APPOz, AAK, № 6. P. 9–15, № 9, P. 11, 15; Letters to J. Tarło from K.G. Henniggs, Okopy Św. Trójcy 31.01, 03.02, 10.02, 16.02, 24.02, 31.03.1737, BOss, 17770. P. 850–857, 861–862, 869–870; J. Witkowski. Okopy Św. Trójcy 05.01.1737 // Центральний державний історичний архів України, м. Київ (ЦДІА-УК). F. 254, Op. 1, 217. K. 3–4; L. Nagrodzki to K. Cieszkowski, Warszawa. 06.06.1756, AGAD, ARos, Korespondencja (K). Box XXIX, 34. P. 46–49;

<sup>3</sup> M. Kuczyński to Polish Military Council, Kamieniec Podolski 01.03.1765. B. Pawłowski. Wojsko koronne i Komisja Wojskowa w dobie konfederacji barskiej 1768–1772. “Przegląd Historyczno-Wojskowy”. T. 10. 1938. P. 196.

<sup>4</sup> J. Pazdur. Produkcja broni palnej na Kielecczyźnie w XVIII w. // Studia Kieleckie. 2/42. 1984. P. 19.

<sup>5</sup> APPOz, AAK, 9. P. 11 and 15; Letters to A. Małachowski from K. Suszkowski i J. Chodkiewicz, 12.10.1762, 11.02.1763, 29.02.1764, Archiwum Państwowe w Kielcach, Archiwum Małachowskich, 501. P. 49–50, 55, 130. J. Pazdur. Produkcja broni palnej. P. 19; H. Zawadzki. Fabryka broni w Końskich – Pomykowie // Studia i Materiały do Historii Wojskowości. T. 17. Cz. 1. Warszawa, 1971. P. 204–205.

<sup>6</sup> Львівська Наукова Бібліотека НАН України ім. В.Стефаніка (ЛНБ). F. 5, 6739; Archiwum Państwowe w Krakowie (APKr), Archiwum Podhoreckie (APodh), III: Teki Andrzeja Potockiego (TAP). Box V, 1/6c; AGAD, ARos, M, Box 6; J. Benda. Kampamenty Jana Christiana Mocka // Muzealnictwo Wojskowe. T. 2. Warszawa, 1964. P. 345 and next; J. Wimmer. Historia piechoty polskiej do roku 1864. Warszawa, 1978. P. 319.

<sup>7</sup> K. Górski. Historia jazdy polskiej. Kraków, 1894. P. 123.

<sup>8</sup> M. Wagner. Zmiany w uzbrojeniu wojsk polskich na początku XVIII wieku // Technika a wojna X–XX w. / Pod red. P. Matusaka i J. Piłatowicza. Siedlce, 2000. P. 133; J. Wimmer. Historia piechoty. P. 271; K. Górski. Historia piechoty polskiej. Kraków, 1893. P. 319.

<sup>9</sup> M. Maciejewski. Broń strzelecka wojsk polskich w latach 1717–1945. Szczecin, 1991. P. 17–18. Tab. 1. Fig. 1.

<sup>10</sup> AGAD, ARos, M, Box 5; APKr, APodh, III TAP, Box V, 1/14 and other disordered files. J. Kitowicz dates the introduction of iron ramrod carbines for approx. 1759 “kiedy Moskale, wojując z królem pruskim Fryderykiem II, wielką moc broni, tak

Prusakom w różnych bitwach zabranej, jako też swojej własnej, po zginionych swoich soldatach, w Polsce zostawili” (“when the Moskals, fighting with the Prussian king Frederick II a great number of weapons, both taken in various battles from the Prussians and their own, of their dead soldiers, left in Poland”) Opis obyczajów za panowania Augusta III / Ed. R. Pollak. Wrocław, 1951. P. 328. The sources lack information concerning the purchase of such weapons for the foreign recruitment regiments, however, we cannot exclude the possibility that it was purchased by the cavalry of the national recruitment.

<sup>11</sup> M. Maciejewski. Broń strzelecka. Szczecin, 1991. P. 16–18. Tab. 1.

<sup>12</sup> S. Kobielski. Polska broń. Broń palna. Wrocław, 1975. Il. 85.

<sup>13</sup> M. Maciejewski. Broń strzelecka. P. 17–18. Il. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Z. Żygulski. Stara broń w polskich zbiorach. Warszawa, 1982. № 39 b, 42–42; Z. Stefańska. Muzeum Wojska Polskiego. Katalog zbiorów wiek XVIII. Warszawa, 1960. Pos. 53–55.

<sup>15</sup> Z. Żygulski. Stara broń. № 27 c–d; Z. Stefańska. Muzeum. P. 39. Pos. 70.

<sup>16</sup> Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. Jopacińskiego w Lublinie (WBPL), 1008; BPAUiPAN, 1132. P. 27v–28.

<sup>17</sup> After Wojciech Plemiński, a companion of the royal hussars banner had died in 1732, the following remained: a “great hussars” tack, made in Kraków from almost 3.8 kg of silver, incrustated with turquoises and rubies, with a gold-plated crownpiece, breastgirth and crupper (900 tynf); a “small Circassian tack” made from 300 g of gold-plated silver (50 tynf); a saddle with full equipment, hemmed with silver and gold-plated with 2 turquoises (18 tynf); a “Circassian” gold-plated saddle semi-hemmed with silver (56 tynf); a simple “groom’s” saddle for the companion; a pocztowy (retinue) saddle; 2 “red hussars” mituks (shabracks); 2 pairs of pistols; a karabela sabre made of damascenian steel decorated with gold and with silver straps (50 tynf); enameled karabela sword trimmed with gold with straps and gold “prickles” (170 tynf); a straight enameled sabre with gold-plated elements; a charging kit with gold studs; a gold – studded charging kit; vambraces made of damascenian steel decorated with gold (50 tynf); iron vambraces decorated with silver (30 tynf); leopard fur with a silk lanyard. BOss, 11853. S. 445–446, 459.

<sup>18</sup> ЦДІАУЛ. F. 181. Descr. 2, 2317. P. 9–10.

<sup>19</sup> M. Wagner. Zmiany w uzbrojeniu. P. 150; M. Wagner. Stanisław Jabłonowski (1634–1702). Polityk i dowódca. Part 2. Siedlce, 1997. P. 142–143; K. Górski. Historia jazdy polskiej. P. 115.

<sup>20</sup> A.M. Sieniawski to T.J. Zamoyski. Brzeżany 23.02.1725 and Oleszyce 24.05.1725, AGAD, AZ, 577. P. 909, 919.

<sup>21</sup> Biblioteka Jagiellońska w Krakowie (BJ), 78. P. 60v.

<sup>22</sup> F. Bieliński to A. Mokronowski. Warszawa 27.01.1764. AGAD. Teki Skimborowicza. XXII. 7/50. K. 7.

<sup>23</sup> J. Potocki to A. Małachowski. Warszawa 08.12.1746. Biblioteka im. Książąt Czartoryskich w Krakowie (BCz), 3366. K. 221.

<sup>24</sup> WPBL, 1008.

<sup>25</sup> Specific types of melee weapons were described on the basis of: A. Nadolski, Polska broń. Broń biała. Wrocław i in. 1984. P. 107, 112, 122–129, il. 108–109, 115–15–158, 160; Z. Żygulski. Broń w dawnej Polsce na tle uzbrojenia Europy i Bliskiego Wschodu. Warszawa, 1982. P. 271–272, 275–281; W. Dziewanowski. Zarys dziejów uzbrojenia w Polsce. Warszawa, 1935. P. 38.

<sup>26</sup> BJ, 6059. P. 57–59v.

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- <sup>27</sup> W.W. Nieszkowski to A. Małachowski. Krzepice 15 XII 1749. BOss, 11832. P. 157–159; WPBL, 835. P. 1.
- <sup>28</sup> BOss, 11905. P. 240–251; W. Kłuszewski to A. Małachowski. Ludyna 3 III 1763. BOss, 11826. P. 299–300.
- <sup>29</sup> J. Kitowicz. Opis obyczajów. P. 308–309; S. Kobielski. Chorągiew husarska pułku hetmańskiego Rzewuskich i jej zbroje // *Studia do dziejów dawnego uzbrojenia wojskowego*. Cz. 1. Kraków, 1963. P. 32–49; B. Gembarzewski. Husarze. Ubiór oporządzenie i uzbrojenie 1500–1775. Warszawa, 1999. Passim; Z. Bocheński. Ze studiów nad polską zbroją husarską // *Rozprawy i Sprawozdania Muzeum Narodowego w Krakowie*. T. 6. 1960. P. 12–52; M. Wagner. Zmiany w uzbrojeniu. P. 124–125; Z. Żygulski. Broń w dawnej. P. 265, 267–269; Z. Żygulski. Stara broń. № 12, 21, 22, 25, 26.
- <sup>30</sup> J. Potocki to A. Małachowski. Warszawa 8 XII 1746, BCz, 3366. K. 221; Z. Bocheński. Karaceny polskie XVII–XVIII w. // *Broń i Barwa*. 1938. № 6–7. P. 106–136.
- <sup>31</sup> WPBL, 1008.
- <sup>32</sup> S. Kobielski. Chorągiew husarska. P. 36.
- <sup>33</sup> *Kurier Polski*. Year 1746. № 509.
- <sup>34</sup> J. Kitowicz. Opis obyczajów. P. 313.
- <sup>35</sup> ЛНБ. F. 5, 7923. P. 89–93; BOss, 11905. P. 204–205; J. Laskowski to A. Małachowski. Krzepice 26.03 and 17.09.1759. BOss, 11827. P. 33–34 and 11828. P. 47.
- <sup>36</sup> WPBL, 1008.
- <sup>37</sup> ЦДІАВЛ. F. 181. Descr. 2, 2317. P. 9–10.
- <sup>38</sup> BJ, 78. P. 60v.