

Prussian Cavalry Standards 1713 to 1815

BY RICHARD K. RIEHN

The story of the Prussian cavalry standards is even more complex than that of the infantry colors. And if the old maxim of "what was lost was saved," held true of the latter, it goes doubly so for the standards. For proof positive, consider this: All that remains of Prussian cuirassier standards of the pattern issued during the reign of Frederick the Great is one single specimen reposing in Belgium. Of another, only a photograph survives! What remained in Prussian hands continued on service until little more than the bare poles, bearing a few shreds of textile, were eventually laid up during the nineteenth century.

Subjected to all of the vicissitudes suffered by the infantry colors, it was their very durability which ultimately was to stand in the way of posterity. And this, then, is a paradox worthy of an explanation.

When Frederick II (the Great) ascended the Prussian throne, he effected a complete replacement of the infantry colors by 1745. This caused a great number of colors to be laid up in relatively good condition. And while those which fell into the hands of the French were eventually destroyed, the Russians inherited a number during the looting of the Berlin armory in 1760. The Austrians shared in this as well and also captured a number of them during the first two Silesian Wars, when some were still on active service.

Since the cavalry standards were far more durable and also quite expensive, the old Frederick William patterns were retained on service and replaced only as needed. When losses were

incurred during the early years of his reign, this did occasion the new issue of an entire set. This seems to have been the case with the 2nd and 5th Cuirassiers. However, as the war progressed and money got tighter, only individual pieces were replaced. Thus, during the Seven Years' War, for example, a regimental set of standards might include two different patterns. That is to say, their color schemes were identical, but some would bear the insignia of Frederick William I, others those of Frederick the Great.

Since any standard with the insignia of Frederick the Great in a trophy collection could only be the result of a squadron losing its standard twice, these were rare from the start.

When the Prussian army suffered its debacle at Jena and Auerstaedt in 1806, all the FWR and FR standards were still on service and what fell into the hands of the French was almost totally destroyed.

Of the 49 standards which survived the 1806/7 campaigns, 41 remained on service until 1811, 17 until the end of the century.

By the time the Napoleonic Wars had run their course, it must have become unthinkable for the regiments as well as the sovereign to part with the venerable antiques these standards had now become, because economy was no longer a ruling factor. Still, even though they were treated with care and restorations were made from time to time, as it became necessary, the





Early dragoon color, still reflecting their origins as mounted infantry.

effects of time and use marched on relentlessly. By the time they finally were laid up, there was little left.

This entire practice, of course, raised quite another set of problems and pitfalls which were to become the bane of modern collectors and writers who lacked access to what little good source material there was — even the secondary material has become rare in our time.

Since the old models continued on service, and new ones were added as new regiments were raised, reflecting whatever models were regulatory at the time, the Prussian cavalry, when seen as a whole, reflected a cacaphony of designs which could not but frustrate all but the experts who attempted to bring some order into

this mess. And, what is far worse, the basic geometry of design remained a constant, ever since Frederick William I had published his initial directives in 1713. Thus, it is in the styling of the eagles, the wreaths and in the corner cyphers where the answer must be sought! It requires little effort to go wrong here. One must begin with the basics and proceed from there.

It is, for example, of no moment what uniform a trooper of the 1st Silesian Cuirassier Regiment wore in 1814, when one is interested only in the uniforms as worn during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71. But the standard under which he rode was one of those issued to the 4th Cuirassiers sometime after 1718, when

the regiment was converted from dragoons to a regiment of horse. And no matter how little of the bunting remained on the pole as time wore on, this was the standard which remained on service until its final replacement in 1906!

Thus, while it is entirely possible to concentrate on the uniforms and accoutrements of a single period, such as the Franco-Prussian War, this does not hold up for the colors and standards. Here, one is either familiar with the whole story or prepared to meet a pitfall at every turn.

THE PRUSSIAN CAVALRY

At a time when the fusil had already served notice on the cavalry that it had entered the

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twilight of its existence on the battlefield, the Prussian cavalry turned back the clock of evolution. Hohenfriedberg, Leuthen, Rossbach and Zorndorf are but the very brightest flashes of lightning illuminating the black thunderheads which were the favorite symbols used by battle painters to depict conflict on canvas.

Neither superior numbers nor inferior opponents figured in the elements of this success story. Nor was the legend made so enduring because it came virtually overnight — in terms of history, that is. What astonished the Western world was that its meteoric ascendancy came against a foe whose cavalry set the standards of the time.

During the middle of the eighteenth century, the great confrontation between the Hapsburgs and the Hohenzollerns was not so much marked by a clash of old forms with the new such as attended the rise of Napoleon. Rather, it was a clash of styles, centered around maximizing that which already was. Nor was Hapsburg Austria the only opponent Frederick had to face during the great showdowns of the Seven Years' War. Several bloody battles were fought against the Russians. Along the way, the French were checked at Rossbach and in the north, the Swedes were held at bay in quite another style of warfare from which Belling — the colonel of the other Black Hussars — emerged as a master of his trade.

It has often been maintained that, in the cavalry, the power of the great personage was everything. Scharnhorst¹⁾ had already come to the conclusion in 1806 that Frederick's victories had been due not so much to his talents as a great captain as they had been to his daring, enterprise and strength of character. And these, he felt to be the true attributes of a great general. As a footnote, he observed that "we have begun to hold the military arts in higher esteem than the military virtues. This has been the undoing of peoples in all ages." This is a thought which continues to hold its chilling portents for our own time as well.

For the successful cavalry commander, a sense of timing and an unerring eye for terrain might be added to these virtues. During the eighteenth century, no subordinate held so much latent power in his hands as the cavalry commander. But the moments for successful intervention generally passed as quickly as they arose. At Hohenfriedberg, a single regiment punched a twenty battalion hole into the Austrian center and put an end to the battle. Under different circumstances, any one of these battalions might have turned back the charge, but Gessler had timed his move to perfection. At Rossbach and Zorndorf, Seydlitz exercised patience and restraint until the right moment. At Zorndorf, he waited so long that Frederick even threatened to have his head. At Leuthen, Driesen kept fifty squadrons concealed from the Austrians. When they finally saw them, it was too late.

As many examples may be cited, where poor timing resulted in failure, even disaster.

These circumstances frequently brought the cavalry commanders into conflict with the great captains. Battle plans were made, tactics and

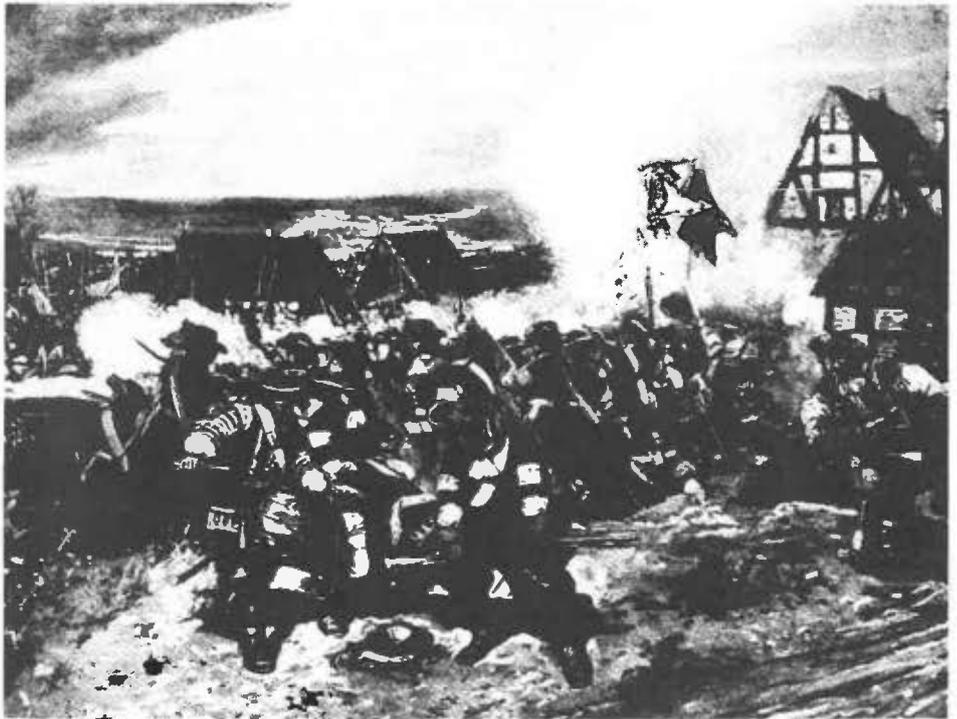
stratagems developed, battalions, regiments, divisions were committed in accordance with an overall scheme, but opportunism was the almost exclusive realm of the cavalry commander. It required strong personalities, willing to incur the ire and wrath of their masters and whether or not they did this in the interests of the cause and the courage of their own convictions then became a matter of character.

Seydlitz and Zieten certainly had the powers of the great personage — each in his own way. Yet, while they were as different from each other as day and night, they were parts of a whole just the as day and night are bound together by the same twenty-four hour cycle. But it would be unrealistic to bind the dramatic changes wrought in the wake of cavalieristic debacle at Mollwitz (10 April 1741) to either of these men alone. At the time, Zieten was still very much a colonel of hussars and Seydlitz but a cornet of cuirassiers, yet, the voices of both were to be heard soon.

Frederick William spent a lifetime creating the economic foundations for the enlargement of his army and with the help of men like Leopold von Dessau, his infantry became the best in Europe — truly the Queen of the Battlefield. But this hardly came as a surprise to contemporary Europe. Even in 1711, the Allies had been

him had been infantry minded and had foreseen, quite correctly, that the fusil carried the greatest potential for the future. And it was the preoccupation with firepower which helped to misdirect rather than neglect the efforts made in behalf of the cavalry. The expensive horses were carefully husbanded, while the troopers became far more effective at dismounted drill and musketry than the skills of equestrian warfare. At the same time, the king liked his tall men on horseback as well, with the result that big men were mounted on horses which ran to fat and were short of breath. "Colossi on elephants," is how a young Frederick characterized them.

From the foregoing, it follows that Frederick William I did not create his infantry from scratch, that he had inherited what was already a fine instrument which he refined even further. But the Prussian ethic of duty and devotion was not by any means confined solely to the infantry. The power reposed in the cavalry as well. But it was still latent. What was required was a redirection of the efforts made in its behalf and a rekindling of the cavalieristic spirit. That the makings of a first class battle cavalry, entirely up to the standards of the time, were already there has been proven out by history. The changes wrought between 1742 and 1744 are dramatic. Even at that, it couldn't be done



Dismounted dragoons in action at Fehrbellin.

dismayed over the spectacle of the excellently trained and equipped Prussian troops.²⁾ Prince Eugene pronounced their infantry "the best in all Europe." The Duke of Marlborough, observing the drill of Frederick William's Own (then the Regiment Crownprince), is said to have remarked that a sovereign who possessed sixty such battalions could not be beaten.

In the light of this, it becomes clear that it was eventually the quantity, rather than the quality, of the Prussian infantry which surprised everyone.

But Frederick William and the men around

overnight.

At Mollwitz, the Prussian cavalry suffered a disaster. Only Zieten's hussars nipped away effectively on the fringe of the action. Yet, it was a sanguine contest in which the cavalry commanders of both sides lost their lives.

Just one year later, at Chotusitz (17 May 1742), the Austrians already have to try harder, even though they enjoy a narrow margin of superiority during the height of the melee, when thirty-five Prussian squadrons contested the field with forty-two Austrian squadrons. Many of the Prussians' problems arose from the Aust-

rians breaking through their squadron intervals, which were too large. The cost to the Prussians: 1,280 men and 2,595 horses, not to mention eleven standards.

If Mollwitz had resulted in the royal edict that threatened to cashier any Prussian cavalry officer who allowed his command to be attacked first or who attempted to meet a charge with pistol fire, then Chotusitz brought the first order to reduce the intervals between the squadrons and that the squadrons, upon having broken through the enemy's first line, were to reassemble before going for the second. This last directive, then, was soon changed to the effect that, instead of being called back for assembly, this was to be done in the direction of the enemy, i.e. to the front — after the Austrians had repeatedly seized the opportunity to deliver sharp repostes as the troopers turned their horses to follow the assembly call of the trumpeters.

The matter of the squadron intervals also became subject to constant argument and revision which, in years to come, was to lead even to clash of wills between Seydlitz and Frederick.

When the Second Silesian war broke out after a mere two years of peace, the Prussian cavalry had already progressed to the point where it was able to serve up for posterity two of its most enduring legends: Zieten's ride and Hohenfriedberg. Of quite a different nature, both events showed that the cavalry was already becoming a balanced instrument, equal to whatever situations war might present. While Hohenfriedberg was a highwater mark of complete success at the end of a thundering charge in the traditional manner, Zieten's ride was an act of sheer brass.

Still, doubters might have reasoned that these actions were the result of pure luck and favorable accidents of circumstance. And, certainly, they were attended by a measure of both. But, four months later, at Soor (30 Sept. 1745), Buddenbrock's charges across difficult terrain threw twenty-seven Austrian squadrons. Another seventy-five squadrons, intimidated by the Prussian infantry ever since Mollwitz and by Buddenbrock's astonishing success, cleared the battlefield without a fight.

In terms of historical perspective, this about-face of the Prussian line cavalry hardly came from nowhere, even though such a claim may be made for the hussars, where Zieten certainly took a shaping hand. The Prussian cavalry had already set Europe on its ear nearly three-quarters of a century earlier. With Derfflinger at their head, the Prussian horse had raced across Germany in its famous march from the Rhine to the Rhin, outrunning both its infantry and those who would bring news of their coming to the Swedes.

The Great Elector had never forgotten that not too many years earlier, during the Thirty Years' War, Gustavus Adolphus had ignored the rights of Brandenburg in his attempts to establish a Swedish hegemony of the Baltic, the "Dominium maris Baltici." Both in the roles of friend and foe, the Swedes had ravaged the heartlands of Brandenburg and even as a friend, the Great Elector's father, George William, had suffered the indignity of being summoned to the Swedish king's presence in

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his own domain.

At Rathenow, the Great Elector's cavalry overtook the rear guard of the Swedes, who were once again the unbidden visitors, and presented them with a bill. And just a few days later, at Fehrbellin (19 June 1675), he collected and literally ran them out of the country.

It was the first time that a Brandenburg army, unsupported by outsiders and solely in cognizance of its own interests, stepped upon the European stage to confront what was then still one of its major military powers.

But the road from Fehrbellin to Mollwitz and Soor was not lined with peace and tranquility. On no fewer than six occasions, Brandenburg horse was part of the contingents furnished to the Empire in its incessant battles against the Turks. Others fought several campaigns in the Dutch service against the French. Here, on 29 July 1693, came the Brandenburg cavalry's

home in 1713, few of these veterans remained in uniform when Frederick the Great ascended the throne in 1740. The long years of peace which attended the reign of Frederick William I (1713 to 1740) had been fruitful in honing the firepower of the infantry to a fine edge, but the cavalry had merely grown fat.

ORGANIZATION

The early history of the Prussian cavalry is as complex as any, where reorganization and expansion tend to obscure the tracks of lineage. However, since the roots of this lineage reach into an earlier period, we once again take the Dessau Specifications of 1729 and 1737 as a convenient point of departure.

When Frederick William I ascended the throne, the army still included a number of formations of varying sizes. However, here too, he quickly determined a common denominator and thoroughly rationalized everything into a uniform structure.

With the dragoons, things became more complex, because the shuffling of squadrons and the splitting of regiments went on right up to 1742. Again, for the sake of convenience and because it is quite sufficient for the scope of this article, we use the Dessau Specifications as a base line.

When the 1737 edition made its appearance, the dragoons numbered six regiments, of which three (Nos. 2, 6 and 7) numbered five squadrons, while two (Nos. 3 and 5) numbered ten squadrons. The 1st Dragoon Regiment, then going under the name "von Platen," also had five regular squadrons and was beginning to take on additional squadrons of so-called light dragoons.

Eventually, the number of the light squadrons of the 1st Regiment was to rise to ten by 1740, at which time they were split away from No. 1 to become the 9th and 10th Regiments of five squadrons each.

When the Schulerburg Dragoons (No. 3) were divided after the debacle of Mollwitz, the five squadrons split away assumed the Number 4, while all the others moved one down.

However, since the modern reprints of the Dessau Specifications were made long after these changes became history, the numbering sequences in the Biblio reprints already anticipate this.

Thus, of the original six dragoon regiments Frederick William found in 1713, only two remained, which then became the parent units of No. 1 and 2 as well as No. 3 and 4, respectively.

Neither the 1729 Specification nor that of 1737 make any mention of the hussars, despite the fact that the (1st) Prussian Corps had been raised in 1721 and the (2nd) Berliner Corps had been added in 1730. By the time of the 1737 Specification, both corps had a strength of three squadrons, each.

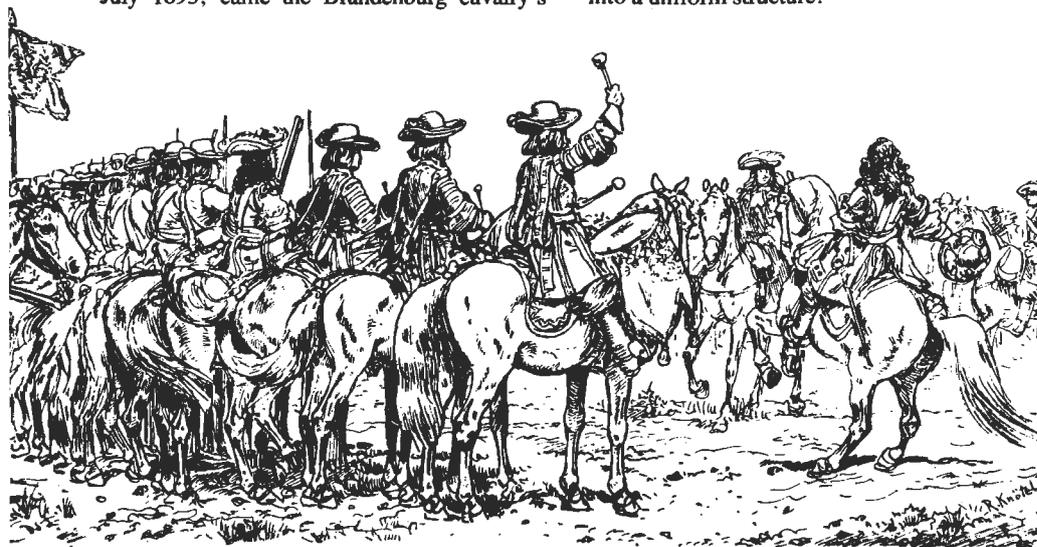
Troop Guidons and Squadron Standards: A Study in Confusing Semantics

It is not always easy to make general statements about the internal organization of one military establishment from the perspective of another. This becomes doubly troublesome when so much is apparently — but not quite — alike.

Certainly, the analogy between troops and companies on the one hand and squadrons and battalions on the other is evident and familiar to most everyone who has been engaged in our field of interest for any length of time. Yet, when it comes to the matter of relating standards and guidons, we become, at once, enmeshed in an exercise of semantics.

It was not the custom in every military establishment to interpose the squadron organization between the troop or company and the regiment, as was done in France and Prussia, to name but some examples. Nor was the practice even uniform where it existed.

In the United States cavalry, as another example, the regiments were organized into lettered troops but, during the late nineteenth century, carried several majors on the establishment to serve as squadron commanders when detachments of greater than troop size were made.



The Great Elector reviews his cavalry.

blackest day of honor during the Battle of Neerwinden. When the key position fell to the French, and the infantry began to retreat, the Marshal de Luxembourg turned loose his entire cavalry, threatening to turn the rout into a disaster. Singly and in pairs, the Allied cavalry regiments of the right, Hanoverians, Bavarians and eighteen squadrons of Brandenburgers, rode into "the jaws of death," to gain time for the retreating infantry to cross the river. The Brandenburgers lost nearly a third of their men and nineteen standards (each company then still carried one) remained in the hands of the French.

Finally, the War of the Spanish Succession brought to what was now the Brandenburg-Prussian cavalry a new set of battle honors which are familiar to most in the English speaking world: Hoehstaedt, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, to name but the best known. Meanwhile, the Brandenburgers also fought in the Italian Theatre of Operations, where Casano and Torino became days of honor for the corps under Leopold von Dessau while, at Calcinato, they suffered heavy losses.

Battle-seasoned as these cavalry troopers may have been when the last of them returned

In 1713, the cavalry consisted of the following:

Gardes du Corps	(Not to be confused with those of Frederick the Great, which were raised in 1740)
	4 companies in 2 squadrons
Gensdarmes	2 companies in 1 squadron
9 Regiments of Horse	each of 6 companies in 3 squadrons
6 Regiments of Dragoons	each of 8 companies.

First, the Gardes du Corps were disbanded and absorbed into the Gensdarmes (10th Cuirassiers) which were raised to an establishment of four squadrons.

By 1718, four regiments of dragoons were converted to cuirassiers, while two of the existing regiments of horse were disbanded and their squadrons distributed to the other regiments. With the recruitment of an additional squadron, all of the twelve new cuirassier regiments now numbered four squadrons, but before the year was out, twelve more squadrons were formed to bring the cuirassier regiments to five squadrons each.

This completed the cuirassier arm, which was to remain unchanged until 1740, when Frederick added the Gardes du Corps (No. 13).

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FIGURE 1— The golden regimental standard, with green wreaths, of the 10th Cuirassiers, from the Dessau Specifications 37. The black eagle flies below a golden scroll toward a gold sun in a silver sky.



FIGURE 2— The colonel's and regimental standards of the 7th Cuirassiers, from DS37.



FIGURE 3— Regimental of the 4th Cuirassiers, after Redlin's series on Prussian colors and standards.



FIGURE 4— The replacement standard for the Silesian Cuirassiers, after Redlin.

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An attempt to fix British establishments, i.e. theoretical strengths, can be curiously frustrating. Even Oman, in his exhaustive study of Wellington's (Peninsular) Army,³ never really gets down to the nitty gritty and deals only in aggregate numbers. But, in the matter of standards/guidons, he furnishes a valuable hint, by stating that if a regiment landed 600 sabres in Portugal, in four squadrons, it was up to average strength.

Lemonofides, finally, tells us in his study of British cavalry standards⁴ that these existed in the regiments at a rate of about one for every three, later (in Wellington's time) about one for every two troops. And, although he makes no mention of the term "squadron," what we seem to have here, in the light of Oman's statements, are "squadron standards/guidons."

This, then, puts paid to the often mis-used term "troop guidon." These existed only in the United States cavalry, at a time when the squadron standards had already given way to a single regimental stand in virtually every military establishment; and I say "stand," because in the United States and in Britain, these existed in pairs, i.e. the "regimentals" on the one hand and the "National," or the "King's/Queen's," on the other. Troop guidons were not then, nor are they now, "colors," in the sense that military honors are rendered to them.

The term "guidon," is deeply rooted in the Medieval rules of heraldry, where the banner or standard with the square cloth stood at the apex of the hierarchy. The attachment of one or more streamers generally signified that such a signum was subordinate to another. When the dragoons were first formed during the 17th century, they were mounted infantry and, in Brandenburg, to name just an example, carried regular infantry colors. Since these must have been impractical as dragoons saw more and more mounted service, they were soon replaced by the swallow-tailed guidon, no doubt to underline their inferior status with regard to the regiments of horse. In time, this practice extended itself to virtually all of the other light cavalry formations as they became regular constituents of the armed forces.

In Prussia, however, it was long the practice to call all of these swallow-tailed signa "colors," i.e. *Fahnen*. Even though both the dragoons and the hussars had long meshed into the fabric of the cavalry, it was not until an order circulated on the occasion commencing a general re-issue of colors and standards on 13 April 1891, when the Kaiser decreed that henceforth all signa carried by the cavalry were to be officially known as standards. Thus, the *Dragonerfahne* had become the *Dragonerstandarte*. Practice had, of course, long preceded official sanction.

Yet, in Prussia, the duplicity of terminology goes even further. Although the subdivision of squadrons into two companies was dropped, first by the dragoons, later by the cuirassiers (it never existed at all in the hussars), cavalry formations of more than five squadrons were generally divided into battalions. Thus, the Bayreuth Dragoons (No. 5) were said to have two battalions and Belling's hussars (No. 9)

even had three battalions, when the regiment was augmented to fifteen squadrons.

With the abolition of the term and organization of the company, the term "squadron," in the Prussian cavalry, eventually became analogous to company, the former descriptive of a mounted, the other of a foot formation. During the interim, both continued to carry standards and colors, respectively until the reorganizations during the Napoleonic Era eventually did away with the squadron standards and replaced them with a single regimental stand — just as the battalion was to carry only a single color.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARDS

Originally, every company of cuirassiers and dragoons carried a standard/color. By the time of Frederick William I, however, this was already reduced to one per squadron.

In the dragoon branch, the company organization was abolished in 1725, but it reappears sporadically when, in the course of expansions, staffs and cadres of a lower establishment were formed and are, on occasion, even outfitted with standards, before being fleshed out into full-fledged squadrons.

In 1727, the establishment of a cuirassier regiment was fixed at thirty officers, sixty noncoms, ten trumpeters, 650 cuirassiers, ten smiths and the so-called "understaff," i.e. auditor, quartermaster, saddle and harness maker, armorer, medical staff, etc., all organized into headquarters and five squadrons.

The dragoons establishment was slightly lower. In the absence of company staffs, the table of organization called for only twenty-two officers, forty-five noncoms, ten drummers (!), 600 dragoons, five smiths and the understaff.

In years to come, these numbers would fluctuate upwards, especially during the reign of

infantry colors, existed in the cavalry as well. The colonel's squadron generally carried a white standard, while those of the remaining squadrons are of regimental color. As was the case with the infantry, certain house regiments, or those enjoying elevated status, carried white standards throughout. This was the case with The King's Own (3rd Cuirassiers) as well as with the Horse Grenadiers (3rd Dragoons), who lost their fusilier caps after Mollwitz but not their white standards. The Gendarmes (10th Cuirassiers) even had standards of gold brocade throughout the regiment — a singular occurrence in Prussia where, during the reign of Frederick William, it was the only mounted guard formation.

The hussars, during the early stages of their existence, had only a so-called corps color. This appears to have been in the hands of the Prussian Corps (later No. 1). At least, none for the Berliner Corps (later No. 2) has ever come to light.

It is not known when the two corps received colors (not standards!). Fiebig⁵ assumes this to have taken place when the two corps became independent units, the Prussian Corps in 1735, the Berliner in 1736.

Since neither of these formations had a proper colonel-in-chief, only officers commanding, they also had no colonel's colors, only regimentals.

The Cuirassier Standards

Again, we are indebted to the Biblio reprints of the Dessau Specifications of 1729 and 1737 for a comprehensive overview of the earlier period. Yet, since these volumes were assembled from pattern drawings which were sent out to the regiments for completion, numerous inconsistencies — admittedly of the "fly speck" variety — crop up, such as the colors of



Frederick inspects some of his cuirassiers.

Frederick the Great, when the regiments went on a war footing and the numbers of supernumeraries (reservists) were increased.

During this early period, the numbers of the hussar's establishments were in constant flux and were not to find their final levels until the great expansion of that branch under Frederick. It must, however, be mentioned at this time that the terms company and squadron are frequently and freely interchanged here. The hussars only had companies, but the term squadron is generally applied to their basic formations as this term became generally descriptive of a formation of from a hundred plus to about a hundred and fifty men.

The same elementary rules, as applied to the

the stones in the crowns (silver or light blue, or the ribbons tying the branches together, just to name a couple of examples). Were these reflective of actual differences in the handmade standards, did such differences encompass the entire regimental set or were they largely the result of errors on the part of the colorists?

Some of these questions may never be answered. But, again, Dr. Bleckwenn's and Mr. Melzner's annotations greatly enhance the Biblio reprints and make them even more valuable for information which goes even beyond the originals themselves. Yet, there are a few points which deserve an airing before we can get down to a rationalization of the whole.

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Most notable is the matter concerning the branchwork encircling the center medallions. Here, the free hand of the artist created an imagery which came up somewhat differently when translated into the medium of embroidery.

As anyone who attempts to color the drawings in the Biblio reprints will find out very quickly, one must first take a hard look to determine which are the palm fronds and which the laurel leaves. Surely a small matter when one looks at the real things, their shapes melt together in the drawings. The easiest way, of course, is to single out the ball-shaped fruits of the laurel and trace the branches out from there.

This may have played a role in an error in the general description of the cuirassier standards in DS 29, where the palm fronds are said to be golden and the laurel green, instead of the other way around. DS 37 corrects this error. Both, however, describe the fruits as golden when, in fact, they seem to have been red.

Returning to the matter of the styling, Figures 1 and 2, taken from the DS 37, afford a graphic example when compared to Figure 3, which is a colored example from Reinhold Redlin's series on Prussian colors and standards, which represents a far more faithful reproduction of the real thing as it appeared at an unfortunately unknown date (probably mid-19th century) of its existence. It was the model which had been originally issued to the 4th Cuirassiers sometime before 1740 (during the reign of Frederick William I), remained with its regiment after the reorganization of 1808 (now as the First Silesian Cuirassiers) and stood in the front until its eventual replacement in 1906.

The old 4th had, without doubt, a mixed set of standards, consisting of both FWR and FR models. Existing records indicate that the unit lost a standard during each of the campaign years of 1757, 1758 and 1760. A further replacement is said to have been made in 1763.⁷⁾ This would account for four of the regimental set of five to be of FR design. However, one of the above must have been a repeat replacement since subsequent evidence indicates that not only the illustrated regimental but the colonel's standard as well were of FWR design.

In the course of the 1811 reduction of standards, the Silesian Cuirassiers kept the FWR regimental and turned in the remainder. However, in 1815, when the cuirassier branch was expanded again, the colonel's standard was retrieved and given to the newly formed 4th (later to become the 7th). And this, too, was of FWR design.

Since only seven of the old cuirassier standards had survived the debacle of 1806/7, was it tradition which prompted the choice? The five standards of No. 4 were, as we have seen, a mixed bag. The two from the old 6th were Frederician models because this regiment had been involved in the surrender at Maxen and subsequently received an entire new issue.

In the case of the Silesian and Brandenburg Cuirassiers, then, the choice was obvious. All that one of the parent units of the Brandenburger's had was a pair of FR regimentals. But the Silesian Cuirassiers had a full set. That it

might retain an FWR model is not surprising. But why a regimental? Why not the colonel's standard? The regulation abolishing these for the line did not come until 1814. Was it in better condition?

The next surprise comes when, in 1815, after the "no colonel's colors/standards for the line" regulation, the colonel's standard of the old 4th is retrieved anyway and given to the new 4th (7th) Cuirassiers. Was it again the physical condition of the standards which might have played a role here?

The redundant standards which had been laid up in 1811 still formed the basis of the Zenghaus collection in modern times and their condition was such that it was impossible to tell much about the designs. There were little more than shreds and tatters attached to the staffs. From the occasional paintings made of standard bearers around the Austro- and Franco-Prussian Wars, the old standards remaining on service looked no better. Indeed, the sight of these bare poles gave rise to the habit of awarding the magnificent streamers which have become a characteristic of German colors and standards. They were band-aids meant to cover eyesores! Of course, once the custom was established, they remained in place even after new cloths were issued.

The reverence accorded colors and standards was always an "iffy" proposition, given to a wide range of fluctuations in different military establishments and at different times. For a sample view of this, one may take note of some remarks Lemonofides⁸⁾ makes in this connection. In the Prussian army, mysticism did not attach itself to the colors and standards until post Frederician times — and then also in connection with the respect accorded to all of his institutions.

Frederick's attitude toward the colors and standards, like just about everything else, was hard-nosed and pragmatic. This seems to be borne out in the case of the infantry colors. Those veterans which were treated with such reverence by later generations, were already once removed from the great events of the Silesian Wars. When the old had become too unsightly, extensive re-issues had been made during the 1770s.

With this in mind, it seems hardly credible that the expensive cavalry standards were simply allowed to go to pot. What made them expensive was the embroidery — and that was the most durable part of the standards. It was a relatively simple matter to transfer the embroidery to a new cloth. It was done regularly later on. Thus, it is highly probable that the cavalry standards were subjected to restorative work even in Frederician times. It would go a long way toward explaining the choice of an old FWR model for re-issue in 1815.

After Maxen, the 6th Cuirassiers were not reconstituted until 1761. Thus, the FR replacements given to this regiment as well as those of the 4th were only about twenty-five years old at the time of Frederick's death in 1786 and had spent better than twenty years of their active service life on garrison duty. Conversely, the FWR models of the Fourth had spent close to, possibly a full, half-century in the front, including some ten campaign years during the three

Silesian Wars. Surely, repairs had become necessary and were, indeed, made. And these circumstances may have brought about that the FWR models were in far better condition to face the decades of post-Frederician decay than were the newer FR patterns.

The foregoing makes it certain that Redlin's drawing of the FWR regimental of the old Fourth, probably taken from the regimental history published in 1913, reflects several generations of restoration. First, there is the central crown, which considerably larger than the norm as derived from the Dessau Specifications and the pictures of the Leningrad collection. Also, the fronds on the side near the staff appear to be a bit thickly laid. But this may have been one of the peculiarities which appear so often on these hand made items. Finally, there is the central medallion itself. The golden outline of the terrain does not follow the general patterns of DS 29 or 37. Also, the original silver medallions are said to have been made of silver brocade. However, there are indications, both in Leningrad and Vienna, that these centers were also made of silver cords, laid closely in spirals — generally a trademark of 19th century restorations. In his annotations of DS 29⁹⁾, Dr. Bleckwenn invites attention to both sources but is justifiably cautious in expanding this into a categorical statement because, under present circumstances, the evidence is too thin.

Still, Figure 3 affords an excellent example of a standard made to the FWR pattern as issued between 1713 and 1740.

General Description of the 1713 Pattern

The Regimentals: Cloth, about 50cm square, of distinctive regimental color, fringed golden and with silver center medallion. In the center medallion, a black eagle with golden crown, beak and talons and a red tongue, flying toward a golden sun over a green landscape outlined in gold. The scroll in regimental color, trimmed and lettered NON SOLI CEDIT in gold.

The central crowns are golden, studded with silver pearls and stones, the base filled red. DS 29 shows the small crowns in the corners of all but the 1st and 2nd Regiments with the same silver elements as the central crowns, while the plate of the 11th shows them only partially colored in. DS 37, on the other hand, shows only the 6th, 7th and 10th with the silver elements and the plate of the 8th partially colored in. Thus, go with the fully detailed crowns.

The central wreath of golden laurel branches with red fruits, intertwined with green palm fronds, the latter set through with a golden thread. The branches are tied with a red ribbon at the bottom. (In DS 29, an entire block of plates, Nos. 6 and through 10 and No. 12, shows this red ribbon worked through with gold as well. This detail does not return in DS 37.)

The golden cyphers in the corners are enclosed in green/golden palm fronds.

The capital, ferrule and nails on the brown staffs are golden, the bar and sliding ring are made of steel.

The Colonel's Standards: All details as above, but the cloth and scroll in the center medallion white, while the center medallion itself reverses to the distinctive regimental color. The staffs possibly white.



FIGURE 5— The colonel's and regimental standards of the 2nd Dragoons, from the Dessau Specifications 29.



FIGURE 6— The colonel's and regimental standards of the 6th Dragoons, from DS37.



FIGURE 7— Regimental standard of the 1st Dragoons, in the Vienna Army Museum.



FIGURE 8— Corps color of the hussars.

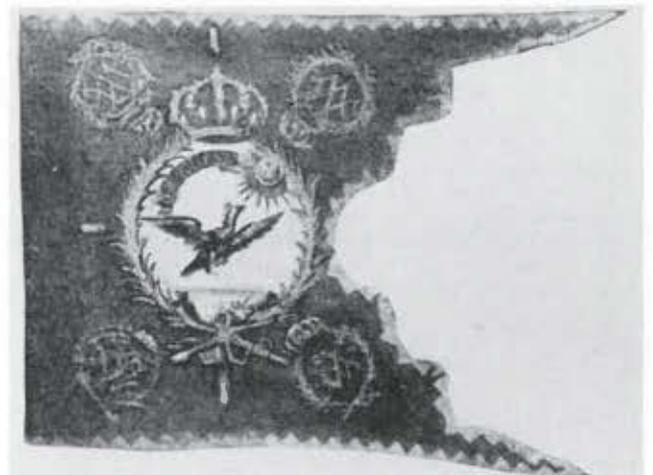


FIGURE 9— The regimental pattern for hussars under Frederick William I.

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY STANDARDS

Continued

The banderole, or *cravat*, on all Prussian colors/standards is silver with black elements, as may be seen in the illustrations of the tassels, the band itself with two black stripes along the center.

The Distinctive Colors

- No. 1 yellow
- No. 2 cornflower blue
- No. 3 white
- No. 4 light carmine
- No. 5 light carmine
- No. 6 cornflower blue
- No. 7 bright red
- No. 8 black
- No. 9 (light) sea green
- No. 10 gold
- No. 11 cornflower blue
- No. 12 orange

Remarks

- 1) Both DS 29 and 37 show the yellow cloth without damascening and without silver corner medallions. One of two specimens in Leningrad, however, does show the field beneath the cyphers in the corner wreaths to be silver. This was probably the result of a general pattern change and a re-issue made in 1739/40. DS 29 also shows the silver center medallion mottled in gold. This does not repeat itself in other sources. Central crown with blue stones instead of silver in DS 37.
- 2) Silver corner medallions already documented by DS 29 and 37, as for 4th and 10th regiments.
- 3) This, like all of the house regiments, had white standards throughout. It is, however, not known if the colonel's standard did in any way differentiate itself from the regimentals. The central crown with blue stones instead of silver.
- 4) Silver corner medallions.
- 5) The light carmine or crimson is also described as a dark pink. Central crown with blue stones instead of silver.
- 6) No special remarks.
- 7) DS 37 (accidentally?) omits mention of the color, but other sources, including DS 29, state light crimson.
- 8) Here, specimens which were obviously of different job lots survive and afford an example of how the originals could deviate from the norm. The black center medallion on the colonel's standard (which also shows the eagle rendered in gold, as was the custom in such special cases) is worked through with gold and the scroll is somewhat more massive. Another deviation on this standard, which is also observable on other early specimen, are the branches encircling the cyphers in the corners. Instead of reaching the edges of the crowns, thus completely enclosing the corner medallions, they are open on top, i.e. their tips point toward the center medallion.
- 9) The green is that of a spring pea, add a touch of yellow and white.
- 10) During the reign of Frederick William I, this was the only mounted formation of actual guard status and all of its standards were made of gold brocade (Fig. 1). The list of 1713 makes no mention of a differentiating scheme for the colonel's standard but Fiebig mentions a white colonel's standard with gold center after 1713 and white with a silver center according to a 1720 report. Did he make an assumption based on the regular scheme? Silver corner medallions.
- 11) Orange was projected for this regiment in 1713. However, the unit continued to carry its old dragoon colors and, as happened on several other occasions when the standards were finally

issued, the old color scheme was retained.

- 12) A soft orange with a reddish cast, this congruence with the facing colors of the uniforms did not occur until 1742. Although the intention was to establish a relationship between the facing colors of the uniforms and the color of the standards goes back to Frederick William's time, nothing much ever came of it; nor do we know of any reason why this was not done even when, from time to time, the occasion presented itself.

THE DRAGOON COLORS

Here, we have an original from the Vienna collection (of the 1st Dragoons) in Figure 7 to compare with Figures 5 and 6 which are from DS 29 and 37, respectively. Again, the drawings exhibit a freedom of form which has contracted into a more disciplined, if not cramped, form on an actual standard.

Notable among the remaining features of the original is the crowned cypher FR which was added to the breast of the eagle sometime after 1740 and the absence of the landscape beneath the eagle. Is the latter another Frederician modification? On the other hand, the eagle sits quite low and — cum motto bearing scroll — shows a distinct shift to the right. Was this a job lot characteristic or are we already looking at a restoration made even before the possible loss date of this standard (1757, Kolin)?

Also noteworthy on the crown is the absence of the "candles," the teardrop shaped pearls between the arms of the top, which appears to have been a general peculiarity of FWR dragoon colors only. Later, however, this reappears on the completely differently styled crown on the sole surviving FR Cuirassier standard.

General Description

The Regimentals: the cloth, 50 × 65cm overall, 50cm at the base of the swallow tails, of distinctive regimental color, fringed golden. Center medallion of silver. Here also, the secondary distinctions, the corner wedges and flames, totally absent from the cuirassier standards, return.

All other details are as described for the cuirassier standards, except for the branches encircling the center medallion. These consist entirely of golden laurel. The ribbon tying these branches is rendered golden as well.

The colonel's colors: The usual reversal as described for the cuirassiers.

The Distinctive Colors

- No. 1 yellow
- No. 2 yellow with red corner flames, red wedges from DS 37 onward.
- No. 3 white
- No. 4 vacant until 1741, then as #3
- No. 5 black
- No. 6 see remarks
- No. 7 black with red corner flames

Remarks

- 1) Like the 1st Cuirassiers, the cloth of the 1st Dragoons was not brocaded or aamascened (See Fig. 7).
- 2) Sometime between 1729 and 1737 the corner flames became wedges.
- 3) The Horse Grenadiers until 1741, the ten squadrons of this regiment had white standards throughout. The 1713 list shows blue centers for the ordinaries, the 1720 pattern book (Friedrichstein) shows blue/silver admixed, DS 29 and 37

plain silver. Again, as with the other white regiments, it is not certain if and how the colonel's standard was differentiated.

- 4) This regiment was formed when No. 3 was split in 1741. Since the colonel's squadron went to the new regiment while, at the same, it is said that they took five ordinary colors with them, it might be reasoned that, assuming the colonel's squadron retained its own, it did not, after all, differentiate itself from the others. Put another question mark there.
- 5) No complications for the FWR period.
- 6) Beginning life in the DS 29 with dark blue colors with red corner wedges the DS 37 shows the signs of a rationalizing trend for the new 5th, 6th and 7th Dragoons, i.e. black for the 5th, black with red wedges for the 6th and black with red flames for the 7th. However, even while DS 37 was being put together, this scheme was already being broken by No. 6. Two trophies in Leningrad show an FWR and FR specimen, both cerulean blue with silver center and golden (!) corner flames.
- 7) No complications for the FWR period.

THE HUSSAR COLORS

Until about 1735/36, there was only a so-called Corps Color in the hands of the Prussian Corps (Fig. 8). It, like the subsequent squadron/company colors, was made in the manner of infantry colors, i.e. pieced together or inset with silks of distinctive color, while the emblems were painted.

The corps color, roughly equal to the maximum dimensions of the later squadron colors, was blue with a white center, the emblems analogous to those of the dragoon colors. The corner emblems, as well as the border design, were executed entirely in gold paint:

The squadron colors issued to the Prussian (1735?) and Berliner (1736?) corps, later to become the 1st and 2nd Regiments respectively, were entirely of the ordinary or regimental variety since neither had, as yet, a proper colonel in chief — merely "officers in charge."

As shown in Figure 9, the dimensions of the squadron colors were about 45cm on the staff, 80cm on the fly and about 50cm to the base of the cutout. The distinctive colors of the 1st were blue with red, those of the 2nd white with red toothed borders. The golden emblems and the white center medallions were executed in the same manner as the infantry colors.

References

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- 3) Oman, *Wellington's Army 1809-1814*, p. 194; Francis Edwards, London 1968.
- 4) Lemonofides, *British Cavalry Standards*, p. 14, Almark, London 1971.
- 5) Fiebig, *Unsterbliche Treue*, p. 60; Andermann, Berlin (1936). This regiment received an entire new issue under FW III in 1798, when the establishment was raised to five squadrons.
- 6) Bleckwenn, *Die Uniformen der Kavallerie, Husaren und Lanzenreiter 1753-1786*; Biblio, Osnabrueck 1979.
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Prussian Cavalry Standards 1713 to 1815

THE CONCLUSION OF A
TWO-PART STUDY
BY RICHARD K. RIEHN

The Era of Frederick the Great

Like the Napoleonic Era, that of Frederick the Great is thickly encrusted with multiple layers of apocrypha, legend and romance. When Feuchtwanger said that "Prussia has been cast as both the hero and villain of German history,"¹⁾ he stated the problem neatly without adding fuel to the fires of either side. Like Sparta of ancient times, to which Prussia has been compared on occasion, it had — and still has — two histories, depending on whether one looks out from the inside or in from the outside. Of Sparta, Finely said that despite the fact that so much had been written of it in antiquity, the image was still "confused, contradictory and incomplete . . . partly because the image is constantly cutting across the reality, distorting . . . and often concealing it altogether . . ."²⁾

One might readily substitute "Prussia" in that statement and come away with the same results. If the Prussian state, however, and the ideology it came to represent, have become enmeshed in this fabric of confusion and contradiction, this holds doubly true for its army, because it was this very microcosm which has been frequently singled out and made representative by becoming both the target and the example of opposing views. And this, then, is what Dr. Bleckwenn had in mind when he stated that he "who writes of the old Prussian army enters the arena of controversy."³⁾ He goes on to explain that this could hardly be otherwise, since "it was an institution which

exercised a direct influence during its existence, continued to militate ideologically even after its demise and still serves, in our own time, as an object of both admiration and hate. In this, however, both sides operate with more emotion than knowledge."

True as these words are, it is not the object here to explore political and ideological matters. Volumes have been filled in this behalf and, no doubt, more will yet come. There is, however, much of uncertain value which addresses itself to the military facts of life. Thus, in order to give form and substance to the old Prussian army and, by extension, to the cavalry, it may be of interest to separate some basic facts from fiction in the purely military sphere.

Armies are not generally of the uniform structure historians and chroniclers would have us believe. Combat units, in the past as in the present, will generally exhibit personalities, just as individuals do. This may be the result of the personnel which constitute it, the commanding officer and/or the interaction between the two, without yet taking into account individual circumstances which may vary with time and space. Certainly, any field commander faced with the need to cover a particularly sensitive spot would make a careful choice based on his own experience and the private "book" he kept on the troops under his command. Nor is it any secret that if one makes a critical examination of historical data, that some units come up with

consistently above average performances. And opportunity can not be made a ruling factor here, because this may have come more often to some because, considered "reliable," they may have been deliberately put into the potential hot spots time and again.

Historians and chroniclers are generally loath to address themselves to such aspects. Who wants to stick out his neck? Besides, once a campaign was over, particularly if it was a successful one, they were all heroes in the broadest sense of the word.

For these reasons, accurate assessments of a unit's performance characteristics — in modern





The cavalry general Seydlitz tosses his pipe into the air as a signal for his horsemen to charge. Illustration by Richard Knotel from "Der Alte Fritz."

times — are generally to be found in the enemy's intelligence reports and estimates of the situation. Armies are rarely subjected to such critical self-examination but the Prussians had the experience twice: Once after the debacle of 1806, when the officers had to face boards of inquiry and once, *ex officio*, when old Frederick assessed his own army in frequently biting, cynical and unjust comments.

However, during the era of linear tactics, the order of battle generally gave a graphic example of how a commander rated his troops. The position of the regiments was not arbitrary. The troops of the first line, who were meant to force

the decision, were to be better than those of the second, who were meant to be a reserve. Since the flanks were always sensitive, one used the best troops there, again in a clearly established hierarchy in that front flank was better than rear flank and the right, the position of honor, better than the left.

Similar to Napoleon's Grand Army, Frederick's own was meant to fight the decisive battles. Thus, whoever he considered to be his elites are again and again to be found in the great battles. On the secondary theatres of operations, notably against the Russians, it was

mainly the secondary regiments which were burned out and ground up. Only when the king himself took a hand, such as, for example, at Zorndorf, would he bring some of his elites to act as "corset stays." Lastly, indications can be extracted from the distribution of the six-pounder battalion guns, of which there were never enough to go around. With the exception possibly of the guards, which were initially husbanded, these guns were from the start given to those battalions which Frederick considered to be the backbone of his army.

With this in mind, the sociological structure

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY STANDARDS

Continued

of the Prussian army can be a lengthy thesis which, so far, only Dr. Bleckwenn has attempted in depth. Here, however, I will confine myself to the obvious and only leaven it with some of his own findings.

Quite apart from the "garrison regiments," which were populated by the "little men," who stood on the margin of what were then deemed the boundaries of military utility, the line was split as well.

The fusiliers were, in toto, regarded to be infantry for the second line. Some, like those garrisoned in Wesel (Nos. 44, 45 and 48), who had no recruiting cantons, were regarded as little better than garrison regiments. Most of the fusiliers became cannon fodder for the Russian battles. On the other hand, a few, like No. 36 at Leuthen, stepped out of relative anonymity.

However, if the fusiliers were inferior warriors by design, the regiments of foot, the musketeers, did not represent a uniform front either. And here, all the elements that come into play in such matters make their appearance.

For a start, it seems that the regiments in the hands of some of the spit and polish drillmasters, like Dessau's No. 3, turned out to be more accident-prone than those of the more wordly and enlightened men, such as Schwerin's No. 24.

Beyond this, there was a certain stratification which centered on territorial considerations. Those with cantons in the Mark and Pomerania stood highest in the king's esteem, along with the two Magdeburg regiments (Nos. 5 and 20) and were earmarked for the first line in the battles to come. The Silesians and East Prussians did not rate nearly so high in Frederick's opinion, although this is not necessarily justified by subsequent performances. But the situation was complicated when, in the course of the Seven Years' War, East Prussia and parts of Silesia and Pomerania were occupied by the enemy and some regiments thus cut off from their sources of replacements.

There is yet another line infantry group represented by the grenadiers. These formations, one company in each battalion, did not recruit but replaced themselves from the line companies, and must be regarded elites. In time of war, temporary battalions were formed by brigading the two grenadier companies of each regiment with those of another. There is here no indication that the grenadier companies from the fusilier regiments did, in any way, take a back seat to those from the musketeer regiments, and it is the grenadier battalions which are constantly found on the flanks and in the advance guard of the army.

Dr. Bleckwenn, however, does single out the men from the standing grenadier battalions, so called because they were, even in peacetime, detached from the garrison regiments, their parent units, to perform ordinary field duty. He calls these elites culled from the "little men" in the garrisons, the chaff of the army, "the bravest of the brave . . . who fought with the desperate valor of those who must yet both prove and defend their social ascendancy!"⁷⁴

Given these stratifications in what is generally represented to have a uniform texture and considering the overall performance turned in by the infantry as a whole, the elites of the line (such as Nos. 8, 18 and 23, to name but a few) must have indeed loomed larger than life.

If, however, the infantry represented an uneven structure, this can not be said of the cavalry. Even though Frederick did not leave them entirely unscathed (for example: the 5th Hussars "duelled," or the 5th Dragoons "drank"), they seemed to have all met with his general standards as combat formations.

Between October 1756 and December 1757, seven battles were fought. Four were won and one lost by Frederick, two were lost by his subordinate commanders. But the one lost by Frederick at Kolin had the most far reaching consequences. In its wake, Rossbach and Leuthen are already "do or die" affairs. Although replacements come in during what remains of the winter cantonment of 1757/58, the infantry will not again regain its former strength.

During the campaigns of 1758 and '59, three more battles follow, driving the infantry even



This is probably all the painter got to see when he made this painting depicting the saving of the 4th Squadron/6th Cuirassiers' standard, during the mid-nineteenth century.

With the perfect vision of hindsight, it may be said of the Prussian army that the First and Second Silesian Wars were a dress rehearsal for the great confrontation of the Seven Years' War. During the interim, its officers and noncoms shaped an army, devoid of all parade ground nonsense, which was the best of its time.

But linear tactics is a demanding mistress and linear battles were wasteful of the highly trained men she demanded if she was to serve well.

deeper into the hole. Ever since Kolin, the cavalry assumed greater importance than ever. Subsisting on a high proportion of volunteers and suffering bearable losses, it was the cavalry who brought about the decision at Rossbach virtually single-handed and, at Leuthen, had delivered the final stroke. Although it did not have the opportunity to influence the decision at Hochkirch (14 Oct. 1758), it had turned the tide against the Russians at Zorndorf in August and, had Seydlitz not been wounded before the crisis

arose at Kunersdorf (12 August 1759), he might have again turned around the decision against the combined Russo/Austrian army there. It was to be the first time that Prussian infantry, driven beyond the point of endurance, probably more on account of the heat and a lack of water than the enemy, fled a battlefield in panic.

With the offensive power of the infantry even further depleted, Frederick again attempts to resort to fancy maneuvering with the encirclement at Maxen. Instead, one of his own corps becomes isolated and must surrender. Another first! This marks the end of the times when Frederick would seek head-to-head confrontations.

Now the Austrians make an attempt to encircle Frederick. He spoils the broth at Liegnitz (15 Aug. 1760). But turnabout is fair play. Just a few months later, at Torgau (3 Nov. 1760) Frederick again attempts to close the pincers on the Austrian Daun. The wind blows in the wrong direction and Zieten does not hear the guns and delays his move. Meanwhile, Frederick has his last ten good grenadier battalions ruined by the Austrian artillery, covering them with clouds of cannister. Finally, Zieten does arrive and Frederick wins. But the Prussian infantry had shot its last bolt.

How did this swan song of Torgau look to the other side? Daun is said to have remarked to captured Prussian officers who were brought to him during the battle: "My God! Why does your king sacrifice so many men when he can see that it will do him no good?" But according to Bernhardt,⁵ he is to have complained after, "... that Austria no longer had any men." This, of course, was a statement born of sheer frustration. Even before the miracle of the House Brandenburg occurred, Torgau appeared to have convinced Vienna that Prussia was not to be brought to heel even after the English, having achieved their own ends, called it quits.

The miracle, of course, came with the death of the Russian tsarina and Peter's break with the other alliance. It took the heart out of the Austrians and infused the Prussians with renewed confidence. What the alliance could not accomplish, the Austrians would never do alone.

Frederick had, at that point, won seven battles and lost three while his lieutenants had lost four. Thus, in terms of raw numbers, it was a tie. But Maria Theresa and the House of Hapsburg had not achieved their objective. Silesia remained in Prussian hands.

No matter how handsomely Frederick had won his victories, the powers arrayed against him had been such that none could have possibly been decisive, save at the very beginning. Until Kolin, there was the chance that the Austrians might have been bowled over so quickly that the alliance might have cracked at the seams before it ever got under way. But that battle, attempted with insufficient forces, put an end to that. From then on, victories could merely gain time, every defeat could spell disaster. But nothing ever fell apart altogether. Even in defeat, the Prussians remained formidable and when the infantry could no longer carry the ball as it had done at Mollwitz, back in 1741, the cavalry stepped in. If the infantry was reduced to but a shadow of its former self by 1760, the cavalry ended the war at its peak of

effectiveness.

In the course of the war, Seydlitz, like Zieten, had become more than a cavalry general. In the last action of the Seven Years' War, we see him at the head of two grenadier battalions, storming the heights at Freiberg in 1762. He was not yet fifty-three years of age when he died on 8 November 1773. And that was, perhaps, the real tragedy of the Prussian cavalry. Had he lived to a ripe old age, perhaps, Napoleon would have had far better cause to be apprehensive of the latent power reposing in the Prussian cavalry of 1806.

The Frederician Pattern of 1740 The Cuirassier Standards

Although a new pattern was conceived from the start, for reasons already stated, new issues remained the exception rather than the rule. Thus, only the 2nd and 5th regiments received entire new sets around 1742, although the reasons for this, in the overall view, remain obscure. On both occasions, however, not only were new patterns issued, but the color scheme was changed as well, bringing it into the line



FIGURE 1— *Regimental of the 9th Cuirassiers, in Ghent, Belgium.*

with the facing and button colors of the uniforms.

The Darmstadt Pattern Book, put together around 1742, anticipated these pattern and color changes, but they seem to have been implemented only in these cases and with some of the dragoon regiments raised under Frederick the Great. Whenever it came to the piecemeal replacement of standards lost either through combat or other causes, the color scheme of the existing FWR standards was followed even if the pattern was changed.

Even when entire sets were replaced after the surrender at Maxen, in which the 6th, 7th and 9th Cuirassiers became involved, the opportunity to change the color scheme was not taken. A pair of painted standards, which may have been intended as interim pieces for the 6th, because they were far too well made to be mere designer's patterns, reflected the old color

scheme. For the 7th Regiment, it is not certain if the metal embroidery of the standards was changed to conform to the regimental lace. Of the 9th, we have the sole survivor of a cuirassier standard, of which more will be said later on.

As late as 1936, when Fiebig put together his copiously illustrated work on German colors and standards, he could not show a single illustration of a Prussian cuirassier or dragoon standard. Apparently using only Prussian material available at the Berlin armory, the only originals he showed were the hussar patterns, of which a relative abundance existed because these had been laid up without having seen extensive use. When it came to the cuirassiers and dragoons of FWR and FR pattern, he made do with photocopies from the Darmstadt Pattern Book as well as the DS 29 and 37. Obviously, none of such remaining originals were sufficiently photogenic to make a meaningful addition to his book.

Thus, when it came to the description of the Frederician cuirassier pattern, he invited attention to the 1798 issue made to the Gardes du Corps by Frederick William III, of which it was known that the FR patterns had stood as a model.

This same FWR III pattern, then, must have stood model either directly or once removed, for Redlin's drawing (Figure 2) of the standard still carried by the Brandenburg Cuirassier Regt. No. 6 until 1899. But for the substitution of the appropriate cyphers, the styling bears greater resemblance to the 1798 issue of the Gardes du Corps and the 13th and 14th Dragoons than to the original shown in Figure 1. It is on the 1815 patterns that the eagle's styling once again comes close to the Frederician type.

It was indeed a fortuitous occasion when a bona fide Frederician original turned up in Belgium — and this in a state of preservation which leaves nothing to be desired.

Once belonging to the 9th Cuirassiers, the story of its survival over two centuries is worthy of repetition. In his definitive work on the Prussian cavalry uniforms of the Seven Years' War, Dr. Bleckwenn unfolds the story for the first time.

When Fink's corps was invited to lay down its arms by the Austrians at Maxen, the five standards of the 9th Cuirassiers passed into their hands. Prior to that time, the loss of a standard had been documented for Holitz in 1758. And this FR pattern replacement must be the specimen now reposing in Ghent. This would also account for its splendid condition because, at Maxen, it could have hardly been a year old.

According to the records at the Bijloke Museum at Ghent, Belgium, Empress Maria Theresa had presented two of the standards taken at Maxen to Count St. Ignon, colonel-in-chief of the 9th (Austrian) Dragoons, as a reward for his part in the affair. Of these, he had one laid up in the Church of the Miraculous Virgin, the patron saint of the regiment; the other, that of the 9th Cuirassiers, shown in Figure 1, was laid up in the chapel of the St. Joris Riflemen's Guild in Ghent, of which he was a member.

Interestingly enough, it was this same St. Ignon, who had engineered the ambush at Holitz in 1758, which had occasioned the loss

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY STANDARDS

Continued

of a standard for the 9th Cuirassiers, which had then been replaced with an FR pattern destined, through him, to become the lone survivor of its type.

Subsequently, Dr. Martin of Strassburg, who has himself authored several works on uniforms and military history, turned up the photo of another cuirassier standard of FR pattern, which had once been in the possession of the French Army Museum in Paris but which is said to have been lost since.

General Description

The regimentals: The brocaded cloth of regimental color, about 50cm square, fringed in regimental metal color.

The center medallion silver, bearing a black eagle with golden crown, beak, talons, thunderbolts and sword hilt; red tongue, silver sword blade.



FIGURE 3— *Gardes du Corps standard from the Darmstadt Pattern Book.*

All crowns and cyphers of regimental metal, except for the 2nd Regiment: golden with silver stones, the bottoms filled red. For the Second, the crowns are all silver.

The laurel branches encircling the central medallion of the same metal as the crowns, the palm fronds around the center and corner medallions green with gold. A red ribbon ties the center branches.

The scroll of regimental color, lettered PRO · GLORIA · ET · PATRIA and trimmed in regimental metal.

The capital, ferrule and nails, as well as the metal strips on the staff, gilded.

During Frederician times, the staffs were painted to match the colors of the standards. The banderole and tassels silver/black as before.

The colonel's standards: As before, i.e. white cloth and scroll, but center medallion of distinctive regimental color. The staffs (most likely) white.

The Distinctive Colors

- No. 1 yellow
- No. 2 light crimson — yellow corner wedges
- No. 3 white

- No. 4 crimson
- No. 5 light blue — white corner wedges
- No. 6 light cornflower blue
- No. 7 bright red
- No. 8 black
- No. 9 light green
- No. 10 gold
- No. 11 cornflower blue
- No. 12 reddish orange
- No. 13 white/silver

The regimental metal was gold for all regiments except No. 2.

Remarks

1) Silver corner medallions. One loss documented in 1745, thus FR replacement and mixed FWR/FR set. The cloth is a light, spectrum yellow and not brocaded but plain. It is not possible to say if the replacement also had a plain cloth.

2) The entire set of Frederician design since about 1742. Silver corner medallions. The yellow corner wedges remain the same on the colonel's standard.

3) One loss known in 1759 — thus, also mixed set.

4) Silver corner medallions. With replacements made in 1757, 58, 60 and possibly 63, regiment came out of the Seven Years' War with at least two FWR models, one of which was the colonel's standard, later issued to the 4th (7th) Cuirassiers.

5) Also an entire new issue of FR models for this regiment. Silver corner medallions. Here, the white corner wedges will assume the base color of the regimental along with the center medallion on the colonel's standard; i.e. white with light blue center and light blue corner wedges.

6) Entire new FR issue after Maxen, but retaining the old color scheme. However, it remains an open question if the metal was changed from gold to silver. In view of the FR model carried by the Brandenburg Cuirassiers after 1808, the metal was not changed.

7) Also new issue after Maxen. A fire engine red, not vermillion.

8) No losses documented for Seydlitz's own regiment, thus a full FWR set probably remained on service until 1806.

9) Received a new FR set after Maxen.

10) No losses documented for the Gensdarmes.

11) Two losses documented for 1760, thus mixed set.

12) One loss documented for 1760 at Torgau.

13) This, the most famous of all Prussian cavalry standards, is surrounded by a dense fog of uncertainty.

To begin with, only the original squadron had a banner attached to it in the style of a vexillum. According to von Scheelen's diary, the 2nd and 3rd squadrons, formed by the incorporation of the Saxon Gardes du Corps after Pirna in 1756, had only a staff with eagle, sans cloth.

What was done with the cloth of the 1st when the regiment received a new issue in 1798? Later, during the Napoleonic Wars, the silver eagles were melted down and minted into coins. Thus, all that remained for posterity to ponder was a drawing of questionable authenticity in the Darmstadt Pattern Book (Figure 3) which apparently served Menzel as a model for his plate (Figure 4). However, it remains a mystery

why Menzel chose to present the mixed emblems of the armed Frederician eagle with Frederick William's sun. We did, however, bring this plate again, because it affords an excellent view of the staff with all of its fittings — including the small golden grenades on the staff which are, however, only a characteristic of the dragoon standards.

Another pictorial source comes from Feyer-eisen, which stood model for F.-G. Melzner's drawing in Dr. Bleckwenn's volume on the cavalry uniforms⁷⁾ and for Richard Knoetel's drawing shown in Figure 5.

Note may also be taken of the standard bearer's bandolier, shown in Figures 4 and 5; it showed the facing color of the uniforms and the lace metal. The fringe was probably a late or post-Frederician embellishment.

Returning to the standard, the main written source is a description in a Berlin newspaper of 1741.⁸⁾ It reads as follows:

"On top of the staff rests an eagle, prepared for flight, in the Roman fashion, which weighs 18 marks or 9 pounds, holding a golden ring in its beak with which, by means of a fine silver chain, it holds the material of the standard.

"This material is a foot and a half square and consists of a white satin, stretched flat between four small and neat rods, in the middle of which the royal black eagle with his majesty's name on the breast, the royal device (Pro gloria et patria) above the head, the sceptre (!) in one, but the lightning bolts in the other claw, encircled by a golden embroidered palm wreath, may be seen, also in the four corners the royal cypher shows itself in gold embroidery."

Translating this still incomplete bit of information into the general pattern, what we seem



FIGURE 4— *Menzel's interpretation of the Darmstadt source.*

to have here is a design entirely compatible with the general cuirassier pattern with but the following differences: No laurel, only palm fronds around the center shield and these, along with the palm leaves of the corner medallions embroidered in gold. The ribbon tying the center branches is also golden. The cloth of white/silver woven satin, fringed silver, the center shield and scroll entirely silver, the latter lettered and edged in gold.

The eagle capital silver, crown and beak gilded, silver chain suspended from golden ring in the beak, holding a gilded bar, of which only



FIGURE 5—Knoetel's interpretation of the Gardes du Corps standard from the Berlin newspaper description.

the ends, where the chain attaches itself, can be seen. On the breast of the eagle, the crowned cypher in black, either painted or cold enamelled. Banderole attached to the neck of the staff as usual.

As for my personal observations:

Our newspaperman makes no mention of any color, save gold, silver and white. Yet, we know that, at the very least, the bottom of the crowns was filled red. Did the copious use of the metallic gold and silver overpower his eyes? We'll never know.

When a standard of this type was again issued to the Gardes du Corps in 1890, the chosen pattern leaned heavily on the Darmstadt Pattern Book as shown in Figure 3. This may be justly questioned on the grounds that this was entirely too reflective of the infantry models. In practice, the cavalry eagles of the FR pattern are decidedly on the upswing. Quite possibly, this was a detail which had not yet crystallized into a concrete form at the time the author/artist gathered his material for the pattern book.

When it comes to the eagle on top of the staff, then I feel that the 1890 rendition was indeed a good one. Between the poles of the grotesque in Figure 3, which Menzel had attempted to clean up a bit in Figure 4, and the austere formality of Feyereisen's rendition, which is reproduced by Bleckwenn/Melzner, I find the 1890 version, also reflected in Knoetel's Figure 5, entirely the most credible. After all, young Fritz still had an eye for elegance and style and Feyereisen, no doubt, was torn between the laws of perspective and the desire to show detail.

The Dragoon Colors/Standards

Although the remainders of these standards still exist, the best preserved are those in Vienna (1st and 11th) and one in Leningrad (6th).

Here, the Darmstadt Pattern Book assumes importance for the issues to new formations, where FWR patterns did not come into play. Whenever replacements were made to regiments still in possession of FWR models, the old scheme was retained. For a long time, it was thought that the 6th regiment had broken this rule, but an FWR specimen in Leningrad proved that a color change had been effective under FWR, even while the DS 37 was being published.

General Description

The regimental standards: The brocaded cloth, about 50 x 50 x 65cm, of regimental color, fringed in regimental metal color.

The center medallion silver, the armed Frederician eagle as before, but with golden crowned cypher on its breast. The motto bearing scroll in regimental color, lettered and trimmed in regimental metal.

The crowns and laurel wreaths are also rendered in regimental metal. If golden, the crowns are detailed in silver, as before; if silver, then no differentiating metal. The bottoms of the crowns filled red as before, but the ribbon tying the center branches also of metal color.

The capitals, ferrules, nails and metal strips on the staffs are gilded, but the slide bar and ring of steel.

Here, too, the staffs were painted in the color of the standards. There was, however, a period, possibly post-Frederician, when the staffs of this branch were painted uniformly in a dragoon blue (medium to light blue). This accounts for the deviation from the norm by the 7th and 8th regiments.

The staffs of the dragoon standards were further distinguished by the small golden grenades painted on in the fashion as may be seen in Figure 4. Their number and size, however, varied among some of the regiments.

The colonel's standards follow the usual reversed pattern.

The Distinctive Colors

No.	Cloth	Metal	Secondary Distinctions
1	yellow	gold	
2	yellow	gold	red corner wedges
3	white	gold	
4	white	gold	
5	black	gold	
6	cerulean blue	gold	golden corner flames
7	black	gold	red corner flames
8	black	gold	red corner flames
9	yellow	silver	red corner flames

10	reddish orange	silver	red corner wedges
11	yellow	silver	silver corner flames
12	bright red	silver	

Remarks

1) The FWR specimen in Vienna was certainly replaced with an FR model, but it is not known if this also had a plain yellow cloth or if it was brocade like the rest of the dragoon regiments.

2) Two losses, one each in 1759 and 1760 documented. Thus, a mixed set.

3) Still a question mark for the colonel's standard. One loss in 1741, two more in 1742.

4) Brought its standards from the split with No. 3, including the FWR colonel's standard. No losses documented after the split in 1741.

5) A ten-squadron regiment throughout its existence, it had three losses in 1742, two more in 1760. But in between these was Hohenfriedberg, where it took 66 colors. Of the eight standards it brought back from the 1806 debacle, four were of FR, one of FWR pattern. The rest?

6) Another ten-squadron regiment. Two losses at Kay. All ten of its standards passed into the new army after the 1808 reorganization.

7)–8) The first five squadrons of the regiment received FWR issue in 1737 and another set of five of the same color scheme but of FR pattern, when five squadrons were added in 1740. When the 8th Regiment was split away from the 7th, both regiments ended up with a mixed set! These are also the regiments which show blue staffs with the black cloths.

9) Formed in 1741 from the light squadrons attached to von Platen's 1st regiment. Since these light squadrons apparently had no standards, the new 9th began life with an FR issue, where the Darmstadt Pattern Book could serve as a trustworthy source.



FIGURE 7—The dragoon pattern of 1802-3, FWR II type.

10) Again a Frederician formation and here, probably a realization of the plan to bring the facing and lace colors of the uniforms into line with the color and metal of the standards.

11) This regiment exhibits the same congruence as the 10th.

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY STANDARDS

Continued

12) This regiment was taken over from Wuerttemberg in 1741. Here, the metal color agrees, but the red cloth of the standards does not agree with the black facings on the uniforms. Black, like green, was not a popular choice of color. Perhaps, it was felt that three black sets of standards among the dragoons was quite sufficient.

The Hussar Colors

(Figure #10)

As mentioned earlier, colors were issued only to those regiments which had been formed by 1743, when the hussars were ordered to turn in their standards. As before, they were made of silk and painted, their emblems entirely reflective of those seen on the infantry colors, including the grenades in the three squared sides.

The Distinctive Colors

No.	Cloth and scroll	Border	Metal Painting
1	dark green	light green	silver
2	blue	red	gold
3	blue	yellow	gold
4	light blue	white	silver
5	black	red	silver
6	brown	yellow	gold

The colonel's colors showed the usual reversal, i.e. the cloth white and scroll white, the center shield in regimental colors. The borders remained the same, except for the 4th Regiment, where the white border also assumed the regimental color, i.e. light blue.

Frederick William II, 1786 to 1797

The contention that the decline of the army began under this monarch is not at all true. A nephew of the great Frederick, he was very much given over to the good life, which ran very much against the grain of his illustrious uncle. But his influence on the army and his interest in it were, on the whole, better and more beneficial than his financial and political activities. He began to standardize the infantry and saw the need for light troops. Not by any means the directly militating commander-in-chief in the style of his two predecessors, he did, however, create a new military bureaucracy which lacked the authority to initiate anything but became the perfect mechanism to delay and shelve everything.

Since no new cavalry formations were raised during his reign, he did not issue any standards bearing his insignia. However, Fiebig notes that he apparently did order some replacements made and that these had been entirely copies of what they were intended to replace, FWR or FR patterns, right down to the cyphers! But Fiebig also says that no supporting documentation ever did come to light and that no such pieces survive. My question is: If there is no documentation, how does he know that nothing survived? On the whole, the fact that such "in-kind" replacements might have been made could explain why apparently so many FWR pieces remained in the front after 1808.

Frederick William III, 1797 to 1840

His tenure was, to say the least, as eventful as that of his great uncle but disastrous for the army and state. When compared to Frederick



FIGURE 8— Colonel's standard of the Gardes du Corps, FWR III issue.

William I and Frederick II, and as one of their almost immediate successors, he must suffer this comparison; all that can be said of him with emphasis is that he turned back the clock of the army, hastened its demise and broke its continuing traditions in the most senseless fashion. Too timid to walk as-yet unexplored paths, he stubbornly held on to the past. Under his uncertain leadership, the military bureaucracy become even more erosive. Like most weaklings, he was prone to listen to the wrong advice and compared to a man of Napoleon's caliber who was history's gift to him and many others, he was — a zero! If the army was, once again, to rise like a Phoenix from the ashes, it did so despite him, not because of him. Since hereditary leadership was not the perfect mechanism, the law of averages had seen to it that the House of Brandenburg would not be weighted down with too much brilliance.

Pertaining to the pre-1806 history of the cavalry standards, two events took place: The issue of a new sets of standards to the Gardes du Corps on the occasion of their expansion to a regiment of five squadrons and the two sets of standards issued to the newly formed 13th and 14th Dragoons.

What is of significance beyond the event itself is the break with the swallow-tailed "guidon" type, which already anticipates the issues of 1815 and after. Fiebig quietly passes over this change and shows the photo of what appears to be yet another specimen lost by the French Army Museum, which is notable for the inclusion of the organization date (1803) placed beneath the center wreath.

Unfortunately, the photo (Figure 7) does not show the margins of the standard but the design is obviously similar to that given to Gardes du Corps (Figures 8 and 9). Indeed, the swallow-



6 standard 6. Dragoons
 FIGURE 9— Regimental of the Gardes du Corps, after Redlin.

tailed types do not again reappear in the Prussian cavalry until after 1890, when the old standards are renewed and similar types are given to new formations of the hussars and Jaeger zu Pferde.

The Gardes du Corps' M1798

The regimental (Fig. 9): silver cloth with silver fringe, the center and corner medallions orange/silver. The crowns and cyphers golden, the crowns with silver stones, the orb on the central crown light blue.

The palm fronds in the center and corners are silver, the laurel green with silver.

The eagle detailed as before, but with crowned cypher on the breast.

The scroll orange with golden lettering and trim.

The capital gilded, but the nails and lace silvered, staff white.

The colonel's standard: As above, but all the medallions silver as well.

The Dragoon Pattern M1802

Regimental Standards (Fig. 7): Design as above but the cloth of regimental color and silver center medallion.

The eagle is detailed as before but all the emblems, i.e. the crowns, wreaths, cyphers, are executed in metal. Beneath the central wreath (at least on the Paris specimen) the organization year.

The Distinctive Colors

No.	Color	Metal
1	crimson	gold
2	light blue	gold

Colonel's Standards: The usual reversal, white cloth with center in regimental color.

1808

At the time of the reorganization, 49 standards remained in the hands of the Prussian cavalry. Since the new regiments of cuirassiers and dragoons were to have only four squadrons each, nine standards became immediately redundant. The Gardes du Corps, however, were allowed to retain their fifth standard for the time being, so only eight were laid up in this first round.

By A.K.O. of 1 October 1811, the regiments were to take but one standard into the field, the remainder was to stay in the depots. On 28 September this became a permanent institution when it was ordered that, henceforth, each regiment was to have but a single standard during peacetime as well. Another 31 standards were laid up. But of these, three from the Gardes du Corps were eventually given to new guard regiments and three of the line were given to the newly formed 4th (7th Cuirassiers) and the 7th (4th) and 8th (8th Cuirassiers) Dragoons in 1815. The designations in the parentheses refer to the 1819 reorganization. Once these had been

issued, the remaining 25 old standards were laid up in the Berlin Armory. Judging by their condition a century later and assuming that storage had not greatly advanced the process of deterioration, their condition, on the average, can not have been good. If these are indicative of what remained on service, it seems hardly credible that such shambles might have been handed to the soldiers of a new army which was noted for its spit and polish traditions. Thus, condition must certainly have played a role in the process of selecting what was to remain on service.

On the last date mentioned above, the hussars and, on 5 October, the lancers were also accorded standards. But issue of these did not commence until after the cessation of hostilities in 1815 and are therefore not included here.

What remains to be answered, however, is how the remaining FWR and FR standards were distributed and what remained in the hands of the regiments after the 1811 order limiting them to a single regimental standard.



FIGURE 2— Regimental of the 6th Cuirassiers, after Redlin.

The Survivors

5 (C+4R) from G du C	a uniform FWR III set
5 (C+4R) from 4th Cuir.	a mixed set FWR and FR
2 (2R) from 6th Cuir.	FR
1 (C) from 3rd Drag.	FR
3 (C+2R) from 4th Drag. (C+7R) from 5th. Drag.	mixed but C=FWR at least 4 FR and 1 FWR identified
10 (C+9R) from 6th Drag.	at least 2 FR
5 (C+4R) from 7th Drag.	mixed set FWR and FR
5 (C+4R) from 8th Drag.	mixed set FWR and FR
5 (C+4R) from 13th Drag.	FWR III set (not reissued)

The First Distribution

*1. Silesian Cuir. Regt.	kept C+3R of 4th Cuirassiers
*2. Eastpruss. Cuir. Regt.	kept 4R of 6th Dragoons
*3. Gardes du Corps	kept C+4R of Gardes du Corps

PRUSSIAN CAVALRY STANDARDS

Continued

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 4. Brandenburg Cuir. Regt. | recd. 2R of 6th Cuir. + 2R of 6th Drag. |
| *1. Queen's Drag. | kept C+3R of 5th Dragoons |
| *2. 1 Westpr. Drag. | kept C+3R of 6th Dragoons |
| *3. Lithuanian Drag. | kept C+3R of 7th Dragoons |
| *4. 2nd Westpr. Drag. | kept 4R of 8th Dragoons |
| 5. Brandenburg Drag. | recd. 4R of 5th Dragoons |
| 6. Neumark. Drag. | recd. C of 3rd and C+3R of 4th Dragoons |

*The regiments marked with an asterisk were regarded old (merely renamed) regiments. The remainder were regarded as new formations without an "old army" tradition. C = colonel's, R = regimental.

By way of an epitaph for the "old army," it might be added that the king's criteria for disallowing the traditions of several of the old regiments, particularly those who had made a fighting retreat with Bluecher and surrendered only when they "were without food and ammunition,"¹⁰ was under attack from the start. Other units, notably from the cavalry, escaped after the surrenders and reported back to duty in considerable numbers.



FIGURE 10— Regimental pattern for hussars under Frederick the Great.



The last question remaining is which standards remained with the regiments after 1811 and went back on campaign with their regiments in 1813/15?

The arguments fielded, when reissues were to be made to the then "old" regiments in 1890 and after, are not always convincing and indicate not only that what remained then was outright unidentifiable but that the units themselves had not done all that much bookkeeping on the score. Not even the regimental histories, often put together long after the last man who might have had the answer from the top of his head had either passed away or was long retired, are immune from "assumptions" which can not be proven, or are based on only tenuous evidence.

Keeping in mind the foregoing and looking at the late nineteenth-century investigations, the following list can only be tentative, except for the cuirassier standards and comments from any of our readers who may be able to throw some light into these shadows are, indeed, welcome.

1811 and after

- (3) Gardes du Corps: FWR III Colonel's as shown in Fig. 9

1. Silesian Cuirassiers: FWR Regimental as shown in Fig. 3, Part I
2. Eastprussian Cuirassiers: FWR Regimental of 6th Dragoons
4. Brandenburg Cuirassiers: FR Regimental as shown in Fig. 2
5. Brandenburg Dragoons: FWR Regimental of 5th Dragoons
6. Neumark. Dragoons: FWR Regimental of 3rd Dragoons.

This last regiment, the 6th Dragoons, later to become, once again, the 3rd Horse Grenadiers, whose standards it had inherited, makes an interesting case in point about the difficulties mentioned above. This regiment had inherited, for example, the colonel's standards of both the 3rd and 4th Dragoons which were of the same scheme, but one FWR, the other FR. But when the re-issue was made, the choice, white with a blue center, reached back past both the DS 29 and 37 to the list of 1713.

In summation, the predominance of FWR patterns leaps to the eye at once. It hardly seems

likely that what the regiments actually carried could have served as the basis for re-issue, that so many pre-1740 models should have been chosen to continue on service. But, then again, my own speculations about early restorations, coupled with Fiebig's remarks about "in kind" replacements made during the reign of Frederick William II make me wonder if — at least in one or two cases — might not have played a role in causing some FWR patterns to remain in the front. □

Footnotes

- 1) Feuchtwanger, Prussia: The Myth and Reality; Regnery, Chicago 1970.
- 2) In "Ancient Civilization 4000 BC-400 AD"; Crowell, New York 1972.
- 3) Bleckwenn, Brandenburg Preussen's Heer 1640-1807; Biblio Osnabrueck 1978.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Bernhardt, Friedrich der Grosse als Feldherr; II, 268.
- 6) Bleckwenn-Melzner; Die Uniformen der Kavallerie, Husaren und Lanzenreiter 1753-1786; Biblio, Osnabrueck 1979.
- 7) Ibid.
- 8) Berliner Zeitungen von Staats- und gelehrten Sachen, March 1741; cited by Bleckwenn and H. Vogt.
- 9) Fiebig, Unsterbliche Treue; Andermann, Berlin (1936).
- 10) As Bluecher insisted and as the French agreed to set down in the articles of surrender after he threatened to fight it out to the bitter end.

ERRATUM

In Part One (Campaigns No. 30), figures 3 and 4 were inadvertently transposed (page 21). The M1906 reissue is the one displaying the 1813 Iron Cross in the capital.

Though the 1906 issue does not properly belong in this article, it was included to illustrate how easily one might be confused for the other. When seen side by side, the differences are obvious. However, when seen individually, one must look to the monograms in the corners, which reflect the reign during which they were issued.