

Appendix 1: Glossary

Companies, Center and Flank — Companies were the major administrative sub-elements of a battalion or squadron. When the battalion or regiment was formed in line of battle, the companies were consistently in the same order from right to left. The traditional post of honor being on the right, it was occupied by the line infantry's grenadiers, the light infantry's *carabiniers*, or a cavalry regiment's elite company (a half-squadron; commonly found in French and French-allied regiments of dragoons, hussars, light cavalry, and lancers). The leftmost position was the second post of honor and was occupied by a line or light battalion's voltigeurs. Meanwhile, the remaining non-elite companies in the center were composed of *fusiliers* (Fr.), *fuciliere* (It.), or *Musketiere* (Ger.) in the line, or chasseurs in the French light infantry.

Contre-épaulette — (Fr.) Literally the “opposite epaulette,” and which was without a fringe. It was the ornamented shoulder board indicating a field or line officer's rank, worn on one shoulder with a fringed epaulette on the other (see “Rank Insignia”).

Cravate — (Fr.) A broad, frilly necktie.

Cuffs — The termination of the outer garment's sleeve was invariably decorated as part of the unit's identification (see “Distinctives”). The adornment could be with a colored band or piping, or both. The design in the French army was either “Polish” (coming to a point), or “Brandenburg” (a straight band around the end of the sleeve, sometimes described as “round,” and with a cuff flap, the edge of which could be either straight or pointed, and usually bearing three buttons). Other armies also used “Swedish” cuffs (just “round” with no cuff-flap). The trailing edge of the cuff flap could be either straight or pointed, and adorned with usually three buttons.

Cuirassier — Entering English from French by 1625, derived from the French *cuir* (leather), this term applied to the period's heavy cavalry, armored with a steel breastplate (cuirass) and, in French service, backplate as well, which was generally proof against small arms beyond close range. Big men on big horses and carrying straight swords, the cuirassiers provided an elite mounted shock force, although French shortages of large horses and experienced troopers crippled their performance after the Russian Campaign of 1812.

Czapka — (Pol.) A distinctive cap, adopted from Poland, worn by lancers, notable for its square, flat shaped top. Technically called a *rogatywka* in Polish, in French the word is usually rendered as *schapka*.

Distinctives — These were the identifying colors of a unit, often referred to as “facing colors” and usually found on the pompom (*pompon*) of the headdress, collar (*collet*), shoulder straps (*pattes d'épaule*), lapels (*revers*), cuffs (*parements*), cuff flaps (*pattes de parements*), and turnbacks (*retroussis*). Facing colors also sometimes appeared on the piping (*passerpoil*) that might outline the pockets (*poches*), collar, shoulder straps, lapels, cuffs, and turnbacks.

Dolman — A short jacket with ample braiding across the front, usually with distinctive colors on the collar and cuffs, often with piping along the back seams of the jacket, and traditionally associated with hussars.



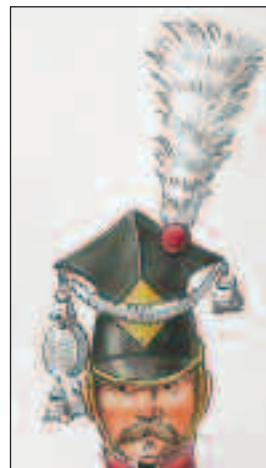
Contre-épaulette (right shoulder)



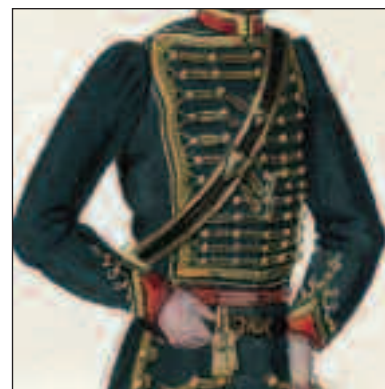
Polish Cuffs



Brandenburg Cuffs

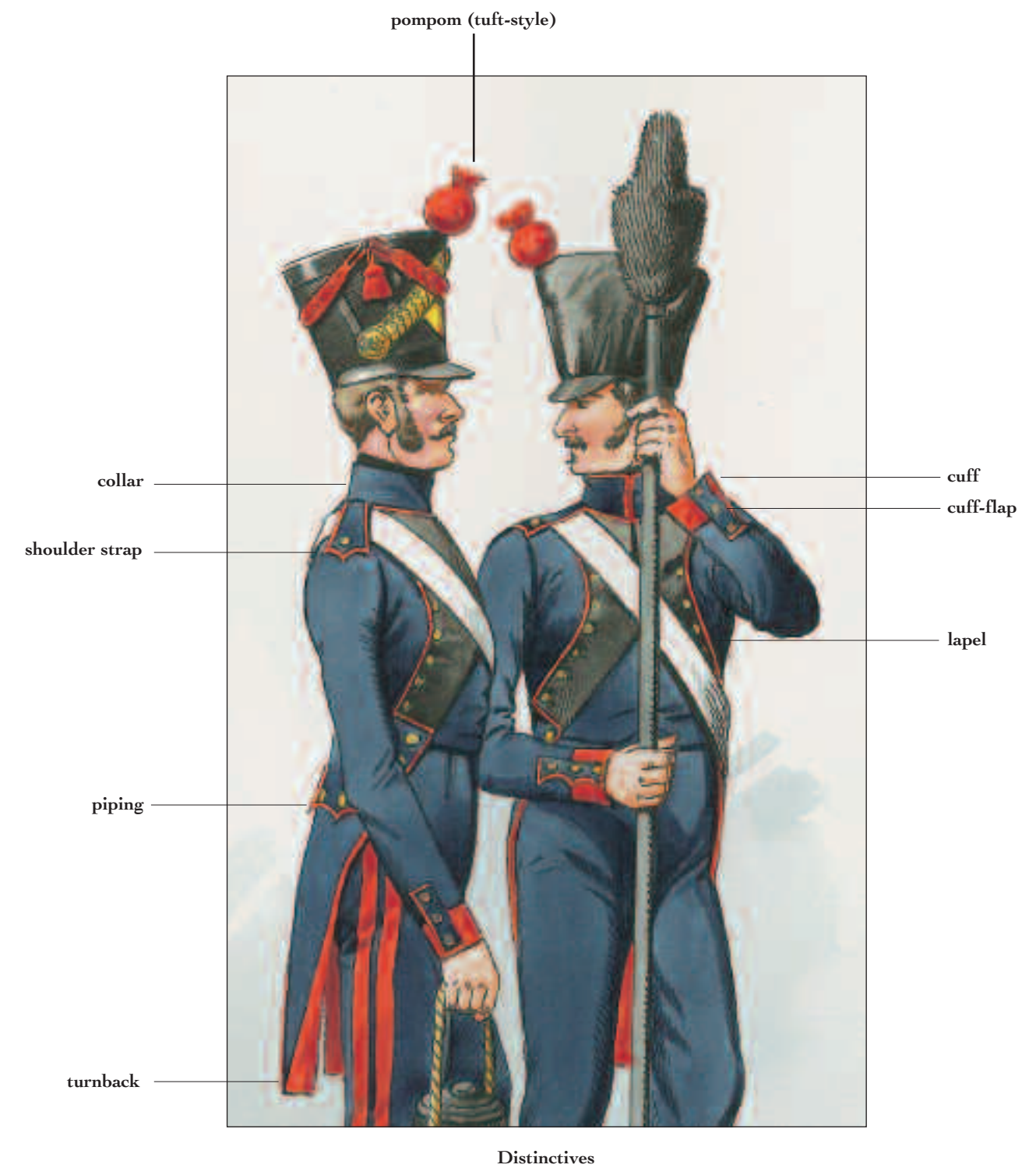


Czapka



Dolman

Appendix 1: Glossary



Distinctives