

Polish Light Horse Lancers of the Imperial Guard, Trooper

This mounted figure of the *1^{er} Régiment de Cheval-Légers Lanciers de la Garde Impériale* appears to be faithfully based on a Winkler image from a group illustration, the other figures of which are the subjects of Plate 19. This trooper manifests several distinctive features differing from the usual appearance of the regiment. The most obvious is the recurrent black plume, discussed in previous plates.

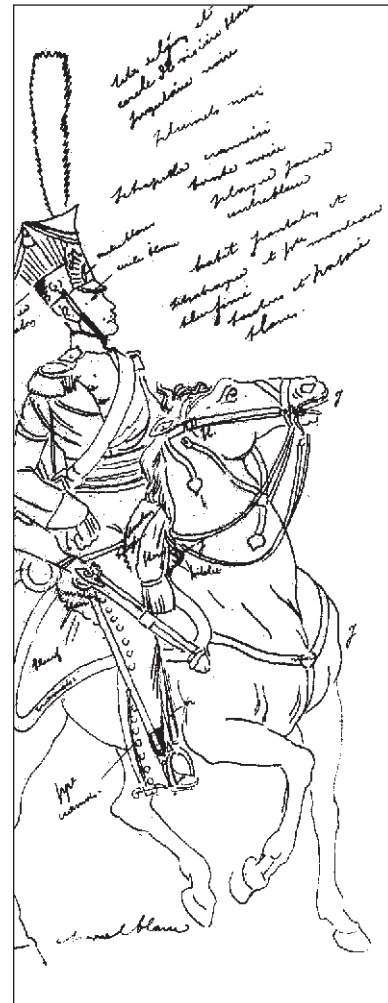
The method of carrying the greatcoat across the saddle shown here seems to have been quite popular in the 1813 campaign. This trooper uses a small sheepskin saddle cover for comfort, which is visible just below the valise (the tubular or box-shaped carrier strapped behind the saddle).

The uniform itself is simplified, as none of the usual lace is displayed either on the lapels or on the collar. A black leather strap has replaced the white metal chinscales of the *czapka*. The wide crimson and white sash is confirmed by other eyewitness illustrations, such as in the *Dresdner Soldatenbilder* (“Soldier Pictures from Dresden”), but only on officers, not privates.¹

Another interesting item is the lance, which appears to be a Prussian item because of the distinctive white over black pennon. The saddle and harness do not appear to be regulation either. The French had no *schabraques* (saddle covers) with rounded edges, so, if this depiction is accurate, this one may be captured Prussian (dragoon) material. However, Winkler may have confused the *schabraque*’s details when he completed the third section of paintings circa 1818.

Additionally, white mounts were usually reserved for trumpeters only, and the inclusion of one here is probably a case of artistic license rather than eyewitness veracity. Similarly, with respect to the small size of the horse, we cannot be certain as to whether its proportions reflect the difficulties of finding adequate mounts in 1813, or are a product of Winkler’s attempt to develop his ability to depict horses while possibly copying them from other sources.

Brun N° 11 from
Freiberg IIIB, 149 (1) >



Brun’s annotated tracing (above)
of IIIB, 149 (1) used to prepare his
final illustration.



20—Uhlans Polonais

¹ An undated oil painting (private German collection) depicts an officer and some lancers of the 31st Regiment of *Chasseurs à cheval*, who, in 1813, were transformed into a lancer regiment without changing their branch and title. One can see exactly the same sash, but in different colors, for both officers and troopers.