

Uniforms of Saxon Chevaulegers 1812



Offizier vom Rgt. Prinz Clemens in großer Uniform



Offizier vom Rgt. Prinz Albert in Felduniform

1. Head dress

Black shako of French model. Leather reinforcement above and down as well as laterally 2 v-shaped leather reinforcements. Yellow chin-scales. White plumes for „full dress“, no pompon. Black visor without metal verge. White cords and additional catch cord. Trumpeters had shako of red basic colour with yellow edging at the top margin. Red plume, for „full dress“, no pompon.



The officers possessed a golden verge in form of the Saxonian lozenge ring on black velvet, which is represented in detail here. Golden chin scales with lion heads. No coat of arms, but crowned initials. White plume with black root for „full dress“, golden pompon with extension. Silver cords. For field duty shako covers of different colors and materials were carried. A contemporary illustration at Army museum of Dresden shows green covers. These being mentioned by F. Lünsmanns description of a canvas painted by of Schubauer who participated in the campaign of 1812.

2. Coats

Red coats cut similarly to that of the French Chasseurs a Cheval (Bardin 1812) with the following facing colours at collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks:

Rgt. Clemens - zeisiggrün (bright yellowish green)

Rgt. Polenz - light blue

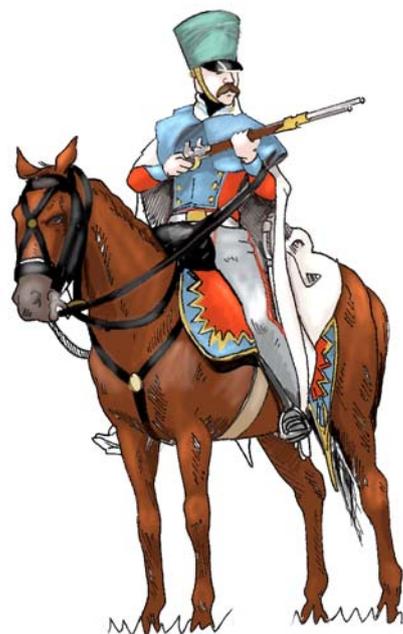
Rgt. Johann - black – turnbacks paille (buff)

Rgt. Albrecht - dark green

Shoulder flaps edged in facing colour but Rgt. Johann paille (buff). Contemporary illustrations show a white/bright edging at collars, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks of Rgt. Johann. To my opinion this edging could have been paille (buff). The cuffs shown in contemporary illustrations are always shown straight, not pointed as most modern authors (among other things R. and H. Knötel) however - probably erroneously - (?) represent them. Lapels could be over-buttoned. The turnbacks were held by a yellow button.



Chevauleger vom Rgt. Prinz Johann in Felduniform



Chevauleger vom Rgt. von Polenz in Felduniform

Trumpeters wore reversed colours, except for Rgt. Johann which had paille (buff). Collars, cuffs, lapels were laced yellow. Officers carried long turnbacks with small golden grenades. Lapels were made of (possibly only with „full dress“) of „plush“. Rgt. Johann's officers had golden edging to collars, cuffs and lapels. The coats had unusually horizontal and vertical bags, of facing colour.

3. Badges of rank

NCOs had (Sergeant) one or two (Wachtmeister) rows of golden lace at the top of the shako. In all other respects the badges of rank, but at the left arm only, followed the French system, i.e. golden lace at lower arm (Fourier at the upper arm); for Corporals cotton lace of facing color. Plumes had a black tip.

4. Trousers, boots

White trousers with short hussar boots worn for „full dress“, which were provided with a golden edging for officers. A contemporary illustration shows dark-green long trousers (Rgt. Albrecht) for officers with two red stripes and brown, zigzag leather reinforcement. If officers regularly wore trousers of regimental facing colour (as e.g. french Chevauleger Lanciers) must remain open.

For field duty the contemporary illustrations show three variants: Always grey with brown, zigzag leather reinforcement, however with and without buttons, as well as broad or narrower, always red braid down the seam. An unusual detail are its bags edged with additional double red lacing



Trompeter vom Rgt.Prinz Johann in Felduniform



Trompeter vom Rgt.von Polenz in Felduniform

5. Coats

The contemporary illustrations show a white sleeveless coat with white collar. The latter has additionally a braided „Litze“ with button. A short pelerine is of facing colour. With the Rgt. Johann it might have been not black, but paille (buff).

1812 - whether still before or after leaving on 28.03. for Russia is uncertain - got the regiments completely white coats with sleeves (whether with or without pelerine is uncertain). Now the collar had only facing colour and red edging, for Rgt. Johann again paille (buff). An illustration of this overcoat is unknown to me. Moreover the color of officer's coats is unknown.

6. Equipment

White gauntlets. White leather cartridge pouch at white leather belts. White belt with brass fastens. The officers leatherwork was in facing colour (Rgt. Johann black leather) with four rows of golden braid. The cartridge bag had a silver saxon coat of arms (also on gilded fastens) and frame.



Same for sword-belts. Portepee white for troopers, mixed silver/red for officers. Epaulettes of gold, badge of rank otherwise as for French Light Horse.

The carbine resembled that of the French Light Horse, too. At the buff and in front at the run brass fittings, otherwise iron-coloured.

At first old sabres of the Dragoons still in use - with brass box - which was replaced gradually by a completely iron sabre alike the French Light Horse.



Ulan vom Rgt. Prinz Clemens

Clemens Uhlans had red painted the 2,50m long lances with probably white over carmine pennon.. 64 men of the regiment carried still carbines - whether in place of the lance is uncertain. Brass trumpets with mixed trumpet cords of white/carmine.

7. Horse furniture

Red pointed-ended shabraque as for russ. Hussars, faced zigzag in regimental colour, reciprocally yellow edged. In front a protection cover of black leather. Red valise with either facing colour braid edged reciprocally yellow or completely yellow. Black belts for attachment. Shabraque of the officers had a similar edge however in wave shape with a single golden braid in the center. Probably more heavily braided with higher officers according to rank. Valise unknown.

8. Employment 1812

Regiments Prince Clemens and von Polenz were with VII. Corps Reynier at southern flank with Schwarzenbergs Austrians „Auxiliarkorps“; Rgt. Prince Albrecht with the main army in the III. Corps of Cavalry Grouchy; Prince Johann at the IX. Corps Victor, sharing fate with the division Partouneaux. For 1813 campaign only Prince Clemens being rebuilt. It essentially kept the described uniform until November 1813.

Considered sources/documents:

Contemporary Illustrations from Armeemuseum Dresden, u.a. http://www.napoleon-online.de/html/sachsen1811_corps.html

Alexander Sauerweid : Königliche Armee nach der Reorganisation von 1810 : Tafeln 10 und 11, http://www.napoleon-online.de/html/sauerweid_sachsen.html

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F. Lünsmann, „Russische Felduniformen in Rußland 1812“, in Zeitschrift für Heereskunde 1934, S. 12 ff.

Dr. Walter Hentschel, Die Umwandlung des sächsischen Regiments Prinz Clemens in ein Ulanenregiment, in Zeitschrift für Heereskunde 1935, S. 121 ff.

Dr. Walther Dietrich, Die Uniformen der sächsischen Reiterregimenter während der napoleonischen Kriege, in „Der standhafte Zinnsoldat“ 1928, S. 91, 114, 1929, S. 2, 43,143

H. Knötel, M. Brauer, Bogen Nr. 8

John R. Elting/H. Knötel, Napoleonic Uniforms

Wolfgang Friedrich, Die Uniformen der königlich sächsischen Armee 1810 – 1867

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