

# RUSSIAN MOUNTED JAEGERs 1812-1814

by  
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The name Mounted Jaegers (Konno Jaeger-ski - hunter cavalry literally) was first given in the Russian army by Catherine II, in 1786, to new light cavalry units whose regiments had formerly consisted of hussars and uhlans. Paul I disbanded them when he took the throne in 1796. Alexander I revived them on November 10, 1812 with the conversion of eight dragoon regiments.

They formed the 1st and 2nd Divisions of Mounted Jaegers which made up the 4th Cavalry Corps. The subordination and regimental distinctins were as follows:

| <u>1st Div.</u> | <u>Regimental Color</u>         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Nezhinski       | ski blue (turquoise)            |
| Chernigovski    | blue (dark blue)                |
| Arzamassi       | light blue (like LG Semonovski) |
| Severski        | orange                          |

| <u>2nd Div.</u> |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Liflandski      | red       |
| Periyaslavski   | raspberry |
| Tiraspolski     | yellow    |
| Dorpatski       | rose      |

The regiments each consisted of six combatant squadrons plus one depot squadron. The uniforms were very similar to those of the dragoons, but the coat had pointed cuffs, regimental colors were distinct, and hussar model Kivar shako replaced the crested helmet. The dark green uniform items were nearly black like other Russian army units of the period.

The shako was of the hussar model which resembled the infantry Kivar but bore a black cockade piped with orange and held in place with a white metal clasp for troops or of silver for officers. The pompom dark green for the troops; quartered white and interwoven black and orange for NCOs (diagonally); and silver for officers. Cording was dark green for troops and NCOs, but the NCOs' had white/orange/black tassels; officers' cording was silver. The scaled chinstraps were of tin-plated brass for all troops and of silver for the officers. The horsehair plume was white with a black and orange base for enlisted; white with a black tip which was divided by an orange fore and aft stripe for NCOs; and white with an orange and black base for officers.

For off-duty wear, the officers had the black leather bicorn hat with white feathers colored black and orange on the bottom.

Troops had dark green service caps, without brims, with the band and top piping in the regimental color. If officers wore the service cap, it had a short black peak, making it look similar to those of the Prussian army.

The service coat was of dark green, was double-breasted, and had two rows of six white metal buttons. The collar was dark green piped in the regimental color along the top and on the front. It had pointed cuffs in the regimental color with one white metal button in the point. Above the cuffs, along the sleeve seam were two cloth-covered buttons, and the coat lining was dark green which showed at the turnbacks which were edged with lace in the regimental color. NCOs had wide silver lace on the front and top of the collar, just inside the regimental piping. The men's shoulder straps were in the regimental color, while the officers had epaulettes of silver metal lined in the regimental color. For off-duty dress, officers had dark green "Redingote" coats with dark green collars and cuffs piped in the regimental color. The coat had long crescent-shaped pockets with three buttons and piping in the regimental color. The lining was dark green.

Pants were dark green with regimental triple stripes--two wide stripes with a very narrow one between, with dark green visible between them. The shoes were black leather and low. Gloves were white without cuffs. The waistbelt was of whitened leather closed with a brass hook and the sabre suspension straps were of similar materials. Officers wore a silver sash with black and orange threads interwoven. The overcoat was grey with a grey collar which was piped in the regimental color; it was carried in a port-manteau behind the saddle.

The sabre was of the hussar model with an iron guard and scabbard. The swordknot for troops was of red leather with the tassel colored according to the squadron: 1st white, 2nd sky blue, 3rd yellow, 4th black, 5th green, 6th red, and 7th (depot) of white and red. Officers' sword knots had black straps with silver dots along the edges; even tassels of silver with gold wire and black and orange silk to the inside. For off-duty dress, the officers wore the cavalry model sword with a silver sword knot.

The carbine, carried by the troopers, had steel parts with the barrel bands and buttplate of brass, and a steel bayonet.



It was carried hung from a whitened leather shoulderbelt. The cartridgebox for enlisted men was of black leather with a round silver-plated plate bearing the double-headed imperial eagle. for officers it was of varnished black leather with a silver lid with a gold eagle. The belt for the cartridgebox was of whitened leather with brass buckles and fittings for enlisted men, and for officers it was edged in silver, had a silver plate, chains, buckle, etc. Pistols, which were carried by all personnel in the saddle holsters for mounted duty, had brass fittings.

Horse furniture was of the Hungarian pattern, made of black leather with brass fittings. The saddlecloth was of the rounded dragoon pattern, made of dark green cloth with double edging (narrow outer, wide inner) and the belly-band in the regimental color. The saddlecloth bore an imperial monogram in the rear corner. The monogram was in the regimental color for enlisted men and in silver for officers. The portmanteau was of grey canvas, round, and its flap was closed by means of four copper buttons. The feed bag was of canvas and the wooden canteen had a leather cover. Horse colors were not uniform within the regiments, although shades of brown seemed to have been preferred.

Trumpeters were attired like the common troopers but with the following differences. The shako plume was red with a black and orange base. The coat had white lacing on the swallows nests (five vertical rows and one along the bottom on a dark green background), on the top and front of the collar, on all the seams (back, sleeve fronts and backs, etc.), on the cuffs, and on the chest. The chest lacing consisted of six sets of double lace over and across the bottoms, and pointed at the ends. There was also lacing on the turnback edges inside the regimental piping, and on the sleeves there were eight upward-pointing chevrons which abutted the seam lacing. The trumpet was of brass with white cords and tassels. The trumpet-major was dressed like the trumpeter but the red plume had the NCO's black and orange top, and the collar and cuffs had NCO's silver lacing added. His trumpet cords and tassels were white, orange and black. They were armed with the sabre. Trumpeters' horses were probably whites or greys.

All of the regiments, except Chernigovski and Severski, carried the model 1803 cavalry standards, which were issued three

colored and one white per regiment. The colored standards were green with white corner ovals and gold designs and fringes; the white standards reversed the white and green. See Keith Over's Flags and Standards of the Napoleonic Wars, figures C15 and 116 for the designs. The Chernigovski Dragoon Regiment was among the first to receive the Saint George model cavalry standards which added a Saint George's cross among the rays in the model 1803 cavalry standard. The Severski regiment retained its model 1797 dragoon standard. The white standard had the left side of the corner black and the right side orange, while the three colored standards each had an orange cross and black corners. All four had an orange center circle bearing a leafy green wreath tied with a sky blue ribbon, and in the center was the black double-headed eagle with gold beaks, claws, etc. These standards were only 21 inches by 21 inches! The fringes were silver for this regiment. The staffs were green with gold ferrules, and the staff points gilded with the eagle in the center. The cords and tassels were also silver. See figure 114 in Mr. Over's work for the model 1797 cavalry standard pattern.

#### SOURCES:

- M. Gayda & A. Krijitsky, L'Armee Russe sous le Tsar Alexandre 1<sup>er</sup> de 1805 a 1815, Paris: Les Editions de la Sabretache, 1955, pp. 35-36 & plate no. 22.  
Richard Knoetel, Uniformkunde, Band XVI, No. 60, "Russland, Reitende Jaeger 1813/14."  
Keith Over, Flags and Standards of the Napoleonic Wars, New York: Sky Books Press Ltd., 1976, pp. 61, 93 & 95.  
W. Zweguntzow, L'Armee Russe, 4<sup>e</sup> Partie, 1801-1825, Paris: 1973, pp. 283, 289, 345-346.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Drapeaux et Estandards de l'Armee Russe, 1<sup>er</sup> Partie, p. 29; 2<sup>e</sup> Partie, p. 7.



Russian Mounted Jaegers -  
1812-1814



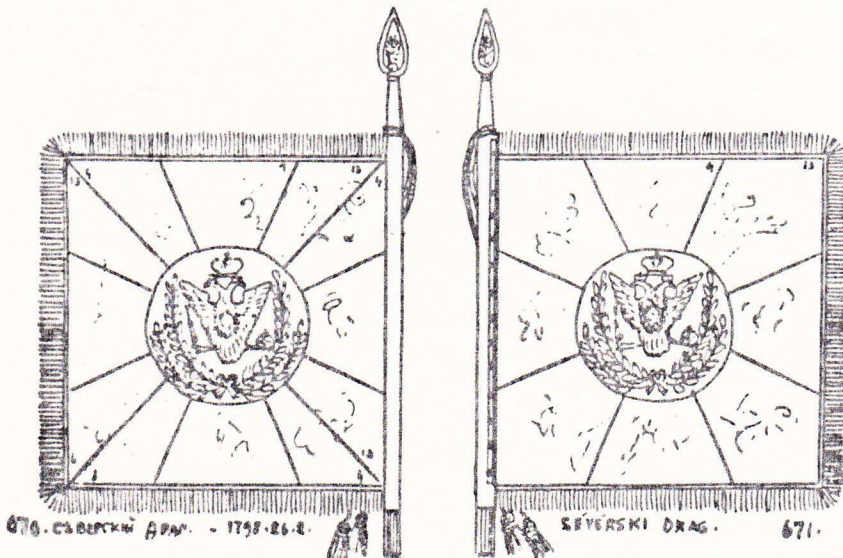
Senior Officer  
Chernigovski Regt.

Junior Officer  
Arzamasski  
Regt.

Trooper  
Severski  
Regt.

Trumpeter  
Dorpatski  
Regiment

SOURCE: Zweguintzow plate 284.



Standards of the Severski  
Mounted Jaeger (formerly  
Dragoon) Regiment. Left  
is "white" standard and  
right is "colored" stan-  
dard. 1 = white, 4 = or-  
ange, 13 = black.

SOURCE: Zweguintzow, flag  
plates nos. 670 & 671.



# Russland.



**Jäger** vom Rgt. Livland. **Offizier** vom Rgt. Arsamass. **Unteroffizier** vom Rgt. Sewersk. **Trompeter** vom Rgt. Dorpat.

## Reitende Jäger. 1813/14.

Die Waffe der Dragoner war im russischen Heere mit 36 Regimentern unverhältnismässig stark vertreten, gegenüber 8 Kürassier-, 11 Husaren- und 5 Ulanen-Regimentern (Garde nicht eingerechnet). Es wurden daher unterm 10. November 1812 18 Dragoner-Regimenter umgestaltet und zwar 2 davon zu Kürassieren, 1 zu Husaren, 7 zu Ulanen und 8 zu der neuen Waffe der reitenden Jäger. Die neue Uniform dieser Truppe dürfte wohl kaum vor Anfang des Jahres 1813 zur Ausgabe gelangt sein. Sie bestand aus dunkelgrünen Koletts mit ebensolchen Kragen, Beinkleidern und Sattelüberdecken. Besätze, Vorstösse und Hosensstreifen von der Abzeichenfarbe des Regiments. Die Knöpfe durchgängig weiss. Czako von der neuen geschweiften Form mit grünen Behängen; für Unteroffiziere letztere in den Landesfarben, weiss-schwarz-orange. Czakostutze der Unteroffiziere mit orange-farbener Spitze.