

# Development history of the Metal-Pickelhaube in Prussia

## Cuirassiers

**1843**

Since the cuirassiers were a pride of the Prussians, the testing of the metal helmet, as it was called according to the official regulations, lasted a little longer than the leather helmet. It was simply not wanted to risk an embarrassment. However, on 22.2.1843 the metal helmet **M1843** was finally introduced, the tombac helmets still somewhat later on 5.4.1843.

### Enlisted men:

- The helmet shell was made of a 0.8 mm thick steel sheet or 1.0 mm thick sheet of tombac in one piece, the production was done by deep drawing. The production from one piece was a great progress, while earlier helmets consisted of 2 parts and had to be soldered together time consuming. The shape of the helmet shell was slightly different depending on the manufacturer, there were half round or parabolic helmet shells. Also the height varied slightly, the lowest helmet was 17.0 - 19.0 cm high, which corresponds to the height of the leather shell of an M42. On the back there was a vertically pressed rib. The length of which also varied and sometimes reaches behind the eagle plate at the front.
- The squared front visor was 7.3 - 7.8 cm high and 21.0 - 23.3 cm wide. The inside was coated with a protective green paint. The visor was riveted to the helmet shell from the outside and framed all around with two u-shaped trim to protect it from sharp edges, but also because it looked better (Fig. 1). For steel helmets these were made of brass, for tombac helmets of nickel silver. The 1st trim was about 0.8 cm wide and ran around the side and bottom edges of the visor. It was fixed at the ends with small countersunk rivets. The 2nd trim was only 0.5 cm wide and covered the upper edge. It was fastened with 1 rivet at each end and a centrally placed countersunk rivet. After riveting, the front visor was flanged again to further improve the fit to the helmet shell.



FIG. 1: M1843 FRONT VISOR (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

- The rear visor was made of 3 sheets (Fig. 2). These were pre-assembled, whereby the inside of the visor remained unfinished. It was later covered with black leather, and its edges were covered with the surrounding metal trim. After completion, the rear visor was finally riveted to the helmet shell from the inside. In order to keep it somewhat flexible, it was only attached to the two sides. The flexibility should, so it was believed at least, protect the rider in case of falling from the horse.



FIG. 2: M1843 REAR VISOR (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

- The star of the Order of the Black Eagle was worn as a helmet decoration on the front of the guards (Fig. 3 left). This was presumably specified with a size of 14.0 cm, as described in the clothing regulations of 1895, but it was measured somewhere between 13.0 - 14.0 cm. It was made of the same material as the visor trim. For the line cuirassiers, the helmet ornament consisted of an approximately 12.5 - 13.0 cm high eagle plate, as used for the leather helmet (Fig. 3 Right). To attach the decorations to the helmet, 2 threaded pins were soldered to the back, which were inserted through matching holes on the helmet shell and fixed with squared bow nuts. Sometimes, however, manufacturers deviated from these attachment methods. For example, on the eagle shown in Figure 3, screws for fastening were inserted through the eagle plate from the outside. The heads of the two screws were

designed in great detail as feathers to make them look as invisible as possible. This again shows how much importance the people in charge at that time attached to appearance and quality.



FIG. 3: M1843 GUARD STAR AND HELMET EAGLE FOR ENLISTED MEN (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

- The spike was about 13.0 cm high in total and consisted of 2 parts (Fig. 4). The spikebase was made of the same material as the visor trim, and the smooth spike was made of the same material as the helmet shell. The oval base of the spikebase pointed towards the ends, and had 2 ventilation holes in its neck. It was attached to the helmet with a set of 4 half-round head screws and squared bow nuts. For parades, the spike was replaced by the guards with a three-dimensional eagle with spread wings facing backwards that was about 14.0 cm high (+crown: 2.5 cm), 20.5 cm wide, and weighed about 150 g (Fig. 6).
- The chin scales were curved and the Prussian leather cockade that was initially worn on the left measured 7.0 - 7.5 cm in diameter.
- The liner was made of tongued leather and could be tightened with a leather strap, which allowed to adjust the fit to several head sizes.
- The weight of the helmet was on average 1225g.



FIG. 4: M1843 HELMET FOR ENLISTED MEN'S (COURTESY OF AIOLFI.COM)

### Officers:

- The officer's helmet had the same shape and the same dimensions as the enlisted helmet. But it was crafted much more carefully with fire-gilded tombac and brass parts and silver-plated nickel-silver parts.
- The rear visor was dressed in black velvet instead of black leather.
- The spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and the holes for the half-round head screws were generally placed between the leaves. However, some makers placed them in the middle of the leaf. The 4 ventilation holes in the neck of the spikebase were shaped like a cross, and the spike was not round, but 6-times fluted ( Fig. 5). The parade eagle of the officers corresponded in dimensions to that of the enlisted men, but it was more finely chased and silver-plated.
- The guard star, which also measured around 13.0 - 14.0 cm for the officers of the guard, was decorated with enamel in the center (Fig. 6). Like the eagle emblem's, the officers' decorations were silver- or gold-plated.

- The rosettes of the chin scales had the shape of a three-leaved clover (Fig. 5) and the edges of the chin scales were bent over in such a way that they appeared more solid. Due to their tradition, the chin scales of the officers of the „Leib“ cuirassier regiment No. 1 kept their unique design with a raised edge, which they had already worn before (Fig. 15).
- The lining for officers was made of high quality juchten leather. It had more flaps than that of the enlisted men's helmets, which were cut off straight at the top.



FIG. 5: M1843 OFFICER'S HELMET (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)



FIG. 6: PARADE EAGLE M1843 OFFICER'S HELMET (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

### 1846

On October 27, 1846, the wearing of a woolen cockade was allowed by AKO, because the paint did not hold well on the leather cockade. The cockade diameter of 7.0 - 7.5 cm was kept. This regulation did not apply to officers, but they still often wore silk cockades in silver-black at that time.

### 1848-1851

In the time from the 21.3.1848 to 14.3.1851 the German cockade was worn on the helmet as a result of the revolution. Since this was worn on the left, the Prussian cockade switched to the right side. However, when the revolution failed and the German cockade was finally removed, the Prussian cockade stayed on the right side of the metal helmet.

### 1853

In the time of use, a serious disadvantage of the external riveted front visor of the M1843 became evident. In the event of rain, water dripped into the wearer's face through a gap between the visor and the helmet shell, which is why the visor was riveted on from the inside when new helmets were purchased (Fig. 7). Consequently, the trim on the upper edge of the front visor was eliminated, and the visor measured only 7.2 - 7.3 cm in height and 21.0 - 21.6 cm in width. A related AKO is unfortunately not known, but this helmet type is known as **M1853** and the changes affected the helmets of enlisted men and officers.



FIG. 7: M1853 FRONT VISOR - ENLISTED MEN HELMET OF LINE CUIRASSIERS (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

### 1857

It was still during the wearing period of the M1843 that the sheet metal cockade was introduced for **enlisted men and officers**. This happened around the introduction of the leather helmet M1857. The diameter of 7.0 - 7.5 cm was still maintained. The painted ring was about 0.7 cm wide and about 0.9 cm away from the outer serrated edge. The officer's cockade still had a silver-plated metal slip-on ring instead of the painted ring.

## 1860

- As with leather helmets, the AKO of May 10, 1860 introduced the banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" (With God for King and Fatherland) on the eagle plate. The bandeau was soldered onto already existing plates as a separate part, while for new productions it was included in the embossing process.
- Something similar happened with the guard star on the helmet of the cuirassiers, which also received a banner with the inscription: „Mit Gott für König und Vaterland", only with the addition "1860". The banner was circular and was woven into the outer part of the guard star (Fig. 8). On existing guards stars, which were updated, the banner consisted of several parts.
- The size of the guard star and the eagle emblem remained unchanged. They were also attached to the helmet as before using 2 threaded pins soldered to the back and square nuts.



FIG. 8: M1860 GARDE DU CORPS STAR WITH BANNER (COURTESY OF RATISBONS.COM)

## 1862

Since the load for the horses of the cuirassiers seemed too high, great efforts were made in the middle of the 19th century to reduce the weight of the cuirassier equipment. In this context, the cuirassier helmet was also changed, so that on 7.10.1862 a new type **M1862** was introduced for **enlisted men and officers**:

- The changes had no effect on the helmet shell. It remained almost unchanged.
- However, to save weight, the squared front visor and the round rear visor were made slightly smaller. The front visor became somewhat slimmer and was now 6.2 - 7.1 cm high and 19.6 - 21.1 cm wide. The rear visor was reduced in size evenly and kept its shape.
- The metal trim of the front visor was reduced from 0.8 - 0.9 cm wide to around 0.5 cm (Fig. 9).



FIG. 9: M1862 FRONT VISOR (COURTESY OF TONY SCHNURR - KAISERSBUNKER.COM)

- The spike also became slightly smaller, only about 11.0 - 12.0 cm high. The parade eagle, however, kept its dimensions.
- The guard star was probably still 14.0 cm high, measured between 13.0 - 14.0 cm. However, I was unable to determine the correct helmet eagle. There are helmets with eagles of 12.5 - 13.0 cm height and the design as on the M1843, but there were also helmet eagles used like on the leather helmet M1860 or M1871. These were only 12.0 - 12.5 cm high. Both were attached to the helmet as before by means of 2 threaded pins soldered to the back and square nuts.
- The long protruding ornamental screws for fastening the chinscales were replaced by round-headed slit screws and threaded bushes made of steel, which no longer protruded so far (Fig. 10).
- With the lower height of the helmet, smaller cockades were also introduced, which now had a diameter of 6.0 - 6.5 cm.



FIG. 10: M1862 ENLISTED HELMET RV (COURTESY OF TONY SCHNURR - KAISERSBUNKER.COM)

Finally, however, these changes only brought a weight reduction of a few grams.

## 1867

After the Austrian campaign, the efforts to lighten the weight continued, and although the helmets were not adapted until 1862, the new helmet type **M1867** was introduced for the cuirassiers on April 25, 1867. The changes also included a modification of the appearance of the cuirassier helmet, which was considered too martial at that time.

### Enlisted men:

- The height of the helmet shell was slightly reduced, and the basic shape was now more bowl-shaped. There were always 17 large bolts used for the assembly of the helmet.
- The squared front visor was reduced again while keeping the basic shape, its height was only 5.0 - 6.0 cm, the width 17.5 - 19.4 cm.
- A new element of this helmet type was the only 0.4 cm wide metal trim on both sides of the helmet shell, which ran between the front and rear visors (Fig. 11). This was done to prevent the helmet shell from tearing, as often happened with tombac helmets in the area where the front visor trim ended before. There are a lot of reworked helmets where the trim were soldered on afterwards. These are mostly recognizable by an unclean joint between the metal trims.
- The total height of the spike was only about 10.5 cm, the neck of the spikebase still had 2 ventilation holes ( Fig. 12).



FIG. 11: M1867 ENLISTED MEN'S HELMET SV (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

- The parade eagle was now attached to the helmet using a larger threaded stud and one large wing nut. This method replaced the 4 small pins and squared nuts below the eagle.



FIG. 12: M1867 ENLISTED MEN'S HELMET (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)



### Officers:

The changes listed above also affected the officer's helmet, but with following differences:

- The rear visor was no longer made of 3 sheets but of a single piece. Ribs were pressed in as dummy joints to make the sheet look like 3 pieces and to stiffen the surface (Fig. 4). Also for the officers helmets 17 large screws were used for assembly.
- The new metal trim between the visors was 0,5 cm wide for officer helmets, just like the visor trims.

However, all these modifications again brought only an insignificant weight reduction of a few grams. The helmet of the enlisted men and officers weighed on average about 825 g.



FIG. 13: M1867 OFFICER'S HELMET REAR VISOR (COURTESY OF RATSBONS.COM)

## 1889

During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71, several problems with the cuirassier's equipment became evident. The cuirass no longer offered protection against modern rifles, the old Brandenburg boots were a handicap when fighting on foot, and the helmet had a non-optimal shape that was an obstacle for the introduction of a carbine into the armament of the cuirassiers. Despite these disadvantages, Kaiser Wilhelm I. resisted any changes to the uniform or equipment, as he was very taken with the appearance of his cuirassiers. For this reason, the necessary modifications to the uniform were made after his passing, by AKO of 28.1.1889. With these changes, the **M1889** helmet lost much of its original grace, but the appearance was in keeping with the taste of the time.

### Enlisted men (Fig. 14):

- Since all cuirassiers were now armed with a carbine, the front visor of the helmet had to be adapted. The squared shape was an obstacle when shooting the carbine, which is why the double fluted front visor was replaced by a half-round one, slightly curved for the enlisted men. (Fig. 1, left). As a result, the front visor was only 4.5 - 4.8 cm high and 14.0 - 17.8 cm wide (the width of the M1889 can only be measured using imaginary corners).
- The vertical rib on the back of the helmet shell was also eliminated (Fig. 1, right). However, the 17 large bolts for assembly the helmet were not changed, as well as the 0,5 cm wide visor trims and the 0,4 cm wide trim between the visors.
- The guard star probably remained 14.0 cm in size (measured 13.0 - 14.0 cm). But the height of the helmet eagle was reduced to 11.0 cm. As on the helmet eagle of the later introduced leather helmet M1895, 2 wire loops were soldered to the back of the emblem, through which it could be fixed to the helmet shell by means of 2 leather wedges (perhaps this happened towards 1895, I couldn't determine the exact date of introduction). However, no brass bushes were used in the helmet shell of the metal helmets, as was the case with the M1895. The guard star continued to be attached with the two threaded pins and square nuts.
- The inside of the rear visor was no longer covered with leather, but only painted black.
- The chinscales made of tombac or brass were 3.5 cm wide at the back and 1.6 cm wide at the front.
- The overall height of the smooth spike was reduced to about 9.0 cm, for the Garde du Corps it was 11.0 cm. The neck of the spikebase had 2 ventilation holes as before.
- The helmet of the enlisted men weighed about 700 - 800 g.



FIG. 14: M1889 ENLISTED MEN'S HELMET FV (COURTESY OF TONY SCHNURR - KAISERSBUNKER.COM)

### Officers (Fig. 15):

After 1870, the officer's helmet began to differ more from the enlisted helmet. The officer's helmet M1889 had the following characteristics in addition to the enlisted helmet:

- The more bowl-shaped helmet shell had a clear height of 11.0 cm and the helmet was still held together with 17 large bolts.
- The metal trims still were all 0,5 cm wide for officer helmets.
- The 5.0 cm high front visor kept its squared shape with the double fillet and was lined from the inside with thin green Saffian leather.
- The 12.0 cm high rear visor consisted of one plate with 2 horizontal ribs, making it look as if it were 3 parts. The inside was dressed with black velvet.
- The overall height of the spike was increase again and it was 13,0 - 14,0 cm just like the M1843. The officers' parade eagle was the same shape and size as the enlisted eagle, except that it was more finely chased and silvered.
- The guard star and the helmet eagle were identical in size to those on the enlisted men's helmets, except that they were more finely chased and silver or gold-plated.

- The chin scales were slimmer than the previous designs at 2.7/1.4 cm and not everyone was pleased with the new look. The chin scales of the officers of the Leib-Kürassier-Regiment No. 1 kept their unique design (Fig. 3) and measured 3.2/1.75 cm (Fig. 15).
- The cockades still had a diameter of 6.5 cm, but the officers of the Leib-Kürassier-Regiment Nr. 1 again had an unique design. Their cockades were designed in the old Hessian style and had a diameter of only 5.0 cm with a flattened section. However, since the mounting hole in the cockade was set off-center and the cloverleaf-shaped rosette cleverly masked it, the cockade on the helmet looked like a complete and round disk.
- The helmet liner became much lighter. As with the leather helmets, it consisted of a sweatband of fine sheepskin or goatskin about 5.0 - 6.0 cm wide, lined with silk rip. This was split in the middle and was held in shape with 2 twigs of brushwood.
- The weight of the officer's helmet was on average only about 600 - 700 g.



FIG. 15: M1889 OFFICER'S HELMET AT 1900 (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

### Small excursion to the officer helmets from 1870 to 1918

In the 1880s, after the officer's helmet became lower and lower, the rear visor protruded strongly from the back of the wearer's head (Fig. 16 left). In earlier helmet designs, on the other hand, it was close to the back of the neck (Fig. 16 middle). This was especially dependent on the height of the front visor, since its lower edge was prescribed to be at the level of the eyebrows. Because of the higher visors, the helmet therefore had to be pushed far back in earlier designs, which naturally also pushed the rear visor close to the neck. The lower helmet, on the other hand, could be worn upright, causing the rear visor to stand out so unattractively. In the years around 1890, the shape of the helmet changed again and although the front visor became slimmer, the rear visor was back closer to the neck line. Around 1900, the officer's helmet then reached its highest elegance:



FIG. 16: COMPARISON OF CUIRASSIER HELMETS OF DIFFERENT YEARS

FIG. 17: GARDE DU CORPS GUARD STAR ON A 1890S OFFICER HELMET (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

- The front visor was still double fluted, but in a modern squarer style.
- The long rear visor fitted tightly to the officer's head and neck (Fig. 16 center).
- The spike of the officer's helmets became taller again, having been shortened to about 10.0 cm in height in the meantime.
- The vertical rib at the back of the head was made extra prominent.
- The guard star on the guard helmets was also adapted to the fashionable spirit of the times. The white enameled ring with the golden inscription "SUUM CUIQUE" and the green laurel branch was three-dimensional and emerged conically from the plane of the guard star. The inner golden plane with the enameled black eagle stood out even more, making it particularly handsome (Fig. 17).

This shape was kept until 1918. In the 1st World War it was worn with field gray cover.

### 1894

On May 18, 1894, an AKO ordered that cavalry units should also wear chin scales with the M91 fastening system on their metal helmets. Thus the helmet type **M1894** was created for **enlisted men**. In contrast to the leather helmets, the M91 rosettes were not covered with a decorative cap, since this would have looked too massive and thus not attractive due to the wider chin scales of the metal helmets.

### 1897

As with the leather helmets, the imperial cockades were introduced also for the metal helmets on March 22, 1897. The diameter of the cockade didn't change, it still measured around 6.5 cm. The imperial cockade was generally introduced in honor of the founder of the German Empire, Kaiser Wilhelm I, who would have been 100 years old on this day.

### 1915

On 21.9.1915 a new helmet type was also introduced for the cavalry. Analogous to the leather helmet, the metal helmets of the design **M1915** underwent the following changes:

#### Enlisted men

- The 8.5 cm high spike was equipped with a bayonet catch and was not worn for maneuvers or field service, but left in garrison. Therefore, a two-piece helmet cover was introduced to replace the one-piece cover.
- During the war, the fittings and Wappen were made of galvanized or gray steel. The gray color was chemically produced or even by paint application (Fig. 18).
- In maneuver or field service, a leather chin strap with the M1891 rosettes was worn. Chin scales were put on for all occasions when an cover was not worn.
- The cockades maintained a diameter of 6.5 cm. If some metal war helmets were equipped with smaller chin scales this was surely only due to the lack of material during the war, because the middle part of the chin scales would be almost invisible behind the wider chin scales. However, according to regulations, all areas of the cockades had to be clearly visible. If the Monarchy had not perished after the war, these imperfections would certainly have been corrected.



FIG. 18: M1915 ENLISTED MEN'S HELMET (COURTESY OF RATISBONS.COM)



**Officers:**

- The spike was always removable and was not worn on maneuvers or field duty.
- Officers also now wore a leather chinstrap with the M1891 rosettes when on maneuver or field duty. However, special chinscales covers, made of the same material as the helmet covers, also appear to have been permitted. The chinscales were worn by on all occasions when a cover was not prescribed.
- The officers' cockades also continued to have a diameter of 6.5 cm.

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**In general:**

In some cases, the various helmets do look quite similar. However, they can be well grouped by the dimensions of the front visors, together with the previously listed characteristics. For convenience, the average lengths and widths of measured front visors of various helmets have been listed in the table below.

Type	Frontvisor Height	Frontvisor Width
M1843	7,3 cm - 7,8 cm	21,0 cm - 23,3 cm
M1853	7,2 cm - 7,3 cm	21,0 cm - 21,6 cm
M1862	6,2 cm - 7,1 cm	19,6 cm - 21,1 cm
M1867	5,0 cm - 6,0 cm	17,5 cm - 19,4 cm
M1889	4,5 cm - 4,8 cm	14,0 cm* - 17,8 cm*

\*For the enlisted men's helmets M1889 the width can be estimated only from imaginary corners.

*(HEIGHT IS MEASURED AT THE CENTER OF THE FRONT VISOR, FROM THE LOWER EDGE TO THE TOP EDGE OF THE METAL TRIM, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE UPPER EDGE OF THE FRONT VISOR FOR THE 1843 DESIGN, AND AT THE LOWER EDGE OF THE HELMET SHELL FOR LATER DESIGNS. THE WIDTH IS THE STRAIGHT DISTANCE OF THE TWO OUTERMOST CORNER EDGES OF THE FRONT VISOR)*

## „Leib“-Gendarmes

The Leib-Gendarmes were the bodyguards of the Emperor and King. The uniform of the Leib-Gendarmes was a combination of parts of all cavalry classes to show that they were on duty for all arms and that they received their replacements equally from all cavalry regiments. Thus, until 1889, they wore the helmet of the Cuirassiers, the epaulettes of the Uhlans, the saber of the Hussars, the blue distinguishing color of the Dragoons and the green collar of the „Feldjäger“.

- Except for a short period between 1850/54\*, the Leib-Gendarmes wore the helmet of the cuirassiers with fittings made of tombac since 1843. The Leib-Gendarmes of the Garde du Corps and the Army Gendarmes with Guards Star as decoration and to parades with white hair bush. The body gendarmes of the line army corps wore the line eagle on their helmets.

### 1889

However, by AKO of 21.1.1889 the Leib-Gendarmes was given an unique helmet type (Fig. 19) with the following features:

- The polished helmet made of nickel-plated sheet was assembled like the cuirassier helmet with 17 large bolts. These were just like the 0.5 cm wide metal trim made of tombac.
- The squared front visor was slightly bend in the middle and pointed towards the center. The squared rear visor also pointed towards the center at the lower end. The inside of the helmets was like that of the cuirassiers.
- As decoration, the Leib-Gendarmes wore a nickel-silver guard star of the Garde du Corps on the forehead.
- The spike was 4-times fluted and in total 11.0 cm high. The spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 ventilation holes in the neck. Just like the 14 cm high parade eagle (+crown: 2.5 cm), the spike and spikebase were made of fire-gilded tombac. The parade eagle had an unique shape with spread wings pointing far upwards. It was attached to the helmet using a set of a threaded pin and a large wing nut.
- The chinscales, also made of tombac, measured 3.2/1.4 cm in width. The cockades had a diameter of 6.5 cm.



FIG. 19: M1894 ENLISTED MEN'S HELMET OF THE LEIB-GENDARMES (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

### 1894

The changes on cuirassier helmets from 18.5.1894 were also valid for helmets of the Leib-Gendarmes.

### 1915

The changes on cuirassier helmets from 21.9.1915 were also valid for helmets of the Leib-Gendarmes. But the spike kept its height of 11,0 cm.

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\* In 1850 the unit was briefly disbanded by AKO and its work was to be done by Ordonances, but it was reinstated in 1852 and from 1854 it was again called "Leib-Gendarmes".

## „Jäger zu Pferd“ (hunters on horseback)

### 1895/1897

On 11.5.1895 the "Meldereiter-Detachements" were founded experimentally, which were renamed on 25.3.1897 to "Detachements der Jäger zu Pferd" (Detachments of Hunters on Horseback). With an AKO of 24.8.1897 they received new uniforms with metal helmets, which were based on those of the "Meldereiter".

When the detachments of the Jäger zu Pferd became budgetary on 25.3.1899, they were renamed Eskadrons. Until the existing Eskadrons were organized into one of the new regiments, the following helmets were prescribed for the Jäger zu Pferd of the various army corps:

#### Enlisted men of the Garde-Jäger zu Pferd

- Helmet shell made of blackened sheet steel, the painting on the inside of the visors was similar to that of the cuirassier helmets.
- Squared front and rear visor, the latter pointed towards the center at the bottom and consisted of a smooth plate. The metal trims were 0.5 cm wide and were made of tombac, just like the **15** large bolts.
- The smooth spike was 9.0 cm high overall and the spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf with 5 ventilation holes in the neck, both were made of tombac.
- A nickel silver guard star with the banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland 1860" was worn as ornament on the forehead.
- The curved chinscales were 3.2/1.4 cm wide and were made of tombac, just like the M91 rosettes. Cockades were 6.5 cm in diameter.
- For parades, the Garde-Jäger zu Pferd wore a white hair bush.

#### Officers of the Garde-Jäger zu Pferd

The officer's helmets of the Garde-Jäger zu Pferde assigned to the guard corps were similar in construction and dimensions to the officer's helmets of the cuirassiers with the following color schemes:

- Helmet shells made of blackened and polished steel plate, the inner surfaces were similar to the officers' helmets of the Cuirassiers.
- Gilded spike, 6-times fluted and 13.0 - 14.0 cm high in total. The gilded spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 cross shaped vents in the oxidized neck. The 0,5 cm wide trims and the 17 large bolts were gilded as well.
- A Garde du Corps silver guard star for officers was worn as ornament.
- The curved chinscales were 2.7/1.4 inches wide and gilded just like the cloverleaf rosettes. Cockades were 6.5 cm in diameter.
- For parades, the officers of the Garde-Jäger zu Pferd wore a white hair bush.

#### Enlisted men of Jäger zu Pferd assigned to the various army corps

- Helmet shell made of blackened sheet steel, the painting on the inside of the visors was similar to that of the cuirassier helmets.
- Squared front and rear visor, the latter pointed towards the center at the bottom and consisted of a smooth plate. The metal trims were 0.5 cm wide and were made of tombac, just like the **15** large bolts.
- A smooth spike and 4-times leaf-shaped spikebase with 5 ventilation holes in the neck, both were made of tombac.
- A tombac line eagle with the banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" and "FR" on the breast was worn as decoration.
- The curved chinscales were 3.2/1.4 cm wide and were made of tombac, just like the M91 rosettes. Cockades were 6.5 cm in diameter.

#### Officers of Jäger zu Pferd assigned to the various army corps

The officer's helmets of the Jäger zu Pferde assigned to the various army corps were similar in design and dimensions to the officer's helmets of the cuirassiers with the following colors:

- Helmet shell made of blackened and polished steel sheet, the inner surfaces like the officers of the cuirassiers.
- Gilded spike, 6-times fluted and 13.0 - 14.0 cm high in total. The gilded spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 cross shaped vents in the oxidized neck. The 0,5 cm wide trims and the 17 large bolts were gilded as well.
- A gilded line eagle with the banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" and "FR" on the breast was worn as decoration.
- The curved chinscales were 2.7/1.4 cm wide and were gilded like the clover leaf rosettes. Cockades measured 6.5 cm in diameter.

In 1901 the Jäger-Regiment zu Pferd Nr. 1 was formed, but initially it was just a combined one. In the years 1905 to 1913, the 13 Jäger zu Pferd regiments were gradually formed on October 1. For these new regiments, beginning with Regiments Nos. 1 through 3 on Oct. 1, 1905, the following helmet configurations were prescribed. The non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the regiments no. 7 to 13, which were formed only in 1913, partly still wore a dragoon helmet until 1915, because out of consideration for the available budget, as so often in those times, not all units could be immediately provided with a metal helmet.

**Enlisted men of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 1 to 3 (from 1.10.1905), No. 4 (from 1.10.1906), No. 7 (from 1.10.1913) - (Fig. 20)**

- Helmet shell made of blackened sheet steel, the paint on the inside of the visors was similar to that of the cuirassier helmets.
- Squared front and rear visor, the latter pointed at the bottom to the center and consisted of a smooth plate. The trims were 0.5 cm wide and were made of nickel silver, as were the 15 large bolts.
- Smooth spike and 4-times shaped like a leaf spikebase with 5 ventilation holes in the neck, both consisted of nickel silver.
- A nickel silver dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" was worn as decoration.
- The curved chinscales were 3.2/1.4 cm wide and, like the M91 rosettes, were made of tombac. Cockades 6.5 cm in diameter.



FIG. 20: EXAMPLE M1894 ENLISTED MEN HELMET OF THE JÄGER ZU PFERD REGIMENTS NO. 1-4 AND 7 (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

**Officers of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 1 to 3 (from 1.10.1905), No. 4 (from 1.10.1906), No. 7 (from 1.10.1913) - (Bild 21)**

The officer helmets of the Jäger zu Pferd were similar in design and dimensions to the officer helmets of the cuirassiers with the following color schemes:

- The helmet shell was shaped like the cuirassier officers' helmets and was made of blackened and polished steel plate, the interior surfaces were again similar to the cuirassier officers' helmets.
- Silver-plated spike, 6-times fluted and 13.0 - 14.0 cm high in total. The silver-plated spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 cross shaped vents in the oxidized neck. The 0,5 cm wide trims and the 17 large bolts were silver-plated as well.
- A silver-plated dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" (With God for King and Country) was worn as ornament.
- The curved chinscales were 2.7/1.4 cm wide and gilded just like the clover leaf rosettes. Cockades 6.5 cm in diameter.



FIG. 21: EXAMPLE M1894 OFFICER HELMET OF THE JÄGER ZU PFERD REGIMENTS NO. 1-4 AND 7 (COURTESY OF RATISBONS.COM)

### **Enlisted men of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 5 (from 1.10.1908), No. 6 (from 1.10.1910)**

- Helmet shell made of blackened sheet steel, the paint on the inside of the visors was similar to that of the cuirassier helmets.
- Squared front and rear visor, the latter pointed at the bottom to the center and consisted of a smooth plate. The trims were 0.5 cm wide and were made of nickel silver, as were the 15 large bolts.
- Smooth spike and 4-times shaped like a leaf spikebase with 5 ventilation holes in the neck, both consisted of nickel silver.
- A nickel silver dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" was worn as decoration.
- The curved chinscales were 3.2/1.4 cm wide and, like the M91 rosettes, were made of black-stained tombac (*HOWEVER, THIS REGULATION WAS REVERSED FOR THE OFFICERS IN AUGUST 1913, WHICH PRESUMABLY ALSO APPLIED TO THE ENLISTED MEN'S HELMETS*). The cockades had a diameter of 6.5 cm.

### **Officers of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 5 (from 1.10.1908), No. 6 (from 1.10.1910)**

The officer helmets of the Jäger zu Pferd were similar in design and dimensions to the officer helmets of the cuirassiers with the following color schemes:

- The helmet shell was shaped like the cuirassier officers' helmets and was made of blackened and polished steel plate, the interior surfaces were again similar to the cuirassier officers' helmets.
- Silver-plated spike, 6-times fluted and 13.0 - 14.0 cm high in total. The silver-plated spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 cross shaped vents in the oxidized neck. The 0,5 cm wide trims and the 17 large bolts were silver-plated as well.
- A silver-plated dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" (With God for King and Country) was worn as ornament.
- The curved chinscales were 2.7/1.4 cm wide and blackened just like the clover leaf rosettes (*HOWEVER, THIS REGULATION WAS REVERSED FOR THE OFFICERS IN AUGUST 1913, WHICH PROBABLY ALSO APPLIED TO THE ENLISTED MEN'S HELMETS*). The cockades had a diameter of 6.5 cm.

### **Enlisted men of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 8-13 (from 1.10.1913) - (Fig. 22)**

- Helmet shell made of blackened sheet steel, the paint on the inside of the visors was similar to that of the cuirassier helmets.
- Squared front and rear visor, the latter pointed towards the center at the bottom and consisted of a smooth plate (similar to Fig. 20). The trims were 0.5 cm wide and were made of tombac, as were the only 15 large bolts.
- Smooth spike and a 4-times shaped like a leaf spikebase with 5 ventilation holes in the neck, both consisted of tombac.
- A tombac dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" was worn as ornament.
- The curved chinscales were 3.2/1.4 cm wide and, like the M91 rosettes, were made of tombac. Cockades 6.5 cm in diameter.



FIG. 22: M1894 ENLISTED MEN HELMET OF THE JÄGER ZU PFERD REGIMENTS NO. 8-13 (COURTESY OF TONY SCHNURR - KAISERSBUNKER.COM)

### **Officers of the Jäger zu Pferd Regiments No. 8-13 (from 1.10.1913) - (Fig. 21)**

The officer helmets of the Jäger zu Pferd were similar in design and dimensions to the officer helmets of the cuirassiers with the following color schemes:

- Helmet shell made of blackened and polished steel sheet, the inner surfaces like the officers of the cuirassiers.
- Gilded spike, 6-times fluted and 13.0 - 14.0 cm high in total. The gilded spikebase was 4-times shaped like a leaf and had 4 cross shaped vents in the oxidized neck. The 0,5 cm wide trims and the 17 large bolts were gilded as well.
- A gilded dragoon eagle with banner "Mit Gott für König und Vaterland" was worn as ornament.
- The curved chinscales were 2.7/1.4 cm wide and gilded just like the clover leaf rosettes. Cockades 6.5 cm in diameter.



FIG. 23: M1894 OFFICER HELMET OF THE JÄGER ZU PFERD REGIMENTS NO. 8-13 (COURTESY OF HERMANN-HISTORICA.COM)

## 1915

The changes on cuirassier helmets from 21.9.1915 were also valid for helmets of the **M1915** of the **Jäger zu Pferd** (Fig. 24).



FIG. 24: EXAMPLE OF AN ENLISTED MEN HELMET M1915 OF THE JÄGER ZU PFERD (COURTESY OF RATISBONS.COM)

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