

Prussian Line Uhlans 1866

A Painting Guide



ORGANISATION, TACTICS & WEAPONRY

These notes are intended to act as a guide when painting our range of 25 mm Prussian Line Uhlans.

During 1866, the chief role of the Uhlans was to perform reconnaissance and scouting duties, rather than to act as shock troops. Nevertheless, particularly at Königgrätz, several of the regiments engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the Austrian cavalry.

A regiment consisted of five squadrons, of which one was a depot squadron. Distinct from the infantry regiments, the Prussian cavalry were usually at full strength even during peacetime, since it was deemed that all three years of the recruit's service

were required to bring him up to a sufficient level of training. Thus, on mobilisation in 1866 most regiments only required 40-60 additional reservists to join them. Average wartime strengths consisted of 23 officers, 649 other ranks, plus four regimental officials, 705 horses and seven wagons. Of the four squadrons deployed in the field, each was supposed to contain four officers, a veterinary surgeon, a Sergeant Major, four sergeants, nine corporals, 20 lance corporals, three trumpeters, 114 troopers, six transport soldiers plus a medical assistant. The depot squadron remained in garrison, and on the outbreak of war would transfer its best men and horses to the other squadrons in the regiment, receiving in return inferior ones.

The men were armed with a lance made of ash wood, the M. 1852 cavalry sabre, and M. 1850 percussion pistol. Note that carbines were not carried in 1866 by the uhlans.

UNIFORMS

Boots - black.

Overalls - dark grey with thin red seam, except for the 10th Regiment whose seam was piped in carmine. The inner leg of the overalls consisted of dark grey/black leather reinforcement.

Coat (Uhlanka) -dark blue, with rear seams of arms, back, rear hem and tail, and outline of parade plastron piped in regimental colour (see table below).

Cuffs - regimental colour. **Collar** - piped in regimental colour, top of collar same colour as coat. **Epaulettes** - inner cloth piped in regimental colour, metal outer edging same colour as button metal. **Girdle** - covered in three equal stripes, dark blue in the centre, outer stripes in regimental colour.

NCOs distinctions - edging to cuffs and collar, same colour as regimental button colour. **Buttons** - see regimental table.

Trumpeter's swallows' nests- stripes in regimental colour and gold.

Trumpeters often rode white or grey horses.

Officers' distinctions - **Sash** - silver with dark blue flecks. **Epaulettes** - as for other ranks, with the addition of bullion fringing. **Gloves** (if worn) - white.

HEADGEAR

Czapka - covered in black oilskin on campaign, with brass chinscales.

Cockade consisted of black within white. Cap lines trailed down to the tunic, and were white for troopers, twisted black and white for NCOs, and silver mixed with black for officers.

Feldmütz (forage cap) - dark blue crown with piping and band in regimental facing colour. The national cockade (black-white-black) was worn on the front of the cap.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT & WEAPONS

Lance - black staff, polished steel tip, pennon white over black, black wrist strap.

Pistol - wooden stock stained light brown, highly polished gunmetal barrel, breach etc. Brass bands and trigger/trigger guard.

Sabre & scabbard - polished steel blade with steel guard and black grip, steel scabbard, scabbard belts white, sword knot red leather with 'acorn' in regimental piping colour, and end tassel white.

Officers' sword & scabbard - polished steel blade with steel guard and black grip. Scabbard was steel with steel fittings. Sword knot was silver/black.

Officers' equipment - belts were in regimental button colour, piped dark blue. Black leather pouch with crowned monogram 'FWR'.

Ensign's equipment/flagpoles etc - the standard bearer carried the flag pole clipped to a shoulder belt which bore a stripe down the centre in the regimental facing colour, and was edged gold/gilt or silver depending on the regimental button colour, with the exceptions of the 8th Uhlans (light blue edged silver) and 11th Uhlans (citrus yellow edged silver). Flagpoles were black, with gilt tips bearing a black Iron Cross.

Bugle - brass with twisted black and white cords.

Canteen - black felt or leather with black strap. Bung could be dull silver or dark brown.

Pouches - black.

Belts - white with brass fittings.

Horse Furniture - dark blue shabraque with inset and outer edging in regimental colour (officers had gold or silver edging depending on regimental button colour). Reins and bridle mid-brown with steel fittings (brass fittings for officers). Dark grey greatcoat rolled at rear, with mid-brown straps and steel buckles. Mess tin covered in white cloth, with mid-brown straps and steel buckles, or could be carried in red-brown leather pouch. White nosebag carried at rear, visible just below greatcoat.

Regimental distinctions

<i>Regiment Nr</i>	<i>Regimental colour</i>	<i>Epaulettes cloth</i>	<i>Button metal</i>
1	Red	White	Yellow
2	Red	Red	Yellow
3	Red	Yellow	Yellow
4	Red	Light blue	Yellow
5	Red	White	White
6	Red	Red	White
7	Red	Yellow	White
8	Red	Light blue	White
9	White	White	Yellow
10	Carmine	Carmine	Yellow
11	Citrus yellow	Citrus yellow	Yellow
12	Light blue	Light blue	Yellow

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