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FRENCH ARMY 1870-71 FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR 2 REPUBLICAN TROOPS

STEPHEN SHANN LOUIS DELPERIER RICHARD AND CHRISTA HOOK

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Errata
The authors would like to draw the reader's attention to the following artist's errors in volume 1 of this set, MAA 233: **A1** Collar should be scarlet. **B2** Should have a gilt aiguillette on the right shoulder. **B3** Should have a red aiguillette on the right shoulder. Lance pennant should be white over red. **C1** Tunic front should be piped red. Kepi band should be scarlet. **C2** Tunic front should be piped yellow. **C3** Cuffs should have no buttons. **D3** Sabre knot should be black. **G1** Cuffs should be red and have no buttons. **G3** Cuffs and shoulder patches should be dark blue. Waist belt should be worn under the vest. **H2** Kepi band should be black. **H3** Trousers should be piped yellow.

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FRENCH ARMY 1870-71 (2)

INTRODUCTION

The capitulation of Napoleon and his army at Sedan in September 1870 shook Paris to its foundations. It seemed incredible that a French army of over 100,000 men could have been surrounded and forced to surrender. The effects were felt almost immediately: the Second Empire was swept from power, and a Government of National Defence hastily put in its place. At first it seemed as though a peaceful resolution to the war might yet be found. Providing the Germans were prepared to forego any territorial advantage, the new government felt confident that the French people would be more than happy to see peace restored. Unfortunately sentiments in the German camp were clearly in favour of imposing on the enemy a humiliation which they felt was well deserved. Jules Favre, the French minister responsible for foreign affairs, met with Bismarck in the hope of arranging an armistice as a preliminary to peace. The meeting was not a success; unable to agree terms, Favre returned to Paris empty-handed.

In truth, however, the French were still far from convinced that the war was lost. Sedan was widely seen as the defeat of an unpopular Imperial regime and its private army, rather than that of France itself. Considerable resources still remained untapped, and many felt that as long as the Germans remained intransigent the fight could and should be continued. To replace the professional army a 'war of the people' was called for. The reaction was mixed. Many, particularly in central and southern France, were profoundly indifferent to the war, which they regarded as Paris' problem. The clash between the officials of the old and new regimes was also damaging. Nevertheless, thanks largely due to the intervention of Gambetta, the Interior minister, the massive problems facing the country were tackled—if not ultimately overcome—and the war kept going for a further five months.

THE REGULAR ARMY

Of the Imperial army available in August 1870 (see Part 1, MAA 232) only fragments remained. The capitulation of Sedan and the isolation of Metz had deprived France of 90% of her field army, although Bazaine's beleaguered men still tied down some 200,000 German troops and would continue to do so until the end of October. Nevertheless, to all intents and purposes the regular army had been effectively destroyed.

By the fall of the Empire only seven line infantry regiments were available, and one of those, the 87th, was itself besieged in Strasbourg. Of the remaining six, four (the 16th, 38th, 39th and 92nd) were recalled from Algeria, and two more (the 35th and 42nd) from Italy. The situation with regard to cavalry was little better. Five regiments (the 6th and 8th Hussars, the 1st and 9th Chasseurs and the 6th Dragoons) had taken no part in the campaign. Another, the 9th Cuirassiers, had been withdrawn to re-fit after its ordeal at Froeschwiller. A significant proportion of 1st Corps' cavalry division had also succeeded in slipping through the German encirclement at Sedan: Septeuil's brigade (3rd Hussars and 11th Chasseurs), a squadron of the 6th Lancers, two squadrons of the 10th Dragoons and elements of the 2nd Lancers. As for the rest of the army, only isolated groups succeeded in making their escape. The artillery was almost completely lost.

There were, however, considerable reserves of manpower still available to the new government in the numerous depots scattered around the country. By using these and calling up further reserves a substantial force of regular troops was created. On the whole these men were not of the same calibre as those who had taken part in the initial campaign, but their mobilisation did nevertheless represent no small achievement on the part of the authorities.

Infantry

The creation of provisional *régiments de marche* had begun under the Empire. Four of them had even been attached to the Army of Châlons and had fought at Sedan. Ten others had been embodied into Gen. Vinoy's 13th Corps, which had succeeded in escaping the Sedan debacle and returned to Paris. A further twelve formed the 14th Corps. These units were created by combining the 4th (depot) Battalions of three different regiments. Because of this they lacked the solidity and esprit de corps of regular regiments, but were at least homogeneous at battalion level. Later in the war, however, units were formed that included companies from many different regiments, which posed great difficulties due to the fact that each one was administered separately. (E.g., the 36th *de marche* (later the 136th of the line) was formed on 28 September from the companies of no less than 16 different regiments.) Many generals proposed that such units should be made permanent for the duration of the war in order to remedy this situation, as well as to improve morale. The politicians tended to oppose this on the grounds that such units would be harder to disband after the war. Nevertheless, by a decree of 28 October, *régiments de marche* in Paris were recognised as single entities, and adopted the title *régiments de ligne*, being numbered sequentially after the original 100 line regiments of the old army. The provincial armies seemingly retained the nomenclature '*de marche*'.

CHRONOLOGY

19 September Paris invested.

28 September Strasbourg capitulates.

8 October Gambetta escapes from Paris by balloon.

18 October Battle of Châteaudun: A strong force of francs-tireurs was expelled from the town after a prolonged resistance. The main significance of this action lay in demonstrating what these irregulars, so despised by the Germans, were capable of when properly disciplined and led.

27 October Metz capitulates.

9 November Battle of Coulmiers. The first undisputed French victory of the war, where the Bavarian I Corps was defeated by the 15th and 16th Corps of the Army of the Loire. The battle resulted in the French re-occupation of Orleans.

30 November–2 December Great sortie at Champigny. This represented the first serious French attempt to break the German encirclement. After initial success it proved impossible to break through the strong defences.

2 December Battle of Loigny: elements of 15th, 16th and 17th Corps of The Army of the Loire under Chanzy were defeated by a Prusso-Bavarian force under the Duke of Mecklenburg. This defeat resulted in the fall of Orleans and, in conjunction with the appalling weather, the demoralisation of the French army.

8 December Battle of Beaugency: after a sustained resistance Chanzy was obliged to retreat under growing German pressure.

23 December Battle of La Hallue: the French Army of the North under General Faidherbe gained a hard-fought draw against the Prussian I and VIII Corps under Manteuffel.

2–3 January Battle of Bapaume: Faidherbe's army was again engaged with elements of the Prussian VIII Corps in an indecisive action from which both sides eventually withdrew.

6–12 January Combats around Le Mans: a series of engagements that finally ruined the Army of the Loire with over 25,000 casualties and many more deserters. It played no further part in the war.

9 January Battle of Villersexel. An indecisive action between Bourbaki's 2nd Army of the Loire and General von Werder's XIV Corps.

15–17 January Battle around Belfort: Bourbaki's attempt to relieve Belfort was decisively thwarted by General Werder, despite some local successes.

18 January King William of Prussia proclaimed Kaiser of Germany at Versailles.

19 January Battle of St Quentin: Faidherbe's troops were finally dispersed by the better trained Germans under von Goeben. Final sortie from Paris defeated.

23 January Armistice negotiations begin.

28 January Capitulation of Paris.

1 February Bourbaki's army retreats into Switzerland and is interned.

26 February Peace treaty signed, France loses Alsace and part of Lorraine.

A group of Chasseurs d'Afrique captured at Sedan guarded by a soldier of the Baden contingent. (Private Collection)

In total 27 provisional regiments took part in the siege of Paris. Of these the 28th *de marche* (later the 128th *de ligne*) was composed of the 23 depot companies of the Grenadiers, Voltigeurs and Chasseurs of the ex-Imperial Guard. This unit was prominent at the action of Le Bourget, where it was involved in its defence against an attack by the Prussian Guard. Seven companies under Cdt. Brasseur fought from house to house until overwhelmed. Between the fall of the Empire and the end of the war a further 56 provisional regiments were also formed in the provinces.

A large number of Chasseur units were also created. Three battalions (the 21st–23rd) were organised in Paris, again following on from the first 20 which had existed under the Empire. The provincial armies also formed a further 30 battalions, of between four and eight companies each.

Another source of reasonably disciplined troops were the various quasi-military bodies already in existence. Steps had been taken to organise these groups before the fall of the Empire, with some success. On 11 August a regiment of three battalions of Gendarmerie was created in Paris, totalling 48 officers and 1,600 men. There was also the *Garde de Paris* (known from 10 September as the *Garde Républicaine*), of two battalions of eight companies (56 officers and 1,930 men); and a regiment of foresters (two battalions of seven companies numbering 44 officers and 1,048 men). Much to the embarrassment of the authorities there were even three companies of foresters which had been created by the ex-Empress from gamekeepers on the Imperial estates. Customs officials were formed into six battalions (78 officers and 2,539 men), and there was a provisional regiment of policemen (six battalions totalling over 5,500 officers and men). There was also a regiment of firemen, 1,294 strong, though these were not intended for front-line action.

In the provinces a provisional regiment of Gendarmes was also created (two battalions of four companies). On 20 December the *Gendarmerie Sédentaire* was mobilised to help deal with the soaring

desertion rates. There were also a large number of customs units in the provinces—15 battalions had been formed by the fall of the Empire, whilst another three were created by the new government, as well as 11 companies of foresters. Of this huge force only a fraction could be regarded as even adequate soldiers (Gen. Ducrot reckoned that no more than a third of those in Paris were of any real use). Nevertheless certain units performed very creditably. The 35th and 42nd Regiments did very well during the siege of Paris; the former lost 40 officers and 1,200 men, whilst the latter had casualties of 43 officers and 1,400 men. They did particularly well during the great sortie at Champigny (30 November–2 December). The 28th also did well, despite its mauling at Le Bourget.

Cavalry

Although the Republican phase of the war was to see no dramatic cavalry actions such as those at Froeschwiller, Mars la Tour and Sedan, the need for cavalry was felt very strongly. The few regiments which survived the first campaign were totally inadequate for the requirements of the new armies being raised. Consequently a similar system of provisional regiments was used in the cavalry, making use of the numerous depot squadrons still available. In Paris, the need for cavalry was obviously not so great, the tactical situation being so unsuitable for its use.

Such cavalry as existed was formed into two divisions, one each for the 2nd and 3rd Armies. That of the 2nd Army consisted of the 1st and 2nd Provisional Dragoons (later the 13th and 14th Regiments), the 1st and 9th Chasseurs, the Spahi squadron and the Gendarmerie à Cheval, the latter consisting of six squadrons (46 officers and 720 men). The division attached to the 3rd Army had the 1st Provisional (later 9th) Lancers, the 2nd Provisional (later 12th) Cuirassiers, formed from the depot squadrons of the Cent-Gardes, Guard Cuirassier, Guard Carabinier and 1st Cuirassier Regiments; and a mixed regiment composed of the depot squadrons of the Guard Dragoons, Lancers, Chasseurs and Guides. A second regiment of Gendarmerie was added later, formed around the old Gendarmes d'Elite. There was also a regiment of the *Garde Républicaine* (ex *Garde de Paris*) of four squadrons (23 officers and 556 men).

In the provinces, however, a large number of provisional regiments were created. A decree of 26 August had ordered all medium and heavy regiments

A group of men from Bourbaki's army during their internment in Switzerland. (Private Collection)

to raise a 6th Squadron, which when added to those already in existence, plus further intakes of reservists and escapees, allowed the Republic to raise a further 40 regiments: nine of Cuirassiers, ten of Dragoons (including the 7th and 11th Regiments which were re-formed in their entirety), five of Lancers, two of Chasseurs, four of Hussars and ten mixed regiments. All the provisional regiments had four squadrons (five for the re-formed 7th and 11th Dragoons). The mixed regiments were composed of squadrons of different types, although the majority were light cavalry. A decree of 31 October also created two provisional regiments of mounted Gendarmes each of four squadrons.

Artillery

The almost total destruction of the artillery arm was to be felt most severely in the lack of experienced crews rather than in material. French industry was to prove quite capable of replacing all the guns lost; according to one estimate, some 1,500 were provided for the provincial armies and a further 1,100 for the defence of Paris, in addition to the thousands of old smoothbores available. Thanks to the remount service there were also plenty of horses, and battery equipment was also available in considerable quantity. There were, however, only some 450 artillery officers available, although this number was gradually increased by promotions, by recalling retired men and by employing naval officers. The same shortages did not apply to other ranks, although many had received little training. Due to the rapid advances made by the enemy it also proved necessary to displace some of the depots, the towns of Grenoble, Rennes, Toulouse and Valence housing much of the equipment.

The assembling of batteries ready to take the field did prove to be a difficult problem despite the abundance of equipment available. Most depot units were composed of foot artillery, which had to be converted into *batteries montées*. Others became *batteries mixtes*, the guns being manned by artillerymen but drawn by the Train. The proportion of guns to men never reached the levels attained under the Empire but the overall numbers were still considerable. According to one source, between 15 July 1870 and 1 March 1871, a total of 282 batteries were created along with 89 companies of Train.

Sergeant of a régiment de marche*—winter 1870–71. Note the turned down collar and the lack of epaulettes typical of provisional regiments. His rank is denoted by the single gold cuff stripe on his lower sleeve. (Private Collection)*

Engineers

The replacing of trained engineers proved to be a more difficult task. In the provinces only 32 companies were mobilised, of which 29 saw service in the field. In Paris there were initially only six companies with a further four being created later. Despite all these efforts there were only enough for half the normal allotment under the Empire.

L'ARMÉE D'AFRIQUE

The Zouaves, Turcos and Chasseurs embodied in the Imperial field army were practically destroyed at Froeschwiller and Sedan. Nevertheless, those that did succeed in escaping, along with others not previously engaged, made a considerable contribution to the new armies raised by the Republican government.

Zouaves

Elements of the 3rd Regiment succeeded in evading the German encirclement at Sedan; 17 officers and 423 men along with their eagle eventually making their escape. These troops finally made their way to Paris where they formed the nucleus of the 4th Zouave Regiment, along with the two depot companies of the ex-Guard Zouaves. They were joined by scattered refugees from Sedan, recalled reservists and volunteers. The regiment, some 2,000 strong, served throughout the siege of Paris.

There were also considerable numbers of depot troops in Algeria. Each of the three regiments could field ten companies (three per battalion and a single *compagnie hors rang*). These formed the basis of three new regiments which were created at Antibes (1st), Avignon (2nd) and Montpellier (3rd). The depot troops were supplemented by volunteers of at least one year's service. Such was the popularity of the Zouaves that all three regiments were soon well up to strength. A fourth regiment was later created from elements of the first three (which should not be confused with the 4th Zouaves in Paris). As under the Empire, they were heavily engaged, seeing considerable action in the ranks of the Army of the Loire. The 1st and 2nd Regiments formed part of 15th Corps, the best formation in the provincial armies, whilst the 3rd Regiment helped bolster the hastily raised and ill-equipped 20th Corps. The new 4th Regiment was attached to 18th Corps.

Turcos

On 3 September, detachments of Turcos en route for the front were detained in Paris as news began to filter through of the surrender at Sedan. Along with escapees and convalescents from Wissembourg and Froeschwiller they were despatched to the Army of the Loire. On 2 October they were formed into a provisional regiment and attached to 15th Corps. There were also considerable numbers of men still in Algeria (the 4th Battalions of each of the three regiments plus the depot companies). From these a second provisional regiment was formed, although only one battalion was actually sent to France.

Gunners of the Paris garrison during the siege. (Private Collection)

The capitulation of Metz. Bazaine's surrender released 200,000 German troops for operations against the provincial armies trying to relieve Paris. Note the Imperial Guard infantrymen in bearskin and bonnet de police *and the Guard Zouave in the short, hooded cloak (*caban à capuchon*).*

Chasseurs d'Afrique

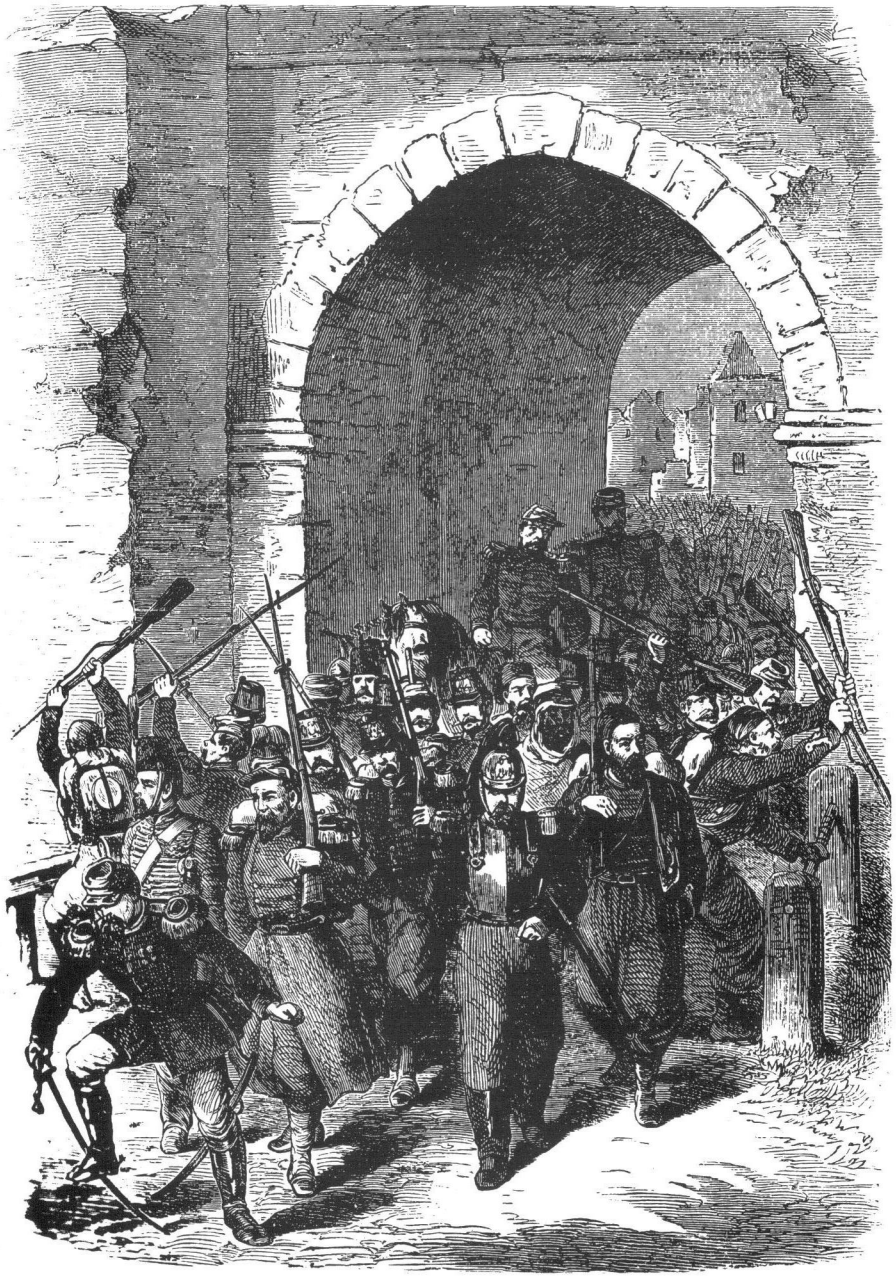
Due to the fact that the Chasseurs only fielded four squadrons per regiment in August, a total of eight squadrons were still available after the fall of the Empire. Along with escapees and reservists it was possible to form three provisional regiments, two of which served in France.

The Foreign Legion

By 1870 the Foreign Legion consisted of a single regiment of four battalions each of eight companies. According to French law the regiment was not to be used within the borders of metropolitan France; however, such was the shortage of trained soldiers that the Legion was ordered to provide a contingent, from which were excluded all men of German descent. On 11 October two provisional battalions (60 officers and 1,457 men) disembarked at Toulon. By a decree of 22 August a 5th Battalion was created at Tours, made up of foreigners who wished to fight for France. On 26 October it joined the regular battalions, forming a provisional regiment some 2,700 strong. A 6th Battalion was also planned, but was only half formed by the time of the armistice. The Legion fought in the first French victory of the war at Coulmiers, and later covered the retreat of its division after the action of Cercottes (3 December), during which it suffered heavy losses. Reinforced with inexperienced recruits, it fought in the East, where it was again badly hit. Its short service in France was completed putting down the Commune in Paris.

Infanterie Légère d'Afrique

Three battalions of '*Zéphyrs*' were created in 1832 from discipline companies and other 'dubious characters'. They enjoyed a reputation for bad behaviour and were the only units in *l'Armée d'Afrique* to be subject to conscription, being ordinary soldiers who had been posted to Algeria as a disciplinary measure.



The capitulation of Strasbourg. Offered the honours of war after a determined defence, many chose to destroy their weapons rather than surrender them.

As with the Foreign Legion they were called upon due to the dire shortage of trained troops, and proved to be excellent fighters. On 17 October each battalion was ordered to mobilise two companies each of 250 men, which made their own way to France. On 5 December they were united into a single battalion with the Army of the Loire. On the 13th it was decided to split the unit in two due to its size, the provisional regiment thereby formed serving in 18th Corps.

Spahis

Originally part of the Chasseurs d'Afrique, they were withdrawn in 1841 to form a separate corps. By 1845 there were three regiments, one from each province. They served in the Crimea as escort to Marshal Saint Arnaud, commander of the French expeditionary force, as well as in Syria and China. In 1870 a squadron took part in the defence of Paris, whilst a provisional regiment of three squadrons (one per province) formed part of the Army of the Loire.

LA GARDE NATIONALE MOBILE

Conceived as a second-line reserve to the regular army, this was to consist of men of military age who had, one way or another, avoided conscription. Its role was to free the regular troops from the more mundane duties of garrisoning fortresses and maintaining internal order. In peacetime it had no other function than training, and a special law was required to mobilise it in time of war. Its use was further restricted to France's own borders. Length of service was set at five years, and it was hoped to absorb 116,000 men per year (a figure based on the average of previous annual 'classes' of conscription). During the mobilisation of the *Garde Mobile* in 1870 the classes of 1865–69 were liable to serve, reinforced later by that of 1870, by volunteers and previously excused single men and childless widowers of the classes of 1865–66.

Any hopes that the *Garde Mobile* might fulfil the same role as the Prussian Landwehr were effectively dashed by the limitations placed upon it. The legislature was so concerned by what it saw as the militarisation of the country that it refused to allow the new force to train for more than 15 days a year; furthermore this training was to take place a day at a time, and could not include an overnight stay. Consequently little time remained after travelling to and from home, particularly in rural areas, for any useful instruction. Training days were ideally set for a Sunday, so as not to interfere with the men's work (the *Garde Mobile* was not paid at this time). Even this ridiculously inadequate total was often not met: for example in 1869 the 4th Battalion of the Seine only had seven training sessions of three hours each, instead of 15 of one day. Nor did the regular army take much interest in its new auxiliary force, regarding it as a distraction and a waste of money. All in all the Parisian *Mobiles* did better than their provincial counterparts, enjoying as they did the patronage of the Emperor, who ensured that they were at least allowed to practise with the Chassepot. In general, however, the level of training was very low.

Sous-lieutenant *of Spahis. Note the indication of rank in the single strand Hungarian knot. Note also the quatrefoil design on the képi crown. (Private Collection)*

The officers of this new force were taken from a variety of sources. Battalion and company commanders were drawn from retired regular officers or those who had served 30 years and were willing to continue that service in the *Garde Mobile*. Those who had served for 27 years could retain their 30-year pension rights by agreeing to complete their term in the *Mobiles*. Officers who had resigned their commissions could also serve, as could any civilian whose aptitude was regarded as being sufficiently high. A survey carried out in February 1869 of the first 113 battalion

commanders appointed showed that 29 were retired officers, 15 had left the army in order to serve, 47 were officers who had previously resigned their commissions, one was an ex-NCO and the remaining 21 were civilians. Of the first 149 company commanders, the numbers were 43, 10, 37, 32 and 29. More junior officers were usually civilians from the educated classes, who had been called upon to serve in the *Garde Mobile*. The age limits were set at 62 years for senior and 60 years for junior officers.

All officers were nominated by the military, although the advice of the local prefects was usually considered, particularly with regard to civilian appointments. Naturally all candidates were screened in order to exclude any whose loyalty to the Empire was in doubt. Nominations once decided were signed

Tirons captured at Wissembourg and Froeschwiller. Note the French sergeant (front centre) with a rank stripe on cuffs and a long service chevron on his upper sleeve. (Private Collection)

of orders which attempted to establish a more regular pattern, though this was naturally subject to the materials locally available

The *Garde Nationale Mobilisée* was distinguished from the *Garde Nationale Sédentaire* only in the quality of their weapons, which were generally better (either Chassepots or Remingtons), although some units were also issued with greatcoats, much appreciated on sentry duty. The trouser stripe, képi piping and other distinctions were in scarlet for the *Garde Nationale*, rather than the madder red of the *Mobiles*. During the course of the war a wide variety of non-regulation or civilian items were worn in an effort to make up for the often serious deficiencies encountered by these hastily raised formations.

D2: Sous-lieutenant, Garde Nationale Mobilisée

In common usage, this is perhaps the most representative uniform of the siege of Paris. All manner of weapons were carried by the officers of the *Garde Nationale*, this particular example being an other ranks' artillery sabre mod. 1829 (which had been withdrawn in the artillery in 1869).

D3: Garde Nationale Sédentaire de Morbihan, 1870–71

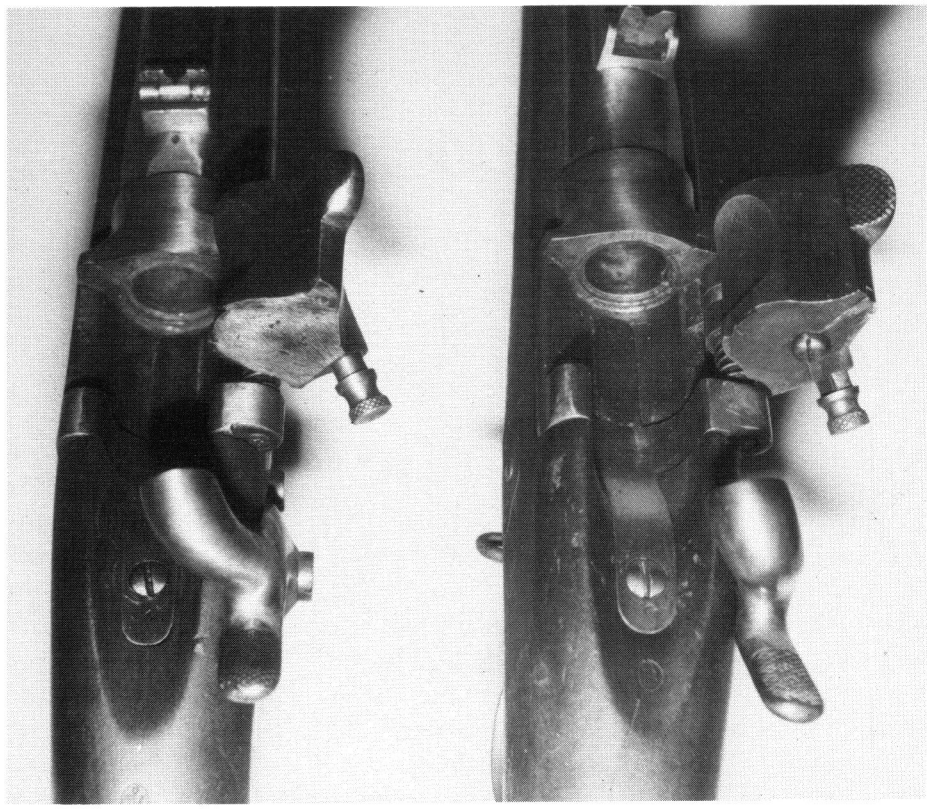
There were many variations of this uniform according to the department of origin, as dress was fixed in practice by the prefects rather than by the Ministry of War. This example was approved by the prefect of Vannes on 14 September 1870. The men were armed with percussion rifles (here the mod. 1842T) or with the *Tabatière* mod. 1867.

E1: Marine infantryman, Siege of Paris

The typical items of dress worn by the marines—tunic (*caban*), white naval shirt and working hat—distinguished these fine troops from all others during the siege. With the exception of the belt, the equipment was the same as that in the infantry. Contrary to popular belief, and many contemporary illustrations, the marines never carried axes in action, being armed with the Chassepot. In cold weather a sheepskin jerkin was often worn over a short jacket. Some units also wore the standard infantry greatcoat.

E2: Colonel of Engineers

The engineers played a considerable part in the war,



Tabatière *rifle model 1867 showing the breech open. (Private Collection)*

particularly during the Republican phase, as illustrated by the skilful defence of Belfort by Col. Denfert-Rochereau. The uniform depicted here is strictly regulation, and typical of campaign dress. In full dress the officers wore the *habit* with black velvet plastron, whereas the troops had received the tunic in 1864.

E3: Garde Nationale à Cheval, Paris

Used as couriers for the General Staff during the siege, these horsemen, often from bourgeois or wealthy backgrounds, wore this curious uniform first adopted in 1852. It is noticeable that the majority of uniforms worn by the *Garde Nationale* were black, following current fashion, rather than the regulation dark blue. Following a review on 13 September, where the unit acted as escort to General Trochu, it was instructed to replace the czapska with the more practical képi.

F1: Colonel of Spahis

Whilst the men and native officers wore Arab dress similar to that of the Zouaves, the French officers sported European type uniforms, first introduced in 1841 and little modified thereafter. Typical of its time, the uniform was simple yet elegant.

F2: Foreign Legion infantryman, 1870–71

This uniform was directly related to that worn by the infantry as laid down in the regulations of December

General Vinoy. He initially commanded 13th Corps, which he succeeded in extricating from the Sedan debacle, and later the 3rd Army of Paris.

1867, differing only in detail (red star on the képi and dark blue collar patches on the greatcoat). The epaulettes were of a type particular to the Legion, first introduced on 27 January 1868; on campaign they were always worn. The French-raised 5th Bn. wore a white '5' on the cap, old green epaulettes with red crescents only, and white metal buttons.

F3: Sergeant-major, 1st Battalion, Infanterie Légère d'Afrique

Also fixed by the 1867 regulations, the uniform was a curious mixture of those worn by the Chasseurs à Pied (pointed cuffs and piping and white buttons bearing a horn) and that of the infantry. Senior NCOs were armed in the same way as the men, not receiving the revolver and sabre until after the war.

G1: Garibaldian lieutenant, Army of the Vosges, November 1870

The Italian volunteers fighting for France retained the distinctive red uniforms that had made them so famous ten years earlier during the expedition of 'The Thousand' in Sicily. Many officers also made use of the braided dolman.

G2: Colonel, Volontaires de l'Ouest (ex-Zouaves Pontificaux)

The Zouave style uniform was introduced in this corps in July–August 1860, and was worn by both officers and other ranks. Extremely popular, it is reminiscent of many similar confections worn by units in the American Civil War. The uniform worn by the officers was of a lighter, bluer hue than that worn by the men.

G3: Volontaire de l'Ouest, Battle of Loigny, 2 December 1870

The majority of the other ranks' uniforms had been made in France towards the end of the year following the unit's return from Italy, and were of grey cloth rather than the customary light blue. Their quality left a great deal to be desired, and the design was much better suited to the heat of Italy than to the rigours of the French winter.

H1: Corporal, Francs-Tireurs de Châteaudun

Also known as the '*Francs-Tireurs Lipowski*' after their commander, the unit particularly distinguished

General Aurelle de Paladines.

itself during the defence of this town on 18 October 1870. The uniform was adopted in Paris at the end of August, and is reminiscent of that of the Chasseurs à Pied, although it also included the American-style képi, which was so popular amongst irregular units during the war.

H2: Eclaireurs à Cheval Bretons, Army of the Loire, December 1870

This volunteer troop, numbering only two officers and 40 men, is typical of the small irregular cavalry units thrown up by the war. These groups generally chose for themselves names such as '*Chasseurs*' or '*Francs-Tireurs*', which well suited their attitude to dress, which was often casual in the extreme. Occasionally some would attempt to copy uniforms similar to those in the regular cavalry. One such unit, the 'Eclaireurs Franchetti', distinguished itself so much that it was given the right to wear the red trousers of the regular army.

H3: Franc-Tireur de Jonsac, Army of the Vosges
This small unit, only 25 strong, gives a good idea of the dress worn by the majority of the *francs-tireurs*, whether they were genuine mountain sharpshooters or merely giving the impression of being such. In constant fear of attack the Germans often treated them as non-combatants, whether they had been recognised by the French authorities or not.

Farbtafeln

A1 Nicht-vorschriftsmäßiges, 'afrikanisches' Kepi mit Rangabzeichen eines Général de division. Siehe Pelisse, getragen als Jacke, typisch für diesen Winter, und die Interims-shabraque. **A2** Diese kombinierte Einheit enthielt uniformierte Schwadronen des 2., 4., 6. und 7. Der grüne, gelb besetzte Dolman identifiziert einen Mann des 7. Siehe Feldzugausrüstung nach den Bestimmungen vom Juli 1870.

B1 Feldblusen von 1868 und frühere Habits waren zusammen 1870 zu sehen. Gürteltaschen waren im Feld mit rotem Leder gedeckt; Offiziere erhielten Geld, um Revolver zu kaufen – meist Lefaucheux, Colt oder Remington. **B2** Ein Foto des heroischen Sergeanten Hoff deutet an, daß die Angehörigen der Regiments de marche manchmal eine Zahl und den Buchstaben 'M' auf dem Kepi trugen. Siehe fehlende Epauletten, dunkler als vorschriftsmäßige Mantelfarbe und fehlende Knöpfe an den Manschetten. **B3** Gewöhnliche Soldatenmäntel wurden von vielen Offizieren getragen, besonders bei der Armee in Metz, weil praktischer und weniger auffallend; siehe diefünf Goldstreifen des Obersten auf Manschetten und Kepi.

C1 Die 18 Bataillone des Pariser 75. Regiments waren entsprechend den Bestimmungen von Mai 1868 besonders gut ausgerüstst, wenn auch eine Sendung von Mänteln für den Wachdienst ohne Knöpfe eintraf, was zu seltsamen Experimenten führte. **C2** Typische Offiziersmode in allen möglichen Einheiten; die Rangabzeichen an den Ärmeln in Form ungarischer Knoten waren kostspieliger, aber eleganter als die geraden Galons. **C3** Die weniger glücklichen Einheiten der provinziellen Mobiles wurden von örtlichen Kaufleuten auf bescheidene Weise eingekleidet. Das vereinfachte Kepi von 1868 wird ohne Pompon oder Kokarde getragen; diese Einheit trug Remington-Gewehre.

D1 Die Uniformen variierten stark, aber im allgemeinen unterschied sich die Garde Nationale Mobilisée von der Garde Nationale Sédentaire nur durch bessere Waffen, meist Chassepots oder Remingtons. Kepi-Besatz, Hosenstreifen und andere Details sollten eher in Scharlach als in Garance sein. **D2** Ein üblicher Uniformstil bei der Belagerung von Paris. Er trägt einen Artilleriesäbel von 1829. **D3** Die Uniform wurde von den Departement-Präfekten entschieden, mit entsprechenden Variationen. Diese Einheit trug Perkussionsgewehre – M1842 oder 1867.

E1 Die Caban-Bluse, weißes Marinehemd und -kappe machte diese ausgezeichneten Truppen kenntlich, auch wenn sie in Infanteriemäntel oder Schaffelljacken gehüllt waren und standardmäßige Infanteriausrüstung trugen (abgesehen vom Gürtel). **E2** Streng vorschriftsmäßige Felduniform für Pionieroffizier. **E3** Wie bei sovielen offiziell 'dunkelblauen' Uniformen war die der Kuriere des Generalstabs de facto schwarz. Nach September wurde die Czapka durch das Képi ersetzt.

F1 Typisch elegante Uniform eines europäischen Offiziers einer afrikanischen Einheit, deren Männen und eingeborene Offiziere eine Art von arabisches Kostüm trugen. **F2** So wie Infanteriuniform, abgesehen vom Stern am Képi und blauen Kragenaufschlägen am Mantel; ebenso die einzigartigen Epauletten der Fremdenleion, stets im Feld getragen. Das 5. Batallion, im Krieg in Frankreich aufgestellt, hatte die alten grünen Epauletten mit roten Halbmonden, und weiße 'Metall'-Aufschläge, inkl. einer '5' auf dem Képi. **F3** Vorschriftsmäßige Uniform von 1867, mit Merkmalen deer Infanterie und der leichten Infanterie. Infanterie-Feldwebel trugen damals immer noch Gewehrausrüstung.

G1 Diese berühmten roten Uniformen der Revolutionäre von 10 Jahren zuvor wurden von den italienischen Freiwilligen beibehalten, die für Frankreich kämpften. Viele Offiziere trugen Dolmans mit Besatz. **G2** Uniformen im Zouave-Stil von 1860 wurden von Offizieren und Mannschaften gleichermaßen getragen, die ersteren aber in hellerer, blauerer Schattierung. **G3** Die Uniformen der meisten Soldaten waren in Frankreich hergestellt, nach der Rückkehr der Einheit aus Italien; kümmerlich hergestellt aus grauem Stoff, waren sie für den Winter ungeeignet.

H1 Die Uniform erinnert an die Chasseurs a pièd mit dem beliebten 'amerikanischen' Képi; sie wurde Ende August bei dem angesehenen Korps 'Lipowski' eingeführt. **H2** Solche winzigen, irregulären Einheiten trugen lässige Kleidung, die der Armeeeuniform mehr oder weniger ähnelte, wenn auch manche die vorschriftsmäßigen Uniformen so eng nachahmten, als ihre Mittel dies gestatteten. **H3** Typisch für solche kleinen, irregulären Banden, ob offiziell von den Franzosen anerkannt oder nicht.

Notes sur les planches en couler

A1 Distinctions 'africaines' de grade, non régimentaires, sur le képi, d'un général de division. Notez la pelisse portée comme une veste, caractéristique de cet hiver-là; et la chabraque de campagne, de petite tenue. **A2** Cette unité mixte contenait des escadrons des 2nd, 4ème, 6ème et 7ème régiments qui portaient leur propre uniforme. Le dolman vert, à brandebourgs jaunes identifie un homme du 7ème régiment. Notez l'équipement de campagne conforme à l'ordonnance de juillet 1870.

B1 On vit ensemble en 1870 des tuniques de 1868 et des habits antérieurs. Les poches à cartouches étaient recouvertes de cuir rouge en campagne; et les officiers reçurent des fonds pour acheter des revolvers – les Lefaucheux, Colt ou Remington étaient caractéristiques. **B2** Une photographie de l'héroïque Sergent Hoff suggère que les régiments de marche portaient quelquefois un numéro et la lettre 'M' sur le képi. Notez l'absence d'épaulettes, la couleur du manteau plus sombre que celle réglementaire et le manque de boutons aux poignets. **B3** De nombreux officiers adoptèrent les capotes des soldats ordinaires, en particulier ceux de l'armée à Metz, car elles étaient plus pratiques et moins voyantes; notez les cinq galons dorés de grade du colonel au poignet et sur le képi.

C1 Les 18 bataillons du 75ème Régiment parisien étaient particulièrement bien équipés selon les réglementations de mai 1868, bien qu'une distribution partielle de capotes d'infanterie pour le service de garde soit arrivée sans boutons, ce qui conduisit à utiliser de curieux expédients. **C2** Une mode caractéristique pour les officiers de tous les genres de cette unité; les noeuds hongrois des tresses de grade sur les manches étaient plus onéreux mais aussi plus élégants que les galons droits. **C3** Les unités moins favorisées des Gardes Mobiles provinciales étaient habillées indifféremment par les marchands de la région. Le képi simplifié de 1868 se porte sans le pompon ou la cocarde; cette unité portrait des fusils Remington.

D1 La qualité des uniformes variait énormément, mais celui de la Garde Nationale Mobilisée différait généralement de l'uniforme de la Garde Nationale Sédentaire par des armes supérieures, en général des Chassepots ou des Remington. Le passepoil du képi, les rayures des pantalons et d'autres détails étaient supposés être du couleur écarlate plutôt que garance. **D2** Un style de tenue courant pendant le siège de Paris. Il porte un vieux sabre d'artillerie de 1829. **D3** La tenue était décidée par les préfets départementaux, ce qui impliquait des variations. Cette unité avait des fusils de percussion, M1842 ou 1867.

E1 Tunique caban, chemise blanche de la Marine et béret de marin identifiaient ces belles troupes même lorsqu'elles se trouvaient emmitouflées dans les capotes de l'infanterie ou les vestes en peau de mouton, et (en dehors du ceinturon) elles portaient l'équipement standard de l'infanterie. **E2** Tenue de campagne strictement réglementaire pour un officier du Génie. **E3** Comme pour tant d'uniformes 'bleus foncés' officiellement, ces messagers de l'Etat-Major du Général portaient en fait un uniforme noir. Après septembre une ordonnance remplaça la czapka par un képi.

F1 Un uniforme à l'élégance caractéristique d'officier européen d'unités africaines, dont les hommes et les officiers natifs portaient une version du costume arabe. **F2** Le même que l'uniforme de l'infanterie de ligne, sauf pour l'étoile du képi et les insignes de col bleues de la capote; et les épaulettes uniques à la Légion, toujours portées en campagne. Le 5ème Bataillon, une unité de temps de guerre recrutée en France, avait d'anciennes épaulettes vertes avec des croissants rouges seulement, et un insigne 'métallique' blanc portant le numéro '5' sur le képi. **F3** Les réglementations de 1867 désignaient cet uniforme, avec ses caractéristiques pour l'infanterie de ligne et l'infanterie légère. Les adjudants continuaient à porter l'équipement de fusil à cette date.

G1 Les célèbres uniformes rouges des révolutionnaires datant de dix ans plus tôt avaient été conservés par les volontaires italiens combattant pour la France. De nombreux officiers utilisaient des dolmans à brandebourgs. **G2** Les officiers comme les simples soldats portaient l'uniforme de même style que celui des Zouaves de 1860, mais les premiers dans un ton plus clair et plus bleu. **G3** La plupart des uniformes des soldats avaient été confectionnes en France après le retour de cette unité d'Italie; de basse qualité et taillés dans un drap gris, ils ne convenaient pas pour l'hiver.

H1 Un uniforme rappelant celui des chasseurs à pied, avec le képi de style 'américain' fort populaire, fut adopté à la fin août par le corps de 'Lipowski' hautement respecté. **H2** Ces minuscules unités irrégulières, à cheval, adoptaient une tenue décontractée, qui ressemblait plus ou moins à un uniforme militaire, bien que certaines aient imité le tenue réglementaire du mieux qu'elles l'aient pu. **H3** Ils sont caractéristiques des petites troupes irrégulières, qu'elles aient été officiellement reconnues par les autorités françaises ou non.

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Avec annotations en français sur les planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln.

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