

1: Polish Greatness (Blog): Great Polish Warriors: The Winged Hussars Part I - Famous Battles

This book examines the origins and development of the Polish 'Winged' Hussars. Using many years' painstaking research drawn from unpublished Polish sources, the author provides a rounded view of the training, tactics, appearance and experiences of these legendary and fascinating warriors.

Galen Marek After two days of prep time who will prevail in a fight to the death between the Dark Knight and the God of War? Bandolet carbine, Luk bow Wheelock Bandolet The Bandolet Carbine got its name from the the leather shoulder belt from which it was slung. The Wheelock had an advantage over the earlier matchlock in that it was always ready to fire, and could now be fired with only one hand. Still, like all early gunpowder it had as many disadvantages as advantages. In addition the lock had to be treated with the utmost care, lest it break completely. The procedure for reloading was very time consuming, so it may have only been used once per battle. The Range was meter , although the accurate range would be more like 50 meters. The iron pyrite stone is placed into a vice-like cock, cushioned by a piece of leather. The first step in firing is to to lower the cock until the pyrite contacts the the wheel, or the pan cover depending on the specific design. The wheel is cocked with a key, a sort of spanner or wrench that turns a nut, which rotates the wheel in the opposite direction. The wheel is locked in place when cocked by a latch. When the trigger is pulled, the latch is released and 1 the pan cover moves exposing the priming powder, and 2 the wheel spins, scraping against the iron pyrite. This generates sparks, exactly like flicking your Bic cigarette lighter. Eastern bows are smaller and easier to use while on horseback then Western ones. Polish Hussars with bows The draw weight of these bows could be anywhere from , although for Hussars I would assume it was towards the lower end of this spectrum. According to the Polish site this weapon was most often used while chasing down fleeing enemies, which is unfortunate for the Hussars as Cataphracts are much too disciplined to rout. Another factor is the lack of skill the average Hussar possesses with the bow. Flintlock pistols, Koipa lance Flintlock Pistol All Calvary of this period carried pistols and the Hussar was no exception. An edict of King Stephan Batory in the s required every hussar to carry at least a brace of pistols; 4 pistols became customary fairly early, and carrying 6 was a common practice. Their use was limited however by the hussars, as they were never used during charges only in the melee that followed. Even then they were sometimes passed over for other quicker weapons. The Hussars would have carried these both on their person and saddle The Flintlock design enabled the pistol to work better in undesirable weather conditions, and like its predecessor could be kept loaded for weeks on end. The efficiency of short firearms was low. They used small loads of powder, small shot, and had low range and poor accuracy. Effective use was limited to about twenty meters, and preferably less. The hussars treated them only as secondary weapons. They would have never used these during a charge. This massive lance reached a staggering 5. In order to make it light the core was bored out from the point to the ball which was used for better grip. Polish Winged Hussar The drawback to being so long and hollow was that it broke quite easily, making this a one use weapon. After almost every battle the captain of the hussars would send a request to the government for these lances, which were very expensive to produce. This beauty of a weapon was around 2. A steel ring surrounds the grip allowing for greater control while fencing or dueling someone else. Its design allows for quick recovery, and in their off time hussars would have fenced with this wonderful weapon. Another great duel here Koncerz: The Polish Koncerz This ridiculously long blade was feet long and was hung under the saddle by the Hussar. The blade was rather thin and not sharpened, eventually ending in a sharpened triangular point; this sword had no hacking or slashing capability whatsoever. It had no other purpose other than to thrust, which it seemed to due quite wonderfully. It had a double sided blade, so it could slash, and a straight blade for thrusting attacks. Like the saber the Hussar would have trained with it when not on campaign. Polish Hunting dagger rare A stretch The blade is 18 inches long and features an ebony grip. The Polish War Hammers: The metal part consisted of a hammer-like head on one side and a ax with a short, slightly curved blade on the other. It seems to have been gradually replaced by the Nadziak as the 17th century wore on however. Like all war hammers this was probably a bit slow. Shows some advantages of the war hammer Nadziak: Its hammer-head usually with a square, but sometimes with an hexagonal face which has a

moulded neck, narrower towards the centre of the weapon, is balanced on the other side by a slightly drooping beak. The Hammer part could be used to inflict blunt force trauma, while the beak could be driven through armor. Because of the danger it represented it was forbidden to come armed with a *nadziak* at the time of big meetings, sessions of parliament, sessions of the local councils or tribunals where scuffles were common. At the entrance to the Gniezno cathedral there is a fixed notice warning people whosoever would enter this house of God with such a brigandish instrument he would be excommunicated. Its relative heaviness made it unwieldy and, thus easily avoided. The injury caused by the weapon was also small and rarely immediately fatal. Additionally, if swung too hard the weapon often became embedded in the victim or their armour making retrieval difficult, complicated by the fact that their opponent may still be alive. Called the *Obuch* this was really used just as walking stick for nobles. There was a long training process. Ideally, they were used in battle only after they were 7 years old, only when they were mature, properly trained, experienced and acclimated to work. The rigorous training program bore fruit in strength and reliability. Strength and endurance is important, but of particular importance is good temperament, experience and training. They also acquired a habit of replacing their slain mounts with those captured from the enemy. Although a horse is better than no horse presumably, there were several drawbacks to this tactic. The horse may not be of the best breed for combat. Inside the helmet was a one inch leather strip, which the Hussars would stuff with linen, hay, straw basically whatever the hussars could get their hands on. This helps provide some cushioning for crushing blows to the head. This gorget would have been hung around the lower neck, giving it some protection and was placed over cuirass. Only the richest officers would have had it. The Hussars do not seem to have neck armor. Note the Leopard skins The Hussars have a wonderful set of armor and I doubt my ability to do it justice through my own descriptions. The gorget was always of two plates pivoted on the left shoulder and secured on the right by a stud and key-slot—unlike its Hungarian counterpart, it was worn over the cuirass. Very, very rarely a Tasset was included and was attached to the bottom portion of the plate. Putting the "Winged" in Winged Hussars: These were worn in battle but only in nice weather. Bad weather probably would have made them damp. This is bitterly contested issue with some insisting that A. They do make their user appear larger than life and this may intimidate undisciplined opponents. Also there is strong evidence to suggest that it was one wing that towered above their head, not two. *Karwasze*, single plate gauntlet The two parts were laced together The *Karwasze* was a oriental arm guard first adopted by the Hussars in By it had replaced the earlier mail arm guards known as *zarekawie pancierzowe* "mail sleeves". There were two parts of these; one that covers the upper arm and one that covers the lower they break at the elbow. This type of armor is comprised of two plates, for front and back arm, tied together by small leather buckles. It is unclear whether they are able to overlap at the elbow; different depictions suggest two different conclusions here. This style of armor originated in Turkey. Polish Hussars also wore a single plate gauntlet on their bridle arm. They did have some protection though, and the Tasset would have extended down to the thigh for those rich enough to have afforded one. Based on the pictures they seem to have worn a great deal of leather from the knees to the boots, giving the Hussar some protection against slashing. Total weight of armor was only a slim pounds! Duels could occur for a great many of reasons, whether it be for revenge of a dead family member, for a faster promotion more on that later , to insults, both real and imagined. Both warrior will be rewarded points for "weapon blocking" just that the Hussars will be awarded more. Horse Armor and Saddle: Stirrups, Oriental style saddle, No horse armor How cool would it be to walk to school with this guy? Usually they are covered with embroidered leather or velvet, their bow being mounted in brass or silver while the stirrups, generally called the "Polish variety," are in fact strongly influenced by Tartar-Turkish styles. This will be both a disadvantage and a advantage against the Byzantines: Prior to charging they would be in loose formation, however once they went into full gallop the formations would become increasingly tightly packed. Not every Hussar would rush into the fray at once, and some would stay back initially. Like the Byzantines they could frequently retreat, regroup and recharge. These charges had little effect against good armor, and the lances would smash upon impact with plate as the battle of Danzig shows. They excelled against lightly armored foes, and their lances could easily smash through enemy formations, quickly causing a route. Nobles fought primarily for two reasons: Neither goal would be unrealistic, as Hussars were very popular in Polish

society, often being allowed into places that few others would be.

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Among them were Alexander the Great, whose empire spanned from the Ionian Sea to Asia Minor, was much lauded in life as after his death for being the greatest military mastermind the world had ever known. His desire was to reach the "ends of the world and the Great Outer Sea". He led his armies in a spectacular march across the Alps, conquered Italy and consolidated his control over the Roman heartland for the next fifteen years. But fate took its turn with each one: He died three years later never having realized his ultimate goal - the conquest of Arabia. His great empire rapidly disintegrated, and following a series of civil wars, it was transformed into a number of states ruled by his generals. Hannibal met his nemesis years later when a Roman counter-invasion forced him back to Carthage where he was defeated by Cipio at the Battle of Zama. These and many other brilliant military masterminds continue to fascinate the world, and have since been a source of awe and inspiration not only to historians but military leaders of each era. Alexander the Great, Hannibal, and Caesar have been lauded, among others, as "gifted strategists" by men such as Napoleon Bonaparte and Duke of Wellington. The greatest army ever assembled in the history of mankind was an elite branch of the Polish cavalry. They quickly developed into one of the most formidable armies throughout Europe. Their conquests surpassed that of any predecessor and their military prowess was supreme and undefeated for over years. What began with a fledging regiment of three banners of Hungarian mercenaries quickly expanded as Polish citizens enlisted in droves. This Polish-Serbian-Hungarian regiment was at first a light cavalry and fought in wars during the early 16th century, most notably at Orsza and Obertyn. However their participation was initially relegated to one of lesser importance. But by the mids during the "transitional period" they were transformed into heavier-armed hussars and it was not until the s that the Polish Hussars finally came into their full glory. To describe the Polish Hussars as an elite branch of the cavalry would be an understatement. Most of them were recruited from wealthier Polish and Lithuanian nobility, and were referred to as the "szlachta". Each "towarzysz", or "comrade" was responsible in assembling his own "poczet" or retenue, and several of these were combined to form a hussar banner or company. In the meantime, during the 16th century, the hussars in Hungary had replaced their heavy wooden shields with full body metal armour. After the election of Stephen Batory as King of Poland and later acceptance of him as Grand Duke of Lithuania, Batory re-organized the hussars of his Royal Guard to be equipped along the same lines as those of the Hungarian regiments, and equipped his men with long lances as their primary weapon. By the s this transformation to heavy armor was all but complete and the Polish regiment became known as the "husaria". It was waged against Danzig, whose citizens refused to accept the election of Stephen Batory as King of the Commonwealth and thus ensued the two-year Danzig Rebellion. The battle took place on April 17, to the west of the town of Tczew Dirschau, southeast of Gdansk on the left bank of the Vistula river. It was near Lubiszewo Lake and what is now the modern village of Lubiszewo Tczewskie. In addition he brought 7 cannons, and 30 light cannons mounted on wagons. When the Polish Commander heard of the German advance on Lubiszewo, he led his soldiers in battle. Under his command were only 1, infantry and 1, cavalry. Despite their overwhelming numbers, the Danzig army was utterly defeated by the army of Jan Zborowskik. The Danzig army lost over half of their men: The Polish army suffered 88 casualties, and wounded. In the face of attack by Polish troops, the German soldiers retreated and fled in panic to take refuge behind their city walls. The siege had begun. While the battle did not end in a decisive victory, and war raged on, the city of Gdansk did eventually come to terms with the King by the end of the year. His attempt to conquer the city of Krakow failed. During the Middle Ages, Krakow was regaled as the academic, cultural and artistic center of Poland. King Sigismund had arrived in Krakow on December 9 and was crowned on December 27th. In the Battle of Byczyna January 24, the Archduke led his army to positions east of Byczyna on the royal road leading into Poland. With him were 5, infantry and cavalry and he felt confident that his position on the Hapsburg side of the border would be secure enough that the Polish army would not be likely to cross it. Polish soldiers under the command of Jan

Zamoyski numbered only 2, infantry but had 3, cavalry. Once the mist began to clear, Maximilian realized his predicament and could not retreat to Byczyna, so he ordered an attack. However his troops, misunderstanding his command, retreated instead. Under the command of Stanislaw Zolkiewski, the Polish left wing was able to disperse the enemy. The Polish Hussars played a major part in this battle even though the infantry was in the forefront. The Germans suffered very heavy casualties and lost their artillery and guns to the Poles who were poised to use them against the town. But before the Poles could attack, Maximilian surrendered and was taken prisoner. In early March about 2, Swedish troops led by Carl Carlsson Gyllenhielm, had blockaded the town of Koknese located on the Daugava River, between Riga and Daugavpils, currently in Latvia and on the 1st of April had taken the town. However, they were unable to take the inner castle as it was defended by a Polish garrison. By mid-June Polish ranks grew from less than 1, to over 4, troops. At the same time, Polish forces reinforced nearby strongholds and took to harassing the Swedish units. A Swedish relief force of about 5, soldiers arrived on the morning of June 23rd and attempted to break the Polish encirclement. The field of battle was raised along the shore of the Daugava for a distance of approximately one and a half kilometers, to a width of about half a kilometer -with the side adjacent to the river being quite steep and gradually sloping towards the field. Radziwell gave orders to of his men to maintain the siege, and he led the remaining troops afield consisting of 3, men, of which were infantry, as well as 1, Polish hussars, and 9 cannons. The Poles successfully broke through the Swedish right flank and defeated their attempt to maneuver a counterattack. Their victory can be attributed to the decisive engagement of their hussars, and artillery fire. The 2, Swedes who had besieged Koknese Castle, wanting no part in the battle, had surrendered to the Poles, their weapons confiscated by the Polish forces. The hussars launched a devastating charge against the enemy which ended the battle in the decisive victory of the Polish-Lithuanian forces. The battle was decided in all of 20 minutes! On the eve of battle Swedish forces and that of the Commonwealth assembled near the town of Kirchholm which is about 18km SE of current day Riga, Latvia. Incidentally, the Polish Crown refused to finance its army, the funds having been obtained from the personal fortune of Chodkiewicz. Their troops were less well-trained though armed with pistols and carbines , had a poorer breed of horses, and were tired after having marched throughout the night in torrential rains. Most came from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and about from the Polish Crown, the remainder of which were either mercenaries or close personal allies of Chodkiewicz. Among these forces were also a small number of Tatars and Polish-Lithuanian cossack horses used mostly for reconnaissance. In contrast, the Polish-Lithuanian forces were deployed in the traditional format: Thinking that the Commonwealth forces were retreating, the Swedish army was ordered to attack and began to give chase, spreading out their formations as they advanced. At this point the Hussars assumed battle formations and charged on the Swedish left flank. Chodkiewicz then ordered his left wing and all reserves to attack the opposing right flank of the enemy. Polish Hussars depicted in the Battle of Kirchholm The Swedish reiters were driven back on both wings and the infantry in the centre was attacked from three sides simultaneously. The Swedish forces turned and ran off in a panic, their whole army having collapsed. It was at this point that the Swedes had suffered their heaviest casualties. Defeat was devastating and complete. Swedish forces had lost more than half, and perhaps as much as two-thirds of their men. The Poles and Lithuanians were fierce warriors and spared few opponents. Commonwealth losses were only about dead and wounded, though the Hussars had lost many of their trained battle horses. That they suffered fewer casualties was largely due to the incredible speed of their victories, not to mention that their horses had also been a shield and protection to the riders. Irregardless, the Commonwealth was not capable of exploiting their victory to the fullest owing to the limited financial resources at hand. As a result their military campaign faltered. In a truce was signed, but by war broke out again and four years later Gustavus Adolphus, the new Swedish king, succeeded in retaking the city of Riga after a brief siege. It took place on July 4, near the village of Klushino near Smolensk. Stanislaw Zolkiewski Polish forces under the command of Hetman Stanislaw Zolkiewski numbered approximately 4, men, 80 percent of which consisted of the famous Winged Hussars. In addition they were reinforced by 10, Finnish and Swedish mercenary units under the command of Jacob De la Gardie as well as French, German and British regiments. Altogether the Russians had 48, men pitted against only 12, Poles. Moreover, the Russians were supported by 11 cannons, while the Poles had only two. The Russian

army, under the command of Prince Dmitry Shuisky, was heading towards the besieged fortress of Smolensk when they were intercepted by Polish forces. Soon after dawn the Poles attempted an attack but lost the element of surprise as the Russians had been able to fortify their positions in advance. In the opening stages of battle, the Polish Hussars engaged in repeated and ferocious attacks against Russian positions but without success. According to a witness, Samuel Maskiewicz, the hussars had charged about 8 or 10 times. The battle was extremely hard fought throughout the early part of the campaign, largely due to the barriers on the battlefield: Nevertheless, so fierce were the hussars that many of the Russian foreign mercenaries began deserting and joined the Polish forces. That event, and the fact that a large number of native Russians also began deserting their posts, greatly diminished the morale of the remaining Russian forces. Eventually, the Russian cavalry launched a counterattack but were heavily mauled by the Polish hussars. After a brief melee, the Russians broke ranks and fled in panic, suffering extensive losses. In the meantime, the remaining Russian forces maintained their position on the right wing but they too were overpowered by the Poles. The foreign troops on the left wing continued to put up a strong resistance for several hours but they retreated when the Polish infantry and cannons arrived. It was in their retreat that the Russian forces suffered the heaviest of casualties. There were however a large number of foreign troops who were able to make a relatively safe retreat under the protection of their long infantry pikes and find refuge in their camps. But in the meantime Polish-Lithuanian forces had surrounded two enemy camps as well as the mercenary camps in the forest. But there too our men rode after, and hitting and hacking drove them through their own camp. He succeeded in procuring a surrender from the foreign mercenaries, who had already abandoned the Russians, as well as obtain their agreement to withdraw and not enlist again with the Russian Tsardom against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

3: Polish Winged Hussar (Warrior) Books Pics Download new books and magazines every day

Polish Winged Hussar , Paperback by Brzezinski, Richard; Vuksic, Velimir (ILT), ISBN X, ISBN This book examines the origins and development of the Polish 'Winged' Hussars.

Portrait of Russian hussar Evgraf Davydov by Kiprensky s In , Apostol Kigetsch, a Wallachian nobleman serving Russian Emperor Peter the Great , was given the task to form a khorugv "banner" or "squadron" of men to serve on the Ottoman-Russian border. In , Peter the Great formed a Hussar regiment exclusively from Serbian light cavalry serving in the Austrian army. They were on a level between regular and irregular cavalry. Each regiment was supposed to have a fixed organization of 10 companies, each of about men, but these regiments were recruited from different sources, so they were less than the indicated strength. Located in garrisons far away from Hungary, some deserted from the Austrian army and joined that of Prussia. The value of the Hungarian hussars as light cavalry was recognised and, in , two Hussaren Corps were organised in the Prussian Army. Frederick II later called "The Great" recognised the value of hussars as light cavalry and encouraged their recruitment. In , he established a further five regiments, largely from Polish deserters. Three more regiments were raised for Prussian service in and another in While the hussars were increasingly drawn from Prussian and other German cavalrymen, they continued to wear the traditional Hungarian uniform, richly decorated with braid and gold trim. At the same time, he exempted the hussars from the usual disciplinary measures of the Prussian Army , such as physical punishments including cudgeling. While Hungarian hussars served in the opposing armies of Frederick and Maria Theresa , there were no known instances of fratricidal clashes between them. The name is derived from the German word werben that means, in particular, "to enroll in the army"; verbunkos means recruiter. The corresponding music and dance were performed during military recruiting, which was a frequent event during this period, hence the character of the music. The verbunkos was an important component of the Hungarian hussar tradition. Potential recruits were dressed in items of hussar uniform, given wine to drink and invited to dance to this music. As light cavalrymen mounted on fast horses, they would be used to fight skirmish battles and for scouting. Most of the great European powers raised hussar regiments. The armies of France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia had included hussar regiments since the midth century. In the case of Britain, four light dragoon regiments were converted to hussars in The hussars of the period created the tradition of sabrage , the opening of a champagne bottle with a sabre. Moustaches were universally worn by Napoleonic-era hussars; the British hussars were the only moustachioed troops in the British Army leading to their being taunted as being "foreigners", at times. French hussars also wore cadenettes, braids of hair hanging on either side of the face, until the practice was officially proscribed when shorter hair became universal. The uniform of the Napoleonic hussars included the pelisse , a short fur-edged jacket which was often worn slung over one shoulder in the style of a cape and was fastened with a cord. This garment was extensively adorned with braiding often gold or silver for officers and several rows of buttons. The dolman or tunic, which was also decorated in braid, was worn under it. On active service, the hussar normally wore reinforced breeches which had leather on the inside of the leg to prevent them from wearing due to the extensive time spent in the saddle. On the outside of such breeches, running up each outer side, was a row of buttons, and sometimes a stripe in a different colour. A shako or fur kolpac busby was worn as headwear. The colours of the dolman, pelisse and breeches varied greatly by regiment, even within the same army. The French hussar of the Napoleonic period was armed with a brass-hilted sabre , a carbine and sometimes with a brace of pistols, although these were often unavailable. In the British Army , hussar cavalry were introduced at a later date than in other major European armies. Towards the end of the 18th century, British light dragoon regiments began to adopt hussar style accoutrements such as laced jackets, pelisses and sabretaches. In , four light dragoon regiments were permitted to use the "hussar" name, initially in parentheses after their regimental title, and adopted full hussar uniforms. British hussars were armed with, in addition to firearms, the highly regarded pattern light-cavalry sabre. These regiments were created in the second part of the 19th century, under the rule of Alexandru Ioan Cuza , creator of Romania by the unification of Moldavia and Wallachia. Romania diplomatically avoided the word "hussar" due to its connotation at the time with

Austro-Hungary, traditional rival of the Romanian principalities. These troops played an important role in the Romanian Independence War of 1877-78, on the Russo-Turkish front. Both wore fur busbies and white plumes. Both types of cavalry served through World War I on the Russian front as mounted and mechanised units. In 1811, as part of the army of the newly independent Chile, the regiment fought against the Spanish Army until its defeat at the disaster of the Battle of Rancagua. In most respects, they had now become regular light cavalry, recruited solely from their own countries and trained and equipped along the same lines as other classes of cavalry. A characteristic of both the Imperial German and Russian Hussars was the variety of colours apparent in their dress uniforms. Most Russian hussar regiments wore red breeches, [20] as did all the Austro-Hungarian hussars of 1806. This rainbow-effect harked back to the 18th-century origins of hussar regiments in these armies and helped regrouping after battle or a charge. The fourteen French hussar regiments were an exception to this rule – they wore the same relatively simple uniform, with only minor distinctions, as the other branches of French light cavalry. This comprised a shako, light blue tunic and red breeches. The twelve British hussar regiments were distinguished by different coloured busby bags and a few other distinctions such as the yellow plumes of the 20th, the buff collars of the 13th and the crimson breeches of the 11th Hussars. Hussar influences were apparent even in those armies which did not formally include hussar regiments. A sabretache, an ornate pouch hung from the belt, often completed the accoutrements. They often retained the queue, which used to be common to all soldiers, after other regiments had dispensed with it and adopted short hair. Hussars had a reputation for being the dashing, if unruly, adventurers of the army. The traditional image of the hussar is of a reckless, hard-drinking, womanising, moustachioed swashbuckler. General Lasalle, an archetypal hussar officer, epitomized this attitude by his remarks, among which the most famous is: Less romantically, 18th-century hussars were also known and feared for their poor treatment of local civilians. In addition to commandeering local food-stocks for the army, hussars were known to also use the opportunity for personal looting and pillaging. Armament and tactics[edit] Hussars in battle during the Hungarian Revolution of 1848 Hussar armament varied over time. Until the 17th century, it included a cavalry sabre, lance, long, wooden shield and, optionally, light, metal armour or simple leather vest. Their usual form of attack was a rapid charge in compact formation against enemy infantry or cavalry units. If the first attack failed, they would retire to their supporting troops, who re-equipped them with fresh lances, and then would charge again. Armour became heavier and was eventually replaced by shield armour. Unlike their lighter counterparts, the Polish hussars were used as a heavy cavalry for line-breaking charges against enemy infantry. The famous low losses were achieved by the unique tactic of late concentration. Until the first musket salvo of the enemy infantry, the hussars approached relatively slowly, in a loose formation. Each rider was at least 5 steps away from his colleagues and the infantry, still using undeveloped muskets, could not aim at any particular cavalryman. After the salvo, the cavalry rapidly accelerated and tightened the ranks. At the moment of the clash of the charging cavalry with the defenders, the hussars were riding knee-to-knee. Hussars of the Polish Commonwealth were also famous for the huge wings worn on their backs or attached to the saddles of their horses. Several theories attempt to explain the meaning of the wings. According to some, they were designed to foil attacks by Tatar lasso; another theory maintains that the sound of vibrating feathers attached to the wings made a strange sound that frightened enemy horses during the charge. However, recent experiments performed by Polish historians in 1998 did not support any of these theories and the phenomenon remains unexplained. The wings were probably worn only during parades and not during combat, but this explanation is also disputed. Because Poland has a large population of devout Catholics, it seems possible the wings and uniforms were meant to resemble St. In the 18th and 19th centuries, hussars of Central and Western Europe retained the use of the sabre throughout the time. Some cavalrymen such as the Chasseurs were also armed with firearms, primarily carbines or pistols. Armoured units[edit] After horse cavalry became obsolete, hussar units were generally converted to armoured units, though retaining their traditional titles. Hussar regiments still exist today and horses are sometimes used for ceremonial purposes. In the British Army although amalgamations have reduced their number to only two, the French Army, the Swedish Army Livregementets husarer, the Life Regiment Hussars, the Dutch Army and the Canadian Forces, they are usually tank forces or light mechanised infantry. The Danish Guard Hussars provide a ceremonial mounted

squadron, which is the last to wear the slung pelisse. Police hussars in Germany[edit] Gendarmes of Mecklenburg-Strelitz in In certain German states, notably Rheinpfalz , Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz , hussars were sometimes used as a mounted police force or gendarmerie. A rare exception to the usual pattern of German police uniforms were those of the Mecklenburg-Strelitzsche Districts-Husaren. This gendarmerie corps retained their 19th century-style uniforms until

4: Badass of the Week: Winged Hussars

Polish Winged Hussar by Richard Brzezinski. Velimir Vuksic is a talented and experienced military illustrator, whose published work covers a wide variety of periods, conflicts and armies.

Hussars originated in mercenary units of exiled Serbian warriors. The Polish Hussars were originally based on the Hungarian Hussars. Soon, recruitment also began among Polish citizens. Being far more expendable than the heavily armoured lancers of the Renaissance, the Serbian-Hungarian hussars played a fairly minor role in the Polish Crown victories during the early 16th century, exemplified by the victories at Orsza and Obertyn. During the so-called "transition period" of the mid-century, heavy hussars largely replaced armoured lancers riding armoured horses, in the Polish Obrona Potoczna cavalry forces serving on the southern frontier. The hussars were the leading, or even elite, branch of cavalry in the Polish army from the 15th until the 18th century, when their duties and traditions were passed on to the Uhlans by a parliamentary decree. Most hussars were recruited from the wealthier Polish nobility szlachta. Over the course of the 16th century, hussars in Hungary became heavier in character: When Bathory was elected King of Poland and later accepted as a Grand Duke of Lithuania in 1596, he reorganized the hussars of his Royal Guard into a heavy formation equipped with a long lance as their main weapon. By the reign of Bathory (1596-1609), the hussars had replaced medieval-style lancers in the Polish Crown army, and they now formed the bulk of the Polish cavalry. By the 17th century, most Polish hussar units had been reformed along the same "heavy" model. These heavy hussars were known in Poland as Husaria. Between 1609 and the Battle of Vienna in 1683, the Hussars fought many battles against various enemies, most of which they won. For instance, in the Battle of Kluszyn during the Polish-Muscovite War (1609-1611), the Russians outnumbered the Commonwealth army 5 to 1, yet were heavily defeated. The role of the Hussar evolved into a reconnaissance and advanced scout capacity. Their uniforms became more elaborate as their armour and heavy weapons were abandoned. In the 18th century, as infantry firearms became more effective, heavy cavalry, with its tactics of charging into and breaking infantry units, became increasingly obsolete and hussars transformed from an elite fighting unit to a parade one. Instead of ostrich feathers, the husaria men wore wooden arcs attached to their armour at the back and raised over their heads. These arcs, together with bristling feathers sticking out of them, were dyed in various colours in imitation of laurel branches or palm leaves, and were a strangely beautiful sight to behold. In the 16th century, characteristic painted wings or winged claws began to appear on cavalry shields. Other possibilities included the wings being made to defend the backs of the men against swords and lassos, or that they were worn to make their own horses deaf to the wooden noise-makers used by the Ottoman and the Crimean Tatars. Cavalry tactics Hussar formation at the Battle of Klushino (1609), painting by Szymon Boguszowicz, The hussars represented the heavy cavalry of the Commonwealth. The Towarzysz husarski Companion commanded his own poczet kopia consisting of two to five similarly armed retainers and other servants czeladnicy who tended to his horses, food, supplies, repairs and fodder and often participated in battle. Each banner had from 30 to over 60 kopia. The commander, per his contractual obligation, was called "rotmistrz", while the de facto commander was often the porucznik lieutenant. Each banner had one rotmistrz kopia that was larger than its other lances; this included trumpeters, and musicians kettle drummers, more trumpeters etc. There were other towarzysze with duties keeping order, helping with manoeuvres within the banner during battle, but their functions are rather poorly understood. They charged at and through the enemy. The charge started at a slow pace and in a relatively loose formation. The formation gradually gathered pace and closed ranks while approaching the enemy, and reached its highest pace and closest formation immediately before engagement. They tended to repeat the charge several times until the enemy formation broke they had supply wagons with spare lances. The tactic of a charge by heavily armoured hussars and horses was usually decisive for nearly two centuries. The hussars fought with a long lance, a koncerz stabbing sword, a szabla sabre, set of two to six pistols, often a carbine or arquebus known in Polish as a bandolet and sometimes a warhammer or light axe. The lighter, Ottoman-style saddle allowed for more armour to be used by both the horses and the warriors. Moreover, the horses were bred to run very fast with a heavy load and to recover quickly. These were hybrids of old, Polish equine lineage and eastern horses,

usually from Tatar tribes. As a result, a horse could walk hundreds of kilometres loaded with over kilograms warrior plus armour and weaponry and instantly charge. Also, hussar horses were very quick and maneuverable. This made hussars able to fight with any cavalry or infantry force from western heavy cuirassiers to quick Tatars. There was a death penalty for selling a husaria horse sometimes the horses were referred to as "tarpan" to someone outside of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Hussar armour, dating to the first half of the 17th century, Polish Army Museum in Warsaw. During their heyday, winged hussars carried the following arms and armour: The lances were based on the Balkan and, finally, Hungarian lances, but Polish lances could have been longer and, like their predecessors from the Balkans and Western Europe, they were hollowed, with two halves glued together and painted, and were often richly gilded. They were commonly made from fir-wood, with the lance point being made from forged steel. Another type of lance, known as the demi-lance or kopijka, was used and could have been 3 to 3. The szabla sabre was carried on the left side, and several types of sabres were known to winged hussars, including the famous szabla husarska. Winged hussars sometimes carried additional weapons, such as "nadziak" type of war hammers and battleaxes. Towarzysz husarski carried one or two wheellock later flintlock pistols in the saddle holsters, while retainers also might have carried a pistol or light wheellock arquebus or carbine; from the s a carbine for retainers was mandatory. Yet bows in bow cases were carried by all cavalry officers of the National Army until the reforms of the s, including Uhlán units in the Saxon service. Szyszak and kettle hat helmets for the lower rank retainers were often blackened as was their armour. A cuirass breast plate, back plate, gorget, shoulder guards and of the Great Steppe, Western vambraces with iron glove and later, during the s, the Persian-originated karwasz vambrace, for forearm protection. Towarzysz also could wear tasset hip, cuisse thigh and poleyn knee protection, underneath a thigh-length coat of mail or specially padded coat with mail sleeves. Retainers usually wore less expensive and older armour, often painted black, and, after the s, might have no cuirass, according to some sources. Karacena Sarmatian armour of iron scales riveted to a leather support might have consisted of a scale helmet, cuirass, gorget, leg and shoulder protection and became popular during the reign of King John Sobieski, but perhaps due to costs and weight, remained popular mostly with the winged hussar commanding officers. Albeit from the s onwards, chain-mail was used when fighting the Tatars in the southern part of the republic. Towarzysz usually wore a leopard sometimes tiger, [citation needed] jaguar [citation needed] or lion pelt over his left shoulder, or as often depicted in the surviving Podhorce Castle paintings, he had the exotic pelt underneath his saddle or wrapped around his hips. Wolf, brown bear and lynx pelts were reserved for leaders and veterans starszyzna.

5: Polish Winged Hussar " by Richard Brzezinski

This title takes a close look at the origins and development of the Polish 'winged' hussars, and using many years' painstaking research drawn from unpublished Polish sources, provides a rounded view of the training, tactics, appearance and experiences of these legendary and fascinating warriors.

Edit Hungarian hussar in the 16th century. His son, Matthias Corvinus , later king of Hungary, is unanimously accepted as the creator of these troops. Initially they fought in small bands, but were reorganised into larger, trained, formations during the reign of King Matthias Corvinus. Under his command the hussars took part in the war against the Ottoman Empire in and proved successful against the Turkish Spahis as well as against Bohemians and Poles. The Habsburg emperors hired Hungarian hussars as mercenaries to serve against the Ottoman Empire and on various battlefields throughout Western Europe. Heavy hussars of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth For more details on this topic, see Polish hussars. Initially the first units of Polish hussars in the Kingdom of Poland were formed in , its influences coming from Serbian [13] mercenaries. A small number of Serbian mercenaries were recruited and became Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth citizens. Polish Heavy hussars of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were far more manoeuvrable than the heavily armoured lancers previously employed, the hussars proved vital to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth victories at Orsza , Obertyn and the Battle of Vienna Over the course of the 16th century hussars in Transylvanian-Hungarian had become heavier in character: When Stefan Bathory , a Transylvanian-Hungarian prince, was elected king of Poland in he reorganised the Polish-Lithuanian hussars of his Royal Guard along Hungarian lines, making them a heavy formation, equipped with a long lance as their main weapon. By the reign of King Stefan Batory the hussars had replaced medieval-style lancers in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth army, and they now formed the bulk of the Polish cavalry. Down to and including the Battle of Vienna in , the Polish-Lithuanian hussars fought countless actions against a variety of enemies. Until the 18th century they were considered the elite of the Commonwealth armed forces. Hussars in the 18th century Edit Hussars outside the Polish Kingdom followed a different line of development. During the early decades of the 17th century hussars in Hungary ceased to wear metal body armour; and by most were now light cavalry. These light hussars were ideal for reconnaissance and raiding sources of fodder and provisions in advance of the army. Prussian hussar, In battle, they were used in such light cavalry roles as harassing enemy skirmishers , overrunning artillery positions, and pursuing fleeing troops. In many countries the hussars and bosniaks actually retained their original Asiatic uniforms. In the late 17th and 18th centuries many Hungarian hussars fled to other Central and Western European countries and became the core of similar light cavalry formations created there. Following their example, hussar regiments were introduced into many of the armies of Europe. Bavaria raised its first hussar regiment in and a second one about Prussia followed suit in when Frederick the Great used hussar units extensively during the War of the Austrian Succession. Recruited largely from Christian Orthodox communities along the Turkish frontier, the newly raised Russian hussar units increased to 12 regiments by the Seven Years War. In , the regiment was sent again to Italy until Hessian hussars in America Then, it served in campaigns against Algerian pirates and sieges of Oran and Algiers. Ifni was a Spanish colony in North Africa that was attacked by irregulars from Morocco. Sweden had hussars from about and Denmark introduced this class of cavalry in Great Britain hired German hussars among their Hessian mercenaries and sent them to America to fight in the American War of Independence [citation needed]. Britain converted a number of light dragoon regiments to hussars in the early 19th century. The United Provinces raised its first Hussar regiment in , and a second in During the French occupation from " , there were a maximum of two hussar regiments. After regaining independence, the new Royal Netherlands Army raised two hussar regiments nrs. They were disbanded nr. In , all remaining cavalry regiments were transferred to hussar regiments. This tradition remains until this day. In , Peter the Great formed a Hussar regiment exclusively from Serbian light cavalry serving in the Austrian army. Serbskiy Serbian Vengerskiy Hungarian Gruzinskiy Georgian They were raised from the above-mentioned various Hussar companies, converted to regular service after the Russian"Turkish War " This regiments were

enlisted, not conscripted as the rest of Russian army, and were on a level between regular and irregular cavalry. Hussars were recruited only from the title nation, i. Each regiment was supposed to have a fixed organization of 10 companies, each of about men, but these regiments were recruited from different sources, so they were less than authorised strength. Later in 1760, three more Hussar regiments were raised:

6: Polish hussars - Wikipedia

The Battle of Kirchholm, one of the major battles in the Polish-Swedish War, was fought on September 27, The Winged Hussars launched a devastating charge against the enemy which ended the battle in the decisive victory of the Polish-Lithuanian forces.

The hussars were the leading or even elite branch of cavalry in the Polish-Lithuanian army from the 15th until 1775, when their duties and traditions were passed on to the Uhlans by a parliamentary decree. Most hussars were recruited from the wealthier Polish and Lithuanian nobility szlachta. Over the course of the 16th century, hussars in Hungary had become heavier in character: When Stefan Batory, a Transylvanian-Hungarian prince, was elected king of Poland and later was accepted as a Grand Duke of Lithuania in he reorganized the hussars of his Royal Guard, making them a heavy formation, equipped with a long lance as their main weapon. By the reign of Batory " the hussars had replaced medieval-style lancers in the Polish Crown and Grand Duchy of Lithuania armies, and they now formed the bulk of the Polish and Lithuanian cavalry. Between then and the Battle of Vienna in 1683, the hussars fought many actions against several enemies, most of which they won. For instance, in the Battle of Kluszyń during the Polish-Muscovite War the Russians outnumbered the Commonwealth army 5 to 1, yet were heavily defeated. During the Khmelnytsky Uprising Battle of Zhovti Vody, 1648, the Polish army of 10,000 and containing less than 1,000 hussars defended against a much stronger army of Khmelnytsky due to heroic defence work of the hussars. The role of the hussar changed over time, towards a reconnaissance and advanced scout capacity, but if anything their uniforms became more elaborate as their armour and heavier weapons were abandoned. In the 18th century, as infantry firearms became more effective, heavy cavalry with its tactics of charging into and breaking infantry units became increasingly obsolete and hussars transformed from an elite fighting unit to a parade one. These arcs, together with bristling feathers sticking out of them, were dyed in various colours in imitation of laurel branches or palm leaves, and were a strangely beautiful sight to behold. In the 16th century, characteristic painted wings or winged claws began to appear on cavalry shields. Wings were originally attached to the saddle and later to the back. Other possibilities included that the wings were made to defend the backs of the men against swords and lassos, or that they were worn to make their own horses deaf to the wooden noise makers used by the Ottoman and the Crimean Tatars. The Towarzysz husarski or Companion commanded his own poczet kopia consisted of several from 2 to 5 similarly armed retainers and other servants czeladnicy caring for his horses, food, supplies, repairs, fodder and often taking part in battle. Each banner had between 30 to 60 or more "kopia. Each banner had one "rotmistrz" kopia that was larger than the other lances of each banner, and included trumpeters, and musicians kettle drummers, more trumpeters etc. There were other towarzysze with duties of keeping order, helping with manoeuvres within the banner during the battle, and their functions are rather poorly understood. They carried the charge to, and through the enemy. The charge started at a slow pace and in a relatively loose formation. The formation gradually gathered pace and closed ranks while approaching the enemy, and reached its highest pace and closest formation immediately before engagement. They tended to repeat the charge several times until the enemy formation broke they had supply wagons with spare lances. The tactic of a charge by heavily armoured hussars and horses was usually decisive for nearly two centuries. The hussars fought with a long lance, a koncerz stabbing sword, a szabla sabre, one or two pistols, and often with a carbine or arquebus, known in Polish as a bandolet. In addition, there was no West European stigma attached to the use of a bow and arrows, but the more English-like view was held the English continued to hold archers in high esteem. The lighter Turkish-style saddle allowed for more armour to be used by both the horses and the warriors. Moreover, the horses were bred to run very fast with a heavy load and to recover quickly. These were created by mixing old Polish horses blood with eastern horses, usually from Tatar tribes. As a result, a horse could walk hundreds of kilometres loaded with over kilograms warrior plus armour and weaponry and instantly charge. Also, hussar horses were very quick and manoeuvrable. This made hussars able to fight with any cavalry or infantry force from western heavy cuirassiers to quick Tatars.

7: Hussar - Wikipedia

The Polish Hussars (/h ɛ̃ˈtɕ z ɛ̃ˈɔr/, /h ɛ̃ˈtɕ s ɛ̃ˈɔr/, or /h ɛ̃ˈs z ɛ̃ˈɔr/; Polish: Husaria), or Winged Hussars, were one of the main types of the cavalry in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth between the 16th and 18th centuries.

They ran through the smoke and the sound was like that of a thousand blacksmiths beating with a thousand hammers. We saw it! Jezus Maria! The fire of the guns before them glitters! They rush on to the Swedes! They crash into the Swedish riters! They crash into the second regiment - Overwhelmed! Resistance collapses, dissolves, they move forward as easily as if they were parading on a grand boulevard. They sliced without effort through the whole army already. And the guard already wavers! Like that of the Hungarians, the early Polish Hussars wore no armour and were armed only with the lance, sabre and shield. It gave them greater maneuverability and speed in battle - unlike that of the heavy, lumbering knights. This symbolism is related to the Serbian practice of painting wings on cavalry shields. This is the image that has long promoted by painters through the ages and more recently by film productions. The reality however may be that the Polish Hussars donned these wings only for the ceremonial purposes and victory parades. The size and weight of such apparatus would have been cumbersome if not self-defeating during battles. However, one other feature contributed to the awesome appearance of the Polish Hussars: LANCE handle guard of lance 17th century Each towarzysz, or hussar was required to provide arms and armour as well as horses, for himself and for his poczet, or retinue. Only the szlachta, or Polish nobility became Polish Hussars, as they could well afford the expenses to supply and upkeep their retinue. But the main offensive weapon was the lance, and it was the only weapon provided to the hussar by the King of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Because of its length the lance had to be considerably light and easy to maneuver. They were constructed from fir-wood, though aspen was used in the fore part of the lance to make it lighter. In order to obtain a hollow lance, the core was bored out from the point to the ball, by first cutting the lance in half and hollowing out each side. The lance point was made of steel and reinforced with additional metal straps around the shaft. It was often richly gilded. Its lengths ranged from 2. However, when the hussars were on long marches, the banners were furled and carried along by accompanying wagons. By the 15th century curved sabres were widely used in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and Hungary largely as a result of the many battles engaged with the Turks and Tatars. However, the Polish nobility refused to bear such common weapons and, like their Western European counterparts, continued to choose straight bladed swords. Over time, the Polish sabre or szlaba, evolved into an extensive array of sabre-like weapons, designed to accommodate as many practical as well as ceremonial functions. The Hussar Sabre was the most famous. Moreover it was easier to maintain control of the sabre during a skirmish. A typical hussar szabla was relatively long, the average blade having a length of 85 centimetres. Sabres varied widely in cost, depending on its decorative features. Some were cheap but Polish nobles usually bought the very best quality that they could find because such sabres were always worn to public occasions and were considered personal "jewelry". Many designs were gold plated and jewel-encrusted symbols of nobility and always hung from a belt on the left side. Polish Hussar szabla is believed to be one of the finest cold weapons ever made. They were used in combat well into the 19th century. It was very light and its grip permitted that the hussar could hold the koncerz at arms length and it would seem to him an extension of his own forearm. In other words, even if he were to thrust the weapon with his eyes closed, he would have a pretty good idea of where the steel point was. The opponent would be impaled, carried by the momentum of the horse in full charge. By the late 16th century the length of the koncerz increased to 1. Again, it did not have a cutting edge, but rather a sharp point, which appeared triangular or square in cross-section. They are somewhat shorter but heavier than the palasz. However, there were many variations made of these weapons. The palasz is essentially an axe shaped like a sword. While it has a point that was used during a charge, it was designed for heavy cutting blows and slashes, making it versatile for close quarter fighting. There were three kinds of pistols - short, medium and long. The long firearms like matchlock muskets were not used by the Hussars. Instead they relied on short weapons like pistols, which they carried in pairs of holsters over the front part of the saddle. The medium range weapons were arquebus carbines with a maximum length of one meter.

They were designed to be used on horseback and were carried by a sling over the shoulder. Effective use was limited to about 20 metres or less. Instead the arquebus was carried by their retainers following in the rear ranks. However, the Hussars and other cavalry used long guns whenever they fought on foot. Following an edict by King Stefan Batory, all cavalry was required to carry pistols. It became customary to carry four however in practice the Hussars usually carried six pistols. However there were several disadvantages; the wheellock was very expensive to produce and the lock often failed. Moreover the pyrite crumbled easily or became misaligned; or the mechanism was obstructed by powder residue and as a result became corroded. The delicate mechanism of the wheellock made it particularly vulnerable to mechanical damage and hence the weapon was not always reliable. Wheellock pistol The Hussars also carried medium length firearms on horseback. The practice was formalized in when Hetman Jablonowski ordered Hussar retainers to carry arquebuses instead of lances. These saddles were usually covered by embroidered leather or velvet and their bow mounted in brass or silver. The stirrups, referred to as the "Polish variety," were of a design influenced by Tartar-Turkish styles. Examples of these have been preserved and can be seen in the Livrustkammaren of Stockholm, the Orusheynaya Palata of the Kremlin, and the Czartoryski Collection of the National Museum in Cracow. By the Hussars breastplates had been modified to take on the "half-lobster" design with several bands or lames from the lower chest to the bottom. However there was still quite a demand for oriental weaponry especially after the battle with the Turks in All this was worn underneath a coat of mail that reached the thighs, or a specially padded coat with mail sleeves. The retainers wore less expensive and older armour, usually painted black, and after the s according to sources, had no cuisses. Hussar armour was regarded as splendid and unique in their time, partly because the metal was burnished instead of blackened in order to prevent rust. The Polish helmet was a hemispherical skull upon which beaks were attached by rivets thus permitting adjustable nose-guards and ear-guards, often with cut-out shapes of hearts. The lower ranks, or retainers were given Shishak and kettle hat helmets which were blackened, as well as their armour. Much of the Hussars equipment and armour was lost during the Ukrainian Cossak Rebellion after and to the Swedes in However during Sobieskis campaigns, the Husaria regained their former splendour, entering a second phase of opulence that lasted until the late 18th century. While the Polish Hussars horse had to be heavier and stronger to ensure stamina during battles, a new breed made its appearance, that is the "Polish Arabian" which was renowned then and now for its excellence in temperament, speed and stamina. The price paid for these horses varied considerably depending on their breed, training, maturity, and adaptability to warfare. A typical cavalry horse sold for about zloty, while a hussar horse would cost between and zloty. Compare this with what it cost to buy an ordinary common horse at less than 10 zloty. Their fierceness in battle was exceeded only by their skill and cunning in tactical maneuvers. In the latter part of the 17th century formation was limited to only 2 ranks. A typical charge was staged at gradually accelerated intervals; for the first 75 meters, the hussar, mounted on his steed, would advance at a normal walk, the next meters would be at a trot, then a canter, breaking into a gallop. The charge would be completed by a canter for the last 30 meters. Incidentally, a trot is a two-beat gait with averages of about 8 mph 13 kph. A canter is a three-beat gait that averages mph kph. A gallop is like a canter but much faster at a four-beat gait averaging mph kph. As the hussar ranks advanced, slowly at first, the distance between each horse was the length of a horse. Sometimes the second rank of hussars would move forward to take up positions with the first, as would happen whenever the first rank suffered losses. This ensured that the rank would maintain a constant and maximum density during battle. Not only did it minimize losses as a result of enemy fire power, but the intense power of this attack, by thousands of hussars, literally crushed the enemy. The agility and speed of the hussars was not diminished in any way by the armour which they wore. On the contrary, they were able to engage in a full charge from a virtual standstill with ease. Speed was of the essence and their ability to change speed and direction was only one of the factors that contributed to their amazing success. Unlike those of other cavalry, the Polish Hussars not only charged, but fought through the enemy, literally trampling over the infantry in the process. Facing the hussars were the opposing infantry, whose soldiers were assembled in formations of about 6 or 10 ranks, each rank stepping forward to deliver fire, then falling back to the rear to reload. If the hussars succeeded in killing the first rank of pikemen, another two ranks remained to defend the musketeers. Sorus, gave three explanations on how the

hussars managed to defeat the enemy under those conditions. Point 1, the hussars assembled into a "dense formation so as not to be greatly outnumbered by the pikemen. With respect, I cannot concur with his assumption because evidence supports the fact that lances could not have survived any collision owing to its construction. It was light-weight and hollow. He explains that even broken lances, that might have measured 2 to 3 meters long, could have been used by the hussars to exact serious injuries on the pikemen.

8: www.enganchecubano.com: Customer reviews: Polish Winged Hussar (Warrior)

The author of Polish Winged Hussar insists that he couldn't hear the wings at all when he was on set for the filming of with fire and sword. They do make their user appear larger than life and this may intimidate undisciplined opponents.

9: Deadliest Warrior Deathmatch: Warrior Bio: Polish Winged Hussars

The Polish Hussars (/ h ɛ̃ˈtɨm ɛ̃ˈz ɛ̃ˈr /, / h ɛ̃ˈtɨm ɛ̃ˈs ɛ̃ˈr /, or / h ɛ̃ˈʂ ɛ̃ˈz ɛ̃ˈr /; Polish language: Husaria) or Towarzysz husarski, were the main type of cavalry of the first Polish Army, later also introduced into the Army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, between the 16th and 18th centuries.

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