Austrian Cavalry of the Napoleonic Wars

The Hungarian Hussars !

Recruitment of Hungarian hussars was on volunteer basis
but "selection was to be strict ... "
Hollins - "Hungarian Hussar 1756-1815"

Picture (left): subaltern of 1st Hussars (Kaiser Franz, or Emperor's Own Hussars) in 1813 - 1814.
Picture (right): senior NCO of 4th Hussar Regiment (Hessen-Homburg Hussars) during the Austerlitz Campaign in 1805
Both pictures by Brian Fosten in Haythornthwaithe's - "Austrian Army of the Napoleonic Wars (2): Cavalry"

Austria had 12 hussar regiments. Eight of them were formed in Hungary, two in Transilvania (2. Archduke Joseph and 11. Szekler), one (8. Kienmayer) in Pressburg (today Bratislava in Slovakia), and one (10. Stipsich) in Kaschau (today Košice in Slovakia).
"The name 'Hussar' derives originally from Latin *cursarius*, meaning raider, and originally referred to marauders in the northern Balkans. However, it was adopted by the Magyar people of Hungary as the name for irregular light cavalry... The oldest regular regiment [9th Nadasdy] was formed in 1688 and by 1756, with the formation of the Kaiser Hussars and regularisation of a Jagzyier-Kumanier unit in that year as the Seven Years war (1756-1763) began, there were 12 regiments...
The wild irregulars of the early 1700s were steadily regularised into army units ... While maintaining their reputation for swift movement and unexpected appearances, they became more effective on the battlefield. Six regiments massed for a decisive charge during the first defeat inflicted ob Frederick the Great at Kolin ... Four months later in October, Andreas **Hadik raided and ransomed Berlin ... He then sat on Frederick the Great's throne ..."** *(Hollins - "Hungarian Hussar 1756-1815" pp 4-5, 57)*

Recruitment was on volunteer basis but "selection was to be strict so that the recruits taken were useable and under no circumstances were they to include dishonorable professions [hangmen and horse butchers], notorious people, gypsies ...
The recruits were not to be less than 18 nor more than 30 years old (grey hair was considered an automatic bar) and preferably over 5 *Fus* 4 *Zoll* (1.68 m) tall... Western volunteers, especially better-educated southern Germans, were welcomed, including the famous Constantin von Ettingshausen, who had taken a boat trip down the Danube River from his home in near Mainz and presented himself in Vienna to join the 1st Hussars as a Gemeiner." (*Hollins - "Hungarian Hussar 1756-1815" pp 8, 10*)

Regiment	Dolman	Pelisse	Breeches	Shako	Buttons
1. Emperor Francis [Kaiser Franz]	dark blue	dark blue	dark blue	black	yellow
2. Archduke Joseph	light blue	light blue	light blue	red	yellow
3. Ferdinand d'Este	dark blue	dark blue	dark blue	grey	yellow
4. Hessen-Homburg	light green	light green	poppy red	light blue	white
5. Ott (then Radetzky)	dark green	dark green	crimson	red	white
6. Blankenstein	light blue	light blue	light blue	black	yellow
7. Liechtenstein	light blue	light blue	light blue	green	white
8. Kienmayer	light green	light green	poppy red	black	yellow
9. Frimont	dark green	dark green	crimson	black	yellow
10. Stipsich	light blue	light blue	light blue	green	yellow
11. Szekler	dark blue	dark blue	dark blue	black	white
12. Palatinat	grey	grey	light blue	black	white