



IMPERIAL GERMAN ARMY SWORDS: AN INTRODUCTION

By Gordon A. Blaker

In the Beginning

Getting into the collecting world at the advanced age of thirteen, I found a nice British Victorian officer's sword in a local antique shop. It took me about four months to earn the \$55 to purchase the sword only to find it had been sold. After calling every antique shop in the Indianapolis area, my long-suffering parents then drove me around to every shop that had swords. At the furthest away shop, I found a plain looking Prussian Field Artillery Enlisted dress saber (Figure 1). When I drew it from the scabbard, I was amazed at the detail of the blade etching. On a blade less than an inch wide, was a scene of a mounted Artillery unit on the move (Figure 2). The etching was so detailed the buttons and cartouche boxes on the soldiers were visible. I was hooked and became a collector of Imperial German Army swords. But other than quality of blade etching, why did I choose to collect Imperial German swords? Both the number of German states and large variety of swords to collect quickly intrigued me. Now fifty years later, I am what I call "a type collector". I am still chasing the last ten or so types or models of swords that I do not have an example of in my collection.



Figure 1. Hilt of the author's first sword, a Prussian Field Artillery enlisted dress Saber.



Figure 2. Regimental title and scene on blade of the sword in Figure 1.

The German Empire

Following the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War, the German Empire, or Second Reich, was established. Led by the Kingdom of Prussia, the Empire consisted of the Kingdoms of Bavaria, Saxony, and Württemberg, Grand Duchies of Baden, Hesse, Mecklenburg and Brunswick (Figure 3). While there were numerous other states, only the ones listed above had their own unique models of swords after 1871.

Branches of the Imperial German Army

The Imperial German Army had a large number of branches. Infantry regiments (Figure 4) included Regiments of Foot, Grenadiers, Fusiliers and Rifle, *Jäger* battalions. Cavalry consisted of five branches. Cuirassiers were the heavy Cavalry, wearing lobster-tail metal helmets, Cuirasses, over-the-knee boots, and carrying long Broad Swords, *Pallasch* (Figure 5). In 1879, Bavaria's three Cuirassier regiments were converted into two regiments of Heavy Cavalry, *Schwere Reiter*. Saxony had two regiments of Heavy Cavalry, *Schwere Reiter*. Dragoons (Figure 6), the mounted Infantry, were the most numerous of the Cavalry units with 28 regiments. The Bavarian version of dragoons was the *Chevauleger*, with 8 regiments. Lancers, "*Uhlans*", wore the traditional Polish style flat-topped helmet and double-breasted tunic (Figure 7). The Hussars were light Cavalry, which wore the traditional Hungarian uniform with a fur busby (Figure 8). The last mounted branch was the Mounted Rifles, "*Jäger zu Pferde*" (Figure 9). They started out as small detachments of couriers and quickly grew into 13 regiments by 1913. The Artillery (Figure 10) consisted of Field Artillery with up to 105 mm field pieces and the Heavy, "*Füß*" Artillery with the larger caliber pieces. The Artillery was closely supported by the Train battalions, which brought up the ammunition. All smaller branches carried either Infantry or Artillery model Swords.

The Most Commonly Seen Sword Types

And now, what you have been waiting for – the "Cliff Notes" of

THE GERMAN REICH 1871-1918



Figure 3 : Map of the German Empire. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unification_of_Germany#mediaviewer/File:German_Reich1.png
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the most common Imperial German Army swords, of which all are Prussian models. If you encounter a sword, there is a 90% chance it will be one of these four basic types.

Probably most common of all is the Prussian M1889 Infantry Officer's Sword, *Infanterie Offizier Degen (IOD 89)* (Figure 11, second from left). Every Prussian and many other German Infantry officers as well as the senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) carried one of nearly countless versions of this model. The pre-World War I swords featured a brass hilt with a Prussian eagle on the guard and the cipher of Kaiser Wilhelm II on the grip.

The second most common sword is the M1849 Artillery Saber (Figure 12), which is identical to the M1873 Lancer saber. This Saber has the distinctive P-Guard and "Dove's head" hilt with a backstrap with "ears", which serve to attach the backstrap to the

middle of the grip. Both of these sabers commonly appear as the substantial issue type and nickel-plated interim or dress type. The interim type was privately purchased by many enlisted Artillerymen to commemorate their regimental service in one of Germany's many Field Artillery regiments. Many of the interim sabers have beautifully etched and regimentally marked blades. In 1914-15, a considerable number of this issue swords were produced for service with the Field Artillery, Train and Lancers. A large number of these Sabers are still available.

The third most common sword is the Lionhead Officer's Saber. This was the most popular style of swords with officers, primarily with Cavalry and Artillery officers. Although it is not an enlisted model of sword, senior non-commissioned officers had the right to carry officer model swords and commonly did so. The Lionhead /



Figure 4. Prussian Guard Infantry officer.



Figure 5. Prussian Cuirassier.



Figure 6. Prussian Dragoon.



Figure 7. Prussian Lancers with M1849 Sabers.



Figure 8. Prussian Hussar.



Figure 9. Mounted Rifles.



Figure 10. Artillery officer with Lionhead sabre.

saber is seen in a huge number of styles often with a langet bearing crossed sabers, lances or cannons to denote the owner's branch. There are two basic types of Lionhead, the most common type is where the top of the knuckleguard is fixed in the lion's mouth between its upper and lower jaws (Figure 13). The second type of Lionhead is the "Jawless" or "Half-lionhead where the lion has no lower jaw.

The fourth most common type is the interim or dress version of the Prussian Cavalry Sword M1889 KD 89 (Figure 11, far left). It is a shorter, smaller, lighter and normally nickel-plated version of the Cavalry sword fielded in 1890. Large numbers of enlisted Cavalrymen purchased these swords often with regimental etched blades.

Prussian Swords

Until 1890, the vast majority of Infantry Officers carried the M1816, which was a classic 18th century Infantry Officer's Sword,

very similar to a court or small sword (Figure 14). It was carried in a brass-mounted, leather scabbard with a frog hanger. The new sword introduced in 1889 was brass hilted with a Prussian Eagle on the swept guard (Figure 15). The pommel of the sword slants forward at a 45-degree angle. Prussian M1889 Infantry Officer's Sword, *Infanterie Offizier Degen (IOD 89)* has been discussed above. For the remainder of the article, this sword will be referred to as the IOD 89. Nearly every one of these swords featured a straight nickel-plated blade with three fullers and is seldom etched. It was produced in an amazing number of variations with solid guard, folding guard or even double-folding guard (Figure 16). A number of deluxe hilts were available. Some regiments were authorized unique devices on the grip in lieu of, or in addition to, the standard WR II cipher. Most common of the other devices was the Guard star, which was attached to the grip in lieu of the "WR II" cipher for all Guard officers. Some officers added unauthorized regimental devices. The wartime shortage of brass forced a



Figure 11. The most common swords (Left - Right) Interim or Dress Prussian Cavalry Sword M1889, Prussian Infantry Officers Sword M1889, Lionhead Saber, Artillery Saber M1849, Interim or Dress Artillery Saber M1849.



Figure 12. Hilts of the Prussian M1849 Artillery Saber with Issue model (Left) and Interim model (Right).



Figure 14. Prussian Infantry Officers Sword M1816.



Figure 15. Prussian Infantry Officers Sword M1889.



Figure 13. Jawless or Half Lionhead Saber (Left) and Standard Lionhead (Right)

change to ferrous metals for the hilt, which was lightly plated to appear brass or gilt. These wartime swords are known as *Kriegs* Swords and often have hilts, which are blackened or made of a non-reflective, subdued metal (Figure 17).

Fusilier and Rifle officers usually carried the M1835 Saber with a brass P-guard hilt in a leather scabbard with a frog hanger (Figure 18). Field grade officers (Major and above) of the Infantry were mounted and could carry the M1849 Mounted Infantry Officer's Saber (Figure 19). It was produced in a variety of similar versions with a two-branch knuckleguard in steel or nickel-plated. The dove's head pommel continued down the back of the grip with a backstrap without ears.

The premier branch of the Cavalry was the Cuirassiers, of which there were only ten regiments, far fewer than the other Cavalry branches. At the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the Prussian adopted a new style of Cuirassier Broadsword, the *Pallasch*, which is actually a backsword, with a single edge. True broadswords are double-edged. Captured French M AN XI (1803) Cuirassier Swords became the M1817 with a massive brass three-branch guard and long, straight blade with two fullers (Figure 20; captured French swords had the markings ground off the flat back



Figure 16. Some of the many variations of Prussian Infantry Officers Sword M1889 (L-R) Guard Officer Sword showing the Guard Star on the grip, Fusilier or Rifle Officer Sword with the Hunting Horn, Extra or Deluxe model with heavily decorated gilded hilt, Large "Grosser" model with Deluxe hilt.



Figure 17. Selection of Wartime or Kriegs IOD 89 Swords.

of the blade). The M1819 Cuirassier Sword, based on a Russian pattern, was known as the Russian model, had a two-branch guard with a very distinctive pommel (Figure 21). Half of the Cuirassier regiments carried the M1817 and the other half the M1819. Both of these models were also produced as interim or dress models, available in enlisted or officer patterns. The key difference is officer pattern swords have a flat pommel cap, while enlisted have a

domed pommel cap (Figure 22). Some of the enlisted patterns are regimentally etched. In 1876, a new Cuirassier Sword was adopted for all regiments. As before, these were initially, captured French swords, this time they were the French M1854 and are often referred to as Prussian M1854, even though they were not adopted until 1876 (Figure 23). Another type of sword carried by Cuirassier officers in dress uniform was two very similar patterns of the



Figure 18. Prussian Fusilier and Rifle Officers Saber M1835.



Figure 19. Prussian Mounted Infantry Officers Saber M1849.



Figure 20. Cuirassier Broadsword M1817 French Model.



Figure 21. Cuirassier Broadsword M1819 Russian Model.



Figure 22. Cuirassier Swords: Officers – Flat pommel (Left), Enlisted - Domed pommel (Right).



Figure 23. Cuirassier Broadsword M1854 adopted in 1876.

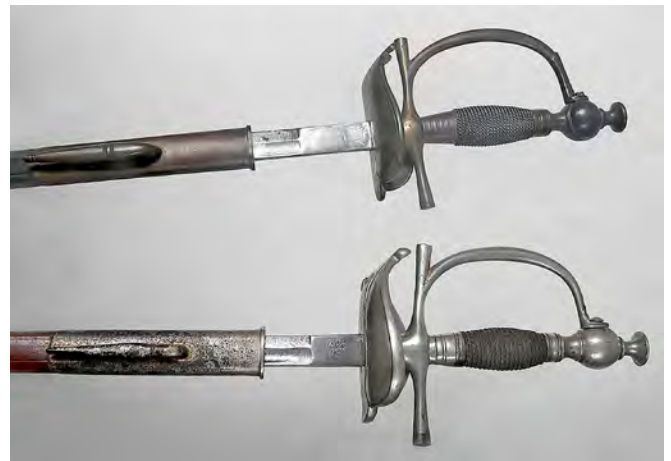


Figure 24. Cuirassier Officer's Smallsword.



Figure 25. M1811 "Blüchersabel" Light Cavalry Saber. f

small sword. Both were identical except one has a cross-guard above the clam-shell guard (Figure 24). In 1876, the model with the crossguard was adopted for all ten regiments. All types of Cuirassier Swords are scarce.

As a general rule, the other types of Cavalry, Dragoons, Lancers *Uhlans*, Hussars and Mounted Rifles *Jäger zu Pferde* carried the same type of light Cavalry saber/sword (Figure 25). Adopted during the Napoleonic Wars, the M1811 Light Cavalry Saber, was commonly known as the "Blüchersabel" in honor of the legendary Prussian field marshal who began his long military career as a Swedish Hussar. His timely arrival on the Waterloo battlefield with the Prussian Army secured the Allied victory. The Prussian M1811 is a very close copy of the English M1796 Light Cavalry Saber.

The M1811 has an iron P-Guard hilt with a backstrap with ears (Figure 26). The blade is broad, curved and has a single-fuller. In 1849, a lighter model was introduced for Field Artillery. Interestingly, this identical Saber was also the M1873 Lancer Saber. The M1849 Saber was produced in very large numbers in 1914 and early 1915 and are relatively common today. The next model of Cavalry Saber was the M1852, which features an iron guard with three wide flat branches (Figure 27). The leather-wrapped wooden grip has a dove's head pommel and backstrap with ears. The blade was slightly curved with a single, broad fuller. In 1879, a new type of blade was introduced, which is commonly known as a rod or quillback blade (Figure 28). The vast majority of M1852 Sabers received new blades to become the M52/79.

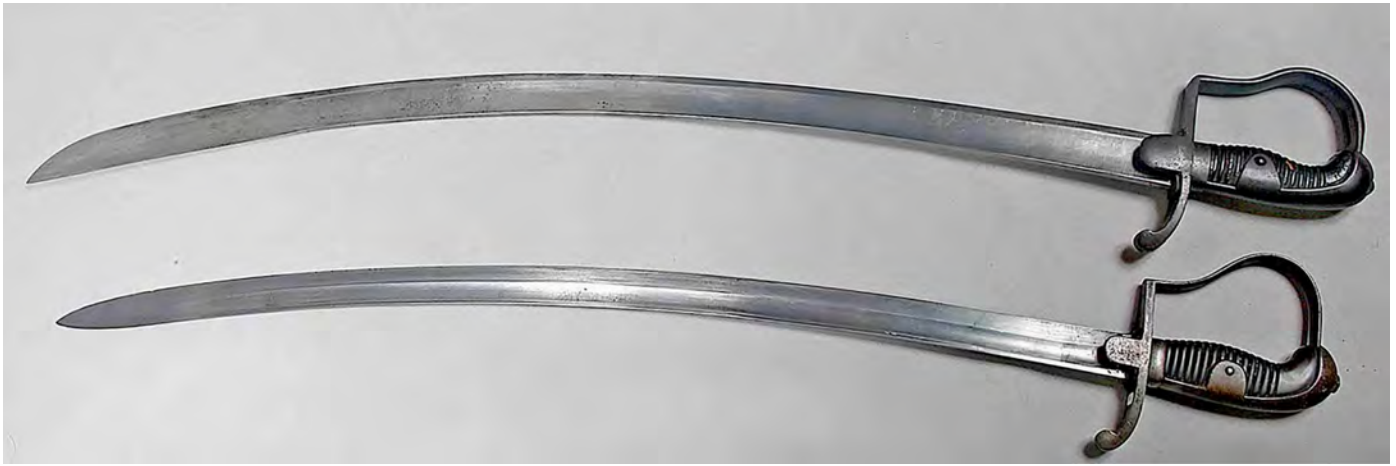


Figure 26. Comparison of the M1811 (Top) and M1849 (Bottom) showing the difference in size.



Figure 27. Hilt of the Prussian M1852 Cavalry Saber.



Figure 28. Comparison of the M1852 blade with a fuller and the M1852/79 blade with a "Quill" or "Rod" back.

An entirely new Cavalry Sword was introduced in 1889 with a straight quillback blade (Figure 29). The sheet metal guard features a prominent Prussian Eagle in a circle on the guard. Five other states had this model of sword with their arms in the circle on the guard. The grip is made of Bakelite secured to the tang by two rivets. The Cavalry Sword, *Kavallerie Degen* M1889 was produced in large numbers as an interim or dress version. Hereafter it will be referred to as the KD 89. These enlisted dress swords were usually nickel-plated often with folding or double-folding guard.

The blades most commonly had a single-fuller blade, often beautifully etched with regimental names. They are among the four most commonly seen swords. There is a variant of the KD89, which was being manufactured by Eickhorn as an export model saber. It is often known as the Romanian model because it is believed a large number of them were intended for the Romanian Army (Figure 30). When World War I began, the Germans took possession of the swords and issued them to mounted units. The sword differs from the KD 89 with a C-shaped knuckle-guard and a curved blade.

There are a small number of very unique regimental swords, all of which are quite rare. The Princess Augusta, their honorary commander, awarded the officers of Guard Grenadier Regiment No. 4 a unique small sword. Both the 1st Lancer Regiment and 2nd Dragoon Regiment officers carried French pattern Eagle-Head Sabers, each slightly different. The 1st Dragoon Regiment was awarded a M1852 Saber with a large eagle attached to the guard.

Bavarian Swords

The basic Infantry officers' sword of Bavaria was the Model 1855, a simple brass B-guard with backstrap copied from the Austrian Infantry Officer's Saber, Model 1850 (Figure 31). The single fuller blades are etched with the Bavarian motto *Im Treu Fest*, In Steadfast Loyalty. There is also a variation of this model with a Lionhead. Since senior NCOs were granted the right to carry the Officer's Saber, the M1855 is relatively common. The Bavarians also have their own model of the Prussian IOD 89, though judging by its rarity they were not very popular with the independently minded Bavarians. The guard featured the Bavarian rampant Lion with sword and shield. There was also an interim broadsword for both Infantry and Cavalry officers. These interim swords have a knuckle-guard and backstrap without ears. One variant has a pommel that slanted forward at a 45-degree angle and the other a Lionhead.

The two Bavarian Heavy Cavalry, *Schwere Reiter* regiments carried a number of classic Cuirassier Broadswords in both issue and interim varieties (Figure 32). The Bavarian Cuirassier M1825 broadsword had the classic form of knuckle-guard with three branches. In 1891, the Bavarians introduced a new model, with a shorter blade and knuckle-guard with two branches. Unlike the Prussian Cuirassier swords, the officer and enlisted swords are more noticeably different.

The other branches of the Bavarian Cavalry: Light Horse, *Chevauleger*, and Lancers, *Uhlans* carried the M1813 Hussar saber or

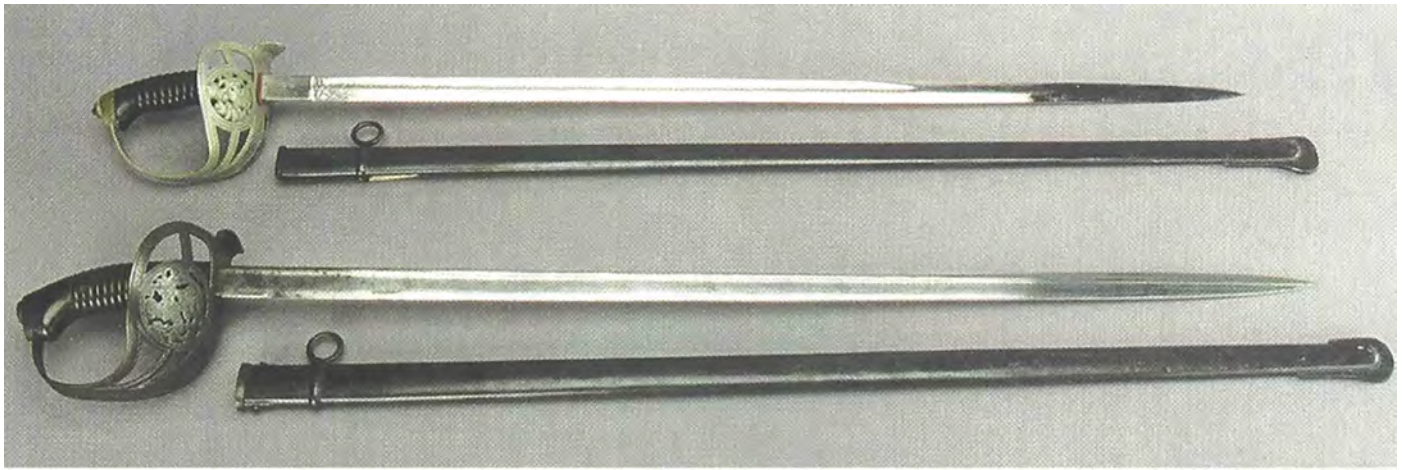


Figure 29. Prussian Cavalry Sword M1889 with Interim or Dress model (Top) and Issue model (Bottom). full page width

the M1826 Light Horse Cavalry, *Chevauleger* saber (Figures 33 and 34). The M1813 became the Artillery saber in 1848. The M1826 had an iron knuckle-guard with two branches, a very slight dove's head pommel and backstrap without ears. Bavaria adopted their own Cavalry Sword M1889 (KD 89), which is identical to the

Prussian model except for the Bavarian Lion in the circle on the guard (Figure 35). Like the Prussian enlisted Cavalrymen, Bavarian Cavalrymen could purchase the interim version of the KD 89.

Bavarian Artillery Officers had their choice of a number of different swords. There was a heavily curved saber with a nickel dove's head hilt with backstrap (Figure 37). The guard had two narrow branches, which came off the knuckle-guard at a high angle to protect a large portion of the hand. This Artillery Officers Saber is very similar to the model for enlisted Train troops. The only difference being the Officer's Saber has a more pronounced curve. A second Bavarian Artillery Officer saber featured a guard that could be more easily changed from a single knuckeguard to one with branches (Figure 38). Like the Infantry and Cavalry Officers, Artillery also could carry an Interim Broadsword (Figure 39). The enlisted Artillery Saber was originally the M1813 Hussar Saber. It was also widely produced as an interim model, often regimentally etched. One feature of most Bavarian swords is the lack of a scabbard band for the attachment of the suspension. On Bavarian scabbards, the rings are attached directly into the back edge of the scabbard.



Figure 30. The Export or "Romanian" M1889.

Saxon Swords

The Saxon Infantry Officer's Sword M1867 was a near copy of the French Artillery Officer's Sword, Model 1845. It features a brass or gilded hilt with a Phrygian helmet pommel and a small pierced guard with the Saxon arms in the center (Figure 40). Unlike the IOD 89, the guard does not sweep upwards to the knuckle-guard, resulting in the Saxon arms being less visible. Most of these



Figure 31. The five models of swords available to Bavarian Infantry Officers (Left to Right) M1855, M1855 Lionhead, IOD 89, Broadsword and Lionhead Broadsword.

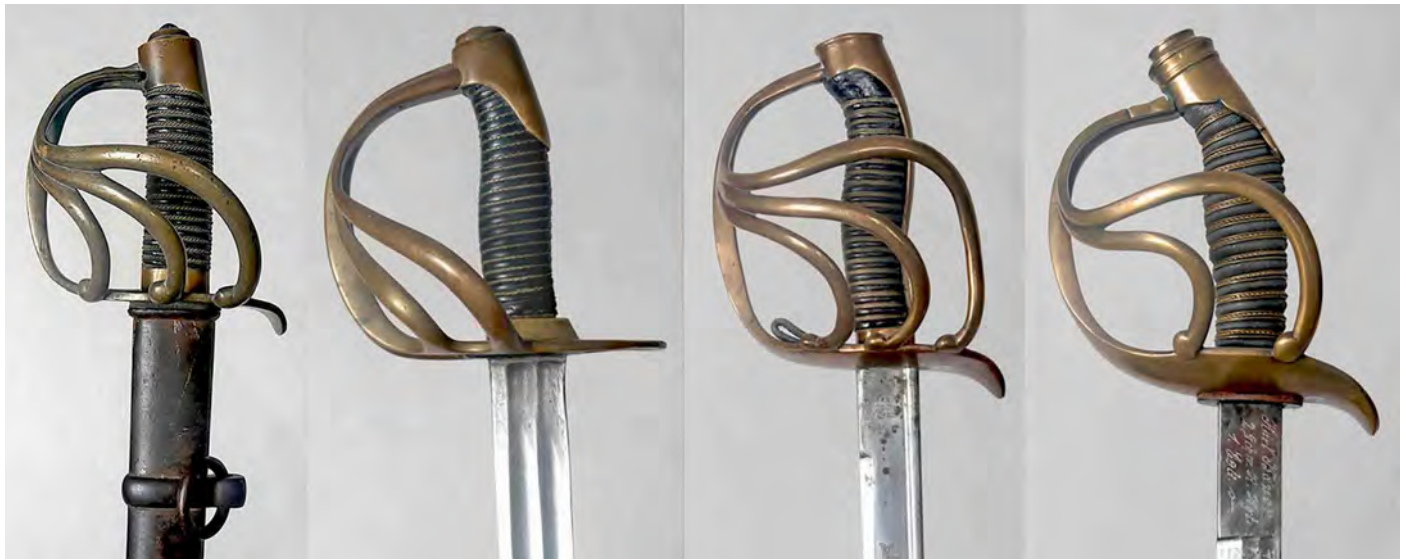


Figure 32. Various models of the Bavarian Heavy Cavalry broadsword, both issue and interim models.



Figure 33. M1813 Hussar Saber of Bavarian Cavalry.



Figure 34. M1826 Chevauleger Saber of Bavarian Cavalry.



Figure 36. M1889 Bavarian Cavalry Officer's Saber.



Figure 37. Bavarian Artillery Officer Sword.



Figure 35. Cavalry Sword M1889, Issue and Interim models of Bavarian Cavalry.

swords have double-folding guards. The straight blade has three narrow fullers and bears the king's cipher on the ricasso. There is also a rare Lionhead version of the M1867. Many Saxon Infantry officers also had an interim Lionhead Saber for undress occasions. It differs from the Prussian Lionhead by having the Saxon Shield on the peak of the P-guard. A less common option for Infantry officers was a Lionhead Broadsword.

In 1875, the Saxon Cavalry was reorganized resulting in two regiments of heavy Cavalry, *Schwere Reiter*. One of these regiments was the Guard Heavy Cavalry, *Garde Reiter Regiment*, which had their own unique swords. The Officer's Broadsword has a two-branch guard with the Saxon Shield at the peak of the knuckleguard, Lionhead Pommel and metal finger loop (Figure 41). The enlisted model is similar to the Prussian M1852 Cavalry Saber but is in brass (Figure 42). It also features a large Saxon



Figure 39. Comparison of Artillery Enlisted Sabers – Interim (Left) and Issue (Right).



Figure 43. Saxon Cavalry Saber M1892, Interim and Issue Sabers.

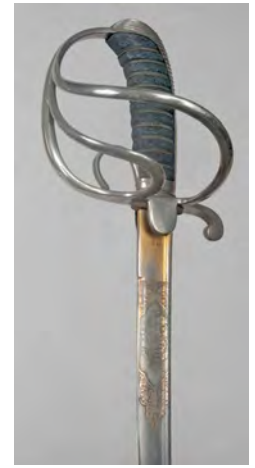


Figure 44. Saxon Artillery Officer's Saber.



Figure 40. Two examples of the Saxon Infantry Officers Sword M1867.

Figure 41. Saxon *Garde Reiter* Officer's Sword.

Figure 42. Saxon *Garde Reiter* Enlisted Saber.



Figure 45. Saxon Artillery Enlisted Saber M1874, Interim and Issue Sabers.

Shield where the two branches intersect the knuckleguard. Cavalry officers of the Saxon other Heavy Cavalry regiment, Hussars and Lancers primarily carried a copy of the Prussian M1852 Cavalry Saber designated the M1867. It differs in having a grip that increases in thickness towards the pommel. In 1881, a quillback blade replaced the blade with the single wide fuller. Cavalry officers also commonly carried the Lionhead saber with the Saxon Shield on the peak of the P-guard as their interim saber. Saxon enlisted Cavalrymen carried the Saxon M1867 in steel. In 1892, the Saxon adopted their own version of the Prussian KD 89, the Saxon KS 92 (Figure 43). It differs in having the Saxon shield in the circle on the guard and a curved, quillback blade. Saxon Artillery officers carried primarily a Lionhead Saber. Then in 1881 a new saber was introduced solely for Artillery officers (Figure 44). It has a nickel-plated hilt, C-knuckle-guard with two branches. The pommel is a dove's head with backstrap. Other features include a metal finger loop and rounded langets. Saxon enlisted Artillerymen carried the M1849 saber, which was similar to the Prussian M1849 Artillery saber (Figure 45). It differs in having a less pronounced P-Guard and a grip, which grows wider towards the cross-guard. The M1874 Artillery Saber is similar to its predecessor but now the grip grows wider towards the pommel. This Saber was also available in an interim model.

Württemberg Swords

The Württemberg Infantry Officers Saber was a P-Guard hilt with backstrap until 1889. Württemberg followed Prussia in 1889 adopting their version of the Prussian IOD 89 (Figure 46). The Württemberg IOD 89 differs in having the Württemberg arms on the guard and most notably the king's cipher is on the back of the pommel cap instead of the grip as in the Prussian sword.

Württemberg Cavalry officers carried a pierced half-basket guard saber with the Württemberg coat of arms prominently displayed on the guard (Figure 47). The hilt was nickel-plated with scalloped dove's head pommel and backstrap. Enlisted Cavalrymen carried a solid half-basket hilt with dove's head pommel and backstrap. A copy of an Austrian Cavalry saber, it also has a series of four holes on either side of the lower part of the guard. With the adoption of the Cavalry Sword M1889 (Figure 48), this saber became the weapon of the one Württemberg Train battalion (Figure 49). The Württemberg Cavalry Sword M1889 differs from the Prussian model only in having the Württemberg arms on the guard.



Figure 46. Three examples of the Württemberg Infantry Officers Sword IOD 89, Pre-war solid brass hilt (Left), Wartime plated hilt and Wartime blackened hilt (Right).



Figure 48. Württemberg Cavalry Sword M1889, Issue and Interim Models.



Figure 47. Front view of the guard of a Württemberg Cavalry Officer's Saber with the coat of arms on the pierced guard.



Figure 49. Train Battalion Interim Model.

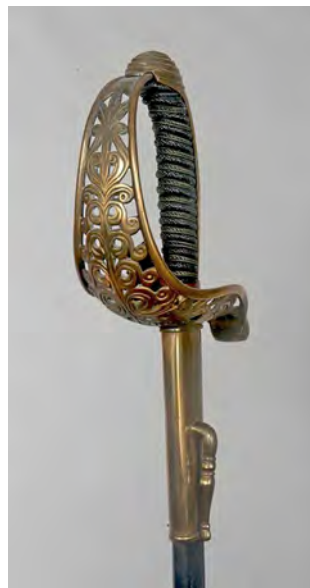


Figure 50. Hessian Infantry Officer's Saber, Standard Model.



Figure 51. Hessian Infantry Officer's Saber, Royal Cipher variant.

a crowned "L" for Grand Duke Ludwig (Figure 51) and a third has the Hessian Lion, often with a lion-head pommel (Figure 52). A fourth rare variant, unique to the 2nd Infantry Regiment, Kaiser Wilhelm, #116, bears a crowned "W" in the pierced guard.

The Cavalry officer's saber has a steel or nickel-plated half-basket guard of pierced scrollwork, similar to the Infantry Officer's Saber (Figure 53). The dove's head pommel has a backstrap. The hilt also has the double slot in the quillion. The Hessians also adopted their own model of the Prussian KD 89 Cavalry Sword, which has the Hessian Lion on the guard (Figure 54).

Hessian Swords

The Infantry Officers Saber has a half-basket guard of pierced brass or gilded brass (Figure 50). The hilt features a backstrap, tiered pommel and two slots through the quillion. Adopted in 1884, the guard was available in a number of designs, the most common of which is plain pierced scrollwork. A second design incorporated

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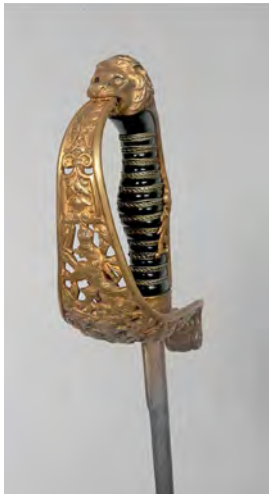


Figure 52. Hessian Infantry Officer's Saber, Hessian Lion variant.



Figure 53. Hessian Cavalry Officer's Saber.

Baden Swords

The Baden Infantry Officer's Saber, M1856 is an identical copy of the Austrian Infantry Officer's Saber, M1850. The M1856 has a steel or nickel-plated sheet B-guard approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide (Figure 55). The hilt has a dove's head pommel with backstrap and the double slot in the quillion. The scabbard bands are a round disk shape. There are two ways to tell the Baden and Austrian swords apart. First, if the blade is etched the Baden Shield has a diagonal band across it. Second, Austrian scabbards have a top mounting on the inside of the scabbard which is a flat rectangular bracket, a traditional scabbard band and ring at the lower suspension mount. There is a scarce variant of the M1856 with an eagle head and backstrap with ears.

The Cavalry Officer's Saber is identical to the Hessian model in every way. The only way to tell them apart is if an etched blade has the arms of the state. Baden did not have their own KD 89, using the Prussian one instead.

Mecklenburg Swords

Mecklenburg was the smallest state to have their own model of the Prussian IOD 89 with the Mecklenburg arms on the guard (Figure 56). The cipher on the guard is that of one of the grand dukes of the state. Mecklenburg field grade officers carried a saber identical or nearly identical to the Prussian M1849 Mounted Infantry Officer's Saber. Officers of Mecklenburg's one rifle battalion carried an eagle head saber with brass/glided P-guard, backstrap with ears

(Figure 57). The duke's cipher with crown and wreath is on the rounded langet.

Until the introduction of the Prussian Cavalry Sword, M1889, the two Mecklenburg Dragoon regiments carried a Saber nearly identical to the Mounted Infantry Officer's Saber (Figure 58). The only differences being the backstrap has ears and the knuckleguard is wider at the base and does end in a typical quillion. The Mecklenburg Cavalry Sword, M1889 differs from the Prussian only in the arms on the guard (Figure 59).

Mecklenburg Artillery Officers had a Service and Interim Saber, both with an Eaglehead, backstrap with ears (Figure 60). The Service model features a two branch brass/glided guard and langet with flaming bomb. The Interim model has a knuckleguard without branches.

Brunswick Swords

Brunswick was the smallest state to have a unique family of swords for their one Infantry regiment, one Hussar regiment and one Artillery battery. The Brunswick Infantry had two swords, one for their two Infantry battalions and a slightly different sword for their Fusilier or Life Guard, *Lieb* battalion. Due to Brunswick's close association with the British, the Infantry officer swords are copies of the British Infantry Officers Sword, Model 1822. Known as the Gothic hilt, because of its resemblance to Gothic windows, it has a steel or nickel-plated, flat bar knuckle-guard with two branches and pommel with backstrap (Figure 61). Near the lower end of the branches is an oval with a crowned "W" for Duke William. The Fusilier model has the hunting or rifle officer's horn in the circle and is absolutely identical to the British rifle officer's saber.

The Hussar Officer's Saber is similar but in brass or gilded brass (Figure 62). The pommel is decorated and has round top nut. Brunswick officers of both regiments could also carry the classic lionhead saber. Most Hussar officer's scabbards featured the disk scabbard bands. All Brunswick officers could also carry interim Lionhead Sabers.

Colonial Officers Sword

The first Colonial Officer's Sword was introduced in 1891 for officers of Germany's African colonies. It is a variant of the Prussian IOD 89 but with the Imperial eagle on the guard instead of the Prussian eagle (Figure 63). The sword's unique feature is an Imperial crown atop the pommel. The second model of Colonial Sword was for NCOs and selected others of the African colonies. It is identical except it has no crown on the pommel. The third type of



Figure 54. Hessian Cavalry Sword M1889, Interim (top) and Issue (bottom) Models



Figure 55. Baden Infantry Officer's Saber M1856, Standard Model and Eagle head variant



Figure 56. Mecklenburg Infantry Officers Sword M1889.



Figure 57. Mecklenburg Rifle Officer's Saber.



Figure 58. Mecklenburg Mounted Infantry Officer's Saber.

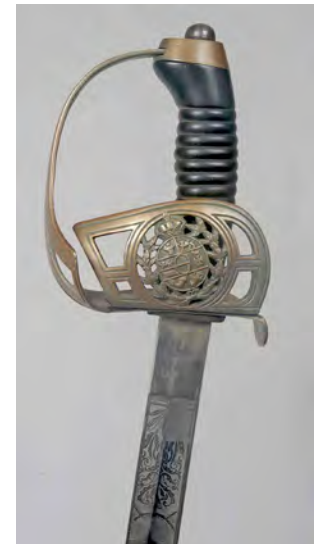


Figure 59. A Interim model of Mecklenburg KD 89 **



Figure 60. Mecklenburg Artillery Officer's Sabers, Service (Left) and Interim (Right) Models.



Figure 61. Brunswick Infantry Officer's Sword.

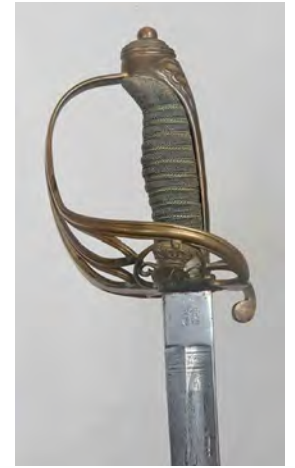


Figure 62. Brunswick Hussar Officer's Saber.



Figure 63. Colonial Swords (Left – Right) New Model 1913, East Asian Model, African NCO Model, African Officer's Model.



Figure 64. A selection of etched and blued regimental blades.



Figure 65. Two Damascus presentation blades showing the presentation (Top) and the list of regimental officers (Bottom).

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Catalog of the swords available for one of the largest edged weapons manufacturers. Small, but detailed drawings of every model and variation offered.

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