

"The Mainz Colonel's Cornet"

Imperial cavalry standard for the Colonel's company in Johan Nicolaus von Hagen's regiment of horse, raised in 1632. Captured on 6th November, 1632, at Lützen. The Imperial commander Wallenstein refers to the captured standard as "The Mainz Cornet with wheel under Colonel Hagen".

The six-spoked wheel decorating the head of the lance and the motto in Latin on one side of the standard, "SPES MEA CHRISTUS" (Christ is my hope), both clearly show the connection with the Electorate of Mainz. The Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross flanked by the Blessed Mary and St John is embroidered on one side of the silk, and the mailed and armed hand of God emerging from a cloud on the reverse. The repercussions of the loss are fully described in 29 in the notes on the breaking of an oath of allegiance.

The original standard, or what is left of it, is exhibited together with a reproduction based on Olof Hoffman's Trophy Paintings of 1681-1699 showing how it once looked.

White European damask, doubled. Decorated with embroidery, appliqué and painting.

Original height 0,53 m, width approximately 0,6 m.

ST 18:5



The oath of allegiance was broken at the battle of Lützen in 1632 by Imperial troops who deserted both their colonel's standard and the battlefield. The Imperial supreme commander, Albert Wenceslas von Waldstein, Prince of Friedland, known as Wallenstein, instigated a court martial. The following judgements were pronounced and sentences carried out on the regiments of horse of Colonel E G von Sparr and Colonel J Niklas von Hagen.

1. The regiments were disbanded in disgrace and with dishonour.
2. The remaining standards were publicly and ignominiously burnt by the public executioner after the Emperor's monogram and arms had been removed.
3. In Sparr's regiment all ensigns, sergeant majors, company quartermaster-sergeants and corporals were put to death by decapitation with the sword. In Hagen's regiment these were all stripped of their ranks, discharged and stamped for ever as traitors.
4. Strictly following the order of names in the army roll lists every tenth man from the rank and file in Sparr's regiment was hung. All the common soldiers in Hagen's regiment were transferred to other regiments.
5. The remaining men in Sparr's regiment were herded together under the gallows and collectively dismissed, declared traitors, flogged and finally branded with hot irons.
6. In the town hall square in Prague, on a black-draped scaffold, the officer in command of Sparr's regiment at the battle of Lützen, Lieut-Col A von Hofkirchen and a Lieutenant Tortel were beheaded with the sword.

Colonel Hagen, Lieutenant A Waltenburg and Ensign Johan Kaschering met the same fate as they were found guilty of being directly responsible for the loss of "The Mainz Colonel's Cornet" which fell into Swedish hands.

"The Mainz Colonel's Cornet", or Colonel's Standard, was revered in the Hagen regiment as it was considered a blessed and sacred symbol.

This actual standard is on display in the adjoining showcase.