

Basic Detail Report



Title Man's Uniform Shako

Date 1825-1830

Primary Maker G. C. Hotchkiss

Medium Hand-stitched Japanned leather, brass and white metal ornaments, silver twist cord, and a paper label

Description Leather "bell" shako with a crown that flares out toward the top.

Ornamented with a brass eagle on the front, white metal chin scales and bosses, a brass number "6" at the top of the crown, and braided silver twist cord held on

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with two white metal star ornaments on the sides. The silver cord suggests that

this was an officer's hat. The shako is seamed at the front only, using the "lift

and split" technique, in which a flap is cut into one side of the leather to split it

and create a flap, then the two sides of the seam are sewn together, and finally,

the flap is glued down over the seam on the outside using hide glue. This masks

the seam from the outside; it is only clearly visible when looking into the shako.

The crown is a laminate of two pieces of leather, one glued on top of the other.

The top layer comes down over the top seam edge to protect against leakage.

There is a binder strip of leather along the bottom edge of the shako that turns

up and into the hat to become a sweatband with a pinked edge. This leather is 3

3/4-inch wide at the front, broadening to 1 1/2-inch wide at the back, and it is

finely tooled for added ornament. The visor is a single piece of eight-ounce black

leather (about 1/8-inch thick). The underside of the visor is painted green to

reduce glare and eye strain. A hole in the front of the crown and a piece of

leather sewn to the inside of the shako just below the hole form a socket that

would have held a plume.