

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume II

The Baden Contingent – Chapter 4 Part I

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CHAPTER IV

CAMPAIGN OF 1812

COMBATS OF CZAZNICKI AND BATURY.
BATTLE OF THE BEREZINA. -- COMBAT OF ILIA.

Napoleon would launch against Russia the most formidable army that had been seen since the great invasions of the first centuries of our era. All the nations of Europe were mingled in the human flow which threatened the empire of the Czars; we see the most diverse races, the inhabitants of the most extreme climates in the ranks of the Great Armée: the countries of the sun are represented by the Lusitanians of the Portuguese Legion, the Spaniards of the Joseph Napoléon Regiment, the Neapolitans of Murat, the Illyrians of Croatian regiments, the Italians of Prince Eugene, the Mamelukes of the Imperial Guard; Central Europe sent the solid Swiss regiments, the Germans of the Confederation of the Rhine, Bavarians, Saxons, Württembergers, Baden, Westphalians; the children of Holland and Belgium, who now fought together in our regiments; the Austrians of Schwarzenberg and the Prussians of Yorck -- our enemies of yesterday and our enemies of tomorrow; -- finally the Polish legions, whose dedication knew no bounds: all these foreigners, mixed up in our divisions or organized in national corps, were tried by ten years of war and would do honor to our eagles, in glorious days of victory as well as in the sad days of retreat and sacrifice.

The Baden contingent, placed under the command of General von Hochberg on 8 February 1812, had the following composition:

General of Brigade VON HOCHBERG, commander of the Baden;
General-Major VON LINNG, attached to General VON HOCHBERG;
Lieutenant-Colonel GROLMANN, Chief of Staff;
Captain VON KALENBERG, aide-de-camp;
Lieutenant FISCHER, aide-de-camp;
Lieutenant VON STRAUSS, Officier d'Ordonnance;

1st Infantry Regiment (Corps), 2 battalions;
3rd infantry regiment (of Hochberg), 2 battalions;
Light Infantry Battalion (Linng), 1 battalion;
Regiment of Hussars (of Gensau), 4 squadrons;
Artillery: 4 pieces on mounted; 4 campaign pieces.

The 2nd Infantry Regiment (Crown Prince), garrisoned at Danzig since 1811, was also part of the contingent and was to join the other Baden troops, whose total strength amounted to 7,666 men.

On 16 February, the Baden were set in two columns: the first, under the command of Colonel Brückner, including the 3rd Infantry Regiment and the Light Infantry Battalion, left Mannheim; the second, with General von Hochberg, leaving Karlsruhe, composed of the 1st Infantry Regiment, Hussars, and Artillery; they arrived on the 19th at Darmstadt, the 20th at Frankfurt, and the 27th at Cassel.

The Emperor had regulated the composition of the new corps assigned to the Grand Army:¹

*The Emperor to the Prince of Neufchâtel and Wagram,
Major General of the Grande Armée, Paris.*

Paris, 3 March 1812.

"...The division composed of the Berg, Hesse-Darmstadt and of Baden, commanded by General Daendels, will form only one division, and will move at least by the 26th..."



1812. — LE MARÉCHAL DAVOUT

COMMANDANT LE 1^{er} CORPS DE LA GRANDE ARMÉE.

(Extrait de l'*Histoire de France* d'Henri Martin).

(Combet et Co, éditeurs).

1812. -- MARSHAL DAVOUT
COMMANDING THE 1st CORPS OF THE GRAND ARMÉE.

(Excerpt from Henri Martin's *History of France*).

(Combet and Co., editors).

¹*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 4.

DAVOUT (Louis-Nicolas), Duke of Auerstaedt, Prince of Eckmühl. Born at Annoux (Yonne) in 1770, died in 1823. -- Classmate of Napoleon at Brienne; battalion commander under Dumouriez with the Army of North. Brigadier General for the Armies of the Moselle and the Rhine, 1793-1795. Egypt, Aboukir. 1805, Ulm, Austerlitz. 1806, Auerstaedt. 1809, Eckmühl. 1812, Mohilev. 1813, defense of Hamburg. Minister of War during the Hundred Days. Peer of France in 1819.

It was Marshal Davout who commanded at this moment all the troops stationed in Germany; he received from Berthier the necessary instructions to carry himself from the Oder to the Vistula:²

The Emperor to the Prince of Neufchâtel, at Paris.

in Paris, - Ju. 1812.

"...A battalion of Hesse-Darmstadt and a battalion of Baden will be returned as soon as possible to Custrin, to form the basis of the garrison of this place."

"Another battalion of Baden and another battalion of Hesse-Darmstadt must be placed at from march from Stettin, so that when the division at Stettin receives the order to march forward, these battalions may proceed to Stettin to train the garrison."

"The whole of Berg's brigade must be in Swedish Pomerania as well as the rest of the brigades of Hesse-Darmstadt and Baden. A battalion can be detached to guard the coasts of Mecklenburg..."

A new order of the Emperor, of 16 March, alerts Berthier that:

"...the Stettin garrison will be formed by several battalions of the Daendels Division and the Custrin garrison."

Accordingly, the Baden, instead of marching on Magdeburg, marched on Rostock, as per the instructions sent to them by General Romeuf, Chief of Staff of Davout. They crossed the Elbe at Dömitz on 10 March, and arrived at Stralsund on the 21st, with the exception of the 3rd Regiment which arrived at Güstrow on 17 March, which was directed straight on Stettin where it was joined on the 27th by the Light Battalion. It was General von Linnig who commanded the three Baden battalions of Stettin and soon detached the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment at Custrin.

As for General von Hochberg, he received on 23 April the command of the Island of Rügen, where he had under his command the 1st Infantry Regiment and two squadrons of Baden hussars, the half-horse battery of Baden and a battalion of Berg with two pieces of cannon; he did not stay long in this position, because on 1 May the Baden of Rügen are recalled to Stettin whose French General Liébert was governor; so they united in this place, except the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Regiment, which would form the garrison of Peenemunde and the islands of Usedom and Wollin; Baden General von Linnig commanded in these two islands and established his headquarters at Swinemunde.

It was at this time that the Daendels Division passed from the command of Davout (1st Corps) to those of Marshal Victor (9th Corps): the latter immediately called to Berlin twenty-five Baden hussars with an officer, to act as his headquarters the service of estafettes. The Emperor approved this measure of detail so well that he wrote a little later to the Chief of Staff, concerning the service which was imposed on the gendarmerie:³

²*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 15.

³*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 160.

The Emperor to the Major General.

Kowno, 16 July 1812.

"My Cousin, you realize that there are 520 gendarmes in the army. This number is sufficient, but it is poorly distributed; we must leave only five in Berlin... I do not see why gendarmes would be employed to guard luggage, any kind of troop can guard luggage... Take away those of the King of Naples... A gendarme is not a cavalryman, he is an agent who must be placed in every post, because this service is of the most importance..."

"I do not object to you asking for a squadron of cavalry until the arrival of the regiment of Baden, which you can employ with the headquarters... In the meantime, take cavalry: two or three hundred cavalymen more or less are nothing; 200 more gendarmes assured the tranquility of the army and good order."

NAPOLÉON.

During the month of May, Lieutenant von Massenot brought to Stettin 2,000 new French fusils, to replace many defective weapons brought by the Baden contingent. Major Asbrandt also arrived with a supplementary battalion of 700 men.

Serious disturbances broke out at Stettin between soldiers of the French Imperial Young Guard and the Baden, and after some quarrel came blows; reinforcements arriving to both parties, there was a bloody fight. General Liébert had to beat *the general* and take up arms with the whole garrison; the fighters then parted to rejoin their corps and everything went back to normal.

The Daendels Division assembled at Danzig at the beginning of June: the Baden went there accompanied by the light horse of Hesse, who stopped at Köslin to wait for the Partouneaux Division. The Baden Hussars remained for some time at Stettin, and then also at Danzig, as well as the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment which left Custrin.

Besides the Baden, the garrison of Danzig was comprised at that moment of:

- 1 Württemberg regiment,
- 1 Bavarian regiment,
- the Anhalt-Lippe Regiment (Confederation of the Rhine),
- 5 battalions of Berg,
- 1 battalion of the city of Danzig

under the orders of General Rapp, appointed governor of the place. The latter had a rather curious precedence to settle, following a dispute between the troops of Berg and those of Baden: he submitted the case to the Chief of Staff, who decided that the troops of Baden would rank henceforth before those from Berg.



1812. — LE MARÉCHAL VICTOR
Commandant le 9^e corps de la Grande Armée (1).
(D'après une lithographie de l'époque.)

1812. -- MARSHAL VICTOR
Commander the 9th Corps of the Grand Armée.⁴
(From a lithograph of the time.)

The war was declared to Russia on the 22nd of June; the news reached Danzig on the 27th; the Baden had just received a large supply convoy: Lieutenant-Colonel von Saint-Julien had brought them 18 caissons of ammunition, 4 carts of flour, 8 of blankets (with a view to the winter bivouacs), 800 new cartridges, 100 pairs of boots and one third pair of shoes for each infantryman. Artillery ammunition was immediately aligned at 267 rounds per 6-pound piece and 217 rounds per howitzer. The infantry had 138,000 cartridges. The artillery teams increased from 4 to 6 horses per carriage and 15 non-coupled caissons remained entrusted to the artillery direction of the town.

Lieutenant-Colonel von Saint-Julien remained in Danzig as commander of the Baden depots.

On 28 July, the contingent left for Tilsit by Elbing and Königsberg; the foreign diplomatic corps which was to follow the Emperor's headquarters was already assembled in that city, where Lieutenant-General von Harrant represented the Grand Duke of Baden; the diplomats waited at Königsberg for Napoleon's arrival at Vilna to join him there. The Baden reached Tilsit on 9 August: it was the designated point for the gathering of the 9th Corps of the Grand Armée.

COMPOSITION OF THE 9th CORPS:

Commander-in-Chief: Marshal VICTOR.
Chief of Staff: Adjutant-Commander HUGUET-CHATEAU.
Commander of Artillery: Colonel CARON.

⁴ Victor (Victor Perrin, so-called), Duke of Bellune, Marshal of France, born at La Marche (Vosges) in 1766, died in 1841. -- Entered the service in 1781. General of Brigade at Toulon, in 1793. He distinguished himself at Ancona, Montebello, Marengo, Jena, Friedland, at Medellin, in Spain (1808), at Russia (1812), at Dresden, at Leipzig (1813). Following Louis XVIII to Ghent, Minister of War and Peer of France under the Restoration.

Commander of Engineers: Colonel BIZOT-CHAMOIS.

26th Division, General DAENDELS.

Baden Brigade, General VON HOCHBERG:

1st Infantry Regiment, Colonel VON FRANKEN, 2 battalions;

3rd Infantry Regiment, Colonel BRÜCKNER, 2 Battalions;

Light Infantry Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel PETERNELL, 1 battalion;

4 pieces of horse artillery, Captain SENSBURG;

4 pieces of foot artillery on foot, Captain FISCHER (Captain FISCHER, senior, commanded the Baden artillery).

Berg Brigade.

28th Division, General PARTOUNEAUX (3 brigades).

12th Division, General GIRARD (1 Polish brigade, 1 Saxon brigade).

Cavalry Division, General FOURNIER.

30th Brigade, General DELATTRE:

Berg Lancers, 4 squadrons;

Hessian Light Horse, 3 squadrons.

31st Brigade, Baden Colonel VON LAROCHE:

Saxon Dragons "*Prince John*", 4 squadrons;

Baden Hussars. Colonel VON CANCRIN, 4 squadrons.

The 2nd Infantry Regiment remained definitively in 1st Corps; its 1st Battalion (Major Weber), with two pieces of cannon, had been detached to the Imperial quarter under the command of Colonel von Bocklin; the 2nd Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel von Etdorf) had passed from Danzig to Pillau. This regiment had to take part in the pursuit of Bagration, at the beginning of July, with the Morand division, two brigades of the Bruyères Division, and the Saint-Germain division. (Instructions to Marshal Davout, commander of the 1st Corps of the Grand Armée at Ochmiana, sent from Vilna, 1 July 1812, at 2 o'clock in the morning)⁵



1812. — LE GÉNÉRAL MORAND
Commandant la 1^{re} division du 1^{er} corps (1).
(D'après la *France militaire*.)

⁵*Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 165.

1812. -- GENERAL MORAND

Commander 1st Division of the 1st Corps.⁶
(According to *Military France*.)

The Baden troops had for the most part already made the campaigns of 1806-1807 and 1809 and were animated with the best spirit.

The role of the 9th Corps was to serve as a reserve for the Grand Armée and support for the 2nd and 6th Corps. It was to proceed from Tilsit, through Vilna and Minsk, to Smolensk.

After an eighteen-day camp at Wilkischken (Vikyškiai) on the right bank of the Memel, the Daendels Division left on 30 August, arriving on 3 September at Kowno, on the 6th at Skogol, on the 7th at Hof-Gibia, and on the 9th at Vilna. It was there that General Fournier, commanding the cavalry division of the 9th Corps, ordered the shooting of all the wounded horses of the cavalry which could not be restored in a fortnight: the Baden hussars took twenty of their horses to the artillery of Baden, which allowed twenty horse servers to remount and get down from caissons where the lack of horses had forced them to settle. In the absence of teams, seven Baden artillery carriages were left at Vilna, which the 26th Division left on 10 September to reach Minsk on the 15th (by Osmiana, Smorgon', Maladzyechna and Lumezin).

Count W. von Hochberg's *Memories* recount many unknown episodes of this memorable campaign, so we will keep to them closely in the following pages of this chapter.

A series of marches brought the Baden to Borisow, on the 18th of September, after the crossing of the Berezina; on the Nacha, the 19th; in Jablonka on the 20th; in Tolochin, the 21st; in Orsha, on the Dnieper, the 22nd: the treasury of the battalion of the Baden Brigade was stolen during the night by the Jews of the locality... ; in Dubrovno on the 24th and 25th; in Lyady, the 26th; a mixed military commission was appointed that day in the division, by order of Marshal Victor, to ensure the repression, according to the French Military Code, of the excesses committed by the troops in the occupied countries.

Finally, on 28 September, the Daendels Division reached Smolensk where the 9th Corps was to wait for the Grand Armée. It was General Barbanègre who commanded the city: the future defender of Huningue would one day return his sword to General von Hochberg commanding the Baden at the siege of this town...

On entering Smolensk, a certain number of Baden soldiers exclaimed that they recognized the city very well... They had, in fact, before the beginning of the campaign, seen playing at Karlsruhe and at Mannheim a play of a theater entitled "Smolensk's Taken", whose decorations were so faithfully executed from real life that the landscape did not seem new to them, at the memory of these representations...

On 10 October the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Baden Regiment arrived at Smolensk, coming from Pillau; this battalion was ordered to meet at the 1st Battalion of the same regiment, towards Moscow; but General von Hochberg, in the circumstances, obtained keeping it with him. The Baden infantry of the 2nd Corps now had six battalions; two of the 1st Regiment, one of the 2nd, two of the 3rd, and the Light Battalion.

After the evacuation of Polotsk by the 2nd and 6th Corps, Marshal Victor sent the Daendels Division to Babinowicki on 11 October to cover the retreat of the 2nd Corps: this division remained there until the 22nd, having crossed the Dnieper at Dubrovno; it arrived at Vitebsk on the 24th, at Ostrovno on the 28th, and at Bezenkowicki on the 29th. The Baden light battalion, sent from this point to Buterowa, where the 2nd Corps's Legrand Division was, performed the meeting of the 2nd and 9th Corps in the night of 31 October to 1 November.

⁶Morand (Count), General of Division, born at Pontarlier in 1770, died in 1835. -- Left as a volunteer in 1792; Divisional General at Austerlitz. Stood out at Eylau, Friedland, Essling, Wagram, Dennewitz. Resumed service during the Hundred Days; sentenced to death in absentia at the Restoration. Created peer of France by Louis-Philippe.

First battle of Chashniki (Czasniki).

The Daendels Division, which arrived alone on the morning of 31 October at Czasniki, immediately went to the aid of the 2nd Corps engaged against the Russians: the Baden Brigade came at 11 o'clock to support the Merle Division (composed of the three Swiss regiments and the Croatian 1st Regiment) advanced in column of battalion, but the fire of the artillery soon compelled it to deploy itself. The brigade of Berg was then engaged also near the Baden, on the Ulla, while the company of voltigeurs of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Baden Regiment fought with the enemy; the fight lagged thus without decision until the evening. The Baden have twenty killed or wounded; they had marched all the previous night and had not eaten for twenty-four hours.

After the retreat that followed this fight, the 2nd and 9th Corps bivouacked on 2 and 3 November at Senno.

Marshal Victor, as a result of the wounding of Oudinot had just assumed the command of the 2nd and 9th Corps; he organized them in the following manner:

Right Wing (General LEGRAND): divisions of Legrand (2nd Corps) and Daendels (9th Corps);

Center (General MERLE): divisions of Merle (2nd Corps) and Partouneaux (9th Corps);

Left Wing (General GIRARD): Maison (2nd Corps) and Girard (9th Corps) Divisions;

Cavalry (General DOUMERC): Cuirassier Division, 2nd Corps Light Cavalry Brigade, Fournier Division (9th Corps).

On 4 November, they took to Sorbinka, and the 5th at Czereia, where the Hussars of Baden seized some Cossacks near Krasnogura Castle. It was the Legrand Division which was the vanguard of the little French army on the road to Lucolm, with the Baden light battalion and the four horse pieces of Baden. This advance guard, attacked on 8 November by the Russians, was supported by the brigade of Berg.

The wound of Marshal Oudinot soon allowed him to take again the command of the 2nd Corps which separated then from the 9th; the latter continued its flank march along the Russian outposts and the Daendels Division, with the Baden, moved away from the Legrand Division on 9 November in Stroczewicki. It now was a brigade of cavalry of the 9th Corps (Colonel von Laroche, with the hussars of Baden and light cavalry of Hesse) which formed the vanguard of the corps, in the direction of Czasniki; at Truchanowicz, on 12 November, the vanguard charged and overthrew enemy cavalry and artillery; but the Baden hussars had their leader, Colonel von Cancrin, killed in this affair. In the night following this engagement, the Baden maintained many fires in bivouac to give the slip to the Russians; then they join the army corps at Miéleskowicz after a painful night march.

Victor continued to approach the road to Moscow by which the Great Armée retreated. The Partouneaux Division and the cavalry divisions had an engagement, on the evening of the 13th, with Wittgenstein's vanguard; the 9th Corps bivouacked then at Zeulaski.

Second battle of Czasniki (14 November).

The 9th Corps attacked the enemy at Czasniki: it was the division of Girard which executed the offensive movement, covered on the right by the cavalry. The rest of the infantry marched in the direction of Wotzenka, where the Partouneaux Division took position on the left flank of the Russians. The voltigeurs company of the Baden Light Battalion (Captain Hecht) covered the movement, assisted by a company of the Baden 2nd Regiment. The ground was still covered with corpses that could not be buried after the fight of 31 October... Several of them wore the Baden uniform... The losses for the brigade of Baden were 18 killed and 46 wounded (including 3 officers).

The decisive attack that was to take place the next day, 15 November, was canceled; instructions from the Emperor having just been brought by Colonel Chateau, Marshal Victor's first aide-de-camp; the 9th Corps, instead of fighting, was to retreat to join the Grand Armée without loss of time and go to bivouac at Sobolie.

It arrived on the 16th at Pulski, on the road to Senno; on the 17th, at Ulianowicz; on the 20th, at Czereia; it is here that the six Baden battalions were formed in two provisional regiments with three battalions, because of the lack of superior officers: General Linng commanded the first and Colonel Bruckner the second of these regiments.

General Delattre was at the head of the rearguard of the army corps; he had two cavalry regiments, four battalions of infantry (including the light battalion of Baden), and two pieces of horse artillery. The divisions of Daendels and Girard, with the other two cavalry regiments, were on 23 November at Dokmika and the Partouneaux Division at Batury; a cloud of Cossacks fell that day on the convoy; while they pillaged the carriages, Colonel von Laroche fell on them with a detachment of the hussars of Baden: two officers and eighteen Cossacks were taken prisoner and Colonel Baden received the congratulations of Marshal Victor.

...But, meanwhile, Partouneaux was taken by the enemy with a battalion and two pieces of cannon, and General Delattre's rearguard lost, near the castle of Staroczyez, an isolated post where an officer and twenty-four men of the Baden light battalion were captured by the Russians.

Battle of Batury (24 November).

The Count de Hochberg was charged, with two battalions, to form the support of General Delattre's rearguard, in the event that he was attacked after the departure of the corps. The Baden General therefore remained near Baturyn; the rear-guard arrived soon and settled 700 or 800 steps behind the village, while the enemy, who followed it very closely, entered the village itself and brought up its artillery. To enable the battalions of General Delattre to assemble and form, Hochberg deployed as a skirmisher a battalion of the Baden 1st Regiment; the 2nd Battalion serving as a reserve was massed to the left of his line. -- Given the imminence of a fight, he thought to himself to keep the other battalions of Baden and even asked the Marshal for reinforcement of two battalions from Berg.

General Fournier passed close by, after having assembled his four regiments: "It is not a matter of cavalry," he said to Count von Hochberg, "I leave you the command!" -- And he went away with his division; the ground, it was true, was not very favorable to the cavalry; but he could have left at least some of his squadrons near the battlefield...⁷

The only two pieces of French artillery were soon uncarried by the twelve pieces put in battery by the Russians; these pronounced an attack on our right wing in the direction of our line of retreat. Hochberg immediately sent a battalion to occupy a defile by which retreat was obligatory, while the 3rd Regiment contained the enemy as long as possible: the troops passed through the defile under this protection; a battalion of the 1st Regiment arriving there at a running pace, General von Hochberg commanded "Ordinary pace!" -- This battalion resumed its usual pace and continued its retreat in the best order.

The Russians did not trouble us long, and the Baden joined their division: their losses amounted to 25 dead and 63 wounded, including 3 officers; Captain von Imhof, of the 1st Regiment, did not survive his wounds and was buried at night in Beszauri, in the middle of the bivouac of his regiment.

To avoid being attacked again, Marshal Victor broke camp at 2 o'clock in the morning. The brigade of Baden made the vanguard; the old rear-guard was dissolved and replaced in this service by the Partouneaux Division. The 9th Corps bivouacked at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the main road near Losznitza.

It was there that the debris of the Grand Armée arrived.

"At this moment the Polish army passed: I had my brigade stopped," -- said General von Hochberg, -- "in order to observe the most unheard of spectacles. First, about twenty eagles, carried by noncommissioned officers; then several generals, some on horseback, others on foot... Some had women's coats of silk, edged with sable... behind them, about 500 men in arms, -- this, all which remained of an army corps which had entered enemy territory with 30,000 or 40,000 combatants. The sun shone brightly, and shone with its rays on this unforgettable scene..."⁸

⁷*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 58.

⁸*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 59.

The last written order received by the Baden during this campaign was the following:

Losznitza, 25 November 1812.

"Tomorrow we will go to Borisow where, in all likelihood, His Majesty the Emperor will review the corps. Messrs. the generals will immediately take all the necessary measures to ensure that the battalions present themselves in the greatest state of cleanliness and in the most beautiful manner."⁹

As a result, a situation was prepared for the Emperor: the Baden Brigade, on 25 November, still had 2,240 men under arms. In the present circumstances it was a very respectable figure; Berg's artillery, for instance, had almost completely melted down in the country and could only put two pieces in line, while the Baden artillery, composed of old soldiers, had resisted much better and still possessed all its guns.

On 26 November, the 9th Corps set out for Borisow arriving at 3 o'clock in the morning. Arrived at Niémanitza, the Baden found a convoy of forty-one wagons, left Karlsruhe in the month of July under the direction of Lieutenant Hammes! It contained biscuits, shoes!... It was a real treasure, at a time when everyone had lost everything... The brigade stopped on the road and the distribution took place immediately. The troops of Berg benefited from the surplus, because the wagons were burned on the spot and the horses given to the artillery. A comical incident provoked the cheerfulness of the 3rd Regiment, whose leader, the brave Colonel Bruckner, received a precious wig, which had been carefully wrapped!

Victor placed his army corps in reserve behind the forest of Old Borisow, to support the 2nd Corps which had been on the right bank since 1 o'clock in the afternoon at the total number of 7,000 men.

The next day, November 27, the 9th Corps (except the Partouneaux Division and the Delattre cavalry brigade, left behind at Borisow) was taken to Studyanka where the Emperor sent it the order to cross the right bank to join the 2nd Corps. Captain von Kalenberg, in charge of reconnoitering the bridge and making sure he was free for the crossing of the Baden brigade, met Marshal Berthier; the latter asked him what he wanted and what he sought: Kalenberg, who did not know the Chief of Staff, replied that he has no account to give him and that he is there for the service. Fury of Berthier, who makes himself known, -- and confusion of the poor Baden captain...

The Baden Brigade crossed the bridge and took a position very close to it. It was at this moment that several officers of the 1st Battalion of the Baden 2nd Regiment, returning from Moscow, were found; they announced that the two pieces of cannon assigned to this battalion had been lost since Smolensk, and that the battalion itself was almost entirely destroyed.

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⁹*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 60.