

# The Napoleon Series

## The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume II The Baden Contingent – Chapter 6 Part III

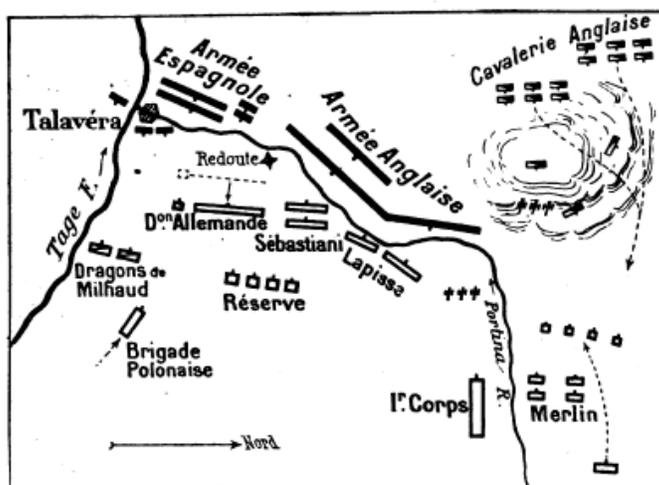
By Commandant Sauzey

Translated by [Greg Gorsuch](#)

### THE BADEN CONTINGENT IN SPAIN.<sup>1</sup>

#### Battle of Talavera (28 July).

The 80,000 Anglo-Spaniards of Wellesley and Cuesta were bravely attacked by less than 40,000 Frenchmen. Victor vainly tried to take, with two divisions of infantry, the hill on which General Hill solidly entrenched himself, while Sebastiani, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps and the German Division, threw himself on the enemy center commanded by General Campbell; the regiments of Holland and Baden, met by a terrible fire, could not succeed in removing the position; it was in vain that the Nassau Regiment and the German Voltigeurs Battalion arrived in reinforcement. The courage and momentum of the soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps remained useless, and Joseph's troops had to withdraw after losing about 15,000 men and 20 pieces of cannon. The losses of the enemy amounted to 10,000 killed or wounded.



Croquis de la bataille de Talavéra.  
(D'après Costa de Serda.)

Sketch of the Battle of Talavera. (According to Costa de Serda.)

<sup>1</sup>The well-documented German work of Baden Major W. Krieg von Hochfelden (*Geschichte der Badischen Truppen in Spanien*) served as a canvas for the last part of this study.

The quotations from Bernays' book (*Schicksale des Grossherzogthums Frankfurt and Seiner Truppen*) are themselves taken from the written telling of this war by Captain Rigel, who made the whole campaign in the ranks of the Baden contingent (*Der siebenjährige Kampf auf der Pyrenäischen Halbinsel*).

Finally, the numbers of this contingent at different periods of operation in the peninsula were extracted from the work of Costa de Serda on "*Les Troupes sociales sous le Premier Empire*."

Each party claimed victory; but if the advantage of the day really remained with the English, Joseph had the final benefit of the battle, for Wellesley was soon obliged to retire on Badajoz, threatened on his rear by the movements of Marshal Soult.<sup>2</sup>

The Baden Regiment had been sorely tried on this day: it deplored the death of its brave leader, Colonel Porbeck, who had been struck at the head of his soldiers, after having had a horse killed under him at the beginning of the action.

"The bullet that toppled him dead crossed his commander's cross before entering his chest..."<sup>3</sup>

The same shot of grape that took him also broke the flagstaff of Baden in three pieces. Three days later arrived from Germany his appointment to the rank of general and his orders to come to the Grand Duke, who took him as his aide-de-camp. The Baden lost another four officers killed (Captain von Stockhorn, lieutenants Barth, Dornbluth and Schutz, the latter, of the artillery) and 80 non-commissioned officers and soldiers; the number of the wounded was 10 officers and more than 300 troops: half the strength.

A rather curious detail is reported by Rigel:<sup>4</sup> the musicians of the regiment of Baden picked up from the battlefield of the helmets of the English 23<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Regiment, and took others from the prisoners made of this body; they combed their hair and wore these trophies until the end of the campaign.

*Report of Sebastiani to the Emperor.*

"The French and German divisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps have been covered with glory. The brave colonel of the Baden regiment, Baron von Porbeck, was killed at the head of his body...."

Captain von Lassolaye, commander of the Baden artillery, badly wounded during the battle, was promoted officer of the Legion of Honor with the following mention: "Officer of a high bravery and a lot of talent; has impressed the best spirit in his company which has been covered with glory under all circumstances."<sup>5</sup>

On the following day, the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps and the reserve corps left the field of battle and, crossing the Alberche, went to meet the Spanish army of Venegas: Victor, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps, remained on his positions to cover the movements of the King and Sebastiani. After the hasty retreat of the British, the German Division (since then officially called the *Confederation of the Rhine Division*) formed the vanguard of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps and marched on Toledo, where two pieces of Baden artillery, placed at the Alcazar, helped to clear the garrison left in this place and blockaded by the Spaniards.

On 8 August, Leval was in charge of a reconnaissance on the left bank of the Tagus, by the bridges of Saint-Martin and Alcántara. The following day, 3 German battalions opened bridges and vigorously attacked a Spanish division supported by eight guns. Sebastiani, in front of the importance of the enemy forces, ordered the crossing of the Tagus with all his army corps. The Dutch and Baden artillery stood out in this engagement.

*Report of General Senarmont, Commander-in-Chief Artillery.*

"...In this affair, the brave Lieutenant Klaiber, the only officer who still remained in the Baden artillery, and who had distinguished himself at Talavera, was badly wounded..."

---

<sup>2</sup>It is from this time that General Wellesley was called "Lord Wellington, Duke of Talavera" (Bernays).

<sup>3</sup>Bernays, page 106.

<sup>4</sup>Rigel, II, page 353.

<sup>5</sup>Costa de Serda, page 68.

This officer was decorated with the Legion of Honor.

In short, the outposts of Venegas fell back on Almonacid. The Spanish General intended to crush the French and enter Madrid triumphantly. The battle he fought brought on the contrary the ruin of his army.

### **Battle of Almonacid (11 August).**

The Spaniards were formed on three lines, with the infantry in the center and the cavalry on both wings. Joseph keeping in reserve the so-called "reserve" corps and the cavalry, launched Sebastiani against the enemy center, with the Polish and German divisions. The regiment of Baden advanced in line deployed; the Poles, in squares, covered its right and its left. This daring attack was successful, and the King, seeing the good spirit of the Baden, sent congratulations to their leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Hennig. The Poles and the Baden were besieged by the Spanish cavalry: supported by the artillery of Baden and Hesse, they covered with fire the cavalymen of Venegas and forced them back by inflicting on them enormous losses. The two brave divisions continued their success and advanced against the mountain of Almonacid, which was soon assailed on all sides: front and right by two French brigades, and on the left by the Germans and the Polish. At this moment, the reserve corps went to the line of retreat of the enemy who abandons in disorder the battlefield.

*Report of General Sebastiani, commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps.<sup>6</sup>*

"...The attack was executed with an admirable order and precision; the nipple is removed at a charge, under a terrible fire of artillery and musketry. Generals Leval and Schaefer (of Nassau) walking in the head tumbled everything before them."

"The whole army is at the same time on the other side of the mountain, pursuing the enemy with an order and precision difficult to obtain on a field of maneuver..."

*Report of General Senarmont, Commander-in-Chief Artillery.*

"...Venegas had posted behind the mountain and within range some battalions still holding, supported by thirteen guns.

"The General-in-Chief of the artillery, meeting two pieces of the artillery of Baden, placed them on the right of the German Division, which was suffering greatly; he had every reason to be content with the skill and courage of those brave gunners who executed, with admirable precision, the order he gave them to fire only on the troops..."

In the end, with 20,000 men, King Joseph inflicted a bloody defeat on the 40,000 soldiers of Venegas who left 4,000 of his own on the ground, lost 3,000 prisoners, 30 cannons and all his parks; the French army had only 2,000 men out of action, both killed and wounded; the Poles especially had suffered in that day; as for the German Division, it had only 36 killed and 170 wounded.

After the battle, Leval went into cantonment with his division in Chinchón and Colmenar. A Baden company commanded by Captain von Froben, detached to Villamanrique to observe a crossing point on the Tagus, was taken by surprise on the night of 22 August by a strong Spanish party consisting of cavalry, guerrillas and peasants: all that the enemy did not kill on the spot were taken prisoner. A company from Nassau, detached in Fuentidueña, suffered a similar fate the same night...

The Germans were in Toledo on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, and in Yepes on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the same month; it was here that General Schaefer (of Nassau), commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, was ordered to return to Germany and passed the command of the regiments of Nassau and Baden to Colonel Kruse (of Nassau): his departure deeply moved the troops he had so often led to fire and victory.

General Leval, sick at Madrid, was replaced at the head of the division by General Schaefer (of Hesse). It was

---

<sup>6</sup>Bernays, page 111.

General Merle, commander of the Polish division, who was at that moment at the head of the two Polish and German divisions.

After various movements in the province of La Mancha, at Manzanares (14 October) and Valdepeñas, the German Division returned to Toledo (30 October), then to Aranjuez (10 November) where General Leval resumed his command. Soult, Chief of Staff of the French army, was rapidly concentrating his troops to attack the new Spanish army of don Juan de Aréizaga, who, with 50,000 men, had just occupied Ocaña.

### **Battle of Ocaña (19 November).**

King Joseph had the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps (Victor), the 4<sup>th</sup> (Sebastiani), the 5<sup>th</sup> (Mortier), his Guard and the reserve corps (General Dessolles): about 36,000 men, including 4,000 horsemen. Sebastiani having received the command of the cavalry, Leval took that of the 4<sup>th</sup> Corps.

While Victor crossed the Tagus at Villamanrique, maneuvering on the right and the rear of the enemy, the Polish and German divisions, with the light cavalry, advanced on Ocaña. The Poles pronounced their attack: they were followed by the division of the Rhine, formed first in a tight column by battalion, then deployed each battalion in a column close by division: this offensive movement directed on the right of the Spaniards is greeted by a terrible fire...Leval, wounded, was carried off of the field of battle...the situation became critical when Mortier the same time that Dessolles attacked the enemy's left, and that German voltigeurs overran Ocaña with the artillery of Hesse and Baden. The first Spanish line, broken, was thrown back on the second. From that moment on, victory was assured: the charge rang out all over the line, the light cavalry charged on the left the enemy cavalry which did not hold before it, and the regiments of dragoons poured on the Spanish center; everything gave way, everything fled, everything surrendered...Joseph travels the French line, thanking his army for victory which it gave him, and enthusiastic "Vivats!" of the Germans answered him. Victor completed the triumph by cutting off all retreat to the enemy.

The Spaniards suffered disastrous losses: 5,000 killed or wounded, 20,000 prisoners, 32 flags, 50 pieces of cannon, all their baggage and all their ammunition. The French had only 2,000 men hors de combat; the Baden contingent, including the artillery, lost only 60 men.<sup>7</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel Hennig, commanding the Baden regiment, was badly wounded in the head during the battle; Major Lehmann took command of the regiment.

#### *Report of Marshal Mortier.*

"...The Polish and German divisions engaged in the fight and showed great valor. The German regiments have all competed with ardor and dedication. Among the officers worthy of mention are Lieutenant-Colonel Hennig of the Baden Regiment; Adjutant Officer Major Krieg, from the same regiment..."

The division of the Rhine received after the victory the delicate task of driving the Spanish prisoners to France. Three detachments, formed at Madrid, were successively directed on Bayonne by Segovia, Valladolid, Burgos, and Vitoria. The most severe orders had been given to prevent the prisoners from escaping, to swell the guerrillas: even those unfortunate men who could find it impossible to follow the escort detachments... but the officers and soldiers of Leval saved a large number of prisoners by having them ride on their own horses, or even by carrying them to the next rest stop. Nevertheless, many managed to flee; the inhabitants helped them by way of providing them with clothing, and the sentinels were often corrupted for a price of gold. In Segovia, 200 Spaniards, confined for the night in a convent, were able to reach the country by an unknown underground, by which the inhabitants made them escape. Arrived at Bayonne on 24 December, the prisoners were handed over to the gendarmerie and taken to the interior of France. It was at Bayonne that General Neuenstein, who had recently arrived from Karlsruhe, took command of the Baden troops, and left with them on 26 December for Spain.

The regiment of Baden went to Valladolid and passed under the orders of General Kellermann, appointed governor of that city; General Leval was still unavailable due to his injury. The Baden furnished detachments to Baños, Dueñas, La Venta de Triguères, Cabazon, Puente de Duero, Valdestillas, Hornillos, and Olmedo, to assure the

---

<sup>7</sup>This is the figure given by Hochfelden; Bernays claims, for the Baden, a loss of 26 killed and 93 wounded.

communications of the army.

The regiment of Nassau and the artillery of Baden, directed to Segovia, were employed in the same service; these troops had a serious battle to fight against the guerrillas at Santa Maria, on 1 February 1810: two officers of the artillery of Baden and several gunners lost their life in this engagement.

### §3. -- 1810 and 1811.

The Baden spent the first months of the year 1810 escorting, among their various cantonments, the innumerable convoys and couriers of the army.<sup>8</sup> This task was always painful and often dangerous, the guerrillas having greatly increased in number and audacity; they rallied in Madrid on 19 March with the other corps of the division. General Lorge at that time took command of the division of the Rhine, and conducted it to Toledo and the Channel. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (Holland and Nassau) was under the command of General Chassé; the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Baden and Frankfort) under those of General Neuenstein (Baden); as to the regiment of Hesse, it remained at Segovia, whence it returned only later to Madrid.

General Lorge, governor of the province of Toledo, established himself in this city with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and part of the artillery; some time later, Baden would occupy Cabanas and Juncos, with a detachment of 350 men at Consuegra; then, in April, Mora, Consuegra, Orgac, La-Venta-del-Alamo and the Alcazar of Toledo.



**1809. — LE GÉNÉRAL KELLERMANN**

Gouverneur de Valladolid (1).

(D'après la *France militaire*.)

1809. -- GENERAL KELLERMAN

Governor of Valladolid.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup>Effectives of the Baden, 8 January 1810 (Costa de Serda, pages 85-86): Infantry Regiment: Present, 1.301. Sick, 685. Artillery and train: - 242.

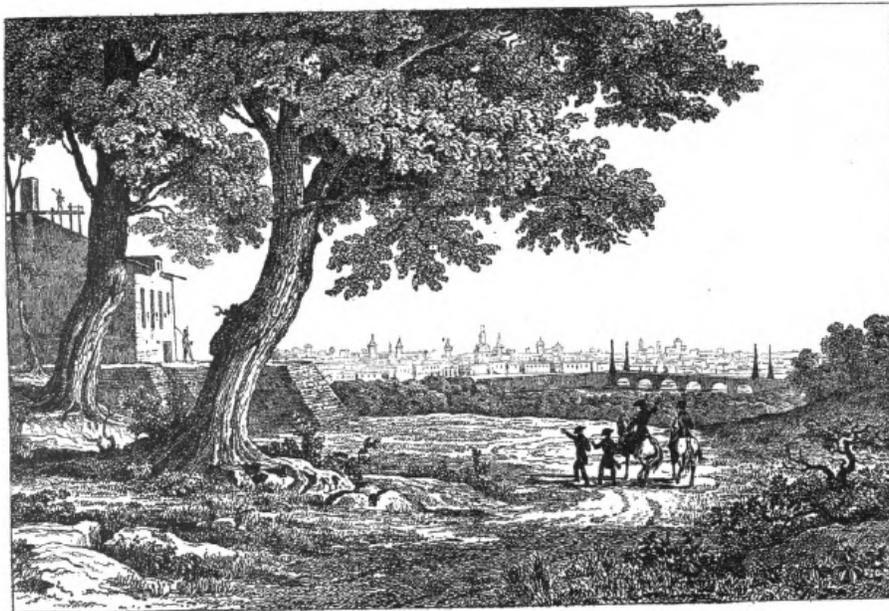
<sup>9</sup> Kellermann (Francois-Etienne), son of the marshal.

Born in Metz in 1770; died in 1833. His father's aide-de-camp to the Army of the Alps, 1792; Brigadier General in 1796; armies of Italy, Rome, Naples; general of division after Marengo; was distinguished at Austerlitz, in Portugal (1807), in Spain (1809); sick in 1812, again reported in 1813 to Lützen and Bautzen; in 1814, at Mormant and Bar-sur-Aube; returned to the Emperor on his return from the Isle of Elba, and covered himself with glory at Quatre Bras

(After *Military France*.)

On 15 May, near Consuegra, Lieutenant Heres with 50 voltigeurs fell into an ambush and perished with all his detachment; four days later, 114 men, commanded by Lieutenant von Holzinger and coming from Mora to fetch food, were attacked during the night by guerrillas: after an energetic resistance and an unsuccessful attempt to open a bayonet path, this troop was killed or taken by the enemy:

The regiments of the division were greatly weakened; death, wounds, diseases, desertion itself, had greatly reduced the strength, and the necessity of reinforcements was pressingly felt. A detachment of 650 men, led by Major Mader, arrived happily from the Grand Duchy of Baden at Consuegra on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.<sup>10</sup> The Baden Regiment was in great need of this help to make up for the numerous casualties in its ranks: the fighting against the partisans was multiplying, and every day new victims fell. Lieutenant Rigel had a serious engagement near Consuegra; First Lieutenant Asbrandt, Lieutenant Frankenberg were also attacked in the same area; Captain Maier had an affair near Mora; Captain Schendal has one near Venta-del-Alamo; finally, Captain von Hammerer was murdered a quarter of a league from Consuegra.



Valladolid.

(D'après la *France militaire*.)

Valladolid.

(After the *Military France*.)

All these little fights, which gave neither glory nor rewards, exhausted the troops and made them wish for the time of great operations and battles.

Marshal Massena had evacuated Portugal; the city of Badajoz, besieged by the British corps of Beresford, had been

---

and Waterloo, where he was badly wounded; kept apart under the Restoration, and appointed peer of France by Louis-Philippe.

<sup>10</sup>Reinforcements for the Spanish army were concentrated at Orléans, where they were formed, as and when they arrived in that city, into "battalions" and "marching regiments" which were dissolved when they arrived in the Peninsula: each element of these provisional formations then joined the body for which it was destined.

relieved by Soult after the bloody battle of Albuera where General Merle was killed: this officer had commanded one of the brigades of the German division at the beginning of the war of Spain.

The Division of the Rhine only existed by name;<sup>11</sup> it only counted at the beginning of the year 1811, including the 2,000 reinforcements arrived, in the course of 1810:

5,676 soldiers,  
663 horses,  
252 gunners and men of the train;

and from these figures, so small, still had to be subtracted:

1,181 men to hospitals,  
401 men prisoners of war.

The Dutch had been distributed in various regiments of infantry, as a result of the union of Holland with France; the regiment of Hesse was at Badajoz, where it disappeared almost entirely during the siege of this place by the English; those who escaped death became prisoners of war, and were conducted to England. The division, under the orders of General von Neuenstein, only consisted of:

the Nassau Infantry Regiment,  
the Baden regiment,  
the battalion of Frankfurt.

These troops, charged to assure the communications and correspondence over a distance of 40 to 60 leagues were completely dislocated in the month of October 1811; the Baden Regiment, for its part, had posts at Mora, Yllescas, San-Raphael, Otero, and Segovia, with its headquarters at Madrid.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of April, Colonel Lejeune, aide-de-camp to the Prince of Neufchâtel, was returning from the army of the south carrying Marshal Soult's dispatches, with an escort of 25 dragoons and a detachment of 66 men from Baden under the command of Lieutenant Seilz. Attacked near an olive grove, between Yuncles and Cavanas, by 700 horsemen of the band El Médico, the colonel, under the protection of his infantry, retreated on Cavanas with his 25 dragoons; but it was jostled by 300 Spanish horsemen and the French dragoons were destroyed after a terrible scrum; only the colonel and a dragoon were taken prisoner. During this time, the Baden infantry had gained the heights and defended itself energetically; Cavanas's little garrison at last rushed to the sound of the battle, but found the enemy disappeared: 12 Baden had been killed in this engagement. The report of the governor of Toledo, drawn up following this affair, gives the greatest praise to Lieutenant Seilz:

"He is an officer truly commendable for his intrepidity, and to whom the detachment's salvation is due; all fought, moreover, with a rare courage."<sup>12</sup>

In August, General Trelliard took command of the province of Toledo and the German Division. The strength of the Baden Regiment at that moment was 1,198 men present and 726 absent; the artillery and the train together count 301 soldiers.

At the beginning of October a combined battalion, taken from the division and commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Lehmann, set out for Tarancón, where General D'Armagnac introduced them into the composition of the strong column, which he conducted in reconnoiter towards Valencia; passing through Belmonte (where the famous chief of partisans Francisquet was taken), by Tarazona and by Utiel, this battalion arrived at Requena, then returned to Cuenca and Tarancón, after having raised important contributions.

After three years of campaigning, the Baden Regiment had, in November 1811, only 1,304 soldiers in the ranks. It

---

<sup>11</sup>Bernays, page 190.

<sup>12</sup>Costa de Serda, page 94.

had entered Spain in 1808 at the strength of 1,710 men, and had received two reinforcements, one of 700 men at Oropesa and the other of 650 men at Consuegra; its losses thus amounted to 1,756 men, so that each year of war cost about 600 soldiers in the Grand Duchy of Baden.

#### §4. -- 1812.

##### **Expedition in the province of Murcia.**

Marshal Soult organized a great movement on Valencia and in the province of Murcia, General von Neuenstein was part of the expedition with a combined battalion of the Regiment of Baden and the battalion of Frankfort. A column commanded by Montbrun, with 220 horses from the French 26<sup>th</sup> Chasseurs and two companies of Baden, commanded by Captain von Krieg, left Tarancón on 30 December 1811; crossing Belmonte, Albacete, El-Vilar, it arrived on 12 January 1812 at Almanza; when the ground permitted, the chasseurs on horseback marched at the head of the column; at night, or to cross the localities, it was the Baden companies which preceded the cavalry.

Valencia had just surrendered, and General Blake had capitulated there with 20,000 men of the best Spanish troops. Montbrun then went to Alicante; the suburbs were taken by storm, but the governor of the city, Don Antonio de la Cruz, summoned to surrender, replied that he would capitulate only after a formal siege; as Montbrun had no heavy artillery or engineer engineers in his little column, he decided to retire and returned to the banks of the Tagus by Sax, Villena, and Albacete. He expressed to the General Neuenstein his pleasure with the conduct of the German troops who had participated in this expedition.



**1812. — LE GÉNÉRAL MONTBRUN (1)**

(D'après une lithographie de A. Tardieu.)

1812. -- GENERAL MONTBRUN<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup>Montbrun (Louis-Pierre, Count), born at Florensac (Hérault) in 1770, killed in 1812. Enlisted in 1789 in the 1st Regiment of Chasseurs à Cheval, brigadier in 1799, brigadier general at Austerlitz; distinguished in 1806, during the campaign of Silesia, then in 1803 in Spain, at the taking of Sommosierra, general of division in 1809, covered himself with glory at Eckmühl, at Raab, commanded the cavalry of Massena in Portugal, in 1810, commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Corps of the Grand Army in 1812, killed at the Battle of the Moskowa.

The Germans returned to Toledo and the Baden were staggered from Mora to Segovia: they remained in these posts until July 1812.

### **Operations against guerrillas.**

Captain von Krieg, commander of the Cabanas post, often worried by the partisans, attacked and surprised the guerrillas of Gilo during the night of 19 May in Gilo and inflicted heavy losses on him: Gilo himself, awakened in his bed, had to escape in a nightshirt.

In another affair, on 25 June, between Cabanas and Yllescas, Captain Sartori fell into an ambush with a Baden company; he had an officer wounded, but he succeeds in putting to flight the enemy, who were several hundred strong, after having killed and wounded a great number of Spaniards.

The same day, 30 Baden, surprised by the insurgents between the post of San-Raphael and Guadarama, were all killed or taken prisoner.

The fortified post of San-Raphael, commanded by Lieutenant Bayer and occupied by a garrison of 28 men, made a superb defense, on 11 July, against a party of 800 Spaniards, who were forced to withdraw after more than twelve hours of combat: Lieutenant Bayer had one soldier killed and 19 wounded in this brilliant affair.

Finally, thanks to the escort of the detachment of Baden under the orders of the Lieutenant Baumgartner, a French post attacked between Otero and Segovia could arrive safely after a whole day of combat.

The calls for desertion by English envoys, for the recruitment of a "German Legion" being organized in the British army produced little effect; nevertheless, at the end of May, 1812, a detachment of Baden, escorting a convoy from Toledo to Yllescas, lost 22 deserters who went to swell Wellington's army.<sup>14</sup>

After the defeat of the Arapiles (22 July), King Joseph brought back the Army of the Center which he had wanted to move -- but too late -- to the aid of Marshal Marmont. The composition of this army was as follows:

#### I. Corps of Captain-General MERLIN:

- 1 battalion of grenadiers of the Spanish Guard.
- 1 battalion of the voltigeurs of the Spanish Guard.
- 1 battalion of fusiliers of the Spanish Guard,
- 1 battalion of the Irish of the Spanish Guard.
- 1 Royal Foreign battalion.
- The elite of the Spanish infantry regiments "Madrid" and "Castile".
- The light horse of the Spanish Guard.
- The Westphalian Light Horse Regiment.
- 1 squadron of Nassau mounted jäger.

#### II. Cavalry Division of TREILHARD:

- 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Dragoons.

#### III. Spanish cavalry brigade of General Alvaro:

- 1 squadron of light cavalry (Mango).
- 1 squadron of light cavalry (Morales).
- 1 squadron of light cavalry (Mesa).
- Regiment of Spanish Chasseurs à Cheval.

---

<sup>14</sup>Bemays, page 240.

IV. Division of D'ARMAGNAC:

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade (General Chassé).      3 battalions of 75<sup>th</sup> Line.  
2 battalions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Line.  
1 battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Light.

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (General Neuenstein). Baden Regiment.  
1 battalion of Frankfurt.

V. Artillery: 4 batteries of 4 pieces. (The Baden artillery marched with the German troops).

The total strength of this army was about 12,000 infantry and 2,500 cavalry.

General Neuenstein first stayed at Segovia with his brigade and the 18<sup>th</sup> Dragoons to cover Joseph's retreat on Madrid; he then retreated on 4 August to Saint-Joseph and Alarcon, where on 11 August a rather violent battle took place, in which the division of Trelliard, the German Brigade, and the Baden artillery took part: the English lost three guns, two colonels, and 150 prisoners.

Nevertheless, King Joseph was forced to abandon his capital: he left on 12 August, making a rendezvous with Soult in the province of La Mancha. In Aranjuez, the army was divided into four columns:

1. The King, with his Guard.  
75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.  
Westphalian Light Horse.  
Mounted Jäger of Nassau.  
All Spanish cavalry.
2. The four dragoon regiments of Trelliard.
3. The Italian division of Palombini, which had just joined the army.
4. The Division of D'Armagnac:  
2 battalions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry.  
1 battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry.  
1 battalion of march.  
The battalion of Frankfurt.  
The Baden Regiment.  
The Nassau Regiment.  
The debris of the Spanish "Toledo" and "Grenada" regiments.  
1 dismounted dragoon regiment.

It was to this last division that the escort of the immense convoy led by the fugitive King was entrusted; this convoy was divided into five fractions:

1. The crews of the King and the court.
2. Ministers and ambassadors. .
3. The crews of the staff and French employees.
4. The artillery park.
5. Spanish employees and Spanish families who accompanied Joseph in his retreat.

These formed in total a set of at least 3,000 carriages or wagons.

The English made a triumphal entry into Madrid, while the army of Joseph withdrew through Albacete and Almanza, where it joined the army of Marshal Suchet; it finally arrived in Valencia. During this march, the German

infantry did not cease to make up the rear guard; the regiment of Baden was cantoned at Canales and Novelé, and Marshal Suchet passed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September a great review of the divisions of D'Armagnac and Palombini.

The convoy and the German Division that served as its escort had followed the following route:

15 August, Villatobas; 16 August, Corral de Almaguer; 17 August, La Mota del Cuervo; 18 August, El Provencio; 19 August (rest); 20 August, La Minaya; 21 August, Gineta; 22 August, Albacete; 23 August, in front of the fort of Chinchilla, whose enemy artillery barred the road: the division had to open in the mountain a way by which the convoy passed by night, without hindrance; 24 August, Bonete; 25 August, Almanza; 26 August, Mogente (D'Armagnac went to Fuente-Higuera); 27 August (rest); 28 August, Mogente. The D'Armagnac Division was completed that day by the 75<sup>th</sup> Line and a battalion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Light.

An order from the Army of the Center (Marshal Suchet) to which belonged the division of D'Armagnac sent, on 27 September, the 2<sup>nd</sup> German Brigade (Nassau, Baden and Frankfurt) to Almanza: soon the cavalry of Trelliard and the rest of the division of D'Armagnac were there together for some time.

The regiment of Baden counted, at that moment, 1,007 men under arms and had only 121 patients; it furnished detachments at San Felipe and Valencia.

The strength of the artillery was 202 men.

Soult had raised the siege of Cadiz and brought his troops back to Andalusia. But, on the other hand, Clauzel arrived on the Douro with a very reinforced army and forced Wellington to abandon Madrid; the English general vainly tried to capture Burgos, defended with heroism by the 2,000 soldiers of Dubreton: he had to retire to Portugal at the approach of the united armies of King Joseph and Marshal Soult.



**1812. — LE GÉNÉRAL D'ARMAGNAC (1)**  
(En uniforme de chef de la 32<sup>e</sup> demi-brigade, d'après une collection de portraits d'officiers de l'armée d'Égypte.)

1812. -- GENERAL D'ARMAGNAC<sup>15</sup>  
(In uniform of the head of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Demi-brigade, after a collection of portraits of the officers of the Army of Egypt.)

---

<sup>15</sup>D'Armagnac (Toussaint), born at Toulouse in 1766, died at Bordeaux in 1846. Captain at the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Haute-Garonne, 1794, Battalion Commander in the Army of Italy, distinguished at Lonato and at Castiglione, the Egyptian campaign, with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Demi-brigade, brigade commander after the Pyramids, Syria campaign, wounded at St. Jean d'Acre, battle of Canopus, appointed brigadier general in 1801. General of division in 1808.

Following a council of war held in San Felipe by King Joseph, Soult and Sachet, Soult led his troops into La Manche and Joseph his into the province of Cuenca. The divisions of D'Armagnac and Trelliard consequently abandoned Almanza on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October; the first was directed to Yniesta, and the second, accompanied by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of Baden, to Requena: this battalion (Lieutenant-colonel Lehmann) went to occupy Utiel, and detached four companies (Captain von Krieg) at Villagordo; this last post, soon reinforced by a battalion of the Spanish regiment "Grenada" and by 100 dragoons, had the mission of guarding the two bridges of Pajaco and Contreras, on the Cabriel, against the companies of the guerrilla leader Empecinado who operated in the neighborhood. General Trelliard having come to occupy Villagordo on 18 October with his entire division, Lieutenant-Colonel Lehmann recalled the four companies of his battalion and rallied them with the D'Armagnac Division at Yniesta.

The two divisions returned to Cuenca on 23 October; after having been reviewed by Count d'Erlon, Chief of Staff of the Central Army, the D'Armagnac Division was sent to Chillarón.

King Joseph, reinforced by the infantry division of Barrois and a light cavalry brigade (27<sup>th</sup> Chasseurs and Polish Lancers), soon posted his army on the Tagus: Soult executed the same movement.

D'Armagnac returned to Madrid on 3 November; he left on the 7<sup>th</sup>, making up the rear guard of the army marching on Salamanca, where the English forces were gathering; he arrived on the 13<sup>th</sup> on the Tormes. Wellington abandoned Salamanca and retreated to Ciudad-Rodrigo, followed closely by the French who brushed with his rearguard at Canillas-de-Arriba and Saumoños (17 November).

These forced marches in pursuit of the English had greatly fatigued the troops: the infantry had no more shoes, the countryside was flooded, the clothing effects of the soldiers could not be dried because of the persistent rains, and no regular distribution bread had taken place since the departure from Madrid... In this state of things, Soult decided to put the army in temporary cantonments to enable it to rebuild itself; the regiment of Baden was installed at Palacios, and that of Nassau at Pizarral



Aranjuez.

(D'après la *France militaire*.)

Aranjuez.

(According to *Military France*.)

After a few days' rest, the Baden Regiment and its artillery left for Madrid; they were to garrison there. King Joseph returned to his capital on 3 December, followed by his guard and the Baden; there the troops rested from their fatigues.<sup>16</sup> On the 30<sup>th</sup> of this month the Baden went to Aranjuez to take up the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment: during this march Captain von Wallbrun was kidnapped by a guerrilla and seriously wounded. Fortunately for him, the rearguard managed to deliver him and he was saved.

Placed on the Napoleon Series: October 2018

---

<sup>16</sup>Only four Baden pieces followed the regiment to Madrid; two were detached with an Italian brigade at Guadalajara.