

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume I

The Regiment of the Saxon Duchies – Chapter 1

By Commandant Sauzey

Translated by [Greg Gorsuch](#)

THE
REGIMENT OF THE FRANKFURT

FIRST CHAPTER
THE PRINCE PRIMATE

There was indeed no more interesting personalities of Germany at the beginning of this century than that of Baron Charles-Theodore Dalberg, Archbishop of Mainz (Mayence), the only one spared of the three ecclesiastical electors in the Germanic Recess (decree) of 1802.

Until the end of the eighteenth century, the electorate of Mainz had its capital and most of its territory on the left bank of the Rhine. The wars of the Revolution had twice brought about the occupation of Mainz by the French, and of the 173 square miles of the former territory of the electorate, there remained at the time of the German Recess a narrow strip of land between the Rhine and Mein, and the bishopric of Erfurt.

So Dalberg used all his influences to ensure that he was not sacrificed in the slaughter of sovereign princes and German principalities.

Bernays accuses Talleyrand of personally contributing (for a nice sum) to maintaining Dalberg on the electoral throne...He quotes a letter from Count von Beust, Ambassador to Paris from the Archbishop of Mainz, whom he finds "characteristic":

I, Count von Beust, pledge to make payment to you and reimburse the sum of one million livres of Tours, as soon as His Electoral Highness (Dalberg) is put in a condition to make this payment by his conservation in all his present states, on the right bank of the Rhine and on both banks of the Mein, as well as by the meeting of the bishopric of Fulde with its said electoral states. If, on the other hand, the said total preservation does not take place, no sum whatsoever shall be pledged nor shall it be required.

Old relations united Dalberg with Talleyrand; the latter was greatly distressed by the Archbishop of Mainz, who

wrote to him one day:

Citizen Minister, your lights affect the destinies of Europe ... The glimpses of your genius will help guide our zeal for the well-being and future tranquility of Germany...

Talleyrand, apart from personal interest, saw an immense political advantage for France, in the preservation of the German Corps, in the midst of which he assured himself, in Dalberg, a faithful and grateful friend. Secularization had so excited the jealousy, rivalry, and greediness of Prussia, Austria, and Bavaria, that the French minister, whose skill foresaw all the good that France could derive from this state of things, could just exclaim: "The German Corps! If it did not exist, it would have to be invented! "

The elector was struggling with the greed of Prussia and Bavaria; the former hoped for the ceding of Erfurt, and the second, the enclaves near Mainz, in compensation for their losses on the left bank of the Rhine; the nice word "country of indemnity" was founded at that time

But Bonaparte himself had decided to save Dalberg; with his usual penetration, he had guessed in him a valuable collaborator for the execution of his designs on the south of Germany, and his personal fascination had prepared the elector to be his principal instrument; on the 2nd of November, 1802, he wrote to him the following letter which Bernays wants to ridicule by calling it a "heroic symphony about the conqueror of Marengo":



Charles-Théodore de DALBERG, Prince-Primat
(D'après une gravure allemande de l'époque.)

Charles-Theodore von DALBERG, Prince-Primate

(After a German engraving of the period.)

General First Consul, the letter of which you honored me fulfills my wishes. It is therefore true that the mighty genius which influences the destinies of the world desires to consolidate the concord of the German Corps! Germany will enjoy the fruits of peace trade links...extending between manufacturing France and agricultural Germany; order and concord will be restored, the religious culture maintained and the freedom of conscience strengthened! I devoted my life to my duties; the peace of the soul is my reward and the esteem of Bonaparte is my glory...

The electorate of Mainz therefore subsisted; by a decree of the Empire of 27 April 1803, the Diet of Regensburg transferred the archiepiscopal seat of Mainz to Regensburg. The elector, preserving his title, added those of Arch chancellor of the Empire, Metropolitan Archbishop, and Primate of Germany. The new state was constituted by the principalities of Ratisbon and Aschaffenburg, and by the County of Wetzlar: that made it 23 square miles and 70,000 inhabitants. To the 650,000 florins of revenue of the estates, added 330,000 others, from the grants of the Rhine.



Confederation of the Rhine States on 25 July 1806.
(According to an engraving of the time, in Paris, at Jean, rue de Beauvais.)

LEGEND

1. NAPOLEON I, Emperor of France and King of Italy.

M. de Talleyrand-Périgord, Prince of Bénévent, Minister of Foreign Relations.

2. H. M. King of WÜRTTEMBERG.

M. Levin, Count Winzingerode, Chevalier of Saint-John of Jerusalem and of the White Eagle.

3. H. S. H. ELECTOR ARCHCHANCELLOR.

M. Charles, Count Beust, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chevalier of the Golden Lion.

4. H. S. H. ELECTOR OF BADEN.

M. Sigismund Ch.-J., Baron Reitzenstein, Member of the Committee of His Highness Elector,
Grand Ribbon of the Order of Fidelity.

5. H. S. H. Prince JOACHIM, Duke of Clèves and of Berg.

M. Baron Maximilien de Schell.

6. H. S. H. LANDGRAVE OF HESSE-DARMSTADT.

M. Auguste de Papenheim, his Minister Plenipotentiary next to the Emperor of France.

- 7 and 8. TT. SS. HH. THE PRINCES OF NASSAU-SIEGEN AND NASSAU-WESTERBURG.

M. Jean Ernest, Baron de Gagen, their Minister.

9. H. M. King of BAVERIA.

M. Antoine de Cetto, his Councilor of State, Minister Plenipotentiary, Chevalier of the Lion.

10. M. Duke of AREMBERG.

M. Durand de Saint-André.

11. Count De LA LEYEN.

M. Durand de Saint-André.

12. H. S. H. Prince of EISENBURG-BIRSTEIN.

M. Greuhm, President charge with acting for His Highness.

- 13 and 14. TT. SS. HH. PRINCES OF SALM-SALM AND SALM-KYBURG.

M. François Xavier, Major von Fischler.

15 and 16. TT. SS. HH. PRINCES HOHENZOLLERN-HERCHINGEN AND SIGMARINGEN.

M. François Xavier, Major von Fischler.

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