

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume I The Regiment of Frankfurt– Foreword

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FOREWORD

The difficulties are great, in France, finding in the memories of contemporaries or in the official documents of the time, the essential documents, and of an authentic character, which allow one to follow without gaps the allied contingents of the Confederation of the Rhine , in the different campaigns of the First Empire.

It is not the same in Germany, where the documentary sources are numerous, and where many old or recent works can be consulted fruitfully.

With regard to the Prince Primate's troops, the author of this study had at first thought of offering a translation of the important German work of Bernays on the *History of the Grand Duchy of Frankfurt*; but the Franco-phobic spirit of which this book is inspired would have made its reading impossible for the least informed Frenchman; his long dissertations on the Napoleonic tyranny, on the benefits of the Prussian regime in Germany, and on the ingratitude of France for the Confederates of the Rhine, would have offended the most impartial and patient reader.

The work of Bernays was therefore followed only in its general lines; the numerous episodes, the official documents, the particular documents which he mentions have made a large contribution; in this way, thus pruned, it forms like the canvas on which this study was embroidered.

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