

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume II

The Baden Contingent – Chapter 5 Part I

By Commandant Sauzey

Translated by [Greg Gorsuch](#)

CHAPTER V

CAMPAIGN OF 1813

WEISSENFELS. -- LÜTZEN. -- BAUTZEN. -- WURSCHEN.
DENNEWITZ. -- LEIPZIG.

§1st. -- *Until the Armistice of Pläswitz.*

The remains of the Grand Armée were scarcely assembled on the Oder, when the Emperor, with prodigious activity, had already repaired all the disasters and organized new battalions. It was no longer the old bands of Italy, Egypt, or Spain, but conscripts and children; the horses were still missing, and the new campaign would begin almost without cavalry. Our allies of the Confederation of the Rhine would bring us, for the last time, the support of their contingents: the Saxons would form the 7th Corps with Reynier; the Bavarians, the Raglovich Division, with the 12th Corps (Oudinot); the Württembergers, the Franquemont Division, with the 4th Corps (Bertrand); finally, the Grand Duchy of Baden would give two new infantry brigades.

From the beginning of the year 1813, Napoleon sent to Karlsruhe the most pressing orders for the replacement of the Baden contingent annihilated in Russia. The Grand Duke experienced considerable difficulties in organizing the troops he was asked for because of the lack of cadres and the expense amounted to nearly 1,500,000 florins, a considerable sum for the finances of his little State.

Decree on the organization of the Grand Armée.

Trianon, 12 March 1813.

"...The contingents of Hesse-Darmstadt, Baden and Prince Primate will form a division called the 39th."¹

The Emperor wrote to Marshal Ney, concerning the composition of his army corps:

Marshal Ney, Prince of Moskowa, commanding the 3rd Corps of the Grand Armée, in Paris.

Trianon, 13 March 1813.

"...I also place under your command the 39th Division composed of the Brigade of Hesse-Darmstadt, the Baden Brigade and the Prince Primate... 2 battalions from Baden have already left... Baden provides you a regiment of 600 horses which has already left with the 600 horses of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt: this will make a brigade of 2,500 horses by counting the 10th Hussars and 1,000 horsemen taken from Metz... As soon as General Marchand arrives at Wurzburg and unites with the division of Darmstadt and Baden, you will push it on Schweinfurt and Kronach."²

¹*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 348.

²*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, pages 348 and 338.

The new contingent of Baden consisted of:

2 infantry brigades,
2 half foot batteries of 6,
1 regiment of dragoons (Freystedt, no. 1);

which represented a number of:

7,111 men,
683 horses,
8 cannons,

included in this force was the reinforcement battalion of 1,160 men, left from Karlsruhe on 23 December 1812, and sent as a garrison to Glogau, under the name of the 1st Infantry Regiment of Baden. This body contributed to the defense of the town, during the campaign of 1813.

The Baden 1st Brigade was commanded by Major General von Stockhorn. It included:

4 companies of the 1st Regiment...
3rd Regiment (Grand Duke)..... }3,678 men.
4 pieces of artillery.....

This brigade (as well as the dragoon regiment) was already on the march for Saxony at the end of March and took part in all the operations which preceded the Armistice of Pläswitz.

The 2nd Brigade was not organized until the end of July; its composition was as follows:

2nd Infantry Regiment (Hochberg)...
Light Battalion..... }2,790 men.
4 pieces of artillery.....

Lieutenant-General Count von Hochberg was in command of the whole contingent; it included with him:

Major von SEUTTER as Chief of Staff;
Major PFNOR.....
Lieutenant FISCHER }as aides-de-camp;
Lieutenant von STRAU, as an orderly officer;
Prince MAX VON BADSE, his brother, Major from the Baden 2nd Regiment
of Dragoons, as a volunteer.³

The 3rd Corps was concentrated in Wurzburg.

The Emperor to Marshal Ney, at Hanau.

Trianon, 20 March 1813.

"You will place in Schweinfurt, if there is enough forage, your brigade of cavalry commanded by General Beaumont, and which will be composed of the 10th Regiment of Hussars, the Hessian regiment and the Baden regiment; it must be 2,500 men, but I do not think that currently there are more than 1,200, enough force to push parties on the Saale and prevent Cossack platoons, if they crossed Dresden, to get too far from their army..."

"In the course of April... the Baden and Hesse contingents will arrive at Zurich."⁴

³*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 103.

⁴*Military Correspondence of Napoleon*, VIII, page 382.

When they arrived, the Baden and Hessian regiments had already been reduced by the desertion of a large number of soldiers: the propaganda of the "Tugendbund" was beginning to produce its effects...

The defection of Prussia already foreshadowed many others; nevertheless, the entry into the field of our German allies took place without any indication of a diminution in their attachment to the Empire. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden came to visit the Emperor at Mainz in April, 1813, when he crossed the city to join the army.⁵

The Marchand Division, concentrated at Wurzburg in the middle of April, had the following composition:

Baden 1st Brigade, General von Stockhorn, 3,678 infantry and artillerymen.
Hessian Brigade, 4,329 infantrymen and artillerymen.
Frankfurt Regiment, 600 infantrymen.
Baden Regiment of Dragoons, 4 squadrons, 450 riders.

In addition to the German division of Marchand (39th Division), the 3rd Corps included the four French divisions of generals Souham, Girard, Grenier and Ricard, as well as the 10th Regiment of Hussars, which was enlisted with the Baden dragoons under the command of General Laboissière.

On the 18th of April, Marshal Ney left the countryside of Erfurt, with all his army corps, and marched in the direction of the Saale. *The History of Baden Dragoon Regiment Freystedt*, the manuscript of which has been published in part by the German press,⁶ gives us a valuable contribution as regards the participation of this brave regiment in the great affairs of the campaign of 1813.

"The Laboissière Brigade formed the vanguard of the army corps; at the head was the Baden Regiment of Dragoons, of which 100 volunteers under Captain Richard's command formed the extreme point."

"The city of Weimar was found occupied by the Prussians on the same day, 18 April: it was a cavalry detachment of the Russo-Prussian combined army, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel von Blücher (eldest son of the Field Marshal) and composed 3 squadrons of the Prussian 4th Hussar Regiment; this advanced detachment had been in Weimar since the 11th of April. When the Baden dragoons arrived in front of Weimar, the town itself was held by an enemy squadron; two other squadrons were in sight, further back. Captain Richard fell on the town with his volunteers and drove out the enemy. The other two Prussian squadrons rapidly advanced on the bulk of the Baden regiment, which was arriving at that moment, and there followed a short but lively engagement, which ended in the retreat of the Prussians. Non commissioned officer Senn wounded Lieutenant-Colonel von Blücher with a saber to the head.⁷ Lieutenant von Seldeneck took prisoner in Weimar the aide-de-camp of Lieutenant-Colonel von Blücher; 20 hussars with their horses also fell in the hands of the Baden dragoons, who had a man and 5 horses killed, 20 men and 20 injured horses."

"This vigorous offensive struck the French troops and put the Baden dragoons in a place of honor in the army."

"On the evening of that day, the regiment established itself at the bivouac with the 10th Hussars west of Weimar, which the corps occupied until 2 April."

Marshal Ney then descended on the Saale by the road of Naumburg and the defile of Auerstaedt. The 4th Corps (Bertrand) was on his right, towards Dornburg, and the 12th (Oudinot) held the extreme right side of Saalfeld. The army of Prince Eugene, composed of the 2nd (Victor), 5th (Lauriston) and 11th Corps (Macdonald), maneuvered towards Halle: the two armies met and marched on Weissenfels on 30 April.

⁵Fain, *Manuscript of 1813*, I, page 322.

⁶*Das Badener Land*, no. 49, 1903, under the signature Fr. d. W.

⁷This wound was to have a fatal outcome for this officer: he did not recover, had to be placed on standby in 1815, became insane and died in 1829.

Battle of Weissenfels (Weißenfels 30 April and 1 May).

Souham was the vanguard of the 3rd Corps and the whole army. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, near Weissenfels he encountered a division of enemy cavalry commanded by General Lanskoj. Souham had no cavalry: it was formed into squares and repelled all the Russian charges, who retired...

The next day, 1 May, the Emperor attacked Winzingerode, on which Lanskoj has fallen back. The Souham Division, arranged in four squares 500 toises apart, formed our first line; behind her, the only two cavalry regiments we still had in line, the 10th Hussars and the Baden Dragoons, will be placed under the orders of the Count of Valmy.

Girard and Marchand then advanced, in steps, and in squares like Souham; the engagement was short and the enemy retreated to Lützen; but we had to deplore the death of Marshal Bessières, who had been killed 50 yards before the front of the regiment of Baden Dragoons, on an eminence from which he was observing the enemy. The divisions of Marchand, Grenier and Ricard did not have to fight, as the Russians were already in full retreat when they arrived on the battlefield. The 3rd Corps spent the night between Lützen and Pegau.

Battle of Lützen (2 May).

The right flank of the French army was covered, at the level of Lützen, by the 3rd Corps, which still occupied the villages where it had spent the night. The enemy attacked the flank of our long column which it found in full march and which immediately faced right; the effort of the Allies was pronounced on Lützen, by which they wanted to emerge: Kaja was lost by our troops. After a charge of the 10th Hussars and Baden Dragoons, and a fierce fight delivered by the divisions of Souham, Ricard and Marchand, Kaja was taken again: but the Prussians took it again and it was necessary for the arrival of Marmont, with sixteen battalions of the Young Guard, to make us definitively its masters.

In this bloody day, 70,000 Frenchmen, almost without cavalry and without reserve of artillery, had obliged to retire the 105,000 men of the Allied army. We had fired 39,000 cannon balls, only 11,000 less than at the battle of Moskowa.⁸

Here is a very lively account of the day of Lützen made in the History of the *Baden Dragoon Regiment*:

"2 May was the day of the battle."

"At 8 o'clock in the morning, Lieutenant von Hornig was sent on patrol with 30 dragoons from the bivouac established near Kleingörschen in the direction of Pegau. A few moments later, he announced that the enemy was on the march and that he saw the arrival of deep masses of troops: it was the army of the Allies, Prussians and Russians, which was advancing to attack. The regiment was still engaged in saddling, when soon after the arrival of Hornig's message, balls and shells began to rain on the bivouac: they hurried backwards, leaving several dead and wounded on the ground."

"The order then arrived to go to the left of Kleingörschen, where the enemy disturbed us with infantry and cavalry. Lieutenant Lemaitre, sent forward with 40 dragoons to cover the regiment, had in front of him and on his left the Flößgraben, on whose banks little thickets were filled with Prussian jäger: he put half of his men on foot, to skirmish with the enemy."

"The regiment was soon called to the center of the line of battle. In executing this movement, it defiled before the Emperor Napoleon, and advanced on the heights of Kaja. It remained there for some time, under a very violent fire of artillery; then Marshal Ney arrived on horseback and brought to Colonel von Heimrod the order to charge; pointing to the enemy at hand, he said: "Colonel, it's your turn to drive the enemy!" The regiment conversed on the right by squadron, made a change of direction on the left, and set off to attack. We crossed the two moats of the road which leads to Lützen; the Prussian skirmishers, falling back, had thrown themselves into these ditches at the

⁸ Fain, *Manuscript of 1813*, I, page 249.

approach of the Baden Dragoons. Arrived on the other side of the road, the regiment poured onto the fusilier battalion of the regiment of the Prussian Guard on foot, which had stopped and formed into a square: this corps preserved a fearless countenance before this charge of cavalry: and the swords of the Baden dragoons were raging in the Prussian ranks; the square was finally broken, and the Prussian Guard soldiers still standing took refuge in a little wood from which their battalion had debouched before. Some cavaliers pushed their charge farther still, and reached the enemy batteries in which they wounded several gunners."

"Not believing that it would be possible to go further, after this success, with his regiment dispersed by the melee, Colonel von Heimrodt called the rally and took his riders back to the point where he had begun his attack. He made them recross the two ditches of the road, in which the Prussian skirmishers had remained during the charge, and from which they shot the regiment from behind when it had passed to reform itself."

"During this retreat, a Prussian infantryman, presumably one of those who remained in the ditches of the road, was about to launch a bayonet blow at Colonel von Heimrodt, when Lieutenant von Roggenbach arrived in time to knock it down."

"Marshal Ney had followed the regiment in its attack; he was, therefore, a witness to his brilliant conduct; he received a ball and had his horse killed."

"After assembling under fire, the regiment was threatened by Cossacks on its right wing: the 1st Squadron was directed against them, and the Cossacks retreated to the right and left, unmasking masses of infantry fire which forced the squadron to retreat. Except for a few unimportant movements, the regiment remained on its position until nightfall, and then regained its previous bivouac near Kleingörschen."

"The losses were as follows: killed, Captain Richard, 2 non-commissioned officer, 1 trumpet, 11 dragoons, 48 horses; wounded, 4 officers, 44 non commissioned officers and dragoons, 45 horses; in addition, four officers had had their horses killed, and Major von Degenfeld had been wounded by the unplanned discharge of his own pistol..."

"The next day an officer and 80 slightly injured non-commissioned officers and dragoons joined the regiment that had left during the battle."

"After crossing Leipzig on 4 May, the Baden dragoons arrived on the 5th at Mockau, where they were reviewed by Marshal Ney. Colonel von Heimrodt having presented to the Marshal twelve propositions for the order of the Legion of Honor, in favor of the soldiers of the regiment who had distinguished themselves at Lützen, the latter said to him: "What, colonel! You only make twelve proposals for such a brave regiment! It is too modest!" -- The Marshal then announced to the colonel that he had personally proposed for the Officer Cross of the Legion of Honor and told him that the Emperor, in testimony of his satisfaction, granted for the regiment 25 Knights Cross; he therefore begged him to make the additional proposals that were necessary: 8 officers, 4 non-commissioned officers, 6 corporals and 7 Baden dragoons received the cross: these decorations were given to the Regiment of Baden Dragoons during the armistice, in the Summer of 1813..."⁹

From Lützen, Marshal Ney went to Luckau (14 May), whence he turned to Bautzen; he formed the left of the French army.

Battles of Bautzen and Wurschen (20 and 21 May).

The success of these two days is due to the arrival of Ney who, with his army corps, supported by Lauriston and Reynier, fell on the right flank and on the rear of the enemy. Blücher was attacked by Bertrand in front, by Marmont on the back side, by Ney on the third side; he was crushed and thrown back beyond Wurschen.

§2. -- *Armistice of Pläswitz.*

The Armistice of Pläswitz, on the 4th of June, put a momentary end to operations; it was only denounced on the 11th of August, after the useless negotiations of the Prague Congress: the Allies did not want peace; Austria threw her

⁹ *Das Badener Land*, no. 49, 1903.

sword into the balance and the cabinets of the Confederation, worked by the intrigues and seduced by the promises of our enemies, successively left from the French alliance.

Austria had begun secret negotiations with the princes of the Confederation of the Rhine before the beginning of the campaign: these negotiations became more active during the armistice, but the Grand Duke of Baden clearly refused to listen to these innuendos and to separate from the Emperor;¹⁰ as to the King of Württemberg he himself wrote to Napoleon to warn him of the Austrian schemes.

It was especially the "Tugendbund" which won the most supporters of the Allies: this secret society had intelligence in the staffs and even in the cabinets of the Confederation states.

"The *Tugendbund* exercised on the public mind, on the cabinets and on the troops an influence which increased and which extended from day to day; its successes among the troops were obvious. It was no longer those soldiers of the Confederation of the Rhine who used to say so proudly "we are of the Grand Armée", whose acclamations were so noisy as soon as they saw only Napoleon's little hat, whose dedication to his person was so emphatic that it pretended to surpass that of the French themselves. Who has not been tired, in our camps, of all the swagger of Teutonic adulation? But times were no longer the same; for a foreign cause, we want to be *beating*, but we do not want to be *beaten*; so we had already changed language. What the Germans had long called their glory, they called only their oppression. They deserted our cause with the same eagerness that, in time, they left others; and while their weakness followed the law of events, their self-esteem, which was exalted, proclaimed, as the triumph of their independence, the time when they merely changed their *Emperor*."

"...Moreover, however distressing the poor disposition of troops of the Confederation to us, the evil was not without remedy as long as we have chances for victory. The Germans would declare themselves, in the end, for the one who would remain master of the country, and the fortune of the arms which shakes their fidelity can still strengthen it!"¹¹

During the period of the armistice, the eight companies of the Baden 1st Regiment joined at the end of June the 1st Brigade. These companies, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel von Brandt, took for five and a half months a glorious part in the defense of Glogau, the sorties and the operations directed against the enemy besieging that place.

As for the Baden 2nd Brigade, it did not finish its organization until the end of July; reviewed on 8 August in Mannheim, it was composed almost exclusively of young soldiers having barely three months of service; it lacked officers and especially old non-commissioned officers. Most of the lieutenants, appointed only since March, had only the most indispensable military knowledge, and their choice had not always been happy, in a hurry to be able to complete the cadres.

A second regiment of dragoons was raised in the Grand Duchy to replace the hussar regiment annihilated in Russia. The formation of this new body was slow and it would not be able to take any part in the operations of the campaign.

The 2nd Brigade arrived on 13 August at Würzburg, where Marshal Augereau formed a "reserve corps"; it was here that the Baden learned the denunciation of the armistice and the accession of Austria to the coalition. General von Hochberg immediately wrote to Berthier, Chief of Staff of the Grand Armée, that the troops of Baden should be united in a separate corps under his command.¹² Events did not allow for this union, which was only done on the day of the battle of Leipzig: the two Baden brigades were only to meet to burn their last cartridges in our ranks, before being made prisoners of war by the allies.

§3. -- *After the Armistice of Pläswitz. -- Battle of Leipzig.*

¹⁰Charras, *History of the War of 1813*, page 344.

¹¹Fain, *Manuscript of 1813*, II, pages 358 and 359.

¹²*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 104.

The 250,000 men who made up the French army had with them:

20,000 Germans of the Confederation,
15,000 Italians,
15,000 Poles.

The Allies had 520,000 soldiers: Austria has joined the coalition.

The Marchand Division having been removed to the 3rd Corps and placed in the 11th, under the command of Marshal Macdonald, the disposition of the Baden troops in the ranks of the Grande Armée was as follows:

3rd Corps. -- MARSHAL NEY.

The 8th, 9th, 11th Divisions, Generals SOUHAM, DELMAS, RICARD.
28th Light Cavalry Brigade, General BEURMANN:
10th Hussars;
Baden Dragoons, Colonel von DEGENFELD, 5 squadrons.

11th Corps. -- MARSHAL MACDONALD.

The 31st, 35th, 36th Division, General LEDRU, GIRARD, CHARPENTIER.
39th Division, General MARCHAND:
Baden Brigade, General von STOCKHORN:
Baden 1st Regiment, Colonel BRANDT, 2 battalions.
Baden 3rd Regiment, Colonel BRÜCKNER, 2 battalions.
Hessian Brigade, Prince EMILE von HESSE.
Light Cavalry Brigade, General MONTBRUN.

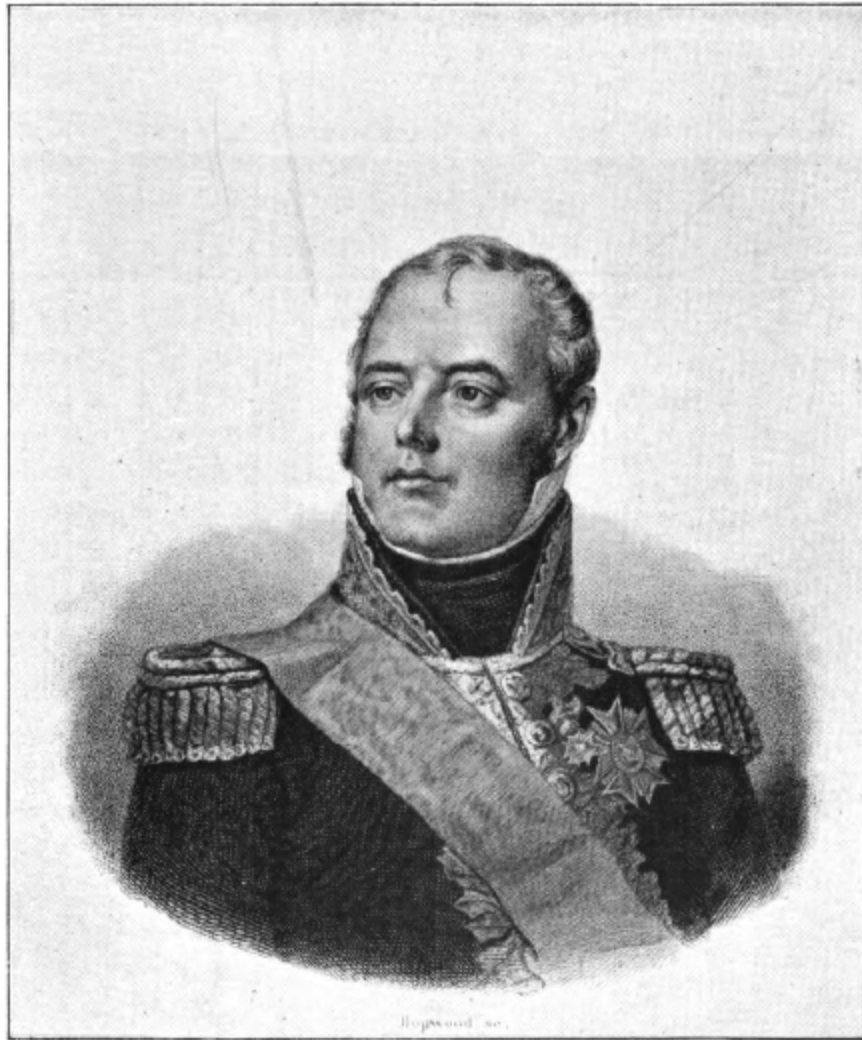
Leipzig Observation Corps. -- GENERAL MARGARON.

2 battalions of the 35th Light and 135th Line;
3 provisional battalions;
3 Baden battalions (2nd Brigade);
2 provisional regiments of cavalry;
2 horse artillery companies, 6 pieces;
Baden Artillery, 4 pieces;
TOTAL: 5,763 men; -- 1,836 horses; -- 10 cannons.

After the victory of Dresden (26th and 27th of August) the defeats of the French army began: Vandamme was taken at Kulm, Macdonald beaten at Katzbach (3rd, 5th, 11th Corps) and Oudinot at Großbeeren (4th, 7th, 12th Corps). Ney replaced Oudinot, and himself lost the battle of Dennewitz (6 September), where the 3rd Corps fought valiantly: the Baden dragoons were severely tried and suffered heavy losses. Colonel von Heimrodt, their former chief, promoted general, had been appointed to the command of a brigade of French cavalry in the army corps of Vandamme; he was killed at Kulm a few weeks later. The dragoons of Baden were commanded by Colonel von Degenfeld in the 3rd Corps, once restored from his wound.

The 2nd Brigade of Baden Infantry was advancing towards the theater of war; it passed on 15 August at Carlstadt; 16th, Hammelburg; on the 17th, at Brückenau; on the 19th, at Hünefeld; on the 22nd it arrived at Gotha and on the 23rd at Erfurt; it was there that it received orders from General d'Alton not to go to Dresden, but to Leipzig, where it arrived on the 26th, and was put at the disposal of General Margaron, who commanded there a corps called "of observation" of which we have indicated the composition above.

In Leipzig, continual warnings made them take up arms every moment. On the 28th of August, at night, the Cossacks looted a hospital at the gates of the city; Major Baden Pfnor, with two companies, marched against them and dispersed them promptly.



1813. — LE MARÉCHAL MACDONALD
COMMANDANT LE 11^e CORPS DE LA GRANDE ARMÉE.
(Extrait de l'*Histoire de France* d'Henri Martin).
(Combet et C^e, éditeurs).

1813. -- MARSHAL MACDONALD
COMMANDING THE 11th CORPS OF THE GRAND ARMÉE.
(Taken from Henri Martin's *History of France*).
[Combet and Co., editors].¹³

¹³ Macdonald (Jacques-Etienne-Joseph-Alexandre), Duke of Tarante, Marshal and Peer of France. Born in Sedan in 1765, died in Courcelles (Seine-et-Oise) in 1840. -- Served in the Irish regiment of Dillon in 1784. Colonel at Jemmappes, General of Brigade in 1795, Major General in 1796; took the Dutch fleet on the ice, Texel. Governor of Rome and commander-in-chief at Naples in 1798. Disgraced for his affair with Moreau, was recalled to the service only in 1809. Took Laybach. Victor of Raab; Marshal of France after Wagram, and Duke of Tarante.

On the 29th of August General Brückner came to take command of the 2nd Brigade.

The Austrians taken prisoners at the battle of Dresden having arrived at Leipzig on 4 September, General Margaron charged the Baden to escort them to Erfurt; these unfortunates were in a terrible state of poverty, and many of them walked barefoot; they had entered the field with only one pair of spare shoes that the dreadful rains and the arduous marches in a difficult country had soon put out of service.

On the 18th of September, the 2nd Regiment of Baden, with 150 horses of a provisional regiment and four pieces of French cannon, was sent from Leipzig to Weissenfels to protect the march on this point of the large cavalry depot of General Noiroi, coming from Oschatz with 8,000 horses. Arrived at Lützen, the detachment already finds General Noiroi there; General Lefebvre-Desnouettes was also there with 2,000 cavalry of the Imperial Guard, operating against the Prussian corps of Thielmann; the latter being pointed out at Merseburg, Lefebvre-Desnouettes immediately went in that direction, taking with him two of the canons of the Leipzig detachment. Thielmann, reached on 19 September in Freiburg, was beaten; the French horsemen deliver all the prisoners taken at Merseburg, and large convoys captured from the Prussians.

Lefebvre-Desnouettes asked the Baden on 23 September to provide support; four companies of the 2nd Regiment were sent to him with the last two pieces of cannon. In spite of this reinforcement, the French general suffered a failure in Altenburg on 28 September, and the four companies of the Baden 2nd Regiment were lost: one of them was destroyed in the defense of a bridge and the others were made prisoners and led in Hungary.

Lefebvre's horsemen rallied at Weissenfels, where the 2nd Brigade of Baden arrived on the 27th and where the 1st Brigade and the Baden Dragoons met. General von Hochberg, present on the spot, wanted to prevent the French soldiers from engaging in the looting and made several examples of corporal punishment; one of them, a Mamluk, thought to impose on him by saying that "he was from Versailles." The general of Baden gave the "Mamluk of Versailles" a double number of canes.¹⁴

The 2nd Brigade returned on 6 October to Leipzig, where the Light Battalion and the Baden artillery had remained. On the 10th, the whole corps of Margaron left the town and went to Connewitz; it was only a false alarm, and he returned that evening to Leipzig.

On the 13th, a battalion of Baden, placed at the outposts of Lindenau with General Girard, rejects an enemy cavalry party.

It was on 13 October that the news of the defection of Bavaria reached the Emperor and led him to modify all his plans of operations, renouncing the offensive he wanted to take, and forcing him to bring the whole army back to Leipzig.

"At 1 o'clock in the morning, the Emperor gave orders for the attack on the right bank of the Elbe... A terrible blow in the theater of operation... everything changes. It is no longer a question of victory and of offensive: it is about the salvation of the army and even of the Empire. The veil that covered Napoleon's eyes has just been torn apart. He knows that Bavaria, for so long protected by France, has declared (war) against us. It forces its troops to our borders, with the army it was to deploy. This defection would lead to Württemberg and the Grand Duchy of Baden..."¹⁵

The King of Bavaria, by the Treaty of Ried, had sided with the Allies: 30,000 Bavarians were arming themselves against France, and preparing to cut off our communications.

Spanish War in 1810-1811. Commander the 10th Corps of the Grand Armée in Russia, 1812 and the 11th Corps in Germany, 1813; stood out at Lützen, Bautzen and Leipzig. Negotiated with the Allies for the abdication of Napoleon; was created Peer of France at the first Restoration. Commander of the troops of Lyon, on the return from the Island of Elba, returned to Paris with the Princes, and stood apart during the Hundred Days. Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor, at the second Restoration, until 1831.

¹⁴*Denkwürdigkeiten*, page 109.

¹⁵Pelet, *Campaign of 1813*, page 193.

The defections on the field of battle followed one after the other: after the battalion of Saxon Duchies, which allowed itself to be disarmed at Eisenach, it was the Saxon commander von Büнау who deserted with his battalion; then, it was the two regiments of Westphalian hussars that passed to the enemy, abandoning the general who commanded them. Soon, all the Saxon army will come out of our ranks in the middle of the Battle of Leipzig, and will be followed by the Württemberg cavalry.

On the 15th of October, the King of Saxony and the Duke of Padua arrive at Leipzig. The French army was concentrated around the city and would deliver, on 16, 18 and 19 October the "Battle of the Nations".

Placed on the Napoleon Series: September 2018