

The Napoleon Series

The Germans under the French Eagles: Volume IV The Regiment of the Saxon Duchies – Chapter Four Part IIIa

By Commandant Sauzey

Translated by [Greg Gorsuch](#)

THE
REGIMENT OF THE SAXON DUCHIES

CHAPTER IV

IN SPAIN (1810-1811)

IIIa. -- The expedition of Manresa. (Continued)

Finally, on 5 April, at 4 o'clock in the evening, General Schwarz reached the plain of Sabadell, where he thought he could give some rest to everyone and treat the wounded who had been able to follow; but scarcely had he reached the bridge of the Riusech that he perceived the yellow uniforms of the dragoons of Numancia, arriving from Castellterçol at the head of the cavalry of Campoverde; once more, it was necessary to resume the march, to gain wooded heights, where the regiment of Nassau opposed the enemy, and abandoning the greater part of the wounded at Sabadell, reach the Pass of Montcada, and to proceed to Sant Andreu de Palomar. It was at this point that, at eight o'clock in the evening, after a continuous march of twenty-one hours, that the debris of the detachment of Manresa was collected by the Italian outposts which covered Barcelona towards the north.

Marshal Augereau thought he had lost the troops of General Schwarz, on learning of the march on Manresa from two Spanish divisions; on 6 April, when the remains of the German column entered Barcelona, the following order of the day appeared:

Army of Catalonia.

Barcelona, 6 April 1810.

His Excellency the Marshal of the Empire, Duke of Castiglione, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Catalonia, instructed Major-General Rouyer to testify to General Schwarz and the senior officers of his German brigade who were detached at Manresa, his particular satisfaction for the brilliant manner in which his troops behaved in the last battles they had to maintain against an enemy far superior in numbers. General Schwarz, in his mission, has completely fulfilled the intentions of the Marshal, to whom this general officer will point out by name the officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers who have particularly distinguished themselves.

By order of His Excellency the Marshal:

The General Chief of Staff, REY.

In his report to General Rouyer, on proposals for the Legion of Honor, General Schwarz expressed himself in these terms:

"If I had been able to cite all those who have distinguished themselves, the whole corps of officers would have

deserved it; but I beg you to be particularly interested in the fact that Major Knauth is not forgotten in the rewards which will be granted..."

The German brigade lost 29 officers and about 900 men. The Nassau Regiment, which had departed with 1,600 men, lost 17 officers and 589 soldiers. The battalion of the Duchies Regiment, which had left with about 600 men, claimed a loss of 12 officers and 350 men thus distributed:

	Officers. --- Wounded or captures.	Troops. --- Killed, Wounded, lost.
Gotha.....	4	125
Cobourg.....	1	30
Weimar.....	6	170
Hildburghausen.....	1	25

The 3rd Weimar Company had only one confirmed soldier in the ranks.

Major Knauth brought with him 37 wounded: all the others fell into the hands of the Spaniards. The 300 wounded who remained in Manresa only survived through the intercession of the monks in whose care they had been left behind. Taken to Tarragona, and then directed on to the island of Saint Paul and the Balearic Islands, almost all of these wretches perished in misery.



Barcelone.

Barcelona.

The Emperor was very satisfied with the conduct and bravery of the German contingents in this affair; he ordered that the propositions for him to send the Legion of Honor for all the officers who had returned from Manresa be approved; but the governments of Nassau, Weimar, and Gotha delayed, or did nothing; the decorations requested for Major Knauth, Captain Geyer von Geyersberg, Lieutenants Merkel and Muller (all from Gotha), Sub lieutenant Goldacker (Weimar), Sergeant Major Preller, Sergeant Toelle (Zacharias), Corporal Reinhard (Christof) and

fusiliers Stief (Auguste) and Poppig (Frétric) never came;¹ in short, there were only crosses given in the occasion to the Captain von Alvensleben and Lieutenant Schauroth of Coburg.

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¹Archives of the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor (communication by M. Joseph Durieux).