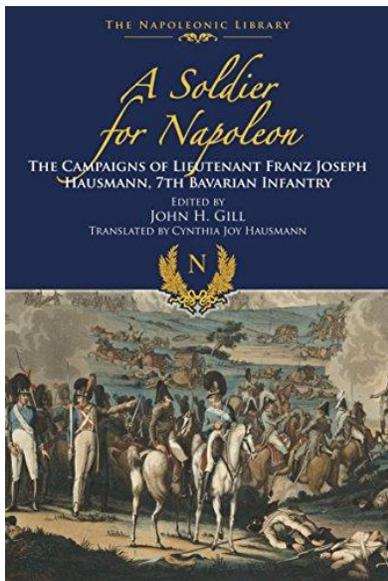


The Napoleon Series Reviews

John H. Gill, ed., Cynthia Joy Hausmann, translator. *A Soldier for Napoleon. The Campaigns of Lieutenant Franz Joseph Hausmann, 7th Bavarian Infantry*. Barnsley, U.K.: Frontline, 2017, 272 pages, illustrated, index. ISBN# 1473882699. \$39.95/£19.99

George Nafziger. *Imperial Bayonets. Tactics of the Napoleonic Battery, Battalion and Brigade as Found in Contemporary Regulations* (New edition). Solihull, U.K.: Helion 2017, 280 pages, illustrated, index. ISBN# 9781911512233. \$59.94/£29.95

Students of the Napoleonic period will be pleased with the recent republication of these two classics, originally brought out by Greenhill in the 1990s.



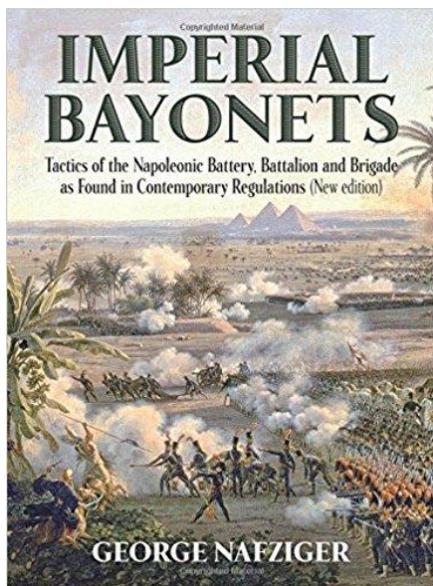
First published in 1998, *A Soldier for Napoleon*, John Gill's edited version of the correspondence and diaries of Lieutenant Hausmann of the Bavarian army, is a model of its kind. Gill not only annotates the original material but provides a very complete contextual background for the subject, his army and the operations he witnessed. The son and grandson of professional Bavarian officers, Franz-Josef Hausmann, aged 15, was appointed a cadet in the 7th Bavarian Infantry Regiment in late 1804. As an officer Hausmann served under Napoleon's command in the emperor's campaigns in Austria in 1805, Prussia and Poland in 1806-1807, Austria in 1809, and Russia in 1812. Hausmann began the campaign of 1813 fighting for Napoleon but completed it -- following the Treaty of Ried in October 1813 -- fighting against him. Hausmann ended his active military career in Paris in April 1814 as part of the

victorious Allied army.

A diligent correspondent and diarist, Hausmann has left a fascinating trove of personal material about his wartime experiences. This material has been very well translated for the English reader by a descendant and, although valuable in its own right, it has been amplified by John Gill's fine editorial work. Gill not only discusses the military operations in which Hausmann participated, including the decisions of the senior commanders that affected Hausmann and his unit, but also informs us about the organization and evolution of the Bavarian state and its army, and military daily life in garrison and on campaign. *A Soldier for Napoleon* is essential reading for anyone interested in the Bavarian army of the Napoleonic period and recommended reading for any student of the campaigns noted above. I should add that a recent and more comprehensive review of this book is available at: < <http://www.h-France.net/vol17reviews/vol17no117tone.pdf>>

George Nafziger's book, *Imperial Bayonets*, which first appeared in 1996, needs little introduction to those who follow the Napoleon Series. According to the author, this new edition has only one correction to the original Greenhill printing but Helion & Company

have still rendered a very great service to the Napoleonic fraternity by bring it out again as copies of the earlier version are currently reaching prices of \$200-300 in the secondhand market. In Nafziger's own words, as contained in a recent Forum post he made, *Imperial Bayonets* "does time and motion studies on the French, British, Russian, Prussian, and Austrian infantry and cavalry" of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic period, provides "a comparison of the time required for the infantry and cavalry of each nation to make any maneuver, i.e. conversion from line to column. It examines musketry and artillery, and using period tests, provides curvo-linear regression analysis (charts) of hit probability over distance." Finally, the book "discusses skirmish tactics based on the few available documents and historical accounts" and "also discusses brigade maneuvers." Perhaps most simply put, *Imperial Bayonets* is a source book of historical data on Napoleonic tactical warfare.



Although this book is clearly aimed at the wargamer, there is material between its cover that will be of interest and use to any student of land warfare in the Napoleonic period. Nafziger's research is impressive. His bibliography list no less than 55 different manuals or drill instructions from the armies of Austria, Bavaria, Britain, France, Hesse-Darmstadt, Hesse-Kassel, Hanover, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Prussia, Russia, Saxony and Sweden as well as numerous period treatises and memoirs, and post-period studies and commentaries. Nafziger concentrates on infantry and cavalry tactics and training, he is less comprehensive when it comes to artillery and it notable that two of the best period artillery sources -- Adye's *Pocket Gunner and Bombardier* for the British artillery and Gassendi's *Aide-Memoire* for the French -- are not listed in his bibliography. But that is no

matter because if you want to know how to manoeuvre an infantry company, battalion or brigade, or cavalry squadron or regiment, in the major armies of the period, 1792-1815 -- and how long it took -- *Imperial Bayonets* is the book to consult.

I have to add, however, that as an historian and not a wargamer, great reliance on official manuals makes me somewhat nervous. Having written much about a Napoleonic army that fought a war using no less than four different manuals (and one of them being that of their enemy) to train its troops, I am somewhat wary about depending too heavily on theoretical instruction. It could be because I am too stupid to understand them. For example I can make no sense of this marathon sentence, which is found on p.21 of the British *Rules and Regulations*, 1808 edition: "The deployment of the close column into a line OBLIQUE to the one on which its head then stands, may in some situations be required, where circumstances do not permit of the previous operation of placing the column perpendicular to such a line; as when a wing is to be lengthened out but refused, or an enemy's flank is to be gained by throwing forward one or more battalions which have advanced in close column behind the point a wing; or when the nature of the ground on which the column stands demands a deployment that will give a support to a flank, or

preserve the advantage of position." (At this point, the reader may wish to pause for breath).

It could also be that I am familiar enough with soldiers and soldiering to know, that once an army begins to actively campaign, it throws away everything that is not of essential use, be it equipment, clothing, weaponry -- or doctrine. As Lieutenant William Grattan of the 88th Foot put it, his regiment generally discarded the official manual (including that awful sentence that appears above) except for "line marching, echelon movements, and formation of the square in every possible way." In other words, "Keep it simple and do it fast, as fast as possible."

But I digress. This book is primarily intended for wargamers and it has been my experience that wargamers are not so much interested in what happened, as what *should have* happened. *Imperial Bayonets* will give them the raw data necessary, not to reconstruct Napoleonic battles but to construct them for that is what wargamers want to know.

Reviewed by Donald E. Graves

Placed on the Napoleon Series: August 2017