

## The Napoleon Series Reviews

Campos, Jorge Planas et Antonio Grajal de Blas, *Officiers de Napoléon tués ou blessés pendant la guerre d'Espagne (1808-1814)*. Villatuerta, Navarra, Spain: Foro para el estudio de la Historia Militar de España, 2018. Tome I, Dictionnaire des officiers identifiés et non-identifiés ISBN# 9788494669262, (€30); Tome II, Annexes et bibliographie ISBN# 9788494669279, (€20); two volume set, ISBN# 9788494669255 (€50). 667 and 381 pages. Paperback.

These two volumes, comprising a dictionary, annexes and bibliography represent, without doubt, an incomparable reference work. The extent of diligent research, in a number of languages, and the level of detail provided within the 12,000 plus separate entries, describing almost 10,000 individual officer casualties of the Imperial *armée d'Espagne* (3,000 of whom died, whether in combat or soon afterwards), is remarkable.

The authors have produced a wide-ranging, and very informative, complement to the tables researched and published by Aristide Martinien, in 1899, of French officers killed and wounded during the wars of the French First Empire between 1805 and 1815 (followed by a supplementary volume in 1909).<sup>1</sup> The historian researching and writing a campaign study, or a history of a specific regiment, division or corps, will be saved an immense amount of time and effort by consulting this reference work.

But not only do these volumes comprise an important, military study, they also make a very valuable contribution to recent innovative trends in social and cultural history of the Napoleonic era. From the two volumes, the researcher is able to determine not only the name and rank of individual officers killed and wounded in Spain, between 1808 and 1814, but also their country and region of origin, date of birth, details of wounds sustained and additional information such as whether they were taken prisoner.

The added value of the present work becomes clear immediately upon opening either volume. Firstly, the relevant entries within Martinien's two volumes (*tableaux* and *supplément*) are brought together for the first time in a comprehensive, consistent and clear format.<sup>2</sup> The contents of *Officiers de Napoléon* are arranged within a very simple and effective indexed structure. Cross-referencing enables anyone researching officers from specific armies, corps, regiments - or even by country of origin - to locate the information required quickly and definitively.

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<sup>1</sup> Martinien, Aristide, *Tableaux par corps et par batailles, des officiers tués et blessés pendant les guerres de l'Empire (1805-1815)*, (1899) and *Tableaux par corps et par batailles, des officiers tués et blessés pendant les guerres de l'Empire (1805-1815) : supplément*, (1909)

<sup>2</sup> The diligent researcher needs to consult the first volume (*tableaux*), which itself has a supplementary list, and the second volume (*supplément*) to identify all casualties and, in some cases, eliminate duplicates where officers are entered under their regimental rank and also serving on the staff

The military historian will benefit enormously from two specific aspects of the current titles that considerably improve and enhance the organisation and presentation of data in Martinien's *tableaux* and *supplément*. Firstly, the dictionary (volume one), presents individual officers alphabetically by family name, together with all known additional first names, date and place of birth and the geographical location of formative years prior to enlistment. This is an invaluable resource for researchers commencing a study or who have already identified individual officer casualties using Martinien's invaluable *tableaux*.

Two examples will serve to demonstrate the methodical and exhaustive approach taken by the authors when compiling this volume and the difficulties of correctly locating and listing individuals. Firstly, Martinien reports the following on page 685 of *tableaux*: Barry, Enseigne, B(lessé), 9 mars 1809, au passage de la Tropha (Espagne). Secondly, at the very end of Martinien's first volume, there is a short note comprising five errata or listings with omissions, one of which is as follows: De Santa Croce, adjudant commandant, B(lessé), 9 mars 1811, Combat de Pombal.

Mssrs. Planas and Grajal present the following information for these two individuals on pages 49 and 528 of volume one, respectively, as: Barry, Augustine, André, 22/9/1790, La-Seyne-Sur-Mer (Var), enseigne, Équipages de la Flotte, blessé le 9/3/1809, A Trepa (Ourense); and Publicola De Santa Croce, François, 24/7/1776, Rome, (Italie), Service d'État-major, Ajudant commandant, blessé le 11/3/1809, Pombal (Portugal).<sup>3</sup> The authors clearly have a very substantial understanding of their subject matter and source material and have gone to great lengths to research and present a great deal of information as completely and accurately as possible.

Volume Two details officer casualties in major combats and battles of the war in Iberia (including some relating to the invasions of Portugal). Researchers wishing to identify officer casualties in a specific battle (or siege) are provided with a complete listing by regiment and rank (again in alphabetical order) for all major actions of the war. Military and social historians, alike, will benefit from the presentation of personalised data by department, region and country, again organised alphabetically to facilitate the identification of individuals together with regimental, geographical and familial connections.

The work also uniquely provides robust data to support an accurate assessment of the human cost of the war in numbers and its regional impacts. Professor Charles Esdaile, in the foreword to volume one, asserts that: 50% of casualties incurred by the forces dispatched to the Iberian Peninsula by Napoleon resulted from formal combat with the Spanish army; 31% against the Anglo-Portuguese army; whilst the remaining 19% were sustained in an incessant irregular or guerrilla war. Professor John Morgan's introduction

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<sup>3</sup> According to the authors, the name of this second individual was identified from his naturalisation papers in the Archives Nationales de France (personal correspondence with Mr. Jorge Planas Campos). The additional sources consulted in respect of these two individuals are as follows: Barry - *Annales maritimes et coloniales*, 1820, vol. 2, p. 1016 and *Publicola Santa Croce - Base Léonore* LH/2455/39 and Archives Nationales de France (ANF) Base NAT de naturalisations, noms, titres et armoiries BB/11/135/2

highlights the potential of the current work to support an assessment of the intensity of French occupation on the one hand and the effects of popular opposition on the other.

Professor Esdaile's estimates, as far as I know, are based on extensive independent research prior to the publication of these two volumes,<sup>4</sup> whilst Professor Morgan has researched the war in Catalonia, with particular emphasis on the inter-relationships between occupation and resistance and the operations and logistics of the French army.<sup>5</sup> Mssrs. Planas and Grajal estimate approximately 5,000 officers and 186,000 other ranks died during the conflict, of whom 66,500 as a result of wounds received in combat (see volume one, p. 17). Consultation of the indices of the two volumes reviewed here demonstrates their potential to support, with robust empirical evidence, conclusions of this magnitude and importance.

The archives and sources consulted by the authors are both impressive and extensive. The data for individuals presented in Martinien's *tableaux* and *supplément* have been enhanced by primary research at the: *Service Historique de la Défense, Château de Vincennes*; the *Archives Nationales* (Paris); the *Nationaal Archief* and *Nederlands Instituut voor Militaire Historie* (The Hague); the *Archivo Histórico Nacional* (Madrid); the *Archives de l'État en Belgique* (Brussels); and the *Archivio di Stato di Palermo* (Italy).

The authors have also accessed and consulted a broad range of printed sources. Referenced titles include regimental histories, studies undertaken by officers of the *Service Historique de l'État-major de l'Armée*, published reference works<sup>6</sup>, studies and monographs from the wide range of regions and nations in which the *grande armée* recruited and, of course, the memoirs and diaries of serving officers involved in these six years of conflict in Iberia.

To conclude, these two volumes should be at the elbow of anyone researching and writing about the *guerre d'Espagne*. They provide not only an abundance

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<sup>4</sup> See for example, Charles J. Esdaile, *Fighting Napoleon: Guerrillas, Bandits and Adventurers in Spain, 1808-1814*, (Yale University Press, 2004) and Charles J. Esdaile, (ed.), *Popular Resistance in the French Wars: Patriots, Partisans and Land Pirates*, (Palgrave MacMillan, 2005)

<sup>5</sup> John Morgan, "War Feeding War?: The Impact of Logistics on the Napoleonic Occupation of Catalonia", *The Journal of Military History*, vol. 73, no. 1, 2009, 83-116.

<sup>6</sup> For example:

Georges Six, *Dictionnaire biographique des généraux et amiraux français de la Révolution et de l'Empire : 1792-1814*. Two volumes, (Paris : Librairie historique et nobiliaire, 1934)

Alain Pigeard, *Dictionnaire des généraux étrangers au service de Napoléon*, (Éditions SOTECA-Napoléon 1er, 2016)

Danielle Quintin and Bernard Quintin, *Dictionnaire des colonels de Napoléon*, (Paris : S.P.M., 1996)

~, *Dictionnaire des capitaines de vaisseau de Napoléon*, (Paris : S.P.M., 2003)

~, *Dictionnaire des chefs de brigade, colonels et capitaines de vaisseau de Bonaparte, premier consul*, (Paris : S.P.M., 2012)

of new data but also fresh and unique perspectives on the conflict in Spain and also Portugal. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by [Anthony Gray](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: June 2018