

Periodic Blog #11: Bautzen Ready to Order Ready to Ship in October

The website, labataille.me, is ready to take orders for our Fall 2019 release, ***La Bataille de Bautzen 1813***. The publication will be one of our largest as it recreates the Battle of Bautzen on May 21 between nearly 200,000 troops from Napoleon's Empire of the French and several small detachments from French allies versus a combined Russo-Prussian army of about 100,000 under the command of General Wittgenstein in eastern Saxony.

There are three different battles recreated in ***La Bataille de Bautzen 1813***, including the monster Battle of Bautzen on May 20 and May 21; and the smaller battles at Konigswartha and Weissig on May 19 (using a separate map). This was a particularly difficult battle to put together as the combat for the battle on May 20 would have spread over 10 maps which would not have been practical. The combat on May 21 is on six maps, making it one of our larger games.



Prussian commander General Gebhard von Blucher at Bautzen in 1813

So there are a total of 7 maps including Konigswartha and Weissig sprawling over a lush Saxon countryside filled with lots of water and lots of carp ponds. There are over 1100 counters; table of organization charts; and several articles about such subjects as the spirituality of Tsar Alexander; Bautzen in 1813, 1945 and 2019; and the miracle of the French recreation of La Grande Armée in the Spring of 1813 after its destruction in Russia in 1812. When its all done, this will be a publication of over 180 pages.

You can order the game off our website, which now has over 36,000 hits in the past 20 months. The price of the game is \$190 plus shipping and handling via Paypal and only 400 numbered copies are being issued.

Bautzen demonstrates the importance of cavalry during the Napoleonic Wars. While the French had tremendous numbers of infantry, the Coalition easily outnumbered the French with its cavalry. Despite the French edge in overall numbers, they could not pursue the Coalition due to the French shortage in cavalry. So the question becomes, can the French compensate somehow despite this weakness.

French casualties were horrific during the battle, and despite the edge in manpower, the lack of cavalry and the relative inexperience of most of the French infantry stopped any significant breakthroughs by the French. Bautzen would be a French victory, but not by much and at great cost.

ME's Man of the Moment—The Prussian von Yorck



The Marshal Enterprises Man of the Moment is the man, without whom, there would have been no Battle of Bautzen and no German War of Liberation. That is, Prussian Graf Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg. Born in Potsdam in 1759 as the son of a Prussian captain who fought with Frederick the Great, the younger Yorck entered Prussian service in 1772 and during the War of Bavarian Succession ran into trouble when he accused his superior officer of condoning looting; he was imprisoned for a year for insubordination and Frederick the Great would not let him back into the Prussian army. He left the Prussian army for a stint in several different foreign armies and fought in the East Indies and Capetown. After Frederick died, the new king, Frederick William reinstated Yorck into the Prussian army. For the next 25 years, Yorck conducted himself with great honor and heroism at a time when Prussian successes were minimal.

In 1812 he became the commander of the Prussian Auxillary Corps in the French invasion of Russia. He was assigned to McDonald's corps, but never fully cooperated with French efforts. During operations around Riga in December, Yorck decided to declare his neutrality and signed the Convention of Tauroggon on December 20 with the Russians. This was done without any governmental or royal instruction. He was ordered arrested by the Prussian King, but the Russians wouldn't allow the arresting officers access to Yorck. Finally after the Treaty of Kalisch on February 28 between Prussia and Russia, Yorck was exonerated. In fact, when he returned to Berlin on March 17, 1813, he was received with great joy by the populace. The Prussians declared war against Napoleon the same day.

In the 1813 campaign, Yorck continued to cover himself with glory. After Bautzen, Yorck commanded the rear guard which protected Blucher. He fought in the fall campaign battles on the Katzbach; won the battle of Wartenburg; and participated in the Battle of Leipzig. He fought in the 1814 campaign. At Montmirail, Yorck saved the rest of the Coalition army from being completely destroyed. At Laon, Yorck helped in defeating the French. His last battle was at Paris, leading directly to Napoleon's abdication. He did not fight in 1815, but rather was given an estate in Sileisia by his king, where Yorck lived out his remaining days, passing away in 1830.

Our blog hits now total over 36,000. We hope you order Bautzen. We will have more on Bautzen in Blog #12, which will probably hit around October 1. Oh, one last thing, if you haven't eaten lunch, consider a hearty serving of Carp and Potato Soup....here is some soup from Dennis Spors' Pomeranian Great-Grandmother...this is what Dennis eats to get him through the day!



Carp and Potato Soup