

## SOUFFLENHEIM SOLDIERS

Robert Wideen : 2020

Soufflenheim Genealogy Research and History  
[www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com](http://www.soufflenheimgenealogy.com)

Soufflenheim soldiers from 1742 onwards. Mentioned in inventory, church, military, medal, civil, census, naturalization and pension records, draft cards, books and correspondence.



*Battle of Friedland, Horace Verney*

## CONTENTS

Soufflenheim Soldiers .....	1
Sorted by Year .....	3
Sorted by Surname and Year .....	15
Records .....	27
Inventory .....	28
Church .....	33
SEHRI : Soldiers During the Revolution and First Empire .....	35
Napoleon's Muster Rolls 1802-1815 .....	46
Birth, Marriage, Death .....	53
Registres Blanc .....	58
Napoleon Marriages .....	60
Saint Helene Medal .....	62
1836 Census .....	65
Legion of Honor .....	76
Pension .....	82
Crimean War .....	87
Draft Cards .....	88
Military Notifications .....	88
Opting For German Nationality .....	89
Naturalization .....	93
Golden Book .....	94
Appendix A .....	96
Casualties during World War 1 .....	96
Casualties during World War 2 .....	115
Disappeared from Bas-Rhin .....	123
Appendix B .....	126
The Thirty Years War in Alsace .....	126

On the Military Conscription of France .....	126
The French Army 1789-1914: Volunteers, Pressed Soldiers, and Conscripts.....	160
Appendix C.....	178
Looking for Army Personnel Since the Revolution .....	178
Looking for Army Personnel in the Ancien Régime.....	184

## SORTED BY YEAR

Soufflenheim soldiers listed by year mentioned.

Year	Surname	Name	Description	Source
1742	Uhrich	Adam	Regiment Bayern, Soldier	Inventory
1744	Köhlhoffner Jr.	Adam	Regiment Berry, Cavalier	Inventory
1747	Haasser	Joseph	Regiment Poleresky, Soldier	Inventory
1747	Jaeck	Lorentz	Regiment Lelry	Inventory
1748	Köhlhoffner Jr.	Adam	Regiment Berry, Former Cavalier	Inventory
1749	Brucker	Peter	Cohort Lord of War, Soldier	Marriage Record
1749	Metzler	Johannes Peter	Soldier	Marriage Record
1750	Durenberger	Francis Joseph	Legion of the Cohort of the Lord of Delor, Soldier	Marriage Record
1751	Haasser	Joseph	Royal Regiment Ferrary, Hussar	Inventory
1751	Michel	Johannes	Legion of footmen from Regiment De Ischray, Soldier	Marriage Record
1753	Jaeck	Ignace	Regiment Pery	Inventory

1757	Irr	Johannes	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1760	Messner	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1762	Kuhmann	Joseph	Royal Regiment, Soldier	Inventory
1762	Mader	Adam	Royal Regiment	Inventory
1762	Schwartz	Heinrich	In Military Service	Inventory
1762	Träher	Claus	Brigade of Maréchaussée Army	Inventory
1762	Vögele	Hans Georg	Presently at War	Inventory
1762	Vögele	Mathis	Presently at War	Inventory
1766	Bitschy	Ignace	Regiment Royal Debon	Inventory
1769	Kieffer	Jacques	Regiment Chamborant, Light Brigade, Hussar	Marriage Record
1775	Freyburger	Michel	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1779	Zollenmeyer	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavière, Soldier	Inventory
1780	Haasser	Hans Adam	Regiment Colonie, Soldier	Inventory
1780	Haasser	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavaria, Soldier	Inventory
1783	Eisen	Bernhard	Regiment von Bergheim, Hussar	Inventory
1783	Schaefer	Michel	Regiment Berckheym	Inventory
1785	Lehmann	Anton	Regiment von Conflans, Hussar	Inventory
1788	Lengert	Hans Georg	Regiment Conflans in Haguenu, Hussar	Inventory
1788	Messmer	Joseph	Royal Artillery Regiment	Marriage Record
1789	Hasser	Michael	Infantry Regiment Dumaine	Marriage Record

1789	Messner	Peter	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1789	Wunsch	Joseph	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1789	Zinger	Joannes	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1789	Zink	Anton	In Military Service for the King	Inventory
1790	Schoeffter	Michael	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1791	Meyer	Antoni	Regiment Salm, Soldier	Marriage Record
C. 1792-1815	Fischer	Georges	30th Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Haberkorn	François Joseph	15th Chasseurs Regiment, Chasseur	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Mensch	Antoine	5th Foot Artillery Regiment	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Messner	Antoine	30th Line Regiment, Corporal	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Messner	Jean	20th Mounted Chasseurs Regiment, Chasseur	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Meyer	Jacques	10 <sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Soldier	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Muller	Joseph	36 <sup>th</sup> Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Zinger	Pierre	7th Mounted Chasseurs Regiment, Brigadier	St. Helene Medal
1792	Drechsler	Antoni	Regiment Hesterhazy, Hussar	Inventory
1792	Singer	Joseph	Soldier	Marriage Record
1793	Stiger	Dominic	Volunteer Soldier	Church Record
1796	Hoehn	Ignatus	Military, First Requisition	Birth Record
1797	Dentlen	Joann Peter	16th Half Brigade, Chasseur	Marriage Record
1798	Beck	Joseph	Military, Requisition	Birth Record

1798	Bertrand	Paul	6th Half-Brigade Infantry	Birth Record
1798	Blattner	Ludwig	Military, First Requisition	Birth Record
1798	Kehlhoffner	Antoni	Military, First Requisition Class	Birth Record
1798	Thoma	Ludwig	62nd Half-Brigade Infantry, Sergeant	Birth Record
1801	Kirchdorffer	Johannes	10th Half-Brigade Light Infantry, Grenadier	Marriage Record
1802	Hardel	Jeans	30th Half-Brigade Line infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Kieffer	Jean Baptiste	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Kieffer	Jean Michel	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Lehman	Joseph Thomas	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Lehmann	Thomas	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Sigfret	Antoine	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Tentelin	Johannes	16 <sup>th</sup> Half-Brigade Light Infantry	Birth Record
1803	Brucker	Antoine	69th Infantry Regiment, Lieutenant	Registre Blanc
1803	Kochleffner	Jeans	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1803	Mosser	Michael	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1803	Schitt	Francois Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1804	Daul	Joseph	12th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1804	Schitt	François Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1804	Thomann	Joseph	86th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1805	Mosser	Michel	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI

1806	Brodsky	Joseph	100th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1806	Hertel	Bernard	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1806	Kochleffner	Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1807	Daul	Ignatius	1st Mounted Grenadier Regiment	Muster Roll
1808	Acker	François Joseph	94th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman/Grenadier	SEHRI
1808	Burger	Ignace	69 <sup>th</sup> Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1808	Friedmann	Michael	Imperial Guard, Artillery Train Battalion	Muster Roll
1808	Lehmann	Antoine	Imperial Guard, Artillery Train battalion	Muster Roll
1808	Messner	André	24th Dragoons Regiment, Dragoon	SEHRI
1808	Muller	Joseph	94th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1808	Renck	Jean	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1808	Wilhelm	Nicolas	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1809	Köhlhoffner	Joseph	27th Infantry Regiment, Fusilier	Registre Blanc
1809	Lehmann	Andre	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1809	Messner	Antoine	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1809	Simler	Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1809	Thierry	Joseph	33rd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1809	Thomann	Jean	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1810	Bildstein	Laurent	51st Regiment	Registre Blanc
1810	Obermeyer	Joseph	Bas-Rhin Departmental Reserve Company, Rifleman	SEHRI

1810	Schaeffer	Jean Jacques	Bas-Rhin Departmental Reserve Company, Rifleman	SEHRI
1810	Stettner	Michel	Royal Guard Light Mounted Regt. Light Horseman	Registre Blanc
1810	Daul	Joseph	Retired Military, Farmer	Napoleon Marriage
1810	Mulhausser	Andre	Retired Military, Farmer	Napoleon Marriage
1811	Daul	Joseph	Customs Official	Registre Blanc
1811	Esseme	Joseph	2nd Grenadier Foot Regiment	Muster Roll
1811	Kirchdoerffer	Mathias	23rd Dragoons Regiment, Dragoon	Registre Blanc
1811	Lehmann	Jean Jacques	85th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1811	Wilhelm	Michel	8th Hussars Regiment	SEHRI
1812	Boeck	Antoine	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1812	Ernwein	Antoine	30th Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1812	Hasser	Joseph	18th Cohort of the National Guard, Company Depot	SEHRI
1812	Hummel	Jean	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Military Crews	St. Helene Medal
1812	Kellhoffer	Antoine	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1812	Messner	Antoine	1st [?] Pioneer Company, Pioneer	Registre Blanc
1812	Messner	Michel	Artillery, 18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1812	Schoeffter	Jean Adam	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1812	Sengeissel	Michel	7th Cavalry Regiment	SEHRI
1812	Thomen	Joseph	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1812	Vonhatten	André	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI

1812	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Regt. Rifleman, 18th Line Regt. Sergeant	SEHRI
1813	Acker	François Louis	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1813	Ackert	Francois Louis	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Buckmüller	Paul	13th Light infantry Regiment, Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1813	Daul	Andre	30th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Daul	Ignace	152nd Line Regiment, 18th Line Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1813	Daul	Ignatius	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Eisenne	Joseph	Foot Grenadier, Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1813	Kehlhoffer	Andre	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Messner	Joseph	Soldier, Company Depot, Artillery Train	SEHRI
1813	Schaffer	Jean	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1813	Schaffer	Jeans	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Schmitt	Michel	30th Regiment, Fusilier	Registre Blanc
1813	Vonhatten	Andre	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Zinger	Francois	Foot Grenadiers Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1814	Kohlhoffner	Andre	1st Regiment Northern Hussars, Sergeant	Legion of Honor
1814	Lang	Georges	7th Artillery Regiment, 18th Line Infantry Regiment	SEHRI
1835	Gieringer	Antoine	Gendarme, Retired	Pension

1836	Babinger	Anselme	Soldier	Census
1836	Babinger	Thomas	Soldier	Census
1836	Beck	Bernard	Soldier	Census
1836	Burgart	Jean	Carabinier	Census
1836	Burger	Emmanuel	Soldier	Census
1836	Burger	Marcel	Naval Soldier	Census
1836	Burger	Narcisse	45th Line Infantry Regiment, Sergeant	Census
1836	Daul	Clement	2nd Artillery Regiment, Brigadier Sergeant	Census
1836	Daul	Michel	Soldier	Census
1836	Daul	Napoleon	12th Artillery Regiment	Census
1836	Doppler	Modeste	Soldier	Census
1836	Elchinger	Joseph	7th Artillery Regiment, Quartermaster Sergeant	Census
1836	Ernewein	Adam	Soldier	Census
1836	Estreicher	Aloise	Soldier	Census
1836	Estreicher	Luc	Soldier	Census
1836	Fahrer	Alexandre	8th Dragoon Regiment	Census
1836	Fahrer	Maximilien	19th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Franck	Adam	11th Artillery Regiment	Census
1836	Freyburger	Jean	Soldier	Census
1836	Friedmann	Stanislas	Soldier	Census

1836	Gentner	Jean	Soldier	Census
1836	Georger	Jean	3rd Dragoon Regiment	Census
1836	Goetz	Felix	4th Chasseur Regiment	Census
1836	Haas	Gabriel	Soldier	Census
1836	Haasser	Jean	7th Artillery Regiment	Census
1836	Haberkorn,	Philippe	Soldier	Census
1836	Halter	Alexis	26th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Halter	Janvier	7th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Halter	Lambert	Soldier	Census
1836	Hertel	Adam	Soldier	Census
1836	Himmelspach	Xavier	5th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Hoerdts	Hippolyte	Soldier	Census
1836	Jaeck	Clément	Soldier	Census
1836	Jaeck	Henry	8th Cuirassier Regiment	Census
1836	Kehlhoffner	Antoine	3rd Chasseur Regiment	Census
1836	Kieffer	Ambroise	45th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Kieffer	Gilles	Soldier	Census
1836	Kieffer	Laurent	15th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Kieffer	Louis	Soldier	Census
1836	Kieffer	Valantin	38th Line Infantry Regiment	Census

1836	Lang	Jean	Soldier	Census
1836	Lehmann	Charles	14th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Lehmann	Hugues	Soldier	Census
1836	Leppert	Chrétien	5th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Leppert	Longin	Soldier	Census
1836	Mary	Ignace	Soldier	Census
1836	Mary	Pie	Soldier	Census
1836	Messner	Rudolph	16th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Meyer	Anselme	Soldier	Census
1836	Mossack	Thomas	Soldier	Census
1836	Muntzinger	Leopold	Soldier	Census
1836	Reuss	F. Antoine	3rd Dragoon Regiment	Census
1836	Reuss	Michel	49th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Schlosser	Xavier	6th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Schmuck	Ferdinand	Soldier	Census
1836	Schmuck	Martin	Soldier	Census
1836	Thomen	Laurent	39th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Uhrich	Pie	Soldier	Census
1836	Uhrich	Sigismond	6th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Voegele	Matthieu	Soldier	Census

1836	Vogel	Janvier	16th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Wagner	Grégoire	15th Chasseur Regiment	Census
1836	Wilderotter	Germain	Soldier	Census
1836	Windheiser	Ignace	Soldier	Census
1836	Wohliung	Maximilin	Soldier	Census
1836	Zinger	Chrisostomin	Soldier	Census
1838	Bleicher	Jean Daniel	Retired Officer	Death Record
1838	Kneplfer	Charles	Soldier on Unlimited Leave	Marriage Record
1841	Kieffer	Vincent	8th Artillery Regiment	Pension
1842	Adam	Antoine	4th Light Infantry Regiment, Drum Major	Legion of Honor
1843	Bertrand	Alexandre	African Gendarmerie Legion, Brigadier	Legion of Honor
1845	Bertrand	Paul	African Gendarmerie Legion, Mounted Brigadier	Legion of Honor
1845	Kappler	Joseph	Battalion of Administration Workers	Pension
1852	Adam	Antoine	4th Light Infantry Regiment, Drum Major	Pension
1852	Bussen	Aloyse	13th Infantry Regiment of the Line, Sergeant	Legion of Honor
1855	Drechsler	Sebastian	Infantry, Crimean War	Drexler Family
1856	Elchinger	Joseph	Gendarme, Cher Company, Sergeant	Pension
1857	Bussem	Aloïse	13th Line Infantry Regiment, Sergeant	Pension
1857	Kieffer	Baydi [Egide]	4th Company of Horsemen	Pension
1858	Leppert	Chrétien	4th Gendarmerie Company of Africa	Pension

1858	Leppert	Stanislas	2nd Company, Non-Commissioned Officers, Sergeant	Pension
1862	Bohler	Joseph	Gendarmerie, Pyrénées-Orientales Company	Pension
1863	Kelhoffner	Michel	6th Hussars Regiment, Hussar	Military Letter
1867	Weber	Laurent	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1868	Ambos	Antoine	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1868	Babinger	Jean-Luc	Gendarmerie, Haute-Savoie Company, Sergeant	Legion of Honor
1868	Jaeck	Morand	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1869	Werner	Philippe	Soldier	Military Letter
1871	Sensenbrenner	Martin	39th Infantry Regiment of the Line, Captain	Legion of Honor
1872	Ehrentreich	Louis	3rd Zouave Regiment, Algeria	Opting Germany
1872	Friedmann	Joseph	14th Mounted Artillery	Opting Germany
1872	Jaeck	François Joseph	Naval Artillery Regiment, Soldier	Opting Germany
1872	Vonhatten	Corneille	1st Marine Infantry	Opting Germany
1878	Schmitt	Charles	1st Battalion Republican Guard, Guard	Legion of Honor
1881	Burger	Georges	24th Artillery Regiment, Captain	Legion of Honor
1882	Babinger	Michel	Gendarmerie, Somme Company, Warrant officer	Legion of Honor
1883	Goetz	Antoine	Foreign Legion, Algeria	Naturalization
1885	Wilhelm	Pierre	Foreign Legion, Algeria	Naturalization
1886	Burger	Ferdinand	107th Infantry Regiment, Clothing Captain	Legion of Honor
1896	Burger	Charles	31st Infantry Regiment, Captain	Legion of Honor

1914	Jaëck	Clement	7th Zouaves	Golden Book
1915	Mosser	Pierre	74th Infantry Regiment	Golden Book
1917	Dufestre	Henri Xavier	Infantry, Staff Captain	Legion of Honor
1959	Ambos	Joseph	Soldier	Legion of Honor

## SORTED BY SURNAME AND YEAR

Soufflenheim soldiers listed by surname and year.

Year	Surname	Name	Description	Source
1808	Acker	François Joseph	94th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman/Grenadier	SEHRI
1813	Acker	François Louis	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1813	Ackert	Francois Louis	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1842	Adam	Antoine	4th Light Infantry Regiment, Drum Major	Legion of Honor
1852	Adam	Antoine	4th Light Infantry Regiment, Drum Major	Pension
1868	Ambos	Antoine	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1959	Ambos	Joseph	Soldier	Legion of Honor
1836	Babinger	Anselme	Soldier	Census
1836	Babinger	Thomas	Soldier	Census
1868	Babinger	Jean-Luc	Gendarmerie, Haute-Savoie Company, Sergeant	Legion of Honor

1882	Babinger	Michel	Gendarmerie, Somme Company, Warrant officer	Legion of Honor
1798	Beck	Joseph	Military, Requisition	Birth Record
1836	Beck	Bernard	Soldier	Census
1798	Bertrand	Paul	6th Half-Brigade Infantry	Birth Record
1843	Bertrand	Alexandre	African Gendarmerie Legion, Brigadier	Legion of Honor
1845	Bertrand	Paul	African Gendarmerie Legion, Mounted Brigadier	Legion of Honor
1810	Bildstein	Laurent	51st Regiment	Registre Blanc
1766	Bitschy	Ignace	Regiment Royal Debon	Inventory
1798	Blattner	Ludwig	Military, First Requisition	Birth Record
1838	Bleicher	Jean Daniel	Retired Officer	Death Record
1812	Boeck	Antoine	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1862	Bohler	Joseph	Gendarmerie, Pyrénées-Orientales Company	Pension
1806	Brodschy	Joseph	100th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1749	Brucker	Peter	Cohort Lord of War, Soldier	Marriage Record
1803	Brucker	Antoine	69th Infantry Regiment, Lieutenant	Registre Blanc
1813	Buckmüller	Paul	13th Light infantry Regiment, Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1836	Burgart	Jean	Carabinier	Census
1808	Burger	Ignace	69 <sup>th</sup> Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1836	Burger	Emmanuel	Soldier	Census
1836	Burger	Marcel	Naval Soldier	Census

1836	Burger	Narcisse	45th Line Infantry Regiment, Sergeant	Census
1881	Burger	Georges	24th Artillery Regiment, Captain	Legion of Honor
1886	Burger	Ferdinand	107th Infantry Regiment, Clothing Captain	Legion of Honor
1896	Burger	Charles	31st Infantry Regiment, Captain	Legion of Honor
1857	Bussem	Aloise	13th Line Infantry Regiment, Sergeant	Pension
1852	Bussen	Aloyse	13th Infantry Regiment of the Line, Sergeant	Legion of Honor
1804	Daul	Joseph	12th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1807	Daul	Ignatius	1st Mounted Grenadier Regiment	Muster Roll
1810	Daul	Joseph	Retired Military, Farmer	Napoleon Marriage
1811	Daul	Joseph	Customs Official	Registre Blanc
1813	Daul	Ignace	152nd Line Regiment, 18th Line Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1813	Daul	Ignatius	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Daul	Andre	30th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1836	Daul	Clement	2nd Artillery Regiment, Brigadier Sergeant	Census
1836	Daul	Michel	Soldier	Census
1836	Daul	Napoleon	12th Artillery Regiment	Census
1797	Dentlen	Joann Peter	16th Half Brigade, Chasseur	Marriage Record
1836	Doppler	Modeste	Soldier	Census
1792	Drechsler	Antoni	Regiment Hesterhazy, Hussar	Inventory
1855	Drechsler	Sebastian	Infantry, Crimean War	Drexler Family

1917	Dufestre	Henri Xavier	Infantry, Staff Captain	Legion of Honor
1750	Durenberger	Francis Joseph	Legion of the Cohort of the Lord of Delor, Soldier	Marriage Record
1872	Ehrentreich	Louis	3rd Zouave Regiment, Algeria	Opting Germany
1783	Eisen	Bernhard	Regiment von Bergheim, Hussar	Inventory
1813	Eisenne	Joseph	Foot Grenadier, Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1836	Elchinger	Joseph	7th Artillery Regiment, Quartermaster Sergeant	Census
1856	Elchinger	Joseph	Gendarme, Cher Company, Sergeant	Pension
1836	Ernewein	Adam	Soldier	Census
1812	Ernwein	Antoine	30th Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1811	Esseme	Joseph	2nd Grenadier Foot Regiment	Muster Roll
1836	Estreicher	Aloise	Soldier	Census
1836	Estreicher	Luc	Soldier	Census
1836	Fahrer	Alexandre	8th Dragoon Regiment	Census
1836	Fahrer	Maximilien	19th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
C. 1792-1815	Fischer	Georges	30th Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1836	Franck	Adam	11th Artillery Regiment	Census
1775	Freyburger	Michel	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1836	Freyburger	Jean	Soldier	Census
1808	Friedmann	Michael	Imperial Guard, Artillery Train Battalion	Muster Roll
1836	Friedmann	Stanislas	Soldier	Census

1872	Friedmann	Joseph	14th Mounted Artillery	Opting Germany
1836	Gentner	Jean	Soldier	Census
1836	Georger	Jean	3rd Dragoon Regiment	Census
1835	Gieringer	Antoine	Gendarme, Retired	Pension
1836	Goetz	Felix	4th Chasseur Regiment	Census
1883	Goetz	Antoine	Foreign Legion, Algeria	Naturalization
1836	Haas	Gabriel	Soldier	Census
1747	Haasser	Joseph	Regiment Poleresky, Soldier	Inventory
1751	Haasser	Joseph	Royal Regiment Ferrary, Hussar	Inventory
1780	Haasser	Hans Adam	Regiment Colonie, Soldier	Inventory
1780	Haasser	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavaria, Soldier	Inventory
1836	Haasser	Jean	7th Artillery Regiment	Census
C. 1792-1815	Haberkorn	François Joseph	15th Chasseurs Regiment, Chasseur	St. Helene Medal
1836	Haberkorn,	Philippe	Soldier	Census
1836	Halter	Alexis	26th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Halter	Janvier	7th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Halter	Lambert	Soldier	Census
1802	Hardel	Jeans	30th Half-Brigade Line infantry	Muster Roll
1789	Hasser	Michael	Infantry Regiment Dumaine	Marriage Record
1812	Hasser	Joseph	18th Cohort of the National Guard, Company Depot	SEHRI

1806	Hertel	Bernard	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1836	Hertel	Adam	Soldier	Census
1836	Himmelspach	Xavier	5th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1796	Hoehn	Ignatus	Military, First Requisition	Birth Record
1836	Hoerd	Hippolyte	Soldier	Census
1812	Hummel	Jean	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Military Crews	St. Helene Medal
1757	Irr	Johannes	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1747	Jaeck	Lorentz	Regiment Lelry	Inventory
1753	Jaeck	Ignace	Regiment Pery	Inventory
1836	Jaeck	Clément	Soldier	Census
1836	Jaeck	Henry	8th Cuirassier Regiment	Census
1868	Jaeck	Morand	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1872	Jaeck	François Joseph	Naval Artillery Regiment, Soldier	Opting Germany
1914	Jaëck	Clement	7th Zouaves	Golden Book
1845	Kappler	Joseph	Battalion of Administration Workers	Pension
1813	Kehlhofer	Andre	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1798	Kehlhoffner	Antoni	Military, First Requisition Class	Birth Record
1836	Kehlhoffner	Antoine	3rd Chasseur Regiment	Census
1863	Kelhoffner	Michel	6th Hussars Regiment, Hussar	Military Letter
1812	Kellhoffer	Antoine	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI

1769	Kieffer	Jacques	Regiment Chamborant, Light Brigade, Hussar	Marriage Record
1802	Kieffer	Jean Michel	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1802	Kieffer	Jean Baptiste	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1836	Kieffer	Ambroise	45th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Kieffer	Gilles	Soldier	Census
1836	Kieffer	Laurent	15th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Kieffer	Louis	Soldier	Census
1836	Kieffer	Valantin	38th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1841	Kieffer	Vincent	8th Artillery Regiment	Pension
1857	Kieffer	Baydi [Egide]	4th Company of Horsemen	Pension
1811	Kirchdoerffer	Mathias	23rd Dragoons Regiment, Dragoon	Registre Blanc
1801	Kirchdorffer	Johannes	10th Half-Brigade Light Infantry, Grenadier	Marriage Record
1838	Kneplfer	Charles	Soldier on Unlimited Leave	Marriage Record
1803	Kochleffner	Jeans	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1806	Kochleffner	Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1814	Kohlhoffner	Andre	1st Regiment Northern Hussars, Sergeant	Legion of Honor
1809	Köhlhoffner	Joseph	27th Infantry Regiment, Fusilier	Registre Blanc
1744	Köhlhoffner Jr.	Adam	Regiment Berry, Cavalier	Inventory
1748	Köhlhoffner Jr.	Adam	Regiment Berry, Former Cavalier	Inventory
1762	Kuhmann	Joseph	Royal Regiment, Soldier	Inventory

1814	Lang	Georges	7th Artillery Regiment, 18th Line Infantry Regiment	SEHRI
1836	Lang	Jean	Soldier	Census
1802	Lehman	Joseph Thomas	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1785	Lehmann	Anton	Regiment von Conflans, Hussar	Inventory
1802	Lehmann	Thomas	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1808	Lehmann	Antoine	Imperial Guard, Artillery Train battalion	Muster Roll
1809	Lehmann	Andre	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1811	Lehmann	Jean Jacques	85th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1836	Lehmann	Charles	14th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Lehmann	Hugues	Soldier	Census
1788	Lengert	Hans Georg	Regiment Conflans in Hagenau, Hussar	Inventory
1836	Leppert	Chrétien	5th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Leppert	Longin	Soldier	Census
1858	Leppert	Stanislas	2nd Company, Non-Commissioned Officers, Sergeant	Pension
1858	Leppert	Chrétien	4th Gendarmerie Company of Africa	Pension
1762	Mader	Adam	Royal Regiment	Inventory
1836	Mary	Ignace	Soldier	Census
1836	Mary	Pie	Soldier	Census
C. 1792-1815	Mensch	Antoine	5th Foot Artillery Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1788	Messmer	Joseph	Royal Artillery Regiment	Marriage Record

C. 1792-1815	Messner	Antoine	30th Line Regiment, Corporal	St. Helene Medal
C. 1792-1815	Messner	Jean	20th Mounted Chasseurs Regiment, Chasseur	St. Helene Medal
1760	Messner	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavière	Inventory
1789	Messner	Peter	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1808	Messner	André	24th Dragoons Regiment, Dragoon	SEHRI
1809	Messner	Antoine	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1812	Messner	Antoine	1st [?] Pioneer Company, Pioneer	Registre Blanc
1812	Messner	Michel	Artillery, 18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1813	Messner	Joseph	Soldier, Company Depot, Artillery Train	SEHRI
1836	Messner	Rudolph	16th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1749	Metzler	Johannes Peter	Soldier	Marriage Record
C. 1792-1815	Meyer	Jacques	10 <sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Soldier	St. Helene Medal
1791	Meyer	Antoni	Regiment Salm, Soldier	Marriage Record
1836	Meyer	Anselme	Soldier	Census
1751	Michel	Johannes	Legion of footmen from Regiment De Ischray, Soldier	Marriage Record
1836	Mossack	Thomas	Soldier	Census
1803	Mosser	Michael	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1805	Mosser	Michel	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1915	Mosser	Pierre	74th Infantry Regiment	Golden Book
1810	Mulhausser	Andre	Retired Military, Farmer	Napoleon Marriage

C. 1792-1815	Muller	Joseph	36 <sup>th</sup> Line Regiment	St. Helene Medal
1808	Muller	Joseph	94th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1836	Muntzinger	Leopold	Soldier	Census
1810	Obermeyer	Joseph	Bas-Rhin Departmental Reserve Company, Rifleman	SEHRI
1808	Renck	Jean	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1836	Reuss	F. Antoine	3rd Dragoon Regiment	Census
1836	Reuss	Michel	49th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1810	Schaeffer	Jean Jacques	Bas-Rhin Departmental Reserve Company, Rifleman	SEHRI
1783	Schaefer	Michel	Regiment Berckheym	Inventory
1813	Schaffer	Jeans	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Schaffer	Jean	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1803	Schitt	Francois Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1804	Schitt	François Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1836	Schlosser	Xavier	6th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1813	Schmitt	Michel	30th Regiment, Fusilier	Registre Blanc
1878	Schmitt	Charles	1st Battalion Republican Guard, Guard	Legion of Honor
1836	Schmuck	Ferdinand	Soldier	Census
1836	Schmuck	Martin	Soldier	Census
1790	Schoeffter	Michael	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1812	Schoeffter	Jean Adam	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI

1762	Schwartz	Heinrich	In Military Service	Inventory
1812	Sengeissel	Michel	7th Cavalry Regiment	SEHRI
1871	Sensenbrenner	Martin	39th Infantry Regiment of the Line, Captain	Legion of Honor
1802	Sigfret	Antoine	30th Half-Brigade Line Infantry	Muster Roll
1809	Simler	Joseph	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1792	Singer	Joseph	Soldier	Marriage Record
1810	Stettner	Michel	Royal Guard Light Mounted Regt. Light Horseman	Registre Blanc
1793	Stiger	Dominic	Volunteer Soldier	Church Record
1802	Tentelin	Johannes	16 <sup>th</sup> Half-Brigade Light Infantry	Birth Record
1809	Thierry	Joseph	33rd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1798	Thoma	Ludwig	62nd Half-Brigade Infantry, Sergeant	Birth Record
1804	Thomann	Joseph	86th Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1809	Thomann	Jean	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1812	Thomen	Joseph	152nd Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1836	Thomen	Laurent	39th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1762	Träher	Claus	Brigade of Maréchaussée Army	Inventory
1742	Uhrich	Adam	Regiment Bayern, Soldier	Inventory
1836	Uhrich	Pie	Soldier	Census
1836	Uhrich	Sigismond	6th Line Infantry Regiment	Census
1836	Voegele	Matthieu	Soldier	Census

1836	Vogel	Janvier	16th Light Infantry Regiment	Census
1762	Vögele	Hans Georg	Presently at War	Inventory
1762	Vögele	Mathis	Presently at War	Inventory
1812	Vonhatten	André	18th Cohort of the National Guard	SEHRI
1813	Vonhatten	Andre	22nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1872	Vonhatten	Corneille	1st Marine Infantry	Opting Germany
1836	Wagner	Grégoire	15th Chasseur Regiment	Census
1867	Weber	Laurent	Draft Registration	Draft Card
1812	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Regt. Rifleman, 18th Line Regt. Sergeant	SEHRI
1813	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1813	Wentz	Charles	152nd Line Infantry Regiment	Muster Roll
1869	Werner	Philippe	Soldier	Military Letter
1836	Wilderotter	Germain	Soldier	Census
1808	Wilhelm	Nicolas	27th Line Infantry Regiment, Rifleman	SEHRI
1811	Wilhelm	Michel	8th Hussars Regiment	SEHRI
1885	Wilhelm	Pierre	Foreign Legion, Algeria	Naturalization
1836	Windheiser	Ignace	Soldier	Census
1836	Wohlung	Maximilin	Soldier	Census
1789	Wunsch	Joseph	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
C. 1792-1815	Zinger	Pierre	7th Mounted Chasseurs Regiment, Brigadier	St. Helene Medal

1789	Zinger	Joannes	Provincial Soldier	Marriage Record
1813	Zinger	Francois	Foot Grenadiers Imperial Guard	Muster Roll
1836	Zinger	Chrisostomin	Soldier	Census
1789	Zink	Anton	In Military Service for the King	Inventory
1779	Zollenmeyer	Joseph	Regiment Royal Bavière, Soldier	Inventory

## RECORDS

Prior to the French Revolution, references to military service are found in the Soufflenheim inventory records.

Muster rolls from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century through 1815 are found at *Memoire de Hommes*, the site of the Ministry of the Armed Forces:

- Registers of the Ancien Régime (1682-1793)
- Registers of non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the guard (1799-1815).
- Registers of non-commissioned officers and troops of the line infantry (1802-1815).

Series R at the Archives in Strasbourg lists the military conscription of boys age 20 beginning in 1798. These records provide the conscript's name, parents, residence, profession and draft number.

Following their initial military medical visit (which sometimes provides additional information in side notes if they claim a disease) there is complete list of those who served after being drafted and passing their physical examination. This list will typically provide the name of their regiment, though some years do not give this information. Some records give some physical description. Once the regiment is determined, the history of a regiment can be found in books which will tell where they were sent and the campaigns that took part. Documents in other archives provide information about retirement pensions, etc., but do not exist for all periods. The archives in Vincennes typically have more information on regiments and campaigns, but not on individual soldiers.

Documents in other archives provide information about retirement pensions, etc., but do not exist for all periods. The archives in Vincennes typically have more information on regiments and campaigns, but not on individual soldiers. Church and civil records describe individuals as soldier and list their regiment. Soufflenheim's civil records from 1811 to 1824 specifically list soldiers who have died. The Saint Helene medal was awarded to soldiers still living in 1857, who fought with Napoleon. Bas-Rhin military records are found in the book *Les Bas-Rhinois dans les armées de la Révolution et du 1er Empire*.

Mass conscription began on August 23, 1793. All unmarried able-bodied men between 18 and 25 were drafted for immediate military service. Regular conscription began in 1798. All single men who reached twenty years of age in a particular year (called a "class") were eligible for conscription for five years. Conscripts were chosen by ballot in their localities. A new law in August of 1805 recognized the reality of paid substitutions, placing the burden of conscription increasingly on the poorer classes. Conscription was not popular, and desertion and evasion rates were high.

## INVENTORY

### ADAM UHRICH

**04 April 1742 Roeschwoog 6E33/60 Inventory of Veronica Schäßter**

Soldier of regiment Bayern.

Age: 20. Son of Michel Uhrich and Veronica Schäßter.

### ADAM KÖHLHOFFNER JR.

**16 November 1744 Roeschwoog 6E33/60 Inventory of Adam Köhlhoffner**

Cavalier in the Regiment Berry.

Age: 19. Bachelor. Son of Adam Köhlhoffner and Ester Klein.

### JOSEPH HAASSER

**23 February 1747 Roeschwoog 6E33/61 Inventory of Jacob Haasser**

Soldier in Regiment Poleresky in 1747. [Hussar under royal regiment Ferrary in 1751]

Age: 22. Son of Jacob Haasser and Catharina Albrecht.

### ADAM KÖHLHOFFNER JR.

**01 March 1748 Roeschwoog 6E33/61 Inventory of Adam Köhlhoffner Jr.**

Former cavalier in the Regiment Berry.

Age: [About 22] Son of Adam Köhlhoffner and Ester Klein. He died according to death record on October 2, [1747].

**LORENTZ JAECK**

**06 June 1747 Roeschwoog 6E33/61 Inventory of Margaritha Jaeck**

In military service under regiment cavalry Lelry.

Age: Major of years. Son of Joseph Wendrich and Margaritha Jaeck.

**JOSEPH HAASSER**

**16 October 1751 Roeschwoog 6E33/61 Inventory of Catharina Albrecht**

Hussar under royal regiment Ferrary in 1751. [Soldier in regiment Polerelsky in 1747]

Age: 22. Son of Jacob Haasser and Catharina Albrecht.

**IGNACE JAECK**

**12 September 1753 Roeschwoog 6E33/61 Inventory of Heinrich Jaeck**

In military service under Regiment Pery.

Age: Minor of years. Son of Heinrich Jaeck. [No mother mentioned]

**JOHANNES IRR**

**19 February 1757 Roeschwoog 6E33/62 Inventory of Magaretha Killy**

Under the Regiment Royal Bavière.

Age: 18. Son of Joannes Irr and Magaretha Killy.

**JOSEPH MESSNER**

**05 February 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Marie Wagner**

Presently in service under Regiment Royal Bavaria.

Age: Major of years. Bachelor. Son of André Messner and Marie Wagner.

**JOSEPH KUHMANN**

**17 June 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Anton Kuhmann**

Soldier under royal regiment.

Age: 22. Son of Anton Kuhmann and Margaretha Stemmer

**ADAM MADER**

**22 January 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Elisabeth Möss**

Under royal regiment.

Age: Major of years. Son of Michel Mader and Elisabeth Möss.

**HEINRICH SCHWARTZ**

**21 January 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Heinrich Schwartz**

Presently in military service.

Age: Not Given. Son of Heinrich Schwartz and Anne Marie Lehmann.

**CLAUS TRÄHER**

**10 October 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Barbara Mösser**

Under the brigade of Maréchaussée army.

Age: Major of years. Single. Son of Claus Träher and Barbara Mösser.

**MATHIS VÖGELE**

**22 October 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Hans Georg Vögele**

Presently at war.

Age: Major of years. Son of Hans Georg Vögele and Anna Maria Salchner.

**HANS GEORGE VÖGELE**

**22 October 1762 Roeschwoog 6E33/63 Inventory of Hans Georg Vögele**

Presently at war.

Age: Major of years. Son of Hans Georg Vögele and Anna Maria Salchner.

**IGNACE BITSCHY**

**17 April 1766 Roeschwoog 6E33/64 Inventory of Erasmus Bitschy**

In military service under regiment Royal Debon.

Age: 24. Son of Erasmus Bitschy and Therese Geissler.

**MICHEL FREYBURGER**

**25 February 1775 Roeschwoog 6E33/66 Inventory of Margaretha Haasser**

Under the royal regiment Royal Bavière.

Age: Major of years. Son of Jacob Freyburger and Margaretha Haasser.

**JOSEPH ZOLLENMEYER**

**09 March 1779 Roeschwoog 6E33/67 Inventory of Magdalena Dangel.**

Soldier in regiment Royal Bavière.

Age: Major of years. Son Daniel Zollenmeier and Magdalena Dangel.

**HANS ADAM HAASSER**

**04 November 1780 Roeschwoog 6E33/67 Inventory of Joseph Haasser**

Soldier under regiment Colonie.

Age: Not Given. Son of Joseph Haasser and Maria Anna Kayser.

**JOSEPH HAASSER**

**04 November 1780 Roeschwoog 6E33/67 Inventory of Joseph Haasser**

Soldier under regiment royal Bavaria in 1780.

Age: Not Given. Son of Joseph Haasser and Maria Anna Kayser.

**BERNHARD EISEN**

**14 April 1783 Roeschwoog 6E33/67 Inventory of Elisabeth Siegler**

Hussar soldier of regiment von Bergheim.

Age: Major of years. Son of Johannes Eisen and Maria Anna Vögele.

**MICHEL SCHAEFTER**

**08 February 1783 Roeschwoog 6E33/67 Inventory of Michel Schaefer**

Regiment Berckheym.

Age: Major of Years. Son of Michel Schaefer and Margaretha Zetwoch.

**ANTON LEHMANN**

**27 April 1785 Roeschwoog 6E33/68 Inventory of Jacob Lehmann**

Hussar of regiment von Conflans.

Age: Major of Years. Son of Jacob Lehmann and Barbara Schön.

**HANS GEORG LENGERT**

**28 October 1788 Roeschwoog 6E33/69 Inventory of Joseph Lengert**

Presently hussar under Regiment Conflans in garrison in Haguenau.

Age: Major of years. Son of Joseph Lengert and Elisabeth Beck.

**ANTON ZINK**

**20 February 1789 Roeschwoog 6E33/69 Inventory of Johann Georg Zinck**

In military service for the king.

Age: Minor of years. Son of Johann Georg Zinck and Barbara Baumann.

**ANTONI DRECHSLER**

**18 April 1792 Roeschwoog 7E44/4 Inventory of Wilhelm Drechsler**

Hussar in the regiment Hesterhazy.

Age: Major of years. Son of Wilhelm Drechsler and Catharina Herbrecht.

## CHURCH

Soldiers from Soufflenheim mentioned in church baptism, marriage, and burial records.

### **JACQUES KIEFFER & URSULA BOHLI**

#### **25 July 1769 St. Nicolas, Hagenau Marriage, Online Book Page 189/193**

Jacob Kieffer (groom), cavalry, hussar, from Light Brigade, outfit called Chamborant [regiment], free and absolutely discharged, son of Joseph Kieffer and deceased Marguerite Goetz of Sufflenheim. To Ursula Bohli (bride) daughter of Sebastian Bohli and Magdalena Jean of this parish [St. Nicolas, Hagenau].

Regiment of Chamborant Hussars (Wikipedia):

- January 25, 1733 : Creation of the Esterhazy hussars regiment
- 1st August 1743 : Renamed regiment of David Hussars
- January 27, 1747 : Renamed regiment of Turpin hussars
- 1756: Reinforced by the incorporation of three companies of the hussar regiments of Lynden, Beausobre and Ferrary
- May 5, 1758 : Reinforced by remnants of the regiment of Polleretzky hussars
- February 20, 1761 : renamed regiment of Chamborant hussars after its new commander André Claude, Marquis of Chamborant
- 1776 : Reinforced by the incorporation of a squadron of the Royal-Nassau hussar regiment
- January 1, 1791 : Renamed 2nd Hussars

### **JOSEPH MESSMER & MARGARETHA BUCHMULLER**

#### **15 January 1788 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 2**

Joseph Messmer, soldier recently dismissed from the Royal artillery regiment, minor of years, son of Michael Messmer and Salomea Metzler both deceased, witness Joseph Daul, guardian. To Margaretha Buchmuller major of years, daughter of Michael Buchmuller mason and deceased Margaretha Wilhelm, witness Paul Buchmuller, brother.

### **PETER MESSNER & MARIA ANNA MEYER**

#### **17 February 1789 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 25 Marriage**

Peter Messner, provincial soldier, major of years, son of Dominici Messner farmer and Catherina Haertel (Hertel). To Maria Anna Meyer, minor of years, daughter of Peter Meyer farmer and Maria Anna Daul.

### **MICHAEL HASSER & MAGDALENA HARTER**

#### **11 May 1789 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 26 Marriage**

Michael Hasser, soldier discharged from the infantry regiment Dumaine, major of years, son of deceased Jacob Hasser and Margaretha Sensenbrenner. To Magdalena Harter, minor of years, daughter of deceased Joseph Harter and surviving Maria Anna Muller.

#### **JOSEPH WUNSCH & BARBARA SCHNEIDER**

##### **25 May 1789 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 27 Marriage**

Joseph Wunsch, provincial soldier, major of years, son of Jacob Wunsch potter and Maria Anna Schmitt. To Barbara Schneider, minor of years, daughter of Joannes Schneider farmer and Elisabetha Zircher in Schirhoffen.

#### **JOANNES ZINGER & MARGARETHA HASSER**

##### **23 November 1789 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 30 Marriage**

Joannes Zinger, provincial soldier, son of Joseph Zinger laborer and Eva Zetwuch (Zettwuch), witness Joseph and Philipp Zinger, brothers. To Margaretha Hasser, daughter of deceased Joseph Hasser laborer and Maria Anna Kaiser (Keisser).

#### **MICHAEL SCHOEFFTER & MARIA ANNA SCHMUCK**

##### **09 February 1790 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 19 Marriage**

Michael Schoeffter, provincial soldier, major of years, son of Michael Schoeffter while living [deceased] and Margaretha Zetwuch (Zettwuch). To Maria Anna Schmuck, major of years, daughter of Joseph Schmuck carpenter and Catherina Bitschi.

#### **ANTONI MEYER & MARIA URSULA MEYER**

##### **06 November 1791 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 4 Image 42 Marriage**

Antoni Meyer soldier in regiment known as Salm, single son of Joannes Meyer and Catherina Pauli both deceased. To Maria Ursula Meyer, daughter of Joannes Leonardis Meyer tiler and Catherina Voegele.

#### **JOSEPH SINGER & MAGDALENA ELCHINGER**

##### **03 July 1792 Soufflenheim Marriage, Online Book Series 2 Image 111 Marriage**

Joseph Singer, soldier from Arbois in Burgundy. To Magdalena Elchinger, daughter of Joannes Elchinger and Margaretha Keuber (Kaeuber) here, both deceased.

## DOMINIC STIEGER

### 05 July 1793 Soufflenheim Baptism of Joseph Stieger

Dominic Stieger, volunteer soldier.

## SEHRI : SOLDIERS DURING THE REVOLUTION AND FIRST EMPIRE

Bas-Rhin military records have been compiled in *Les Bas-Rhinois dans les armées de la Révolution et du 1er Empire* (Bas-Rhinians in the armies of the Revolution and first Empire) 233 Pages. FHL Book 944.3835 M2L. Contents: Les militaires de 1792 à 1815 (Soldiers from 1792 to 1815). Language: French. Publication: Atelier Généalogique de l'Arrondissement de Wissembourg et Environs, 2000. Authors: Lebon, Marie-Yvonne (Main Author), Klein, Alain (Added Author).

Alain Klein, one of the authors, placed the contents of this book online at The Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI): <http://assosehri.fr/dictionnairedes1/index-en.html>

### Dictionary of Soldiers of Bas-Rhin during the Revolution and First Empire

By Alain Klein

This dictionary is intended as a census of all military personnel of all ranks, who were born in the department of Bas-Rhin, who served in the armies of the Revolution, the Consulate, and the First Empire. However, the reader will not find senior officers such as marshal, general or colonel, who already have their own dictionary. Each canton will concern the military who were born there. The files used for writing a biography are mainly conscription records, hospital admission lists, lists of prisoners of war returned to France, correspondence, etc. The result is often derived from the consultation of several parts. For this reason, I have chosen not to list references for every document used as it would have doubled the size of the volume. Parish and civil registers have not been consulted. The data generally comes from either the conscription register or the register of the Regiment in which he served.

The main popular repositories are:

- The SHD (History Department of Defense in Vincennes) [SHD]. In this deposit, we find the army's archives (SHDT), Navy (SHDM) and a library richly endowed with books about the military history of France.
- The CARAN (National Archives - Paris) [AN].
- The departmental archives of the department of Bas-Rhin [ADBR].
- The municipal archives [AM] in the Bas-Rhin (Strasbourg, Haguenau, Wissembourg, etc.).

During the Revolution and the First Empire, four cantons of the current Palatinate (Bergzabern, Candel, Dahn and Landau) were part of the Lower Rhine. The spelling of surnames is maintained as recorded by

the states. Often a German sounding name was heard by a French ear, leading to incorrect spellings. If several spellings for the same person have been discovered, that encountered in the conscription register has been retained. The others are placed in the body of the biography. The spelling of the place of birth has been changed to its current orthographic form.

### **Commune De Soufflenheim**

Soldiers from Soufflenheim in Alain Klein's *Dictionnaire des soldats du Bas-Rhin du Premier Empire 1792-1815*, Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI). Notes by Mark Drexler.

### **FRANÇOIS JOSEPH ACKER**

It says Wagner. Born on January 1, 1788 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Jacques Philippe Acker and Richarde Christine Kuhn. He is conscripted in 1808 from the canton of Bischwiller. He is replacing Jacques Philippe Wagner, conscript 1809 from the municipality of Oberbetschdorf. He entered the service on April 27, 1808. He is a rifleman and serves first in the 3rd Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 94th line infantry Regiment (registration No. 4816). On May 21st, he is incorporated into the 2nd Company of the 5th Battalion, Grenadier, then becomes the Grenadier company of the 4th Battalion of the same regiment on September 4th. On October 7, 1811, he goes to the 1st Company of the 5th Battalion. He made the campaign of 1809 the 2nd Corps of the German army. On October 20, 1811, he passes under the orders of Prince of Neuchâtel, the 3rd Squadron of the imperial gendarmerie. He measures 1,660 meters, has light brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, high forehead, small nose, large mouth, round chin and face, a ruddy complexion and slightly pockmarked. References: SHD 21Yc705 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: François Joseph Acker Baptism: Niederbetschdorf, 01 January 1788 (p.28/146), born the previous day ("pridie"). Parents: Philipp Jacob Acker, surgeon in Oberbetschdorf, & Christiana Richarde Kuhn (no umlaut). Francois Joseph was not born in Soufflenheim, but probably relocated there with his father during the period 1805-1809. Philipp Jacob was a widower of Kuhn and still a surgeon in Oberbetschdorf when he remarried in Soufflenheim on the 4th Comp day of year 13 (21 September 1805, p.12/13). He then apparently relocated to Soufflenheim as a surgeon - see Birth Record 08 December 1809, p.27/31.]

### **FRANÇOIS LOUIS ACKER**

Born January 3, 1793 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Philip Acker and Christine Richarde Klein. He is engaged in the profession of surgeon. He is conscripted in 1813 from the canton of Bischwiller and received No. 110 in the random sort. He entered the service on February 11, 1813. He is a rifleman first and serves the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban. In the serial register, his name is spelled "Ackert". On 1 March 1813, he is incorporated into the 152nd Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 227). On the 6th of March he joined a battalion of war. On June 27, 1813 he entered the hospital and is struck off the rolls on November 18th. He is 1,690 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, high forehead, small nose, average mouth, round chin and oval face. References: SHD 23Yc86 - 21Yc952 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Francois Louis Acker is apparently the brother of François Joseph Acker, who was conscripted in 1808. His occupation (surgeon) supports the idea that he was Philipp Jacob's son. I found no corresponding Soufflenheim birth record at or near 03 January 1793, nor any other evidence of his residence in Soufflenheim (using existing indexes). I did not perform a detailed search through the badly-jumbled Niederbetschdorf records; and there are no Niederbetschdorf 10-yr Tables for the period 1793-1812.]

### **ANTOINE BOECK**

Born January 23, 1791 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Antoine Boeck and Marie Eve Schaefer. He is engaged in the occupation of carpenter. He is conscripted in 1811 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on April 15, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves first in the 3rd Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 185). He measures 1,710 meters, has hair and eyebrows brown, wall eyed, broad forehead, average nose, average mouth, big chin and an oval face with freckles. Références: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Antoine Beck Baptism: Soufflenheim, 23 January 1791 (p.92/135). Parents: Anton Beck & Maria Eva Schaeffter (this is the 'native' Schaeffter surname in Soufflenheim; an immigrant line of 'Schaeffer' was present also).]

### **IGNACE DAUL**

Born April 8, 1791 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Jacques Daul and Elisabeth Schmitt. He is conscripted in 1811 from the canton of Bischwiller and received number 97 in the random sort. He entered the service on April 15, 1813. He is in the National Guard and serves first in the 3rd Company of the 18th cohort National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 186). He is incorporated as a rifleman engaged in Battalion 152 Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 3076). In the serial register, his name is spelled "TAUL". August 19, 1813, he was wounded and a prisoner of war. On July 16, 1814, he moved and was engaged in the battalion of men of the reformed 18th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 1580). On August 6, 1814 he obtained a discharge [congé de réforme - a discharge for physical or any other unfitness for service]. He is 1,640 meters tall, hair and eyebrows blond, blue eyes, forehead uncovered, nose well done, average mouth, round chin and oval face. References: SHD23Yc86 - 21Yc953 - 21Yc168 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Ignace Daul Baptism: Soufflenheim, 08 April 1791 (p.94/135). Parents: Jacob Daul & Elisabeth Schmitt]

### **JOSEPH HASSER**

Born January 15, 1789 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Joseph Hasser and Marguerite Etschinger. He is engaged in the farrier profession [craftsman who trims and shoes horses' hooves]. He is conscripted in 1809 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on June 26, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves primarily in the company depot of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban

(registration No. 811). On December 16, 1812 he obtained a leave. He measures 1,660 meters, has brown hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, round face, regular nose, large mouth, and a dimpled chin and face. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Joseph Hasser Baptism: Soufflenheim, 15 January 1789 (p.76/135). Parents: Joseph Hasser & Marguerite Elchinger]

## **BERNARD HERTEL**

(Died During Military Service)

Born September 8, 1786 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Antoine Hertel and Marguerite Schoeffer. He is conscripted in the year XIII [23 September 1804 through 22 September 1805] and replaces Jean Schroth conscript 1806 from Steinfeld. He enters the service November 4, 1806. He is a rifleman and serves the 6th Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 3124). On August 9, 1807, he died at the hospital Custring from diarrhea. He is 1,710 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, high forehead, flat nose, average mouth, round chin and oval face. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Bernard Hertel Baptism: Soufflenheim, 08 September 1784 (p.22/135). Parents: Anton Hertel & Margaretha Schaeffter (note the '-t-')]

## **ANTOINE KELLHOFFER**

Born May 6, 1793 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Joseph Kellhoffer and Marguerite Roth. He is conscripted in 1813 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on December 28, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 1124). He is 1,760 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, ordinary forehead, nose, wide mouth wide, round chin and pale face. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Antoine Kellhoffer Birth: Soufflenheim, 06 May 1793 (p.16/96). Parents: Joseph Kehlhoffner & Marguerite Roth. Antoine married Catherine Matter in Sessenheim on 13 Feb 1817, but his subsequent records continue in Soufflenheim. The spelling 'Kellhoffer' is an acceptable variant (the '-er' ending even appears in some signatures in this family), but it is much more often found ending in '-ner'.]

## **JOSEPH KOCHLEFFNER**

Died During Military Service, Death in Battle, Imperial Guard of Honor.

Born Oct. 24, 1786 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michel Kochleffner and Marie Anne Decher. He is conscripted in 1806 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on October 27, 1806. He is a rifleman and served first in the 8th Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 2941). He is then incorporated into the 4th Company of the 2nd Battalion of the same

regiment. On February 21, 1809 he was killed in combat at Cediera, Galicia [Spain]. He is 1,720 meter extent, has hair and brown eyebrows, gray eyes, forehead uncovered, big nose, average mouth, round chin and elongated face. References: SHD 21Yc249 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Joseph Kochleffner Baptism: Soufflenheim, 24 October 1786 (p.47/135). Parents: Michel Kehlhoffner & Marie Anne Dreger. There are several variants of the mother's surname, chiefly involving the leading character ('D' or 'T') and the middle character ('g' or 'y') - but 'Decher' is simply incorrect.]

## **GEORGES LANG**

Born in 1786 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michel Lang and Anne Marie Langbacher. He works as a laborer. He served primarily in the 7th Artillery Regiment on foot. On December 10, 1814, he was recalled under order of November 9, 1814 and is incorporated into the 1st Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 18th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 2229). On February 16, 1815 he deserted. He is 1,730 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, low forehead, large nose, wide mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc168 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: In the Soufflenheim records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, I was unable to readily confirm even the existence of this Georges Lang. I was, however, able to adequately confirm the existence of the parent couple shown. Unfortunately, it appears that the mother shown would have actually been the stepmother. The marriage of Georg Michael Lang & Anna Maria Langenbacher was recorded on 09 Thermidor Year 11 (28 July 1803, p.8/11); the groom was a 51-year-old widower originally from Wurttemberg, as was the new bride. His deceased former wife was Anna Maria Speck, whose death record of 11 Vendemiaire Year 10 gave her age as 22, so she was also probably not George's mother. Two records that might have been witnessed by such a Georges Lang - George Michel Lang's death record of 24 April 1820, and Anne Marie Langenbacher's remarriage record of 06 November 1827, did not mention him. The records mentioned above do expose routes for further investigation.]

## **ANDRÉ MESSNER**

Born January 4, 1789 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Anthony Messner and Madeleine Neuver. He is conscripted in 1809 from Canton Bischwiller. He entered the service on July 12, 1808. He is a dragoon and serves the 4th Company 24th Regiment of Dragoons (registration No. 1584). On March 10, 1809 he obtained a discharge [congé de réforme - a discharge for physical or any other unfitness for service]. He measures 1,640 meters, has brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, forehead, nose ordinary, average mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 24Yc226 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: André Messner Baptism: Soufflenheim, 04 January 1789 (p.75/135). Parents: Anton Messner & Magdalena Nuwer]

## **JOSEPH MESSNER**

Born April 30, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Joseph Messner and Marguerite Eck. He is conscripted in 1814 from the Township Bischwiller. He entered the service on October 26, 1813. He is a soldier and serves in the company depot of 1 main battalion of the artillery train (registration No. 2883). He entered the hospital and is struck off the rolls after a long absence on 30 September 1814. The 1,700 meter extent, has blond hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, high forehead, aquiline nose, average mouth, cloven chin and oval face. References: SHD 25Yc149 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790, so Joseph Messner's birth date cannot be confirmed. Joseph's marriage record of 19 February 1814 to Catherine Messner gives his birth date as 21 April 1790 and confirms his parents are Joseph Messner & Marguerite Eck.]

### **MICHEL MESSNER**

Died During Military Service.

Born August 2, 1789 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Frederick Messner and Marianne Messner. He works as a weaver. He is conscripted in 1809 from the Township Bischwiller. He entered the service on April 15, 1812. He in the National Guard and serves primarily in the 4th Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 48). He then moved to the artillery of the same cohort company. On September 6, 1812, he died at the Douai hospital [northern France]. He is 1,660 meter extant, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, high forehead, ordinary nose, average mouth, long chin and long face. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Michel Messner Baptism: Soufflenheim, 02 August 1789 (p.82/135). Parents: Frederic Messner & Marie Anne Messner.]

### **MICHEL MESSNER**

Born July 17, 1787 in Soufflenheim He is the son of Andrew Messner and Elisabeth Meyles. He is a student. He is conscripted in 1807 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on May 22, 1812. He is a gunner and serves first in the Artillery Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 675). He is 1,660 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, forehead, big nose, small mouth, round chin and oval face and engraved. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Michel Messner Baptism: Soufflenheim, 17 July 1787 (on-line p.57/135). Parents: Andres Messner & Elisabeth Meissert. Michel's parents were married in Niederroedern on 24 January 1785 (p.213/227). Michel married Marguerite Messner in Soufflenheim on 29 December 1832.]

### **MICHEL MOSSER**

Born October 8, 1784 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Anthony Mosser and Anne Marie Muller. He entered the service on 3 Brumaire Year XIV [25 Oct 1805]. He is a rifleman and served primarily in the 1st

Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 2106). He made the campaign of the year in the 2nd XIV Reserve Corps. He is then incorporated into the 1st Company of the 1st Battalion of the same regiment. On July 22, 1814, he obtained a discharge [congé de réforme - a discharge for physical or any other unfitness for service]. He measures 1,590 meters, has blond hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, high forehead, ordinary nose, average mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc249 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: I could not confirm any aspect of this entry for Michel Mosser. I found no evidence for the existence of the parent couple 'Antoine Mosser & Marie Anne Muller' in Soufflenheim. Substituting the known couple Anton Messner & Marie Anne Muller does not work (with the birth date as given), since they had a son Jacob born on 10 January 1785 (p.26/135). Candidates for the subject individual can be found in the Soufflenheim records, but they all require stretching rather far from the 'target' names and birth date. The original military record should be reviewed if possible, but the error might well be in that document rather than in the transcription from it.]

### **JOSEPH MULLER**

Born Oct. 19, 1786 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Joseph Muller and Marie Anne Mesmer. He is conscripted in 1806 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on November 3, 1808. He is a rifleman and served in the 1st Company of the 4th Battalion of the 94th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 4996). On January 16, 1809 he deserted inland and was sentenced in absentia by judgment of the special court-martial sitting at Wesel [Germany], the sentence of seven years hard labor and fined 1,500 francs. He is 1,620 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, forehead uncovered, pointed nose, small mouth, round chin and oval face sallow. References: SHD 21Yc705 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Joseph Muller Baptism: Soufflenheim, 19 October 1786 (p.47/135). Parents: Joseph Muller & Marie Anne\_Messner - this is the 'native' Messner surname in Soufflenheim, not the known-immigrant Messmer.]

### **JOSEPH OBERMEYER**

Born September 14, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Philip Obermeyer and Richarde Hummel. He works as a laborer. He is conscripted in 1810 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on December 29, 1810. He is a rifleman and serves the departmental reserve company of the Lower Rhine (registration No. 405). On August 19, 1812, he obtained a discharge due to infirmity. He is 1,740 meter extent, has blond hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, a high forehead, a flat nose, wide mouth, long chin and oval face. References: SHD 29Yc147 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790. However, the 19 December 1814 record of Joseph Obermeyer's marriage to Marie Anne Schaeffter gives his birth date as 14 September 1790, and confirms his parents are Philippe Obermeyer & Richarde Hummel.]

## JEAN RENCK

Born October 11, 1788 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Anthony Renck and Ursula Goetz. He works as a weaver. He is conscripted in 1808 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on March 1, 1808. He is a rifleman and serves first in the 8th Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 4393). He is then incorporated into the 3rd Company of the 2nd Battalion of the same regiment. On March 31, 1813 he was taken prisoner of war and is struck off from the rolls the same day. He is 1,650 meter extent, light brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, round face, pointed nose, average mouth, dimpled chin and round face. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Jean Renck Baptism: Soufflenheim, 17 October 1788 (born the same day). Parents: Anton Renck & Maria Ursula Goetz.]

## JEAN JACQUES SCHAEFFER

Born June 27, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Anthony Schaeffer and Anne Marie Bender. He works as a laborer. He is conscripted in 1810 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on December 29, 1810. He is a rifleman and serves in the departmental reserve company of the Lower Rhine (registration No. 404). On June 6, 1813 he obtained a discharge with a substitution. The 1,690 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, round forehead, aquiline nose, medium mouth, chin and short oval face with two scars on his forehead. References: SHD 29Yc147 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790, and I have encountered no other record to establish the existence of this Jean Jacques Schaeffer. The parents' names are recognized (with minor modification) as a known Soufflenheim couple who certainly could have had a son with this birth date and name. The parents' surnames thus might be corrected to Schaeffter (note the 't') and Binder. It is interesting that one leaf missing from the 1827 marriage book might have held this Jacques' marriage; the 10-year Index has an entry for Jacques Shaffter & Marie Anne Wagner, 19 November 1827. Another item of interest is that the parents claimed for this Jean Jacques were also the parents of Marie Anne who married Joseph Obermeyer (see his entry above) - but, unfortunately, that marriage record was not witnessed by a Jean Jacques Schaeffter.]

## JEAN SCHAFFER

Born December 8, 1788 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michel Schaffer and Anne Kahkistroph. He is conscripted in 1808 from the canton of Bischwiller and received No. 46 in the random sort. He entered the service on April 25, 1813. He is a rifleman and served in the depot battalion of the 152nd Line Infantry Regiment (Regimental Number 808). The following July 12th, he joined a battalion of war. On September 5, 1813, he was a prisoner of war. He is 1,665 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, ordinary forehead, snub nose, wide mouth, round chin and round face with fair complexion. References: SHD 21Yc952 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Jean Schaffer Baptism: 08 December 1788 (p.73/135). Parents: Michael Schaeffter (note the 't') & Maria Anna Kachelhoffer. Jean was the brother of Jean Adam Schaeffter, who entered the service on April 19, 1812.]

### **FRANÇOIS JOSEPH SCHITT**

Born April 7, 1782 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Jacques Schitt and Richarde Heitz. He entered the service on 14 Nivose, year XII [05 Jan 1804]. He is a rifleman first and serves in the 2nd Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 1427). He is then incorporated into the 7th Company of the 2nd Battalion. He makes the campaigns of the year XII and XIII with the Army of the Coasts [northwest France]. In the year XIV, he goes to the great army [Grand Army]. On September 15, 1807 he is struck off the rolls due to long absence. He measures 1,610 meters, has brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, high forehead flat nose, average mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc249 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: François Joseph Schitt Baptism: Soufflenheim, 23 March 1782 (p.368/384), born the same day. Parents: Jacob Schitt & Richarde Heitz.]

### **JEAN ADAM SCHOEFFTER**

Born May 27, 1791 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michael Schoeffter and Marianne Kochelhoffer. He works as a weaver. He is conscripted in 1811 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on April 19, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves first in the 6th Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 409). He is incorporated as a rifleman in the 152 Line Infantry Regiment. On August 21, 1813, he was wounded at the Battle of Loewenberg [Germany] and enters the hospital the same day. On 18 November he is struck off the rolls. The 1,590 meter extent, hair and light brown eyebrows, gray eyes, round face, big nose, wide mouth, round chin, oval face with two signs in Fig. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Jean Adam Schoeffter Baptism: Soufflenheim, 27 March 1791 (p.94/135). Parents: Michael Schaeffter & Maria Anna Kachelhoffer. Jean Adam Schaeffter was the brother of Jean Schaeffter, conscripted in 1808.]

### **MICHEL SENGEISSEL**

Born November 17, 1791 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michel Sengeissel and Marguerite Hath. He works as a weaver. He is conscripted in 1811 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on May 31, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves first in the 6th Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 765). On August 10th next, he is incorporated into the 7th Regiment of cavalry. He is 1,590 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, narrow forehead, snub nose, medium mouth, round chin and round face and slightly burned. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Michel Sengeissel Baptism: Soufflenheim, 17 November 1791 (p.91/135). Parents: Michel Sengeissen & Marguerite Hecht.]

### **JOSEPH SIMLER**

Born April 18, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Michel Simler and Madeleine Metzler. He is engaged in the tailor's profession. He is conscripted in 1810 from the canton of Bischwiller and received Number 140 in the random sort. He entered the service on June 2, 1809. He is a rifleman and serves the 4th Company of the 5th Battalion of the 27th Regiment of Line Infantry (registration No. 5591). On January 22, 1814, he deserted and is struck off the rolls on June 30th. He is 1,570 meter extent, has blond hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, round face, big nose, wide mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790, so no direct confirmation of Joseph Simler's birth date is possible. I have not encountered another record that would confirm the existence of this Joseph Simmler. The named parent couple Michel Simmler and Madeleine Metzler were married in Soufflenheim on 10 November 1788 (p.8/45), and it seems possible for them to have had a son Joseph born 18 April 1790].

### **JEAN THOMANN**

Born March 16, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of John Thomann and Catherine Schwartz. He is engaged in the potter's profession. He is conscripted in 1810 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on March 5, 1809. He is a rifleman and served in the 3rd Company of the 4th Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 5039). On the 22nd of the same month, he entered the hospital and is struck off the rolls due to the long absence the following December 31st. He is 1,630 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, wall eyes, forehead, big nose, wide mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790. Jean Thomen's marriage record of 12 May 1821 to Marie Anne Schlosser shows his birth date as 06 February 1790 and confirms his parents are Jean Thomen & Catherine Schwartz.]

### **JOSEPH THOMEN**

Born March 8, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Jean Georges Thomann and Marguerite Eschenlauer. He works as a laborer. He is conscripted in 1810 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on June 8, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves primarily in the 5th Company of the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 795). He is incorporated as a rifleman in the 152nd Line Infantry Regiment. On August 26, 1813, he was injured and is presumed a prisoner of war. He is 1,660 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, round forehead, ordinary nose, big mouth, short chin and oval face. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no baptism records for 1790, and I have not encountered any other record to confirm the existence of such a Joseph Thomen. His parents Georg Thomen and Margaretha Eschenlauer were married 22 June 1789 (p.28/45). It is possible they could have had a son Joseph born 08 March 1790.]

## **ANDRÉ VONHATTEN**

Born November 30, 1793 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Martin Vonhatten and Marguerite Zettwoch. He is engaged in the carpenter occupation. He is conscripted in 1813 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on December 28, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves in the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 1125). He is 1,720 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, ordinary forehead, large nose, average mouth, round chin and face. References: SHD 23Yc86 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: The birth date of André Vonhatten falls within a section of missing birth records. However, Andre's marriage record of 01 May 1819 to Marie Anne Messner shows his birth date as 30 November 1793, and shows his father named as in this entry; but his mother's name is Madelaine, not Marguerite. Numerous records have been found to agree with the name 'Madelaine', and none to disagree. Parents: Martin Vonhatten & Madelaine Zettwoch.]

## **CHARLES WENTZ**

Born August 20, 1789 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Charles Wentz and Catherine Heltz. He is a trading clerk. He is conscripted in 1809 and replacing a conscript from the canton of Lauterbourg, and received Number 127 in the random sort. He enters the service on September 9, 1812. He is in the National Guard and serves first in the 18th cohort of the National Guard of the first ban (registration No. 937). On September 2nd, he was promoted drum. On March 1, 1813 he is incorporated into the 152nd Line Infantry Regiment (matriculen 182). He is listed a second time under serial register number 3609. On March 6th, he joined a battalion of war. On June 9th, he is retrograde rifleman, then successively promoted to corporal and sergeant. He is in the 1813 campaign of Saxony and the Strasbourg blockade in 1814. On July 16, 1814 he goes into the 18th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 1699). In serial register his name is spelled "VENTZ". On September 26, 1814, he obtained an unlimited leave and is struck off the rolls on May 10, 1815. He is 1,582 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, gray eyes, round face, big nose, average mouth, round chin and oval face. References: SHD23Yc86 - 21Yc952 - 21Yc953 impressed the average mouth, round chin, oval face. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Charles Wentz Baptism: Soufflenheim, 21 August 1788 (p.70/135), born the same day (note the year 1788; I did not find a 'replacement' Charles born exactly a year later). Parents: Charles Wentz & Catherine Hoertz I have not encountered any other records to verify this surname spelling.]

## **MICHEL WILHELM**

Born September 13, 1790 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Jean Baptiste Wilhelm and Elisabeth Schaertz. He is engaged in the occupation of farmer. He is conscripted in 1810 from canton of Bischwiller and is accepted in place of Mr. Jean Baptiste Sauvageot. He entered the service on December 21, 1811. He served as a hussar [light cavalry] in the 4th Company of the 8th Hussars (registration No. 2751). On November 14, 1812, he is reported as lost. He is 1,660 meter extent, brown hair and eyebrows, brown eyes, bulging forehead, large nose, wide mouth, the dimpled chin and face. References: SHD 24Yc427 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: There are no Soufflenheim baptism records for 1790. I have found no other record to verify the existence of this Michel Wilhelm, nor any record of the parent couple shown in this entry.]

### **NICOLAS WILHELM**

Born March 30, 1788 in Soufflenheim. He is the son of Mathis Wilhelm and Elisabeth Schwartz. He is a day laborer. He is conscripted in 1808 from the canton of Bischwiller. He entered the service on March 1, 1808. He is a rifleman and served first in the 8th Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 27th Line Infantry Regiment (registration No. 4392). He is then incorporated into the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the same regiment. On July 15, 1813, he entered the hospital and is struck off the rolls due to long absence on November 16th. He measures 1,670 meters, has light brown hair and eyebrows, blue eyes, round forehead, nose. References: SHD 21Yc250 (SHD: History Department of Defense in Vincennes). Source: Society of Historical Studies Revolutionary and Imperial (SEHRI).

[Note: Nicolas Wilhelm Baptism: Soufflenheim, 30 March 1788 (p.67/135). Parents: Mathias Wilhelm & Elisabetha Schwartz]

## **NAPOLEON'S MUSTER ROLLS 1802-1815**

Registers of the Napoleonic army imperial guard and line infantry from 1802-1815. Each registration contains the name, date and place of birth, and parents of each soldier as well as information on his military background. Found at Geneanet: <https://www.geneanet.org/relevés-collaboratifs/view/38900>

It is an ongoing project, coordinated by Alain Brugeat, to index the entire *registres matricules* (muster rolls) of the Imperial Guard and infantry of the line during that period. Currently approaching 1,000,000 entries. Each name is linked to its original military ledger registration entry, located online at *Mémoire des Hommes*.

The Historical Service of Defense (Vincennes) keeps, under series GR 1 to 49 YC, registers of troops from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through the aftermath of the War of 1870. These registers list, by unit, all the soldiers and junior officers who served during a given period. In 2019, the French Ministry of the Armed Forces digitized 2,460 registers of Ancien Régime troops, which corresponds to 361,880 digital views, found online at *Mémoire des Homme*. Ultimately, 2,579 registers of troops from the Ancien Régime will

also be available. These registers of the Ancien Régime are added to the 1,191 registers of the period 1802-1815, the registration registers of the consular, imperial and royal guards and of the line infantry.

Registers of the Ancien Régime (1682-1793)

- R 20 YC 1 to 217. Registers of non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of the guard (1799-1815).
- GR 21 YC 1 to 963. Registers of non-commissioned officers and troops of the line infantry (1802-1815).

To search the registers at *Mémoire des Hommes* choose: Recruitment and Individual Careers, then Control Registers and Registration Registers.

<https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/>

[https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/arkotheque/navigation\\_facette/index.php?f=regm  
aticule](https://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/fr/arkotheque/navigation_facette/index.php?f=regm<br/>aticule)

### **Soufflenheim Soldiers in the Muster Rolls from 1802 to 1815**

Listed as transcribed, without corrections. Translated into English by Google Translate.

#### **FRANCOIS LOUIS ACKERT**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 952, Page 41, Registration Number 227**

Son of Philippe Ackert and Christine Richardklin. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, January 3, 1793.

152nd line infantry regiment, March 1, 1813 - March 3, 1814 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

#### **PAUL BUCKMÜLLER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 96, Page 183, Registration Number 4074**

Son of Paul Buckmüller and E.... Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, September 27, 1793.

13th regiment of voltigeurs of the imperial guard 1813-1814 (numbers 3001 to 4545).

#### **JOSEPH BRODSCHY**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 728, Page 166, Registration Number 3978**

Son of Joseph Brodschy and Madeleine Fabre. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, January 19, 1779.

100th Line Infantry Regiment, March 3, 1806 - August 28, 1807 (numbers 3001 to 4800).

### **IGNATIUS DAUL**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 136, Page 392, 393, Registration Number 2851**

Son of Antoine Daul and Beard Warlmezan. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, 1785.

Regiment of mounted grenadiers of the consuls guard, which became the 1st mounted grenadier regiment, 1800-1815. July 11, 1807 - July 13, 1814 (numbers: 1,876 to 3,736).

### **IGNATIUS DAUL**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 953, Page 17, Registration Number 3076**

Son of Jacques Daul and Elisabeth Schmitt. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, 1791.

152nd Line Infantry Regiment, March 1, 1813 - July 6, 1814 (numbers 3,001 to 3,610).

[Daul written as Taul in muster roll.]

### **ANDRÉ DAUL**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 278, Page 283, Registration Number 142424**

Son of André Joseph Daul and Catherine Chelbrate. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, October 26, 1782.

30th line infantry regiment, February 20, 1813 - July 21, 1814 (numbers 12 577 to 16 020).

### **JOSEPH DAUL**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 102, Page 347, Registration Number 2062**

So of Michel Daul and Barbe Sensenbrenner. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, November 27, 1785.

12th Line Infantry Regiment, 25 Ventôse Year XII - 27 Frimaire Year XIV [March 16, 1804 - December 18, 1805] (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **JOSEPH ESSEME**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 9, Page 103, Registration Number 578**

Son of Antoine Esseme and Madeleine Orth. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, March 18, 1785.

2nd Grenadier Regiment on Foot, 1811-1814. May 18, 1811 - May 8, 1813 (numbers 1 to 3,026).

## **JOSEPH EISENNE**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 13, Page 148, Registration Number 843**

Son of Antoine Eisenne and Madelaine Door. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, March 19, 1785.

Corps royal de grenadiers de France became a corps of grenadiers on foot of the imperial guard during the Hundred Days, 1813-1814. July 1, 1814 - April 30, 1815 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

## **MICHAEL FRIEDMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 196, Page 209, Registration Number 1219**

Son of Michael Friedmann and Daisy Messner. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, April 24, 1791.

Bataillon bis of the artillery train of the Imperial Guard, August 12, 1808 - September 17, 1812 (numbers 1 to 1393).

## **JEANS HARDEL**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 267, Registration Number 1580**

Son of Antoine Hardel and Daisy Schassler. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, July 12, 1778.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

## **ANDRÉ (ANTOINE) KEHLHOFFNER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 204, Page 271, Registration Number 11806**

Son of Joseph Kehlhoffner and Daisy Roth. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, May 6, 1793.

22nd line infantry regiment, February 11, 1813 - November 8, 1813 (numbers 10 201 to 12,000).

## **JEAN MICHEL KIEFFER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 264, Registration Number 1563**

Son of George Kieffer and Marie Barbe Haberkann. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, November 28, 1777.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

## **JEAN BAPTISTE KIEFFER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 297, Registration Number 1763**

Son of Philippe Kieffer and Anne Hourmel. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, June 24, 1776.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

### **JEANS KOCHLEFFNER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 249, Page 493, Registration Number 2941**

Son of Michael Kochleffner and Marie Anne Discharge. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, October 24, 1786.

27th line infantry regiment, 1st Vendémiaire Year XII [September 24, 1803] - October 27, 1806 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **THOMAS LEHMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 296, Registration Number 1755**

Son of Thomas Lehmann and Anne Goetz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, January 5, 1778.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

### **JEAN JACQUES LEHMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 660, Page 99, Registration Number 10170**

Son of Jacques Lehmann and Barbe Heisler (Haüssler). Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, October 2, 1792.

85th line infantry regiment, September 11, 1811 to 26 December 26, 1812 (numbers 9600 to 11399)

### **ANTOINE LEHMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 196, Page 205, Registration Number 1195**

Son of Antoine Lehmann and Eve Donkey ? Arne. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin on June 11, 1791.

Bataillon bis of the artillery train of the Imperial Guard, August 12, 1808 - September 17, 1812 (numbers 1 to 1393).

### **JOSEPH THOMAS LEHMAN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 290, Registration Number 1721**

Son of Laurent Lehman and Catherine Offer. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, February 5, 1778.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

### **ANDRÉ LEHMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 251, Page 62, Registration Number 6349**

Son of Thomas Lehmann and Anne Guetz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, November 17, 1787.

27th line infantry regiment, August 2, 1809 - March 30, 1812 (numbers 6,001 to 7,800).

### **ANTOINE MESSNER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 202, Page 20, Registration Number 6702**

Son of Michael Messner and Marie Anne Vogele. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, June 13, 1790.

22nd Line Infantry Regiment, July 11, 1809 - March 27, 1812 (numbers 6601 to 8400).

### **MICHAEL MOSSER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 249, Page 353, Registration Number 2106**

Son of Antoine Mosser and Marie Anne Better. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, October 8, 1784.

27th line infantry regiment, 1st Vendémiaire Year XII [September 24, 1803] - October 27, 1806 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **JEANS SCHAFFER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 952, Page 139, Registration Number 808**

Son of Michael Schaffer and Anne Kahkittroph. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, December 8, 1788.

152nd line infantry regiment, March 1, 1813 - March 3, 1814 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **FRANCOIS JOSEPH SCHITT**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 249, Page 240, Registration Number 1427**

Son of Jacques Schitt and Richarde Heitz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, April 7, 1782.

27th line infantry regiment, 1st Vendémiaire Year XII [September 24, 1803] - October 27, 1806 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **ANTOINE SIGFRET**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 273, Page 267, Registration Number 1579**

Son of Antoine Sigfret and Magdelaine Gatz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, February 1, 1778.

30th demi-brigade of line infantry, 4 Brumaire Year XI [October 26, 1802] (numbers 1 to 1 800).

### **JOSEPH THIERRY**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 296, Page 212, Registration Number 9076**

Son of Jacques Thierry and Magdeleine Stang. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, June 27, 1791.

33rd line infantry regiment, August 22, 1809 - October 8, 1811 (numbers 7 825 to 9 624).

### **JOSEPH THOMANN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 666, Page 466, Registration Number 2770**

Son of Jeans Thomann and Madeleine Lehmann. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, September 16, 1786.

86th line infantry regiment, 22 Thermidor year XII [August 10, 1804] - November 26, 1806 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **ANDRÉ VONHATTEN**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 204, Page 271, Registration Number 11807**

Son of Martin Vonhatten and Daisy Zettwuch. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, November 30, 1793.

22nd line infantry regiment, February 11, 1813 - November 8, 1813 (numbers 10 201 to 12,000).

### **CHARLES WENTZ**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 952, Page 34, Registration Number 182**

Son of Charles Wentz and Catherine Helytz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, August 20, 1780.

152nd line infantry regiment, March 1, 1813 - March 3, 1814 (numbers 1 to 3,000).

### **CHARLES WEUTZ [Wentz]**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 21 YC 953, Page 106, Registration Number 3609**

Son of Charles Weutz and Catherine Heltz. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, August 20, 1789.

152nd Line Infantry Regiment, March 1, 1813 - July 6, 1814 (numbers 3,001 to 3,610).

## **FRANCOIS ZINGER**

**Geneanet, Muster Rolls 1802-1815, SHD/GR 20 YC 14, Page 203, Registration Number 4193**

Son of Jeans Zinger and Daisy Asser. Born in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, August 20, 1790.

Royal Corps of Grenadiers de France again became a corps of grenadiers on foot of the Imperial Guard during the Hundred Days, 1813-1814. April 30, 1815 - September 24, 1815 (numbers 3,001 to 4,990).

## **BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH**

Soldiers from Soufflenheim mentioned in the civil birth, marriage, and death records. Records marked (MD) contributed by Mark Drexler.

## **IGNATUS HOEHN**

**15 February 1796 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 77/96 (MD)**

Maria Anna Hoehn, born 15 February 1796 (26 Pluviose Year 4), daughter of Ignatius Hoehn and Maria Anna Daul. Father Absent – Military. Went in First Requisition.

[Ignatius Hoehn, born 25 October 1768 in Rountzenheim, died 1851 in Soufflenheim, son of Mathis Hohn, farmer, and Magdalena Wasser, married 25 March 1797 to Maria Anna Daul, 1767-1833, daughter of Lorentz Daul and Barbara Hertel.

Marriage 5 Germinal Year 5 (Page 15/33): Ignatz Hohn, farmer, age 30, born in Runtzenheim 9 October 1766, son of deceased Mathis Hohn, farmer of Runtzenheim and deceased Magdalena Wasser [not 'Mosser'; the scribe's 'Mo-' and 'Wa-' are quite similar]. With Maria Anna Daul, age 28, born 10 November 1768 in Sufflenheim, daughter of deceased Lorentz Daul and Barbara Hertel. Maria Anna Daul's baptism appears dated 07 November 1767 (Page 201/384). There was not another Maria Anna Daul baptized around 10 November 1768, so apparently the marriage record got it wrong. Rountzenheim records did not display Ignatz' baptism around 9 October 1766, either. Ignatius Honn, baptized 26 October 1768, born previous day (Page 25/99). [The 'o' in Hon and Honn have umlaut]. His sister Maria Eva Honn was baptized 15 August 1766 (Page 17/99). Another sister, Maria Regina Hon, was baptized 1 January 1765 (Page 11/99).]

## **LUDWIG BLATTNER**

### **13 February 1798 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 9/33 (MD)**

Birth record of Maria Barbara Blattner born 13 February 1798 (25 Pluviose Year 6), daughter of Ludwig Blattner. Mother not named, but known through the child's death record to be Barbara Schworer. Father absent - military. Went in first Requisition

[Ludwig (Louis) Blattner, born about 1776 in Drusenheim, died in 1826 in Soufflenheim, son of Chretien Blattner and Catherine Klein, married 23 April 1796 to Barbe Schworer of Soufflenheim, 1773-1827, daughter of Joseph Schworer and Madelaine Reither.]

Death record 30 September 1826; Louis Blattner, husband of Barbe Schworer; age 50; born in Drusenheim; son of deceased Chretien Blattner and deceased Catherine Klein. Marriage record in Drusenheim 4 Floreal Year 4 (in 10-Year Table only; nothing but the groom's and bride's names and the marriage date; civil records pre-1813 are missing). The Drusenheim baptism records 1737-1793 are also missing, so there will be no verification of his birth date. Note that Barbe Schworer's mother's surname was probably 'Rie-' rather than 'Rei-' (like 'reader', not like 'writer') - Magdalena Rieder and her sister Barbara (married Anton Burger - contract 22 January 1780) were from Schirrhein, daughters of Georg Rieder and Sophia Hetterich. The Schirrhein records are mostly missing in the period of interest, and later on we can find both Riether and Reither (I merely suspect these are different families because of the obviously different pronunciation), so the Schirrhein records are not immediately helpful on this. Magdalena's daughter Madelaine Schworer married Joseph Strack in Soufflenheim on 1 July 1789 (Online Page 28/45), and that record has Magdalena's name clearly as 'Rieder'. Magdalena's sister Barbe's death record in Soufflenheim 5 June 1807 has her name clearly as 'Rieder'.]

### **JOSEPH BECK**

#### **17 February 1798 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 10/33 (MD)**

Franciscus Josephus Beck, born 17 February 1798 (29 Pluviose Year 6), son of Joseph Beck and Maria Anna Werner. Father absent - military. Went in Military Requisition.

[Joseph Beck, 1770-1844, of Soufflenheim, son of Michel Beck and Marie Anne Wilhelm, married 25 March 1797 to Marie Anne Werner, 1777-1827, daughter of Petri Wernert and Marie Ann Arn,]

Joseph Beck Baptism record 19 December 1770 (Page 233/384); born today, son of Michaelis Beck & Maria Anna Wilhelm. Marriage record 5 Germinal Year 5 (25 March 1797) (Page 18/33); Joseph Beck, age 27, born 13 December (year 1767 scratched out, possibly altered to 1770 - hidden in spine); son of Michael Beck & deceased Maria Anna Wilhelm. With Maria Anna Werner; age 19, born 2 August 1777; daughter of Peter Werner and Maria Anna Arn. Death record 7 November 1844; age 64 (yes, soixante quatre ans); widower of Marie Anne Werner; son of deceased Michel Beck and deceased Anne Marie Wilhelm; declarants sons of the deceased, Bernardin Beck, 34, and Michel Beck, 45.]

### **FRANTZ ANTONI KEHLHOFFNER**

#### **28 March 1798 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 17/33 (MD)**

Franz Anton Kehlhoffner, born 01 April 1798 (08 Germinal Year 6), son of Frantz Antoni Kellhoffner and Maria Anna Kieffer. Father absent - military. Went in first Requisition Class.

[Antoni Kehlhoffner, 1770-1833, of Soufflenheim, son of Johannes Kehlhoffner and Marguarite Eissen, married 20 March 1797 to Marie Anne Kieffer, daughter of Lorentz Kieffer and Margareth Renck.

Frantz Anton Kehlhoffner baptism record 27 July 1770 (Page 230/384); apparently born same day; son of Joannis Kelhoffner and Margaritha Eisen. Marriage record 30 Ventose Year 5 (20 March 1797) (Page 13/33); Frantz Antoni Kelhoffner, age 27, son of Johannes Kelhoffner and Margaretha Eissen. With Maria Anna Kieffer, age 22, daughter of Lorentz Kieffer and Margareth Renck. Death record 23 May 1833; age 63; widower of Marie Anne Kieffer; son of deceased Jean Kehlhoffner and deceased Marguerite Eisen.]

## **PAUL BERTRAND**

### **01 April 1798 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 18/33 (MD)**

Franciscus Josephus Bertrand, born 01 April 1798 (12 Germinal Year 6), son of Paul Bertrand and Magdalena Kirchorffer. Father absent - military. In the Sixth Half Brigade Infantry.

[Paul Bertrand, born 11 May 1776 in Obodom, died 1840 in Soufflenheim, son of Paul Bertrand and Marie LaFarque, married 03 October 1797 to Magdalena Kirchorffer 1775-1842, daughter of Johannes Kirchoerffer and Barbe Obermeyer.

Marriage record 12 Vendemiaire Year 6 (3 October 1797) (Page 4/21); Paul Berdrant, age 21, born 11 May 1776; Chasseur in the 6th Half Brigade; son of Paul Berdrant, age 58, and Maria Anna Lafarb, of Obodom(?) Canton Plerack(?), Departement Delotgarand(?). With Magdalena Kirchorffer, age 22, born 20 December 1775 in Sufflenheim; widow of Frantz Lavue(?) Officer in the Second Batallion chasseur 10 and 1/2 Brigade (Jean Franciscus Lavaine - see marriage 2 Pluviose Year 4, Page 30/37 - Captain, Third Batallion, 11 and 1/2th Brigade Light Infantry); daughter of Johannes Kirchorffer and Barbara Obermeyer. Death record 16 February 1840 (died 15 February 1840); age 73 (soixante treize); born in Opodong, Departement Lot et Garonna; husband in second union with Magdelaine Kirchoerffer; son of deceased Paul Bertrand of Opodong and deceased Anne Lafargue of Opodong. Note: There is a Department 'Lot-et-Garonne'. A list of today's communes did not show any that could be sensibly corrupted into something akin to Obodom/Opodong.]

## **LUDWIG THOMA**

### **18 June 1798 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 23/33 (MD)**

Maria Francisca Thoma, born 18 June 1798 (30 Prairial Year 6), daughter of Lutwig Thoma and Maria Anna Eichmann. Father absent - military. Sergeant in Second Company First Batallion Sixty-second Half Brigade Infantry.

[No further mention of this couple or their daughter in Soufflenheim.]

## **JOHANNES TENTELIN**

### **17 March 1802 Soufflenheim Birth, Online Book Page 11/26 (MD)**

Margretha Tentelin, born 17 March 1802 (26 Ventose Year 10, daughter of Johannes Tentelin and Catharina Behler. Father absent - military. First Batallion Sixteenth Half Brigade Light (Legire) Infantry.

[Johannes Peter Tentelin [Dentlen], born 1771 in Malandri, married 03 October 1797 to Marie Catherine Boehler, born 1765 in Soufflenheim, daughter of Michel Boehler and Marie Anne Kehlhoffner. Present at the birth of his son Cristian on 09 June 1803. Both children died within several weeks of birth. No further mention of this couple in Soufflenheim.

Marriage record 12 Vendemiaire Year 6 (3 October 1797) (Page 5/21); Joann Peter Dentlen, age 26, born 10 January 1771; Chasseur in the 16th Half Brigade; son of Louis Dentlen, age 64, carpenter, and deceased Lucie Thoman of Malandrii, Canton Maria(?), Departement Ardaine. With Catharina Bohler, age 29, born 28 Aug 1768 in Sufflenheim; daughter of deceased Michael Bohler and Maria Anna Kolhoffner age 70, of Sufflenheim. No death or remarriage record found for Johannes Peter Tentelin or Catharina Boehler]

### **JOANNES PETRUS METZLER & MARIA ELISABETHA KURTZ**

**08 Jul 1749, Soufflenheim Marriage, Series 3 Image 46**

Groom: Soldier, woodworker, from Bitche, son of Joannis Metzler and Maria Barbara Steinmetz both deceased. Bride: Daughter of deceased Mathias Kurtz and Magdalena Hertzog, from Buchelberg, diocese Speyer [Woerth-Buchelberg].

### **PETRUS BRUCKER & EVA BARBARA GOEBIG**

**02 Sep 1749, Soufflenheim Marriage, Series 3 Image 49**

Groom: Soldier fighting with cohort Lord of War, son of Petri Brucker deceased and Dorothea Oberschwenckler. Bride: From Lobsann, daughter of deceased Nicolas Gobig day laborer and Margaretha Albert.

### **FRANCIS JOSEPHUS DURENBERGER & MAGDALENA SCHAEFFTER**

**17 Apr 1750 Soufflenheim Marriage, Series 3 Image 55**

Groom: From Elsenheim, soldier in Legion of the cohort of the Lord of Delor, son of deceased Caroli Durenberger peg maker in Ribeauville and Catherina Schmid. Bride: Daughter of Jacobi Scheffter farmer and Eva Kellhoffner.

### **JOANNES MICHEL & CATHERINA DREGER**

**30 Aug 1751, Soufflenheim Marriage Series 3 Image 62**

Groom: From parish in Fort Louis, soldier released from legion of footmen from Regiment De Ischray.  
Bride: Daughter of deceased Nicoli Treier farmer and Barbara Mosser, bride's authorization [married in Fort Louis 13 Sep 1751]

## **ANTOINE KIEFFER & CATHERINE KIRCHDORFFER**

### **21 Nov 1801 (30 Brumaire Year 10) Soufflenheim Marriage Book M, An X; Page 4/12**

On the 30 Brumaire year 10 of the French Republic, marriage record of Antoine Kieffer, aged 21 years, born in Soufflenheim department of Bas-Rhin the 23rd January in year 1780, profession a farmer, living in Soufflenheim, major son of deceased Lorentz Kieffer in his life a farmer and of his living widow Margretha Renck, living here, and Catharina Kirchdorffer, aged 24 years, born in Soufflenheim the 16th April in year 1777, living in the named Soufflenheim, daughter of Johannes Kirchdorffer forester of the national forest of Haguenau, and of Barbara Obermeyer his wife in the same place ; the preliminary records were taken out the records of publications passed in the town hall of Soufflenheim on the 20th Brumaire in the same Soufflenheim, which records were hung on the main gate at mid-day in Soufflenheim as the law requires, all in correct form, from those records I, public officer, can say that the named Anton Kieffer and Catharina Kirchdorffer have declared their intention to get married together, in presence of Antoni Brucker, farmer, 45 years old, Lorentz Kieffer, farmer aged 50, Johannes Kirchdorffer, grenadier in the 10th half-brigade light infantry, 28 years old, Georg Helmer, joiner, 42 years old, all four in city place, the two first as uncles of Antoni Kieffer, and the third and fourth children of the brothers and sisters of parents of Catharina Kirchdorffer, upon which I, Joseph Messner, mayor of Soufflenheim, as a public officer, have declared the new couple married bound in front of the law, and the newly married and witnesses have undersigned the entry passed in Soufflenheim on date above. Antoin Kieffer, Antony Brucker, Johannes Kirchdorffer, Catharina Kirchdorffer, Lorentz Kieffer, Messner maire, Johannes Kirchdorffer, Margretha Reck, Georg Helmer. [Note: Baptism record of Johannes Kirchdorffer: Born 1773 in Soufflenheim. Son of Johannes Kirchdorffer & Barbara Obermeyer]

## **CHARLES KNEPLFER & ADELAIDE HALTER**

### **22 January 1838 Soufflenheim Marriage**

Soufflenheim: Marriage Record, 22 January 1838, Town Hall of Soufflenheim, Arrondissement Strasbourg. On the 22nd of January in year 1838: Marriage record of Charles Knepfler, soldier on unlimited leave (Soldat en congé illimité), domiciled in this Town Hall, aged thirty-one years born in Soufflenheim on the 1st November 1806, legitimate major son of Jean Knepfler, farmer here who died on the 26th April 1822, and of Anne Marie Fessler no profession, died here the 12 September 1817. And of Adelaide Halter no profession, resident here, aged 31 years, born in Soufflenheim on the 28th December 1806, legitimate daughter major of years of Pierre Halter aged 60 years, carpenter here, present and consenting to the union, and of Françoise Schmitt, aged 65, no profession, living here present and consenting to the union. The publications have been made in Soufflenheim, residence of both parties on Sundays 7th and 14th of this month, without opposition made. The husband provides his birth record, those of his parents, and the authorization delivered by the military authority, all these records required to get married by law. After they have been read to them, Adelaide Halter and Charles Knepfler have been declared married in presence of witnesses: Joseph Kachelhofer, 60 years old, farmer and brother in law of the husband. Michel Knepfler, aged 37 years, farmer brother of the husband. Ignace Halter, aged 70 years, farmer, uncle of the bride. Jacques Muller, aged 34 years, potter, cousin of the bride, all here. In

front of me Martin Helmer, civil officer, all undersigned the present record: Charles Knepfler, Adelaide Halter, Peter Halter, Schmitt, Kachelhoffer, Halter, Knepfler, Müller, Helmer, mayor.

## **JEAN DANIEL BLEICHER**

### **1838 Soufflenheim Death**

Retired soldier (officier en retrait). [Marriage record in 1827 calls him a commercant (merchant). The 1836 census describes him as a merchant, age 80, married to Marie Langenbacher, age 65, living in the Brunnenberg district.]

## **REGISTRES BLANC**

Specific records of soldiers who died are found in the Soufflenheim civil records. They are not in sequence with other records in the main registers. These extra records were originally filed in registers known as "registres blanc", one of which exists for each of the years 1811-1824. On microfilm, the extra records are found at the end of each year of records. In the internet version, the extra records are in virtual books labelled "registre blanc". Records and commentary contributed by Mark Drexler.

## **JOSEPH KÖHLHOFFNER**

Record Date: 04 April 1811. Record Location: At end of 1811 civil death records; on-line 1811 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 21 February 1809. Fusilier, 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment. Son of Michel [Köhlhoffner] and Marie Anne Dräger. Matriculation register #4941. Killed at Ceydera [Cedeira] (Spain) on 21 February 1809.

[Note: Baptism 24 October 1786 (On-Line Page 47/135), Franciscus Josephus Köhlhoffner, son of Michaelis Köhlhoffner & Maria Anna Dre\_er]

## **MICHEL STETTNER**

Record Date: 16 May 1811. Record Location: End of 1811 civil death records; on-line 1811 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 24 July 1810. Light horseman, 6th Company, 2nd Squadron, Light Mounted Regiment of the Royal Guard. Age 21 [at death]. Entered hospital at Madrid on 25 March 1810; died of consumptive fever on 24 July 1810.

[Note: Baptism 22 December 1788 (on-line Page 74/135), Michael Stettner, son of Michaelis Stettner & Magdalena Wintz]

## **MATHIAS KIRCHDOERFFER**

Record Date: 14 June 1811. Record Location: At end of 1811 civil death records; on-line 1811 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 12 May 1811. Dragoon, 23rd Regiment, 4th Squadron, 4th Company. Entered service as conscript on 16 Frimaire Year 14. Son of Jean Kirchdoerffer and Barbe Obermeyer. Entered hospital at Sion, Department of Simplon on 06 April 1811; died of pulmonary consumption on 12 May 1811.

[Note: Baptism 25 February 1785 (on-line Page 27/135), Mathias Kirchdörffer, son of Joannis Kirchdörffer & Barbara Obermeyer]

### **JOSEPH DAUL**

Record Date: 25 September 1811. Record Location: At end of 1811 civil death records; on-line 1811 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 24 June 1811. Age 26 [at death]. Customs Official. Entered military/sedentary hospital at Utrecht on 03 May 1811; died of chronic [type unclear] fistula on 24 June 1811.

[Note: In this record, I see no clear indication that Joseph Daul was, or had been, in military service. I have included this entry because the hospital at Utrecht served military needs. I do not know if 'Customs' had a military connection]

[Note: Only one candidate Joseph Daul born in this time frame: Baptism 26 November 1785 (on-line Page 36/135), Josephus Daul, son of Michaelis Daul & Barbara Sensenbrener]

### **ANTOINE MESSNER**

Record Date: 24 April 1812. Record Location: At end of 1812 civil death records; on-line 1812 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 10 March 1812. Age 26 [at death]. Pioneer in the 1st [?] Pioneer Company. Entered military hospital at Utrecht on 28 December 1811; died of dropsy on 10 March 1812

[Note: I found no obvious candidate Antoine Messner in the baptism records; it is interesting that the death record was written by another Antoine Messner]

### **MICHEL SCHMITT**

Record Date: 06 April 1813. Record Location: At end of 1813 civil death records; on-line 1813 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 25 Jan 1813. Age 20 [at death]. Fusilier, 4th Company, 5th Battalion, 30th Regiment. Died in hospital at Mayence, Mont-Tonnerre on 25 January 1813.

[Note: Only one candidate Michel Schmitt of this age, or close, in baptism and civil birth records: Baptism 28 September 1792 (on-line page 121/135), Michael Schmidt, son of Michaelis Schmidt & Maria Anna Albrecht]

### **ANTOINE BRUCKER**

Record Date: 11 May 1814. Record Location: At end of 1814 civil death records; on-line 1814 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 25 June 1813. Lieutenant, 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment. Son of Antoine [Brucker] and Marie Anne Tangle. Born in 1780. Entered service with the 69th Regiment on 1 Florial Year 11, Matriculation #278. Killed at Tolan, Spain on 25 June 1813.

[Note: Baptism 19 April 1779 (on-line Page 329/384), Franciscus Antonius, son of Antonii Bruger (signature 'Brucker') & Maria Anna Dangell]

## LAURENT BILDSTEIN

Record Date: 28 August 1821. Record Location: At end of 1821 civil death records; on-line 1821 'registre blanc'. Death Date: 20 December 1811. Son of Chretien [Bildstein] and Anne Bildstein. Entered service on 07 May 1810, registered [?] with the 51st Regiment. Died on 20 December 1811.

[Note: Baptism 18 April 1786 (on-line Page 41/135) Laurentius, son of Christiani Biltstein & Anna Biltstein]

## NAPOLEON MARRIAGES

The following two Napoleon marriages for Soufflenheim are found at the Napoleon Marriages database at FranceGenWeb: <https://www.francegenweb.org/napmargenweb/accueil.php>

### Marriage of 6,000 Soldiers of the Empire

Translated by Michael Heschung:

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariage\\_de\\_6\\_000\\_soldats\\_de\\_l%27Empire](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mariage_de_6_000_soldats_de_l%27Empire)

The marriage of 6,000 soldiers of the Empire refers to a decision by Emperor Napoleon I, on the occasion of his remarriage to Marie-Louise of Austria in 1810, to endow young girls from all the cantons of France by their marriage to retired soldiers. We also speak of the "Grooms of the Emperor".

From his palace in Compiègne, dated March 25, 1810, Napoleon I published a decree countersigned by his Secretary of State Hugues-Bernard Maret, Duke of Bassano, "containing acts of charity and indulgence on the occasion of the marriage of his majesty the Emperor and King". It allows the release of prisoners who are no longer there except for non-payment of fines, the possibility of release for individuals imprisoned for tax debt, the elimination of debts to the nurse's office of the Seine department as well as a broad amnesty in favor of deserters.

The decree:

Title IV, "On the Marriage of Six Thousand Soldiers", allows six thousand soldiers retired from revolutionary or Napoleonic campaigns to take a wife to whom the State gives a dowry of 600 or 1,200 francs.

Title IV - Of the marriage of six thousand Soldiers. Six thousand retired soldiers, having served at least one campaign, will be married on April 22, with girls from their communes, to whom will be granted a dowry of twelve hundred francs for Paris, and six hundred francs in the rest of the Empire, namely:

- sixty in the city of Paris,
- ten in each of the cities whose state is annexed to this decree (A);
- five in each of the cities whose state is annexed to this decree (B);
- two in each of the cities whose state is annexed to this decree (C);
- one in each of the justices of the peace of the Empire. Soldiers and girls to be married will be chosen in the following manner, namely:

For the city of Paris, by deliberation of the general council acting as municipal council, approved by the prefect.

For departmental capital cities, by deliberation of the municipal council, approved by the prefect.

For towns which are not departmental capitals, by deliberation of the municipal council, approved by the sub-prefect.

For the justices of the peace, by a commission composed of two mayors and two priests designated by the sub-prefect, and the justice of the peace, who will chair the commission and convene it in his home.

The municipalities which are not included in the preceding articles, may, upon the deliberation of the municipal council, approved by the sub-prefect, marry a soldier and a girl from the municipality, complying, for the choice and for the portion of the dowry, in accordance with the above provisions.

The conditions concerning future spouses are examined by local commissions acting under the control of prefects. The future spouse must have led at least one campaign and have had impeccable behavior. The bride is chosen from a list of unmarried girls, and of the “best reputation”. After establishing a list of soldiers “who may benefit from this benefit”, each commission verifies rights, service documents, retirement leave, membership in the municipality. Brilliant service records are favored and soldiers who have been injured in combat increase their chance of being chosen. In certain communes, it is sometimes difficult to find willing marriage unionists, and in others, this decree can also be a godsend.

The ceremony must take place on Sunday April 22, 1810 or in the days that follow. Due to slow communication and organizational difficulties, some marriages are even celebrated several months later. Because, even if Napoleon's organizational genius is generally praised, it seems that the regime misjudged the organizational requirements by issuing a decree that was as late as it was hasty or even improvised.

The prefects and sub-prefects give their instructions so that the festivals are celebrated with solemnity, joy and joy and, above all, that they benefit from exceptional pomp. In line with the local celebrations of Federation Day, which however lost its scope with the Empire, these weddings once again allowed those in power to appropriate popular jubilation.

The 6,000 marriages must be celebrated throughout the territory of the French Empire. In order for the entire nation to adhere to this harmony, but also to his regime, the emperor insisted that in each department, in each canton, the festivities reproduce those of the capital.

**JOSEPH DAUL & MARIE ANNE KOHLHOFFNER**

**23 April 1810 Soufflenheim, Napoleon Marriages N° 1952**

Joseph Daul, married 23 April 1810 in Soufflenheim, born 1780 in Soufflenheim, son of Joseph Daul farmer and deceased Catherine Hochnedel, to Marie Anne Kohlhoffner, born 1784 in Soufflenheim, daughter of deceased Michael Kohlhoffner laborer and Marie Anne Dreher. Witness: Jacques May, earthenware potter, 41 years old, Michel May, earthenware potter, 50 years old, Joseph Obermeyer, laborer, 56 years old, Antoine Goetz Antoine, earthenware potter, 54 years old. Notes: The witnesses are all domiciled in Soufflenheim. Exempted from second publication. The future doesn't know how to sign. Retired Military - Farmer.

## **ANDRE MULHAUSSER & MARIE ANNE KIEFFER**

### **23 April 04 1810 Soufflenheim, Napoleon Marriages N° 1953**

Andre Mulhausser, married 23 April 1810 in Soufflenheim, born 1778 in Soufflenheim [parents not given], to Marie Anne Kieffer, born 1784 in Soufflenheim, daughter of Laurent Kieffer farmer and deceased Agnes D.... Witness: Jacques May, earthenware potter, 41 years old, Michel May, earthenware potter, 50 years old, Joseph Obermeyer, laborer, 56 years old, Antoine Goetz, earthenware potter, 54 years old. Notes: The witnesses are all domiciled in Soufflenheim. Exempted from second publication. Retired Military - Farmer. Widower of Marie Anne Schmuck (died in Soufflenheim on 09 February 1810).

## **SAINT HELENE MEDAL**

The Saint Helene medal, created in 1857 by Napoleon III, was awarded to the 405,000 soldiers still living in 1857, who fought with Napoleon during the 1792-1815 wars. These soldiers were born circa 1765-1797. The original records of recipients of this medal were destroyed by a fire in 1871. Copies are kept at many of the Departmental Archives. Series RP757 and other RP series at the Archives Department of Bas-Rhin, which have not been completely transcribed, were used to find soldiers from Bas-Rhin. Soldiers from Soufflenheim are found on the St. Helene Medal website at: <http://www.stehelene.org/>

## **IGNACE BURGER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Annee De Naissance: 21/12/1786
- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 69e Reg De Ligne
- Periode: 10/12/1808-06/07/1815
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283121

## **ANTOINE ERNWEIN**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Annee De Naissance: 07/02/1792
- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 30e Reg De Ligne, Légion Du Bas-Rhin
- Periode: 10/09/1812-03/1820
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283122

## **GEORGES FISCHER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Prenom: Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 30e Reg De Ligne
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283123

## **FRANÇOIS JOSEPH HABERKORN**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Chasseur. Regiment: 15e Reg De Chasseurs
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283124

## **JEAN HUMMEL**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Annee De Naissance: 24/11/1790
- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 14e Bat Des Équipages Militaires
- Periode: 1812-1814
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283125

## **ANTOINE MENSCH**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 5e Reg D'artillerie À Pied
- Dossier: 70557

## **ANTOINE MESSNER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Caporal. Regiment: 30e Reg De Ligne
- Dossier: 70558

## **JEAN MESSNER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Chasseur À Cheval. Regiment: 20e Reg De Chasseurs À Cheval
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283126

## **JACQUES MEYER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 10e Reg De Marine
- Dossier: 70559

## **JOSEPH MULLER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Soldat. Regiment: 36e Reg De Ligne
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283127

## **PIERRE ZINGER**

Saint Helene Medal, 1857

- Commune De Residence: Soufflenheim
- Grade: Brigadier. Regiment: 7e Reg De Chasseurs À Cheval
- Divers: 4° Distribution. Dossier: 283128

## 1836 CENSUS

The 1836 Soufflenheim census mentions sixty-six soldiers, the only census to do so. Certified by the mayor, Martin Helmer, 25 June 1836. The French conquest of Algeria took place from 1830 to 1847.

Found at: <http://archives.bas-rhin.fr/recensements-population/REC-POP-C468#REC-POP-C468-R7276>

French infantry regiments are described as “de Ligne” (Line) and “Leger/Légère” (Light). Ligne and Leger can be difficult to distinguish from one another. When not adequately legible, they have been translated according to typical French military spelling as “Line”, when preceded by “de”, and “Light”, when not.

### **NAPOLEON DAUL**

#### **1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #80**

Napoleon Daul, soldier at the 12th Artillery Regiment, single, age 26.

(Soldat au 12e d'Artillerie)

[Celine Ikhelif: Joseph Daul (1779-1850) is listed in the census as night guard, age 56, married. He used to be in the Army and later became a rural warden (garde-champêtre). Two of his sons were soldiers: Napoléon (1810-1837) never married, a soldier in the 12th Artillery Regiment, and Clément (1811-1839 Douïra, Algeria) single, a sergeant (brigadier) in the 13th battalion of the 2nd Artillery Regiment. He died in the Military Hospital in Douïra, on November 17<sup>th</sup>.]

### **CLEMENT DAUL**

#### **1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #81**

Clement Daul, sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Regiment, single, age 24.

(S au 2e Regt d'Artillerie)

### **NARCISSE BURGER**

#### **1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #181**

Narcisse Burger, sergeant in the 45<sup>th</sup> Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Sergent au 45e de Ligne)

### **XAVIER SCHLOSSER**

#### **1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #203**

Xavier Schlosser, soldier in the 6th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 28.

(Soldat au 6e de Ligne)

**HUGUES LEHMANN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #237**

Hugues Lehmann, soldier, single, age 26.

**MODESTE DOPPLER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #388**

Modeste Doppler, soldier, single, age 24.

**JEAN BURGART**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #412**

Carabinier, age 21

[cavalryman with rifle]

**PIE UHRICH**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #421**

Pie Uhrich, soldier, single, age 24.

**LEOPOLD MUNTZINGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #486**

Leopold Muntzinger, soldier, married, age 23

[Spouse: Christine Daul].

**JANVIER VOGEL**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #545**

Janvier Vogel, soldier in the 16<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Soldat au 16e Leger)

**SIGISMOND UHRICH**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #640**

Sigismond Uhrich, soldier in the 6th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 26.

(Soldat au 6e de Ligne)

**GRÉGOIRE WAGNER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #699**

Grégoire Wagner, soldier in the 15th Chasseur Regiment, single, age 24.

(au 15e de Chasseur)

[French term for "hunter". The designation given to certain regiments of French light infantry (chasseurs à pied) or light cavalry (chasseurs à cheval) to denote troops trained for rapid action.

**FELIX GOETZ**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #705**

Felix Goetz, soldier in the 4th Chasseur Regiment, single, age 25.

(Soldat au 4e Regt de Chasseur)

**JEAN GEORGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #753**

Jean Georger, soldier in the 3rd Dragoon Regiment, single, age 25.

(au 3e Dragon)

**LAURENT KIEFFER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #771**

Laurent Kieffer, Soldier in the 15th Light Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Soldat au 5e Leger)

**LOUIS KIEFFER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #772**

Louis Kieffer, soldier, single, age 23.

**JANVIER HALTER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #841**

Janvier Halter, soldier in the 7th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 25.

(Soldat au 7e Regt de Ligne)

**RUDOLPH MESSNER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #857**

Rudolph Messner, soldier in the 16th Light Infantry Regiment, single, age 26.

(Soldat au 16e Leger)

**CHARLES LEHMANN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #895**

Charles Lehmann, soldier in the 14th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 26.

(Soldat au 14 Regt de Ligne)

**ANTOINE KEHLHOFFNER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #905**

Antoine Kehlhoffner, soldier in the 3rd Chasseur Regiment, age 33, single,

(au 3e Regt de Chasseur)

**MICHEL DAUL**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #973**

Michel Daul, soldier, single, age 26.

**PHILIPPE HABERKORN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #987**

Philippe Haberkorn, soldier, single, age 22.

**JOSEPH ELCHINGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1018**

Joseph Elchinger, quartermaster sergeant in the 7th Artillery Regiment, single, age 30.

(Maréchal de logis au 7e Regt d'Artillerie)

Census Note: Brother-in-law of Baumann

**MAXIMILIEN FAHRER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1029**

Maximilien Fahrer, soldier in the 19th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 25.

(Soldat au 19e de Ligne)

**ALEXANDRE FAHRER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1030**

Alexandre Fahrer, soldier in the 8th Dragoon Regiment, single, age 22.

(au 8e Dragon)

**JEAN HAASSER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1050**

Jean Haasser, soldier in the 7th Artillery Regiment, single, age 25.

(Soldat au 7e d'Artillerie)

**VALANTIN KIEFFER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1058**

Valantin Kieffer, soldier in the 38th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 31.

(Soldat au 38e de Ligne)

**CHRÉTIEN LEPPERT**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1066**

Chrétien Leppert, soldier in the 5th Light Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Soldat au 5<sup>th</sup> Leger).

**ADAM ERNEWEIN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1095**

Adam Ernewein, soldier, single, age 26.

**GILLES KIEFFER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1113**

Gilles Kieffer, soldier, single, age 30.

**LAURENT THOMEN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1210**

Laurent Thomen, soldier in the 39th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 27.

(Soldat au 39e de Ligne)

**XAVIER HIMMELSPACH**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1215**

Xavier Himmelspach, soldier in the 5th Light Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Soldat au 5<sup>th</sup> Leger)

**ALEXIS HALTER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1221**

Alexis Halter, soldier in the 26<sup>th</sup> Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 26.

(Soldat au 26e de Ligne)

**AMBROISE KIEFFER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1235**

Ambroise Kieffer, soldier in the 45<sup>th</sup> Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 24.

(Soldat au 45e de Ligne)

**JEAN LANG**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1347**

Jean Lang, soldier, single, age 30.

**LONGIN LEPPERT**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1449**

Longin Leppert, soldier, single, age 24.

**JEAN GENTNER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1454**

Jean Gentner, soldier, single, age 26.

**MATTHIEU VOEGELE**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1506**

Matthieu Voegele, soldier, single, age 26.

**MAXIMILIN WOHLIUNG**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1534**

Maximilin Wohliung, soldier, single, age 26.

**ADAM HERTEL**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1624**

Adam Hertel, soldier, single, age 28.

Census Note: Brother-in-law of Kehres.

**BERNARD BECK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1627**

Bernard Beck, soldier, single, age 26.

**ADAM FRANCK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1684**

Adam Franck, soldier in the 11th Artillery Regiment, single, age 26.

(11e d'Artillerie)

**IGNACE MARY**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1711**

Ignace Mary, soldier, single, age 24.

**FRANCOIS ANTOINE REUSS**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1757**

François Antoine Reuss, soldier in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoon Regiment, single, age 27.

(3e Dragon)

**MICHEL REUSS**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1758**

Michel Reuss, soldier in the 49th Line Infantry Regiment, single, age 25.

(49e de Ligne)

**HIPPOLYTE HOERDT**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #1796**

Hippolyte Hoerd, soldier, single, age 23.

**ANSELME MEYER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2088**

Anselme Meyer, soldier, single, age 24.

**JEAN FREYBURGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2132**

Jean Freyburger, soldier, single, age 26.

**MARCEL BURGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2180**

Marcel Burger, naval soldier, single, age 24.

(Soldat de la marine)

**CLÉMENT JAECK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2209**

Clément Jaeck, soldier, single, age 23.

**CHRYSOSTOME ZINGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2275**

Chrisostomin Zinger, soldier, single, age 27.

**LUC ESTREICHER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2310**

Luc Estreicher, soldier, single, age 30.

**ALOISE ESTREICHER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2311**

Aloise Estreicher, soldier, single, age 25.

**MARTIN SCHMUCK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2336**

Martin Schmuck, soldier, single, age 23.

**PIE MARY**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2350**

Pie Mary, soldier, single, age 22.

**ANSELME BABINGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2433**

Anselme Babinger, soldier, single, age 19.

**THOMAS BABINGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2477**

Thomas Babinger, soldier, single, age 24.

**GERMAIN WILDEROTTER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 # 2489**

Germain Wilderotter, soldier, single, age 25.

**LAMBERT HALTER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2510**

Lambert Halter, soldier, single, age 24.

**EMMANUEL BURGER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2601**

Emmanuel Burger, soldier, single, age 25.

Census Note: Police guard ("garde de police")

**THOMAS MOSSACK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2639**

Thomas Mossack, soldier, single, age 23.

**HENRY JAECK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2646**

Henry Jaeck, soldier in the 8<sup>th</sup> Cuirassier Regiment, single, age 26.

(au 8e Cuirassier)

[Heavy cavalry equipped with cuirass armor (breastplate), helmet, sword, and firearms.]

**FERDINAND SCHMUCK**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2687**

Ferdinand Schmuck, soldier, single, age 27.

**IGNACE WINDHEISER**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2779**

Ignace Windheiser, soldier, single, age 23.

**STANISLAS FRIEDMANN**

**1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2935**

Stanislas Friedmann, soldier, single, age 22.

## **GABRIEL HAAS**

### **1836 Soufflenheim Census 7M705 #2944**

Gabriel Haas, soldier, single, age 26.

## **LEGION OF HONOR**

Soldiers from Soufflenheim appointed to the National Order of the Legion of Honor, the highest decoration in France, established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, with the President of France as Grand Master. The order is divided into five classes: Knight, Officer, Commander, Grand Officer, and Grand Cross. Twelve Soufflenheim soldiers were Knights, one an Officer. Three were awarded the Military Medal, established in 1852, the third highest decoration in France.

The Legion of Honor and the Military Medal are overseen by the Grand Chancellery of the Legion of Honor. The Hotel de Salm, headquarters of the Légion of Honor, was burned to the ground in 1871 during the Paris Commune uprising and the archives of the order were lost. Found at Geneanet in the Collection Catalog and the Léonore database of the National Archives.

## **ANTOINE ADAM**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1842**

Antoine Adam, drum major in the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Light Infantry, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on April 18, 1842, registration number 47081.

Born December 9, 1798 in Soufflenheim [son of Joseph Adam (the large) and Magdalena Wilt]. Residing at 19 Rue St. Louis, Paris on February 10, 1872. Deceased January 2, 1875.

## **JOSEPH AMBOS**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1959**

Joseph Ambos, posthumously appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on December 17, 1959, registration number 7459PO59.

Born April 20, 1915 in Soufflenheim. The award was received in 1960 by his father, Aloyse Ambos, residing at 18 Grand Rue, Soufflenheim.

## **JEAN-LUC BABINGER**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1868**

Jean-Luc Babinger, sergeant in the Gendarmerie, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on December 28, 1868, registration number 117910.

Sergeant in the Gendarmerie of the company of the Haute-Savoie, awarded the Military Medal on March 14, 1864, number 38925.

Born December 21, 1817 in Soufflenheim [son of Michel Babinger and Catherine Bohler]. Retired and residing in Spada, Meuse on January 28, 1872. Deceased June 13, 1897.

## **MICHEL BABINGER**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1882**

Michel Babinger, warrant officer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legion of Gendarmerie company of the Somme, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on July 11, 1882, registration number 28149.

Warrant officer in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Legion of Gendarmerie in Amiens, decorated with the Military Medal February 5, 1878, number 27120.

Awarded a Silver 2<sup>nd</sup> class Medal of Honor for Courage and Dedication on November 23, 1865 [awarded to those having previously earned a Bronze Medal].

Born September 17, 1831 in Soufflenheim, son of Michel Babinger grease merchant and Catherine Boehler. Profession pottery merchant. Married April 12, 1858 to Josephine Alphonsine Carre of Sommesous, Marne. Deceased February 6, 1897.

Campaign Register, 3<sup>rd</sup> Legion, Company of the Somme, Registration Number 550:

Army: Incorporated into the 1<sup>st</sup> Riflemen Regiment on July 7, 1853 as a substitute approved by the Board of Revision dated July 2, 1853. Serving for Mister Thierry Henry of the 1852 class registered under Number 495 of the list of the Seine and Oise department contingent, cutting off the activation. Corporal March 5, 1855.

Gendarmerie: Mounted policeman Marne company in 1857. Mounted brigadier Moselle company in 1863. Sergeant on horseback in the Ardennes company in 1867. Company of the Marne in 1873. Sergeant on horseback in the company of Aisne in 1874. Warrant officer in the company of the Somme in 1875.

Fought against Germany from August 13, 1870 to March 7, 1871. Service ended August 1, 1882, retired and residing in Amiens. Served in the army 3 years 9 months 15 days, and in the Gendarmerie 25 years 3 months 9 days. Total military service 29 years 0 months 24 days.

## **ALEXANDRE BERTRAND**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1843**

Alexandre Bertrand, brigadier in the African Gendarmerie Legion, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on December 20, 1843. No registration number.

Born March 21, 1813 in Soufflenheim, son of Paul Bertrand and Madeleine Kirchdoerffer. Residing in Algiers in April of 1872. Deceased November 15, 1875 in Algiers, Algeria, occupation retired captain, widower of Victor [sic] Lacoste. Witness: Henry Bertrand, nephew, residing in Algiers, worker, age 31.

## **PAUL BERTRAND**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1845**

Paul Bertrand, mounted brigadier African Gendarmerie Legion, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on August 20, 1845, registration number 53316.

Born October 1, 1802 in Soufflenheim, son of Paul Bertrand day laborer and Madeleine Kirchdorffer. Married July 15, 1830 to Therese-Virginie Sucher, residing in St. Zacharie, Var. Deceased August 2, 1867.

Army: Entered the service in the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Hussars as a volunteer on April 6, 1820, moving to the 2nd Rifle Regiment December 22, 1825. Trumpeter on February 11, 1826, brigadier-trumpeter on August 24, 1826. Reenlisted for 4 years in 1826.

Gendarmerie: Appointed to the mounted Gendarmerie in the Var company November 18, 1828. Appointed to the department of Bouches-du-Rhone in 1829, and to the African Gendarmerie Legion 1<sup>st</sup> Company in 1843. Arrived in Algiers January 4, 1844, becoming a mounted brigadier on December 7, 1844. Brigadier in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade from Kouba 1<sup>st</sup> Company African Gendarmerie Legion on July 5, 1846.

## **CHARLES BURGER**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1896**

Charles Burger, captain in the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on July 11, 1896, registration number 52881.

Born February 6, 1853 in Soufflenheim, son of Joseph Burger and Madeleine Haberkorn. Married November 10, 1888 to Anne Marie Antoinette Moschenross widow of Steinmetz, domiciled in Haguenau. Deceased June 8, 1907.

Volunteer, enlisted for two years in Paris June 10, 1872 in the 39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Soldier in June 1872. Corporal in January 1873. Quartermaster sergeant November 1873. Sergeant July 1874. Quartermaster sergeant October 1874. Sergeant major April 1875. Warrant officer October of 1877. Attended the school of infantry for non-commissioned officers receiving a certificate of aptitude for the rank of second lieutenant. Second lieutenant 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment May 1881. Lieutenant 79<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment October 1885, and 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment December of 1885. Captain in the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment December 1892.

Served in Africa from August 26, 1881 to December 15, 1882. Captain residing at 339 Rue de Pyrenees, Paris on March 28, 1893. 24 years 6 months 21 days in military service. Received the Legion of Honor

certificate in Paris October 14, 1896. Received 250 francs annually in retirement, 125 every six months, for the Legion of Honor.

## **FERDINAND BURGER**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1886**

Ferdinand Burger, clothing captain in the 107<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on December 20, 1886, registration number 35152.

Born May 8, 1839 in Soufflenheim, son of Blaise Burger and Marie Antoinette Haertel. Deceased March 14, 1907 in Clermont-Ferrand, Puy-de-Dome.

## **GEORGES BURGER**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1881**

Georges Burger, captain in the 24<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on July 8, 1881, registration number 26301.

Born April 25, 1839 in Soufflenheim. Son of Georges Burger wheelwright and Angelique Kieffer. Married July 1, 1871 to Appoline Kieffer. Deceased January 31, 1905.

Entered the service as a cavalryman in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Dragoons Regiment on December 29, 1856: rifleman 1856-1857, corporal 1857-1860, sergeant 1860-1863.

Imperial Guard Horse Artillery Regiment: gunner 1863, corporal 1863, sergeant 1863-1867. Imperial Special Military School, warrant officer 1867-1869. 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Mounted Artillery, second lieutenant 1869-1871, lieutenant 1872-1873. 38<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, lieutenant 1874. 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, lieutenant, riding instructor 1874. 14<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, lieutenant 1875. 14<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, captain 1875. 24<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment, captain, riding instructor 1875-1881.

Campaigned against Germany from July 19, 1870 to October 29, 1870. Prisoner of war in Germany from October 29, 1870 to April 6 1871. Courses at the school of cavalry in 1858 and 1860, qualifying as a horse instructor, in 1861 and 1862, qualifying as sergeant horse instructor, and in 1874 and 1875.

Opted for French nationality on April 18, 1872 in Besancon. Service ended on December 31, 1881, with 25 years 3 days served. Residing in Tarbes, Haute-Pyrenees in July 1881 and November 2, 1893. Received 250 francs annually, 125 every six months, during retirement for the Legion of Honor.

## **ALOYSE BUSSEN**

### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1852**

Aloyse Bussen, sergeant in the 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Line, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on January 7, 1852, registration number 37609.

Born April 14, 1807 in Soufflenheim. Deceased November 14, 1861.

### **HENRI XAVIER DUFESTRE**

#### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1917, 1926**

Henri Xavier Dufestre, captain on the staff of an infantry division in 1917, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on April 14, 1917, registration number 131.561.

Senior Battalion Commander and Chief of Staff of the Euphrates Borders Region in 1926. Promoted to Officer of the Legion of Honor on July 10, 1926.

Born June 8, 1873 in Soufflenheim. Deceased August 27, 1962. Address in 1922, 36 Robertsau Alley, Strasbourg.

### **ANDRE KOHLHOFFNER**

#### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1814**

Andre Kohlhoffner, sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the northern Hussars, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on September 28, 1814, registration number 57798.

Born October 25, 1785 in Soufflenheim, son of Joseph Kohlhoffner farmer and Margaret Roth. Deceased April 10, 1834 in Haguenau, widow Catherine Kohlhoffner nee Weber in Haguenau. Children: Andre, Joseph, Francis, Madeleine, all Kohlhoffner.

Entered the service in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Hussars September 27, 1805. Corporal September 14, 1813. Sergeant September 20, 1814. Legionnaire September 28, 1814.

Made the campaigns of 1805, 1806, and 1807 in Prussia and Bologna. Those of 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, and six months of 1813 in Spain and Portugal. Six months of 1813 and 6 months of 1814 in Italy.

### **MARTIN SENSENBRENNER**

#### **National Order of the Legion of Honor, 1871**

Martin Sensenbrenner, captain in the 39th Infantry Regiment of the Line, appointed Knight of the Legion of Honor on June 24, 1871, registration number 6866.

Born August 22, 1829 in Soufflenheim, son of Michel Sensenbrenner baker and Marguarite Messner. Deceased May 19, 1883.

Voluntarily contracted an engagement and entered the service on October 4, 1847 with the 39th Infantry Regiment of the Line. Fusilier, December 6, 1847. Treasurer's secretary's corporal, August 4, 1848. Corporal, January 12, 1851. Sergeant, February 1, 1851. Sergeant major, December 1, 1855. Sergeant major in the grenadiers January 28, 1858. Warrant Officer, June 8, 1850. Second lieutenant, January 21, 1863. Flag bearer, September 30, 1866. Lieutenant, March 6, 1869. Captain, November 13, 1870

Campaigns: Orient: Embarked from Marseille September 22, 1855. Disembarked at Kamiesch (Crimea) on October 14<sup>th</sup>, embarked Kamiesch December 7, 1855. Disembarked in Marseille on December 29, 1855. Africa: November 3, 1869 to October 2, 1870. Germany: October 3, 1870 to March 7, 1871. Interior Campaign: 1871

Retired and residing in Tours, Indre-et-Loire, 1873. Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, Vosges, 1874. Epinal, Vosges, 1875. Toul, Meurthe et Moselle, 1881. Chalons, Marne, 1883.

Certificate of Cessation of Payment, June 4, 1873, notice of transfer for members of the Legion of Honor or decorated with the military medal: We the undersigned, Members of the Council of the administration of the 39th Line Infantry Regiment, certify that Mr. Sensenbrenner, Martin, was born on October 22, 1829, in Soufflenheim, Department of Bas-Rhin, enjoying an annual salary of 250 francs, as a Knight of the Legion of Honor, ceased to be paid by us as of January 1, 1873. The last payment made to him being that of the second semester, 1872, from the corps to the date above indicated. We certify, moreover, that he was retired and that he took up residence in Tours (Indre et Loire). Done at Versailles June 4, 1873. [signed] Members of the Board of Directors.

Legion of Honor Salaries, June 28, 1873: Authorization to understand the permanent state of the department opposite a holder newly registered on the register of Members of the Legion of Honor. Martin Sensenbrenner is to be paid 250 annually (125 each semester). A sum of 125 paid January 1, 1873. The Treasurer Paymaster General of the Indre et Loire department is authorized to register the holder named above on his permanent status as member of the Legion of Honor and to pay the amount of the arrears due today according to the indications given above (Tours). This article will appear as an increase in the next amending statement which will reach the said Treasurer Paymaster General before the end of the second half of 1873. In Paris, this June 28, 1873. For Secretary General: Head of Funds and Accounts Division, [signature]

## **CHARLES SCHMITT**

### **Military Medal, 1878**

Charles Schmitt, guard at the Legion of the Republican Guard, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Company. Received the Military Medal on July 30, 1878, registration number 27670.

Born December 6, 1829 in Soufflenheim, son of Joseph Schmitt and Marguarite Catherine Windheisser. Profession butcher. Living in Oran, Algeria, 4th Company of the African Legion on October 26, 1860. Married January 31, 1861 to Anna Barbara Schnisselle, then living in Oran, Algeria. Opted for French nationality in Paris on May 11, 1872. Deceased November 5, 1880.

Republican Guard Legion. Extract from the personnel register of the troop. Certified by us, Captain Treasurer in Paris August 28, 1878:

Army: Soldier in the class of 1849. Inducted into the 8<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Regiment February 22, 1851. Rifleman December 6, 1851. Sapper January 3, 1854. Guard in the Paris foot guard from September 29, 1855 to October 3, 1855. Served in the army for 4 years 7 months 7 days.

Gendarmerie: Incorporated into the light guard in the Paris guard September 29, 1855 to October 3, 1855. Went to the 4<sup>th</sup> Company Gendarmerie of the African Legion March 4, 1858 to January 1, 1864. Incorporated into the Paris foot guard May 18, 1865. On September 10, 1870 the Guard in Paris received

the denomination of Republican Guard. 2<sup>nd</sup> Legion of the Republican Guard June 21, 1871. Legion of the Republican Guard October 1, 1873. Served in the Gendarmerie for 21 years 5 months 15 days.

Total military service: 26 years 22 days. Re-enlisted on June 16, 1856 for 7 years effective December 31, 1856 through December 31, 1863, under the law of April 26, 1855.

Campaigns: Africa: February 22, 1851 to April 14, 1852. March 18, 1858 to January 1, 1864. Germany: April 30, 1870 to May 7, 1871. Interior Campaign, Army of Versailles: March 18, 1871 to June 7, 1871

## PENSION

French civil and military pensions awarded to people from Soufflenheim during the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Found at Ancestry.com, France Civil and Military Pensions, 1836-1862, *Bulletin des Lois*.

### ANTOINE GIERINGER

#### Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1840, Series 9, Volume 17, 465-495

- Entry Number: 20
- Last Name and First Name: Gieringer (Antoine)
- Birth Date: Not Given [Baptized 26 January 1782, Roeschwoog]
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Gendarme
- Date of cessation of activity: 17 September 1835
- Date of death: 20 April 1839
- Circumstances of death: death during receipt of retirement pension
- Widow's names and surnames: Meyer (Catherine)
- Birth Date: 22 September 1774
- Birth Location: Sufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Marriage date: 3 February 1801
- Years of marriage prior to the cessation of the husband's activity, or number of children existing from this previous marriage: More than 2 years of marriage
- Quota of pensions according to article 23 of the law of April 11, 1831: 100
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 20 April 1839 [Antoine Gieringer death date]
- Residence: Roeschwoog (Bas-Rhin)

### VINCENT KIEFFER

#### Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1842, Series 9, Volume 20, 548-579

- Entry Number: 14
- Last Name and First Name: Kieffer (Vincent)
- Birth Date: 5 April 1814

- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Soldier in the 8<sup>th</sup> Artillery Regiment
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 5, 0, 4
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 0, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 5, 0, 4
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination: Disability
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 17 and 18
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Soldat
- Annual Pension: 200 (a)
- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 15 June 1841
- Residence of the holder: Metz (Moselle)

## **JOSEPH KAPPLER**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1845, Series 9, Volume 27, 758-792**

- Entry Number: 18
- Last Name and First Name: Kappler (Joseph)
- Birth Date: 12 November 1820
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Soldier at the Battalion of Administration workers
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 2, 7, 24
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 0, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 2, 7, 24
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination: Injuries/disabilities: Complete loss of limb use
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 16 and 18
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Soldat
- Annual Pension: 215 (a)
- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 21 March 1845
- Residence of the holder: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)

## **ANTOINE ADAM**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1852, Series 10, Volume 9, 224-258**

- Entry Number: 1
- Last Name and First Name:
- Birth Date: 9 December 1798
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Drum major of the 4th Light Infantry Regiment
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 32, 6, 18
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 0, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 32, 6, 18
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9, 10, 11
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Drum major (Having 12 years of activity in this grade)

- Annual Pension: 396 (a)
- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 20 March 1852
- Residence of the holder: Paris (Seine)

## **JOSEPH ELCHINGER**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1857, Series 11, Volume 10, 397-451**

- Entry Number: 18
- Last Name and First Name: Elchinger (Joseph)
- Birth Date: 26 September 1805
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Sergeant, Gendarme in the Company du Cher [Département]
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 30, 4, 3
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 0, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 30, 4, 3
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9, 10, and 11
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Sergeant. (Having 12 years of service in this rank).
- Annual Pension:
  - Portion charged to the treasury: 350
  - Portion charged to the endowment of the army: 198
  - Total: 548 (a)
- Present situation of the entitled: In his home
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 11 December 1856
- Residence of the holder: Saint-Amand-Montrong (Cher)

## **ALOÏSE BUSSEM**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1857, Series 11, Volume 9, 348-396**

- Entry Number: 12
- Last Name and First Name: Bussem (Aloïse)
- Birth Date: 16 April 1807
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Sergeant 13th Line Infantry Regiment
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 28, 0, 16
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 4, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 32, 0, 16
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9, 10, and 11
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Sergeant (Having 12 years in activity in this rank)
- Annual Pension:
  - Portion charged to the treasury: 368
  - Portion charged to the endowment of the army: 198
  - Total: 566 (a)

- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 15 November 1856
- Residence of the holder: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)

## **BAYDI (EGIDE) KIEFFER**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1857, Series 11, Volume 10, 397-451**

- Entry Number: 26
- Last Name and First Name: Kieffer (Baydi) [Egide]
- Birth Date: 4 September 1806
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Soldier with the 4th Company of Horsemen
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 31, 0, 16
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 10, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 41, 0, 16
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9 and 10
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Soldier
- Annual Pension:
  - Portion charged to the treasury: 283
  - Portion charged to the endowment of the army: 165
  - Total: 448
- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 28 August 1857
- Residence of the holder: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)

## **STANISLAS LEPPERT**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1858, Series 11, Volume 11, 452-503**

- Entry Number: 13
- Last Name and First Name: Leppert (Stanislas)
- Birth Date: 7 May 1811
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Sergeant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company of experienced non-commissioned officers
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 27, 6, 16
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 14
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 41, 6, 16
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9 and 10
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Sergeant
- Annual Pension:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 378
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 165
  - Total: 543 (a)

- Present situation of the entitled: Active service
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 4 February 1858
- Residence of the holder: Coutances (Manche)

## **CHRÉTIEN LEPPERT**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1858, Series 11, Volume 11, 452-503**

- Entry Number: 14
- Last Name and First Name:
- Birth Date: 26 June 1813
- Birth Location: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: 4th Gendarmerie Company of Africa
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 26, 5, 23
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 32, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 58, 5, 23
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9 and 10
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Sergeant
- Annual Pension:
  - Portion charged to the treasury: 400
  - Portion charged to the endowment of the army: 165
  - Total: 565 (a)
- Present situation of the entitled: Active
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 20 December 1857
- Residence of the holder: Soufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)

## **JOSEPH BOHLER**

### **Civil and Military Pensions (Bulletin des Lois), 1862, Series 11, Volume 19, 791-852**

- Entry Number: 92
- Last Name and First Name:
- Birth Date: 11 March 1809
- Birth Location: Sufflenheim (Bas-Rhin)
- Rank, Branch: Gendarme in the Company of the Pyrénées-Orientales
- Effective Service: Years, Months, Days: 31, 3, 14
- Campaigns: Years, Months, Days: 0, 0, 0
- Total: Years, Months, Days: 31, 3, 14
- Legal provisions applicable to this determination:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 9, 10, and 11
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 19 and 20
- Grade on which the pension is decided: Gendarme, having 12 years of seniority in this grade
- Annual Pension:
  - Law of April 11, 1831: 279
  - Law of April 26, 1855: 198
  - Total: 477 (a)

- Present situation of the entitled: In his home
- Period of entry into possession of their pension: 21 October 1861
- Residence of the holder: Perpignan (Pyrénées-Orientales)

## CRIMEAN WAR

The Crimean War (1853-1856) was fought by France, Britain, Ottoman Turkey, and Sardinia against Russia. The charge of the British Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaklava in 1854 took place during this war. Florence Nightingale was in charge of nursing. It was a major conflict for the French.

“M. Vaillant, the French Minister of War has given details of the supplies of men and materiel that were sent to the Crimea during the war with Russia. The whole force sent by France to the Black Sea was 309,268 soldiers and 41,974 horses; of the former 70,000 were killed or died in the hospitals, or were otherwise missing. It is considered that 93,000 were wounded and survived. Of the horses only 9,000 returned to France.” *The French Military Force in the Crimea* (Scientific American).

According to Michael Clodfelter (*Warfare and Armed Conflicts*, 2017), 10,240 French soldiers were killed in action, 20,000 died of wounds, and 50,000 died of disease.

## SEBASTIAN DRECHSLER

Son of Margaretha Drechsler, daughter of Paul Drechsler. Born in Soufflenheim on 21 January 1831. Died 2 February 1918 on his farm near Maryhill, Ontario. After leaving the army (infantry?), Sebastian emigrated to North America at the end of May 1857 with his future mother-in-law Francoise Sauer (born Kehlhoffner), a widow, and her 14-year-old son Wendel, all from Soufflenheim, on the ship Edgar P. Stringer, arriving in New York on 01 July 1857. Within a month of arrival, the group was located in the vicinity of their eventual permanent home in Ontario, Canada. In that same July, Sebastian married his fiancée Francoise Sauer, who is believed to have emigrated earlier in 1857, in New Germany (later called Maryhill), Ontario

Sebastian Drechsler's service in Crimea is known through a story passed down in the family. The story told of his marching along amidst whizzing bullets, stooping down to pick up something red and shiny, and having a bullet pass through his hat. The item was a medal of the Virgin Mary, whom he credited with saving his life. He was said to have never failed, afterward, to assist at Mass every year on September 8th, the traditional Catholic Feast Day of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Interestingly, the Battle of Malakoff, which ended the war, was also on September 8th. It was fought between French-British forces against Russia on September 8, 1855 as a part of the Siege of Sevastopol.

Source: Drexler Family History

## DRAFT CARDS

There is an index of military draft cards for men born between 1867-1921. Each record contains information about the soldier such as name, birth place, residence, occupation, parent's names and their residence, a physical description of the soldier, military curriculum, and details about wounds. The index is found at the Archives départementales de la Vienne, Poitiers, France or online at *FamilySearch* at: *France, Vienne, Registres matricules du recrutement militaire, 1867-1921*: <https://FamilySearch.org>

### LAURENT WEBER

France, Vienne, Military Draft Cards, 1867-1921

- Name: Laurent Weber. Event Type: Draft Registration. Event Date: 1867. Event Place: Chatellerault, Vosges, Lorraine, France. Residence Place: Soufflenheim, Bischwilles, Bas Rhin, France. Gender: Male. Birth Date: 10 Aug 1842. Birthplace: Soufflenheim, Bischwilles, Nas Rhin, France. Father's Name: Georges Weber. Mother's Name: Catherine Mey. Entry Number: 694

### ANTOINE AMBOS

France, Vienne, Military Draft Cards, 1867-1921

- Name: Antoine Ambos. Event Type: Draft Registration. Event Date: 1868. Event Place: Vienne, Poitou-Charentes, France. Residence Place: Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Bas-Rhin, France. Gender: Male. Birth Date: 19 Dec 1848. Birthplace: Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Bas-Rhin, France. Father's Name: Constantin Ambos. Mother's Name: Marie Anne Woljung. Entry Number: 856

### MORAND JAECK

France, Vienne, Military Draft Cards, 1867-1921

- Name: Morand Jaeck. Event Type: Draft Registration. Event Date: 1868. Event Place: Vienne, Poitou-Charentes, France. Residence Place: Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Bas Rhin, France. Gender: Male. Birth Date: 9 Nov 1848. Birthplace: Soufflenheim, Bischwiller, Bas Rhin, France. Father's Name: Casimir Jaeck. Mother's Name: Pauline Mein. Entry Number: 187

## MILITARY NOTIFICATIONS

The Town Hall in Soufflenheim has two pieces of correspondence from military authorities notifying the town of the death of its citizens:

### **MICHEL KELHOFFNER**

Military Hospital Service: Mortuary Extract: Civil Hospital in Vienna: Michel Kelhoffner: Cavalryman in a regiment of Hussars, the 6<sup>th</sup> Squadron [regiment] of Hussars. Awarded a military medal for [illegible] imperial on the 27<sup>th</sup> [illegible]. Born in October 1819 in Soufflenheim. Son of Michel Kelhoffner and Margaret Minzinger. He entered the hospital the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1863 and died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 1863. Source: Military correspondence found at the Soufflenheim town hall.

### **PHILIPPE WERNER**

Son of Michel Werner, died in the military hospital. Document Date (not date of death): September 26, 1869. Source: Military correspondence found at the Soufflenheim town hall.

## **OPTING FOR GERMAN NATIONALITY**

### **Alsaciens-Lorrains Opting For German Nationality (1872-1873)**

National Archives Historical Center: BB/31/508 to 510, BB/31/531. Alphabetical directory, established by Ségolène Barbiche, chief curator, 1995. <http://www.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/>

#### **Introduction**

Pursuant to article 2 of the Frankfurt Treaty of May 10, 1871 signed with Germany and article 1 of the additional convention of December 11, 1871, persons born in the territories annexed by Germany were able to 'opt'.

Those who wanted to retain French nationality had to be domiciled - or domiciled - in France which was not annexed, in the colonies or abroad. They also had to make a declaration of option for French nationality at the town hall of their domicile in France or in the colonies, or with French embassies and consulates. Choosing French nationality therefore often meant emigrating.

The Alsatian-Lorrainers domiciled in the ceded territories **had no declaration to make to the French authorities to lose their French nationality.**

There was the case of the Alsations-Lorrainers who did not reside in the ceded territories, at the time of the annexation. They had the option of opting for French or German nationality at the town hall of their residence. This directory concerns these Alsations-Lorrains, **who did not reside in the ceded territories** and who opted for German nationality. They are, in fact, more difficult to find, since the opting states for

German nationality have not been published in the Bulletin des Lois (1). With rare exceptions, they are soldiers, detainees (notably in the Melun and Fontevrault power stations) and probably convicts in Cayenne (Guyana). Article 1 of the protocol of closure of the additional convention of December 11, 1871 stipulated, in fact, that the soldiers and sailors under the flags were immediately released from the French service by opting for the German nationality. As for the detainees, they were handed over to the German authorities.

It was the African army corps that provided the largest contingent of opters for German nationality. Prisons and military penitentiaries also counted a significant number. On the other hand, there is only one officer, Lieutenant Lauthe, garrisoned at Cayenne. Civilians include only 3 women: Emma Burskide, at the asylum for the insane in Rennes, Mélanie Meyer, detained at the Parisian prison at Saint-Lazare, and finally Barbe Schwartz with no known profession. The typical profile of the optant for German nationality is therefore that of a young soldier or a civilian or military prisoner in French prisons and prisons.

At the National Archives, the option sheets for German nationality are kept in 3 boxes marked BB/31/508 to 510; the corresponding nominal statements are in box BB/31/531.

But the present directory was not established according to these documents. It is the copy of an old file which included the indications provided by the options and the states, in order to be able to quickly verify the German option of the Alsatians-Lorrains concerned. As this file is in the process of being destroyed due to the poor quality of the paper, we deemed it useful to copy it as an alphabetical directory, using a microcomputer and SDB software. It is therefore possible that the directory is sometimes less precise than the options themselves, in particular for the profession or the department of birth of optants; but it is also possible that some of the corresponding options no longer appear in BB31 508 to 510.

As it stands, however, we hope that this directory will facilitate genealogical, historical or onomastic research.

---

(1) On the contrary, the nominative opting states for French nationality were published in the 11 volumes of the additional part of the Bulletin des lois de 1872, to provide proof of the French nationality of the persons concerned.

## **Record Structures**

The records include the fields or headings detailed below.

Names and first names: names are in capitals, except, where appropriate, accented letters which are in lower case; the software does not allow accentuation of capitals. The first names are separated by a dash and their initial always in capital.

Date and place of birth: the date is, without exception, indicated very precisely, because it determined the ability to choose oneself or with the authorization of the tutor [guardian]. Recall that the majority was then fixed at 21 years.

Unless there is an obvious spelling error, the old spelling of place names has been respected; for example, Poutroye (La) or Loupershausen, for Lapoutroie and Loupershouse currently. Similarly, the birth department indicated is that of the time, not the current department; for example, Château-Salins

(Meurthe). The faculty of option being rigorously based on the place of birth, only opted those who were born in a ceded commune. Were sold:

The entire Bas-Rhin department.

- 384 municipalities in the Haut-Rhin, out of a total of 490 municipalities. France kept the territory of
- Belfort.
- 242 municipalities in the Meurthe, out of a total of 714 municipalities.
- 504 municipalities in the Moselle, out of a total of 629 municipalities.
- 18 municipalities in the Vosges out of a total of 548 municipalities.

With the remaining French parts of the departments of Meurthe and Moselle, the present department of Meurthe-et-Moselle was formed. The parts of the Meurthe and the Moselle annexed in 1871 constitute the current department of the Moselle since 1919. The territory of Belfort remained separated from the Haut-Rhin.

## **Professions**

The types of occupations represented are very few, as shown in the table below.

- Military personnel on duty: 2,515 opting.
- Soldiers detained in a penitentiary or a military prison: 116 optants.
- Civilian prisoners: 24 optants.
- Transported (ie sentenced to forced or political labor): 2 optants.
- Insane: 1 opting.

When the profession is not known, then the mention "unknown" appears. The opted without profession domiciled in Cayenne (Guyana) are probably convicts.

## **Option Date**

The deadlines for opting had been fixed until October 1, 1872 for those who resided in Europe and until October 1, 1873 for those who resided outside Europe. The oldest options date back to December 1871 (the date "July 4, 1871" on an option seems to be wrong). The greatest number of options were made from April to July 1872. Only 55 options were subscribed from October 1872 to September 1873.

- July 1871: 1 option (error?).
- December 1871: 2 options.
- January-March 1872: 28 options.
- April-May 1872: 1406 options.
- June-July 1872: 981 options.
- August-September 1872: 380 options.
- October-December 1872: 25 options.
- January-September 1873: 30 options.

The date of some options is not known.

## Home

This is the commune, followed by the department, at the town hall from which the option was made. The department indicated is that of the time; for example, Paris (Seine), Rochefort (Charente-Inférieure). For Algeria, figure "Algeria"; for example, Oran (Algeria).

Most represented countries or departments of residence.

- Algeria: 1,661 optants.
- Seine: 112 optants.
- Seine-et-Oise: 99 optants.
- Guyana: 84 optants.
- Rhône: 75 optants.

## Notes

Additional information is given at the end of some notices:

- "authorized by his father (or his mother or his tutor)" for minors; or "unauthorized minor", "unassisted minor", if the minor opting agent has omitted this formality - details on the place of detention, for civilian or military detainees - any gaps in the notice; for example, "unidentified place of birth".

Or any remark that the seizure of it suggested and that it seemed useful to formulate.

In total, the directory contains 2,872 records. They do not refer to the options themselves, classified in an approximate alphabetical order, under the ratings BB / 31/508 to 510. Indeed, the consultation of these options, in poor condition because of the poor quality of the paper, does not seem more justified now, except for very seriously reasoned verifications.

March 1995, Ségolène Barbiche

## **Soldiers from Soufflenheim Opting for German Nationality**

People from Soufflenheim not residing in Alsace who opted for German nationality following France's defeat in the Franco-Prussian War: four soldiers and one convict (likely). The option sheets for German nationality are found at the National Archives Historical Center, BB/31/508 to 510. Corresponding nominal statements are in BB/31/531.

The following information is from an alphabetical index created by Ségolène Barbiche, chief curator, in 1995. *Option Date* is the deadline for opting for German nationality.

## **LOUIS EHRENTREICH**

National Archives of France Alphabetical Directory of Alsations-Lorrains having opted for German nationality 1872-1873. BB/31/508-510, BB/31/531), by Ségolène Barbiche, curator, 1995.

- Louis Ehrentreich
- Born: January 21, 1851 in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin
- Zouave in the 3rd Regiment
- Option Date: 22 August 1872
- Home: Philippeville, Algeria

### **JOSEPH FRIEDMANN**

National Archives of France Alphabetical Directory of Alsations-Lorrains having opted for German nationality 1872-1873. BB/31/508-510, BB/31/531), by Ségolène Barbiche, curator, 1995.

- Joseph Friedmann
- Born: January 30, 1850 In Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin
- In the 14th Mounted Artillery
- Option Date: 23 May 1872
- Home: Bordeaux, Gironde

### **FRANÇOIS JOSEPH JAECK**

National Archives of France Alphabetical Directory of Alsations-Lorrains having opted for German nationality 1872-1873. BB/31/508-510, BB/31/531), by Ségolène Barbiche, curator, 1995.

- François Joseph Jaeck
- Born: January 5, 1847 in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin
- Soldier in Naval Artillery Regiment
- Option Date: July 1, 1872
- Home: Rochefort, Charente-Inférieure

### **CORNEILLE VONHATTEN**

National Archives of France Alphabetical Directory of Alsations-Lorrains having opted for German nationality 1872-1873. BB/31/508-510, BB/31/531), by Ségolène Barbiche, curator, 1995.

- Corneille Vonhatten
- Born: November 13, 1846 in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin
- 1st Marine Infantry
- Option Date: 8 June 1872
- Home: Cherbourg, Manche

## **NATURALIZATION**

## **ANTOINE GOETZ**

Naturalization decree of 1883. Algerian naturalization decree of June 9, 1883 (FOREIGN LEGION). National Archives of France, BB/34/387 Document 92, Reference Code 1795 X 83 (in sub-series BB/11)

- Antoine Goetz
- Soldier 1st class in the Foreign Legion
- Born on July 13, 1859 in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin

## **PIERRE WILHELM**

Naturalization decree of 1885. Algerian naturalization decree of January 19, 1885. National Archives of France, BB / 34/389 Document 12, 6326 X 84 (sub-series BB/11)

- Pierre Wilhelm
- Soldier 1st Class in the Foreign Legion
- Born February 15, 1860 in Soufflenheim, Bas-Rhin, France

## **GOLDEN BOOK**

### **Ministry of Pensions 1914-1918**

*War 1914-1918. Files of the Ministry of Pension Book of the Dead for France*, Department of Bas-Rhin (1919-1935), National Archives of France, 19860711, <http://www.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/>

### **Presentation of Content**

From 1914, the quality of "Death for France" was attributed to civilians and soldiers victims of the First World War; thus, throughout the conflict, the War Ministry kept a file of all the soldiers honored with this mention which met specific criteria: only those who died between August 2, 1914 and October 24, 1919, who died on the battlefield or because of damage directly attributable to the conflict, were likely to receive it.

By the law of October 25, 1919, "relating to the commemoration and glorification of the dead for France during the Great War", the State launched the project of a *Guest Book* including the names of all these anonymous heroes, who would be deposited in the Pantheon. The newly created Ministry of Pensions is responsible for drawing up, from the existing file, the list of the Dead for France in each municipality; in 1929 he sent it to the mayors who controlled and amended it. Correspondences often testify to these exchanges between the two parties. However, the discrepancies between the names appearing on the war memorials and those in the Guest Books stem from the fact that the list of the ministry was established in 1929 while the war memorials were almost all erected between 1920 and 1925. In 1935,

the material presentation of the future Golden Book is fixed: 120 volumes were to be printed in several copies, one of which would be deposited in the Pantheon.

The National Archives thus preserve for each French commune, the list of soldiers who died for France, classified in alphabetical order of the departments then of the localities. These municipal nominative lists allow to know the name and first name of each person, as well as the date and place of his death. The place of burial, however, is not indicated. In principle, the persons mentioned are those who were born or resided in the commune at the time of the mobilization, but a vague question remained for a long time on this question; this explains, for one part, the divergences between the communal lists of Dead for France and the names carried on the war memorials.

**It should be noted that with regard to the department of Bas-Rhin, just like the departments of Moselle and Haut-Rhin, which had been annexed to Germany since 1871, the death lists for France are extremely reduced even non-existent.**

### **Soufflenheim Military Pensions**

War 1914-1918. Files of the Ministry of Pensions Book of the Dead for France, Department of Bas-Rhin (1919-1935), National Archives of France, Soufflenheim: 416-19860711, 418-19860711/418:  
<https://francearchives.fr/en/facomponent/5c10e88468bafb3368ffd3cc2241ca3ac66ccf4c>

### **Golden Book**

Town of Soufflenheim, Department of Bas-Rhin. Ministry of Pensions, Direction de la Liquidation, Law of October 25, 1919.

### **CLEMENT JAËCK**

National Archives of France, Ministry of Pensions Book of the Dead for France 1914-1918, Bas-Rhin

- Name: Clement Jaëck
- Born: October 26, 1876 in Soufflenheim
- Regiment and Rank: 7<sup>th</sup> Zouaves, Soldier
- Place of Death: November 19, 1914 Ecurie, PdC

[Village of Ecurie in the Department of Pas-de-Calais, France. First Battle of Ypres was fought near Ecurie from October 19, 1914 to November 22, 1914.]

### **PIERRE MOSSER**

National Archives of France, Ministry of Pensions Book of the Dead for France 1914-1918, Bas-Rhin

- Name: Pierre Mosser

- Born: February 14, 1883 in Soufflenheim
- Regiment and Rank: 74<sup>th</sup> R.I. (Regiment Infantry) Soldier
- Place of Death: June 13, 1915, Deauville, Calvados

[Village of Deauville in the Department of Calvados, Normandy, France. During World War I, wounded soldiers were cared for in Deauville's famous hotels and casino. The 74th Infantry regiment fought in the Artois sector, north of Deauville, from May to October of 1915.]

## APPENDIX A

- Casualties During World War 1
- Casualties During World War 2
- Disappeared from Bas-Rhin

## CASUALTIES DURING WORLD WAR 1

Soldiers from Soufflenheim in the First World War (1914-1918) who died or were wounded, missing or taken prisoner. Found on a database of Alsatian soldiers at Fan-Genealogie: <http://fan-genealogie.org/>

"List" is the army in which each soldier served: most in the Prussian, some in the Württemberg and others in the Bavarian. Some served in the navy (marine). During World War 1, Bavaria, Saxony and Württemberg had their own armies, which operated under Prussian authority. There are 11 non-Prussian entries. The "Edition Date" is the approximate time they were killed, wounded, captured, or missing.

An entry marked with a single asterisk (\*) is a correction of previous information. An entry marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) is an addendum to earlier edition.

### German Casualty Lists: Contents of the Lists

"The lists contain data on the dead, missing, wounded, prisoners and a large number of subsequent corrections (type of loss, name, unit, etc.). It is estimated that more than nine million entries were printed on more than 30,000 three-column pages in the journal format (Tabloid extra class, 305 x 455 mm). In the early years of the war, the casualty lists were published almost daily. In 1916, the names of the soldiers were assigned to respective military units, using the official classification of the military branches (authorities of command, infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineering, etc.).

The standard information you will find is: Military unit, surname, first name, rank, place of birth, type of loss. From December 7, 1916 (page 16,747), the distribution of troops was omitted. Presumably for ease of search by name, but probably also to hide the affiliations of the troops. From this date, you will find the following information: Name, first name, rank, birthday, place of birth.

The information has been further reduced, and on 25/08/1917 you will find the following information: Name, first name, rank, birthday (without the year!), place of birth. At the end of 1918, they returned gradually to distribution by troops, you will find the following information: Military unit, surname, first name, rank, full date of birth, place of birth." *Recherche sur les soldats alsaciens*, Lisa, Fan-Genealogie, 2014.

#### Soufflenheim Casualties in World War I

Last Name	First Name	Place	List	Regiment	Edition	Edition Date	Page
Adam	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 117	Infanterie-Regiment 143	302	1915-01-05	4006
Adam	Theod.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 355	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 224	736	1915-10-16	9402
Adam	Theod.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 546	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 224	1000	1916-06-03	12771
Albrecht	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 100	Infanterie-Regiment 135	270	1914-12-12	3593
Albrecht	Jos.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 299	Infanterie-Regiment 131	631	1915-08-12	8128
Albrecht	Xavian	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1635	1917-09-21	20743
Albrecht	Xavian	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1005		1733	1917-12-04	21907
Albrecht	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1161		1946	1918-06-12	24219
Albrecht	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1317	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 267	2254	1918-12-14	28270
Albrecht	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1416	Infanterie-Regiment 408	2392	1919-04-17	29977
Aloys	Georg	Sufflenheim	Preußen 689	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1268	1916-11-18	16369
Arnold	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 58	Füsilier-Regiment 73	135	1914-10-23	1710
Arnold	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen	Füsilier-Regiment 73	967	1916-05-09	12376
Arnold	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 606	Pionier-Kompagnie 273	1098	1916-08-14	14031

Arnold	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 710		1305	1916-12-14	16813
Arnold	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 858		1500	1917-06-14	19061
Arnold	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1005		1733	1917-12-04	21907
Arnold	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1040		1781	1918-01-17	22469
Arnold II	Bernhard	Sufflenheim	Preußen 429	Infanterie-Regiment 97	856	1916-01-14	11008
Babinger	Anton	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 466	Füsilier-Regiment 122	1170	1916-09-22	15010
Babinger	Anton*	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 500	Füsilier-Regiment 122	1275	1916-11-23	16454
Ball	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 371	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 220	770	1915-11-04	9873
Ball	Franz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1203		2028	1918-07-31	25355
Ball	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1276		2170	1918-10-24	27149
Barsch	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 655	Ersatz-Regiment der 108. Infanterie-Division	1199	1916-10-10	15429
Bauer	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 199	Landwehr-Ersatz-Regiment 8	451	1915-04-15	5897
Becht	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1244		2107	1918-09-17	26322
Beck	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1089		1832	1918-03-15	22925
Beck	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1138		1896	1918-05-15	23566
Beck	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1353	Infanterie-Regiment 174	2313	1919-01-31	28962
Beck	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1391	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 211	2366	1919-03-19	29630
Bildstein	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 90	Infanterie-Regiment 137	238	1914-12-01	3156
Bildstein	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 603	Infanterie-Regiment 60	1091	1916-08-10	13929
Bildstein	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 789		1404	1917-03-21	17959

Böhler	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 96	I. Pionier-Bataillon 15	260	1914-12-08	3454
Bolz	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1374	Infanterie-Regiment 174	2344	1919-02-25	29348
Bonn	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 364	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	754	1915-10-27	9638
Bösch	Paul	Sufflenheim	Preußen 553	Füsilier-Regiment 80	1009	1916-06-13	12880
Buchmüller	Albert	Sufflenheim	Preußen 120	Feldartillerie-Regiment 34 Died of illness	310	1915-01-08	4122
Buchmüller	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 868		1519	1917-06-26	19318
Burgard	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 505	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 53	937	1916-04-13	12020
Burgard	Anton*	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 472	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 125	1188	1916-10-03	15270
Burgard	Ignatz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 729		1333	1917-01-09	17092
Burgardt	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1315	Infanterie-Regiment 17	2250	1918-12-12	28226
Burger	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 117	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 16	301	1915-01-05	3991
Burger	Karl	Sufflenheim	Marine 34		533	1915-06-11	6900
Burger	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 358	Feldartillerie-Regiment 51	743	1915-10-20	9484
Burger	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 367	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	760	1915-10-30	9732
Burger	Theodor*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 422	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	849	1916-01-06	10931
Burger	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 446	Garde-Jäger-Bataillon	873	1916-02-04	11211
Burger	Karl**	Sufflenheim	Preußen 545	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 99	999	1916-06-02	12754
Burger	Xaver**	Sufflenheim	Preußen 577	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 268	1041	1916-07-11	13306
Burger	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 792		1407	1917-03-24	17988
Burghart	Anton	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 277	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 125	719	1915-10-05	9190

Burghart	Anton	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 365	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 125	925	1916-04-03	11872
Causell	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 121	Infanterie-Regiment 149	312	1915-01-09	4147
Collisch	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 37	Infanterie-Regiment 137	59	1914-09-29	623
Collisch	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1140		1901	1918-05-17	23629
Cony	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 70	Füsilier-Regiment 39	176	1914-11-06	2303
Cony	Ludwig*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 91	Füsilier-Regiment 39	241	1914-12-02	3194
Cuny	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 318	Infanterie-Regiment 150	667	1915-09-03	8538
Cuny	Nikolaus	Sufflenheim	Preußen 488	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 16	915	1916-03-24	11733
Daul	Heinrich	Sufflenheim	Preußen 62	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	150	1914-10-28	1925
Daul	Ernst	Sufflenheim	Preußen 327	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 230	684	1915-09-14	8751
Daul	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 359	Reserve-Fußartillerie-Regiment 14	745	1915-10-21	9507
Daul	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 389	Infanterie-Regiment 166	808	1915-11-26	10403
Daul	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 498	Reserve-Fußartillerie-Regiment 14	927	1916-04-05	11904
Daul	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Marine 78		1011	1916-06-14	12910
Daul	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 581	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1047	1916-07-15	13378
Daul	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 695	Infanterie-Regiment 137	1281	1916-11-27	16527
Daul	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 821		1439	1917-04-30	18312
Daul	Ernst	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1287		2196	1918-11-06	27517
Ehrler	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 429	Infanterie-Regiment 146	856	1916-01-14	11009
Ehrler	Josef**	Sufflenheim	Preußen 652	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 99	1193	1916-10-06	15338

Ehrler	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 983		1700	1917-11-07	21501
Eisen	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 849		1482	1917-06-04	18838
Elchinger	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 200	Infanterie-Regiment 149	453	1915-04-16	5932
Ernewein	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 37	Infanterie-Regiment 137	59	1914-09-29	622
Ernewein	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 62	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	150	1914-10-28	1925
Ernewein	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 62	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	150	1914-10-28	1925
Ernewein	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 208	Infanterie-Regiment 149	466	1915-04-26	6082
Ernewein	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 496	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	924	1916-04-03	11866
Ernewein	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 692	Infanterie-Regiment 77	1274	1916-11-23	16437
Ernewein	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 730		1334	1917-01-10	17103
Ernewein	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 895		1560	1917-07-27	19804
Ernewein	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1193		2011	1918-07-19	25121
Eschenlauer	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 439	Grenadier-Regiment 9	866	1916-01-26	11119
Eschenlauer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1320	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 271	2260	1918-12-18	28337
Fahrer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 78	Infanterie-Regiment 60	200	1914-11-15	2640
Fahrer	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 370	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	767	1915-11-03	9834
Fahrer	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1133		1886	1918-05-08	23466
Fahrer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1169		1964	1918-06-21	24462
Fauth	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 375	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 17	777	1915-11-09	9981
Fauth	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 446	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 17	873	1916-02-04	11213

Fischer	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 74	Infanterie-Regiment 137	189	1914-11-11	2491
Fischer	Anton*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 228	Infanterie-Regiment 137	496	1915-05-20	6455
Fischer	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 715		1313	1916-12-20	16893
Fischer	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1191		2009	1918-07-17	25089
Freiburger	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 245	Grenadier-Regiment 9	529	1915-06-10	6836
Freiburger	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 775		1390	1917-03-05	17773
Freiburger	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 989		1708	1917-11-14	21602
Freiburger	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1000		1725	1917-11-28	21812
Freiburger	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1094		1837	1918-03-21	22978
Freiburger	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1364	Infanterie-Regiment 166	2330	1919-02-13	29163
Freymann	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 789		1404	1917-03-21	17960
Freymann	Aloys	Sufflenheim	Preußen 894		1559	1917-07-26	19789
Friedmann	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 337	Infanterie-Regiment 137	704	1915-09-25	9001
Friedmann	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 369	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	765	1915-11-02	9802
Friedmann	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 592	Infanterie-Regiment 137	1069	1916-07-28	13621
Friedmann	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 651	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1191	1916-10-05	15306
Friedmann	Johann*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 694	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1278	1916-11-25	16484
Friedmann	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 789		1404	1917-03-21	17960
Fritz	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 37	Infanterie-Regiment 137	59	1914-09-29	623
Fritz	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 227	Infanterie-Regiment 137	494	1915-05-19	6430

Fuchs	Valentin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 74	Infanterie-Regiment 137	189	1914-11-11	2492
Fuchs	Valentin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 224	Infanterie-Regiment 137	488	1915-05-15	6369
Fuchs	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 882		1543	1917-07-12	19594
Fuchs	Valentin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 912		1582	1917-08-16	20093
Gast	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Preußen 997		1720	1917-11-24	21754
Gast	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1172		1970	1918-06-25	24546
Gast	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1174		1974	1918-06-27	24612
Gast	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1252		2123	1918-09-26	26537
Gegerle	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 89	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 236	236	1914-11-29	3118
Georg	Teodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 265	Grenadier-Regiment 9	569	1915-07-03	7371
Georg	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 651	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1191	1916-10-05	15307
Georg II	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 382	Infanterie-Regiment 97	793	1915-11-18	10214
Gergelé	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 893		1557	1917-07-25	19770
Glück	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 72	II. Pionier-Bataillon 27	184	1914-11-08	2419
Glück	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 638	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 273	1165	1916-09-20	14945
Glück	Ignaz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1137		1894	1918-05-14	23549
Goeth	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 608	Infanterie-Regiment 28	1102	1916-08-16	14094
Götz	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 285	Grenadier-Regiment 9	608	1915-07-27	7845
Götz	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 621	Infanterie-Regiment 42	1131	1916-08-31	14490
Götz	Xaver*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 676	Grenadier-Regiment 9	1243	1916-11-03	16016

Götz	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 903		1571	1917-08-06	19952
Götz	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1635	1917-09-21	20748
Götz	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1333	Fußartillerie-Bataillon 52	2278	1919-01-06	28571
Götz	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1337	Infanterie-Regiment 91	2286	1919-01-10	28647
Graff	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 438	Landsturm-Infanterie-Regiment 17	865	1916-01-25	11108
Graffion	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 971		1683	1917-10-24	21294
Haas	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1199		2020	1918-07-26	25248
Haas	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1333	Fußartillerie-Bataillon 52	2278	1919-01-06	28571
Haaser	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1145		1913	1918-05-24	23773
Halter	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 74	Infanterie-Regiment 137	189	1914-11-11	2491
Halter	Paul	Sufflenheim	Preußen 75	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	191	1914-11-12	2520
Halter	Paul	Sufflenheim	Preußen 76	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	194	1914-11-13	2564
Halter	Karl*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 235	Infanterie-Regiment 137	509	1915-05-29	6602
Halter	Paul	Sufflenheim	Preußen 434	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	861	1916-01-20	11057
Halter	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 593	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1072	1916-07-29	13648
Halter	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 651	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1191	1916-10-05	15307
Halter	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 870		1522	1917-06-28	19351
Halter	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 912		1582	1917-08-16	20094
Halter	Fabian	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1225		2069	1918-08-26	25840
Halter	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1248		2115	1918-09-21	26438

Halter	Karl*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1357	Infanterie-Regiment 97	2321	1919-02-05	29046
Hasse	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 53	Infanterie-Regiment 87	114	1914-10-17	1409
Hasser	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 619	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 201	1128	1916-08-29	14441
Hasser	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 931		1613	1917-09-07	20467
Haußer	Heinrich	Sufflenheim	Preußen 651	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1191	1916-10-05	15306
Hausser	Julius	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1635	1917-09-21	20748
Haußer	Julius	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1132		1884	1918-05-07	23444
Heberkorn	Viktor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 365	Infanterie-Regiment 353	757	1915-10-28	9681
Heiserer	Emil*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 419	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 224	846	1916-01-03	10901
Hickel	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 651	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1191	1916-10-05	15306
Hickel	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 698	Infanterie-Regiment 21	1287	1916-11-30	16605
Hickel	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1163		1950	1918-06-14	24275
Hummel	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 696	Infanterie-Regiment 42	1282	1916-11-28	16548
Hummel	Armand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1147		1917	1918-05-27	23836
Hummel	Amand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1163		1950	1918-06-14	24276
Hüsselstein	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 161	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 17	380	1915-02-27	5028
Hüsselstein	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1142		1905	1918-05-21	23680
Hüsselstein	Josef*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1395	Infanterie-Regiment 17	2370	1919-03-24	29676
Issenmann	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 569	Fußartillerie-Bataillon 26	1033	1916-07-01	13191
Jäck	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 251	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 217	543	1915-06-17	7033

Jäck	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 493	Infanterie-Munitions-Kolonne 1 des XXI. Armeekorps	920	1916-03-30	11817
Jäck	Simon	Sufflenheim	Preußen 609	Brigade-Ersatz-Bataillon 55	1106	1916-08-17	14151
Jäck	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 929		1610	1917-09-05	20433
Jaeck	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 921		1596	1917-08-27	20264
Kachelhöfer	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 246	Grenadier-Regiment 9	532	1915-06-11	6877
Kachelhoffer	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1499	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	2476	1919-07-31	30681
Kehlhoffner	Valentin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 581	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1047	1916-07-15	13378
Kehlhoffner	Valentin*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 593	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1072	1916-07-29	13649
Kehlhoffner	Bernhard	Sufflenheim	Preußen 598	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 207	1081	1916-08-04	13788
Kehlhoffner II	Cyriakus	Sufflenheim	Preußen 382	Infanterie-Regiment 97	793	1915-11-18	10214
Kehres	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 884		1546	1917-07-14	19627
Kieffer	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 159	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 16	377	1915-02-25	4992
Kieffer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 245	Grenadier-Regiment 9	529	1915-06-10	6836
Kieffer	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 709		1304	1916-12-13	16805
Kieffer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 768		1382	1917-02-24	17671
Kieffer	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 770		1384	1917-02-27	17697
Kieffer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 925		1603	1917-08-31	20354
Kieffer	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 961		1667	1917-10-12	21120
Kieffer	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1174		1974	1918-06-27	24618
Kieffer	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1240		2099	1918-09-12	26210

Kieffer I	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 709		1304	1916-12-13	16805
Kieffer III	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1162		1948	1918-06-13	24251
Kiener	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 55	Infanterie-Regiment 135	124	1914-10-20	1544
Kiener	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 251	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 217	543	1915-06-17	7033
Kiener	Albert	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1245		2109	1918-09-18	26357
Kiener	Albert	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1435	Infanterie-Regiment 98	2411	1919-05-13	30198
Kimmel	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 58	Füsilier-Regiment 73	135	1914-10-23	1710
Kimmel	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 368	Infanterie-Regiment 97	763	1915-11-01	9775
Kimmel	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 512	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 251	950	1916-04-22	12164
Kimmel	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen	Infanterie-Regiment 137	973	1916-05-12	12436
Kimmel	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 577	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 36	1041	1916-07-11	13302
Kimmel	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 583	Füsilier-Regiment 73	1051	1916-07-18	13419
Kimmel	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Bayern 314	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 8	1249	1916-11-07	16106
Kimmel	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 979		1694	1917-11-02	21437
Kimmel	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1157		1938	1918-06-07	24125
Kimmel	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1178		1983	1918-07-02	24739
Kimmel	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1207		2036	1918-08-05	25462
Kimmel	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Bayern 397		2144	1918-10-08	26835
Kimmel II.	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1248		2115	1918-09-21	26440
Kirchdörfer	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 224	Infanterie-Regiment 131	488	1915-05-15	6367

Kirchdörfer	Jakob	Sufflenheim	Preußen 224	Infanterie-Regiment 131	488	1915-05-15	6367
Kirchdörfer	Jakob	Sufflenheim	Preußen 833		1453	1917-05-14	18491
Kirchdörffer	Georg	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1142		1905	1918-05-21	23682
Klein	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1415	Füsilier-Regiment 36	2391	1919-04-16	29960
Knorr	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 330	Landsturm-Infanterie-Regiment 11	690	1915-09-17	8812
König	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 118	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 53	303	1915-01-06	4033
König	Friedrich	Sufflenheim	Marine 124		1628	1917-09-17	20653
König	Michael	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1185		1999	1918-07-10	24963
Korrmann	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1242		2103	1918-09-14	26270
Krämer	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 379	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 264	786	1915-11-13	10117
Krümer	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 508	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 98	943	1916-04-17	12083
Lehmann	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 143	Infanterie-Regiment 70	356	1915-02-06	4721
Lehmann	Julius	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1235		2089	1918-09-06	26097
Lehmann	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1265		2149	1918-10-11	26897
Lehmann	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1422	Infanterie-Regiment 358	2398	1919-04-26	30050
Lengert	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1147		1918	1918-05-27	23841
Leppert	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 693	Feldartillerie-Regiment 67	1277	1916-11-24	16474
Lienhard	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 221	Landwehr-Fußartillerie-Bataillon 8	483	1915-05-11	6313
Lienhardt	Ludw.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 325	Reserve-Fußartillerie-Regiment 8	681	1915-09-11	8710
Ludwig	Theod.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 285	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 60	608	1915-07-27	7850

Ludwig	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1336	Infanterie-Regiment 419	2284	1919-01-09	28626
Martin	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 62	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	150	1914-10-28	1925
Martin	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 76	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	195	1914-11-13	2571
Martin	Georg	Sufflenheim	Württemberg 257	Ersatz-Bataillon, Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 12 {.} Loss due to illness or accident	672	1915-09-06	8598
Mary	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 38	Infanterie-Regiment 137	62	1914-09-30	659
Mary	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 224	Infanterie-Regiment 137	488	1915-05-15	6369
Mary	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 337	Infanterie-Regiment 137	704	1915-09-25	9001
Mary	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 369	Infanterie-Regiment 82	765	1915-11-02	9805
Mary	Leo	Sufflenheim	Preußen 665	Ersatz-Infanterie-Bataillon der 108. Infanterie-Division	1220	1916-10-21	15709
Mary	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 678	Infanterie-Regiment 137	1247	1916-11-06	16078
Mary	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 925		1603	1917-08-31	20356
Mary	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1181		1991	1918-07-05	24850
Mary	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1317	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 267	2254	1918-12-14	28269
Mathern	Franz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 590	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 17	1065	1916-07-26	13567
Merthern	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 265	Grenadier-Regiment 9	569	1915-07-03	7370
Messner	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 190	Infanterie-Regiment 137	432	1915-04-03	5666
Meßner	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 224	Infanterie-Regiment 131	488	1915-05-15	6367
Meßner	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 228	Fußartillerie-Regiment 14	497	1915-05-20	6469
Meßner	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 272	Infanterie-Regiment Runge	583	1915-07-12	7534

Meißner	Wendelin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 344	Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillon II Hagenau XX (. 13.)	718	1915-10-04	9172
Meißner	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 356	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 31	738	1915-10-18	9426
Meißner	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 657	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 31	1203	1916-10-12	15471
Meißner	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 676	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 250	1243	1916-11-03	16030
Meißner	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 710		1305	1916-12-14	16820
Meißner	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 794		1410	1917-03-27	18018
Meißner	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1267		2153	1918-10-14	26962
Messner	Matthäus	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1290		2203	1918-11-09	27617
Meißner	Viktor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1324	Minenwerfer-Kompagnie 412	2266	1918-12-23	28414
Mey	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 38	Infanterie-Regiment 137	62	1914-09-30	660
Mey	Josef*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 52	Infanterie-Regiment 137	112	1914-10-16	1379
Meyer	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 358	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 263	742	1915-10-20	9481
Meyer	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1098		1841	1918-03-26	23005
Mosser	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 375	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 17	777	1915-11-09	9980
Müller	Wilhelm	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1635	1917-09-21	20754
Müller	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1133		1886	1918-05-08	23474
Müller	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1169		1965	1918-06-21	24473
Müller	Michel	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1264		2147	1918-10-10	26871
Müller	Theodor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1393	Infanterie-Regiment 17	2368	1919-03-21	29651
Muntzinger	Leopold	Sufflenheim	Marine 13		284	1914-12-22	3786

Obermayer	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1635	1917-09-21	20755
Obermeyer	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 479	Infanterie-Regiment 97	906	1916-03-14	11613
Obermeyer	Ludwig*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 491	Infanterie-Regiment 97	918	1916-03-28	11778
Obermeyer	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 521	Infanterie-Regiment 99	962	1916-05-04	12317
Obermeyer	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1147		1918	1918-05-27	23845
Peter	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 356	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 31	738	1915-10-18	9426
Peter	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 657	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 31	1203	1916-10-12	15471
Peter	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 954		1655	1917-10-04	20997
Peter	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1279		2178	1918-10-28	27264
Ramige	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 942		1633	1917-09-20	20734
Reibel	Renatus	Sufflenheim	Preußen 421	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 349	848	1916-01-05	10925
Reibel	Renatus	Sufflenheim	Preußen 582	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 349	1049	1916-07-17	13407
Roth	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 581	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1047	1916-07-15	13378
Roth	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 719		1320	1916-12-27	16963
Roth	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 784		1399	1917-03-15	17900
Roth	Bernhard	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1285		2191	1918-11-04	27462
Roth	Bernhard*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1327	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 217	2270	1918-12-28	28461
Scheller	Wilhelm	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1277		2173	1918-10-25	27201
Schlosser	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 789		1404	1917-03-21	17963
Schlosser	Xaver	Sufflenheim	Preußen 940		1630	1917-09-18	20677

Schmidt	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1277		2173	1918-10-25	27202
Schmidt	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1365	Infanterie-Regiment 17	2332	1919-02-14	29180
Schmidt IV	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 331	Infanterie-Regiment 97	693	1915-09-18	8853
Schmitt	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 294	Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillon II Hagenau	622	1915-08-06	8022
Schmitt	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 719		1320	1916-12-27	16963
Schmitt	Michael	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1364	Infanterie-Regiment 166	2330	1919-02-13	29163
Schmuck	Heinrich	Sufflenheim	Preußen 373	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 33	773	1915-11-06	9921
Schmuck	Michael	Sufflenheim	Preußen 545	Infanterie-Regiment 137	999	1916-06-02	12755
Schmuck	Sylvester	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1174		1975	1918-06-27	24629
Schmuck	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1284		2189	1918-11-02	27428
Schmuck	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1455	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 239	2431	1919-06-06	30384
Schuler	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 46	Infanterie-Regiment 145	89	1914-10-09	1053
Schütt	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 665	Ersatz-Infanterie-Bataillon der 108. Infanterie-Division	1220	1916-10-21	15710
Schütt	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1250		2119	1918-09-24	26495
Schütt	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1503	Infanterie-Regiment 41	2483	1919-08-07	30726
Siegfried	Ignatz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 66	Infanterie-Regiment 98	164	1914-11-01	2139
Siegfried	Ignatz*	Sufflenheim	Preußen 464	Infanterie-Regiment 98	891	1916-02-25	11426
Siegfried	Ignatz	Sufflenheim	Preußen 849		1482	1917-06-04	18850
Steiner	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 51	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	107	1914-10-15	1317
Steiner	Isidor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 64	Infanterie-Regiment 92	156	1914-10-30	2024

Steiner	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 211	Infanterie-Regiment 97	470	1915-04-29	6132
Steiner	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 518	Infanterie-Regiment 97	958	1916-05-01	12262
Steiner	Johann	Sufflenheim	Preußen 614	Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment 118	1117	1916-08-23	14282
Steiner	Emil	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1168		1963	1918-06-20	24449
Stoll	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1292		2208	1918-11-13	27680
Strack	Michel	Sufflenheim	Preußen 149	Infanterie-Regiment 135	364	1915-02-13	4831
Strack	Martin	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1263		2145	1918-10-09	26848
Stutter	Carl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 382	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 224	793	1915-11-18	10222
Uhrig	Viktor	Sufflenheim	Preußen 382	Infanterie-Regiment 97	793	1915-11-18	10214
Uhrig	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 943		1636	1917-09-21	20760
Uhrig	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 976		1689	1917-10-30	21389
Uhrig	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1013		1745	1917-12-13	22062
Uhrig	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1284		2189	1918-11-02	27433
Uhrig	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1287		2197	1918-11-06	27539
Vitzikam	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 689	Infanterie-Regiment 344	1268	1916-11-18	16373
Voegele	Ludwig	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1180		1989	1918-07-04	24828
Voisin	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 90	Infanterie-Regiment 137	238	1914-12-01	3156
Voisin	Jos.	Sufflenheim	Preußen 113	Infanterie-Regiment 99	293	1914-12-30	3891
Voisin	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 846		1476	1917-05-31	18761
Wagner	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 41	Infanterie-Regiment 135	71	1914-10-03	793

Wagner	Eugen	Sufflenheim	Preußen 53	I. Pionier-Bataillon 10	115	1914-10-17	1423
Wagner	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 269	Garde-Grenadier-Regiment 4	577	1915-07-08	7458
Wagner I	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 335	Feldartillerie-Regiment 8	701	1915-09-23	8961
Wagner VI	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 382	Infanterie-Regiment 97	793	1915-11-18	10214
Wagner VI	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 696	Infanterie-Regiment 97	1282	1916-11-28	16554
Wernert	Michel	Sufflenheim	Preußen 850		1485	1917-06-05	18873
Wernert	Andreas	Sufflenheim	Preußen 937		1624	1917-09-14	20607
Zettwuch	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 536	Landsturm-Infanterie-Bataillon Hanau (XVIII. 7.)	988	1916-05-22	12619
Zettwuch	Ferdinand	Sufflenheim	Preußen 536	Etappen-Hilfsbataillon der 4. Armee	988	1916-05-22	12619
Zilio	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 682		1509	1917-06-19	19197
Ziliox [not Zilio]	Alfons	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1203		2029	1918-07-31	25374
Zinger	Anton	Sufflenheim	Preußen 338	Infanterie-Regiment 70	706	1915-09-27	9030
Zinger	Karl	Sufflenheim	Preußen 530	Reserve-Infanterie-Regiment 34	977	1916-05-15	12489
Zinger	Alois	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1357	Infanterie-Regiment 69	2321	1919-02-05	29045
Zink	Josef	Sufflenheim	Preußen 50	Pionier-Bataillon 20	104	1914-10-14	1266
Zink	Joseph	Sufflenheim	Preußen 183	Reserve-Pionier-Bataillon 32	418	1915-03-25	5487
Zink	Christian	Sufflenheim	Preußen 267	Infanterie-Regiment 41	573	1915-07-06	7414
Zink	Philipp	Sufflenheim	Preußen 1158		1940	1918-06-08	24162

## IGNACE ZETTWUCH

Military Death Certificate: Ignace Zettwuch, Warrant Officer in the 11th Infantry Regiment, registration number 23 in the Corps, year 1897, and registration number 2220 at time of enlistment in the Seine Department, died for France on the 22 August 1914 in Signeux (Belgium). Kind of Death: Killed by the Enemy. Born: 31 July 1877 in Soufflenheim, Alsace Lorraine. Decision rendered on the 20 November 1919 by the Court of Blois. Transcribed 31 December 1919 in Blois (Loir et Cher).

[Birth record of Ignatz Zettwuch: In front of the undersigned civil officer appeared today the well-known Andreas Zettwuch, living in Soufflenheim, of catholic religion, and declared that a male child was born to his wife, Perpetua Babinger, of catholic religion, living with him. The child, born 31 July 1877 at 8:00 a.m. at his home in Soufflenheim, was named Ignatz. Read, certified and undersigned: Andreas Zettwuch. The civil officer. Burger.]

## CASUALTIES DURING WORLD WAR 2

Soldiers and civilians from Soufflenheim who died during the Second World War (1939-1945). From the book *Soufflenheim: Terre de Potiers, Mémoire de Vies*, published by the Soufflenheim Office of Tourism. pp. 120-121, 1998.

### Soufflenheim World War II Casualties

Name	Date Born	Date Died
<b>1892</b>		
Knorr Fernand	26/12/1892	27/07/1943
<b>1900</b>		
Ziller Charles	10/02/1900	15/01/1944
<b>1902</b>		
Knorr Joseph	19/03/1902	25/09/1945
<b>1904</b>		
Hummel Ignace	13/08/1904	04/10/1939
<b>1905</b>		

Haberkorn Francois	02/10/1905	25/11/1939
<b>1907</b>		
Jaeger Eugene	16/07/1907	02/06/1945
Schmid Gustave	08/09/1907	23/03/1945
<b>1908</b>		
Uhrig Alphonse	02/08/1908	16/01/1945
<b>1909</b>		
Kelhoffner Eugene	14/03/1909	13/01/1945
Schmitt Ernest	24/10/1909	16/04/1945
Wehring Auguste	28/06/1909	20/01/1943
<b>1910</b>		
Arnold Joseph	01/04/1910	05/02/1945
Jaeck Leopold	15/11/1910	09/11/1944
<b>1911</b>		
Halter Adolphe	24/07/1911	26/01/1946
Hawecker Eugene	21/03/1911	19/09/1944
Steiner Andre	15/11/1911	14/06/1940
<b>1912</b>		
Ernewein Andre	09/10/1912	12/05/1945
Fritsch Albert	22/01/1912	05/11/1944
Halm Charles	19/02/1912	10/12/1944
Kimmel Joseph	15/01/1912	18/06/1940

<b>1913</b>		
Ergs Eugene	27/11/1913	15/01/1945
Haberkorn Alphonse	06/10/1913	20/06/1940
Roth Joseph	22/09/1913	28/04/1945
Schmuck Henri	03/04/1913	03/03/1945
Woolfell Aloise	28/06/1913	20/06/1940
Zinck Charles	18/12/1913	10/09/1945
<b>1914</b>		
Barth Alphonse	30/07/1914	05/01/1944
Beck Adolphe	18/04/1914	28/10/1945
Berst Louis	23/09/1914	October 1943
Fahrer Aloise	22/09/1914	08/11/1943
Gentner Alfred	15/10/1914	28/02/1945
Lies Aloise	16/10/1914	29/01/1945
Mary Joseph	24/08/1814	03/06/1940
Schlosser Joseph	21/07/1914	14/10/1944
Schmuck Joseph	28/12/1914	15/01/1945
Weber Andre	30/11/1914	05/07/1944
<b>1915</b>		
Ambos Joseph	20/04/1915	23/03/1943
Burgard Jean-Baptiste	06/01/1915	10/08/1944
Hentsch Ernest	30/01/1915	10/10/1944

Lienhardt Ignace	19/04/1915	02/05/1945
Muller Guillaume	07/04/1915	04/01/1945
Pfeiffer Paul	14/12/1915	03/03/1946
Reisch Charles	17/01/1915	23/07/1944
<b>1916</b>		
Burger Henri	07/12/1916	01/08/1944
Martin Louis	10/12/1916	27/10/1944
<b>1917</b>		
Ambos Eugene	02/09/1917	10/01/1944
Freiburger Theodore	09/10/1917	10/1944
Muller Michel	27/04/1917	22/10/1943
<b>1918</b>		
Ernewein Louis	12/01/1918	21/09/1939
Kimmel Antoine	20/10/1918	03/04/1944
Uhrig Antoine	25/09/1918	09/09/1939
<b>1919</b>		
Bildstein Joseph	18/09/1918	05/11/1944
Bonapfel Louis	16/12/1919	29/09/1940
Jaeck Michel	23/11/1919	1943
Studer Auguste	08/10/1919	19/08/1944
<b>1920</b>		
Ambos Albert	25/08/1920	17/11/1942

Daul Victor	06/02/1920	02/11/1943
Kieffer Fridolin	27/07/1920	08/09/1945
Lienhardt Louis	17/03/1920	15/01/1945
Reuss Joseph	29/08/1920	15/12/1942
Roth Joseph	21/03/1920	14/08/1944
Schmuck Louis	03/09/1920	13/12/1943
Voegele Ernest	26/12/1920	05/01/1945
Wernert Eugene	22/09/1920	23/08/1943
Wilhelm Charles	13/03/1920	18/07/1944
<b>1921</b>		
Bonn Louis	28/04/1921	29/08/1944
Ernewein Louis	15/05/1921	08/08/1944
Estreicher Joesph	12/05/1921	25/02/1945
Freiburger Auguste	28/03/1921	27/08/1943
Gerber Henri	22/10/1921	01/12/1944
Goetz Aloise	06/11/1921	18/10/1944
Kormann Joseph	20/03/1921	20/10/1944
Lengert Louis	25/08/1921	24/12/1943
Ludwig Fernand	12/06/1921	07/1944
Schlub Georges	07/08/1921	16/06/1944
Zinck Xavier	27/06/1921	28/08/1943
<b>1922</b>		

Albrecht Joseph	29/04/1922	25/10/1944
Apfel Georges	27/02/1922	12/05/1944
Braun Charles	22/08/1922	05/10/1943
Reuss Alphonse	31/07/1922	13/08/1944
<b>1923</b>		
Baumann Rene	22/04/1923	16/09/1944
Braun Alfred	05/09/1923	24/12/1944
Friedmann Alfred	12/01/1923	16/03/1944
Lienhardt Albert	23/04/1923	29/12/1943
Messner Jules	15/10/1923	04/04/1944
Zinck Anne	04/04/1923	11/10/1042
<b>1924</b>		
Albrecht Charles	05/11/1924	03/07/1944
Arnold Theodore	03/03/1924	07/08/1944
Baumann Eugene	12/10/1924	16/07/1944
Burckhardt Aloise	21/06/1924	20/11/1944
Ernewein Antoine	07/02/1924	17/07/1943
Ernewein Emile	12/07/1924	08/07/1943
Kieffer Marcel	17/10/1924	18/06/1944
Mey Joseph	20/05/1924	05/08/1943
Steiner Michel	14/02/1924	30/05/1944
<b>1925</b>		

Goetz Charles	05/07/1925	1945
Haasser Joseph	21/09/1925	14/07/1943
Jaeck Fabian	26/07/1925	1944
Lienhardt Louis-Philippe	26/08/1925	31/01/1945
Lorentz Robert	25/08/1925	08/1944
Philipps Rene	08/02/1925	12/11/1944
Schott Robert	19/08/1925	16/10/1944
Strack Michel	08/08/1925	06/08/1944
Strebler Jules	08/10/1925	29/11/1944
Zimmer Eugene	13/07/1925	15/11/1947
<b>1926</b>		
Freiburger Rene	06/11/1926	17/06/1944
Meyer Louis	15/09/1926	13/07/1944
Schoeffolt Ernest	31/08/1926	13/07/1944
Schoeffter Albert	24/04/1926	25/08/1944
Stein Eugene	25/11/1926	19/01/1945
Thomen Fernand	01/05/1926	16/08/1944

Total Casualties of War: 111

### Summary Table

Year	Number	Year	Number
1892	1	1915	7

1900	1	1916	2
1902	1	1017	3
1904	1	1918	3
1907	2	1919	4
1908	1	1920	10
1909	3	1921	11
1910	2	1922	4
1911	3	1923	6
1912	4	1924	9
1913	6	1925	10
1914	10	1926	6

Total Casualties of War: 111

#### Soufflenheim WWII Civilian Casualties

Full Name	Date Born	Date Died
Siegfried Ernest	17/09/1901	11/12/1944
Burger Caroline	05/01/1899	17/01/1945
Bonn Jean	04/05/1877	19/01/1945
Martz Elfriede	23/03/1942	19/01/1945
Martz Helene	10/12/1914	19/01/1945
Spitz Alfred-Joseph	01/11/1942	19/01/1945
Spitz Josephine	06/05/1915	20/01/1945

Jaeck Julie	16/12/1902	19/01/1945
Jaeck Xavier	04/03/1899	19/01/1945
Jaeck Ernest	21/06/1904	08/02/1945
Jaeck Ernest-Roger	08/12/1936	08/02/1945
Jaeck Anne-Suzanne	25/12/1932	08/02/1945
Jaeck née Halter Catherine	13/06/1896	08/02/1945
Halter Marie née Burger	05/07/1866	08/02/1945
Babinger Josephine	27/12/1895	08/02/1945
Siegfried Ernest-Joseph	09/03/1933	08/02/1945
Rau Willy	29/10/1906 (Bischwiller)	08/02/1945
Wiser-Scherding Paul	19/03/1907 (Bischwiller)	08/02/1945
Adam Charles	22/05/1889 (Oberhoffen)	12/02/1945
Kachelhoffer Marie-Antoinette	15/02/1929	09/02/1945
Jaeck Therese née Halter	04/01/1904	10/02/1945
Steiner Isidore	22/02/1891	08/02/1945
Scholive Charles	24/03/1939	19/03/1945
Steiner Pierre	14/06/1893	20/03/1945
Himmelpach Charles	09/05/1901	10/04/1945

Total Civilian Casualties: 25

**DISAPPEARED FROM BAS-RHIN**

Soldiers from Soufflenheim who died during WWII and a collection of photographs of soldiers conscripted by Germany from 1942 to 1945. Found at Geneanet under Disappeared from Bas-Rhin (Desparus du Bas-Rhin).

#### Soufflenheim Soldiers: Disappeared from Bas-Rhin

Surname	Name	Born	Place	Photo	Died
Berst	Louis	23 Sep 1914	Soufflenheim	386	Kurtz, Russia, End of October 1943
Bonn	Louis	28 Apr 1921	Soufflenheim	532	Romania, 29 August 1944
Burghard	Jean-Baptiste	06 Jan 1915	Soufflenheim	689	Kalvaria, Lithuania, 10 August 1944
Daul	Victor	06 Feb 1920	Soufflenheim	830	November 1943
Erbs	Eugene	27 Nov 1913	Soufflenheim	1157	Modlin, Poland, 15 January 1945. Born in Haguenau
Friedmann	Alfred	12 Jan 1923	Soufflenheim	1379	Near Grigorovo [Novgorod Oblast], Russia, 16 March 1944
Fritsch	Albert	22 Jan 1912	Soufflenheim	1396	Heilbronn, Germany, 5 November 1944, Born Strasbourg
Gerber	Henri	22 Oct 1921	Soufflenheim	1537	MIA
Goetz	Charles	05 Jul 1925	Soufflenheim	1644	Tambov, Russia, 1945
Halm	Charles	19 Feb 1912	Soufflenheim	1851	10 December 1944
Hentsch	Ernest	30 Jan 1915	Soufflenheim	2073	Ilawa, Poland (Deutsch Eylau, Prussia), 30 October 1944
Jaeck	Fabien	26 Jul 1925	Soufflenheim	2391	Romania, 15 August 1945
Jaeck	Leopold	15 Nov 1910	Soufflenheim	2392	Budapest, Hungary, 9 November 1944
Jaeck	Michel	23 Jan 1919	Soufflenheim	2393	Gervi-Truida, USSR, 2 July 1944
Kieffer	Marcel	17 Oct 1924	Soufflenheim	2653	MIA
Lengert	Louis	25 Aug 1921	Soufflenheim	3123	Zhytomyr Region, Russia [Ukraine] 1943, Born Haguenau
Lienhardt	Ignace	19 Apr 1915	Soufflenheim	3170	Danzig, Germany, 2 May 1945

Lienhardt	Louis Xavier	17 Mar 1920	Soufflenheim	3172	Poland, 15 January 1945
Lienhardt	Louis Philipp	26 Aug 1925	Soufflenheim	3173	Mettenheim (Bavaria), 31 January 1945
Liess	Aloyse	16 Oct 1914	Soufflenheim	3183	MIA
Lorentz	Robert	15 Aug 1925	Soufflenheim	3247	Eastern Front, 30 August 1944, Born in Strasbourg
Ludwig	Fernand	12 Jun 1920	Soufflenheim	3279	Eastern Front, 30 June 1944
Mey	Joseph	20 May 1924	Soufflenheim	3580	Orel (Oryol), Russia, 5 August 1945
Muller	Guillaume	07 Apr 1915	Soufflenheim	3780	Poland, January 1945
Philipps	Rene	08 Feb 1925	Soufflenheim	4122	MIA
Reisch	Charles	17 Jan 1915	Soufflenheim	4239	MIA
Roth	Joseph	22 Sep 1913	Soufflenheim	None	Hospital in DobeIn, Germany, 28 April 1945
Roth	Joseph	21 Mar 1920	Soufflenheim	4462	Near Jassy (Lasi), Romania, 14 August 1944
Schmid	Gustave	08 Sep 1907	Soufflenheim	4928	Sopron, Hungary, 23 March 1945, Born in Strasbourg
Schmuck	Henri	03 Apr 1913	Soufflenheim	5029	Hospital in Werl, Germany, 3 March 1945
Schmuck	Joseph	28 Dec 1914	Soufflenheim	5030	Dillthal, (Por) fiar (Dill River Valley, Ger.), 15 January 1944
Schott	Robert	19 Aug 1925	Soufflenheim	5174	Neustadt, Germany, 16 October 1944
Steiner	Charles	14 Feb 1924	Soufflenheim	5340	Golesti, Romania, 30 May 1944
Stubler	Jules	08 Oct 1925	Soufflenheim	5463	MIA
Uhrich	Alphonse	02 Aug 1908	Soufflenheim	5566	Shiradow (Zyrardow), Poland, 16 January 1945
Weber	Andre	30 Nov 1914	Soufflenheim	5798	Vilna, Poland, 5 July 1944
Wilhelm	Charles	13 Mar 1920	Soufflenheim	5991	W. Mariejow, 18 July 1944
Zink	Xavier Louis	27 Jun 1921	Soufflenheim	6225	Russia, 28 August 1943

## APPENDIX B

- *The Thirty Years War in Alsace*, by Georges Bischoff
- Excerpts from *On the Military Conscription of France*, by Major-General Balfour
- Excerpts from *The French Army 1789-1914: Volunteers, pressed soldiers, and conscripts*, by Thomas Hippler

### THE THIRTY YEARS WAR IN ALSACE

*The Thirty Years War in Alsace*, by Georges Bischoff, professor of medieval history at the University of Strasbourg and author of numerous books, including *History of Alsace* and *The Peasants War*.

<https://aufildusavoir.fr/articles/la-guerre-de-trente-ans-en-alsace/>

### ON THE MILITARY CONSCRIPTION OF FRANCE

Excerpts from *On the Military Conscription of France*, By Major-General Balfour, 1867, Journal of the Statistical Society of London, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Jun., 1867), pp. 216-292 (77 pages), Published by: Wiley for the Royal Statistical Society. Tables associated with each chapter can be found online in the original publication at: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/2338512?seq=3#metadata\\_info\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2338512?seq=3#metadata_info_tab_contents)

#### **On the Military Conscription of France**

By Major-General Balfour, C.B., *Royal Artillery*.

[Read before the Statistical Society, the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 1867.]

#### **Contents:**

- Introduction
- I. Origin of Conscription
- II. Recruiting Resources of France
- III. Exemptions Claimed by Foreigners Residing in France
- IV. Comparative Population and Recruiting; Resources of Various Countries

- V. Civil or Territorial Divisions of France
- VI. Territorial and Military Divisions of France
- VII. Composition of French Army
- VIII. Exclusion from Military Service
- IV. Length of Service
- X. Height of French Soldiers
- XI. Instruction
- XII. Classes and Professions
- XIII. Communal Census Taking
- XIV. Inclusion of Youths Omitted in Former Years
- XV. Drawing by Lot in Cantons
- XVI. Proceedings of the Councils of Revision
- XVII. Exemptions
- XVIII. Dispensations
- XIX. Exoneration
- XX. Substitution
- XXI. Replacement
- XXII. Army Dotation Fund; or, Caisse de Dotation
- XXIII. Formation and Apportionment of Contingent
- XXIV. Calling out Second Portion of Contingent
- XXV. Putting in motion of Contingent
- XXVI. Varying Strength of Contingent
- XXVII. Proportion of Military Strength and of Contingent to Population
- XXVII. Composition and Training of Reserve
- XXIX. Voluntary Enlistment
- XXX. Re-engaging of Soldiers before and after Liberation from the Service
- XXXI. Invaliding
- XXXII. Liberation
- XXXIII. Misdemeanours
- XXXIV. Conclusion

### **Introduction.**

In laying before the Statistical Society a paper on the French conscription, on which the constitution and efficiency of the army of that great country are based, I am well aware that it is a very complicated question which has led to grave differences of opinion amongst the ablest statesmen. The examination of such a vast subject is surrounded with intricacies, entailing great labour and research on the inquirer, and in writing thereon it is extremely difficult for a foreigner, especially one who has not personally witnessed the working of the system, to avoid mistakes. I must, therefore, entreat indulgence for any inaccuracies that may have occurred, in spite of every care. I have had difficulty in obtaining English books of reference, and, after consulting the best within reach, I have met with grave discrepancies, both as regards statements and figures, which can hardly be reconciled.

The highest authority on the details of the French conscription is that of our colleague, Monsieur Maurice Block, to whom I desire to make my best acknowledgments for the assistance derived from his labours. The annual reports of the French War Minister on the recruiting of the army are of great value; indeed, I cannot too strongly speak in praise of these clear and elaborate works. The subject of the French conscription, as treated on in our English works, is greatly wanting in details. I have now endeavoured in part to supply this want; but in doing so have no doubt fallen into errors which might have been avoided, by confining myself to generalities.

The conscription of France, having been in force for many years, has accommodated itself to the habits of the people, and most of the arrangements are well understood; but the written rules are not sufficient to enable anyone – unless from personal observation – to master the subject so as to write very accurately on the practical effects of the conscription. The principal points connected with the conscription are: first, the care with which the available resources of France for supplying men for the army are officially ascertained, and secondly, the effect which this demand has on the population of the country.

The extent and power of the machinery employed in working the conscription is not generally understood in England. The duties connected with the conscription are confided to high officers of the State. The whole civil administration of the Provinces, having vast authority over all the country, is employed in carrying on the system. This powerful machinery is annually put in motion by decree of the sovereign, for the purpose of bringing the whole male population of France, who have completed the age of 20 years, and are fit to bear arms, under the obligation of service, either in the military or marine forces.

I must first briefly refer to the origin of the conscription in France, premising, however, that it is not, as generally supposed in England, by any means the sole source of recruiting the army.

### **I. Origin of the Conscription.**

During the French Revolution, the organisation of the army was greatly modified. The constitution of 1791 rendered military service obligatory on all able-bodied citizens capable of carrying arms, under the title of National Guards. The law of 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1793, put in permanent requisition all Frenchmen of from 18 to 40 years of age, unmarried or widowers without children; but this was soon replaced by the law of 19<sup>th</sup> Fructidor, An IV [05 September 1796], which introduced the conscription, and made it the principal mode of recruiting the army. The conscription comprised all youths from 20 to 25 years of age, who were to be divided into five classes - of 20, 21, 22 years of age, and so on. The Government, according to its wants, called out these men, beginning with the first (those of 20 years of age) and with the youngest of each class. The five classes might successively be called out according to the wants of the State. In time of peace, the conscripts were only obliged to serve till they were 25 years old; but in time of war, the duration of service was unlimited. The Government was empowered to grant furloughs when this might be done without inconvenience. There was no exemption of any kind, except in favour of those who had married before the enactment of the law; or who had already paid their debt of service in preceding wars. This law was intended to provide for all ordinary cases, but in extraordinary cases, when the country should be declared in danger, the Government was to have a right, as in 1793, to the entire population. Recourse was again to be had to the *levy en masse*. At this time, and under the First Empire, the conscription was applied not only, as at present, to the youths who in each year completed 20 years of age and formed the *class* of the following year, but also retrospectively to those of former classes who had escaped being drawn into the Army.

Under the Restoration it was attempted, but in vain, to abandon the conscription. The law of 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1818, enacted that voluntary enlistment should in future be the principal mode of recruiting, the levy being only an accessory, and that the army should only be so recruited in case of an insufficiency of men by voluntary enlistment. The principle was, however, overruled by circumstances.

The law of 1818 fixed the period of active service at six years, and the number to be annually called out by drawing by lot, at 40,000 men; which would have given in six years, an effective force of 240,000, reduced by the deduction of *non-valides*, to 200,000. After their liberation, the soldiers were to be incorporated for a second period of six years in veteran legions, forming a kind of reserve, subject to exercises in time of peace, and liable to territorial service in time of war. At the moment when those first liberated were about to return to their homes, the war in Spain, a most unpopular enterprise, broke out; and the bad feeling shown by the veterans on that occasion furnished an excuse for condemning the system of reserves. A new law, passed in 1825, raised the duration of active service to eight years, and

the annual levy to 60,000 men; which would have produced a much greater effect on the strength of the army, but for the system of granting unlimited leave having just then been entered upon. These calls of 60,000 men exceeded the powers of the population, because they had to be met by the limited number of youths whose births corresponded to the times of the great wars of the Empire; and in 1827 the required number could not be obtained.

To the law of 1825 succeeded that of the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, which still forms the basis of legislation for the recruiting of the army: with modifications introduced by the laws of 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1855, and 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1858. The two fundamental principles of this legislation are, first, that every Frenchman owes military service to the State, and shall, therefore, on the completion of 20 years of age, be inscribed on the drawing list, and take drawn for the conscription; but that having once escaped being drawn, he shall not again be liable. Secondly, that no one can be admitted into the army unless he has the qualifications of a Frenchman. There are, however, some corps composed of foreigners, subject to special laws, ordinarily maintained in Algeria, and only called into France in time of war. For these the recruits are obtained by voluntary enlistments, and apparently in sufficient numbers to maintain the established strength.

## **II. Recruiting Resources of France.**

The efficient maintenance of the French army being dependent on the number of youths who survive to complete 20 years of age, out of those born in France, it is important to show the available resources of that country, and to contrast them with those of other States.

The law fixes the age at which every Frenchman is bound to respond to the obligation of military service at 20 years, completed on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December of each year. All the youths of that age form the "class" from which the contingent of the following year is drawn by lots; but as the drawings take place in the year following that in which the youngest of the class completes his twentieth year, the average age of the conscripts is at least 20  $\frac{1}{2}$  years.

It should be borne in mind, that the number of youths who every year attain the age of 20 years, as shown in the annual census tables, which are here designated as the "rectified class," is somewhat below the actual number; because, the whole number who reach this age must, before the time comes for their being inscribed on the census tables, be somewhat reduced by death; and, further, because the lists always contain some chances of omission, either by the efforts of youths to escape the drawing, or by the oversight of the municipal magistrates entrusted with the census taking. There are besides a certain number of youths, who, although born in France, are foreigners by reason of the nationality of their parents, most of whom at the last moment claim the benefit of their alienism, and are erased from the drawing lists. These deductions having been made, the rectified lists are entered in the annual census tables.

In order to show the numbers who survive to complete 20 years of age, as contrasted with the number of males born, I have availed myself of the following useful table, drawn from the "Statistique Generale" of France for the series of years from 1800 to 1839. I have added the operations since 1839 up to 1844, obtained from the annual statistical returns. The number of youths omitted from the class to which they belonged, in each of the years from 1833 to 1863, as also the numbers of the complete classes for the same years formed by the addition of those omitted to the rectified classes are shown in the table; and, as will be seen, the proportion to births, of survivors of 20 years of age who should have come into the classes of these years, is thus increased by about 5 per 1,000.

It will be seen by this table, that the total number of male births registered in France during forty years, from 1800 to 1839, was 19,586,031; and from 1840 to 1843 there were 2,001,517. The registration of births in France being compulsory, the numbers thus recorded may be relied on with more certainty than those in the United Kingdom, excepting Scotland, where registration is enforced, under a penalty. The

male births, as above stated, appear to be exclusive of those stillborn; but include both legitimate and illegitimate children.

The aggregate number comprised in the rectified lists of the classes of the forty years - extending from 1820 to 1859, was 11,919,254, and from 1860 to 1863 the number was 1,281,856. The strictness with which the lists for the conscription are prepared, is a guarantee as to the almost entire correctness of the number of survivors of 20 years of age, as above stated. On the average of the first forty years of this century, out of 100 male births, there survived at the expiration of twenty years, 60.85 percent. Since 1860 the ratio of survivors, out of those born from 1840 to 1843, has been 64.04 percent.

The fluctuations of the rate of survivors is also shown in the table. The maximum variation between the quinquennial averages of the period from 1820 to 1860, was 3.60 per cent. The number of survivors was greatest between 1830 and 1834; but from 1860 to 1863 the ratio has been higher than at any prior date. On an analysis of the tables, the different parts of France show considerable variations as regards the rate of survivors. The prominent feature is the larger number of survivors at 20 years of age in the agricultural departments, and the relatively small number in those where either commerce or trade have crowded the population together; but space prevents me from entering into further details.

### **III. Exemptions Claimed by Foreigners Residing in France.**

In order fully to explain the operation of the conscription, it is necessary to state that the population of France, as above given, according to the census of 1861, comprised a total of 521,640 foreigners, - viz., 15,259 naturalized in France, - 497,071 residing in France, belonging to fifteen nationalities, - and 9,290 whose nationality was not ascertained; giving a proportion of 1 foreigner to 76 inhabitants, and to 74 French. The number of foreigners had, therefore, considerably increased since 1851, when it was found to be 378,561, giving a proportion of 1 to 95 inhabitants and to 93 French. The following table shows the number of the two sexes in the year 1861.

In countries where all the youths are considered, as soon as they complete the age of 20 years, as the property of the State, for the preservation of its honour and safety, the exemptions from service, claimed by sons of foreigners, become of importance. Every youth born in France, of foreign parents, is liable to the obligations imposed on all by the recruiting laws, unless he can show fair ground for exemption; at the same time, he is admitted to the enjoyment of the civil rights, provided he claims the title of a Frenchman in the year of his majority. The annual reports of the Minister of War to the Emperor, invariably detail the number of sons of foreigners who in each year are struck off the census tables, or the drawing lists of the class of the year, having obtained exemption on the ground of alienism; as also the number retained on the lists, as having, been admitted to the benefits of citizenship of France by virtue of article 9 of the Code Napoleon; and the numbers of both classes are compared with those of the previous year. The proportion which the whole number of youths of 20 years of age in France bear to the total population may be stated at about 1 in 125; and at that rate, the number of foreigners given above ought to supply annually nearly 4,000 youths for the military service. As will be seen, however, by the following table, for a series of years from 1840 up to 1864, the number of sons of foreigners who claim the benefits of citizenship, is far below the number of those who claim exemption from military service.

The numbers available at the age of 20 are below the due proportion as above estimated, but no very material nor progressive increase appears in the numbers struck off, until 1860; when the report on recruiting for that year called attention to the augmentation of the numbers who had pleaded exemption on the ground of alienism, during the three preceding years.

With a view to diminish the numbers who thus escaped from military service in France, the plan was adopted of tracing out, virtue of the circular of 10th December, 1852, and reporting to their respective Governments, those who repudiated French citizenship. The number thus reported in 1860 was 128; and the same course was adopted in each succeeding year. It was hoped that, being thus forced to conform to the recruiting law, either in one country or the other, youths who plead alienism would in future elect for France, where they reside, and have their personal interests; and the reports of the years subsequent to 1860 state that the course adopted had been productive of good results. It will be seen from the above, that the efficiency of the French conscription is mainly attributable to the close scrutiny made of the number of youths who may be liable for service. The strict registration of all births in France gives to the administration an accurate knowledge of the number of youths born in the country; and the close inquiry made into the claims of the sons of foreigners to exemption, is a good illustration of the effective way in which the duty is carried out.

#### **IV. Comparative Population and Recruiting; Resources of Various Countries.**

The latest available statistical reports on the population of France and the United States, contrast the resources of different countries in population, showing the density, and rates of increase.

The comparative numbers of the people of different countries, are frequently referred to as indicating military strength, and the following table, drawn from the 1864 report of the French "Statistique Generale" will, I hope, afford a pretty accurate view of the population, male and female, of the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Austria, and Prussia, at different periods during the past thirty-five years.

The introduction to the report on the 1860 census of the United States, points out that the power and active means of defense of a nation lie mainly in the number of males between 20 and 40 years of age; the nation which has the largest number between those ages, having the largest available force. A few younger, and a few older, no doubt, enter or remain in the army; but they are less able to bear hardships, and are less reliable under the severe privations and exposure of campaigning. At any rate, the period from 15 to 50 years embraces all that can, even on emergency, be drawn from the population for military service.

I may remark that there are many things besides numbers of men of suitable age required to make an efficient army. A good system of finance, good military administration, and the good will of the people will be found to be essential. A comparison of the numbers of males of various intermediate ages between the two extreme limits, of which the following table gives an approximate view, is, however, in the opinion of those who view many men as military strength, the best means of contrasting the resources for military service which these several countries possess.

According to the above table the future resources of the United Kingdom are greater than those of France, owing to the number of young males of 15 years and under now surviving in the former country being greater. The proportion of these ages is also larger than in Austria, relatively with the population. The smaller number of young men above those ages, in the United Kingdom, as compared with France, may be attributed to the vast emigration of our youths, as also, to registration not being so strictly enforced. These tables of ages are drawn from the 1861 census. Since then another return has been published both in France and England, derived from the ascertained results of the subsequent five years. From this it appears, that the increase of population, though considerable in France, is yet larger in the United Kingdom: our population having been augmented by 900,000 whereas the French population have only increased by 686,000. Thus the number annually born in our population of thirty million, exceeds

those born in France with a population of more than thirty-eight million. The exodus of our young men to the colonies and United States, alone prevents the United Kingdom being able to supply a larger number of men between 20 and 40 years of age than France can furnish.

In order to draw a comparison between the recruiting resources of England and France, I have, through the obliging aid of our colleague, Mr. Hammick, obtained from Mr. Williams, of the Registrar-General's Department, the table at p. 228, showing the actual and probable number of survivors at 20 years of age out of the males born in England and Wales for a series of twenty-eight years. The experienced aid of Dr. Farr has also been afforded in the examination of the table.

By the English life rate, the proportion of males surviving at the of age 20 out of 100 born, is shown as 65.19; but, owing to the registration of births, especially in the earlier years of the period, having been defective, and to the emigration of youths, it is impossible to calculate how many attaining the age of 20 will remain in England, and be available. Assuming, however, that the births were all registered, and allowing nothing for the element of emigration, the results for each year would be as returned in col. 2 of the following table.

A table for France, framed on the like basis, has been added, in order to contrast the proportion of survivors to births in the two countries. The number of survivors in France of the age of 20 out of those born in 1842 and previous years, is drawn from the census lists twenty years later, of the youths liable to the conscription. It must be observed, however, that the proportion of survivors in France has increased since 1860, approximating more nearly to the

proportion obtaining in England. The number of survivors for the subsequent years is therefore calculated on the assumed rate of 65 percent., which is the highest that could be claimed by France, thereby rendering the comparison very favourable for that country. I regret being unable to contrast the whole number of males of the United Kingdom with those of France; but the fact that the births in England and Wales, which contain only two-thirds of the entire population of the kingdom, and a little more than half the population of France, bear a very favourable contrast with the births out of the French population of thirty-eight millions, is satisfactory.

The above table must, however, be accepted with reservations, because the maximum numbers likely to be available in France twenty years subsequent to 1860, may be considered to be liberally estimated. Whereas, the number of youths who will survive to complete the age of 20 years, out of those born in England and Wales in 1865, may be considered as very closely estimated. Only a smaller number of those youths will be available in the kingdom on account of emigration, but a gradual increase may justly be expected to follow from the large annual increase shown of late years in the number of males born in England and Wales. These were only 236,941 in 1838, against 381,444, in 1865. This augmentation is in marked contrast with France, where 489,424 males were born in 1838, and in 1860 only about the same number, viz., 489,646.

According to the Registrar-General's report for 1866, the number of male and female births in the United Kingdom, was 1,061,819, considerably above the largest number that have occurred in France in any year since 1800; and bearing in mind that registration is not compulsory in the United Kingdom (except in Scotland), the number above given for the United Kingdom may be considered as below the actual number.

The births in the Channel Islands ought, I believe, to be added to the above. These may be taken at about 5,181, raising the total number of births in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands, in 1866, to about 1,067,000.

The largest numbers born in France, since the commencement of the century, were in 1859 and 1861. The births in those years were respectively 1,017,896 and 1,005,078; the latter 62,000 below the number born in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands in 1866. The births in France, in the last years for which information is available, do not show any material increase over those of the first years of the century. For instance, the total number of births in 1864, as stated by our Registrar-General, was only 993,188, about 70,000 below the number of births in the United Kingdom in 1866.

In France the proportion of births during the years between 1855 and 1860, was 1 to 37 inhabitants.

In 1838, the number of births registered in the whole United Kingdom gave a rate of 1 to 33 inhabitants, and in 1866 it was 1 to 28; but in Scotland, where registration is enforced under penalty of a fine of 20 S., the birth-rate was considerably higher. And if we apply the ratio of births to population, obtaining in Scotland in 1865, viz., 3.606 percent., to the entire population of the United Kingdom (containing thirty million), it would give about 1,180,000 births, or nearly 1 to 26 of the population.

Adopting the usual English proportion of 105 males to about 100 females, the 1,067,000 births in 1866 would comprise about 567,000 males; and the number of survivors out of these at 20 years of age in 1886 would, at the English life-rate be above 369,000.

In order to compare these results with those in France, I must take the latest year, 1860, for which I have official information. The male births registered in that year were 489,646, and as registration is strictly enforced in France, the number may be taken as quite correct. According to previous experience in France, the number surviving out of these at the end of twenty years, or in 1880, would be about 308,000. In 1838, for instance, there were nearly the same number of males born (489,424), and out of these, in 1858, the census tables prepared for the army conscription, showed 307,550 youths of 20 years complete, surviving.

The births in France in the year 1864 were 993,188; and taking the French ratio of 104 males born to 100 females, this would give about 486,857 males, being smaller than in any of the previous twenty-five years, excepting in the four years 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1857. The fewest births were in 1855, being then only 902,336, of whom 463,440 were males; actually less than in 1800, in which year there were 464,562 males born, and in 1812 and 1813 the numbers were respectively 457,012 and 463,161. The male adults of France having in these years been heavily drawn on to support the armies of the First Empire, marriages must have been comparatively few; and the continuance of the comparatively low birth-rate, indicates that the conscription has the effect of preventing, or at any rate delaying, marriage.

The male survivors at the end of twenty years out of the males born in France in 1800, 1812, and 1813, were only 288,828, 277,477, and 285,805 respectively; these being amongst the lowest available numbers, since the beginning of this century. It may be assumed that 306,000 out of the 486,875 males born in 1864, will survive at the end of twenty years. This proportion is perhaps more favourable than that deduced from the prior experience of a series of years; but the number is still about 63,000 below that which may be calculated on, out of the males born in the United Kingdom in 1866, at the English rate of surviving, and not greatly in excess of the minimum number during this century.

The proportion of deaths in France and the United Kingdom respectively, is also worthy of remark.

The Registrar-General's report shows that in 1863 the death rate in the United Kingdom was 23.03 per thousand, and in 1866 it had increased to 23.62. In France the death-rate varied considerably between 1853 and 1860. It was highest in 1854, being 27.60 per thousand; and lowest in 1860, when it was 21.40 per thousand, this being the lowest average during a period of sixty years. The average for the years between 1851 and 1855 was 24.10 per thousand, and during the years from 1856 to 1860 it was 23-90

per thousand. There is, therefore, no material difference in the death rate in the two countries; but this equality shows clearly that the difference in the population of the two countries is due to the difference in the birth-rate.

According to the Registrar-General's report for 1866, the births and deaths in the United Kingdom, were respectively 1,066,819 and 689,273 in number; but adding the deaths and births in the Channel Islands, the total deaths will be about 692,000, against 1,071,000 births, which gives a proportion of 65 deaths to 100 births. That is to say, 35 percent. of the births, or about 380,000, may be viewed as the annual addition to the population. The deaths in Great Britain alone, are shown in the report of the Registrar-General to have been in 1864 only 569,834, against 852,720 births, giving an excess of 282,886 births.

In France, on the other hand, the ratio of deaths to births was high during the eight years from 1853 to 1860. The lowest ratio was in 1860, being 81. 69 deaths to 100 births. In the years 1854 and 1855 there was an actual decrease of population; that ratio for these two years having been respectively 107.51 and 103.95 deaths to 100 births. On the average of the eight years, the deaths were 93 to 100 births, giving an annual increase of population of only 7 percent. The deaths in 1864 were 823,185, against 993,188 births, leaving a surplus of only 70,003.

In France there was only, on an average of several years, an addition of 66,000 annually to the population, against about 380,000 in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands, in the one year 1866. An increase of population has, however, taken place of late years in France in two ways. The excess of births over deaths during the whole of the five years from 1st June, 1856, to 1st June, 1861, was 525,612, or about 105,122 annually; the actual increase of population was, however, 577,890, giving an average of 115,576 annually, thus showing that immigration had during the five years added to the population of France.

If, however, the average were extended, so as to include the years 1854 and 1855, when the number of deaths exceeded the number of births in France, the annual rate of increase to the population would have been considerably lowered. In a slowly increasing or almost stationary population, like that of France, the average of the past is especially important. In the United Kingdom, on the other hand, with births and marriages in an ascending ratio, for a series of years, the latest proportions, even if more favourable than on the mean of prior years, may safely be adopted. It must be remembered also, with reference to the rate of increase in the population of the United Kingdom, that emigration annually withdraws a number of men equal to about two-thirds of the number who every year become liable to military, service in France. The number of emigrants from the United Kingdom in 1864 was 208,000: and, considering that the majority were adults, it will be seen that the drain was very heavy. The same number may be taken for 1866; but the increase of population in the United Kingdom, after deducting deaths and emigration, may still be taken at 170,000 in 1866. This rate would give in five years a permanent addition of 850,000 to the United Kingdom, against 525,612 in France during the same period. Thus, the thirty million of the United Kingdom, even with emigration, increase more rapidly than the thirty-eight million of France; and, therefore, the death-rate, though nearly alike in both countries, is far higher in France, when viewed in proportion to births, than in the United Kingdom.

The comparatively late period when marriages take place in France, which is no doubt in part attributable to the military conscription, must considerably affect the increase of population. Space will not admit of my here entering in great detail into this important point; but the greater extent of the future resources for recruiting in the United Kingdom, as compared with those of France, may be considered as due to the larger number also larger proportion of early marriages, as well as to the greater fecundity of marriage.

In France the marriages were, on the average of years, from 1800 to 1850, as 1 to 127 of the population; and on the mean of the ten years from 1851 to 1860, the ratio was 1 to 126 of the population, showing a slight increase of the marriage rate. In England, marriages are yearly on the increase; and in 1864 the proportion was .868 to 100, or 1 marriage to 115 of the population.

As regards the proportion of births to marriages in the United Kingdom, the Registrar-General's report for 1866 states that the average to each marriage varies in different years; but shows 4.304 births in 1864 to each marriage. In France, the proportion of births to each marriage between 1853 and 1864 varied, the minimum being 3.04 in 1858, and the maximum 3.35 in 1864; considerably lower than the rate in the United Kingdom in the same year.

This view of the comparative inferiority of the resources of France in regard to population is in part confirmed by a French writer, in a very able article in the "Revue des deux Mondes" (vol. lxxvii of February, 1867), entitled "Le probleme de l'Armee," which has just come under my notice, and from which I quote the following:

"Compared with the powers that surround her, France appears "languishing, and even somewhat enfeebled; but she is in fact progressing, if compared only with herself. No doubt, considering only numerical increase, we are far behind Great Britain and the ancient German Confederation, where the population has gained 50 percent between 1818 and 1861, and is in full course of development: but if you compare the progress of population with us at various epochs, there cannot be said to be any falling off; there is rather a certain degree of progress to record. The number of conscripts furnished by the same number of births, is greater at present than it was forty years ago. Better nourishment has in many departments strengthened the constitution, and increased the stature. Under the Restoration, when the demand for soldiers was the smallest, was there on the part of the examiners any tendency to multiply exemptions? I know not; I only find, that in order to obtain 1,000 youths fit for service, it was then necessary to set aside 927 conscripts in bad health or of insufficient height; whilst at present in selecting the same number of youths fit for service, only 690 are found diseased or undersized. In 1839, the number of youths of 20 years of age who could neither read nor write, was 486 per thousand; whilst in 1864, it was only 268. A relative diminution in the number of births is noted, but deaths have diminished in a still greater proportion. On the whole it may be said of the French population, that it has gained in quality, if not in quantity. This is the kind of progress that was desired twenty years ago: but even this amelioration leaves sorrowful reflections, and France is still very far from the healthy condition which ought to be the normal state of a great nation."

## **V. Civil or Territorial Division of France.**

As the efficiency of the French conscription depends on the accuracy of the communal census, a brief explanation of the civil divisions of France may assist in ensuring a right understanding of the whole system. The existing territorial division is based on the arrangements made in the year VIII, and comprises departments, arrondissements, cantons, and communes. Between 1816 and 1860, only the cantons and communes varied in number; the former being between the years 1836 and 1856, raised from 1,847 up to 2,850. In 1856 the census reports showed that France comprised 86 departments, subdivided into 363 arrondissements, 2,850 cantons, and 36,826 communes. In 1861, prior to the annexation of Savoy and Nice, there were the same number of departments, arrondissements, and communes; but the number of cantons had increased. After the annexation, the 1861 census reports showed 89 departments, 373 arrondissements, 2,938 cantons, and 37,510 communes. The addition made by the annexation was 3 departments, 10 arrondissements, 73 cantons, and 721 communes. A change was also

then made in the old boundaries, whereby the number of cantons was further increased by 13, altogether an increase of 86. The arrondissement of Grasse, which contains 8 cantons and 59 communes, was separated from the department of Var, and attached to the territory of Nice, which was formed into the new department of the Maritime Alps. With regard to communes, their number has varied as follows, according to the last six censuses.

The above table show that nearly a third of the French population is located in the 28,304 communes, which have less than 500 and up to 1,000 inhabitants.

The largest proportion of the population - 41 percent, is supplied by the communes having from 1,000 to 5,000 inhabitants. The next highest proportion, 22.17, comes from the communes of from 500 to 1,000; and then follow the communes of below 500, which give 13.53. These three alone furnish more than three-fourths of the population. The rest is divided rather unequally. But it must be observed that the population of Paris alone exceeds that of each of the categories of communes taken separately, which have a population of above 10,000. It is especially remarkable that the total population of the thirteen communes, of from 50,000 to 100,000 inhabitants, does not amount to half that of Paris; and, that the total population of the 13 largest towns of France does not even equal it.

From this minute division of the population into small communities, the official authorities are able to acquire a personal knowledge of every youth who is liable to the conscription. The penalty of forfeiture of civil rights, which any evasion of the liability for military service entails, is also a powerful assistance in enforcing strict obedience to the law.

## **VI. Territorial and Military Divisions of France.**

Under the French system, the civil territorial divisions are also made the boundaries of the military commands of the French army. Indeed, many of the military arrangements are closely connected with the civil administration. Each of the twenty-two military divisions into which the troops in the interior of France are divided covers the areas of from two to eight departments; the average number being about four departments to each military division. But subdivisions of the troops are so made that the force occupying the area included in each department forms a separate command under a general of brigade. The names of the French departments whose areas are contained in each military division therefore indicate a corresponding number of subdivisional military commands: these military subdivisions being numbered according to the order in which the names of the departments in which they are located run alphabetically. The civil administrative divisions being thus the same as those of the military commands, the general officer of high military rank is placed in the eyes of the people of France side by side with the highest civil officer, the Prefet of the department. The importance of this arrangement is seen, by keeping in mind the connection which the recruiting of the army has with the civil institutions of the country. Until the system of exoneration was introduced in 1855, the recruiting of the army was almost entirely carried on by the civil functionaries: but since that law was passed the administrative *remplacement* under which soldiers are re-engaged rests with the military department, and the civil functionaries only admit *remplacants* when directed by the Minister of War.

## **VII. Composition of the French Army.**

The army of France is composed, first, of the effective force kept under the colours; and, secondly, of the reserve. The effective force under the colours consists of men usually drawn from the first portion of the annual contingent, the whole of the contingent being, however, liable to be called on to join the army of men voluntarily enlisted of soldiers who extend their service in the army, or reengage within a certain

period after their discharge of substitutes – of *remplacants* – and finally, of *gagistes*, or men paid by the day. The following table shows that, during the last twenty-five years, the army of France has undergone great changes in respect to the proportions of the several classes serving in it:

In 1842 the conscripts formed 60 per cent of the whole strength, and the *remplacants* 26 per cent, making nearly 90 per cent for these two classes. The large number of conscripts bore heavily on the population, and the *remplacants* were viewed as injurious to the army, from their bad character. In 1865 the proportion of conscripts formed only 40 percent of the whole strength, and the *remplacants* only 12 percent. This latter class appear to be yearly diminishing, and, in 1862, formed only 7 percent. The substitutes have always been very few in number, never exceeding 2 percent, and in the last year of the table they were only one per thousand.

The number who voluntarily enter the army, on the other hand, have considerably augmented during the last twenty-five years. In 1842 they formed only 8 percent of the strength, are now 18 percent, and are apparently on the increase. The most marked change is, however, in the number of soldiers who reengage after their first period of service has expired. This class, which, in 1842, formed only 3 percent of the army strength, is now 26 percent.

These great changes in the composition of the army are due to the improvements made in the condition of the soldiers by the Emperor, and the encouragement given to them to remain in the service, under the law of April, 1855; and will be clearly seen by contrasting the first and last lines of the above table, showing the composition of the army in 1842 and 1864, the strength being nearly the same in both years.

The number of those serving under the designation of *gagistes* has also considerably increased, being now about 4 percent of the army strength, instead of, as in former years, only about one per thousand. These men are employed in the army, chiefly as musicians, and though not serving in the ranks as soldiers, yet, in the event of their being enrolled in the army, they are entitled to reckon as service the time passed as *gagistes*.

### **VIII. Exclusion from Military Service.**

All persons condemned to a personal or infamous punishment, as also those condemned to two years' imprisonment - at least when placed also by the sentence under the surveillance of the police, and shut out from civic, civil, and family rights - are excluded from the army as unworthy. There is no room for the table I have prepared; but this is not important, as the number is few.

### **IX. Length of Service.**

The duration of military service from 1818-1824 was twelve years, of which six were in the army and six in the veterans; and from 1825 to 1831 it was eight years; but since the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, the period is seven years. In point of fact, however, the youths seldom join their corps till six months after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, when the service begins to reckon, which reduces the actual service to six years and a-half; and in many cases it is still further shortened by the soldiers being sent home in anticipation of the legal period of discharge on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. The number of men belonging to the army of different periods of service is annually reported on by the War Minister. Want of space alone prevents me furnishing details on this head; which would be of great value in a purely military point of view.

### **X. Height of French Soldiers.**

The minimum height fixed by the law of 1818 was 1 metre 57 centimetres. It was lowered to 1 metre 56 centimetres by the law of 1832, and to 1 metre 55 centimetres by that of April, 1860. The number of men of different heights, both of the contingent and of the active army, are shown in the annual reports of the Minister of War, and the mean height of the whole army stated.

### **XI. Instruction.**

The state of instruction of the youths composing the class and contingent of each year, is fully described in the annual reports of the Minister of War. The tables I have compiled, for a series of years, exhibit very marked progress, as showing the large numbers who are now able to read and write, but I cannot enter them here for want of space. This point alone would form an interesting paper. The state of instruction of the soldiers of the active army is also fully described, and supplies very useful details in connection with the advance in education in France.

### **XII. Classes or Professions.**

The number of men of the contingent of each year, drawn from the agricultural and skilled classes, divided under eleven different heads, is also fully shown in the annual reports of the Minister of War, but I have not space here to enter into the subject. I now proceed to give a brief sketch of the various operations so carefully carried out in France, under which the conscription is enforced; commencing with -

### **XIII. Communal Census Taking.**

Every year, in the course of December, the mayor of each commune prepares the census tables of the youths of his commune, who must, at the end of the year, come within the recruiting law; and to this end he examines the civil registers of the State and other documents at his disposal, besides taking the declaration which the law requires from the youths or their relatives or guardians. The preparatory list thus drawn out is converted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January into a census table. This table comprises, besides the youths of 20 years of age, the older ones who have been accidentally omitted from former classes. The names are inscribed in alphabetical order.

The stringency with which the obligation of military service is enforced at the prescribed age is shown by the fact that although, since the time of the Convention, the registration of births has been most strictly enforced, yet the possible case of defective registration is fully provided for. Under article 7 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, those youths who, according to general opinion, have attained the age required for the drawing, and who cannot before the drawing produce any official document establishing a different age, or who, in default of registry, cannot prove their age in conformity with article 46 of the civil code, are included in the drawing list, and obliged to follow the chance of the number they draw.

The census tables only become definitive when they have been examined and decreed by the Sous-prefet, in presence of the mayors concerned. This operation takes place the same day as the drawing.

The youths absent receive special attention from the mayors, who satisfy themselves as to their existence. The particulars obtained, either from the relatives or the population, are set forth in the column of observations of the tables; and in case of the existence not being fully established, the names are struck out of the tables by direction of the Sous-prefets.

At a period fixed by decree, the census tables are published and posted up in each commune, with a notice of the place, day, and hour that their examination will be proceeded with; a notice which enforces the attendance of the youths, and their parents and guardians. This examination is public. The Sous-

prefet has the census table read out, calls for, and listens to, the observations of the persons present, and decides after having taken the opinion of the mayors. He strikes out those excluded, and those of more than 30 years of age, who have been omitted from classes of previous years. He decides on most appeals; but in doubtful cases confines himself to sending them before the Council of Revision.

#### **XIV. Inclusion of Youths Omitted in Former Years.**

An account is yearly kept of those youths who have accidentally or otherwise been omitted from the census table on which they should have been inscribed; the class to which they belong being exactly indicated in all official documents. As soon as the omission is discovered, their names are inscribed on the census table of the current year; unless, as rarely occurs, they have succeeded in escaping until the completion of their thirtieth year, when they become exempt from service. It will be seen by the following table, for a series of thirty years, that the numbers omitted from former classes, and inscribed on the lists of following classes, vary very little from year to year, having been between 2,000 and 2,700 out of an average class of 300,000. The majority of the omissions appear to be promptly discovered. The following return shows that 1,433 omitted from the class of 1862 were included in the 1863 class, and drawn in 1864. In that year 293 of the 1862 class were discovered and inscribed, but drawn in 1865; and every year some omissions would be remedied, until nearly all who should have been inscribed on the 1862 class were included in a subsequent class. The number who, without fraud, but merely from official neglect, escape being inscribed on the conscription lists, until they have attained the age of 30 years, and are eventually exempted from military service, is very small; not exceeding on the average of the twenty-two years from 1841 to 1864, about seven annually. This is one of many illustrations of the accurate and careful way in which the census lists are kept, and the close scrutiny made by the administrative officers.

#### **XV. Drawing by Lot in Cantons.**

The census tables of all the communes of the canton having thus been rectified and verified, the drawing by lot is proceeded with. A first drawing takes place, to mark the order in which the communes shall draw. Under article 24 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, the Sous-prefet inscribes at the head of the drawing lists the names of the youths, who, by means of frauds or maneuvers, have been omitted from the census tables of preceding years. If they have been convicted as authors or accomplices of such frauds or maneuvers, the first numbers are, under articles 11 and 38, assigned to them by right; and these numbers are consequently withdrawn from the urn, before the regular drawing operations commence. The first numbers are the lowest in the series of those placed in the urn, and those who receive them are the first called out to form part of the contingent; so that those who draw the highest numbers have the best chance of escaping. The rest of the drawing numbers are then, in sight of all, initialed (*parafes*), counted, and thrown into an urn, by the Sous-prefet.

In each commune the youths are called up in the order in which they are inscribed; the Sous-prefet establishes the identity of each, calls on him to draw, receives his number, proclaims it, and causes it to be inscribed on the list. Either the mayor or the relatives draw for an absent person. The grounds of exemption or dispensation which the youths or their relatives propose to bring forward are noted, in the order of the numbers, on the list, which is made out as the drawing proceeds. The list is read aloud, verified, and signed by the Sous-prefet and the mayors; then published, and posted up in each commune. The drawing operation cannot be recommenced under any pretext, and is on that account surrounded by many precautions.

#### **XVI. Proceedings of Councils of Revision.**

In each of the eighty-nine departments of France a Council of Revision exists, by whom all the recruiting operations are reviewed, the drawing by lot verified, appeals heard, and judgment pronounced in public sittings, in regard to exclusions, exemptions, dispensations, exonerations, substitutions, and *remplacements*; regarding all which full details are given further on. These councils make annually a tour or circuit, which generally occupies about a month or six weeks, in order to carry on the operations, as far as possible, in the chief place of each of the 2,938 cantons, under which the 37,510 communes are grouped; but the Prefet can always, when required, unite the operations of several cantons in one central canton, reporting the same to the authorities.

The council is generally composed of five persons, i.e., the Prefet as president (or in his absence the councillor of prefecture whom he delegates), the councillor of prefecture, a general councillor, a councillor of the arrondissement or district, and a general officer, or one of superior rank. Others assist the Council of Revision, namely, the Sous-prefet, having a right of discussion without voting; a Sous-intendant, having the right of making written observations; a military medical officer, charged with the duty of authenticating the cases of infirmity pleaded by those who have been drawn: making up altogether eight members of the Council. In order to prevent favouritism towards individual conscripts, the Government of France directed, in 1850, that the members of the councils-general and of the arrondissements, should be appointed to sit on the Councils of Revision in localities other than those where they have their fixed residence.

All the youths who, according to the order of their numbers, may be called on to form part of the contingent, are convoked, examined, and heard by the Councils of Revision; if they do not attend the convocation, or do not send representatives, their case is proceeded with as if they were present.

In cases of claims for exemption on account of ill health, the medical officers are consulted. The other cases of exemption or deduction are judged of upon the production of authenticated documents; and on certificates signed by three fathers of families domiciled in the same canton, whose sons are liable to be called out, or have been called. These certificates must besides be signed and approved, by the mayor of the commune of the applicant.

The Council of Revision also decides upon substitution or exchange of numbers, the demands for *remplacement*, and exoneration from the service.

The decisions of the Council of Revision are definitive, excepting in the two following cases. When the youths, designated by their numbers to form part of the contingent of the canton, have made appeals, the admission or rejection of which depends upon the decision to be passed upon judicial questions relating to their state, or their civil rights. In such cases, the same number of young people are, if necessary, marked out to supply the place of these appellants. They are, however, only called out in cases where, by the effect of judicial decisions, the appellants are definitively liberated. The tribunals then decree, without delay, reserving an appeal to the Minister of War.

The same arrangement is made in the case of youths who have been handed over to the tribunals as accused of having rendered themselves unfit for service; and when the Council of Revision has granted a delay, not to exceed 20 days, for the production of justificatory papers, or in cases of absence.

After the Council of Revision has decided upon exemptions, deductions, substitutions, *remplacements*, and exonerations, as also on all the appeals to which the recruiting operations give rise, the list of the contingent of each canton is definitively closed, and signed by the Council of Revision; and the names inscribed are proclaimed. The youths who are called in default of others are only inscribed upon the list of the contingent conditionally, and under a reservation of their rights.

The Council afterwards declares that the youths not inscribed upon this list, are definitively liberated. This declaration, with the indication of the last number comprised in the cantonal contingent, is publicly posted up in each canton. As soon as the delays granted in virtue of the arrangements above detailed have expired, or when the tribunals have decided in the cases provided for, the council pronounces in the

same manner on the liberation of appellants, or of the youths designated conditionally to supply their places.

In each of the eighty-nine departments of France, a recruiting depot is established for the reception of conscripts; commanded by a chef de bataillon or squadron, or by a captain. These depots are classed as first or second, according to their importance. The commanding officer of the depot follows the movements of the Council of Revision, and in each sitting takes note of the military aptitude of the youths, and for what branch of service they are best fitted.

Thus, the number of officials actually employed on each Council of Revision, for the object of selecting recruits for the army, may be taken at nine in each department, making for the eighty-nine departments of France, a total of 801 officers employed for four to six weeks every year; all officers of rank, and many holding important offices, viz.;

- 89 Prefets.
- 89 Councillors of Prefecture.
- 89 General Councillors.
- 89 Councillors of Arrondissement.
- 89 General Officers.
- 89 Sous-prefets.
- 89 Sous-intendants.
- 89 Military Medical Officers.
- 89 Commandants of Depots.

There are other functionaries, such as the mayors of communes, who are in attendance on the Councils of Revision, and contribute to form the vast and powerful machinery employed to furnish the French army with efficient recruits. The operations are all reported on in full detail to the Minister of War, by whom the proceedings of these Councils of Revision are severely and strictly scrutinized in his annual report to the Emperor.

On the correctness and impartiality of the decisions of these Councils rests the whole scheme of the French conscription. The dates of commencement and termination of their sittings, the number of sittings, those presided over by the Prefet, and the number of cantons in which held; the number of youths liable for service, the numbers examined, rejected, passed exempted, and dispensed from military service; as also the numbers absent or who cannot be supplied, are all reported to the sovereign in the annual report of the Minister of War. The following table condenses into small space, a great variety of details included in the annual reports of the Minister of War, connected with the proceedings of the Councils.

## **XVII. Exemptions**

I must now explain more particularly the various causes of exemptions from military service, which are decided upon by the Councils of Revision.

The legislature has provided for exemption from the military service, on various well-defined grounds, enumerated below. I will first place before you a table I have compiled, showing the aggregate numbers of exemptions, on all these grounds, during a series of years, from 1841 to 1864.

The above table shows that, during the whole period, the numbers examined to obtain fit men for the contingent, have generally been more than double the strength required. In 1848 the numbers examined were, however, only just double the strength fixed for the contingent. This was stated to be owing to the republic having formed special commissions to examine the conscripts; and as many as possible were

passed into the army, which resulted, as the Minister of War afterwards pointed out, in unfit men being admitted into the service.

It will also be observed, that in the years 1853, 1854, 1855, and 1859, the numbers examined were not equal to double the strength of the contingent, which in these years was raised to 140,000 men, on account of war. The inference is, that the greater drain on the population the fewer the rejections; indeed it may be said that, if the same stringency that prevails in time of peace had been exercised in examining men in those years of war, the whole class would probably have been brought under examination, without being able to complete the contingent with fit men.

It will also be seen from the above table, that the number of exemptions has invariably exceeded the strength of the contingent, except in the four years when the strength was raised to 140,000, on account of war. The numbers exempted during the latter years are, relatively to the strength of the contingent, somewhat smaller than at the beginning of the period. Great stress is laid on this fact by various writers, as showing an improvement in the quality of the class called out; but, judging from our own experience of recruiting, I should be inclined rather to attribute this result to the diminished stringency of the examination when a large contingent is required; a contingent of 80,000 men would allow of a larger proportion of rejections, than one of 100,000 or 140,000 men.

The number forming the class of the year has, within the period of twenty-four years, increased by about one-twelfth; but much stress must not be laid on this, because, as already shown in the table given above in the subdivision of "Recruiting Resources," there have been previous variations. For instance, in the year 1834 the number of the class (329,236) was higher than in 1864, viz., 325,127. This increase in 1834 was attributed to the cessation of war in France twenty years previously, in consequence of which an unusual number of births took place in 1814. The number of births in subsequent years is shown to be lower than that of the 1834 class, though the number of the 1863 class approximated thereto.

The several causes which give rise to the exemptions, of which the aggregate is given above, are nine in number:

1st. Those who are found on measurement to be deficient of the standard height.

2nd. Those unfit from bodily weakness, or any other infirmity, for service in the army. The numbers exempted under these two heads, are shown in the table below.

The above table shows that in 1841 there were 13,865 youths rejected for insufficient height, out of the class of 1840, in number 300,717; and that the percentage of rejection was 4.61. But as only 177,778 youths were examined, then the 13,865 rejected youths were 7.84 percent of the number examined. The youths rejected on account of bodily infirmities in the same year were 54,066, or 17.98 percent of the whole class, and 30.58 percent of the number examined. These two great causes gave 67,931 rejected out of 300,717, or 22.59 percent; and as many as 54.58 percent, or more than one-half of the 176,778 examined. These proportions are not materially altered according to the last year's results.

Great importance is attached by the French authorities to enforcing military service in all possible cases; and the stringency of the inquiry into the causes of exemption has been greatly increased of late years. Since 1831, the Minister of War's annual report on the recruiting operations recapitulates, under twenty-one heads, the different infirmities that give rise to exemptions; since 1850, a new nomenclature has been adopted, which contains no less than fifty-eight columns, comprised in fifteen great divisions. This part of the question especially deserves attention, and I would gladly set before you the table of diseases and bodily defects, to which the youths of France owe exemption from military service, but the want of space prevents me.

In the numerous statistical works to which these tables have given rise, the percentage of infirmities as above given has been considered as applying to all the youths examined. But a glance at the table of the operations of the Councils of Revision suffices, to show that the heading "Examined" comprises not only

those really examined in reference to height and infirmities, but also those exempted on other grounds provided for by the law, such as voluntary enlistees, most of whom only require to produce the necessary legal certificates, and are not examined by the Council, having already been recognized as fit for service, by the recruiting commissions that receive their engagement. Under the head "Examined" are also comprised the youths already legally bound to the service of the land and sea forces, and other classes of persons, who receive dispensations but are retained in the contingent, as fully explained further on. These latter classes are invited to allow themselves to be examined by the council, as the discontinuance of the professional engagements on account of which they obtained dispensation, renders them liable to be called on to serve, and it is the interest of the administration only to retain in the contingent persons fit for service; but it is not known how many respond to this invitation.

Finally, the head "Examined" comprises also the absent persons, who, although they have neither allowed themselves to be examined, nor sent representatives, are, nevertheless, considered as present, in virtue of article 16 of the law. These cannot have been subjected to the examination of the Council; and if examined later, it is before a special commission formed for that purpose. In point of fact, neither those absent, a certain number of those exempted, nor those who, although forming part of the contingent, are dispensed from active service, can be considered as having been really examined by the Councils of Revision. The percentage of exemptions on account of insufficient height and ill-health, as shown in the above table, is, therefore, not high enough; and in order to ascertain that it would be necessary to show, not the whole number who figured under the head of "Examined," but those actually subjected to the examination of the councils. Unfortunately, the form of the official statements does not allow of this number being ascertained even approximately.

Exemptions are allowed under the four following heads, on grounds of State policy, as well as with a view to conciliate the people of France. Those youths who are supporters of their families being struck out of the class of the year, as not liable to be drawn, as not liable to be drawn for the contingent. These four heads are as below:

3rd. The eldest of a family of orphans who have lost both father and mother.

4th. The only son, or the eldest son, or, in default of son and son-in-law, the only grandson or eldest grandson of a widow woman.

5th. Son or grandson of a septuagenarian, or blind man.

6th. Youngest of brothers, blind or impotent.

In these two last cases exemption applies to the younger brother, if the elder be blind, or afflicted with any other incurable infirmity that renders him helpless.

The table below gives the exemptions under these four heads.

The severity of the conscription has gradually been softened, and of late years still further lessened to the families of France, by the Government according exemption, on the ground of relationship to men actually enrolled in the army. These claims give rise to exemptions under the three following heads:

7th. The elder of two brothers comprised in the same drawing list, and both drawn by lot, provided the younger is considered fit for service.

8th. The brothers of a soldier serving under the colours, in any other capacity than as a *remplacant*.

9th. The brothers of a soldier who has died in active service, or been invalided, or admitted to pension on account of wounds received in authorized service, or sickness contracted in the land or sea forces.

The law of the 4<sup>th</sup> June, 1864 has also widened the claims of the relatives of the soldier to exemption. Up to that time, re-engagement after the first period of service, gave no right of exemption to the relatives of

a soldier as during his first engagement. That law, however, allowed dispensation to be claimed; the effect of which will be explained under that head. The following table shows how extensively these claims for exemption occupy the attention of the Councils of Revision.

### **XVIII. Dispensations.**

The difference between exemptions and dispensations is considerable. Dispensations are accorded with a view to favour certain careers. Exemption is claimed before the final formation of the contingent: and as all exemptions cause the youths with the next higher numbers to be brought forward and included in the contingent, if fit, its strength is therefore not diminished by exemptions. Dispensations, on the other hand, are granted after the contingent is formed, thereby reducing its effective strength; although those dispensed are retained on its nominal strength. It is, therefore, the policy of Government to cause as many as possible of the youths of the class to be brought for examination before the Councils of Revision, who would grant exemptions rather than dispensations where possible. For instance, a youth having two claims to be freed from military service, that of having a blind father and having gained the great prize at the University, would, if appearing before the Council, obtain exemption and not dispensation; and being freed on the former ground, the youth with the number following would then take the place of the exempted. Under the terms of article 14 of the law of 1832, such of the youths drawn for the contingent as are in the following positions, are dispensed from military service; that is, considered as having satisfied the call, and are deducted from the contingent to be formed:

1st. Those already legally bound to the service of the armies of land or sea, by virtue of voluntary enlistment, of a brevet or commission; on condition of producing a certificate of presence under the colours, and being in all cases bound to complete the term prescribed by the law.

2nd. Young sailors borne upon the registry of the Maritime Inscription, and special artificers also enrolled for the marine service (law 5th Brumaire, An IV).

3rd. The pupils of the Polytechnic School, provided they pass seven years, the term fixed for military service, either in this school or in one of the public services.

4th. Those who devote themselves for ten years to public instruction.

5th. The pupils of the great seminaries, and the youths who devote themselves to the ministry in the forms of religions recognized by the State.

6th. The youths who carry off the great prizes of the Institut (prix de Bonne), or of the University (prix d'Honneur).

In the event of any person who has received a dispensation giving up the career which has obtained for him such dispensation, he must declare the fact to the mayor of his commune in the same year that it takes place, take a copy of his declaration, and submit it for the visa of the Prefet, within a month. He is then replaced in the contingent to which he belongs, and follows the chance of his drawing number, unless he be a member of the University, in which case the whole seven years' service is remitted. Any person who, having received a dispensation, neglects to comply with these conditions, is handed over to the tribunals. During the seven years which the Government can claim for military service, the party dispensed is kept in view, and all changes in condition duly noticed.

Besides the above grounds for dispensation from service in the forces, another was added by the law of 4th June, 1864. The right of exemption for relatives, on the ground of having a brother in the service, was, by the law of 1832, withheld from soldiers re-engaging for service. This rule continues in force; but the law of 1864 modifies it, by allowing a dispensation to the brother so long as the re-engaged soldier remains under the colours, which has the effect of inducing old soldiers to continue in the service.

The following table exhibits for a series of years the heavy reductions in strength to which the contingent has been subjected, on the claims for dispensation being admitted; and shows in two ways the dispensations accorded in the year in which first allowed, and those existing at the end of six years. The dispensations have generally increased in number, as the strength of the contingent has been augmented; but in the years 1854, 1855, and 1856, when war was going on, the number was greater in proportion than the augmentation of the contingent. The exemptions, on the other hand, were fewer, owing to the strictness of the medical examination being somewhat relaxed, for fear of the contingent not being completed. It is within the power of Government to prevent exemptions becoming too numerous; whereas dispensation is claimed by individuals as a right.

In order to account for the difference between the numbers entered in the cols. 7 and 8, it must be explained, that the result shown in the former, is drawn from the reports completed to the end of six years after the men were drawn for the conscription, whereas col. 8 is filled in with the numbers dispensed at the time at which the men were drawn.

### **XIX. Exoneration.**

Whilst on one hand the State excludes, exempts, or dispenses from military service, all those who can substantiate their claims to exemption, under the law of the conscription, a man drawn for service can, also, on his part, free himself from the obligation, either by exoneration, by substitution, or by *remplacement* between relatives.

Exoneration forms an entirely new principle, established under the law of the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1855. The youths drawn for the annual contingent obtain exoneration from the service by means of ready money payments to the Caisse de Dotation of the army; men to supply their places being provided by Government. This fund is managed by the *caisse de depots and de consignations*, under the surveillance of a superior Commission, composed of fifteen members, whose functions are honorary; and the payments are applied to replacing those exonerated, by means of the re-engagement of old soldiers, or by *remplacements* made under the direct authority of the administration.

In thus partially substituting exoneration for *remplacement*, the law constituted exoneration the right of families, and made it an obligation on the part of the State, towards families, to exonerate youths in consideration of the payment of a fixed sum. The Minister of War decrees every year, upon the advice of this Commission, the amount to be paid for exoneration. It varies from year to year; is higher in time of war than in peace, and depends both on the demand and the supply. Every person drawn as a conscript who wishes to be exonerated, declares it before the Council of Revision; and the money must be paid in within ten days following the closing of the operations of this council. At the expiration of this period, the Council of Revision meets for the last time in the chief place of the department, and pronounces exoneration on presentation of receipts for payment. A soldier already under the colours may also obtain exoneration, if the authorities consent: he then pays in a sum proportioned to the length of service remaining to be performed, and the exoneration is pronounced by the Council of Administration. In both cases the person exonerated receives a certificate of exoneration.

The following table will show the extent to which conscripts have, since the passing of the law of 1855, availed themselves of the power of purchasing exoneration, and the rates paid. I have also inserted the maximum, minimum, and average percentage of men of the contingent in the different departments of France, who purchased exoneration. It will be seen that the ratios vary considerably, and if space permitted, a detailed table in connection therewith would much assist in throwing light on the habits of people in different parts of the country.

The effect of war in inducing the purchase of exoneration from military service, is shown in the above Table, from which it will be seen, that nearly one-third of the conscripts purchased exoneration in 1859, a year of war. In time of peace the purchases fall off. An inquiry in 1865, instituted by the Minister of War,

also brought to light the fact, that exoneration was obtained more largely by the men composing the first part of the contingent, than by those of the second portion; these being willing to run the risk of being called on to join the army, rather than pay the large sum fixed as the price of their freedom from military service. The numbers of the second portion of the contingent who purchased their discharge in 1860 exceeded those in 1865 by 5,465. The cause of this diminution was the hope entertained by families that the second portion of the 1859 contingent would be freed in 1866, without having been called under the colours. In fact, that peace would be maintained. The following table will show the extent to which all the soldiers of the army have availed themselves, of the opening to obtain exoneration, during the time the law has been in force.

It should be observed that exoneration is purchased by soldiers for different periods of their service, varying from seven years down to a fraction of a year, which is reckoned as one year; and the last column of the table shows how many complete periods of seven years' service the total number of exonérations purchased are equal to. Supposing seven soldiers, each of three years' service, purchase their discharge, the number are entered as three soldiers each of seven years. The law requires that an exact account be kept of the numbers annually exonerated, as also of those who take their places. This account is annually laid before the Emperor, and furnishes much useful information connected with the army. By the latest report the numbers admitted into the army in lieu of those who purchased exoneration are in excess of such exonérations.

## **XX. Substitution.**

Substitution, or exchange of numbers, as it formerly existed in France, is described as an arrangement by which a youth drawn by the conscription could pass from the first portion of the contingent to the second portion, which generally remained at home during the seven years' service that it owes to the State. Under the law of the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, this exchange of numbers was allowed to take place – first, between all the youths of the same canton, but only up to the closing of the list of the contingent to be supplied by this canton ; secondly, after the closing of the cantonal contingent, between all the youths inscribed on this list, but only up to the date of the order of march of the registered young soldier. A subsequent law of 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1858, limited the exchange to “brothers, brothers-in-law, and kindred up to the sixth degree, associated in the drawing of the same class”, and in “the same canton.” The present act of substitution is received by the Prefet in the Council of Revision. A substitute present with his corps, or dying in the service, exempts his brother from service, which is not the case with a *remplacant*. Substitution is, however, permitted only if the substitute is passed by the Council of Revision as fit for the service, as respects height and bodily health. There is this difference between a substitute and a *remplacant*, that substitution does not entail any responsibility on the person exchanging, in case of the desertion of the one who takes his place in the army; as was the case under the system of individual replacement. The number of substitutions was always very limited, and the law of 1858 has very much diminished them. The numbers are shown in the table given under the next subdivision.

## **XXI. Remplacement.**

In most countries of which the military organisation is based on forced recruiting, the citizens drawn for service have the power of getting others to take their places, either in virtue of a private contract, or by the intervention of the State. This practice had to a certain extent obtained in France up to the time of the Convention (1793); when all France was put under arms, no exoneration or *remplacement* being admitted. The law of 19<sup>th</sup> Fructidor, An VI [05 September 1798], made no mention of *remplacement*. It was authorized two years subsequently, in two cases only; when the health of the conscript rendered it necessary, and when the continuation of his studies offered more chances of real utility than the military service he was called on to render. A law, passed in the year XI, permitted youths drawn by lot to get their

places supplied by conscripts of the same class or of classes already called, not drawn by lot, or drawn for the reserve; the person whose place is supplied, then placing himself in the position of his substitute.

The power of *remplacement* was enlarged and sanctioned successively by laws of the years XIII, 1818, and 1832. The great extent to which this exchange, on the part of men drawn as conscripts was carried, will be illustrated by the following table, which shows that a large proportion of the soldiers of France formerly consisted of men who enter the service for bounty money.

The law of 1832, only part of which is now in force, organized a multiform system of guarantees in regard to the *remplacement*. Every precaution was taken to prevent the admission of unfit men into the army under this designation. The conditions laid down were stringent as to the character and physical fitness of the men offering to serve. The associations formed as agencies to obtain for private families the means of freeing their sons from the conscription, were all licensed by Government, and kept strictly under the control of the authorities; but all without avail. Men of such a description were passed into the army, that the corps in which they served forced them to desert. They were as a class despised, being disliked by officers and men, and known in the service as the "sold." Families were also exposed to serious pecuniary losses and trouble, from having to provide *remplacants* in room of their sons drawn as conscripts, and to continue responsible for these men for some time after they entered the service. Thus, they were often obliged to pay several *remplacants* successively, consequent on desertion, fraud, incapacity, and mistaken identity. Companies existed for the purpose of providing families with *remplacants*; but their operations were far from working satisfactorily. As a whole, the system was continually denounced in the legislative bodies, and in works on the army; and various changes were frequently urged.

In order to remedy all these evils the law of the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1855, was passed by the legislature.

This law substituted for the general power of *remplacement*, permitted by the laws of 1818 and 1832, exoneration from service. It authorized the State to exonerate men drawn as conscripts, and soldiers under the colours, on payment of certain amounts, fixed by the State from time to time, and established the system of administrative *remplacement*, that is, of Government providing men to replace those who purchased exoneration, to fill up the vacancies thus caused. These monies were required to be paid into the Army Dotation Fund, to be employed for the purpose of inducing men to enter the service, and soldiers still under the colours, or those who had left the army, to prolong their service, or re-engage. The law authorized the payment by Government of bounties and allowances out of the fund, to these men, both whilst in the service, and on discharge. It also restrained the *remplacements* within same limits as substitution, restricting *remplacement*, by private agreement, to brothers, brothers-in-law, and relatives, up to the fourth degree. The table below details the number of *remplacants* admitted into the army, in each year from 1843. It shows that in time of war, or apprehension of war, as in 1848 and 1854, the men of France desire to be freed from service in the field. In these two years the *remplacants* largely increased in numbers: but the number of old soldiers who usually gave their services in lieu of conscripts for money, fell off the last year of the existence of the system of individual replacement was 1855, when the *remplacants* numbered 16,173. The number of *remplacants* admitted by the councils of revision in 1856, was only 404, against 16,173 in 1855; and Government did not introduce any of this class. The substitutes, on the other hand, who, in 1855, were only 718, numbered 1,286 in 1856. This was attributed to the intrigues of the old agencies of *remplacement*, which succeeded, in order to compensate for the restriction of *remplacants*, in increasing the number of substitutions.

In 1857 the number of *remplacants* admitted by the Councils of Revision was only 254; but the number of substitutes was 2,544, in consequence of the intrigues of the agencies of *remplacement*.

The number of *remplacants* admitted by the Councils of Revision in 1858 was 487, against 254 in the previous year; an augmentation which is attributable to an extension of the power of *remplacement* to relations in the fifth and sixth degrees, under the law of 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1858. But the number of substitutes

was brought down to 44; the above law, restricting substitution within the same limits as *remplacements*, having had the effect of putting an end to the abuses that had prevailed.

In 1859 the number of *remplacants* admitted by the councils of revision was 598; and the number of substitutes continued to diminish, under the influence of the law of 17<sup>th</sup> March, 1858, being only 11 in 1859.

Since 1859, the number of *remplacants* and substitutes admitted by the Councils of Revision, have both been small, as will be seen by the following table.

In 1859, the breaking out of the war with Italy having caused the contingent to be raised to 140,000 men, no less than 38,325 conscripts obtained exoneration by paying to the Army Dotation Fund, the sum fixed by the government to secure exemption from military service.

The secession of so large a number of conscripts, out of all proportion to preceding years, combined with the insufficient number of soldiers re-engaging and of voluntary en-listers, induced the Government of France to have recourse to the means of recruiting authorised by article 15 of the law of the 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1855, by establishing the system of *remplacements* under the direct management of the administration. Agreeably to the advice of the superior Commission of the Army Dotation Fund, a decree of the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1859, authorised the admission of administrative *remplacants* for periods of service from three to seven years.

Individual *remplacement* was thus almost entirely superseded by administrative *remplacement* to secure exemption. Whenever the number of reengagements and voluntary engagements is found to be inferior to that of exonerations, the minister of war authorizes administrative *remplacements*, and fixes the price to be paid for them.

The Minister of War also decrees the number of *remplacants* to be furnished by each department, and the commission of invalid leave, (the *Congé de Reforme*) examines the men who propose themselves, and has them inscribed at the mayor's office. Every man accepted receives a copy of the act of *remplacement* prepared by the sous-intendant, and a part of the price fixed for the *remplacement*; the rest is given to him at the expiration of his engagement.

## **XXII. Army Dotation Fund; or, Caisse de Dotation.**

The law of 26th April, 1855, which created an Army Dotation Fund, under the control and superintendence of the State, and brought about a most important change in the French military system, and is reported by some to work satisfactorily, but by other authorities viewed in an unfavourable light.

Under the new system, from the moment exoneration is pronounced, the responsibility of families ceases. The liberation of the conscript is immediate, and definitive; and, on the other hand, the condition of soldiers who re-engage to supply the places of exonerated men, is greatly ameliorated, by their being treated as old soldiers. They are kept in the army, because their former military service has been good, and on re-engaging they receive from the State fixed portions of the bounty-money allowed for re-engaging, additional pay whilst serving, and finally, on discharge, further bounties, and even pensions. They are secured from the losses they might have sustained, had they been allowed to enter into private arrangements for serving as *remplacants*; and, at the same time, the State is benefited by keeping in the service, or bringing back under the colours, a great number of old soldiers, in the prime of life, attached to the service, well-disciplined, instructed, seasoned.

The rates to be paid by families to the State for the exoneration of conscripts, as also the bounties to be paid by the State to men engaging as administrative *replacants*, and to soldiers re-engaging or re-enlisting, vary year by year; being fixed by decree of the minister of war, on the recommendation of the superior commission appointed to preside over, and report annually on the operations of the Army

Dotation Fund. The amounts to be contributed by soldiers under the colours to obtain discharge, vary according to the length of service to be completed.

The rates for exoneration have been frequently altered, being increased or diminished according to the necessities of the State. The amount to be paid by a conscript in the time of the war in the Crimea, was fixed (in 1855) at 2,800 frs., which continued in force during 1856. This was the first rate under the law of 1855, and was reported to be considerably below the amount paid by families when they obtained their own *remplacants*. It was lowered in 1857 to 2,000 frs., and in 1858 further to 1,800 frs., increased in 1859, on account of the Italian war, to 2,000 frs., in 1860 to 2,300 frs., and still further in 1861 and 1862 to 2,500 frs., but again lowered in 1863, 1864, and 1865, to 2,300 frs.

The amounts to be paid by soldiers to obtain exoneration from further military service, have also varied considerably during the ten years from 1855 to 1865. During five years of this period - 1856, 1860, 1863, 1864, and 1865 - the sum of 500 frs. was paid for each year of military service remaining to be completed. During the two years 1857 and 1858, the sum was lowered to 350 frs., but raised in 1859 to 400 frs., and in 1861 and 1862 to 550 frs. These rates, calculated on seven years' service, which the soldier has to complete, raise the total cost of a soldier's exoneration considerably beyond the amount paid by the conscript. A seven years' soldier purchasing his discharge in 1861 and 1862 would have had to pay 3,850 frs., against 2,500 frs. required from a conscript. The lowest amount to be paid by a soldier during the period was 2,450 frs., against 1,800 frs. by the conscript.

The sums paid by the State as bounties to soldiers re-engaging, both before and after discharge, as also the bounty paid for administrative *remplacants*, have, during the same period of ten years, varied year by year. The payment of these bounties has also been made in different instalments.

In 1856, the first year of the new system, the sum of 2,300 frs. was fixed as the bounty to soldiers re-engaging for seven years, either before discharge or within a certain period after liberation. This sum was to be issued in three instalments, one of 700 frs. immediately on re-engaging, or on being incorporated with the army, a second of 300 frs. during the service and the last of 1,000 frs. on discharge.

Soldiers re-engaging for less than seven years, were to receive for each years of service an annuity of 230 frs., to be paid on discharge.

In the years 1857 and 1858, the bounty was fixed at 1,500 frs. for seven years' service, and the annuity for periods less than seven years at 150 frs. The decree of 3rd May, 1859, granted to all *remplacants* of seven years' contracted service, the bounty of 2,000 frs., one half payable at the time of engagement, and the other half on definitive liberation from the service; and to *remplacants* of less than seven years, a sum of 260 frs. for each year which they agreed to serve, payable likewise in two parts, one half yearly, and the other half on discharge. The distribution of these amounts is not stated.

In 1861, 1862, and 1863, the bounty *to soldiers re-engaging, and remplacants*, was fixed at 2,200 frs., of which 1,000 was paid down at once, and 1,200 on discharge. The annuity for less than seven years was fixed at 310 frs., of which 140 was to be paid yearly, and 170 on discharge.

In 1864 and 1865, the bounty was fixed at 2,300 frs., of which 1,000 was paid down at once, and 1,300 on discharge. The annuity for periods less than seven years, was fixed at 320 frs.; of which 140 was paid yearly, and 180 on discharge. Soldiers re-engaging are also entitled to extra pay of 10 centimes a day, entirely independent of the extra pay of long service and stripes. After fourteen years' service, they have a right to extra pay of 20 centimes, but no bounty is given. The whole bounty of re-engagement is paid over to the families of men invalided, or killed in consequence of events of war.

Vast amounts have been distributed under these various heads, and the number of soldiers who have received these monies will be seen to be large. During the ten years, from 1855 to 1865, there were 125,299 soldiers, of less than fourteen years' service, who re-engaged either before or after discharge, receiving 170,232,209 frs.; and the amount calculated to be payable to these men during the ten years

following, was 120,382,613 frs.; making a total of 290,614,822 frs. The sums paid for 55,101 administrative *remplacements* during the same period amounted to 57,402,449 frs., and for the seven years following the sum of 63,595,591 frs. was calculated as payable; making a total of 120,998,040 frs.

In addition to the above sums, there were, between 1856 and 1865, further payments made in the form of service-pay to soldiers, amounting to 34,626,030 frs.; and the amount payable under this head, between 1865 and 1875, was estimated at 27,269,989 frs. The total amount actually paid from the Army Dotation Fund up to 1865, was 262,260,688 frs.; and the sum estimated as payable within the ten years after 1865, was 211,248,193 frs.; making a grand total of 473,508,881 frs. paid to 180,400 soldiers and *remplacants*.

This is all I can here state regarding this remarkable fund. It would require a separate paper to describe all its working.

### **XXIII. Formation, Apportionment, and Division of the Annual Contingent.**

The mode of obtaining soldiers under the conscription, for the annual contingent, having been fully explained, the following details will complete the subject.

The strength of the annual contingent, is every year fixed by law. It is drawn by lot out of the youths who have completed the age of 20 years, during the course of and up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December the preceding year, these youths are called the "class of "that year." The apportionment of the contingent amongst departments and cantons – which, up to 1830, was made in proportion to the population, and from 1831 to 1835 in proportion to the average number of youths inscribed upon the drawing lists of a certain number of preceding years – is now made, by Imperial decree, in proportion to the number of youths inscribed upon the drawing lists of the year. Thus, in 1857, the number inscribed on the lists being 295,309, and the strength of the contingent being 100,000, the proportion of contingent to be supplied by each department was calculated at 33.868 percent of the numbers inscribed. For the 1856 contingent the proportion was 32.1716 percent.

The proportion of the contingent imposed upon each canton is required to be furnished whenever possible: and, in order to prevent any escape from the obligation, a very strict account is taken of the youths belonging to each canton. Under article 6 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, the following are considered as legally domiciled in the canton:

1<sup>st</sup>, all the youths, even those emancipated, established out of the canton, abroad, absent or in prison, whose father, mother, or guardian are domiciled in any one of the communes contained in the canton;

2<sup>nd</sup>, the married youths whose father, or (in default of father) mother, is domiciled in the canton, unless they can prove themselves to be really domiciled in another canton;

3<sup>rd</sup>, the youths married and domiciled in the canton, even although their father or mother are not domiciled there;

4<sup>th</sup>, the youths residing in the canton, who have neither father, mother, nor guardian;

5<sup>th</sup>, the youths residing in the canton who are not in any of the preceding cases, but who cannot show themselves to be inscribed in any other canton.

By a circular of the Minister of War, of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1837, found-lings brought up in an hospital have their legal domicile in the commune in which the hospital is situated; but, when they obtain their majority, they are to be inscribed in the canton where they reside, and take part in the drawing.

Immediately on the contingent being definitively settled by the Councils of Revision, the whole of the men are apportioned to the different arms of the service by the Minister of War, who decides as to the

numbers according to the requirements of the service and the fitness of the men for the particular arms or branches of the army. The whole are immediately registered, and are then under the control or surveillance of the general officer commanding in the respective departments, and of the officers commanding the recruiting depots.

The contingent is divided into two portions, by decree of the War Minister. The first portion is called into active service immediately, whilst the second portion is, except on occasions of emergency, left at home, forming part of the reserve, and only subjected to short periods of training. The whole available or effective force of the contingent of the year has been called out, at once, on five occasions: in 1849, 1854, 1855, 1856, and 1859. The second portions of contingents of previous years were also called out in 1849 and 1854, after being left in their homes for some time.

The above remarks apply generally to the land forces, but a portion of the men drawn as conscripts for the annual contingent are drafted into the marine forces.

The Minister of Marine annually obtains from the War Minister such a portion of the year's contingent, as may be necessary to complete the marine forces up to their fixed establishment.

The marine forces comprise two bodies, constituted like the corresponding corps of the land army: viz, the marine infantry, consisting of four regiments of thirty companies, either in activity or in depot, and the marine artillery, which comprises twenty-five batteries, and six companies of artificers. Both these corps have varied in strength from time to time. The apportionment between the several corps of the marines, of the men supplied out of the annual contingent, is made by the Marine Department.

The maritime forces comprise, in addition to the marine forces, the combatants of the fleet, and the non-combatants attached thereto; and in order to obtain these, the class of men in France fitted for sea service are inscribed on a separate list for the maritime conscription. From that list the sailors for the fleet are drawn; and as all the youths of France are inscribed on the general list for the military conscription, all men inscribed on the maritime list are annually "dispensed" from military service, if they should happen to be drawn for the army contingent of the year. These men take the chance of being drawn for service in the navy.

The following table shows for a series of twenty-eight years the number of conscripts out of the annual contingent, who in each year actually joined the land and marine forces respectively, and were incorporated with these corps.

It will be seen from the above table, that the number of conscripts drafted into both services, has during the past five years been small; fewer, as far as I can ascertain, than in any other year since 1818. At no time during the present century has the conscription borne so lightly as during the last five years on the population of France, as far as regards the number of men drafted into the army. Even after deducting the average number who purchased exoneration, it will be seen, judging from the strength of the contingent, that those left available in their homes, exceeded the number drafted into the army.

#### **XXIV. Calling Out the Second Portion of the Contingents, Incorporated with the Reserve.**

During the past twenty-four years, the Government of France has twice been under the necessity of calling out the second portions of the contingents belonging to the classes of prior years, several years after the conscripts had been left in their homes.

The Revolution of February, 1848, having necessitated an increase of the military forces, it was found requisite, before even putting *en route* the contingent of the class of 1847, to call into active service such portions of the contingents of the preceding five years' classes (1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846) as remained disposable. The conscripts of these years, who had not been called out, amounted to a total of

99,360, who were divided among corps of the land and marine forces. The putting *en route* of these men was carried out, as regards the classes of 1845 and 1846, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1848; and for the classes of 1842, 1843, 1844, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1848. In order as far as possible to soften the hardship of this extensive and unexpected call into active service, Government allowed all the young married men of the classes of 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, and 1846, comprised in this call, to remain in their homes. Moreover, the special recruiting councils established in the chief places of each department, allowed those young men of the classes of 1842, 1843, and 1844, who were indispensable to the support of their families, to remain at home. This made a reduction of 2 percent in the respective contingents of the three classes in question.

Again, in 1854, the Government drew out the reserves left in their homes of the contingents belonging to the classes of 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852. The number of men comprised by these reserves amounted to 158,000 who were appropriated to the land forces, and apportioned amongst the corps of the army, as follows. The call was very large, and was in addition to the contingent of the year:

- Infantry: 110,260
- Cavalry 33,216
- Artillery: 9,637
- Engineers: 2,598
- Military equipages: 2,789

Total: 158,500

The putting en route of these men took place, for the class of 1852, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> February, 1854; for the class of 1851, from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of the same month; and for the classes of 1849 and 1850, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> March following. As on the previous occasion, the War Administration endeavoured to keep in view the interests of families equally with those of the State, and ordered that all the married men of the reserves who were not at once able to obtain a *remplacant*, should be left in their homes for some months, in order to enable them to arrange for their exchange or settle their affairs.

## **XXV. The Putting in motion of the Contingent.**

When the division of the contingent has taken place by decree of the Councils of Revision, the General commanding in the department, assisted by the Commandant of the recruiting depot, allots those drawn to the different corps, according to their size, physical aptitude, and profession. In France they do not endeavour, as in Germany, to group, in the same regiment, the soldiers who come from the same province and department.

When this allotment has been made, a route order is addressed to the home of the young soldier comprised in the first portion of the contingent, timed so that he may have three whole days to prepare for departure. Furnished with this order he proceeds to the chief place of the department, and there passes the review of departure, in which, if necessary, the allotments made to the different arms are revised, and a reprieve of departure is granted to the sick or convalescent. Within the twenty-four hours which follow this review, the young soldiers are sent off to join their corps. The orders for the march of the young conscripts are generally issued in the autumn of the year in which they are enrolled. Their discharge is often given, or rather, their return to their homes is authorised, before the completion of the seventh year of service; so that six: years' absence from home may be taken as the average period, and is often shorter.

## **XXVI. Varying Strength of the Contingent.**

From 1816 up to 1823 the strength of the annual contingent was only 40,000 men; in the latter year it was raised to 60,000, and in 1830 to 80,000. In the year 1854, in consequence of the war in the Crimea, the contingent, which had up to this year continued to be fixed at 80,000, was again raised to 140,000 men, and the same number was called for in 1855 and 1856. In 1857 the number was lowered to 100,000 and by the laws of 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1857, and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1858, it was maintained at the same strength for each of these years. On account of the war in Italy, the contingents of the classes of 1858 and 1859 were again raised to 140,000 men; but peace was made in time to allow of the contingent for 1860 out of the 1859 class being reduced to 100,000 men. This same strength of contingent has been maintained in subsequent years.

In 1860, on the annexation of Nice and Savoy, the contingent drawn from the population was fixed at 2,324, out of 6,856 youths who were ascertained to have completed their twentieth year of age on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1859. The total contingent of all France, including Nice and Savoy, was in 1860 fixed at 102,234. It would be interesting to trace out the proportion of the conscripts of this new territory, who were disqualified for service by want of height or ill health, as compared with the French conscripts; but space does not permit.

### **XXVII. Proportion of Military Strength and Contingent to Population.**

In 1832, when the annual contingent was fixed at 80,000, there was nominally, for the aggregate of seven years' classes, a total of 560,000 men; but, after deducting the *non-valides* or unfit men, the number was really reduced to about 500,000 being a proportion of about 1/64<sup>th</sup> of the population. If the same proportion were maintained with the present population of 37 million, the aggregate number of fit men obtained from the classes of seven years would be 578,125; not very far from the number (600,000) considered by competent men indispensable to secure the honour of the country, and maintain security at all points. It does not appear, however, that the seven classes supply this number (600,000) even with contingents of 100,000. Since 1832 the number of *non-valides* has increased, so that a contingent of 100,000 men gives only 72,000, or for seven classes about 504,000 soldiers.

Owing to the varying strength of the contingents at different periods, the demands for men for the army have been very unequal. In 1821, with a contingent of 40,000 and a population of 30 million, the ratio was about 1,300 of contingent for every million. In 1832, with a contingent of 60,000 and a population of 32 million, the ratio was 1,800 to each million. In 1841, with a contingent of 80,000 and a population of 34 million, the ratio was 2,400 to each million. In 1854, with a contingent of 140,000 and a population of 35 million, the ratio was 4,000 to every million. In 1860, with a population of 36 million and a contingent of 140,000, the ratio was 3,900 to each million. At present the ratio is 2,700 to each million; the population being 38 million and the contingent 100,000.

The variations in the proportions per cent. which the strength of the contingent in each year, for a series of years, bears to the total number of youths inscribed on the census. lists, are shown in the following table.

### **XXVIII. Composition and Training of the Reserve.**

In France the reserve force, as generally understood, consists primarily of the youths drawn by lot, who form the second portion of the annual contingent, but are left provisionally in their homes. Secondly, of soldiers on renewable leave of absence, and sent home in anticipation of the expiration of their seven years' service; and finally, of the National Guard. The Commandant of the recruiting depot of each department prepares the list of those belonging to this body comprised of the conscripts left in their

homes, also of the old soldiers, and preserves their traces. The reserve remain under the orders of the general at the head of the territorial division to which they belong, who has the power of calling them out. Until lately, however, such an assemblage was rare and almost useless; so that this portion of the reserve was considered to be ill-trained, indeed – almost uninstructed.

Since 1860, an attempt to organise and discipline the reserve has been made, and, in spite of some inconveniences, there has been considerable progress made. At present the men of the reserve belonging to the infantry and engineers, are assembled the first year, between the 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> April, in the depot of instruction of the chief place of the department, and are there exercised for three months. In the second year they are called out for two months, and the third year for one month. After that they are only subject to half yearly calls for muster. Those destined for the cavalry and artillery are attached to the nearest corps of their arm. Thus, the men of the reserve, even the infantry, receive their military instruction from different regiments, by reason of the perpetual changes of garrison in France. It has not been thought advisable to incorporate them with the depot where they are assembled, nor even to charge the depot with the duty of clothing, equipping, and arming them; this devolves on the commandant of the recruiting depot, who has a special magazine at command, and causes the articles of equipment to be returned into store when the men return to their homes. Some few articles are confided to their carp, but only strict necessaries, which they are bound to produce, or else are punished, and have to pay the value. During the time of their military instruction – which consists specially, for the infantry, of the use of arms and marching, for cavalry, of *travail individual*, and the handling of the musket and sabre, and for the artillery, in the working of ordnance – the men of the reserve are looked after by the corps to which they are attached, but the expenditure for them is accounted for separately. It is especially recommended that they should be treated with gentleness and patience, with a view to give them pleasant recollections of military life; in order, say the ministerial instructions, that if their country should one day require their services, they may return to the colours with the more readiness.

This new system of training the reserve, is, however, described as having the inconvenience of multiplying the movements of soldiers and increasing the attendant expenses: it also throws on the Major of each regiment, who is already fully occupied, an increase of work and responsibility disproportioned to the time remaining at his disposal, and the authority of his rank. Its principal advantage is stated to be in giving a degree of ensemble and military spirit to the men of the reserve, by assembling them in considerable groups, in the midst of troops already trained. On the whole, this system has been stated to work well during the first three months of 1861 and the first two months of 1862, for the second portion of the contingent of 1859, with whom it began; and during the months of October, November, and December, 1861, for the second portion of the contingent of the class of 1860.

From all I have read, I confess I am not favourably impressed with the arrangements connected with the French reserve; but it would require a personal knowledge of the working to justify any criticism. I am inclined to think that, as so often occurs in the case of reserves, the system cannot work well, unless very efficiently administered. A good administration of the reserve would, however, entail an expenditure nearly equal to that for the regular army, which is never willingly incurred.

The strength of the French reserve varies considerably. In time of profound peace, when the army is kept at a low establishment, and casualties are lessened, the reserve is raised to a great force, by the conscripts forming the year's contingent being left in their homes in considerable numbers. In time of war, on the contrary, the reserve is heavily drawn on, indeed sometimes exhausted, by the whole contingent of the year, as well as the reserve, being at once drafted into the army. In 1849, and during the war with Russia in 1855, as also in 1859 in the Italian war, the reserve was entirely used up. After a great war, the pressure is considerably increased for a time, by soldiers being transferred from the active army to the reserve, before the expiration of their period of service. After several years of peace, the strength of the reserve is great. At present it must be stronger than it has ever before been.

The following table will show the strength of the reserve in France for a series of years. I wish I had space to show the years severally in which these men are entitled to be freed.

The second portion of the reserve, termed the National Guard, is composed of Frenchmen from 25-50 years of age, accustomed to the service. Under the provisions of the decree of the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1852, which still obtains, the National Guard exists only in a small number of places; and as its organisation is at present neither general nor permanent, it can hardly be considered as capable of serving as a basis for effectually increasing the reserve of the French army.

### **XXIX. Voluntary Enlistment.**

As already stated, besides those drawn as conscripts out of the class of each year, and their substitutes or *remplacants*, the French army contains men voluntarily enlisted.

The usual duration of voluntary enlistment is seven years; but in time of war the recruiting law allows any man who satisfies the required conditions, to enlist for two years and upwards. In any case voluntary enlistees cannot be sent on furlough without their consent. These are the conditions required from a man who presents himself to contract a voluntary engagement. To be a Frenchman; to have completed 16 years of age if for the marine service, and for the land army; to be of the prescribed height, present fixed at 1 metre 55 centimetres; to enjoy his civil rights, to be neither married nor a widower with children; to produce a certificate of regular life and habits; if less than 20 years of age and of good constitution; not to be more than 30 years of age, unless he has already served; to fulfil the requirements of the arm to which he desires to belong.

These conditions being fulfilled, the young man, furnished with a certificate of acceptance, presents himself before the mayor of the chief place of a canton, who, after various verifications, prepares the act of engagement in presence of two witnesses, reads it aloud, signs it, and has it signed by the voluntary enlistee and his witnesses. The voluntary enlistee has the right to select not only the arm of the service, but even the particular corps which he desires to join, provided he is fit for that branch. A young man who voluntarily enlists into the service prior to the period that he would be liable to be drawn, is invariably reckoned as one of the contingent of the year to which he may belong; so that no additional call is made on the other youths of the commune to which he belongs, as in the case of exemptions. Many youths of the class of the year voluntarily enter the service in anticipation of being drawn as conscripts, as shown in the following return. The following are the numbers who thus voluntarily entered the military forces during a series of twenty-nine years, and as part of the contingent of the year.

I have not separated the few volunteers to the marine forces from those who voluntarily enlisted in the land army. The men who voluntarily enlisted in the marine branch between 1837 and 1864, are only in number 857, showing that service in the marines force of France is not favourably viewed.

A young man, having voluntarily enlisted, and completed his legal obligation, is then directed to join his corps, and if he does not do so within a month after the day fixed for him, in the order of march, he is, unless the Commanding Officer has been informed of his going into hospital, or decease on the road, prosecuted as insubordinate (*insoumis*).

In 1860, a decree, dated 13<sup>th</sup> April, was approved of by the Emperor and issued by the Minister of War, lowering by 1 centimetre the standard heights fixed in 1847 for men voluntarily enlisting, for all arms, (excepting the infantry), which are recruited with men above 1 metre 56 centimetres, up to 1 metre 70 centimetres in height.

This modification was stated by the Minister of War to be indispensable on the following grounds. Owing to the contingents of the special arms of the service having been considerably increased, and the recruiting of the Imperial Guard by drafts from corps of the line having withdrawn a great number of men of stature. Also, because exonerations cause a loss every year of many tall and vigorous men belonging to families in easy circumstances or exercising useful professions, who can easily obtain the funds to pay the price of exoneration, whereby a part of the elements which are indispensable to secure a good supply

of men of stature, are withdrawn from the army, and the relation between the annual contingents and the wants of the service are greatly affected.

These various causes entail the serious inconvenience of lowering the average height of the infantry corps, and thus give rise to great difficulties in filling up their grenadier companies, and the grenadier regiments of the Imperial Guard.

The following return will show the numbers who have voluntarily enlisted during a series of twenty-four years, including the men (as shown above) who enlisted in anticipation of being drawn as conscripts; as also, the number of soldiers who, after liberation, voluntarily reengaged, after the law of 1855 came into operation.

I would specially request attention to the last column, which shows the number of old soldiers who, after discharge from the army, returned to the military service. In 1855, when the bounty was first offered to induce men to return, it will be seen that out of the large number of old soldiers then in France only 1,477 accepted the offer. This and other facts prove that a military life is not so much in favour with the French people.

### **XXX. Re-engaging of Soldiers before and after Liberation from Service.**

It has long been the practice in the French army for some soldiers to continue in the service after completing the seven years' period for which, by the conscription law, they were required to serve. Prior to the great change introduced into the French system by the law of 26<sup>th</sup> April, 1855, authorising the payment of bounties, the number of re-engaged soldiers were few, but have considerably increased since then. The law was based on the consideration that a trained soldier, knowing his trade, ought, if possible, to be retained in the army; and thence the bounties and extra pay given under that law for re-engagements, whether contracted before discharge, or within two years after having quitted the army.

Re-engagement is allowed for any number of years not less than three, and not more than seven, and a second re-engagement may be made. The pecuniary advantages granted to soldiers who re-engage, either before or after discharge, have already been fully detailed under the head of the "Army Dotation Fund."

The period within which soldiers might reenlist after liberation was, as a general rule, limited to two years, by the law of 1855; but in that year it was specially decreed, having regard to the state of war, and considering the interests of the army, as well as those of the population, that the provisions of the law should extend to soldiers who had been liberated three years before (in 1852), provided they were not above 35 years of age. This exceptional boon ceased with the cause that had given rise to it. It will be seen from the above table, that the number of soldiers who, having left the army for three years, re-engaged under those special conditions of 1855 was small - only 1,477 in the first year, out of the large number of soldiers that must have been discharged during the previous three years.\* The following table contains an abstract of the number of re-engagements contracted, in each year from 1841 to 1864, prior to liberation from the first period of service.

It will be seen from this table that, at periods of political crises, a considerable augmentation takes place in the number of reenlisters; as in 1848, 1859, and 1860. The same thing takes place in time of war, and was especially remarkable in 1855, 1856. The increase of the number of re-engagements during these years, may however in part be attributed to the application of the provisions of the law of 1855. The re-engagements in 1860, 1861 and 1862, will be seen to have exceeded the numbers in former years. This increase is attributed to the law of 24<sup>th</sup> July, 1860, which authorised soldiers in their fourth year of service to re-engage beyond the period for which bound by the conscription. The falling off in the number of re-engagements in 1864 is attributed to the fact of soldiers having availed themselves of that permission, thereby anticipating the usual period for re-engaging.

### **XXXI. Invaliding.**

There are two kinds of invaliding. The first is pronounced by the Inspector-General on account of wounds received in an authorised service, or of infirmities contracted in the land or sea forces. The statement is made out by the Council of Administration of the Corps, *visé* by the Sous-intendant, and approved by the Inspector-General, on the declaration of two officers of health, that the man is not in a state ever to perform active service.

The second kind of invaliding is either for wounds received out of the service, or for infirmities contracted out of the land or sea forces. The statement is made by the officer commanding the recruiting depot, *visé* by the Sous-intendant and approved by the General commanding the subdivision. With these three officers the Commandant of the Departmental Gendarmerie is associated, to form the commission which pronounces the invaliding, upon the advice of two officers of health. I have not space for entering tables showing the numbers invalided.

### **XXXII. Liberation.**

In time of peace, those who have been drawn by the conscription are liberated on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the seventh year following their enrolment, whether they have appeared under the colours or not; but in time of war, they obtain their liberation only after the contingent destined to replace them, has joined the army. Voluntary enlistees, on the contrary, are always, even in time of war, entitled to liberation the very day of the expiration of their seventh year of service. In calculating the seven years' service, however, deductions are made for the time passed as insubordinate, absent from the ranks without leave, confined under sentence as deserter, or in transportation. The certificate of discharge is made out by the Council of Administration, *visé* by the Sous-intendant, and invested with the signature of the Inspector-General, or of the General commanding the division.

The date of service for conscripts reckons from the 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year in which drawn. The drawing, however, does not take place until from three to six months after the beginning of the year; and the recruits are seldom put in motion to join the army until September or October, whilst the liberation or discharge from the army is often made in anticipation of the close of the seventh year. Six years is, therefore, about the average period passed under the colours.

The following return shows clearly the number of soldiers discharged from the army, during a series of years. It will be seen that, in 1854, 1855, 1858, and 1859, when war was being carried on, the discharges fall far below the average number freed in other years from military service.

### **XXXIII Misdemeanors.**

The Minister of War devotes a separate division of his annual report, to the details of those kinds of misdemeanors which arise out of the system of recruiting the army of France. The tables in the appendix to the report show in detail the numbers condemned, acquitted, and the total of misdemeanants accused under each separate article of the recruiting law.

The first is that of fraudulent omissions from the census lists.

Under article 38 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, all frauds and maneuvers by means of which a young man has been omitted from the census tables, are referred to the ordinary tribunals, and punished by imprisonment of from a month, to a year's duration. The young men who have been omitted, if convicted as the authors or accomplices of such frauds or maneuvers, are at the expiration of their sentence

inscribed upon the drawing lists, and the numbers that will be called first to form the contingent are assigned to them. The second class are those designated *insoumis*, which I have translated as "insubordinates". Under article 39 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, it is declared that any young soldier who, having received an order of route, does not arrive at his destination within a month after the day fixed by this order, is – except in the case of *force majeure*, or unavoidable hindrances, - punished as *insoumis*, or insubordinate, by imprisonment of not less than a month's duration, and not more than a year. Insubordinates are judged by the council of war of the military division in which they are arrested. The time during which young soldiers have been under sentence as insubordinate, does not reckon on account of the seven years of required service. In reference to recruiting, there are no longer either refractories or deserters, only insubordinates.

The following statements give the details of the insubordinates for a series of years:

The small number of insubordinates of the 1857 class (15) is attributable to 68,055 men of that class for the land forces, having only been put en route to join in the month of December, 1858. The fifteen insubordinates are out of 5,870 young soldiers called into active service from the marine forces, in the month of October preceding.

The third class of misdemeanors is that arising out of persons harbouring, concealing, favouring, or acting as accomplices of insubordinates. Under article 40 of the law of 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832, anyone convicted of harbouring or taking into their service an insubordinate, may be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months. This penalty may, according to circumstances, be reduced to a fine of from 20 to 200 frs.

Anyone convicted of favouring the evasion of an insubordinate, is punished by imprisonment of from one month to a year. The same penalty is pronounced against those who, by culpable maneuvers, have prevented or retarded the departure of young soldiers. If the delinquent is a public functionary employed by the Government, or minister of a sect paid by the State, the penalty may be carried as far as two years' imprisonment, and the guilty person is, besides, condemned to a fine not exceeding 2,000 frs.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth classes of misdemeanors are those arising out of youths disabling themselves for service, and others aiding therein. The return distinguishes the disability effected by the youth when merely belonging to the class of the year, from that effected between the closing of the contingent of the canton, and being put into active service. The law also inflicts on all accomplices and on public functionaries punishment for aiding in this disability.

Under article 41, youths called out to form part of the contingent of their class, who are accused of having rendered themselves unfit, for military service, either temporarily or permanently, with the object of escaping the obligations imposed by the recruiting law, are referred to the tribunals by the councils of revision, and, if convicted, are punished by imprisonment of from one month to a year. Young soldiers who, during the interval between the closing of the contingent of their canton and their being called into activity have been guilty of the same misdemeanor, are also handed over to the tribunals, and punished by the same penalty. At the expiration of their sentence, both are at the disposal of the Minister of War, for the period that the class of which they form part, owes to the State. The youths so condemned are not, however, deprived of the right of finding a *remplacant*. A similar sentence is pronounced against accomplices, and if these be doctors, surgeons, officers of health, or apothecaries, the duration of the imprisonment is from two months to a year, besides which a fine of from 200 to 1,000 frs. may be imposed without prejudice to more severe sentences in the cases provided for in the penal code; for instance, in the event of mutilation, causing death, or inability to work for more than twenty days, in which case the misdemeanor becomes a crime.

The minister of war's report also shows the number of soldiers in the different branches of the army who, on the 1<sup>st</sup> January of each year, have their service prolonged by reason of judicial condemnations, by virtue of articles 39 and 42 of the law of the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1832. Article 42 declares that the time passed in a state of detention, in virtue of a judgment, does not reckon for the years of service required by law.

The following table, exhibiting the whole number of condemnations and acquittals that have taken place in reference to misdemeanors connected with the conscription during a series of years, will show the extent to which this forfeiture of service is carried.

The seventh class of misdemeanors are those involving fraud in respect to obtaining *remplacants*, or substitutes. The law applies both to the conscript and to accomplices in connection with the exchange; the accomplices being the most severely punished.

Under article 43, any substitution or replacement effected, either in contravention of the decrees made in this respect, or by means of forged documents or fraudulent maneuvers, is referred to the tribunals, and on judgment being pronounced annulling the act of substitution or *remplacement*, the conscript is bound to rejoin his corps, or exonerate himself from the service, within a month after the notification of this judgment. Anyone who has contributed to the fraudulent substitution or replacement, either as originator or accomplice, is punished by imprisonment of from three months to a year, without prejudice to more severe penalties.

The eighth class of misdemeanors is that of abuse of authority on the part of public functionaries and medical men. The return divides those accused into the two classes, civil and military. The punishment is awarded under the penal code, and not under that of the recruiting law; but under article 44, any public functionary or officer, either civil or military, who, under any pretense whatever, has authorised or admitted exemptions, deductions, or exclusions, other than those decreed, or who has arbitrarily given any extension to the duration, rules, or conditions of levies, engagements, or reengagements, is convicted of abuse of authority, and is punished by the penalties laid down in article 185 of the penal code, without prejudice to more severe penalties pronounced in this code, in the other cases provided for.

The ninth class of misdemeanor is that arising out of bribery of medical officers, called by the councils of revision to aid in carrying out the conscription.

Under article 45, doctors, surgeons, or officers of health, called to the councils of revision for the purpose of giving their advice (in conformity with article 16), who have accepted gratuities or promises, in return for favouring young men whom they have to examine, are punished by imprisonment of from two months to a year. This penalty is adjudged whether, at the moment of accepting such gifts or promises, they have already been chosen to attend at the council, or whether such gifts or promises have been accepted in anticipation of the functions they would have to fill. They are forbidden, under the same penalty, to accept anything, even for an invaliding justly pronounced. The tenth class of misdemeanours comprises all criminal acts in connection with recruiting committed by individuals, other than those specified under each of the above divisions. The return in the annual report only distinguishes this class since the year 1850.

Under article 46, the civil and military tribunals their power to apply the ordinary penal laws to which recruiting may give rise.

#### **XXXIV. Conclusion.**

Having thus endeavoured to place before you in detail all the operations connected with the system of conscription in France, I proceed briefly to sum up the recruiting results secured for the army by the conscription; and to that end I have prepared the two following tables for a series of twenty-four years, from 1841 up to 1864.

Some explanatory remarks in reference to the above table may be required. In column 1 are entered those who obtain dispensations from military service, but still form part of the nominal strength of the contingent. Column 2 shows the strength declared fit for service: but these are liable to deductions on various grounds. Column 3 shows the numbers who have appealed to judicial courts for exemption; but these are counterbalanced by the numbers in column 9 who are temporarily inscribed and take the places

of those whose appeals are successful. Columns 4 and 8 show the number of youths who did not present themselves for drawing and examination. These are shown in two separate columns, because a change has recently taken place in the mode of accounting for them. Up to 1859 they were included amongst the number fit for service, but since then they have been struck out, as having disappeared, and apparently not being expected to be found. Column 6 shows the number that could not be supplied by cantons, owing to the lists of youths being exhausted without obtaining the number of fit men. In the years when the contingent was raised to 140,000, these deficiencies are seen to be considerable, thereby proving how heavily the conscription bore on the population. No doubt the small size of most of the communes, and their very limited population, tend to cause this exhaustion. But still, it must be borne in mind that, in 1859, when 3,112 men could not be supplied to complete the contingent of the year, the proportion which the strength of that contingent bore to the males of France, was only about a 140<sup>th</sup> part. Thus, in a commune of 500 souls, half of them being males, the demand on the commune would only be to the extent of two fit youths of 20 years of age; and it is a startling fact that a considerable-sized village should be unable to supply two youths free from bodily defects, for the army. Column 7 shows the strength of the contingent of the year.

The other table gives further details, showing in a more complete view how largely the number of fit men were struck out of the contingent on various grounds, differing from those specified in the preceding table. I may here observe, that the discrepancy in column 5 of the following table and the number in column 7 of the first table, to the extent of 2,234, is occasioned by the contingents for Nice and Savoy being included in the latter and not in the first table.

I have now placed before you, as far as space and time admit, the information I have collected, in reference to the conscription in France. I think it is evident that the greater the number of soldiers obtained under the conscription, the higher the strength of the army may for a time be raised; but, at the same time, the heavier is the burthen on the population, and the more difficult it becomes to obtain the required numbers in after years. I may also quote a curious result of universal liability to service, mentioned by Baron Dalwich, in the Darmstadt Chamber of Representatives, as reported in the "Times" of Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 1867. It is, that "in a thousand German enterprises beyond the seas there are hardly more than two or three Prussians; their liability to serve in the army prevents them from leaving their own country until they are too old to be enterprising." Seeing the vast benefits that result to a country from the labours of the youths abroad, any cause which prevents their being thus employed, must carry with it, as regards the national prosperity, much to counterbalance the advantage obtained in increased military efficiency. Moreover, the outlets available for the active and enterprising spirit of young men, in countries where no forced Military service exists, form probably the best security a State can have, for the maintenance of order and contentment at home.

End.

## THE FRENCH ARMY 1789-1914: VOLUNTEERS, PRESSED SOLDIERS, AND CONSCRIPTS

Excerpts from *The French Army 1789-1914: Volunteers, pressed soldiers, and conscripts*. By Thomas Hippler, 28 Pages. From the Book: *Fighting for a Living: A Comparative Study of Military Labour 1500-2000*, Edited by Erik-Jan Zürcher, 2013, Publisher: Amsterdam University Press, Series: Work around the Globe: Historical Comparisons.

Hippler is a philosopher and historian and teaches at the University of Caen in Normandy. His books include *Citizens, Soldiers and National Armies: Military Service in France and Germany, 1789–1830*.

[http://thomas-hippler.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The\\_French\\_Army\\_1789-1914\\_Volunteers\\_Pre.pdf](http://thomas-hippler.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/The_French_Army_1789-1914_Volunteers_Pre.pdf)

### **The French Army, 1789-1914: Volunteers, Pressed Soldiers, and Conscripts**

According to a common belief, modern military conscription was invented during the French Revolution. Subsequently it became a cornerstone of republicanism in the French understanding. Without any doubt, there is some truth in this view; however, there is also much confusion about the terms of the debate. If we have a closer look at actual recruitment practices in France in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and if we compare these to practices in other historical periods or geographical contexts the distinctions quickly become less clear. The first question to be addressed is thus how to distinguish in a historically convincing way different forms of military labour, which are enslavement, professionals, mercenaries, and conscription. It will actually turn out that these distinctions have necessarily to be linked to systems of social representation, and they are inseparable from social norms and values, as well as from representations of social justice and of legitimate social orders. Things get worse if we keep in mind that historical scholarship in itself is always and necessarily linked to and indeed involved in the construction of these normative and symbolic orders themselves. To stick to the French case: there has been a constant tendency to link the setting-up of the cadre/conscript system during the last third of the nineteenth century to the legacy of the French Revolution and, more particularly, to the category of “national volunteers” fighting for liberty. In the light of this imaginary genealogy, recruitment practices of the ancien régime have been dismissed as military “enslavement” by a despotic state. The outcome was obviously the construction of a normative dichotomy between legitimate and illegitimate forms of recruitment. If we take a closer look at what had actually been going on in terms of recruitment practices, it appears in many cases that the differences between the earlier and the later practices were less important than commonly believed. On the contrary, there is a great deal of continuity between the ancien régime and the modern republic.

However, the analysis should not stop there. It is obviously not the same thing to serve in the military as a pressed soldier or to accomplish one’s civic duty through military service, although the concrete practices, of military drill for instance, may, from another point of view, be strictly the same.<sup>1</sup> This example clearly shows that it is impossible not to take into account the historical construction of the meaning that is attached to these practices. In other words: looking at different forms of recruitment with a historian’s eye implies of necessity adopting a historical perspective with regard to the taxonomic categories that we employ to describe and to distinguish between different forms of military labour.

There are many studies of the military history of, and of mobilization efforts during, the French Revolution and the Prussian reform period, but comparative or transnational approaches are still rare. I will focus the discussion of the state of the art on recent works and those that appear to contribute to the theoretical discussion. Generally speaking, French historiography has never abandoned the field of military history in general and of the revolutionary levies in particular. With regard to the wider perspective, Eugen Weber’s *Peasants into Frenchmen* deserves to be mentioned, since it considers the inner colonization of the French countryside in the period between 1871 and 1914 exclusively and positively from the point of view of the central power.

The general problematique of how to conceive the role of military service in a democracy has been posed chiefly by Torsten Holm<sup>2</sup> and Eliot Cohen<sup>3</sup> – but in a rather aporetical perspective<sup>4</sup> – from the point of view of the rational-choice theory of democracy by Margaret Levi,<sup>5</sup> from a military point of view by

Richard Challener<sup>6</sup> and Maurice Faivre,<sup>7</sup> and from the point of view of moral philosophy by Michael Walzer.<sup>8</sup> For a historical inquiry, however, these works may be regarded as not very helpful.

On the methodological level, the study *Le corps militaire* by the French sociologist Alain Ehrenberg is, by contrast, very useful, even if its topic is not military service as a institution in itself. The specific interest of Ehrenberg's work lies in the correlation he seeks to establish between military drill and democratic citizenship, thereby questioning the validity of traditional dichotomies such as autonomy and power, liberty and constraint, self-government and obedience. Democracy, according to Ehrenberg, sets up a particular type of political relationship that goes beyond traditional distinctions between those who command and those who obey and execute, in favour of a "tactic that aims at the power and the obedience of everybody".

The autonomy of the individual is not to be considered solely as an obstacle to the exercise of power, but at the same time as its "intermediary" (*relais*): Autonomy and its double wording (intermediary and obstacle) ought to be reinscribed into the mechanisms of power, into the practice of authority.

One should look for their common matrix and cease to perceive it from the angle of the figure of the Other, for it is not what is outside that would necessarily and objectively do harm to power, but a form of government of human beings, where human beings are incited to govern themselves. Neither disciplinary nor liberating by nature, it is an element in a system of relations.<sup>9</sup>

The essential historical work of the armies of the French Revolution remains Jean-Paul Bertaud's *La révolution armée*. Inspired by this fundamental work, Bertaud's followers, such as Annie Crépin,<sup>10</sup> Jean-Michel Lévy,<sup>11</sup> Pierre Jacquot,<sup>12</sup> or recently Bruno Ciotti,<sup>13</sup> have studied the revolutionary levies on a regional level more closely, providing an essential basis from which the perspective can eventually be geographically enlarged. Moreover, the factor of desertion may said to be well documented, mainly due to the works by Alan Forrest<sup>14</sup> and Frédéric Rousseau.<sup>15</sup> The German and the French Offices for Military History published both collective volumes on the history of conscription, giving a very large chronological overview on the topic. The French volume, edited by Maurice Vaïsse, contains foremost a contribution by Jean Delmas, who gives a useful summary of the French debates on compulsory military service and the lottery draft during the nineteenth century.<sup>16</sup>

Some recent publications deserve a closer discussion. Being not a scholarly historical study but rather an essay – relying exclusively on secondary literature – Michel Auvray's book *L'âge des casernes* analyses military service as being in historical continuity with much older obligations to the state, and its revolutionary origin nothing more than a "myth". Annie Crépin's book *La conscription en débat*, on the other hand, is essentially based on "macro-sources", such as parliamentary debates, proposals for laws, and newspaper articles. The same author has recently broadened the perspective with the publication of *Défendre la France*, which takes into account the reactions and attitudes of civil society towards military obligation, and *Histoire de la conscription* which sums up the author's work of many decades and widens the chronological horizon to the twentieth century. Crépin is the most accomplished expert on the matter in France and provides a very useful framework of the political debates of the period.

There are, however, also decisive shortcomings in her analyses, inasmuch as she remains firmly grounded in the tradition of French republican and "Jacobin" historiography and thus has a tendency to accept too readily the conceptual grounds of this tradition. With the methods of the historical anthropology, Odile Roynette has analysed the "experience of the barracks" in France at the end of the nineteenth century with an impressive mastery of source material and according to an interesting problematique, insisting on the conscripts' processes of adaptation to the social microcosms of the army and the impact of the institution to the shaping of national and gender attitudes.<sup>17</sup>

## Recruitment Practices of the Ancien Régime

At least since 1583 the right to raise troops has been codified as a royal prerogative.<sup>18</sup> The construction of a centralized state in France went hand in hand with the nationalization of the armed forces; private armies and the personal possession of weapons gradually disappeared, to the advantage of central power. In the case of eighteenth-century France, the institutional situation of recruitment was extremely complex; different and even contradictory practices coexisted over a long period. Three different stages of recruitment policy in pre-revolutionary France, however, can be roughly distinguished: (1) feudal recruitment, (2) "touting", and (3) militia incorporations and "national recruitment". However, chronological boundaries between these stages were by no means clear and are distinguished here only for the sake of clarity.

Despite the 1583 act, the king did not raise his troops directly. Characteristically, having first deprived the aristocracy of the right to keep troops, the central power delegated the raising of troops back to them.<sup>19</sup> The military administration chose the colonels – generally nobles – who were charged with raising and maintaining regiments. In principle, the central power thus did not provide regiments with soldiers; instead, enrolment was the task of the officers, who were virtually "proprietors" of their corps. Recruitment was thus a "private" contract between a soldier and an officer, relying on existing feudal bonds, which meant that soldiers generally came from among the officer's dependent peasantry. This kind of personal recruitment had certain advantages. The military hierarchy and social structure exactly reflect the social relations between local lords and their peasants. They knew each other and they were bound by a system of mutual obligations.

And, last but not least, the desertion rate was comparatively low with this kind of recruitment system.<sup>20</sup> However, this feudal recruitment also had certain limits. In times of war, in particular, it appeared to be impossible to significantly increase the strength of the army without other methods of enrolment.

Having exhausted the resources of personal recruitment, officers were forced to enlist soldiers they did not personally know and with whom they had no relation in civil society. This kind of recruitment is generally called "touting" (*racolage*). The difference between feudal recruitment and *racolage* can be summarized in the following way: in the case of feudal recruitment, the soldier was enlisted by an officer, whereas in the case of touting he was hired as a soldier. The procedure, however, was not different in form, since drafting was still the affair of the commander of the unit.

In contrast to the procedure of feudal recruitment, the officers usually touted outside their home towns or regions. In contrast to personal and feudal staffing, "touting" allowed enrolments to be increased considerably; this kind of practice, however, turned out to be problematic, too. The more difficulty the recruiters had in finding soldiers, the more they were forced to compete with each other, and the more they were tempted to use violence or tricks in order to find recruits.

There was, however, another military institution, one that truly came under the control of the central government: the Royal Militia. The militia had been established as a regular institution under the Marquis de Louvois, the minister of war, in November 1688. In reality, militia systems had existed since the Middle Ages under various labels; their principle was the mobilization of peasants under the command of the lord in wartime.<sup>21</sup> A militia system, in the traditional sense of the term, thus involved the duty to fight for the defence of the community in the case of danger; it did not involve, however, a regular military service. The feudal militia was disbanded as soon as a war was over. Moreover, a certain number of particular

militia institutions coexisted until the end of the eighteenth century. There were, in the first place, the *milices bourgeoises* formed by inhabitants of towns.

Their first purpose was to maintain public order, i.e. they were a municipal police force. Occasionally, however, they were used as auxiliaries for the regular army. By the end of the century, though, the burghers tended increasingly to pay a substitute instead of themselves serving in the militia; they were, however, opposed to any attempt to abolish the institution that they considered as the expression of the cities' political liberty. When the Royal Militia came into being in 1688, its organization differed considerably from these predecessors. First, it was raised in the name of the king and not by local lords. Secondly, it was conceived of as a kind of standing auxiliary army that gathered even in peacetime and was regularly employed in wars, and not only at particular critical moments. The Royal Militia was recruited by a conscription system, which was very unpopular. As a result of the opposition of public opinion, compulsory conscription in the militia was abolished in 1697, re-established in 1701, abolished once again in 1712, and then, in 1726, definitively institutionalized.<sup>22</sup>

Only a small proportion of those who were potentially subject to the militia were actually conscripted, and the choice of those who had to serve was obviously subject to serious quarrels. In most cases a lottery system was adopted, but large segments of society benefited from legal exemptions, both personal and statutory. Moreover, in the course of the eighteenth century the legislation on exemptions became increasingly complex. Service in the militia being not a personal, but a communal duty, it became normal to collect money in the parish before the lottery day; this was then handed over to the chosen militiaman.

This money was, on the one hand, a kind of compensation for serving the community and, on the other, a contribution to the costs of the uniform and equipment. The existence of this kind of practice induced the government to make this contribution obligatory.

Another development needs to be highlighted. Traditionally, the militia and the line army were strictly separate organizational institutions. From 1701, though, when military service in the militia was re-established, the government gradually changed its military policy towards assimilation between the militia and the line army. From then on, each militia battalion was attached to a regiment of the line army. The militia units were now labelled "second battalion" and designed to assist the "first battalion" in tactical matters. The militia thus increasingly became a recruitment pool for the regular army. With regard to the kind of recruitment, the difference between the "volunteer" recruitment of the line army and the "conscription" of the militia was eroded by the actual situation on the ground: militiamen and soldiers of the standing army were pressed. The line army was recruited to a great extent among conscripts, while the newly raised militia units consisted exclusively of "touted" volunteers. In this way, the dissimilarity between the conscripted militia corps as auxiliary military forces, on the one hand, and the regular army with volunteer recruitment, on the other, gradually faded away.<sup>23</sup> Simultaneously, the functions of the state's military administration increased, which meant that recruitment became directly governed by state authorities and not by relatively autonomous army officers.

The ultimate step towards a centralized system of military recruitment before the French Revolution can be dated to the ordinance of 10 December 1762 stating that "the king charges himself with recruiting". The basic characteristic of these "national" or "royal recruits" was that they were enlisted not for a particular unit, or by a particular officer, but as soldiers for the army in general. Centralized state apparatuses like the *intendances* of the provinces were charged with recruitment, and a refined system of bureaucratic control was set up in order to co-ordinate large-scale recruitment operations.

## The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Period

Confronted with these eighteenth-century developments, the innovations in matters of military recruitment in the early years of the French Revolution seem rather insignificant. From July 1789 the bourgeoisie had reorganized their own militia troops as the National Guard, partly in order to back the National Assembly in its struggle to impose its own political agenda against the monarchy, and partly in order to uphold domestic security.<sup>24</sup> This second role, however, was rather dubious, since National Guardsmen took part in popular uprisings and in looting.<sup>25</sup> In theory, only “active citizens” and sons of active citizens – that is, those who had a material interest in public affairs – should be allowed to be armed as members of the National Guard, but the practice was much less clear-cut.<sup>26</sup> In some regions, the Guard’s social composition was much less bourgeois than it should have been according to the legal dispositions.<sup>27</sup> In other cases, the legal dispositions were politically challenged by excluded social groups, such as the Parisian servants who in 1789 claimed a universal human right to serve in the National Guard<sup>28</sup> or the feminist Société des citoyennes républicaines révolutionnaires who addressed a petition to the National Assembly in 1792, demanding the creation of a “female national guard”.<sup>29</sup> In short, service in the National Guard was intimately linked to the question of civic rights and as such became a subject of political quarrel.

In December 1789, the National Assembly rejected a request made by republicans to establish a system of universal conscription. After a week of passionate debate the Assembly decreed, on 16 December 1789, that “French troops, of all kinds, other than National Guards and Militia, will be recruited by voluntary engagement.”<sup>30</sup> Conscription was rejected in favour of voluntary recruitment. The general structure of the regular army was to remain more or less the same: executive power over the army was in the hands of the king, military service was rejected, and the term of service lasted eight years with the possibility of extending that period. More particularly, the age limit for enlisting was fixed at sixteen. Furthermore, the actual procedure of recruitment was revised: recruiters were to work only in their home district so that they were under the control of their fellow citizens, which was supposed to prevent the notorious disorders of traditional recruitment. Another important point was the nationalization of the army: only Frenchmen were to be recruited into the French corps.<sup>31</sup>

This principle, however, did not include the foreign corps of the army, but French and foreign corps had to be separated. Finally, soldiers would lose their civic rights for the duration of the engagement.

The outcome of the debate was thus an attempt to make recruitment into the army morally acceptable, without changing its structure or the general patterns of staffing. The long term of service, the possibility of joining the army at the age of sixteen, the maintenance of foreign corps, and the loss of civic rights for soldiers explicitly kept the armed forces at a certain distance from civil society. The third estate, furthermore, did not try to destroy the supreme power of the king over the state and the army, and contented itself with the recognition of the National Guard as the expression and guarantee of bourgeois participation in political matters.

It was war, or the imminence of war, that brought about an evolution in the patterns of recruitment. After having tried in vain to enlist 100,000 volunteers into the regular army, the Assembly decided, in June 1791, to organize battalions of “national volunteers” from the members of the National Guard. The decree affirmed clearly that these measures were limited to the time in which “the situation of the state required extraordinary service”.<sup>32</sup>

Being such an extraordinary military force obviously meant that the forms of organization and military discipline had to differ considerably from those in use in the line army. In this respect the most important feature was certainly the question of officers. The way officers were chosen was the same as in the

National Guard: that is, soldiers had the right to elect their commanders. The government issued various calls for volunteers during the following years, and the whole culminated in the 1793 *levée en masse*, which has become a myth in French national historiography.<sup>33</sup> In theory each citizen was liable, but the exceptions were so numerous that the *levée en masse* by no means established general conscription.<sup>34</sup> Moreover, this civic call to the colours was clearly presented as an extraordinary event that was not meant to be translated into permanent institutional reality. The word “*levée*” has several meanings: it connoted the ideas of both “levy” and “uprising”. The recruitment of troops, which is one of the main prerogatives of central power, and revolt are put on the same level. The oxymoron both affirms and denies state power. The idea for a *levée en masse* occurred during the spring of 1793 in the highly politicized milieu of the Parisian *sans-culottes*,<sup>35</sup> and it was part of their plan for political terror.<sup>36</sup> Sébastien 32 “Décret relatif à une conscription libre de gardes nationales de bonne volonté dans la proportion de un sur vingt”, printed in Déprez, *Les volontaires nationaux (1791-1793)*, p. 101. 33 On the myth of the “national volunteers”, see Hippler, “Volunteers of the French Revolutionary Wars”.

Lacroix, one of the main ideologists of the *levée en masse*, recommended a vast political programme that involved stockpiling food in Paris, fixing prices for foodstuffs, monitoring public opinion, and co-ordinating a huge propaganda effort. This particular situation which would “decide the fate of the world” imposed a general mobilization of a very short duration: “eight days of enthusiasm may be more efficient for the fatherland than eight years of battle”.<sup>37</sup>

The idea of a *levée en masse* and the politics of terror were only reluctantly adopted by the Jacobin government under popular pressure, and the concrete measures taken differed considerably from the intentions of the promoters of the idea. Most importantly, the *levée en masse* was transformed into a requisition: instead of an anarchic seizure of sovereign power by insurrectionists, it was, on the contrary, the state that “seized” individuals for service in the army. In this respect, the mythical *levée en masse* actually prefigured some of the constitutive paradoxes of republican conscription.

Most of the “national volunteers” were very young men.<sup>38</sup> A majority of them came from urban areas.<sup>39</sup> In terms of their social origin, the petty and lower bourgeoisie were well represented, and artisans and journeymen were over-represented.<sup>40</sup> What actually happened during the following years was that the soldiers who were already enlisted were kept under the colours for many years, in most cases against their will. On the other hand, the turnover of the military personnel was particularly high in these years – in 1792, for instance, more than a third of the soldiers had served less than one year. Moreover, the emigration of officers, most of them nobles, enabled those who were left to make very quick career progression.<sup>41</sup> People from lower social origins could attain positions of command that had been almost exclusively reserved for nobles a couple of years earlier: the armies of the French Revolution and of the Napoleonic empire were thus a very powerful mechanism for upward mobility.

Nonetheless, in 1798, the needs of the war effort induced the government to issue a law on conscription.<sup>42</sup> According to the deputy – later Marshall – Jourdan who presented the proposal in parliament, the law aimed less at creating new political forms than at institutionalizing the experience of the Revolution.<sup>43</sup> The project, however, was also quite moderate and tried explicitly to avoid a militarization of society. There were thus two contradicting goals to be achieved: on the one hand, Jourdan advocated “universal service”, essentially because partiality would have had a negative impact on the social acceptability of military service; on the other, he strived to limit the burden of conscription by enlisting only the number of soldiers that was necessary for the army and not all available individuals.<sup>44</sup> The solution to this conundrum was found in the distinction between “conscription” and “military service”: conscription meant that the individual was registered as a potential conscript, but this did not imply that that all these conscripts had to do military service. “Many will be destined to serve, but in reality few will probably serve”, as Jourdan put it.<sup>45</sup> The criterion by which the soldiers were chosen from the mass of

conscripts was their age, which meant that the youngest of a class were enlisted first. The law, however, did not fix the length of service, and decisions about the discharge of soldiers were left to the government.

Unsurprisingly, opinions were divided about the conditions for exemptions and about the question of whether conscripts should be allowed to hire a substitute instead of doing military service personally. The 1798 law did not actually allow substitution, since the goal was that “the law penetrates the thatched cottages of the poor as well as the sumptuous palaces of opulence”.<sup>46</sup> This settlement, however, was discussed again two years later and substitution allowed. What is interesting about this discussion was the fact that similar arguments, which had been brought forward in 1798 to justify the act of conscription and the interdiction of substitution, now served as arguments *for* substitution. What is more, the adjustment of military duties to the needs of “arts, commerce, and agriculture” in Jourdan’s project was translated into a criticism of “those lovers of a chimerical equality” who wanted to “force all the members of a big nation strictly to do the same work”.<sup>47</sup> The “general interest” could serve as an argument not only for an equal obligation for everybody, but also for a differentiation of social tasks, that is, for the possibility for the rich to buy themselves out of the obligation by hiring a substitute. The privilege, however, was also justified as salutary for the poor: “the option of substitution will allow the poor to receive money”.<sup>48</sup> The legislative basis for French recruitment policy was rather elastic: on the one hand, military obligation was conceived as a consequence of citizenship, and the recruitment model can thus be described as conscription; on the other hand, the law could be interpreted as authorizing the forced recruitment of a selected number of individuals with the possibility given to the wealthy to buy themselves out.

The 1798 law was the legislative basis for the recruitment of Napoleon’s army. As regional studies have shown, the rates of desertion and refusal of military service (*insubordination*)<sup>49</sup> were extremely high: up to 90 per cent in many cases.<sup>50</sup> Socially, deserters and *insoumis* came mainly from rural regions, and were well integrated into society. Families and rural communities helped deserters and *insoumis* escaping from the military. It was easier to enforce conscription in urban areas, and in this respect the social pattern of staffing remained the same during the Revolution and the Napoleonic period. In order to fulfil the military needs, Napoleonic authorities set up specific military corps for searching the countryside and hunting deserters.

Moreover, many of the peace treaties during the period obliged Napoleon’s “allies” to contribute to the war effort of the empire. As a result, about a third of the soldiers in the Russian campaign were not French.<sup>51</sup> Finally, from 1808 onwards, “extraordinary levies” were organized in order to meet the enormous manpower needs of Napoleon’s campaigns. In the ten-year period 1804-1814, between 2,000,000 and 2,400,000 Frenchmen were enlisted by conscription,<sup>52</sup> and many of them died or were injured.<sup>53</sup> Among those enlisted, only about 52,000 were actual volunteers.<sup>54</sup> Unsurprisingly, the social impact of twenty-five years of revolutionary and imperial mass warfare was enormous.<sup>55</sup>

## **The Constitutional Monarchies and the Second Empire**

After Waterloo, and the massive desertions that had followed Napoleon’s ultimate defeat, King Louis XVIII disbanded the remainder of the army and on 3 August 1815 decreed the formation of one “legion” in each department.

Between 1814 and 1818 the recruits for the royal French army were exclusively volunteers, many of them in reality veterans of the old imperial army. The “Constitutional Charter” of the reformed French monarchy stipulated that “conscription is abolished”. A couple of years later, however, in 1818, a form of compulsory military service was re-established. The reason was that the military authorities failed to enlist more than

3,500 men a year, which was insufficient to meet manpower needs.<sup>56</sup> On the other hand, it was argued that the difficulty of finding recruits on the labour market was mainly due to the government's unwillingness to provide adequate funding.<sup>57</sup> Conscription was viewed as a cheap way of manning the army.

Amended in 1824 and in 1832, the 1818 legislation remained the basis of French recruitment policies until the Third Republic [1870].<sup>58</sup> Beyond the purely military concerns, the question of recruitment was linked to a whole series of uncertainties about the nature of the political regime, about political culture, and about the relationship of the re-established monarchy to the revolutionary past. This relationship to the past was particularly difficult in post-1815 France, and two quite different sets of memory politics confronted each other: an official effort to forget the Revolution and the empire (*unite et oublie*, "unity and forgetting", was the imprint on official papers) and a discourse of atonement, promoted by the "ultras" of the Restoration.<sup>59</sup>

The military in general and conscription in particular were universally viewed as cornerstones of the republic and of its continuity in Napoleon's empire.<sup>60</sup> According to a proposal by Laurent de Gouvion-Saint-Cyr, an annual contingent of 40,000 men would be raised by voluntary recruitment or, if not enough volunteers were forthcoming, by a draft operated through a lottery. The duration of active service being six years, the general strength of the army would be 240,000 men. These numbers, however, were only a maximum, which was subject to budgetary constraints; that is, the actual strength of the army and the annual levies could in reality be lower and the effective duration of service shorter. In 1824 the duration of active service was increased to eight years from six, which further contributed to the professionalization of the conscript system: after many years in the army many conscripts had no other professional choice than to "voluntarily" remain soldiers. In this sense, and in the eyes of many contemporaries, "conscription" was little more than a legal framework for forced enlistments into a professional army. Moreover, the system allowed the possibility of hiring a substitute, which was obviously a possibility offered to the wealthy to buy themselves out of the military obligation.

In terms of the social origins of the soldiers, the army of the Restoration comprised two rather different sections. The bulk of the soldiers were veterans of the Napoleonic army, in particular those who had lost any contact with their home communities. In contrast, those who were recruited after 1815 came to a very large extent from poor rural backgrounds. This led to quite an unusual ideological configuration: the political right and the liberal bourgeoisie were suspicious of the military, whereas those who were nostalgic about the Revolution and the empire upheld the image of France's past military glory. In contrast to the social habits of the *ancien régime*, the aristocracy of the Restoration and the July Monarchy was reluctant to follow military careers. According to the 1818 law and similar stipulations in 1832, two-thirds of the officers should have been recruited through the military colleges of Saint-Cyr and Metz. However, the number of those who passed the entrance exams of these colleges and who were able to pay for tuition and equipment was notoriously lower than the military needed. As a result of this, nearly two-thirds of officers were in reality non-commissioned officers and thus former rank-and-file.<sup>61</sup>

The army, in other words, still functioned to some extent as a mechanism of upward mobility during the first half of the nineteenth century.<sup>62</sup> However, in contrast to the revolutionary and Napoleonic periods, this upward mobility was extremely slow and of little attraction in financial terms. It usually took seven to eight years to get promoted from second lieutenant to lieutenant and the same amount of time to get promoted from lieutenant to captain. Most officers ended their military careers as captains after some twenty years as lieutenants. As a result of this, very few young bourgeois enlisted; instead they preferred careers in civil administration, in the liberal professions, or in business. During the mid nineteenth century non-commissioned officers earned between 75 centimes and 1 franc a day, whereas the average daily salary of industrial workers was about 2 francs, which was itself already notoriously insufficient. As for lieutenants, their salary was between 4.5 and 5.5 francs a day and their pension between 2 and 3.2

francs. In other words, the military held no attraction for the bourgeoisie, and salaries hardly allowed a man to ensure a decent life for his family. Moreover, the cultural image of the military was of little attraction.

The spirit of the time being understood as pacifistic and commercial, military life was depicted in contemporary literature as tedious waiting in some provincial garrison for a war that was never to come. Apart from colonial expansion after 1830, the main task for the military was actually domestic counter-insurgency. Given the social composition of the army, it was obviously necessary to prevent fraternization between soldiers and insurgents. From the point of view of recruitment, care was taken to enlist primarily in rural areas and to keep the urban working classes out of the army in order to maintain a cultural distinction between soldiers and potential insurgents. From the point of view of "military education" care was explicitly taken to separate the army from civil society: the geographical mobility of units was extremely high, and contacts with civil society were viewed with suspicious eyes and could seriously harm careers.

In terms of labour relations, the outcome of this pattern was twofold. On the one hand, the army increasingly became a social microcosm with its own rules and separated from the rest of society. On the other hand, solidarity and even a certain sense of equality developed within this closed microcosm. This was due to the facts that a majority of officers were former rank and file and that even those who came from bourgeois or noble backgrounds had somewhat lost their former social status. Differences in rank came thus foremost down to duration of service and the progressive incorporation of the values of military society. In this sense, the military was a self-reproducing system. It was, however, almost utterly incapable of attracting recruits and was thus in need of forced enlistments by the means of the lottery-draft. Another aspect needs to be highlighted: it was during the nineteenth century that a certain model of "officialdom" (*fonctionnariat*) became hegemonic and grew into one important aspect of military labour relations. In terms of careers the soldier was a model of what later became a "civil servant": as a state employee ideally he did not change his profession during his lifetime, and his relative comfort in retirement was guaranteed by a state pension. Careers, though slow, were stable and foreseeable; payment, though barely sufficient, was guaranteed.

In this sense, there was an important difference between the French army during the Revolution and the Napoleonic period on the one hand and after 1815 on the other. Revolutionary soldiers were considered to be lacking discipline but to be superior to the military of the *ancien régime* in terms of motivation. They embodied indiscipline and the animalistic force of the rabble but, at the same time, also a heroic sense of honour which stemmed from their quality as defenders of the fatherland. The key concept was "enthusiasm": revolutionary soldiers had a goal to identify with, whereas soldiers of the *ancien régime* were considered to be indifferent about the outcome of the fight. Some of these characteristics continued to exist during the Napoleonic period, and ego-documents from foreign soldiers under Napoleon suggest that the relations between officers and rank and file were perceived as much better than they were in other armies of the time.<sup>63</sup> Moreover, Napoleon inherited one of the basic features of revolutionary warfare, which is the logistical principle that the army live off the countryside.<sup>64</sup> In many cases this in practice meant looting, but also the possibility for the soldiers to supplement their pay. According to the cultural imagination of the time, the French soldier of the revolutionary and Napoleonic period was the mirror of "the people": undisciplined, violent, and uncultured, but also passionate, even enthusiastic, and, above all, of impressive strength. Rarely wearing proper uniforms, Napoleon's armies were viewed by his adversaries as hordes of rabble, and by his followers as the emanation of the heroic strength of the nation. The post-1815 army was the perfect antithesis of this image. Pedantic discipline, subordination, patient military labour, and slow careers were the distinctive features of the new army after Napoleon. The *Diary* of Marshall Boniface de Castellane is perhaps the most explicit source for this return to an

older “military spirit”: “a soldier should not even think about the possibility to act otherwise than he is ordered to”.<sup>65</sup>

The European revolutions of 1848 were an essential turning point with regard to the cultural representation of soldiers in France. Around 1848 the military was progressively assimilated to the maintenance of social order, rather than with revolutionary uprising. This is obviously linked to the role of the military in crushing insurrections and revolts all over Europe. A complete reversal of the cultural and political significance of the military was the result of this. The military became progressively part of the defence of social order, of civilization, and of religion, and the miseries of military life were now glorified as the necessary renouncement of worldly pleasures. The military, in short, was depicted as disciplined, invigorated, and healthy, and was thus the perfect antithesis of the corrupt urban and working-class life: *Ce qu’il y a de plus grand, de plus beau, de plus digne d’admiration dans nos sociétés modernes, c’est certainement le paysan transformé par la loi en soldat d’infanterie. Pauvre, il protégé la richesse; ignorant, il protège la science. [...] Ce soldat est l’expression la plus complète, la plus noble, la plus pure de la civilisation créée par le christianisme, car il met en pratique la pensée chrétienne: le sacrifice.*<sup>66</sup>

This renewed image of the military came to a peak under Napoleon III. Attempts were made under the Second Empire to get closer to a “real” conscription, as had been realized, according to many French observers, in Prussia. Napoleon III actually adhered very closely to the Prussian recruitment system. In a series of articles he had written for the newspaper *Progrès du Pas-de-Calais* in 1843 – thus before coming to power – he had called for the abolition of substitution and the organization of a strong military reserve. According to him, “the Prussian organization is the only one which is adapted for our democratic nature, for our egalitarian habits”. In Prussia, Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte went on, the whole nation was armed for defence, whereas in France “only the bourgeoisie is armed for the defence of private interests”.<sup>67</sup> When he became emperor his rhetoric became less democratic, but he still admired the Prussian way of identifying the citizen and the soldier. What was even more important, however, was the fact that the Prussian system promised a decisive increase in numbers in the French army, especially by the means of the formation of a strong reserve which could be incorporated in times of war. The project of the new conscription law was published by the emperor himself in a notice that appeared in *Le moniteur universel* on 12 December 1866. However, Napoleon’s nephew faced serious resistance, both from the officers for whom the “quality” of “military spirit” – which needed long years of military education to be acquired – mattered more than the quantity of conscripts. The attitude of the republican party towards conscription was ambiguous: on the one hand, they strongly approved of the idea of a universal military service; on the other, they were against the regime, and the law was not radical enough in their view.<sup>68</sup> In this political situation, the emperor did not succeed in imposing his will: the law of 4 February 1868 was significantly modified by the *Corps Législatif*, and its main achievement was to forbid private contracts of substitution in favour of a procedure of replacement according to which, instead of hiring substitute, the wealthy could directly buy themselves out.<sup>69</sup>

### **The Third Republic**

The period following the French defeat in 1870-1871 was characterized by what French historiography has termed the “German crisis in French thought”.<sup>70</sup> The defeat was attributed to a feeling of lack of attachment on the part of individuals to the fate of the nation and the state, and relief was sought by a partial adaptation of German models. This concerned, most importantly but not exclusively, the patterns of military recruitment. The new recruitment law, issued on 27 July 1872, was a compromise between quite different, and indeed even antagonistic, political expectations.

Professional soldiers highlighted, on the one hand, the need to instill a “military spirit” which necessitated long years of habits of subordination and obedience, and on the other, the need to train a large number of conscripts to be incorporated in time of war. However, the most important change concerned the attitude of the political right towards compulsory military service. Conservatives invoked the role of the military in 1848 and, more recently, during the Paris Commune of 1871, when the army had saved “civilisation”: “nous nous demandons si ce n’est pas là l’école où il faut envoyer ceux qui paraissent l’avoir oublié, apprendre comment on sert et comment on aime son pays. Que tous nos enfants y aillent donc et que le service obligatoire soit la grande école des générations futures.”<sup>71</sup>

On the political left, compulsory military service was traditionally linked to the republican heritage. If the army had been instrumental in crushing uprisings and revolutions, this was due, according to the republicans, to the fact that the army was not recruited through universal conscription and that it had been maintained at a distance from civil society.

In 1872, the lottery system was maintained and those with “bad numbers” were obliged to serve five years on active service, and another four years in the reserve, whereas those holding “good numbers” received a basic military training of only a year. The goal was to provide military training for every male, and a proper military education – the development of the specifically military virtues – for a minority. This law, however, was inspired by the idea of the obligation of personal and universal service. Beyond the military necessity of this form of recruitment, the topic of the educational function of military service was stressed very much to justify universal military service. Military service as an educational project was actually a programme that had been developed since the Restoration. According to Captain Louis Pagézy de Bourdéliac, time under the colours could most usefully be spend by providing an intellectual and moral education for the soldiers: reading and writing, but also patriotism, honesty, and a cult of honour should be on the military agenda.<sup>72</sup> Towards the end of the Second Empire, General Louis-Jules Trochu had argued for a military service of short duration: this kind of conscription has “le triple effet de donner du ressort à l’armée, de moraliser la population, de faire pénétrer les habitudes et l’esprit militaires dans le corps social tout entire”.<sup>73</sup> If this kind of thinking was marginal before 1870, it became hegemonic after the Franco-Prussian War and it obviously affected labour relations within the military.

The growing influence of republican positions in French political life after 1871 could not but have an impact on the subsequent legislation, and the 1889 law may be considered an institutionalization of the republican conception of military service and of the relationship between the individual and the state. It also remains true, however, that a genuinely equal obligation of the individual to the state never existed, not even after the 1905 legislation, which revoked the exceptions granted to certain categories, such as priests, thus establishing a theoretical equality of service. In practice, however, the well-educated sons of the bourgeoisie still benefited from certain advantages in terms of employment, career prospects, and even the duration of actual service. France adopted the Prussian model of the “one-year volunteers” (*Einjährig-Freiwillige*) which permitted the educated classes to be discharged after a single year of service and to be promoted as officers in the reserve.<sup>74</sup> Later on, holders of university degrees could be employed entirely in civilian duties while being in theory members of the army.

On the social level, the changing pattern of recruitment had enormous consequences. First of all, there is a tendency towards the “gentrification” of the military profession. This movement started under the Second Empire but accelerated with the advent of the Third Republic. The proportion of those who were made officers after having attended military colleges rose significantly in contrast to the promotion of non-commissioned officers and thus the former rank and file. The social origin of those alumni of military colleges was predominantly the mid-level bourgeoisie, but there are also, along with sons of the petty bourgeoisie and of low-ranking civil servants, young men of noble descent and those stemming from the higher bourgeoisie. Moreover, the only way for non-commissioned officers to become officers was to be

admitted to a staff college. These measures were intended to raise the level of education of military personnel, but they had also the side effect of considerably altering the social composition of the army. Among the professional cadres two distinct classes emerge: on the one hand the high-ranking officers, usually from higher social origins, who rapidly became officers after graduating from military colleges; on the other hand, non-commissioned officers and low-ranking officers, usually from lower social origins. Military hierarchies, in other words, now mirrored the hierarchies in civil society and the army lost its role as a mechanism of upward mobility.

Labour relations within the army were also altered by the educational role of the military. Before the Third Republic officers and the rank and file largely shared a common background of social origin and manners.

From the last third of the nineteenth century onwards, officers and non-commissioned officers were charged with morally and intellectually “improving” the recruits. The latter were no longer part of the same “family”, since their presence under the colours was of limited duration. The more egalitarian recruitment of universal conscription thus had the paradoxical consequence that social relations within the army became less egalitarian on all levels. During the first years of the republic, religious instruction was a pivotal part of the moralizing mission. Moreover, the army was charged with eradicating bad behaviour such as alcoholism – only, however, among the rank and file and not among professional cadres.<sup>75</sup> The army being charged with delivering basic instruction to all recruits, the social inequalities became even more accentuated. Upon arrival, the recruits had to pass exams in reading, writing, and basic mathematics. The results of these exams were important in the future differentiation of labour within the military. The fact that those who held degrees could be discharged after a shorter period of actual service created a somewhat paradoxical situation: in contrast to those who benefited from a shorter term of service, very few among the regular conscripts fulfilled the necessary conditions and had the requisite skills to be promoted to the rank of non-commissioned officer. The non-commissioned officers’ proverbial stupidity was a result of this situation. However, the social hierarchies were also perceptible on other levels. There is some evidence that recruits from higher social origins were less subject to the physical violence which was often part of the rites of passage in the army.<sup>76</sup>

## **Variables and Taxonomies**

This short overview of the evolution of recruitment policies leads to the striking conclusion that the evolution of military recruitment over the “very long nineteenth century” should above all be read in terms of different approaches to state construction and nation-building and that the changes from one pattern of recruitment to others were but consequences of the overall political and cultural processes. There was a slow shift away from a military obligation in the name of the community towards its encoding as an obligation to the nation-state, that is, military duties as a civic obligation.

This shift in scale was accompanied by a change in meaning of the military obligation in general and of conscription in particular. In this sense, the four basic variables of the general taxonomy of the project (payment, duration, legal constraints, and cultural factors) were constantly under debate during the period.

The general outcome of the evolution of French recruitment practices from the late eighteenth until the end of the nineteenth century is the declining importance of payment. Traditionally soldiers received a quite significant amount of money when signing the recruitment contract (*prime d’engagement*). Once they were soldiers, their normal pay was notoriously too low to enable them to live a decent life.

Originally, the “proprietor” of the regiment had to pay this money but, as pointed out earlier, there was a tendency in the eighteenth-century militia system to transform this into a pecuniary contribution by the recruit’s home community. This means on the one hand that military obligations were conceived of as the local community’s duty; on the other hand, this practice implied that the patterns of manning both the militia and the regular army became those of a “professional” army, which implies military service for payment. There is, however, a double difficulty. The first difficulty lies in the fact that staffing was both “professional” and a communal duty, inasmuch as each parish had to furnish a certain number of recruits. The second difficulty lies in the fact that the *prime d’engagement* was given only once and, by accepting this money, the future soldier had, so to speak, “sold himself”. Enlightenment critics thus denounced “military slavery” and called for a system in which citizens “freely” defended their fatherland. This debate continued for virtually the whole nineteenth century. Against the government’s argument that it was impossible to find enough volunteers, the adversaries of conscription regularly replied that this was mainly due to the authorities’ unwillingness to grant *primes d’engagement* that were substantial enough to attract people to the army. Conscription, in this sense, was clearly a means of saving public money.

During the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period, payment does not seem to have played a predominant role in enlistment. The older practices of communities collecting money for their recruits continued to exist for a while; however, this served more as compensation for the financial losses that the soldier would face compared to what he could have earned in other employment. However, the government’s unwillingness to provide adequate funding was partly compensated for by an ideological justification of the extended military obligations. As pointed out, the poor payment was probably the main reason why the restored monarchy decided to re-establish a selective draft on the basis of a lottery system in 1818.

In any event, during the whole period, payment was never sufficient to attract the necessary number of recruits. On the contrary, there is a very clear trend towards a delegitimization of military labour for payment.

Apart from the financial aspect of the matter, payment was considered as intrinsically immoral. The only morally legitimate motivation for fighting was the attachment to the nation and the fatherland.

The question of the duration of service is handled quite differently in periods of war and in periods of peace. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Empire were characterized by nearly permanent war, and soldiers were not normally released during wartime. This meant that desertion was the only way to quit the service, and the desertion rate was actually extremely high.<sup>77</sup> In reality, the legal duration of service thus became an issue only with the Restoration, and the early nineteenth century saw a return to the pre-revolutionary practices, that is, a long term of service of six to eight years. In both cases, the debate essentially focused on the question of “military spirit”. Professional officers and conservatives argued that long years of service – and ideally enlistment at a very young age – were needed to instill a “cult of subordination” and military discipline. Republicans, on the other hand, argued that the necessary military training could be achieved in a very short time. The example of the armies of the French Revolution has proven that a quite effective military could be trained very quickly. It was not the technical skills that took time to develop but rather the personal dispositions of a disciplined soldier who was used to obeying.

Revolutionaries and republicans were opposed to a long term of service, precisely because they contested the necessity of a “military spirit”. On the contrary, what was needed, according to them, was a “civic spirit” which included a sense of military duty, but which was not opposed to the values of civil society. It was thus necessary to ensure a high turnover of personnel and thus to limit the time of service to a strict minimum. In the words of French republicanism, this was a “national army”, i.e. an army that

was an emanation of the nation, i.e. of civil society. However, a limited term of service led to some paradoxes of the cadre/conscript system in which professional soldiers with lifelong military careers commanded short-term recruits and in which the military culture was essentially defined by professionals. In short, conscription led to the militarization of society rather than to the socialization of the military.

As to legal constraints, they seem to be subordinated to financial considerations, to social change, or, more importantly, to changes in political culture. The most important feature in this respect seems to be the changing understanding of nation and nationality. Matters of ethnicity were for the most part debated as matters of nationality, and we need to pay attention to the shifting meaning of the term “nation” during these years. During the eighteenth century, the term could be employed in the sense of “civil society” or even as a synonym for the third estate, as in Abbé Sieyès’s famous 1789 pamphlet *Que’est-ce que tiers-état?* The answer to this question is well known: the third estate is of right the “nation”, and this latter is defined as the part of the population that does useful work and that produces wealth.

In contrast to many other European languages, the English language has kept this meaning. Famous examples are Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations*, in which “nation” designates something that we would probably term “society” today. In Disraeli’s *Sybil or the Two Nations*, or in the “One-Nation Tory” movement during the 1980s, the “nation” designates one part of the population within a given territory, and indeed within a constituted nation state.

The French language lost these meanings almost completely during the nineteenth century. During the Revolution, however, concepts such as the nation and *la patrie* (and similar notions like patriot, patriotic, etc.) had a clear social and political background, rather than a “nationalistic” understanding in the modern sense.

A clear illustration of this can be found in the military realm: foreign corps – and most famously the Swiss – were assimilated to “satellites of despotism”, i.e. to adversaries of the cause of the nation in both senses of the term. Foreign units were foreign to the nation in the sense that they were not a part of the revolutionary community, and also in the sense that they did not belong to the French community of descent. The consequence of this, however, was not the disbanding of foreign corps but an institutional separation between units of French nationals and of foreigners. The same logic was employed during the Napoleonic campaigns, when France’s allies had to furnish large contingents of the *Grande Armée*, and with the founding of the Foreign Legion in 1831. The tension remained palpable, and the nation however undefined, became the ultimate source of legitimacy. In the case of the foreign units in Napoleon’s army, it can be argued that their presence underpinned an ideological orientation of the First Empire, that is, the idea of a European federation under French leadership. In the case of the Foreign Legion it is certainly not by coincidence that the reward for long years of service for France consisted of the naturalization of the legionnaires, that is, to their becoming French nationals.

The most important issue, however, is certainly the renegotiation of the meaning of *liberté*. The French language does not distinguish between freedom and liberty, and both issues were discussed under the term of *liberté*. *Liberté* has indeed become a *Grundbegriff* in the sense of Reinhart Koselleck’s conceptual history, that is, a concept that all parties were obliged to use in order to defend legitimate social claims. But the meaning of the concept was constantly under debate. Enlightenment criticism of military obligation regularly used the term “military slavery” to denounce militia obligations or peasant conscription. The military obligation was thus criticized in the name of liberty.

A conceptual reversal occurred with the French Revolution. Regarding conscription, it was striking that both its supporters and its opponents underpinned their claims with references to liberty. The conceptual quarrel is clearly displayed by the words of the Count of Liancourt who declared, during the 1789 debate

on conscription, that he was “astonished to see that liberty is invoked to support the hardest and the broadest of slavery”, adding that “it would be a hundred times better to live in Constantinople or in Morocco than in a country in which laws of this kind are in force”.<sup>78</sup> And indeed, the task was obviously easier for the adversaries of conscription, since they could argue that liberty implied that people ought not to be forced into the military against their will. The promoters of conscription had thus to redefine the concept according to their needs: they held that liberty was not so much a personal as a political matter, closely linked to the existence of the “public force”; that is, to a strong state, liberty “is a chimera if the stronger one can with impunity oppress the weaker one”.<sup>79</sup> No real liberty was conceivable if not in a republic, and the absence of state power equaled the oppression of the weaker one by the stronger one and was therefore understood as “slavery”. The real issue was thus access to civic rights, and a whole republican tradition had linked civic rights to military obligations.

Modern conscription is unthinkable without this ideological link. The debate over the link between liberty, freedom, and citizenship on the one hand and military obligations on the other went on under the Restoration.

At the moment when the 1818 military legislation was discussed, this link became particularly problematic.<sup>80</sup> The reason for this was that it was difficult to separate the meaning of these concepts from their revolutionary legacy. The defenders of limited conscription underpinned their claims with a reference to citizenship: it was the duty of each citizen to defend their polity. Conservative critics made use of the same arguments as in 1789: Bonald, for instance, depicted conscription as “a law that confiscates my personal liberty prior to any misdemeanour”.<sup>81</sup> Liberals, on the other hand, made use of the reference to liberty to argue for the possibility for the wealthy to buy themselves out of the obligation. Military obligations, according to them, were comparable to financial contributions, that is, to paying tax. Each one should thus have the possibility to contribute to the safety of the state in either financial terms or by means of personal service.

This parallel between taxes and military service was quite clearly expressed in the popular name given to conscription: *l'impôt du sang*, blood tax.

On the other hand, this possibility to buy oneself out of the obligation was denounced by both conservatives and republicans as illegitimate commodification. The conservative deputy Cardonnel thus depicted in 1818 the image of “the French youth becoming a commodity [...] object of a humiliating traffic and a shameful trading and sordid interest and infamous cupidity triumphing over all feelings and over all laws of nature”.<sup>82</sup> The interplay between the developing capitalist structures of the economy and the possibility of replacement led to insurance companies being set up against the risk of the draft; they became a flourishing business during the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century.<sup>83</sup> During the Second Empire, “substitution” superseded “replacement”, the difference being that the buying-out was no longer a private transaction since drafted soldiers could pay a certain amount of money directly to the state in order to be exempted. The main argument advanced for substitution was that it was a more “moral” procedure than replacement.<sup>84</sup> As pointed out above, financial aspects were dubious *per se*, and they were even more so if they took place in the capitalistic civil society, whereas a mediation by the state conferred some legitimacy on the buy-out. The reason for this is certainly to be looked for in the fact that the state is as such the sphere of the common interest, in contrast to the private interests that confront each other savagely in a market economy.

The above discussion of the key concepts in which military obligations were historically understood and thus culturally and politically constructed as legitimate obligations made clear that taxonomies are always and of necessity a fragile endeavour. Taxonomies always run the risk of an a historic – and thus in the last instance teleological – understanding of the historical material. The only way to escape from this

seems to be to historicize the terms of the taxonomy itself. The above discussion of the uncertainties about the concept of *liberté* is part of this endeavour to historicize the key concepts.

As to the catalysts of change, it appears that the experience of revolutionary war was of crucial yet only temporary importance. Contemporary military observers were surprised or shocked by the “regressive” nature of the tactics of armies of the French Revolution, which differed from the very sophisticated tactics of traditional eighteenth-century armies. The same holds true for weaponry, since the most striking fact for foreign militaries was that the French used the long-superseded pike. The basic lesson that foreign observers learnt from this experience was that the motivation of the soldiers was of crucial importance for military success. As a first step, this lesson was conceptualized in terms of “enthusiasm” and in a second step in terms of the legitimizing force of nationalisms.

In this respect, the most important operator of change is certainly to be found in the realm of political representations and ideologies, that is, in the now overwhelming importance of the nation as a source of legitimacy. And the uncertainties in terms of military recruitment that are characteristic for important periods of nineteenth-century French history can without too much difficulty be linked to the uncertain nature of the post-revolutionary nation.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the French Revolution in terms of military policy was the defeudalization of the French army. Backed by republican ideology and by social turnover in the positions of command in the army, the state succeeded in establishing its supremacy on a permanent basis. It was only under the Third Republic that nobles sought military employment *en masse*, however, not without submitting to republican, and thus ultimately bourgeois, modes of selection. Economic and financial factors played a paradoxical role. As pointed out above, financial considerations were certainly one of the main motivations for the restored monarchy not to reintroduce the form of military recruitment that its ideologists considered fit for a constitutional monarchy, that is, a strictly voluntary recruitment. On the other hand, in many cases financial considerations also prevented conscription from becoming truly universal, for the simple reason that the overall strength of the army was subordinated to financial constraints and not to the amount of the potentially available manpower.

The most general conclusion about French recruitment policies concerns, without any doubt, the ideological link that was established between military obligations and citizenship. However, the theoretical principle that each citizen ought to be a defender of the fatherland was never universally applied, not even during the French Revolution or under the Third Republic.

One had always to cope with financial constraints on the one hand, and with social acceptance – especially by the upper classes – on the other. This is why the boundary between conscripted soldiers and pressed soldiers is sometimes difficult to draw. This point becomes particularly visible under the constitutional monarchies and the Second Empire, when only a very small proportion of the potential conscripts were actually enlisted.

## Sources:

- 1 Hippler, *Citizens, Soldiers, and National Armies*, p. 6.
- 2 Holm, *Allgemeine Wehrpflicht*.
- 3 Cohen, *Citizens and Soldiers*.
- 4 Cohen’s expression may be considered as symptomatic for this interpretative dilemma: if “military service touches the very essence of a polity” this is because it “incorporates some of a liberal-democratic society’s most precious values and some values utterly repugnant to it”: *ibid.*, pp. 33 and 35.
- 5 Levi, *Consent, Dissent, and Patriotism*.
- 6 Challener, *The French Theory of the Nation in Arms*.

- 7 Faivre, *Les nations armées*.
- 8 Walzer, *Obligations*, esp. "The Obligation to Die for the State", pp. 77-98.
- 9 Ehrenberg, *Le corps militaire*, p. 173.
- 10 Crépin, "Levées d'hommes et esprit public en Seine-et-Marne".
- 11 Lévy, "La formation de la première armée de la Révolution française".
- 12 Jacquot, "Les Bataillons de volontaires en Haute-Marne".
- 13 Ciotti, *Du volontaire au conscrit*.
- 14 Forrest, *Conscripts and Deserters*.
- 15 Rousseau, *Service militaire au XIXe siècle*.
- 16 Delmas, "L'armée française au XIXe siècle".
- 17 Roynette, "Bons pour le Service".
- 18 The following paragraphs rely mainly on *ibid.* pp. 13-27 and 46-76.
- 19 See André, Michel *Le Tellier et l'organisation de l'armée monarchique*.
- 20 Corvisier, *L'armée française de la fin du XVIIIe siècle au ministère de Choiseul*, I, p. 736.
- 21 Corvisier, *Armées et sociétés en Europe*, pp. 36-57.
- 22 Gébelin, *Histoire des milices provinciales (1688-1791)*.
- 23 Corvisier, *L'armée française de la fin du XVIIIe siècle au ministère de Choiseul*, I, p. 247.
- 24 Soboul, *La Révolution française*, p. 152.
- 25 Devenne, "La garde nationale", p. 49.
- 26 Arches, "Aspects sociaux de quelques gardes nationales", pp. 255-266.
- 27 For a detailed regional analyses see the contributions in the third part (pp. 267-409) of Bianchi and Dupuy (eds), *La Garde nationale entre nation et peuple en armes*.
- 28 *Pétition des Personnes en état de Domesticité du District de l'Isle-Saint-Louis à messieurs les Représentans de la Commune*, Paris, 1789. See also Genty, "Controverses autour de la garde nationale parisienne", p. 65.29 Léon, *Adresse individuelle à l'Assemblée nationale*. See also Godineau, *Citoyennes Tricoteuses*, p. 119.
- 30 *Le Moniteur* no. 116, vol. 2, p. 400.
- 31 Bouthillier, *Rapport sur le recrutement, les engagements, les rengagements et les congés*, pp. 10-15.
- 32 "Décret relatif à une conscription libre de gardes nationales de bonne volonté dans la proportion de un sur vingt", printed in Déprez, *Les volontaires nationaux (1791-1793)*, p. 101.
- 33 On the myth of the "national volunteers", see Hippler, "Volunteers of the French Revolutionary Wars".
- 34 Auvray, *L'âge des casernes*, p. 42, and Jean-Paul Bertaud, *La révolution armée*, p. 100.
- 35 Soboul, *Les sans-culottes parisiens en l'an II*, p. 110.
- 36 Guérin, *La lutte de classes sous la Première République*.
- 37 Lacroix, *Pas un moment à perdre*, pp. 12-13.
- 38 In their ranks, 79 per cent were younger than twenty-five. In the Ain department, 249 of 544 soldiers raised in 1791 were younger than twenty (Lévy, "La formation de la première armée de la Révolution française", p. 115).
- 39 Jacquot, "Les Bataillons de volontaires" pp. 84-94.
- 40 Bertaud, *La révolution armée*, pp. 67-68.
- 41 *Ibid.*, p. 77.
- 42 On the 1798 legislation, see Crépin, *La conscription en débat*, pp. 24-30.
- 43 See Laveaux, *Rapport fait par Et. Laveaux*, p. 12.
- 44 Jourdan, *Rapport fait par Jourdan*, p. 4.
- 45 *Ibid.*, p. 6.
- 46 Porte, *Opinion de Porte sur le projet de résolution*, p. 8.
- 47 Jaucourt, *Opinion de Jaucourt Sur le projet de loi*, p. 3.
- 48 Delpierre, *Opinion de Delpierre (jeune)*, p. 4.
- 49 Deserters are those who, after becoming soldiers, leave the army without permission, whereas *insoumis* means those who refuse enlistment altogether.
- 50 See Rousseau, *Service militaire au XIXe siècle*.
- 51 On German soldiers in Napoleon's army, see Hippler, "Les soldats allemands dans l'arméenaapoléonienne d'après leurs autobiographies".
- 52 Girardet, *La société militaire de 1815 à nos jours*, p. 19. See also Smets, "Von der 'Dorfidylle' zur preußischen Nation", p. 717. Quantitative aspects of the social impact of conscription can be found in the "Compte general de la conscription" by Antoine-Audet Hargenvilliers, published in Vallée, *La conscription dans le département de la Charente (1798-1807)*. More recent scholarship has shown that the figures given by Hargenvilliers are sometimes flawed; see Rousseau, *Service militaire au XIXe siècle*, and Dufraisse, *Napoléon*, p. 69.
- 53 See Houdaille, "Le problème des pertes de guerre".
- 54 Girardet, *La société militaire*, p. 20.
- 55 On the social impact during the nineteenth century see Petiteau, *Lendemains d'Empire*.
- 56 Monteilhet, *Les institutions militaires de la France*, p. 5.
- 57 Vidalenc, "Engagés et conscrits sous la Restauration 1814-1830", p. 240. See also Vidalenc, "Les engagements volontaires dans l'armée de la Restauration".

- 58 Porch, "The French Army Law of 1832".
- 59 See Elster, *Closing the Books*, pp. 24-47.
- 60 See Hippler, "Conscription in the French Restoration".
- 61 Serman, *Les Officiers français dans la nation*.
- 62 The following relies on Girardet, *La société militaire*, pp. 13-63.
- 63 Schehl, *Mit der großen Armee 1812 von Krefeld nach Moskau*, p. 35.
- 64 See Blanning, *The French Revolutionary Wars, 1787-1802*, and Lynn, *The Bayonets of the Republic*.
- 65 Cited by Girardet, *La société militaire*, p. 75.
- 66 *Ibid.*, p. 31.
- 67 Napoléon III, *Projet de loi sur le recrutement de l'armée*, p. 23.
- 68 See Casevitz, *Une loi manquée*.
- 69 See Schnapper, *Le remplacement militaire en France*.
- 70 Digeon, *La crise allemande de la pensée française*.
- 71 Cited by Girard, *La société militaire*, p. 122.
- 72 Pagézy de Bourdéliac, *De l'emploi des loisirs du soldat français en temps de paix*, and Anonymous, *Essai sur l'état militaire en 1825*.
- 73 Trochu, *L'armée française en 1867*, p. 278.
- 74 See Frevert, *Die kasernierte Nation*, esp. "Bürgerliche Arrangements: Einjährige und Reserveoffiziere".
- 75 Roynette, "Bons pour le Service", pp. 93-106.
- 76 *Ibid.*, p. 269.
- 77 See Forrest, *Conscripts and Deserters*.
- 78 Liancourt, *Opinion sur le mode de recrutement pour l'armée*, p. 7.
- 79 Dubois-Crancé, *Discours sur la force publique*, p. 8.
- 80 For the following, see Hippler, "Conscription in the French Restoration".
- 81 Bonald, *Opinion de M. de Bonald, député de l'Aveyron*, p. 4.
- 82 Cardonnel, *Opinion de M. le président de Cardonnel, député du Tarn*, p. 10.
- 83 See Schnapper, *Le remplacement militaire en France*.
- 84 Auvray, *L'âge des casernes*, p. 91.

## APPENDIX C

- Looking for Army Personnel Since the Revolution
- Looking for Army Personnel in the Ancien Régime

## LOOKING FOR ARMY PERSONNEL SINCE THE REVOLUTION

### Minister of the Armies : Defense Historical Service

<https://www.servicehistorique.sga.defense.gouv.fr/guides-aide/je-recherche-un-personnel-de-larmee-de-terre-depuis-la-revolution-dossiers-individuels>

The checks, individual files or personnel numbers of the army of the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are kept, depending on their nature or their seniority, by the departmental archives services or the historical defense service on the Châtelleraut, Pau and Vincennes sites.

To facilitate your research, try to gather as much information as possible (year of birth, rank, regiment, date of incorporation, date of end of service, domicile at the time of recruitment).

### **Non-Commissioned Officers and Privates**

With regard to non-commissioned soldiers and non-commissioned officers, the use of military recruitment archives, kept either by the departmental archives or by the military personnel archives center of the SHD in Pau, constitutes an essential starting point.

### **Recruitment Archives**

Since the beginning of the 19th century, every male Frenchman has been registered on at least one census table, and, if he has enlisted or been mobilized, on other registers. For conscripts, enlisted men and non-commissioned officers, these tables, registers and individual files are kept, according to the date of birth of the individuals, in the R series of the departmental archives or in the SHD, located in Pau. Depending on the period, the historian will find more or less rich information there.

### **Collections Kept in Pau**

The military personnel archives center, located in Pau, keeps the files of non-commissioned soldiers and non-commissioned officers until the 92nd anniversary of the date of birth of the latter, when they are transferred to the departmental archives service. of the place of recruitment.

After 1945, individual files ceased to be bound in register numbers, while their composition grew richer. The main document in each file is the "nominative control sheet", or FNC, which includes the information formerly entered in the matriculation registers: detailed civil status of the person concerned, status of services and transfers (dates of incorporation and end of enlistment, dates of passage in the various units, campaigns completed), status of citations, decorations and wounds possibly received. Depending on the era and the individual, the FNC also contains information relating to the description of individuals, their level of education, their successive professions, their criminal history.

At the FNC, summary drawn up *a posteriori* of the individual's military activity, supporting documents are often attached. The most important of these are the "registration booklet" and the medical documents. The service record provides information relating to the periods of service and the behavior of the person concerned. It is divided into several parts: civil status and description, military services, instruction and miscellaneous knowledge, military instruction, marks obtained during service, professional instruction, medical information. The medical part of the file is of variable importance. There is generally a medical booklet, a certificate of fitness for service and various certificates. If necessary, there are also hospital or infirmary admission slips, analysis reports, operations or treatment, etc. To these main documents are sometimes added, depending on the individual, score sheets, punishment statements, documents relating to the marriage (request for authorization from the commanding officer, requests for information on those concerned), individual statements of aerial or underwater services, training certificates, etc.

## **Departmental archives (R series)**

The R series of departmental archives contains all documents relating to military affairs and wartime organizations between 1800 and 1940.

Files dealing with military recruitment are among the most numerous and are also the most useful for family history.

After the failure of the volunteer systems set up at the start of the Revolution, the Jourdan law of 19 Fructidor Year VI (September 5, 1798) created conscription; this affects all French people aged 20 to 25, but only the youngest are sure to be mobilized. The law of 8 Nivôse year XI (December 28, 1803) abolishes the choice according to age and replaces it by the process of drawing lots, which remains until 1905.

## **Lists and Tables**

Between 1798 and the end of the Empire, a general and alphabetical table of conscripts was formed each year by canton. It contains the issue number (from 1803), marital status, height, profession, place of birth, residence at the time of conscription, surnames, first names and domicile of the father and mother and, if they are dead, those of the guardians or curators, the presumed income of the conscript and of his father and mother, any observations. Depending on the departments, other lists and tables may complete the general table of conscripts.

The charter of 1814 abolished conscription, replaced in 1818 by the call (Gouvion Saint Cyr law). Different types of lists correspond to the four main stages of the appeal (census, drawing lots, going before the review board, formation of the contingent): the young man is first registered on a census board in alphabetical order (with indication of the marital status, the drawing number, the profession of the father, that of the person concerned and the size of the latter). He is then registered on a list drawn by lot by canton, presented in the order of the number taken out in the draw and bearing the same indications as the census table. The passage before the review board gives rise to the drafting of minutes, bound in registers, ruling on the suitability for service of the conscripts.

Finally, the conscripts drawn by lot and recognized as suitable form the list of conscripts, which in 1815 becomes the list of the contingent. This provides the name of the regiment and the date of enlistment; it was departmental from 1815 to 1834, cantonal from 1834 to 1872, then departmental again.

## **Registration Records**

The first service registers appear in 1859, but the series are continuous from 1867. These documents are drawn up by the recruitment offices, whose jurisdiction may include cantons located in neighboring departments; they are made up of a succession of individual sheets, which provide the following information:

- Surname, first name, detailed marital status;
- Description (color of hair and eyes, shape of forehead, nose and face, height, particular markings);
- Miscellaneous information on the qualities, diplomas and aptitudes of the individual;

- Level of education;

comments: this box is indicated if the registrant is the breadwinner, if he is requesting a suspension of incorporation, if he is the son of a foreigner, naturalized, reinstated, etc. Are also specified the changes of residence and the precise address of the individual, or the diseases from which he suffers.

From 1905 and the end of the drawing of lots, any male individual had to register with the recruitment office (later called the national service office) to which his domicile belonged. He then enters a class, the number of which corresponds to the year of his twenties (all persons born in 1910 belong to class 1930, whatever their date of incorporation and the length of their service), and is assigned a registration number and a file. These files, grouped into service registers, are kept by the national service office until the fiftieth birthday of the members of the class concerned (1960 for people in the 1930 class), then transferred to the central office of the military administrative archives of Pau ( see below) before being paid out, after 42 years, in the departmental archives of the place of recruitment. For example, the registration numbers of individuals born in 1917, belonging to the 1937 class, transferred to the CAPM in 1967, were distributed among the various departmental archives services in 2009, i.e. 92 years after the date of birth of the persons concerned.

For more information on the recruitment archives kept by the departmental archives services (AD), see the research assistance sheet for the AD of Indre-et-Loire entitled The military past of your ancestor from the Consultat to 1940.

See also the digitized holdings (registration numbers or at least nominal tables of these registers) by a growing number of departmental archives services listed in our application.

### **Army Collections Kept in Vincennes**

Two types of documents are to be found in the war funds, series Y: troop checks, kept in sub-series Yc, and pension files (sub-series Yf).

- Troop controls
- Troop checks are accounting documents, which allowed the administrative services of the army to verify the presence of a man within a unit. For the contemporary period, these are large registers made up of a succession of individual files specifying the marital status, the description, the service record of each individual.

From 1867 (or even, depending on the department, from 1859), this information should be sought first and foremost in the recruitment registers, kept either by the departmental archives or in Pau. Moreover, after the 1870s and 1880s, troop checks only existed for certain corps.

The troop checks being classified by units, it is important to know the regiment in which the wanted individual was incorporated. This information is to be sought first of all in the R series of the departmental archives.

To find out if a person is listed in the troop checks, you have to come and consult the finding aids available in the reading room and then analyze the checks themselves.

- Pension records
- Pension files are also documents of accounting origin: by summarizing the services of a person concerned, they allowed the calculation of the amount of the pension to which he was entitled. The composition of these files is uneven: some contain only a summary sheet, others,

multiple annexes. The pension files kept in the Yf sub-series relate to privates as well as non-commissioned officers and officers.

To find out if a person has been the subject of a pension file, consult the alphabetical directories of the Yf sub-series,

As long as their administrative useful life has not expired, pension files for the most recent periods are kept by the army pensions service, located in La Rochelle (Charente-Maritime).

### **Additional Sources**

Supplements to the information provided by the individual files are also found in the X series (administrative archives of units and staffs). This is made up of documents of various origins, the common point of which is that they are generally useful for personnel management. For troops, a patient examination can make it possible to discover lists, tables, statistics, inspection reports... Are also classified in the X series the civil status registers in the armies, incomplete collection of deaths established by the corps of troops or by various medical formations.

### **Officers**

Since 1791, every Army officer has had an individual file. Most of these files are kept in the Army funds.

### **Historical Center of Archives (Vincennes)**

Officer information is found primarily in the Y and X series.

### **Individual Files**

- In the Y series (sub-series Yd for general officers, sub-series Ye, Yf, Yg) there are individual files, career files or pension files. Career files are classified in alphabetical or numerical order within several chronological or categorical series (war commissioners, health officers, etc.). Officers' pension files are kept in the Ye and Yf sub-series, where they are filed with those of privates and non-commissioned officers.
- The alphabetical directories of most of the Ye and Yf subseries.
- Control registers
- In addition to the individual files, there are the control registers of the officers, kept in sub-series Yb. Work instruments of the offices, they are classified by regiment. It contains information on each individual's service record and marital status information. For the infantry, these registers are sometimes replaced by demi-brigade registers. The succession of registers is regular for cavalry and engineers; research is more difficult for the artillery, where the registers are established sometimes by regiment and sometimes by rank; for good orientation, it is advisable to consult the inventories specific to each sub-series.
- To find out if a person is listed in the troop checks, you have to come and consult the finding aids available in the reading room and then analyze the checks themselves.

## Other Documents

Finally, the documents kept in the X series very often provide information that supplements the individual files of officers. The consultation of these registers can be accompanied by that of the files of handwritten notes of Mr. Pinasseau on the bodies of the emigration preserved under the reference 1K 45.

## Military Personnel Archives Center (Pau)

The individual files of officers (from the rank of second lieutenant to the rank of colonel) removed from the checks after 1969 are kept in Pau, even if their circuit is different from that of the files of non-commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and conscripts. The files are kept up to date, during the period of activity of the officers, within the personnel office of their unit to which they are attached, then transmitted to the central level of the military region on which the interested parties depend during their transition to the reserve. . At the time of the final radiation of the executives of the army, the files are gathered at the direction of the military personnel of the Army and transferred to Pau.\

## Biographical Dictionaries

- Six (Georges), Biographical Dictionary of French Generals and Admirals of the Revolution and the Empire (1792-1814), 2 vols., 1934-1935.
- Courcelles (Chevalier de), Historical and Biographical Dictionary of French Generals from the 11th Century to 1820, 8 vols., 1820-1823.
- Labarre de Rallicourt (D.), The generals of the Hundred Days and the provisional government, 1963.
- Labarre de Rallicourt (D.), Generals and Admirals of the Revolution and the Empire, 1966.

## Civilian Personnel

### Armament and Civilian Personnel Archives Center (Châtelleraut)

The files of the civil personnel stripped of the executives after 1947 are kept by the center of the archives of the armament and the civil personnel of Châtelleraut.

## Special Cases

Veterans' pension files: since 1970, pension files paid to veterans themselves and to their widows, ascendants or descendants, have been kept by the interdepartmental directorates for veterans. For the previous periods, from the First World War until 1970, these files, although property of the Ministry of the Armed Forces, are kept, in whole or in samples, by the care of the Contemporary Archives Center in Fontainebleau.

For soldiers listed in Algeria, contact the [overseas archives center](#) , 29 chemin du moulin Detesta, 13090 AIX-EN-PROVENCE (classes 1858 to 1932), or the [military personnel archives center](#) (from 1933);

For French nationals registered abroad, contact the diplomatic archives center, 17 rue du Casterneau, BP 1033, 44036 NANTES CEDEX 01;

For soldiers who served in the Foreign Legion after 1909, contact the Foreign Legion command, veterans office, BP 38, 13998 MARSEILLE ARMEES;

The Army funds kept at the SHD relate exclusively to the French regular army; the services accomplished in the national guard or in the mobile national guard (1870-1871) are to be sought in the departmental archives;

The Papal Zouaves formed a body of volunteers in the service of the Pope, which did not belong to the French army. Inquire at the Vatican Secret Archives, 00120 VATICAN CITY;

Concerning the Volunteers of the West in 1870-1871 (former Papal Zouaves), contact the association of General de Sonis, 28140 LOIGNY-LA-BATAILLE;

The cantinières, like other suppliers, were private contractors authorized to carry out their activities with the troops. They were not military employees, and therefore do not appear in the workforce;

Nurses and paramedics during the 1914-1918 war were not military. Inquire with the French Red Cross, 98 rue Didot 75694 Paris CEDEX 14.

## LOOKING FOR ARMY PERSONNEL IN THE ANCIEN RÉGIME

### Minister of the Armies : Defense Historical Service

<https://www.servicehistorique.sga.defense.gouv.fr/guides-aide/je-recherche-un-personnel-de-larmee-de-terre-ancien-regime>

This sheet is intended for researchers or individuals doing biographical or genealogical research on an individual who served in the army (cavalry, infantry or artillery) under the Ancien Régime.

Finding aids to consult:

### GR-A series

- Summary inventory of the historical archives, including the General War Correspondence, A1 1-3786 (7 volumes bound in blue cloth, 1898-1930, with tables of contents: these tables refer to the register number but not to that of the document and the volumes of minutes after 1684 are not taken into account).
- From origins to the reign of Louis XIII (1570-1643), A1 1-80: volume I: General introduction; volume II: Analytical inventory; volume III: General index (paperback volumes, published in 2001-2002).
- War and large buildings, index of the correspondence of the Marquis de Louvois (1683-1691), A 1 696-1033 (1 paperback volume, published in 2000).
- Typed analytical inventory of documents in the series concerning Canada, the United States and the West Indies by Louise Dechêne (to be requested at reception)?

- Index on index cards at the Orangerie for the volumes of letters of the Secretary of State from the beginning to 1683.

### **GR X-Series**

X 1: Minutes of the War (orders, laws and military decrees) from 1112 to 1939, to be completed by the Saujon collection (X2): typed inventory.

X a: Headquarters (1712-1899): typed inventory.

X b: Infantry (1702-1871): 1954 inventory.

X c: Cavalry (1701-1871): 1954 inventory.

X d: Artillery and Train (1665-1874): 1954 inventory + typed inventories.

10th century: Engineering (1661-1870): 1954 inventory + typed digital directory for certain parts of the collection.

X f: Gendarmerie (1770-1870): typed inventory.

X g: Swiss in the service of France, 17th - 19th century. : 1 paperback inventory, published in 2001, with index, intro, library, additional sources.

X i: maritime and colonial troops (1721-1837): 1954 inventory + typed inventory of files and registers concerning Santo Domingo.

Y y: archives of the Hôtel des Invalides (1670-1910): typed inventory; inventory overhaul being completed by G. Longeard

### **GR Y a sub-series - Administrative archives of the War Department, 17th - 18th centuries.**

1 paperback inventory, published in 2000, with index, intro, library, additional sources.

### **GR Y series - Collective and individual staff archives**

- Y d, Work of the King, 1706-1792: typed digital directory.
- Officer control registers, 1 Y b: red folders + Folliet file (in wood: the sheets reproduce in detail the content of the number boxes)
- Troop control registers, 1 Y c to 19 Y c: red binders.
- Collective control of civilian personnel, 1 Y g (1771-1930).
- Files of brigadiers: list on pp. 305-318 of the 1954 inventory.
- Individual files of generals and officers (incomplete): 1 handwritten inventory grouping together career and pension files, 1 Y e and 1 Y f, from the letter A to the letter F.
- Registers of pensions on the Royal Treasury (1777-1790) (in the glass cabinet).
- A bound inventory grouping the files of general officers (generals, lieutenant-generals, field marshals, brigadiers), 2 to 5 Y d.
- Y h: celebrity records.
- Y i: invalid control registers (1670-1919)

### **Sub-series GR 1 M - memories and recognitions**

Catalog Tuetey, 1 M 1-2118: 3 volumes published in 1912-1920, with index referring to the pages; supplement (1 M 2119-2353) in the 1954 Inventory; 2nd typed supplement (1 M 2354-2402) in

binder, with index; recovery of the Tuetey catalog in progress at the Historical Archives section (well advanced)

#### **GR 4 M sub-series - historical regiments**

Digital directory of the old histories of the troop corps from the origins to 1880-1890: workbook

Bibliography of the histories of French regiments, by Captain Jean Hanoteau and Émile Bonnot, 1913.

#### **GR 6 M sub-series: maps and plans**

France seen by the military: catalog of maps of France from the War Depot, first volume: 1 paperback inventory, published in 2002.

Manual file in the reading room.

#### **Series GR K: Private Funds**

1 K 45: Pinasseau file (emigrants of the Revolution): biographical files.

Works to Consult:

Blanchard (Anne), Dictionary of military engineers, 1691-1791, 1981.

Pinard, Military historical chronology: service records of generals from the Middle Ages to around 1762

Six (Georges), Biographical Dictionary of French Generals and Admirals of the Revolution and the Empire (1792-1814), 2 vols., 1934-1935.

Bodinier, Dictionary of Royal Army Officers Who Fought in the United States during the Revolutionary War, 1982.

Bodinier, Dictionary of generals of the period 1762-1792: in progress.