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ABRIDGED HISTORY
OF
45th INFANTRY REGIMENT
(1643-1898)

By Captain X. Poli

(Translation errors are all the web site authors – maps / diagrams / pictures / casualties / St Helena Medals, have been added to the original text. For details of the Regimental History produced by Capitaine Beslay , covering the period 1643-1898, printed in Laon in 1899, please contact us through the 'Contact us' page on the web site)

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ABRIDGED HISTORY OF THE
45th INFANTRY REGIMENT



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CHAPTER 1

The 45th Infantry Regiment under the old monarchy.
The Queen Mother's Regiment (1643-1666).
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The Queen Mother's Regiment (1643-1666)

Until 1791, regiments took the names of their colonels, the name of a prince or that of a province, and only had a number in order to indicate the order of precedence to be kept between them.

The regiment which, under the old monarchy, carried successively the names of the *Queen Mother*, *Artois* and the *Crown*, found itself classed in 1791 as being the forty-fifth row of the army's infantry. By application of the ruling of 1st January of that same year, it took the simpler designation of the 45th Infantry Regiment.

The *Queen Mother* was the first corps formed during the reign of Louis XIV. At the beginning of her regency, Anne of Austria gave the Duke of Vitry a commission to raise an infantry regiment under the name of the Queen Mother (25th June 1643).

Organised at Troyes, the regiment soon went to Bar-le-Duc and from there on to Thionville, where it assisted in the last operations of the siege (August 1643).

The *Queen Mother* then passed to the army in Germany; it took part in the siege and taking of Rothweil and actions at Tuttlingen and Mehlingen.

In 1644 it was in Flanders, where it distinguished itself at the siege of Gravelines. Captain Prémont, who commanded the regiment in the absence of its owner, was seriously injured during the attack on 23rd July.



Having spent the winter in the Bourbon region, the *Queen Mother* arrived at Mardyck in July 1645. On the 6th July it covered itself in glory during the attack on the fort at Rantzaw; the Duke of Vitry, Major Liège and all the officers, threw themselves into the water-filled ditches

Siege of Gravelines

and, at the very front of their men, hurled themselves into the entrenchments with such rage that the enemy hastened to abandon their defences.

At the siege of Lillers (August 1645), Major Liège was mortally wounded mounting the assault at the head of the regiment.

In 1646, the *Queen Mother* took part in the sieges of Courtrai, Berghes, Dunkirk and, in the following campaign, those at Dixmude, Lens and the taking of Knoque. It distinguished itself in 1648 at the battle of Lens, where Colonel Vitry was wounded.

Mixed up in the internal dissensions of the Fronde, the regiment only entered into the campaign again in 1653. During July it crossed the Pyrenees and took its place at the siege of Gerona. At the time of mounting the assault, the soldiers of the *Queen Mother* were on the point of coming to blows with those from the Auvergne, each trying to assert their right to lead the assault.

After having spent two years in Spain, the regiment returned to the north of France and took part in the sieges of La Capelle and Dunkirk (1655-1658).

After the Peace of the Pyrenees (1659), the regiment was reduced from twenty companies to ten.

In 1666, Queen Anne of Austria died, so the regiment changed its name from *Queen Mother* to *Artois*.

Artois Regiment (1666-1673)

Under this new name, the regiment took part during the War for the Right of Devolution in the campaign of 1667 in Flanders and the 1668 campaign in Franche-Comté. In September 1670, it was part of the army corps employed in Lorraine and contributed to the taking of Longwy.

In 1671, its numbers were boosted to two battalions of ten companies each.

The following year, at the beginning of the war against Holland, *Artois* was appointed part of Turenne's army. It assisted in the sieges of Orsoy and Rheimberg and merited the praise of Louis XIV at the attack of Burick, where four captains fell gloriously, having shown acts of gallantry and courage.



In 1673, the regiment was at the siege of Maastricht where it covered itself in immortal glory.

Louis XIV at the siege of Maastricht

On the 18th June, at the attack on the crown defence works, several regiments were decimated without gain. Louis XIV himself gave the order for the *Artois* to advance. The regiment, with its officers at the front, hurled themselves valiantly forward. The company of grenadiers was annihilated and the battalions took considerable losses, but finished by driving back the defenders, who tried ineffectively four times to counter charge.

The next day, *Artois* was relieved by another regiment, who unfortunately allowed themselves to be dislodged by the Dutch. Louis XIV entrusted the *Artois* again, regardless of seniority, with the mission of compensating for this failure. The soldiers, bristling with pride, threw themselves into the attack with a new-found fury and, after a fierce battle, penetrated into the fortification, under the very eyes of the King. From then on, the regiment was in charge of looking after him personally and defending the fort, which they had so valiantly conquered, up until the surrender of Maastricht, which fell on 29th June.

Artois had suffered considerable losses: seven officers and more than two hundred soldiers had died a glorious death during various assaults. Louis XIV tried to compensate them for their good conduct and, to give them a measure of his esteem and acknowledgement, he commanded that they become a *royal* regiment by taking the name of the *Crown*. In addition, he decreed that the corps' flags should forever bear in their centre a golden crown with the Latin inscription: "Dedit hanc Matrika coronam: Maastricht gave this crown"¹

There had been a *Crown* regiment prior to 1673, but it had the misfortune to weaken in front of the enemy; therefore Louis XIV chased it out of the army and gave its name, like a cross of honour, to his *Artois* regiment who, before his very eyes, had accomplished so many wonders of valour.

The Regiment of the Crown (1673-1791)

At the start of 1674, the *Crown* went to Franche-Comté, brigaded with the Royal regiment and took part in the conquest of that province. After taking Besançon and Dôle, it entered Lorraine.

France had to fight against all the European powers united at La Haye, but France had Turenne.

Under this great General, the *Crown* crossed the Rhine at the start of June and contributed to the victory at Ensheim on the 16th. During the never-ending battle of Alsace, it distinguished itself at the battle of Turckheim and forced the Germans to recross the Rhine. Unfortunately, the death of Turenne interrupted its success (1675).



Marshal Turenne (1611-1675)

¹ This crown was won at the siege of Maastricht

Under Marshal Créqui, the regiment took part in the sieges of Dinant, Huy and Limbourg and found itself on the 11th August at the disastrous action at Consaarbruck. Overwhelmed by numbers, the battalions were forced to surrender. Colonel Genlis-Bethencourt, most of the officers and more than a thousand soldiers were sacrificed to save the honour of the flag and preferred to die rather than see the misfortune of their country. Six officers and sixty men struggled to get to Metz.

Arriving on foot, the *Crown* passed into Flanders. In April 1676 it took part in the siege of Condé and in May it covered the operations of Bouchain and assisted at the taking of Landrecies and Aire.

The following year, it distinguished itself at the siege of St. Omer. On the 11th April, a large-scale battle took place on the road to Cassel. At the first sign of gunfire, the regiment went in with the Royal and Anjou regiments to attack the abbey at Peene. After a fierce battle, the position was taken, but the regiment lamented the deaths of Colonel Genlis-Prayart and a large number of officers and soldiers.

After that battle, the *Crown* went to Stenay and rejoined the army of Marshal Créqui charged with standing up to the Duke of Lorraine. Thus it found itself on 15th June in action at Morville, near to Pont-à-Mousson, where Lieutenant-Colonel Préfontval was killed. On 29th, it took part in action at St. Barbe, near Metz, and on 14th November it entered into Fribourg by the breach. Upon returning to Flanders in 1678, it took part in sieges at Gand and Ypres and assisted at the battle of St. Dennis, near Mons. In 1679, at the time of the Peace of Nimègue, it was in Germany.

War of the League of Augsburg (1688-1697)

During the four years of peace which followed the Peace of Nimègue, the *Crown* was garrisoned on the frontier of the Rhine. After having worked on the fortification of Strasbourg and Huningue, it found itself at Traerbach when war broke out.

At the beginning of the hostilities, it rejoined Boufflers' army, which was under siege in Kreuznach. After having taken that town, it went to Mayence, which capitulated without resistance (1688). On the 2nd August 1689, the first battalion rallied the army of Marshal Duras and took part in the conquest of the Palatine. The whole regiment served the following year in the same army under the orders of the Dauphin and Marshal Lorges. The towns of Wirlock, Bruksal, Durlach and Rastadt fell in their hands. Picardy's brigade, of which the regiment was part, "marched to all these little sieges in front of the army, with the artillery".



Marshal Lorges (1630 – 1702)

After this campaign, the *Crown* marched to Piémont. In 1691 it was at the conquest of Nice. During the winter it guarded the outlets of the Savoy and in 1692 it was recalled to Flanders to the army of Marshal Luxembourg and took an active role in the victory at Steinkerque. It then assisted in the sieges of Charleroi and Furnes (1693). It found itself in the Palatine when it was recalled to the Italian army, commanded by Marshal Catinat. For two years it stayed in the Peninsular, occupied in supporting the skirmishes against the Barbets. In 1696, it went back to France, finding itself once again on the Meuse, then at camp in Compiègne where, on 23rd September 1697, the Count of Hautefort-Bosen's regiment was incorporated into it. The Treaty of Ryswick ended the hostilities.

The War of Spanish Succession (1701-1713)

The elevation of the Duke of Anjou to the Spanish throne reignited the war. In April 1701, the *Crown* was sent to Holland to guard the Meuse. The first battalion occupied Venloo, the second the fort at St. Michel. A detachment of one hundred men, commanded by four officers, occupied Kayserswoerth; this little garrison resisted the efforts of the army of the Prince of Nassau for fifty-nine days. Sixty-four soldiers and three officers paid with their lives for this fierce resistance; such good conduct was worthy of battle honours.

After the campaign of 1702, the regiment took up winter quarters in the town of Bonn. The following spring, the Duke of Marlborough sieged the position and pushed forward with great vigour for thirteen days. The *Crown* achieved glory over its defence of these city walls. In a sortie on 13th May, out of fifty men who threw themselves onto the enemy following Captain Aultry-Varenes, only eight came back safe and well after having engaged ten canon and six mortars. "The captain could have saved his own life by retreating, but he refused to retreat, preferring to die fighting." The next day, Captain Guillancourt withstood with vigour the defence of an open and ruined defence works; the enemies only surrendered after the death of that officer. The entire post, with the exception of four men, was killed on the spot. On the 15th, the decimated garrison left with war honours. The *Crown* had lost nine officers and more than two hundred soldiers: Colonel the Marquis of Polostron and Major Motter were seriously wounded along with hundreds of their men.

After having assisted in the sieges of Brisach, the *Crown* was ordered to take part in the Spanish army under Marshal Berwick. Having arrived at the Portuguese frontier in February 1704, it contributed to the taking of Salvatierra, Segura, Portalègre, Montalvao, Marvao, in the attack on Gibraltar and the wonderful defence of Badajoz. Detached on 14th January 1706 from its camp at Balbastro, it delivered a fierce attack on the Spanish near to Saint-Estevan-de-Gormas. Captain Fleury, in charge at the head of his grenadiers, determined its success; he stayed on the battlefield with Captains Carnazet and Monchy, three other officers and more than two hundred soldiers. The regiment then went on to take part in the battle at Barcelona, besieged by Marshal Tessé. It was then ordered to occupy Cuença from where it was sent to Carthagène (1706).

On 25th April 1707, a huge battle took place in Almanza. At three o'clock in the afternoon, the *Crown*, placed in the centre of the first line, advanced at the same time as the Orléans. Colonel Polastron directed their movements. The regiment was soon close to the English, who let off a general musket charge. Our soldiers were marvellously cold-blooded; they rushed forward with bayonets and only fired at point blank range. Entire rows littered the ground. Losing composure, the English brigade retreated in disorder, chased by bayonets. In the confusion, Lieutenant Lavardin took a flag, which he waved about furiously above his head. Carried away by so much ardour, officers and soldiers soon found themselves in front of our line and were attacked from the side by a Dutch brigade. Colonel Polastron saw the danger; he gave orders to the companies to withdraw behind a ditch. Thanks to the good arrangements of Aide-Major Ravy, the regiment reformed with great ardour and the attack continued with a sublime relentlessness on both sides. The Colonel was killed whilst giving orders. Lieutenant-Colonel de la Motte immediately went forward on horse-back to the front of the battalions and, by setting an example, renewed the courage of our brave soldiers. Captain Flomont fell gloriously at the head of his grenadiers, who were working wonders to the right-hand side of the regiment. Bombarded by an entire battalion, this great company held steadfast to the right, even though they had already lost three quarters of their strength. The Battalion Commander, Patrocle, Captains Ormois, Ferreiu, Calvet and Eperville were killed. Also killed were Lieutenants Bonel, Monchy and the brave Lavardin, who died wrapped up in his captured flag.



Battle of Almanza

But the regiment's heroic efforts were not in vain. Its resistance allowed Berwick to send in reinforcements; the *Crown* took up the offensive once again and the victory was theirs. A victory paid for dearly by the regiment! Nine officers and three hundred soldiers killed, thirty officers and nine hundred soldiers wounded, proclaimed aloud that never had a troop showed such courage and energy.

The *Crown* was at the sieges of Lerida (1707) and Tortose (1708); at the taking of Dénia and Alicante (1708) and at the attacks on Castillon and Gerona (1709). Recalled to Provence in 1710 to reform, it crossed the Pyrenees and distinguished itself at the sieges of Gerona, Prato-del-Rey,

Cardone and at the wonderful defence of the bridge at Las-Carminas and Gerona (1711-1712).

After the Treaty of Utrecht, the *Crown* stayed in Spain to reinforce the Duke of Anjou on the throne. Marshal Berwick used the regiment during the siege of Barcelona. A trench was dug on 13th July; during the night of the 24th, two companies of grenadiers succeeded in installing themselves in the trench. On 1st August, a crowd of monks, women and children showed themselves in the breach; a flag waving at the centre of this group. A shiver of hope and pity ran through our ranks; our artillery had stopped firing; our surprise was enormous when we saw this crowd plant a black flag, symbol of mourning and sublime desperation, instead of a white flag. The struggle was unappeasable.

On 14th, Berwick attempted a fresh assault using twenty companies of grenadiers, including those of the regiment; Count Plastron at their head. Our soldiers rushed forward courageously; they were received valiantly and fought furiously, as was right for free men worried about their independence; not one retreated. Their courage astounded everyone. The priests and monks surpassed the bounds of devotion; they were the first to attack, the first to die, but the last to complain.

At the start of the engagement, Colonel Polastron fell seriously wounded. After eight hours of a fight without thanks, we remained masters of the bastion at Ste-Claire; Lieutenant-Colonel de la Motte endeavoured to keep it so. Eight times, he resisted attacks from the defence; "We fought man to man, the strongest slit the throat of his enemy and often found himself buried under his dying comrades." After fourteen hours of carnage, it was time to give in.

"There were only eighteen grenadiers left out of the two companies of the *Crown*; none without injuries." All their officers had been killed.

On 11th September, after an assault where the regiment took its revenge, the ramparts were taken by force. The besieged once again tried to resist by defending their streets, house by house, but the struggle did not last long; the army took possession of Barcelona that same day and Berwick dictated the surrender.

The *Crown* lost to this siege Adjutant Noguès, several captains and lieutenants, and almost four hundred soldiers. Amongst the wounded were Colonel Polastron and Lieutenant-Colonel de la Motte.

War against Spain (1719)

In 1719 war restarted and this time it was against Spain, for which France had just made so many sacrifices. The *Crown* contributed to the taking of Fontarabie, Saint-Sébastien and Urgel.

War for Polish Succession (1733-1735)

The *Crown* was part of Marshal Belle-Isle's army; it was at the taking of Saarbruck, Trèves and Traërbach, and at the siege of Philippsbourg (1734). On 20th October 1735, it took part in action at Clausen, where Colonel the Marquis of Charost was mortally wounded.

War for the Austrian Succession (1741-1748)

After six years of peace, war recommenced against Austria. The *Crown* took part in the campaigns of 1742 and 1743 in Bohemia and Bavaria, under the orders of General Maillebois and Maurice of Saxony. In 1744 it transferred to the army in Flanders. It served in the sieges of Menin, Ypres and Furnes and ended the campaign at camp in Courtrai.

In 1745 the *Crown* was under siege in Tournai. On 11th May, it took part in the victory at Fontenoy. Before them were the English, allied with the Austrians. Combat started at six o'clock in the morning with a violent cannonade. Profiting from a thick fog, the Duke of Cumberland tried to pierce the *Crown's* lines with a brisk attack on the centre. Fifteen thousand English soldiers appeared unexpectedly a short distance in front of the French Guard brigade. This was the time of war amongst gentlemen; before coming to arms, the English and French officers raised their hats and saluted, as if they were at court. Then Adjutant Lord Hays advanced and shouted sharply at us in these terms: "I say, French Guard. Shoot!" Count Anteroche, Colonel of the Guards, stood tall in his stirrups and, saluting with his sword, replied in a resonant voice: "My dear Englishmen, we never shoot first. After you!" So the English let off a musket charge, which felled twenty-three officers and three hundred and eighty soldiers.



The Battle of Fontenoy 1745: The French and Allies confronting each other by Henri Félix Emmanuel Philippoteaux

The *Crown*, placed in the front line, in front of and to the left of the French Guard, found itself exposed to a violent firing that decimated its ranks. It worked valorous wonders to stop this unruffled column of Englishmen, who according to a memoir of the time “were like a rock to mine”. They tried valiantly to tame it, they “were the only regiment which had bayonets and they made daylight with it amongst their enemies”. Glory came dearly! When they counted up after the victory, forty-nine of the regiment’s officers and four hundred of its soldiers had been killed or wounded; amongst the latter were Colonel the Duke of Havré, Lieutenant-Colonel Rigal and Major Calignon.

The *Crown* contributed that year to the taking of Tournai, Oudenarde, Dendermonde and Ath. The following year, it assisted in the sieges of Brussels, Anvers and Huy. It was then employed against the English to defend the coasts of Brittany, Aunis and Normandy (1747). In 1748 it returned to Flanders and took part in the siege of Maastricht. The Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle ended hostilities.

The Seven Years War (1756-1763)

During the Seven Years War, the regiment took part in the battle of Hastembeck (26th July 1757), action at Closterseven (1757) and the battle of Crefeld, where it was covered in glory (1758). The two battalions, exposed for two hours to terrible firing and having lost ten officers and three hundred soldiers, only retreated once they had received orders from the Commandant General of the army. Colonel the Count of Montbarrey was seriously wounded.

At that time, each infantry regiment possessed two light artillery pieces. It can therefore be confirmed that, during this retreat, several gunners and grenadiers distinguished themselves by carrying one of the regiment’s canon, whose carriage had been broken; even a cavalry charge could not make them abandon their equipment.

The following year, the French army took hold of Munster, thanks to the energy and bravery of a grenadier of the *Crown*; this brave soldier did not hesitate to swim across a moat surrounding the ramparts and to cut down the drawbridge with the aid of some comrades.

During the spring of 1760, the regiment entered into campaign, distinguishing itself at the Battle of Corback (10th July) and in the engagement at Clostercamps, forever memorable by the devotion of Captain Assas and Sergeant Dubois of the Auvergne regiment. The regiment then assisted at the Battle of Willingshausen (15th July 1761) and in action at Roxel (30th August). The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, ended hostilities.

Not content to spare its blood, the *Crown* left no occasion unturned to show the depth of its patriotism. As the French saying goes, “It is not only in Austria that the military is poor!” In 1762, when the Navy had to be renewed, the

officers of the *Crown* joined the national momentum by offering to donate a month of their services. Louis XV acknowledged this, but, instead of accepting their sacrifice, he decided to name a vessel in the fleet "The Crown" in their honour. This name is perpetuated in the French Navy today, where it is still carried by one of the battleships.

From 1762-1790, the *Crown* was garrisoned in the north of France. It was in Béthune when, by an order executed on 1st January 1791, it took the name of the 45th Infantry Regiment.

CHAPTER II

The 45th Infantry Regiment during the Revolution.
The 45th Infantry Regiment (1791-1794)
The 45th Half-brigade of 1st Formation² (1794-1796)
The 45th Half-brigade of 2nd Formation (1796)
The 45th Half-brigade of Line (1796-1803)

45th Infantry Regiment (1791-1794)

In 1792 when the Duke of Brunswick entered Champagne at the head of the Prussian army, the 45th was at Bethune: 1,249 men-strong divided into two battalions.

The first battalion, designated part of the northern army, arrived at camp in Grandpre in September. On 20th it was in reserve at the battle of Valmy. It was then attached to the army in the Ardennes and directed to Namur, which was under siege by General Valence. During the night of 1st December, our battalion, marching in a column under orders from Commandant Goulus, marched on the fort at Vilatte and succeeded in taking it, leading to the surrender of the town.

The second battalion was left behind in Lille and contributed to its glorious defence in September and October 1792.

During 1793 the first battalion saw action in Nerwinden (18th March); Kaismes and Vicougne (8th May); and fought in the battles of Hondshoote (6th September) and Wattignies (16th October).

In 1794 it was part of Moreau's division and served on the Rhine frontier until its incorporation into the 89th battle half-brigade³ on 3rd December 1794.

² This was a revolutionary one-off where volunteers were organised into "half-brigades" (term which replaced the word "regiment" for political reasons) in two or three "formations" (or waves of recruitment).

³ The new title given to a regular (old army or new volunteer army) infantry regiment after the abolition of the word "regiment". The revolution also did away with all the tactical infantry definitions (de ligne, légère, tirailleurs, etc.) so that every unit was now a "demi-brigade de bataille". It didn't last long before they became either "demi-brigade de ligne" or "demi-brigade légère".

In 1793 the second battalion was charged with the defence of Quesnoy. Colonel Goulus, who entered the corps as a soldier in 1776, was badly wounded and taken prisoner of war along with the garrison, which was forced to surrender on 10th September.

In 1794 the regiment was sent to the Vendée and took part in the 1794 campaign in the west. It was at Noirmoutiers when it was amalgamated into the 90th battle half-brigade at the beginning of 1795.

45th Demi-brigade of the 1st Formation

The 45th half-brigade, formed by decree on 8th January 1794⁴, comprised the first battalion of the 23rd infantry, the former Royal regiment, the first battalion of volunteers from the Lower Alps and the first battalion of the Lozère (Massif Central).

The battalion spent the winter of 1794 in the Savoy Alps at Maurienne, charged with protecting the frontier along the Alps under orders from General Alexandre Dumas.

On 5th April, the first battalion distinguished itself with its attack on the Belvedere redoubt whilst defending the hill at Cenis. Captain Herbin of the grenadiers showed great bravery. General Gouvion said: "The Sergeant-Major of the grenadiers and the Drum-Major merited the highest praise for their courage and the assistance they gave to the intrepid General Sarret – they rescued him from the middle of a hailstorm of fire."

During the night of 13th May, the battalion distinguished itself at the attacks on Rivets and Ramasse. It took five hundred prisoners and retained numerous supplies.

The half-brigade was stationed on the frontier of the Alps during the whole of 1795 and was tested by illness, all sorts of deprivation and one of the most rigorous winters in memory.

45th Demi-brigade of 2nd formation

At the beginning of 1796 the National Convention⁵ decreed a second reorganisation of the infantry. The 45th was formed by an amalgamation of the two first battalions of the former 45th, the two first battalions of the 180th, the second battalion of the 102nd regiment and the 7th battalion of Haute-Saone.

The new 45th, designated to form an army to fight in Italy commanded by Bonaparte, arrived at Plaisance on 1st June 1796. Following selection at Soncino on 26th May, the 45th line regiment became the 19th and its third battalion was incorporated into the 69th.

⁴ 19 Nivose Year II – fourth month of the French Republican calendar

⁵ The National Convention was the name given to the assembly which officially succeeded the Legislative Assembly and which existed from 21st September 1792 – 26th October 1796.

After having taken part in combat at Cosseria and Dego, the 69th covered itself in glory at the crossing of the bridge at Lodi, glory which was reflected back on 45th, since its third battalion and its company of grenadiers took a major part.

On 10th May, General Bonaparte, who had once again pushed the rear guard of the Austrian army, decided to seize the bridge at Lodi across the river Adda.

General Bonaparte gives his orders at the battle of Lodi

This famous bridge was three hundred feet long and defended by ten thousand men commanded by General Sebottendorf. A large amount of artillery had been positioned to sweep the bridge in case of an attack. The Austrians could not imagine that any troop could be so audacious as to try to pass over the bridge under the



formidable fire of their cannon. The experience showed them that nothing could stop the French, roused with honour and the love of glory.

Augereau and Massena's divisions, which set off first, arrived without problem in the village of Lodi.

Brigade General Dallemagne, who commanded the advance guard, attacked the Austrian rear guard, making it re-cross the river Adda, and seized one of its cannon. The other divisions of the army had just rejoined them. Bonaparte surrendered (gave ground – Ed) immediately at the edge of the bridge. In order to prevent the enemy from breaking through, he himself put (sited - Ed) (in the middle of a volley of gunfire) two light artillery pieces of the rear guard. However, to ensure the success of the day, there was not a minute to lose. Bonaparte ordered General Massena to form all the battalions of grenadiers into a tight column to be followed by his division. General Augereau's battalions of grenadiers received the order to quicken their march to come and take part in the combat and support Massena's efforts.

The drums beat the charge and this redoubtable mass of grenadiers, with the 2nd battalion of carabineers at its head, rushed forward to the bridge, to the usual cries of "Long Live the Republic"!

Thirty pieces of grapeshot sprayed out into the rows of grenadiers, making them hesitate for a moment and stop. Another moment of hesitation on an extremely narrow bridge and all would have been lost. But our generals

recognised the imminent danger. Berthier, Massena, Cervoni, Chief of the Brigade Lannes and Chief of the Battalion Dupas ran to the front of their men and appealed for their usual courage. The voice of honour was heard, the grenadiers pushed forward again in the tracks of their generals and, with great momentum, crossed the frontline, overwhelmed the first line of the enemy, took their artillery pieces and dispersed their battalions.

General Augereau, advanced at the head of his column of troops and helped bring about the victory. The Austrians fled everywhere, abandoning twenty cannon, their caissons and baggage. They had about three thousand deaths; our army had hardly one thousand men out of action.

The name of Lodi is inscribed on the current flag of the 45th. It must remind us that nothing is impossible to those Frenchmen who love their country and honour.

45th Demi-Brigade of Line

On 21st March 1796, a new 45th demi-brigade, a so-called 'line', was formed with elements of the former 100th and 165th and the battalion of volunteers from Montferme (Lower Alps).

The 45th demi-brigade, placed in Serurier's division, collected its share of the laurels there. During the months of April and May, it formed the rear guard of Bonaparte's army and was charged with occupying the towns of High Italy. At the beginning of June, it was employed in the blockade of Mantoue.

On 4th June, it arrived in sight of the town. The troops stayed at Favorite whilst the grenadiers cleared the suburbs⁶ of St. Georges and threw themselves into the ditch. The taking of Migliaretto on 18th July completed the encirculation of the town when Bonaparte, threatened by a new Austrian army, gave the order to break the siege. The 45th demi-brigade was designated to go and reinforce Augereau's division and, on 1st August, marched on Brescia, from where the Austrians were running for their lives. On 2nd August, it went back towards Montechiaro after having had a forced march of more than thirty-five miles. That evening, it was reviewed by Bonaparte, who seemed very satisfied by its appearance and endurance.

In the morning of 3rd August, Augereau's division marched to attack Castiglione. The 45th was ordered to advance into the plain directly opposite the village. The Austrians, retrenched in the houses and behind walls, let off a deathly fire. There was a moment of hesitation amongst our soldiers until Drum-Major Cajol beat the charge, went forward with them, rallying everyone with his heroic momentum, and the position was taken. The Austrian general tried in vain to regroup his troops, but he had to retreat, abandoning Castiglione. The brave Cajol received the Sword of Honour.

⁶ Traditionally, this name was given to an agglomeration forming around a thoroughway leading outwards from a city gate, and usually took the name of the same thoroughfare within the city. As cities were often located atop hills (for defensive purposes), their outlying communities were frequently lower down. Many faubourgs were located below their towns, and the term "suburbs" is derived from this tendency.



The battle of Castiglione

On 6th August, the 45th went back to take up its previous position at Mantoue. It took part in all the action around that town. Its effectiveness was considerably reduced by illness and suffering which, as Bonaparte wrote, made this “the hardest blockade of the two campaigns”.

On 3rd December, some companies of the 45th demi-brigade advanced too daringly against the walls of Mantoue and were forced back. During this movement, the quarter-master, Corporal Puech, barely eighteen years of age, showed a great example of courage and devotion.

Whilst his comrades were beating the retreat, this brave soldier retraced his steps to save his captain, who was on the point of drowning in a ditch full of water. Attacked at the same time by two uhlans⁷, he killed one and forced the other to flee, threw himself into the ditch and saved his captain whilst under fire from two enemy platoons. Then, rejoining his company, he attacked three Austrians retrenched in a house, wounding one and taking all three prisoner.

Corporal Puech received the Gun of Honour as a national reward. He had one of the most brilliant careers and achieved the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Imperial Guard. He was killed at the battle of Dresden in 1813.

On 15th and 16th January 1797, the 45th was covered in glory for defending the suburbs of St. Georges with an extraordinary bravery. They had run out of ammunition and shouted to their officers: “We don’t need ammunition to fight these Austrians; we only have to march with fixed bayonets!”

On 2nd February, Mantoue fell and the 45th went back to France, after having held garrison in several towns in Piedmont.

During the re-opening of hostilities in 1798, the 45th demi-brigade was recalled to Italy. On 5th April 1799, at the battle of Magnano, it was charged with

⁷ Polish light cavalry armed with lances, sabres and pistols. The title was later used by lancer regiments in the Prussian and Austrian armies.

protecting the retreat of our army. At the moment where the division started to turn back, Captain Berthier, leading four companies, boldly withstood the shock of the enemy advanced guard; then he broke the combat with such a remarkable order that he gave the reinforcements time to come to his aid and to guarantee that the entire area was to be surrounded.

During this memorable action, Quartermaster Claude Giraud advanced, with only a few soldiers, to an Austrian battery, killed the gunner who was about to fire, and took twelve soldiers prisoner. Finally, grenadier Marin, who was on the left flank, marched with several comrades on to a battery, which he took after having killed two gunners. Fusilier Roy received the Gun of Honour for having saved his battalion's colours, taken by a hussar.



**Fusil d'Honneur (awarded to a sergeant Le Roy 45e Ligne). Did Fusilier Roy also gain a promotion?
York Castle Museum**

Whilst the third battalion was detached in Mantoue and making an energetic defence, the second battalion was in action at Novi under orders from the Brigade Chief Phillipe, who was fatally wounded. The first battalion was charged with the defence of Tortone, the strongest town in Piedmont. Whilst in the middle of suffering and multiple danger, our soldiers distinguished themselves with their good spirit and endurance. Commandant Barrie contributed strongly to its resistance, setting everyone a good example by his actions and the confidence which he inspired in his men.

After Novi, Captain Marin was closed in at Gavi with the second battalion. This brave man knew how to constantly rouse the courage of his men in the midst of the tests they had to face and, thanks to their energy, succeeded in preventing several night attacks attempted by the Austrians. He even thwarted a conspiracy by the inhabitants of Gavi who tried to massacre the garrison and open its gates to the enemy. During June 1800, Captain Marin was again successful in crossing the Austrian lines and carrying dispatches to the Premier Consul. For this he was awarded the Sword of Honour in recognition of his good conduct.

At the beginning of 1800 the 45th demi-brigade, which had returned to France for re-organisation, was designated to serve in the army of the Grisons. It attracted attention during the passage to Splügen and the crossing of the Bernina Pass on 12th December. During this action, the second battalion was taken by surprise by a blizzard, leaving many men buried under the snow, and who with great difficulty found shelter in mountain huts for the night. With the help of some soldiers and some mountain men equipped with sledges, Sergeant Yver went out despite the darkness to search for the missing men. The next morning he was pleased to bring back those whom the cold had spared.

Despite the rigours of the season, the brave 45th demi-brigade fought every day. On 27th December it arrived at the trenches at Casanova in Engadine. A

first attack column was pushed forward. Putting himself at the head of the 45th and two battalions of the 3rd Orient, Chief of Brigade Barrie went across the mountain by narrow paths and appeared all of a sudden behind the Austrians. A couple of rounds of gunfire were sufficient to dislodge them. We went round behind them and we soon arrived in front of the Ardetz redoubt. At the head of his grenadiers, Drummer Rimbault beat the charge until they were in the trenches and, during the vigorous attack that left us in charge of the redoubt, he went up on to the parapet. Despite gunfire on two sides, he did not stop drumming. At the same time, Sergeant-Major Mazel was one of the first to push forward into the enemy defences; he was just about to snatch a *cheval de frise*⁸ when his right shoulder was shattered by a gun shot. The Sword of Honour was awarded to him for this.

Some time beforehand, Sergeant Chaix had also merited the Gun of Honour. Commanding a post of twelve men, they were attacked at night by a corps of Tyrolian chasseurs (Jager – Ed); he ordered his troop to arms, lined them up ready for battle and gave the order to fire. The enemy, deceived by this demonstration, thought they had come across a large guard and retreated, leaving behind seventeen men dead or wounded.

The Peace of Luneville (9th February 1801) ceased hostilities. The 45th returned to France. In 1802, it was designated to take part in the army for Hanover. During the campaign of 1803, Drummer Andre received recognition during an engagement where he beat the charge during deathly gunfire by the enemy and animated his comrades with his cold-blooded ardour. He received the Drumsticks of Honour by way of recognition.

CHAPTER III

The 45th regiment of line during the First Empire (1805-1815)

A decree by the consuls on 22nd September 1803 suppressed the denomination of demi-brigades for the infantry troops and re-established the former name of the regiments. From that date, the 45th became the *45th regiment of line*.

Austerlitz

The proposed incursion into England by Napoleon having become impossible, the subsequent successive failures of our fleet, and the Austro-Russian coalition having been strengthened by the tacit alliance with Prussia, The Emperor abandoned his plans for the British Isles and, with the imposing army he had reunited in the camps around Boulogne, he made the Grand Army, destined to carry war into the breast of Germany, to the heart of Austria itself.

⁸ This was a Medieval defensive obstacle consisting of a portable frame (sometimes just a simple log) covered with many long iron or wooden spikes or even actual spears. They were principally intended as an anti-cavalry obstacle but could also be moved quickly to help block a breach in another barrier.

The 45th, recalled from Hanover, entered into the formation of the 1st Corps (Marshall Bernadotte) and was part of the 1st Division (General Rivaud), 1st Brigade (General Pacthod). Colonel Barrié was at its head.

The 1st Corps left Boulogne on 30th August and went to Germany; on 10th September it was on the Rhine.

This was when the immense march started, which, in less than two months, saw us in charge of the Danube basin. The taking of Wurtzbourg, Anspach, Ingolstadt; the falling of Ulm; the triumphal entry into Munich, capital of Bavaria, marked out the triumphal route of the 1st Corps, which, on 28th November, established itself at Brunn.

During the evening of 1st December, the entire corps was concentrated around Austerlitz and the soldiers, assured in advance of the success prepared by their Emperor, received him with great enthusiasm as he walked around the camps.



Members of 45eme and 85eme at the 2005 Austerlitz re-enactment

In the early hours of 2nd December the gunfire started; Rivaud's division, in columns by regiment, set off and placed itself in the first line to the left of the 4th corps. At around 9 o'clock in the morning, the Emperor ordered Bernadotte to support Soult's corps, who had been charged with the attack on the hills around Pratzen. In the blink of an eye, Rivaud's division climbed the slopes and found themselves opposite the Russian Guard. At that moment, the uhlands launched themselves at a gallop onto the division; Colonel Barrié formed his battalions into a square and the 45th received this avalanche of cavalry with loaded gunfire. Squadrons followed squadrons; one moment the enemies succeeded in penetrating a square. The melee became general; our soldiers defended themselves with bayonets with such courage worthy of praise. During one of these charges, said M. de Saint-Hilaire, a corporal in the voltigeurs⁹ of the 45th found himself in the grip of a Russian cavalry officer, who, with a wave of his sword, made him let go of his rifle; but quick as lightning, the brave corporal threw himself onto the horse's back and strangled the officer.

The Russian Guard, almost wiped out, decided to fight in retreat and Rivaud's division went to the attack at Blaziwitz. The infantry of the Russian Guard, aided by a large artillery battery, received our battalions with a general

⁹ Light Infantry

charge; but nothing could stop the soldiers of the 45th. After a long drawn out combat, they walked into the village. Trying in vain to retake it, Grand Duke Constantin brought back his troops several times at the charge. The cavalry came to help the infantry and, at the price of admirable sacrifices, entered our squares and sabred our soldiers. But squadrons of the Imperial Guard intervened, with General Rapp at their front. They fought constantly corps to corps. The 45th's flag, torn to shreds by gunfire, fell in pieces. Captain Bertrand collected them carefully and, thanks to him, we can still admire it in the regiment's Hall of Honour, witness to such bravery and heroism.



The heroism of the Horse Guards in the battle of Austerlitz capturing the standard of 4eme Infanterie Regiment d'Ligne. V.V.Mazurovsky (1910-1912) A scene that portrays the savagery of the fighting and which is similar to the defence of the 45eme standard and eagle.

The Russian cavalry continued to fight with a valour worthy of admiration, but it could not resist the cool calm and intrepidity of our soldiers. All of a sudden, it collapsed and tried to find refuge in its infantry, who had taken off their haversacks in order to be able to fight better. We rammed everything: the carnage became terrible, but the battlefield was ours. The 90,000-strong Austro-Russian army had 15,000 dead or wounded and left with us 15,000 prisoners, 45 flags and all its cannon, which were used in Vendome's column. The glorious name of Austerlitz is inscribed on the 45th's flag.

The Campaign of 1806

The victory at Austerlitz stopped the Prussians reuniting its troops with those of the allies. Emperor Napoleon judged it necessary to give a hard lesson to that proud nation.

On 29th September, the 45th left its quarters and rejoined the 1st Division of the 1st Corps, with General Rivaud still there, and formed with the 8th line regiment of the 1st Brigade, under the orders of General Pachtod. A fortnight later the two famous battles of Jéna and Aürstädt took place simultaneously, which were so glorious for our army.

On 17th October, Rivaud's division attacked the Prussians near to Halle. Our battalions burst out of the town taking heavy fire from the enemy's artillery and muskets, but the position was finally taken after stubborn resistance. The division hounded the enemy fiercely and unrelentingly, chasing it out of Dietnitz, Peisen and Rabatz. Finally, the Prussians were taken to about four leagues from Halle, where we were surprised by nightfall. The 45th and 8th regiment of the line had 2,000 prisoners. This defeat made the King of Prussia lose the will to rally the remains of his army and he asked for a truce, but the Emperor, who knew that the Russians were marching to his aid, refused this request and the 1st corps went after Blücher and the rest of the army who had fought at Jéna.

On 6th November, Marshal Bernadotte advanced on Lübeck with the entire 1st corps and advanced on about 5,000 Prussians who fled in front of him.

Having decided to attack, he advanced Rivaud's division and ordered him to sweep Lübeck and to go and enter Ratzburg. The enemy, entrenched in the streets and in their homes, had made incredible efforts to repel us: each square, each road was a battlefield.

General Blücher himself made several charges with the cavalry into the streets. In only a short time, we were in charge of the town. All the defenders had been taken or killed and we found ourselves in a position to emerge onto the enemy, who were trying to regroup on the road to Schwartan.

General Pacthod, at the head of his brigade, was charged with trying to stop Muhl-Thor. This gate opened onto a sort of island, only communicating with the town by a road down which you had to march to overturn the position of the gate. The enemy, posted on all the roofs and ramparts, dominated the bottleneck. It needed all the bravery and intrepidity of our men and General Pacthod to take possession of this gate. 20,000 prisoners were taken. During the combat, a sergeant of 45th took a flag.

This day was one of the most brilliant that one can cite. "The Colonel of the 45th", said Marshal Bernadotte's report, "led his regiment with an example of the most brilliant bravery."

The next day, General Rivaud forced Blücher to sign a surrender, which delivered the General and his 12,000 men to us.

The Prussian military forces were annihilated. The 45th made a triumphal entrance into Berlin where, on 24th November, the Emperor passed it in revue and congratulated it on its bravery and endurance.

The Campaign of 1807

During this glorious campaign, the 45th took an active part in the fighting in Mohrunen (25th January), where Lieutenant Yver was wounded. It contributed to the blockade of Dantzic from 18th March to 24th May. On 24th June it fought with the greatest of bravery at Friedland. Lapisse's division, of which it was part, stayed in these positions in front of Posthene, exposed during the entire attack and under fire from the enemy's batteries.

Several of the enemy troops had reached the ranks of our companies and, at the same time, in Oudinot's division, three officers and several grenadiers and volgiteurs of the 45th were hit, Capitain Marchal was killed, Lieutenants Conamine and Blain were wounded. The latter, who had merited a certificate of honour for his good conduct at Marengo, had already been wounded twice before joining the 45th; he received yet another wound as Captain in Saxony in 1813.



Friedland 1807 by E. Meissonier

The name of Friedland is written on the 45th's flag.

Towards the end of October, the regiment took up quarters around Berlin.

The Spanish War (1808-1814)

In 1808, the 1st corps passed into Spain. For five years, the 45th manoeuvred and fought in the Peninsular showing great self-sacrifice and courage. It was found at the battle of Espinosa (11th November) and in combat at Somo-Sierra (28th November). On 4th December it made a triumphal entrance into Madrid.

Detached in a mobile column into the province of Léon, it fought on 12th April 1809 at Alcantar and on 28th July at Talaveyra-de-la-Reyna. During this battle, which lasted two days, the 45th was covered in glory; charged, alongside the 16th lights, with the attack on the centre of the English line, it deployed promptly in broken columns, marched under heavy gunfire and managed to shoot the enemy almost at the run. General Lapisse was fatally wounded; Colonel Barrié was gravely injured, along with a large number of officers and soldiers. The ardour of the survivors was increased by the loss of their leaders, but their repeated assaults did not make the enemy retreat – they held a strong battery and constantly received fresh reinforcements. During this heroic fight, Captains Michel and Servet; and Lieutenants Blain, Leduc, and Baillyat died gloriously. Langlade, the leader of the battalion, Captains Devaud and Herbert; Lieutenants Vaillat, Raymond, Chambray, Senlis, Venard, Buron, Métais and Ducasse let flow their blood onto this land, so disputed. The number of men killed or wounded was considerable, but the ardour of the troop was so great that it demanded a final assault. The fight was stopped by the intervention of King Joseph.

In 1810, the 45th assisted in the blockade of Cadix; combat at Chiclana (5th March) and the battle of Albuhera (16th May), where Sub-Lieutenants

Guillebaux and Châtillon were killed; Captains Jean and Regnault-Brincourt were wounded.

The following year it took part in operations against Balleysteros and passed into the 5th corps of General Drouet d'Erlon. The campaign of 1812 was marked by the bloody fighting in Alba-de-Tormès (12th November), which cost the 45th the deaths of its Lieutenants Dalimagne and Merveilleux; and the wounding of its Captains Regnault-Brincourt, Devaud, and Sub-Lieutenant Yunck.

In 1813, the 2nd and 3rd battalions were directed to Germany. The 1st battalion stayed in Spain and took part in the battle of Vittoria, where it had great losses. Captain Dupont and Lieutenants Stoupe and Durcos were killed. Sub-Lieutenant Guillin, who was wounded, was mentioned in the orders of the army corps. The following year, the 1st battalion, under orders from Commandant Guerrier, was covered in glory at the battle of Toulouse, defending Calvinet's redoubts. When it retired, there were only one hundred men in combat-ready state. The officers lost that day included the deaths of Lieutenants Viatte, Brodart, Gabory and Macron; and Captains Mouteau, Guillin and Lieutenant Imbert were wounded.



British infantry exchanges fire with the French across the Languedoc Canal during the Battle of Toulouse (Print after Henri Dupray 1890)

The Campaign of 1809

Whilst the 45th was fighting in Spain, its 4th battalion was upholding its reputation in Germany. On 22nd May, it took great losses during the

battle of Essling. The majority of its officers were wounded: Commandant Grégoire; Captains Rousset and Petit; Lieutenants Ferrari, Giraud and Vallat; and Sub-Lieutenants Blanc and Wurnier. Fifty men killed and 150 men wounded proved that these brave men had not spilt their blood in vain to uphold the good reputation of their flag.

At Wagram (5th and 6th July) the same thing happened. Aside from a great number of men dead and wounded, these two days cost us the death of Lieutenant Georges. Commandant Grégoire, Captain Jamonet, Lieutenant Vallat and Sub-Lieutenant Blanc were all gravely wounded.



Members of the current 45eme Infanterie Regiment d'Ligne re-enactment group at the 2009 Wagram re-enactment event

The Campaign of 1813

During the unfortunate Russian campaign, the 45th was charged with assuring communications in Germany, occupying strongholds and surveying the coasts. It was part of Heudelet's division, distributed between Osnabrück, Rostock, Hamburg and Lubeck.

On 13th January 1813, an order from King Murat sent the division to occupy Dantzic, defended by General Rapp. The 45th took part in all the operations of that memorable defence and when, after eleven months of heroic effort, the garrison was obliged to surrender, the General rendered justice to Heudelet's division, which was distinguished above the others: "the 30th division", he wrote to the Emperor, "was constantly conducted with a bravery and devotion worthy of the greatest praise. Towards the end of this siege especially, this brave division was the main pivot on which our operations and hopes were pinned. For two whole months, it withstood almost single-handedly the efforts of the enemy."

The Campaign of 1815

On 1st March 1815, Napoleon left the Isle of Elba and, crossing France triumphantly, arrived in Paris on 20th March. By decree of 28th March, he proceeded to reorganise the army, which had sunk to rock bottom under the reorganisation of King Louis XVIII. The 45th was reformed at Lille during April 1815 and was part of the 2nd brigade of the 3rd division of the 1st corps under General Drouet d'Erlon.

On 10th June, the 2nd brigade, under orders from General Grenier, established itself around St. Sauve, the 45th occupying Fresnes and Echaulepont. On 16th and 17th June passed in painful marches. At the end of the afternoon, after a violent storm which hindered the march, the brigade reached the farm at Belle-Alliance and noticed the English army established on the plateau of Mont St. Jean.

The Battle of Waterloo

On the 18th June towards 9 o'clock in the morning, the 1st corps was established in front of Planchenois¹⁰, with its left flank to the road from Brussels to Charleroi near to Belle-Alliance, with its right towards the farms of Papelottes and de la Haye; on that side was Marcognet's division. The two battalions of the 45th were established in the first line.

At noon, Napoleon gave the signal to attack. The movement was immediately taken up by Marcognet's division. The eight battalions marched, deployed in two lines a couple of steps apart. Under heavy artillery fire, they crossed the terrain which separated them from the English, then threw themselves on the

¹⁰ Notice French spelling of Plancenoit

slopes of the plateau and stopped only a short distance from the enemy infantry.

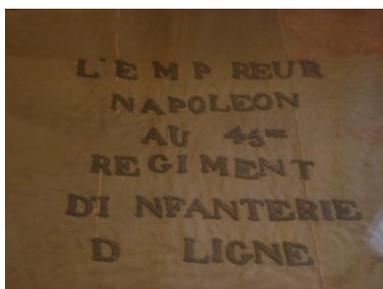


Members of the 45eme at Waterloo 2008

To keep his infantry at this point, the English general gave his Scottish dragoons the order to charge. They galloped down the narrow gaps, which separated the divisions of the 1st corps; the latter were squeezed together too tightly to allow them to form squares and started to descend towards the bottom of the plateau. In the middle of this melee, a dragoon rode up to the standard-bearer, knocked him over and seized the flag. Napoleon, who had seen this furious engagement from afar, ordered General Milhaud to send a brigade of cuirassiers from that side. They flung themselves on the Scottish platoons, who were taken from the side by lancers from 1st corps and were soon completely disbanded. During this charge, Quartermaster Orban of 4th Lancers, noticed the cavalryman who had taken the 45th's flag; he attacked him and managed to retake the Eagle, which he carried to his colonel. (No mention is made of it's recapture by Sgt Ewart – Ed). The marvels of bravery of the 1st corps and of Marshal Ney's corps finished by triumphing against the unrelenting resistance by the English when, at nearly 7 o'clock in the evening, a strong Prussian column arrived on the battlefield.



Left: 45eme Eagle, Below: 45eme Standard, both currently on display in Edinburgh Castle



The infantry of the 1st corps, took a setback and separated from the battalions of the Guard, quickly abandoned the plateau. It was sabred by the Prussian cavalry and was soon completely divided. This movement extended down the line, which quickly fell into chaos.

This defeat cost the regiment dearly, even though it had tried so hard. Officers lost included Capitains Guibert, Vallat and Regnault-Brincourt, dead; and amongst the wounded were the head of the battalion Gruard; Captains Porée, Drollet and Verdelet; Lieutenants Farrat, Lebon, Varnier and Yunck; and Sub-Lieutenants Augereau, Lapierre and Angette.

The fall of Napoleon led to the dismissal of part of the army; regiments were laid off and replaced by legions. The 45th formed the legion of the Oise. The

number 45 was given to the legion of Eure-et-Loir. This new reorganisation lasted barely five years.

CHAPTER IV

1820-1869 (The Restoration – African Campaign – Italian War)

At Home (1820 - 1826)

On the 6th December 1820 the 45th was reformed at the Havre, in accordance with the royal decree of the 23rd October 1819 which called for the elimination of departmental 'Legions' and their replacement by an organisation of regiments as it had been under the previous regime. It was composed of two battalions of eight companies each (two elite companies of grenadiers and voltigeurs and six centre companies of fusiliers).

In October 1821, the 45th was sent to Paris where it remained until January 1822 when it was sent to La Rochelle. The departure of the regiment from the capital was for political reasons as it was at the heart of the 45th that the famous conspiracy against King Louis XVIII was organised and which became



known as that of the "Four Sergeants of La Rochelle". At the head of this were NCO's of the 45th Bories, Goubin, Pommier and Raoul. Convicted of the crime of high treason against the established order these four NCO's were condemned to death and executed in Paris, on the 'Place de Grève', 21st September 1822.

45eme Four Sergeants

The 45th stayed at La Rochelle from 1822 to 1823; the regiment did not take part in the Spanish Campaign of 1823 but instead was placed on watch at the border of the Pyrenees for the duration of the expedition, from March 1823 until January 1824.

Martinique

In October 1826 the 45th was in garrison at Cherbourg and received orders to raise two of its battalions to a 'War' footing in order to go and form a garrison in Martinique. On the 18th of that month the regimental HQ, 1st and 3rd battalions under the command of Colonel de la Contamine, totalling 56 officers 1,580 men, embarked for our possessions in the Antilles.

The regiment was to spend a considerable time in Martinique; arriving in November 1826 they were only to return in April 1832. During this six year period the 45th was required to suppress in 1828 and 1830 attempts at insurrection among the 'blacks' and especially suffered tremendously from the unhealthy climate of the islands which claimed over 29 officers and 1,200 men. In 1829 the 49th Regiment which was also garrisoned on the island with

the 45th was recalled to France and was replaced by the 2nd battalion 45th which had remained with the regimental depot in Saint-Brieuc. In December this same year Colonel Hache de la Contamine returned to France because of sickness and resigned his commission, requesting to be placed on the inactive list. He was replaced on the 27th December by Colonel Foucher.

As a consequence of the royal decree of the 14th May 1831, which called for the creation of two regiments of 'Marines' to be dedicated exclusively to colonial service, the 45th and 51st as well as the 16th Léger who had been on detached service under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Navy were returned to the auspices of the Ministry of War and repatriated, after having donated a portion of their non commissioned officers and men to the newly formed marine regiments. For its part the 45th transferred 425 men to the first of these corps. The rest of the regiment left the Antilles in April 1832 and eventually disembarked at the Havre where it formed the garrison and reconstituted itself.

At Home (1832 - 1854)

Over the course of the next twenty-two years the 45th underwent a long period of calm, only troubled by the bloody days of June 1848. The regiment will demonstrate itself, during this period of peace, to be an exemplar of firm discipline, irreproachable dress and show the proofs of a solid and remarkably extensive training, thanks to the direction and leadership of the Colonels who successively commanded the regiment.

In April 1834, the 45th left the Havre to be garrisoned at Lille, where it remained for only a year. On the 6th July, a fire having started at the hospital of Lille, the soldiers of the regiment distinguished themselves in their efforts at combating this disaster and thereafter in refusing the gratification that they were to be rewarded with in return for their actions.

In April 1835 the 45th left Lille for Versailles and Paris. On 31st December that year, Colonel Foucher was promoted Field Marshal; he was replaced by Colonel Rimoz de la Rochette. In November 1836 the 45th left Paris and went into garrison at Parthenay. In October 1838 the regiment was directed to Nantes from which, after a year's stay, it was sent to La Rochelle in November 1839. Two years later the regiment occupied the towns of Saintes, Blaye and Rochefort. On the 18th April 1840 Colonel de la Rochette was retired and replaced by Colonel Lebas Sainte-Croix.

In April 1843 the 45th left its emplacements in Charente-Inférieure and went to the garrison in Bordeaux, where it remained until September 1845 at which time the regiment was sent to Paris and Courbevoie. From August to September 1847 the regiment moved to the military camp at Compègne to carry out manoeuvres. The regiment then returned to Paris and sent its 3rd battalion back to the regimental depot at Soissons.

The Revolution of 1848 saw the fall of the junior branch of the Bourbons. The King, Louis-Philippe, was sent once again into exile and the Republic was

declared. The 45th assisted, but did not take an active part, in the days of fighting in February and June 1848 and returned to Bordeaux in April 1849.

On the 18th May 1848 Colonel Sainte-Croix retired and was replaced a month later on the 18th June by Colonel Westée. On the 10th May 1852, at a grand military ceremony at the 'Champ de Mars', a deputation from the regiment received, from the hands of the President of the Republic, its new Colour, topped with the Imperial Eagle and in its folds, embroidered in gold, those glorious names of Valmy 1792, Lodi 1796, Austerlitz 1805, Friedland 1807, Fleurus 1815 recalling the most celebrated memories of the past. (Fleurus was the French name given to Ligny – Ed)



Troops advancing near Ligny 1815

At the same time as each of the regiments of the army were receiving, in great solemnity, their new Colours a decree was issued instituting a new medal; exclusively military and reserved for non-commissioned officers and men only. This decoration was the universally popular 'Médaille Militaire', so rightly appreciated in our army.

The first members of the 45th to be decorated with the new medal were Messieurs Defaye, 'tambour-major'; Vaucoy, 'sergent garde-magasin'; Louis Bouchaud, Hilbe, Rolland, Lateulade, 'sergents'; Bouvret, 'caporal de musique'; Bacoy, 'caporal' and Leverdier, 'soldat musicien'.



Médaille Militaire

At the end of October 1852 the regiment was sent to Marseille; it was in this city that, in March 1854, the regiment received orders to place its three battalions on a 'War' footing and go to Algeria and relieve the 'Line' regiments that have just taken ship to join the 'Armée d'Orient'.

A month earlier on the 7th February Colonel Bataille, a young and brilliant senior officer who subsequently went on to reach the highest pinnacles of the military hierarchy, took command of the regiment; replacing Colonel Westée

who was retired. Under the leadership of this valiant and energetic commander the 45th went on to fly its new Colour in the African mountains and inscribe on it, after the glorious names from the height of the Empire the no less glorious name of Grande-Kabylie 1856-1857.

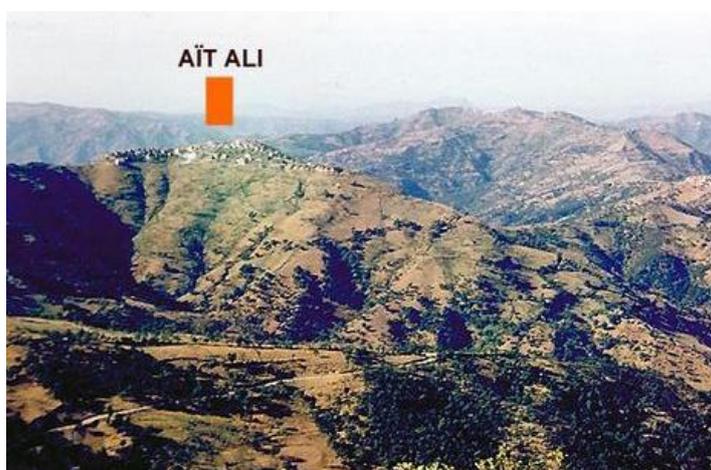
African Campaign (April 1854 - April 1859)

The 45th disembarked in Alger on the 13th April 1854 and successively garrisoned various different posts in Alger province such as Blida, Médéa, Boghar, La Chiffa, Les Issers and Le Sebaou; and was employed in the construction of roads from Tenès to Orléansville, from Tenès to Cherchell, d'Aïn-Beïda and the gorges of La Chiffa.

In August 1856, the kabyles tribesmen having risen in rebellion, General Yusuf was charged with suppressing the insurrection at the head of the 45th a battalion of the 65th and the 2nd battalion 1st Zouaves.

On the 7th September the column had entirely regrouped at Dra-el-Mizan. After a few days of marching, on the 14th September, the 2nd brigade captured and burned two kabyles villages and destroyed the fig trees of the surrounding area. In this heated affair the 45th distinguished itself for its bravery and its willingness to take the lead.

On the 24th September Yusuf and Renault's divisions were operating in concert against the Beni-Kouffi. The three villages of Aït-Ali, Tinez and Igzer, situated at the bottom of an enormous rift valley with steep rocky slopes and impenetrable forests, formed a formidable refuge which had until then seemed unapproachable. The Kabyles had assembled their herds and families there thinking that they would be sheltered from our gunfire. Despite the obstacles of the terrain and the stubbornness of the defence the two villages of Aït-Ali and Tines were captured and, in this engagement, the 45th led by Colonel Bataille conducted itself with vigour alongside the 1st Zouaves.



The village of Aït-Ali showing the rugged nature of the terrain

The next month on the 4th October, the expeditionary column was operating against the Beni-Bou-Addou which had not yet submitted. On the 5th October this tribe asked for quarter and, on the 11th October, the 45th returned to Alger

having set itself apart in this short campaign for its enthusiasm and its bravery, in both the larger engagements and in the everyday skirmishes that it was subject to at the hand of the dissident tribes, as well as for its staunchness and discipline in the gruelling forced marches that it had to effect.

For the remainder of 1856 and the beginning of 1857 the regiment dedicated itself to colonisation and road works.

The Conquest of Grande-Kabylie (May - June 1857)

Nevertheless, despite the success of the recent expedition, despite the chastisement inflicted on the insurrectionist tribes, Grande-Kabylie, stirred up by the powerful Beni-Raten tribe continued to offer a muted but latent unrest which was a source of constant concern for the Governor-general. Eventually the situation would need to be dealt with decisively.

In a report sent to the Emperor by Marshal Randon it was decided that a large military expedition, to encompass the whole of the mountainous area of Grande-Kabylie, would be mounted in May 1857. The Beni-Raten tribe was the one that was to be attacked and subjugated first; since its defeat would produce a definite blow to the moral of the neighbouring population and entail the submission of a good number of wavering tribes.

In May 1857 the campaign was set into motion and on the 19th of that month the expeditionary corps, under the orders of Marshal Randon, comprised of three superb divisions, under the command of Generals Renault, MacMahon and Yusuf, found itself assembled at the foot of the mountains controlled by the Beni-Raten.

These three divisions established positions in the foothills on the left bank of the Sébaou. They would have to climb the steep slopes ahead of them which were strongly defended by the tribesmen of the Beni-Raten. The divisional camps were situated in the middle of the valley fields and looked impressive. Regretfully, the weather prevented the operation from starting for several days and we had to wait until the 23rd to advance. On the 20th, a general order from Marechal Randon was communicated to the troops, the warlike speech galvanised the regiments with enthusiasm and impatience.

“Soldiers, once I told you: Next spring, we’ll come back to pursue our task. The Emperor’s will and the War Minister’s instructions allow me to keep my word. Tomorrow morning, we will attack the mightiest tribe of Kabylie. It will defend itself bravely, I count on it, and your glory will be stronger. Your chiefs are highly competent. Dangers, obstacles and tiredness will disappear in front of your ardour.

Advance, and soon our victory cry “Vive l’Empereur! Vive la France” will rise at the mountain tops”.



*The 20th of May, General corps, Hamis camp.
Marshal Randon
Governor in Chief.*

Marshal Randon 1795 1871

There were two key objectives to the first phase of the campaign's military operations: Firstly, to subdue and defeat the Beni-Raten; and secondly, to construct a fort in order to keep the Kabyles under control. The fort was to be located at the top of the Souk-el-Arba plateau, right in the middle of the Grande Kabylie region.

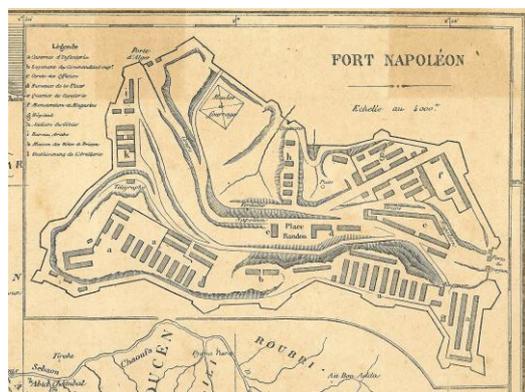
Renault's 1st division had to take the right foothill whilst MacMahon's 2nd division had to follow a spur defended by the villages of Belias and Affensou and move toward a foothill in the middle, above the second village. At the same time Yusuf's 3rd division was charged with the capture of the villages of Ighil-Guefri, Tagmount and Ighil-Hadjli, all of which were located at the top of the main hill.

The 24th of May, the 45th followed the 1st Zouaves and after an intense fight, took the villages of Tagmount and Affensou. The objectives of the 45th were achieved by 08.00 hours.

The Beni-Raten surrendered on 26th May. To complete his work of conquest and pacification, Marechal Randon used this victory to push forward and to establish a fort at Souk-el-Arba which secured French domination on the subdued country.

Construction of the fort and a supply road began on 2nd June and all troops of the expeditionary corps were involved with around 10,000 men working every day. From the Marechal to the simple trooper, everybody took part. The three divisional camps were like three gigantic bee-hives from which enthusiastic workers swarmed everyday.

The 14th of June, which was the anniversary of the French troops landing in Africa, saw the first stone of the Souk-el-Arba fort laid in place. The fort was given the name of Fort Napoleon. A magnificent ceremony was organised, both military and religious. The Marechal, all his generals, staff and troops were present.



Plan of Fort Napoleon

The peace keeping part of the campaign was now over and additional forts were built together with a great road linking Alger to Souk-el-Arba. The fighting then resumed against the unsubdued tribes. Six battalions were left behind in the new fort. The divisions moved out on the 24th of June, and MacMahon's 2nd

division fought the memorable battle of Icheriden, the 1st and 3rd divisions attacked the Beni-Yenni.

During the 25th, 27th and 28th, the Beni-Yenni held villages of El-Hassem, Aït-el-Arba and Taourirt-Mimoun were successfully attacked and taken by Yusuf's

3rd division. The 9th of July saw the 1st battalion of the 45th take the village of Iferahounen. In a dispatch, Colonel Bataille congratulates the battalion and publishes the names of those who have shown the most valor:

MM. de Solignac, battalion chief; Plan, captain adjudant-major; Alègre and Gely, captains; Desboves, sous-lieutenant; Pigout, sergeant, wounded; Paul, corporal, wounded twice and Dulenne, fusilier: all have been distinguished for their assistance to the wounded.

Villain, sergeant and André, voltigeur, wounded: distinguished for their brave conduct along with Acquart and Hosse, grenadiers; Kolsmitt, trumpet; Carottes and Nimé, fusiliers; Ferruci and Millet, sergeants; Serre, corporal; Troubat, fourrier sergeant; Varoteaux, sergeant; Martinau and Brilland, voltigeur; Madenier, trumpet.

During this ferocious fight, against a courageous and brave enemy who defended their mountains and villages, house by house, the officers and soldiers of the 45th were keen to emulate the Zouaves, their brave and tenacious brother in arms. After this campaign, the 45th were nicknamed the 4th Zouave.

The 12th of August 1857, following the Great Kabylie expedition, colonel Bataille, who had shown remarkable military qualities, was promoted to General of Brigade.

During 1858, the regiment worked on the roads of the Kabyle perimeter, near Aumale and Bougie.

In March 1859, the regiment received the unexpected order to transfer and reform at Alger, and to wait there for the development of the great events taking shape across Europe. Early in April, the regiment received the order to go back to France and was incorporated in the Army of Lyon, the vanguard of the Army of Italy.

The Italian Campaign (May to July 1859)

On the 25th of April, the war against Austria was officially declared and on 30th the 45th was directed to Marseille in order to embark for Gênes, where it arrived the 1st and 2nd of May.

At this time, the regiment was formed of 3 battalions, containing six companies each, a total of 67 officers and 1800 infantrymen. Under the command of Colonel Manuelle, who was a veteran of the African and Crimean wars. The 45th together with the regiment of Algerian tirailleurs, was part of the 1st brigade (Lefèvre), of the 1st division (General de Motterouge) of the 2nd Corps (General de MacMahon). The campaign started with some good omens. The Corps was composed of hardened, well disciplined and seasoned soldiers, under the command of known and talented generals, who would be able to achieve great feats and take a large part in the heroic struggle that was about to start.



Patrice MacMahon 1808-1893

The 45th was about to fight on ground that had been immortalised by its ancestors, and its performance was to be undiminished.

The 30th of May, the 2nd Corps advanced against the Austrians; the 1st brigade (Lefèvre; Algerian tirailleurs and 45th of the line) stopped at Casale. On the 31st, the regiment crossed the Pô and moved to Verceil, where it learnt about the success of the Sarde Army and the 3rd Zouaves at Palestro. No one stopped at Verceil and the 45th crossed both the Cervo and Sesia rivers, in the direction of Novare.

The 45th were supposed to stay in this town the following day. However, new orders were received; the division of La Motterouge had to be ready to move again. At 10am, the division established its camp between the 2 railroads, from Milan to Gênes.

On the 3rd of June, the 2nd Corps advanced on Turbigo, and at half past twelve, the 45th crossed the Tessin river. The Emperor was present and declared "Soldiers of the 45th, remember that you are the first French regiment to enter into Lombardie, in 1859".

Once the Tessin river was crossed, the regiment advanced on Robechetto. The Algerian tirailleurs were engaging a strong Austrian column there, which was repulsed after a short fight and pursued with bayonets through the village. At this precise moment, General Lefèvre arrived with the 45th, which moved forward and supported the tirailleurs's advance, helping to storm Robechetto and dislodging the last defenders. The Artillery corps formed in line and pounded the Austrians who were retreating towards Malvaggio. With this mighty support, our advance was strengthened despite an attempt from the Austrian cavalry to stop us. A Hungarian battalion even tried to advance on our flank but it was vigorously met by the 45th, turned over and forced to quickly retreat. By 5pm the enemy had retreated everywhere and left behind one cannon and innumerable pieces of soldiers' baggage and kit. The vigor of our action prevented us suffering too many losses and casualties. The 45th had only 11 men put out of action.

On the 4th of June 1859, the French Army marched on Milan and was resolute in crossing the Tessin river in some force. The river was protected by the 4 Austrian corps who were stationed around the village of Magenta. However, this village was protected on our side by a deep canal, the Naviglio-Grande, and the Tessin river itself a few hundred meters behind. Therefore, we had to



Storming of Robechetto 1859

storm and secure 2 bridges and to cross 2 rivers under a resolute and vigorous enemy fire before accessing Magenta.

The Emperor Napoleon III thought that it was necessary to attack from both sides at the same time in order to win. He decided that the guard would make a frontal attack on the enemy. The 2nd army corps under General MacMahon's command would cross the Tessin river a bit further up stream at Turbigo and would move back on the right flank of the enemy position to attack them in the rear.

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It was 10am when the Imperial Guard's head of column in charge of the attack on the bridges made contact with the enemy. At 4pm, they were still relentlessly fighting and the Austrians positioned in the houses alongside the canal were still holding their position. Successively reinforced with the 3rd corps and part of the 4th, the Guard managed to break the enemies resistance, and they eventually retreated to Magenta.



However, our brave soldiers were stopped at that village by a desperate defense. Each house was heavily defended and transformed into a small fortress that delivered murderous volleys.

Battle of Magenta

Our losses were heavy and victory was eluding us when suddenly the canons of the 2nd corps opened fire on our left flank. The 2nd corps' tirailleurs outflanked the north of Magenta, bursting into streets and houses, breaking down the right flank of the stupefied Austrians, who were then forced to hastily evacuate.

In detail, La Motterouge's division, which had left Robechetto in the morning and marched alongside the Naviglio-Grande, had twice driven back the Austrian outposts, and had entered Buffalora. As it was marching toward Magenta it received a terrible volley from the enemy who had set up an ambush behind a wall alongside the road. Its advanced guard was decimated. It was the Cascina-Nova, a large farm heavily defended by the Austrians that stopped our advance. Immediately, the 45th 1st and 2nd battalions were deployed. At Colonel Manuelle's signal, their brave commander led the attack with sword in hand. The 45th charged the 2 Hungarian regiments that guarded the perimeter and repulsed them in great disorder on the road to Magenta. At the same time, the 3rd battalion broke into the farm and engaged the companies inside in hand-to-hand combat. Quickly, there were no defenders left, all had been killed, wounded or captured. The 1st and 2nd battalions ran

after the retreating enemy, which were engaged a second time and ultimately lost a flag and 1,500 prisoners, including a colonel.

Two hours later, La Motterouge's Division and the Espinasse's Division, which had recently fought at Marcallo, where the 2nd Zouaves surpassed themselves, entered Magenta. They convincingly repulsed the Austrians and therefore added a new impressive victory to French history. The intrepid 45th contributed greatly to this success.



Guard Zouaves during the campaign

The Emperor, in recognition for the 2nd Corp's essential contribution to the success of the Armée d'Italie, promoted Général MacMahon to the rank of Maréchal de France and Duc of Magenta.

Three days later the 45th was given the honour of leading the victorious troops when they entered Milan. Therefore, our regimental colors, which were the first to cross the borders of Lombardie, were at the forefront of everybody when we entered the conquered city. This dramatic entry of the French troops into Milan was a magnificent triumph. The entire population was present. From the Vercilina gate to the Pavie gate, where the 45th camp was erected, a multitude of ribbons, flowers, crowns and cigars covered our brave soldiers. The Italian enthusiasm, heated by the Lombardian's sun and by this succession of victories, was delirious and uncontrollable. The victors of Magenta were literally overwhelmed by the populations' greetings. The name "Magenta" was written on our flag in memory of this great victory.

However, the army could not rest too long in this pleasant city. We were the masters of Milan, but the most important parts of Lombardie still remained to be conquered.

On the 8th of June, at 4am, the 2nd Corps left Milan and moved towards Melegnano by the Lodi road, where an Austrian division was waiting, supported by heavy artillery. However, Maréchal Baraguey d'Hilliers, commander in chief of the 1st Corps, had not waited for the 2nd to arrive. In the evening, when La Motterouge's and Decaen's divisions (formerly Espinasse) arrived at Dresaro, near Melegnano, the Austrians were already defeated and in full retreat.

After a succession of forward and backwards movements in order to follow a constantly evading enemy, the 45th arrived at San-Zeno the 18th of June, 4 km from Brescia where it was saluted by General de la Motterouge, who recognised its valorous conduct during the last combats. Colonel Manuelle was awarded the Commander Cross of the Legion d'Honneur. Captains Lefebvre, Gély, Blondy, lieutenant Frayermouth, drum-major Desfarges, sergeant-major Carmentrau, fourrier Bernier and sapeur Kyzerin were

awarded the Knight's Cross. Fifteen NCOs and fifteen corporals and soldiers received the Military Order Medal.

The following day, the 45th crossed the Chiese without difficulty and camped for 3 days (21st to 23rd) 2 km south of Castiglione. During the 23rd, the plain in the direction of the Mincio was reconnoitred by several cavalry groups, which reported that the enemy was already occupying Solférino, Cavriana, Guidizzolo and Medole with large forces.

Around 3am, the whole French Army was on the move. The 2nd Corps had to be ready to march on Cavriana. However, it could not leave its position on the Medole plain for several hours because this would have created too much space between its right flank and the left flank of the 4th Corps (Niel). Therefore, its activity was limited to artillery fire, where under general Auger's command the artillery bombarded the enemy's 3rd Corps as it advanced on the road from Mantoue.

During this cannonade, that lasted around 2 hours, the 45th was deployed near Medole and took 600 prisoners from a Hungarian regiment stormed by our cavalry.

Around 11am, the cavalry division of the guard, under General Morris' command, arrived to fill the space between the 2nd and 4th Corps. At the same time, General Niel informed Marechal MacMahon that he was ready to move forward in order to support the 2nd Corps' advance on Cavriana.

Without anymore worry about his right flank, the Marechal gave the order to the La Motterouge Division to advance toward the Solferino heights in order to support the attack from the Guard Voltigeurs. This movement had to be followed by a right turn on Cassiano, which was an important position and needed to be secured.



Battle of Solferino

Therefore, the brigade under Lefèvre's command (Algerian Tirailleurs, 45th and 65th of the line) undertakes a change of direction to the left, its right flank was moved forward from Medole to Solferino. The 45th advanced at a fast pace on the Malpetti farm and took it after a short fight. The regiment then moved towards the Fontana heights. The first hilltop had already been taken by Colonel Laure's 'Turcos' (Algerian troops). The 45th advanced on the second hilltop. However, outnumbered, it could not take the position and had to fall back in good order while waiting for some reinforcements.

The Emperor had just arrived on the battle field. Witnessing the difficulties encountered by the 45th, he decided that this brave regiment needed support without any further delay. For this purpose, he gave an order to the 1st

Grenadier regiment of the Guard to advance. A battery from the same Corps under General Le-boeuf's command opened a heavy fire on the Austrian troops defending the hilltop.

As soon as General Lefevre realised that he was supported, he rallied his brigade's battalions and led a charge on the Fontana hilltops once again. However, the enemy was again too strong at this place and put up such a fierce resistance that some of the positions taken by the Turcos were lost.

At this precise time, the 72nd commanded by the valorous Colonel Castex entered the action. His battalions deployed in battle formation ("bataille à distance entiere") and moved forward passing in front of the dislocated battalions of Lefevre's brigade.

At the sight of these proud and confident soldiers, only one word was heard amongst our troops "Forward, forward !". The charge was renewed along the whole line, with the 45th, 72nd and Turcos all rushing forward towards the hilltops. In an unstoppable wave, the Austrians were dislodged a second time. However, the enemy received some further reinforcements too and we were eventually forced to fall back again.

The situation needed to be resolved. General de La Motterouge arrived with his 2nd brigade and organised 3 columns to attack. The first one contained the 45th and the Algerian's Tirailleurs, the second one contained the 70th and 72nd, and the third one, which he personally led forward, consisted of the 65th of the line. These columns advanced at the charge, with drums, bugles and their eagles deployed. It was the last effort to conquer a position on which the outcome of the day of battle depended.

During this difficult fight, the 45th showed bravery and spirit. Its intrepid colonel in front, the 45th rushed against the Austrians with fervour, under heavy fire it engaged the enemy for the third time, repulsed it and regained step by step all the positions lost earlier. It pushed the Austrians back by the force of its bayonets all the way to Cavriana.

Nothing was able to stand in front of our brave regiments. Despite their tenacity, the Austrians were forced to fall back in front of the "furia francese". Generals de La Motterouge and de Pothès from one side, General Lefèvre from the other side, finally entered the enemy trenches, overwhelmed the defences and pursued the retreating fugitives, who were fleeing through Cavriana's streets.

At 4pm, a terrible storm broke out and affected the two armies. Thick clouds of dust were thrown across the fields and into the sky by a furious wind; soon followed by a heavy rain that prevented all movement and caused a suspension of the fighting. The enemy, who otherwise would have been routed, suddenly grasped the opportunity to retreat.



The old Citadel at Cavriana

The 45th camped on its position, gained at great cost during the struggle. Its losses were terrible: 20 officers, 300 NCOs and soldiers were out of action. Lieutenant Morand, Sous-lieutenants Valentin, Arbelet and Jardinet were all mortally wounded.

In their reports, Marechal MacMahon and the Emperor recognised the valorous contribution of the regiment during this heroic and bloody battle. (Author's note: "...From the Corps that have suffered heavy casualties, I will cite the 45th, already affected by the fighting at Magenta, who lost 20 officers during the day..." (Official report from Marechal MacMahon)).

The dead were put to rest on the 25th of June. The 2nd Corps and the Guard camped at Cavriana, where the HQ was established. The same day, a decree was published and named the 45th of the line in the Legion d'honneur orders.

At the officer rank: M. Chavannes de Chastel, chef of the 1st battalion;
At the rank of knight: MM Tréfouel, captain, heavily wounded, who subsequently died on the 25th of July; Sidorre, captain; Dechamp and Desboves, lieutenants; sergeants Lacoste, Pichot, Troubat, Martin and Caillot, the last 3 all heavily wounded. Nineteen NCOs and troopers received the medal of the military order.

On the 26th of June, the 45th left Cavriana to move nearer to the Mincio by the Solférino road at Monzombano. The regiment reached Campagnano and later Castellaro where it stayed until the 30th of June.

On the 8th of July, after a few days of preparing for further conflict, an armistice was agreed at Villafranca between the Emperors Napoleon III and Francois-Joseph, and King Victor-Emmanuel.

The French army started its withdrawal on 15th July. The 45th left Santa-Lucia where it had been stationed since the armistice and moved toward Brescia and subsequently to Roncadello on the 18th. The 45th stayed there until the 25th of July, before moving to Milan which it left on the 27th.

The 45th arrived in Paris by train and took up position at the Saint-Maur camp on the 5th August.

The Armée d'Italie entered Paris in triumph on 14th August. The 45th flag, battered and all mutilated by shot and shell, was received with enthusiasm and garlands of flowers. In recognition of its brave conduct in Italy, the regiment was permitted to garrison in Paris itself.



An old post card showing the Saint Maur Camp

Chapter V

**1870-1904
War of 1870 – 71**

Army of the Rhine

19th July 1870, the regiment, garrisoned at Belfort received the order to leave to support the army of the Rhine. It joined with the 1st Regiment of Zouaves to form the 2nd brigade of the 1st division of the 1st corps of the Army (Marshall MacMahon).

Froeschwiller

On 6th August, the 45th, together with the 1st Zouaves, found itself on the left wing of the corps d'armee, positioned in some hop fields with a pine wood, occupied by Bavarians, to our front. The enemy tried to turn the French left flank on several occasions. The Bavarians came out of the cover of the woods but were then repulsed each time by the fire from our skirmishers who were well positioned and within a good range. Combat raged throughout the day on the centre and right wing, the left wing contented itself with containing the enemy. However, with the right and centre being over run on all sides and also being confronted by fresh enemy troops our troops evacuated their positions. Finally the Marshal decided to order the retreat. We were outnumbered 4 to 1 and to give the troops time to disengage, six regiments of cuirassiers successfully charged the enemy; their self sacrifice and devotion to duty allowed the Marshall time to reorder some of the regiments, disordered in the furious combat, and to confer on the 45th and 1st Zouaves the honour of covering the retreat of the 1st corps. A mission in which the two units acquitted themselves so well, that by evening the pursuing German cavalry had lost contact with the French Army. Regimental loses were 5 officers killed or died of wounds; 10 officers wounded of which 7 gravely so; 410 men killed or wounded.



Zouaves in action at the battle of Froeschwiller

Sedan

On the 1st September the 45th established a position on the heights of Gironne and took up arms at 5am. The first shelling of our position took out 4 men.

The regiment received the order to move back and to take cover in a wood, where until midday it stayed under a hail of projectiles, from which it tried to shelter as much as possible. At midday the regiment was directed towards Sedan. Around 3pm it was heavily engaged in lively fighting around the village of Balan until a white flag was raised and there was an end to the fighting.

During the day the 45th lost 12 officers, of which 3 were killed and 9 wounded. Not wanting to accept defeat the regiment broke up into several groups; one group re-entered Sedan and another passed into Belgium, another group of about 250 men and several officers of 45th penetrated the enemy lines and took Mezieres. In doing so they were charged by a Prussian Dragoon Regiment which initially dispersed the men making up this little column. Some men crossed into Belgium, and about 160 arrived at Mezieres at about 10pm. They brought 10 Prussian Dragoon prisoners with them including an officer.



Battle of Sedan

This small detachment was commanded by Captains Franck and Algay, Lieutenant Leroy, sub Lieutenants Dalvery, Vanson and Bidegain. Doctor

Herve was also found amongst these worthy men.

In the charge of the Prussian Dragoons, Caporal Sappeur Gineys, who carried the standard of the 45th, was cut off from the column and with several comrades, reunited with a troop of soldiers from another corps, commanded by a marine infantry Lieutenant, directed themselves towards the Belgium frontier. This brave sappeur was obliged, with difficulty, to cross into Belgium to return the flag back to Lieutenant Colonel Germain, who now commanded the Regiment, Colonel Bertrand, being sick having left the 45th at Mourmelan.

During the march Gineys tried to disguise the flag and carry it into Belgium but was foiled in this attempt by an officer who saw the flag and refused him entry into Belgium without surrendering the standard and laying down his arms. Therefore Gineys tore the silk, made it into a belt, hid the eagle and tri colour scarf on his chest and cutting the flagstaff in two, he gave a section to one of his comrades and both of them used them as a cane/walking stick. During his internment, Gineys refused to give up his flag to the officers who offered a safe hiding place for this precious relic, or who returning to France would promise to return it to his Colonel. Gineys never consented to give over the flag of his Regiment. The armistice allowed him to re-enter France; but arriving at Calais, he could not rejoin his former Regiment, having been drafted into the 64th after 5 months internment in Belgium.

This brave Caporal then asked his new commander for permission to travel to Bourg across the Prussian lines and wait to give back his precious cargo to Lt Colonel Germain. Caporal Sappeur Gineys was named chevalier of the legion of honour on 6th February 1877.

Strasbourg

6 August – 28 September

A detachment of 100 men, under the orders of sub Lieutenant Hamps, left the depot at Belfort, on 6th August, to reinforce the regiment. It arrived at Strasbourg and was kept there by the Governor to form part of the defence of the town. On the 16th this section of 45th was charged with the job of reconnaissance in the village of Illkirch. Coming out of position, it was seen by the enemy and despite a lively fire fight it managed to get into the village with the loss of 14 men, killed and injured. Sergeant Major Couesnon was named sub Lieutenant on the suggestion of Monsieur Hamps, and fell some days later hit by a shell. Up until the capitulation the detachment served as purveyors of munitions to the forward positions and protected those travelling on the roads. They assisted in two sorties.

Mezieres

27 September – 1st January 1871

In the aftermath of the Battle of Sedan, a section of the regiment was directed against Mezieres. Attacked on route by Prussian Dragoons, this column lost several men killed and wounded. On entering Mezieres on 27th September the unit strength was raised to 138 men. Until 1st January this section occupied the outside defences of the town and billeted itself in the local villages of Theux and Mohon until the moment of the surrender of Mezieres when the unit was taken into captivity to Magdeburg.

Belfort

29 November 1870 - 13 February 1871

At the departure of the Regiment for the Army of the Rhine, the depot stayed at Belfort. The first 6 companies constituted a battalion which was given the name of 3rd march battalion of 45th. During September, whilst the depot units were being refitted one company was sent to Nevers. The remaining companies formed the depot. The 3rd march battalion defended the glacis and the station area of Belfort whilst the depot companies defended the walls and main gates to the town. Until 23rd November the 3rd battalion was used in the forward posts and in sorties. On this date having been sent out on patrol to observe the enemy and to take up a new defensive position, it was engaged by the Germans and took up a lively fusillade that lasted all day. The unit only returned to Belfort at night fall. Back in Belfort it busied itself building defences. The German bombardment then began on 3rd December, which without let up lasted about 73 hours. On 26th January the enemy attacked the defences and the 45th entrenched in front of the fort put up a heavy fusillade. The German attack was halted and the 45th leaving their trenches forced the enemy to beat a fighting retreat and thus abandon their dead and wounded.



The 'Lion of Belfort' Monument erected to commemorate the defence of Belfort

The regiment captured 260 prisoners including 7 officers. On 30th January the battalion took the Fort des Perches and occupied it until 5th February, despite incessant enemy fire which fired up to 3000 artillery projectiles per day. Many of the troops were engaged in fire fighting duties. During the night of 12-13th February a convent caught fire and because of its proximity to the arsenal threatened to blow up the whole town. The depot troops of 45th were sent to fight the fire and despite heavy enemy fire they worked without rest to ensure the arsenal was safe and sheltered from any further danger. On the 13th February an armistice was concluded. The Belfort garrison left the town with full battle honours. The 45th marching out in two columns returned to Bourg between 25th and 28th March.

Army of the Loire

In October 1870 Paris was under siege, with transport disrupted and troops immobilised. Few troops were available other than depot soldiers and marines. Despite these feeble resources and despite the poverty of the arsenals and lack of money the Government did not despair. It said it would resist the enemy. The creation of an army behind the Loire was seen as a major priority. Its elements were assembled in haste, coming from all parts of France. Its organisation was achieved through the zeal of its Commander in chief, d'Aurelles de Palladine, who on 15th October took control of 15 army corps brought together through his efforts. During this period it was impossible to get enough troops together to prevent and oppose the march of an army corps of Bavarians. The French Government hastened the formation of the corps that were to constitute the army of the Loire. The 16th corps was formed on 30th October and the 17th on 31st. The 45th Regiment was sent into the 17th corps. The regiment was made up of 3 battalions each with 6 companies and for the most part made up of recalled soldiers and escaped prisoners of war. The officers had nearly already all been wounded since the start of the war.

On November 4th the unit was engaged at Coulmiers which led to the retaking of Orleans. On 25th November the regiment contributed to the capture of Bron and the retreat of the Germans. It returned to its cantonments having marched and fought for over 30 hours. On the 26th it arrived at Binas after a 2 day and 2 night journey in freezing cold.

The Germans moved from Metz towards Paris and took up positions north of the Army of the Loire; on our side, we believed that the Army from Paris had broken through the enemy lines. The army of the Loire received orders to march on Paris to support the troops under attack there. The army attacked the Germans under the command of Frederick Charles and struggled against the enemy between 2-4th December. On the morning of 2nd December the

corps was reunited to fight at Patay; the 45th arrived on the battlefield at midday to support the 16th army corps, however the unit was quickly sent by the General in Chief to fight at Loigny, where our exhausted troops were heavily outnumbered and started to give way. Together with Zouaves and two companies of Saraphis we took the village after three successive attacks.

Unable to hold the village, General de Sonis eventually ordered the retreat and at 9pm the 45th fell back to Patay where it arrived at midnight.



The Battle of Loigny

The 17th corps's operations were successful and a general success was believed; regrettably, the 16th army corps was completely disorganised and the order to retreat to Orleans was given on the morning of the 3rd December; on the 4th, the Germans cut the

Army of the Loire in two, the right part became the 1st Army of Loire and retreated to Orleans after a difficult fight; the left part of the Army, including the 16th and 17th army corps, became the 2nd Loire Army under the command of General Chanzy. General Chanzy retreated to Josnes during the evening of the 4th. The 45th arrived at Josnes at 1am on the 5th, with many losses due to the cold climate and exhaustion.

On the 8th, the 45th received the order to take the village of Cravant; the assault started around 1pm; our soldiers were in the village when they received artillery and infantry fire to both their front and flanks, and were forced to withdraw; the colonel decided to take back the evacuated position, and he gathered the fragments of his regiment and charged against the village one more time; but this assault was repulsed and the 45th had to withdraw, leaving 400 dead or wounded on the ground.

On the 11th December, the French Army retreated to Vendôme and on the 13th, the regiment was called to cover the retreat of the Army corps and fight as rear guard.

Having bivouacked in the mud and snow, the troops began their retreat to the Mans on 16th; until the 11th of January, the 45th is engaged in various fights in and around the villages it has to either defend or occupy; during these fights, 4 officers and 117 soldiers are put out of action.



General Chanzy

The army under Chanzy, was attacked by the Germans on 11th January and fights the battle of Mans; during some terrible fighting in woods the regiment successfully

repulsed the Prussians. Night brought a stop to the fighting which flared up again at daybreak and throughout the 12th. However, the lack of ammunition forced us to retreat with the loss of 4 officers and 150 soldiers dead or wounded.

After 2 days of fighting, the retreat to la Mayenne is conducted under one foot of snow. On the 29th, we got news of the Armistice, the war against Germany is over.

Battle of Auvours near Le Mans



Military campaign of 1871 (inland insurgency / insurrection)

During the 4th of March, under a special agreement, the 45th crossed by railroad the Western provinces occupied by the Prussians and arrived at Paris on the 5th.

The 6th of April, the 45th were at the village of Chatillon and also occupied its redoubt. On the 7th and 8th, it was engaged in fighting with the insurgents; then on 15th, a battalion took part in the Bécon Castle attack. During the night of the 12-13th May, other elements of the Regiment supported the general movement to the port of Passy and on the 22nd the Regiment entered Paris. On the 23rd, it arrived at Montmartre and was involved in the storming of the barricades and pushed the insurgents out of their last positions; these street fights ended on the 28th May.



A barricade in Paris, 1871

The 45th march regiment was only 7 months old yet it had already taken part in 3 large battles, 5 fights with the Loire Army, and the inland campaign; during this last one the Regiment lost 6 officers and 900 dead or wounded.

Chapter VI

The 45th regiment of line since 1871

The regiment is re-organised on the 10th of October 1871, by merging with the 45th regiment de marche and is assembled at the Satory camp under Colonel d'Arguesse's command.

The regiment has successively been in garrison in Paris (1873-74), at Givet and Rocroi (1875). Since the 9th of April 1875, it has assembled at Laon with detachments being sent and detached to Ham, Verdun, Longwy, Guise, Sissonne and Hirson.

On the 10th of November 1875, Colonel d'Arguesse was promoted General and replaced by Colonel Chevallier.

New flags had to be distributed to the army on the 14th of July 1880, therefore, the Colonel, a Captain, the Flag Bearer, a Sergeant and 3 Soldiers went to Paris and received the flag at the Longchamp review, from M. Grévy, President of the French Republic.

The 17th September 1883, Colonel Harty de Pierrebouurg takes over command of the regiment. Promoted General of Brigade on the 28th of December 1889, he was replaced by Colonel Abadie, who died in action on the 12th of September 1893 and was subsequently replaced a month later by Colonel Pau.

The 11th of October 1894, Colonel Pau is transferred to the 54th and replaced with Colonel Michel, from the 60th regiment of line and assistant private secretary of the War Minister. However, Colonel Michel also kept his function at Paris and Lieutenant-Colonel Roy de La Chaise was in effective command of the regiment.

In January 1895, the regiment provided 18 volunteers, chosen amongst 200, to join the 200th regiment of line, assembled to take part in the Madagascar expedition.

The 24th of April 1895, Lieutenant-Colonel Brunet, (Breveté hors cadre is difficult to translate, it means that the officer was initially a Lieutenant or Captain with at least 5 years of activity in a regiment, who had passed an examination and was accepted to do "superior war staff college" work, after 2 years of college, the officer received a brevet to become a staff officer - Ed), was promoted Colonel and named as the replacement to Colonel Michel of 45th.

The following year, in July, the regiment inaugurated the Sissone camp, 20 kilometres from Laon. Then on 30th December 1899, Colonel Rambaud takes over the command of the 45th, due to the subsequent promotion of Colonel Brunet to the rank of General of Brigade.

Since 1891, the 4th of June has been the regimental day, to remember the glorious anniversary of Magenta. In 1902, following the officers' request, the money used for this celebration is sent to the inhabitants of Saint-Pierre de la Martinique, very badly affected by the Mont Pelé volcanic eruption. The 9th of April 1903, Colonel Donau takes over command from General Rambaud.

Battle of Magenta, 1859



Conclusion

The regimental history is rich in knowledge: our elders from the old monarchy are pictured, combining vast intrepidity with strict discipline, always doing their duty, whatever the circumstances, and obtaining exceptional rewards by their conduct; during the revolutionary wars, equally valorous and coping with all sorts of privation and tiredness with heroic stoicism

and self denial; under the Empire, strongly contributing to the successful and legendary campaigns of Napoleon.

In Algeria, they deserve and support the old reputation of the regiment. In Italy, they deserve the highest praises. Finally, during the unfortunate war of 1870, they are deserted by victory, but without weakening, at Froeschwiller like with the Loire Army, they do their duty to the end, and can say to all with pride, like the “glorieux vaincu de Pavie” (the translation is “glorious vanquished of Pavie”, which is a reference to King François 1st of France, who was victorious at the great battle of Marignan in 1515 but defeated at Pavie in 1525 - Ed): “All is lost, except our honour”. When once again the time of war will come, we will take inspiration from our elders ¹¹.

¹¹ Note of the author: this small booklet is a summary from the studies of Monsieur le Vicomte Oscar de Poli and Monsieur le Capitaine Beslay about the 45th.

Officers of 45e at 1st April 1904

Colonel Donau
 Lieutenants-colonels Hilpert, Belin
 Chefs de Bataillon Teuber, Sarrau, Jullien, Delmas
 Major Estebe
 Capitaines adjutants-majors Grimmer, Du Bos, Rogier, Mauriot
 Capitaine tresorier Petet
 Capitaine d'habillemont Poli
 Medecin-major de 1st class Jette
 Medecin-major de 2nd class Doumeng
 Medecin aide-major de 1st class Maisonneuve
 Lieutenant adjoint au tresorier Rocheron
 Lieutenant porte-drapeau Ferdinand
 Chef de musique Prevost

Capitaines	Lieutenants	Sous-Lieutenants
Turnier	Perinne	Dubost
Steff	Robin	Bergerot
Petit	De Boucheman	Gherardi
Michel	Dessoffy de Czerneck	Lhuilier
Drahonnet	Preudhomme	Diani
Demuilliere	Benedittini	Peiffer
Hulot	Brunet	
Bastien	Laplomb	
Diot	Comes	
Roustick	Odiene	
De Franchessin	Bouffin	
Marchat	Engi	
Mollat	Belleux	
Baticle	Bellicam	
Gracy	Marchiani	
Gaudinau	Tence	
Millot	Dupont	
Maurel	Rabier	
Codeville	Hanaut	
	Delarue	
	Benedic	
	Wurtz	
	De Ponchalon	
	Masnou	
	Laplace	
	Raoult	

List of officers killed by the enemy since the beginning of the regiment

1645 MM. du Liege, major; d'Arnaud, Capitaine
 1646 M. de Saint-Julian, Capitaine
 1672 MM. de Prefontval, Hernet, Barasse, Meressat, Capy, capitaines
 1673 MM. cabassole, Grenadieu, d'Esquigny, capitaines

- 1675 M. de Genlis-Bethancourt, colonel
- 1677 MM. de Genlis-Proyart, colonel; de Prefontval, lieutenant-colonel
- 1703 MM. de Guillancourt, d'Aultry-Varennes, capitaines; de clemes, Guillemot, de saint-Cerny, Gigy, lieutenants; du Moulin, capitains; de Tesnac, lieutenant
- 1705 MM.d'Evrard, capitaine; de Lauzac, Jenny, de Beauregard, lieutenants; de Vivesn, capitaine
- 1706 MM. de Fleury, de Monchy, de Saint-Vincnet, de Cany, Grandnom, de Pelletier, capitaines; Lary, sous-lieutenant
- 1707 MM. de Marcieu, de bonel, capitaines; de Palastron, colonel; Patrocle, de Flomont, de L'Ormois, Ferrieu, Chalvet, d'Eperville, capitaines; de Bosnel, de Monchy, Lavardin, lieutenants
- 1711 MM. de Chabans, de Briancon, capitaines; du'prayet, lieutenant; de Melun, colonel; d'Aultry, major; de Pointis, de Mousselart, capitaines; de Florignac, de saint-Martin, de la Baume, de Croy, de Motel, de Briancon, lieutenants
- 1714 MM de Nogues, major; d'Espagne, La tour, Montaut, de Mienville, Cambronne, de Briancon, capitaines; Desportes, Olivier, de Pointis, Desrouvieres, lieutenants
- 1745 MM. de Chauvenet, Sirac, d'Ancreville, Lacan, Puyravaux, capitaines; d'Aussion, aide-major; de Coesme, Barclier, lieutenants
- 1757 M. de Niegeville, capitaine
- 1758 MM. de Rochefort, Barin, Dejean, de la sale, de Champagny, la Mesan, capitaines; Gripoivre, Castres, Jougnoux, Mesallier, lieutenants
- 1760 MM. d'Armur, de Cuny, de Boulond, de Vadenay, Devaux, Boisset, d'Andlau, d'Aguisy, capitaines
- 1761 M. Poncet, capitaine
- 1796 MM. Mermet, Fabre, lieutenants; Morin, Castelin, capitaines; Prudhomme, Verrier, sous-lieutenants
- 1797 MM. Bourdeau, capitaine; Benezet, chef de bataillon; hill, Pouillouse, Ducrot, lieutenants
- 1799 MM. Pages, capitaine; Phillipe, chef de brigade; Benezet, chef de bataillon; Moret, capitaine; Hill, lieutenant; Behagle, sous-lieutenant
- 1800 M. Deschau, capitaine
- 1807 M. Marchal, capitaine
- 1809 MM. Faucher, sous-lieutenant; Georges, Bain, lieutenants; Leduc, sous-lieutenant; Michel, servet, capitaines; Baillyat, lieutenant
- 1811 MM. Berthier, capitaine; Daubagne, lieutenant; Guillebaux, Chatillon, sous-lieutenant; Castelain, capitaine
- 1812 MM. Merveilleux, Dalimagne, lieutenants; Rimbaud, sous-lieutenant
- 1813 MM. Stoupe, lieutenant; Drouos, sous-lieutenant; Dupont, capitaine; Vare, colonel; Paul, sous-lieutenant; Pinault, Raynaud, Tabord, Senlis, capitaines
- 1814 MM. Debout, sainte-Marie, Viatte, Gabory, lieutenants; Brodard, Macron, sous-lieutenants
- 1815 MM. Vallat, Regnault-Brincourt, Guibert, capitaines
- 1848 M. monistral, sous-lieutenant
- 1859 MM. Fournier, capitaine; Morand, lieutenant; Arbelet, Jardinnet, de Valentin, sous-lieutenants

1870 MM. Oddou, Faure, Lefebvre ,capitaines; Triger, Doleans, Bouret,
sous-lieutenants
1871 M. Claudel ,sous-lieutenant

Chronological Table of Regimental Commander in Chiefs

Duc de Vitry	1643-1657
Marquis de Genlis	1666-1673
Marquis de Genlis-Bethancourt	1673-1675
Marquis de Genlis-Proyart	1675-1677
Chevalier de Genlis	1677-1693
Marquis de sainte-Andre	1693-1698
Marquis de Polastron	1698-1707
Chevalier de Tesse	1707-1712
Comte de Polastron	1712-1734
Marquis de Charost	1734-1735
Dus d'Havre	1735-1745
Comte de Polastron	1745-1758
Comte de Montbarrey	1758-1761
Comte de Blangy	1761-1767
Marquis d'Avaray	1767-1782
Comte de Choiseul-Gouffier	1782-1784
Marquis de Lameth	1784-1791
De Moyria	1791-1792
Blandain-Chalain	1792-1793
Goulus	1793-1796
Philippe	1796-1799
Barrie	1799-1811
Vare	1811-1813
Freytag	1813-1814
Chapuzet	1814-1815
De Toustain de Fromboc	1815-1823
Hache de la Contamine	1823-1829
Foucher	1829-1835
Rimoz de la Rochette	1835-1839
Lebas dit Sainte-Croix	1840-1848
Westee	1848-1854
Bataille	1854-1857
Manuelle	1857-1860
Bertrand	1860-1870
Baron d'Arguesse	1871-1875
Chevallier	1875-1883
Harty de Pierrebourg	1883-1889
Abadie	1889-1893
Pau	1893-1894
Michel	1894-1895
Brunet	1895-1899
Rambaud	1899-1902
Donau	1902-19...

Colonels and Chef-de-Brigade

1791: Moyria (Joseph-Marie-Anne de) - Colonel
1792: Chalain (Charles-Antoine-Guillaume Blandin de) - Colonel
1793: Goullus (Francois) - Colonel
1794: Bourset () - Chef-de-Brigade
1795: Giraud (?) - Chef-de-Brigade
1796: Philippe (?) - Chef-de-Brigade
1799: Barrie (Jean-Leonard) - Chef-de-Brigade and Colonel in 1803
1811: Vare (Pierre-Louis) - Colonel
1813: Freytag (Jean-Daniel) - Colonel
1815: Chapuzet (Loius-Guillaume-Joseph) - Colonel

Three of the above officers attained the rank of General-de-Brigade

Chalain (Charles-Antoine-Guillaume Blandin de)
Born: 7 June 1740
Colonel: 29 June 1792
General-de-Brigade: 30 July 1793
Died: ?

Goullus (Francois)
Born: 4 July 1758
Chef-de-Brigade: 12 April 1793
Wounded 5 September 1793
General-de-Brigade: 17 February 1797
Commander of the Legion d'Honneur: 14 June 1804
Baron of the Empire: 13 August 1811
Died: 7 September 1814

Barrie (Jean-Leonard)
Born: 30 October 1774
Chef-de-Brigade: 4 May 1800
Colonel: 1803
General-de-Brigade: 27 November 1810
Commander of the Legion d'Honneur: 22 November 1808
Baron of the Empire: 27 November 1808
Died: 15 February 1848

Colonels killed and wounded while commanding the 45eme Regiment d'Infanterie de Ligne

Colonel Barrie: wounded 28 July 1809
Colonel Vare: killed 30 July 1813

Officers killed and wounded while serving with the 45eme Regiment d'Infanterie during the period 1804-1815

Officers killed: Twenty-seven

Officers died of wounds: Nine
 Officers wounded: One hundred and twelve

**French 45eme Regiment d'Infanterie de Ligne Officer Casualties during
 the Period 1805-1815:**

Date	Killed	DOW	Wounded
02/12/1805	0	0	1
25/01/1807	0	0	1
16/02/1807	0	0	2
14/06/1807	1	0	2
03/12/1808	0	0	1
08/02/1809	0	0	1
14/05/1809	1	0	1
22/05/1809	1	0	9
05/07/1809	0	0	1
06/07/1809	0	1	3
28/07/1809	3	2	14
14/08/1809	0	0	1
15/11/1810	0	0	1
05/03/1811	2	0	2
15/04/1811	0	0	1
16/04/1811	1	0	0
16/05/1811	2	0	3
05/-9/1812	0	0	1
29/09/1812	0	0	1
10/11/1812	2	0	3
29/11/1812	1	0	1
09/06/1813	0	0	1
21/06/1813	1	2	3
28/06/1813	0	0	1
28/07/1813	0	0	3
30/07/1813	1	0	0
31/07/1813	0	0	1
22/08/1813	2	0	3
26/08/1813	0	0	4
03/09/1813	0	0	1
10/09/1813	1	0	1
24/09/1813	0	0	2
08/10/1813	0	1	5
10/11/1813	0	0	3
27/02/1814	1	0	2
20/03/1814	1	0	1
10/04/1814	1	3	3
18/06/1815	3	0	28
Totals	27	9	112

Regimental war record (Battles and Combats)

1792: Valmy and Siege of Lille
 1793: Nerwinden and Wattignies
 1794: Courtrai and Capture of Ypres
 1796: Lodi, Mantoue, Saint-Georges, and Castiglione
 1797: Mantoue
 1799: Magnano, Cassano, Novi, Gavi, and Tortone
 1801: Casa-Nova
 1805: Austerlitz
 1806: Crewitz and Lubeck
 1807: Ostrelenka and Friedland
 1808: Espinosa-de-los-Monteros
 1809: Alcantara, Aspern-Essling, Wagram, Talevera-de-la-Reina, and Almonacid
 1811: Barrosa, Fuentes-de-Onoro, and Albuera
 1812: Cadiz
 1813: Vittoria, Echalar, Nivelles, and Bayonne
 1813: Dresden and Dantzig
 1814: Garris, Orthez, and Toulouse
 1815: Waterloo

Battle Honours

Lodi 1796, Austerlitz 1805, and Friedland 1807.

St Helena Medal Awards (on-going revision)

nom: BALOUFAUD prenom: François commune_de_residence: LUSSAC-LES- EGLISES departement: Haute-Vienne code: F87 pays: France grade: Soldat regiment: 45°de ligne divers: Postulant à la médaille sans autre information	nom: BEYMOUD prenom: Jean annee_de_naissance: 27pluviose 3 lieu_de_naissance: La Motte d'Aigues commune_de_residence: La Motte d'Aigues arrondissement: APT departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France profession: cultivateur regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1814-1815 dossier : 294728
nom: BILLIAT prenom: Léonard commune_de_residence: ST-SYLVESTRE departement: Haute-Vienne code: F87 pays: France grade: Soldat regiment: 139°+45°de ligne divers: Médaillé le 25/04/1858	nom: COULAUD prenom: Pierre-Marie annee_de_naissance: 1787 lieu_de_naissance: Montbrison commune_de_residence: St-Étienne arrondissement: St-Étienne departement: Loire code: F42 pays: France regiment: 2° fusilier de la Garde Impériale, 45° de Ligne periode: 20/1/1807-1815
nom: FAURIS prenom: Pierre annee_de_naissance: 9 prairial 3 lieu_de_naissance: La Motte d'Aigues commune_de_residence: La Motte d'Aigues arrondissement: APT departement: Vaucluse	nom: FORET prenom: Benoit commune_de_residence: Roanne arrondissement: Roanne departement: Loire code: F42 pays: France

<p>code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1814-1815 dossier : 294730</p>	<p>grade: fusilier regiment: 45° de Ligne periode: 1807 dossier : 176714</p>
<p>nom: GUIGOU prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 16/07/1795 lieu_de_naissance: Villars commune_de_residence: Saint Saturnin les Apt arrondissement: APT departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1815-1815 dossier : 294834</p>	<p>nom: HECQUET prenom: Casimir annee_de_naissance: 08/09/1784 commune_de_residence: Maison-Roland arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 19 germinal an 8-1811 campagnes: Russie divers: 2 blessures et fait prisonnier en Russie 2 ans</p>
<p>nom: LABROUSSE prenom: Jean Esprit annee_de_naissance: 1794 lieu_de_naissance: Saint Saturnin les Avignon commune_de_residence: Saint Saturnin les Avignon arrondissement: AVIGNON departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1815-1815 dossier : 294490</p>	<p>nom: LAPORTE prenom: Jacques commune_de_residence: Miremont arrondissement: Auterive departement: Haute Garonne code: F31 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne dossier : 215525</p>

<p>nom: LATHIERE prenom: Jean commune_de_residence: CHAMPAGNAC departement: Haute-Vienne code: F87 pays: France profession: Pensionné grade: Sergent regiment: 45°de ligne divers: Médaillé le 28/02/1859 et 17/10/1858?</p>	<p>nom: MANGEIPANI prenom: ? Louis Joseph dit Duran annee_de_naissance: 08/02/1791 lieu_de_naissance: Avignon commune_de_residence: Avignon arrondissement: AVIGNON departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France grade: sous lieutenant regiment: légion de Vaucluse et 45° de ligne periode: 08/04/1813-06/04/1817 dossier : 111072</p>
<p>nom: PAGES prenom: Simon commune_de_residence: Revel arrondissement: Revel departement: Haute Garonne code: F31 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne dossier : 217007</p>	<p>nom: PELISSIER prenom: Pierre annee_de_naissance: 03/03/1789 lieu_de_naissance: Montségur (26) commune_de_residence: Richerenches arrondissement: ORANGE departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45 de ligne 2e bat 4e cie reg des grenadiers de la vieille garde periode: 20/12/1809-1/8/1815 divers: blessé à la tête du côté G et une balle dans le bras droit dossier : 112228</p>
<p>nom: PHILIP prenom: Joseph annee_de_naissance: 1795 lieu_de_naissance: Saint Saturnin les Avignon commune_de_residence: Saint Saturnin les Avignon arrondissement: AVIGNON departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1815-1815 dossier : 294492</p>	<p>nom: REY prenom: Jean commune_de_residence: Revel arrondissement: Revel departement: Haute Garonne code: F31 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne dossier : 217011</p>
<p>nom: SILVESTRE prenom: Joseph Martin annee_de_naissance: 3 germinal 3 lieu_de_naissance: Saint Saturnin les Apt commune_de_residence: Saint Saturnin les Apt arrondissement: APT departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 03/1815-07/1815 divers: A reçu 2 numéros de brevet de médaillé</p>	<p>nom: SUBERVILLE prenom: Bertrand François commune_de_residence: Estampures arrondissement: Tarbes departement: Hautes-Pyrénées code: F65 pays: France grade: Capitaine regiment: 45° de Ligne periode: 01/04/1806 divers: pièce justificative dossier : 115045</p>
<p>nom: TELLIER prenom: Jean Baptiste Pascal annee_de_naissance: 12/04/1784 commune_de_residence: Boves arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme</p>	<p>nom: TROIRAUX prenom: Pierre François Cyr annee_de_naissance: 16/06/1784 commune_de_residence: Doullens arrondissement: Doullens</p>

<p>code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1806-01/10/1813 campagnes: Hollande, Espagne</p>	<p>departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: simple soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 10/04/1804-1806</p>
<p>nom: WACQUET prenom: Etienne François annee_de_naissance: 02/12/1783 commune_de_residence: Quesnoy sur Airaines arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1815-1815</p>	<p>nom: ALLIOU prenom: François Jean Baptiste annee_de_naissance: 27/09/1790 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: matelot regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 04/08/1807-05/1814</p>
<p>nom: BELLANGER prenom: Jean Baptiste annee_de_naissance: 28/08/1792 commune_de_residence: Bierre arrondissement: Péronne departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: Soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 01/11/1812-1814</p>	<p>nom: BELLOT prenom: Joseph annee_de_naissance: 02/06/1795 lieu_de_naissance: Saint Saturnin les Apt commune_de_residence: Saint Saturnin les Apt arrondissement: APT departement: Vaucluse code: F84 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 03/02/1815-10/04/1815 divers: A reçu 2 numéros de brevet de médaille</p>
<p>nom: BENAC prenom: Jean commune_de_residence: Trébons arrondissement: Bagnères-de-Bigorre departement: Hautes-Pyrénées code: F65 pays: France regiment: 45° de Ligne periode: 1814 divers: simple déclaration dossier : 275179</p>	<p>nom: BERNARD prenom: Jean Pierre Léonard annee_de_naissance: 02/05/1788 commune_de_residence: Villers-Bocage arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 20/07/1807-1814 campagnes: Espagne</p>
<p>nom: BLANGY prenom: Joseph annee_de_naissance: 06/ 01/1778 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1798-1815 divers: vit aux incurables</p>	<p>nom: BOUCHARD prenom: Jean-Claude annee_de_naissance: 24/7/1789 commune_de_residence: Ste-Consorce et Marcy departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Cultivateur regiment: 54 et 45° de Ligne periode: 1812-1814-1815</p>
<p>nom: CALNET prenom: Pierre Eugène annee_de_naissance: 16/12/1783 commune_de_residence: Doullens arrondissement: Doullens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France</p>	<p>nom: CARON prenom: Nicolas jacques annee_de_naissance: 25/05/1794 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France</p>

<p>grade: simple soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 26/04/1804-1809</p>	<p>grade: voltigeur regiment: 45° de ligne periode: ??-1815 divers: pensionné à 100 f pour blessure (à Pampelume le 28/07/1813)</p>
<p>nom: CAUDRON prenom: Louis Marie annee_de_naissance: 1784 commune_de_residence: Cléry-sur-Somme arrondissement: Péronne departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: Sergent regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 02/04/1805-1815 campagnes: Espagne, France</p>	<p>nom: CAYNARD prenom: Jean Baptiste annee_de_naissance: 01/11/1784 commune_de_residence: Saint Gratien arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: caporal regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1804-1814 campagnes: Allemagne, Espagne</p>
<p>nom: CHAVEROT prenom: Louis annee_de_naissance: 26/2/1791 commune_de_residence: Lyon 3° arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Ancien Moulinier regiment: 154° et 45° de Ligne periode: 29/5/1812- campagnes: 1813 et 1815 Prisonnier à Dantzik divers: Rayé pour maladie et blessures, Habite 124 avenue de Saxe dossier : 46468</p>	<p>nom: CHOPIQUET prenom: Honoré annee_de_naissance: 1783 commune_de_residence: Thiépval arrondissement: Péronne departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: Voltigeur regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1804-1815 campagnes: Italie, Espagne, Prusse, Waterloo, Fleurus</p>
<p>nom: DALLIER prenom: Jean Baptiste André annee_de_naissance: 30/09/1792 commune_de_residence: Vergiès arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1810-??</p>	<p>nom: DEGOUY prenom: Nicolas Nathan annee_de_naissance: 02/06/1792 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: fusilier regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 21/02/1813-26/08/1814 divers: réformé pour blessure à la jambe (coup de feu)</p>
<p>nom: DELABIE prenom: Nicolas Claude annee_de_naissance: 22/08/1784 commune_de_residence: Allenay arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: grenadier regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 17/07/1808-07/10/1811 divers: pension de 100 frs</p>	<p>nom: DELACOURT prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 10/09/1784 commune_de_residence: Péronne arrondissement: Péronne departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: sergent regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 09/04/1805-23/08/1814</p>
<p>nom: DELERRE prenom: Jacques annee_de_naissance: 11/2/1781 commune_de_residence: Lyon 5° arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Ex ouvrier serrurier</p>	<p>nom: DENEL prenom: Jean François annee_de_naissance: 30/03/1793 commune_de_residence: Soues arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat</p>

<p>grade: Caporal, Sergent regiment: 2° Hussard à pied, 45° de Ligne periode: -22 vent an IX-1 pra an XI-4/5/1807-29/6/1810 campagnes: an IX Grisson, an X Helvetie, an XI-XIII Hanovre, an XIV-1808 Grande Armée, 1809-29/6/1810 Espagne divers: Blessé d'un coup de feu à la jambe droite le 28/7/1809 à l'affaire de Talavyra, Habite 28 route du Boubonnais dossier : 46989</p>	<p>regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 14/05/1813-1815 campagnes: Liepzik, 100 jours</p>
<p>nom: DEPARIS prenom: Jean Georges annee_de_naissance: 23/04/1784 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 23 floréal an 13-??</p>	<p>nom: DERCOURT prenom: Daniel annee_de_naissance: 29/10/1783 commune_de_residence: Toeufles arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 17/05/an 13-an 14</p>
<p>nom: DEVAUCHELLE prenom: Charles annee_de_naissance: 23/07/1784 commune_de_residence: Blangy-Tronville arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1805-?? campagnes: Allemagne, Espagne</p>	<p>nom: DREVELLE prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 30/04/1788 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 14/03/1808-21/07/1815 divers: vit au 6 rue du Biestre</p>
<p>nom: DREVELLE prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 30/04/1788 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 14/03/1808-21/07/1815 divers: vit au 6 rue du Biestre</p>	<p>nom: DUBUS prenom: Jean Louis annee_de_naissance: 14/03/1784 commune_de_residence: Cardonnette arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: sergent regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 04/1805-1816 campagnes: 17 campagnes</p>
<p>nom: DUMONCHY prenom: François Joseph annee_de_naissance: 14/05/1784 commune_de_residence: Frettemolle arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: lieutenant regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 13/05/1805-?? divers: nommé lieutenant le 10/11/1813</p>	<p>nom: DUPUIS prenom: Isidore Lacroix annee_de_naissance: 03/05/1792 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: fusilier regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1813-29/09/1815 divers: congé définitif comme marié</p>
<p>nom: DUTILLEUX prenom: François Dominique annee_de_naissance: 19/07/1784 commune_de_residence: Bussy-lès-Poix arrondissement: Amiens</p>	<p>nom: DUVAL prenom: Vincent aîné annee_de_naissance: 1790 commune_de_residence: MAXEY SUR MEUSE arrondissement: NEUCHATEAU</p>

<p>departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1804-1805 divers: amputé d'une jambe à la bataille de Friedland</p>	<p>departement: Vosges code: F88 pays: France profession: Vigneron grade: Caporal regiment: 45° de ligne periode: C:Fleurus</p>
<p>nom: FLICOURT prenom: François Jean Georges Théophile annee_de_naissance: 13/12/1782 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: grenadier regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 7 thermidor an 8-1808</p>	<p>nom: FOREST prenom: Jean-Baptiste annee_de_naissance: 2/8/1791 commune_de_residence: Tarare arrondissement: Villefranche departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Buraliste de tabac regiment: 45° de ligne, Gendarmerie periode: 3/6/1812-1/9/1814-1/1/1816- campagnes: 1813-1815 divers: Blessé d'un coup de feu au bras, Prisonnier le 1/9 à Corli ? (Saxe) et conduit en Russie, rentré le 1/9/1814, Blessé de 2 coup de lance et fait prisonnier le 18/6/1815 à Waterloo, Dans la Gendarmerie à son retour</p>
<p>nom: FOURDRINIER prenom: Jean Charles Julien Casimir annee_de_naissance: 08/02/1784 commune_de_residence: Saint Riquier arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: an 13-1814</p>	<p>nom: FRESILLY prenom: Jean Baptiste Jacques Augustin annee_de_naissance: 21/01/1799 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: tambour regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 03/1814-10/09/1815</p>
<p>nom: GAILLOT prenom: Jean-Louis annee_de_naissance: 30/10/1782 commune_de_residence: Charly arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Rentier regiment: 45° de Ligne 2° bataillon periode: 18 Flo an III-20/6/1806 divers: Congé de réforme établi à Liège en 6/1806</p>	<p>nom: GRENON prenom: Charles annee_de_naissance: 04/06/1788 commune_de_residence: Bovelles arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1814-??</p>
<p>nom: HENARD prenom: Antoine Auguste annee_de_naissance: 24/11/1783 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1813-15/08/1815 divers: vit rue de l'abreuvoir</p>	<p>nom: JUNCK prenom: Charles Mathieu annee_de_naissance: 25/5/1791 commune_de_residence: Lyon 2° arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Sous-lieutenant militaire en retraite, Commissionaire Principal près le conseil de révision de guerre</p>

	<p>grade: S-lieutenant regiment: École, 45° de Ligne periode: 1/6/1808-16/1/1810-9/1815 campagnes: 1810-1812 Espagne, 1813 Grande Armée, Prisonnier de guerre le 11/11/1813-1814, 1815 Armée du Nord divers: Blessé le 10/11/1813 et 18/6/1815 Habite 47 rue de la Reine dossier : 46178</p>
<p>nom: LACROIX prenom: Jacques annee_de_naissance: 25/3/1777 commune_de_residence: Lyon 5° arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Directeur du dépôt de mendicité grade: Caporal, Fourrier, Sergent, Sergent-major, Adjudant sous-officier, Sous-lieutenant, Lieutenant, Capitaine, Commandant regiment: 48° de Ligne, 45° de Ligne, 3° Bataillon de la Légion des Hautes-Alpes, Dépôt de recrutement du département du Rhône periode: 9/9/1799-23/9/1799-19/4/1804-1/7/1806-26/2/1807-26/4/1809-226/1811-25/9/1812-24/5/1813-1/9/1814-18/9/1815-5/8/1817-116/1819-15/10/1824-10/10/1835-23/12/1835 campagnes: an VIII-IX armée du Rhin Armée de Hanovre, an XII-XIII Cotes de l'Océan, Vend an XIV-180- et 1809 Grande Armée en Autriche, Prusse et Pologne, 1811 Armée d'observation d'Allemagne, 1812 Grande Armée en Russie, 1813-1814 blocus de Magdebourg et de Hambourg, 1823 Espagne divers: Blessé d'un coup de feu au genou gauche le 22/4/1809 à l'affaire de Rastibonne, Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal et Militaire de St-Louis le 25/4/1821, Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal espagnol de St-Ferdinand le 18/11/1823, Chevalier de l'Ordre Royal de la Légion d'Honneur le 21/3/1831, A l'époque de sa cessation d'activité il avait 35 ans 7 mois 27 jours de service et 17 campagnes ce qui donnait tout réuni 52 ans 7 mois et 27 jours, Habite 31 montée St-Barthelemy dossier : 4705u</p>	<p>nom: LAMOTTE prenom: François Alexandre annee_de_naissance: 30/03/1794 commune_de_residence: Saint Aubin Rivière arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1814-1814</p>
	<p>nom: LANCESSEUR prenom: Jacques annee_de_naissance: 13/05/1784 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 04/1802-1813 divers: vit à St Charles (hospice)</p>
	<p>nom: LECOINTE prenom: François Prudence annee_de_naissance: 03/11/1794 commune_de_residence: Sainte-Ségré arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 24/10/1813-??</p>
	<p>nom: MAILLARD prenom: Charles François annee_de_naissance: 04/02/1784 commune_de_residence: Quend arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: sergent major regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 23 floréal an 13-21/09/1814 campagnes: Hollande, Espagne, grande armée. divers: prisonnier de guerre à Dresde</p>
<p>nom: PRACHE prenom: Augustin Ger ??? annee_de_naissance: 16/12/1794 lieu_de_naissance: Nouailles (Oise) commune_de_residence: Versailles 10 rue de l'Orangerie</p>	<p>nom: MOLLARD prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 8/10/1790 lieu_de_naissance: Chavannes (Ain) commune_de_residence: Lyon 5° arrondissement: Lyon</p>

<p>arrondissement: Versailles departement: Yvelines code: F78 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: du 14/04/1813 au 1/04/1815 campagnes: Campagne de 1813 Ref HugL200098</p>	<p>departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Journalier regiment: 20° Cohorte, 45° de Ligne, Légion de l'Ain periode: 3/1/1813-1/8/1814-19/1/1816-31/12/1819 campagnes: 1813-1814 Allemagne divers: Habite 32 quai de Bondy chez Duvernay dossier : 47028</p>
<p>nom: NAVET prenom: Placide annee_de_naissance: 05/10/1783 commune_de_residence: Airaines arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 05/04/1805-1806</p>	<p>nom: PLATIN prenom: Nicolas annee_de_naissance: 1773 commune_de_residence: Amiens arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1806-1815 divers: vit aux incurables</p>
<p>nom: POIRET prenom: Antoine Benjamain annee_de_naissance: 07/06/1784 commune_de_residence: Laleu arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: ??</p>	<p>nom: PRUVOST prenom: Benjamin Florentin annee_de_naissance: 10/05/1784 commune_de_residence: Rainneville arrondissement: Amiens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 27/05/an 13-?? campagnes: 9 campagnes</p>
<p>nom: PUJO prenom: Dominique commune_de_residence: Avezac-Prat arrondissement: Bagnères-de-Bigorre departement: Hautes-Pyrénées code: F65 pays: France regiment: 45° de Ligne periode: 1814 divers: simple déclaration dossier : 275326</p>	<p>nom: QUENEUX prenom: Dominique annee_de_naissance: 23/04/1774 commune_de_residence: Abbeville arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: Soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: prairial an 13-1806 campagnes: Allemagne</p>
<p>nom: QUENNEHEN prenom: Augustin annee_de_naissance: 17/03/1788 commune_de_residence: Quesnoy le Montant arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: grenadier regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 01/06/1808-11/11/1812 divers: blessé à l'épaule droite</p>	<p>nom: RENAUD prenom: Pierre annee_de_naissance: 3/1787 commune_de_residence: St-Romain en Gier arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Cultivateur regiment: 45° de Ligne periode: 1/8/1811-1815</p>
<p>nom: RICHE prenom: Jacques annee_de_naissance: 01/01/1790 commune_de_residence: Epaumesnil</p>	<p>nom: ROBART prenom: Pierre annee_de_naissance: 25/05/1780 commune_de_residence: Authieule</p>

<p>arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: Soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 08/01/1807-?? divers: médaillé</p>	<p>arrondissement: Doullens departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 5 floréal 11-05/12/1807 campagnes: Hanovre</p>
<p>nom: ROSIERE prenom: Pierre François annee_de_naissance: 12/12/1783 commune_de_residence: Vron arrondissement: Abbeville departement: Somme code: F80 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: 1804-15/04/1814</p>	<p>nom: ROUSSET prenom: Pierre Louis annee_de_naissance: 10/5/1778 commune_de_residence: Lyon 4° arrondissement: Lyon departement: Rhône code: F69 pays: France profession: Rentier grade: Enfant de troupe, Fusilier, Caporal, Sergent, Sergent-major, Sous-lieutenant, Lieutenant Adjudant Major, Capitaine, Capitaine adjoint regiment: Régiment de Barrois devenu 45° de Ligne, État-Major de la 19° division periode: -0,016939811 divers: Habite 147 rue de l'Enfance dossier : 46839</p>
<p>nom: BLOT prenom: Jean Pierre commune_de_residence: Mesnil-Mauger departement: Calvados code: F14 pays: France grade: sergent regiment: 45° de Ligne</p>	<p>nom: BRIONE, BRIONNE prenom: François annee_de_naissance: 11/07/1771 lieu_de_naissance: Saint-Marc-d'Ouilly commune_de_residence: Cossesseville departement: Calvados code: F14 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de Ligne divers: campagne d'Espagne dossier : 62435</p>
<p>nom: HOUDEVILLE prenom: Jean François commune_de_residence: Marigny departement: Calvados code: F14 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de Ligne divers: n'a pas reçu la médaille, décédé? dossier : 61632</p>	<p>nom: TILLAUX prenom: Antoine commune_de_residence: Saint-Georges- d'Aunay departement: Calvados code: F14 pays: France grade: soldat regiment: 45° de Ligne dossier : 63421</p>
<p>nom: DONADIEU prenom: Pierre commune_de_residence: Cuzance departement: Lot code: F46 pays: France grade: ancien soldat regiment: 45° de ligne</p>	<p>nom: JANIAUD prenom: JeanLouis annee_de_naissance: 1782 commune_de_residence: Poisson arrondissement: Charolles departement: Saone et Loire code: F71 pays: France grade: fusilier regiment: 45° de ligne campagnes: Campagne d'Espagne(3ans)</p>
<p>nom: PANET ? prenom: Pierre annee_de_naissance: 1787 commune_de_residence: Pressy sous Dondin</p>	<p>nom: BERTHIER prenom: Jean-Louis annee_de_naissance: 28/11/1794 lieu_de_naissance: Paris</p>

<p>arrondissement: Charolles departement: Saone et Loire code: F71 pays: France profession: cultivateur grade: soldat regiment: 45° de ligne periode: du 13/02/1807 au 14/09/1815</p>	<p>commune_de_residence: Epone arrondissement: canton de Mantes departement: Yvelines code: F78 pays: France regiment: 12° de ligne/45° de ligne periode: 1813 à 1817 blessé à Mont SaintJean/ Prisonnier de guerre/ certificat d'exemption délivré à Paris le 4/06/1817 (frère en service)</p>
<p>nom: DOYEN prenom: Jacques Antoine annee_de_naissance: 26/11/1785 lieu_de_naissance: Dottignie (départ de la Lys) Belgique commune_de_residence: Le Pecq arrondissement: Le Pecq departement: Yvelines code: F78 pays: France grade: Fusilier regiment: 45° de ligne 7° Cie 3° Bat (4981) periode: du 2/01/ au 28/04/1807 Ref P1010111/D/IMGP3909/3910/fils de Antoine et de Marie Renard/ réformé pour infirmités le 25/08/1807 à la réserve de la Grande Armée/naturalisé français par Ord du Roi le 31/06/1843</p>	<p>nom: LEVAILLANT prenom: Pierre Louis Augustin Amédée annee_de_naissance: 15/07/1790 lieu_de_naissance: Beru ? la Foret (Eure) commune_de_residence: Saint Cyr l'Ecole arrondissement: Saint Cyr l'Ecole departement: Yvelines code: F78 pays: France grade: Elève1807/ Sous Lieutenant1809/ Capitaine regiment: Ecole Spéciale/45° de ligne /65° de ligne periode: du 5/05/1807 au 18/06/1814 campagnes: Campagne de 1809 Armée du Nord Ref Poissy 000409/412/prisonnier de guerre par les anglais le 13/08/1809/ rentré en 1814</p>
<p>source: http://www.stehelene.org/php/accueil.php?lang=en Dossier unknown where not stated</p>	

Past and Present



This photo postcard shows the 45th on manoeuvres in the Aisne region in 1912. The uniforms are the same as those worn when war broke out in 1914. The card has been trimmed so some of the writing on the back is lost.



A number of current members of the 45th re-enactment group at 'The Napoleonic Fair' Kingston Maurward, near Dorchester, 2010

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March 2011