

The Bavarian Army: 1809-1812

Bavaria was one of the first German states to consider major structural reforms in light of the changes brought by the French Revolution. The elector Max-Josef was a capable man, but his control over his state was conditioned by two powerful personalities. The first was Maximilian Joseph von Montgelas, a hyperactive modernizer who served as foreign minister from 1799-1816, overlapping with interior minister (1806-1817) and finance minister (1803-1806 and 1809-1817). In other words: for most of the Napoleonic era Montgelas held every important ministerial position in Bavaria except War - simultaneously! The goal of his domestic policies was the modernization and strengthening of the state, which in his opinion could best be accomplished in a tight alliance with France. Thus Bavaria fell under the command of the other crucial personality in this period: Napoleon. The French emperor was in a position to give things to Bavaria, since as a foreign conqueror he could do what he pleased with Germany. During their alliance, Bavaria acquired land in Franconia, Swabia, the Rhineland, and of course the whole Tyrol (the latter morsel proving nearly impossible to digest.) Bavaria became a kingdom and a key Napoleonic ally, which meant that it had to provide troops for Napoleon's many campaigns.

Although Bavarian soldiers were never sent to Spain, they fought in most of Napoleon's other campaigns from 1805-1813. Bavarian contingents were used primarily in sieges and line-of-communications activities in the "Conquest" period of 1805-07. But in 1809 the Bavarian army was integrated into the Napoleonic field army as the VII corps under Lefebvre. They fought as the VI Corps under Gouvion St. Cyr in 1812, and were largely destroyed, despite not having been with the main army under Napoleon. (Out of nearly 33,000 Bavarian soldiers who went into Russia, only 4,300 remained with the colors by the end of 1812.)

A reconstituted Bavarian army was hastily assembled in 1813, but like many of Napoleon's German allies in that campaign, it was a weak, desertion-prone force, clearly less than enthusiastic about the war effort. A few of its scattered regiments managed to perform well, such as defending in the sieges of Thorn and Danzig. The two weak divisions that the Bavarians scraped together in 1813 were distributed among French corps (one division participated under Oudinot's command at Bautzen), and eventually melted away without much to show for their efforts. When Bavaria switched sides in the Autumn of 1813 the performance of the army did not markedly improve under Allied leadership. The French, even in their much-reduced state, smashed through Wrede's Bavarians at Hanau in late October.

This Army Builder supplement for *Lasalle* allows you to create an army for tournament play representing the heyday of the Napoleonic Bavarians: 1809-1812. It thus belongs to the **Empire** theatre, the only period when the Bavarians fielded a unified corps-sized force.

If playing in a tournament, the organizers may decide whether or not to accept this list as legitimate. If they do, all unit compositions and values listed here supersede those found on page 121 of *Lasalle*.



15mm Bavarians by Scott Driscoll and 28mm Bavarians by Bart Vettors

Bavarian Army List (Empire)

Infantry Division	
Defend +1	
6	Infantry
1	Light Battalion
1	Foot BTY
2	Infantry
Organic Brigades	
Infantry	
Cavalry	
Reserve Allied Brigades	
French Veteran Inf	
French Elite Inf	
French Cuirassier	
French Lancer	
French Dragoon	
Neapolitan Cavalry	
Saxon Cavalry	
Polish Cavalry	
Westphalian Cuirassier	

Special Rules for this Army

“Reserve Allied” Brigades:

In the 1809 and 1812 campaigns, most of the Bavarian army was assembled in a homogenous corps. Thus the only organic brigades you may choose for your Bavarians are... more Bavarians!

If you choose reserve brigades in support, then they will be non-Bavarian allied brigades. However, unlike the normal “Allied Brigade” rule on page 95, these brigades will always be reserves, and thus enter as reinforcements.

Reserve Allied brigades are defined by the *Lasalle* rulebook. For instance, if you choose a Saxon Cavalry Brigade, you will find its stats on page 125.

Empire	
Unit Values	
Infantry	Reliable/Exp/SK1
Light Infantry	Reliable/Exp/SK2
Dragoon or Cheveauleger	Reliable/Experienced/Pursuit

Bavarian Artillery Values				
Artillery	Type	Cannon	Weight	+ How.
Heavy BTY	Foot	2	Hvy	1
Foot BTY	Foot	2	Med	1
Horse BTY	Horse	2	Med	1

Bavarian Subcommanders

Bavarian Compositions

Infantry Brigade	
4	Infantry
1	Light Infantry
1	Heavy BTY

Cavalry Brigade	
2	Dragoon
2	Cheveauleger
1	Horse BTY

Vigor	
Roll	
1-2	-1
3-5	-
6	+1

Tactics	
Roll	
1	¶
2-5	-
6	*