

## Series: Neri Andrea, Pietro and Abbott Jacopo Gaetano, sons of Donato Maria Guadagni

848

Pietro Guadagni (1688-1764) was Jacopo Gaetano's (1688-1734) twin. Jacopo Gaetano was crippled in his hands and feet. He was a clergyman and an abbot. Neri Andrea (1673-1748) was our direct ancestor. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> Marchese of San Leolino. He was the one who brought the body of Saint Faustina Martyr from Rome to the Chapel of the Guadagni Palace of Santo Spirito. It was a present to the Guadagni Family from Neri Andrea's brother, Cardinal Giovanni Antonio Guadagni. Later on the body was transferred to a glass showcase under the altar of the Church of San Martino a Pagnolle, of which the Guadagni are the Patrons. The church is next to the Guadagni Villa of Le Fonti and close to Masseto.

Neri Andrea Guadagni married Argentina Vettori, daughter of Senator Marquis Ottavio Vettori. Argentina died suddenly on January 21, 1723. Neri Andrea and Argentina had only one son, Donato (1717-1797), who became 6<sup>th</sup> Marchese of San Leolino, and from whom we all descend.

### Subseries: Gains and expenses [655 - 661]

1713-1761

849

7 registers

**655** [746]

**Aug. 1, 1713 – 1744**

850

*Gain and expense A*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches).

*...kept by Diacinto Biagerelli for the collections and expenses which I will personally make starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1713.*

With annotation of expenses for the deaths of:

Marchese Donato Maria Guadagni, son of Tommaso, who died in 1718

Marchesa Argentina Vettori Guadagni who died on 1/21/1723

Abbot Jacopo who died in 1734

Signor Giovanni Andrea who died in 1744.

**656** [505, 39]

**Sept. 1, 1718 – May 30, 1730**

851

*"39" Gain and expense and cash register [of Neri, Pierfrancesco and Abbot Jacopo] A [Passerini calls "Neri" "Neri Andrea", "Pier Francesco" "Pietro" and "Jacopo" "Jacopo Gaetano" and we will do the same]*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (15x11x2 inches) of 240 papers.

Kept by Diacinto Biagerelli, House master. With expenses divided by chapter.

**657** [488]

**Sept. 1, 1718 – May 31, 1739**

852

*Gain and expense of Neri Andrea, Pietro and Abbot Jacopo Gaetano A*

Parchment bound register with leather supports (16x10x2 inches) of 208 papers.

**658** [506, 48]

**June 30, 1730 – July 31, 1737**

853

*“48” Gain and expense and cash register [of Neri Andrea and Guadagni brothers] B*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (14x11x2 inches) of 240 papers.  
*...of Neri Andrea, Pietro and Abbot Jacopo Gaetano, sons of Marchese Donato Maria*  
*Guadagni, kept by Diacinto Biagerelli, House master.*  
Expenses by expense sector.

**659** [497, 49] **Aug. 1, 1737 – 1745** 854  
*“49” Gain and expense and cash register of Neri Andrea and Guadagni brothers C*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (15x15x2 inches) of 240 papers.  
*...of Neri Andrea and Pietro, sons of late Marchese Donato Maria Guadagni, kept by*  
*Diacinto Biagerelli, House master.*  
The ancient shelfmark is not certain because recuperated from a torn label.  
Hard to read.

**660** [487] **June 1, 1739** 855  
*Gain and expense [of Neri Andrea and Pietro] B*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (15x11x2 inches) of 173 papers.

**661** [483] **June 1, 1751 – May 31, 1761** 856  
*[Gain and expense of the Guadagni]*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (16x12x2 inches) of 121 papers.  
*To this book of gain and expense another book of gain and expense marked with the letter*  
*B of the very illustrious Marchesi Guadagni started on June 1, 1739, was added.*

**Subseries: Journals [662 - 663]** **1718-1761** 857  
2 registers

**662** [431] **Sept. 1, 1718 – May 31, 1739** 858  
*Journal of Neri Andrea, Pietro and Abbot Jacopo Gaetano A*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x13x4 inches) of 354 papers.

**663** [469] **June 1, 1739 – May 31, 1761** 859  
*Journal of Neri Andrea, Pietro B*  
Parchment bound register with leather supports (18x13x3 inches).

**Subseries: Debtors and Creditors [664 - 666]** **1718-1761** 860  
3 registers

It also contains a scrutiny of debtors and creditors (1718-1761).

**664** [453] **1718 – May 31, 1729** 861  
*Debtors and creditors of Neri Andrea, Pietro and Abbot Jacopo Gaetano A*  
Parchment bound register (20x16x5 inches) of 490 papers.  
With alphabetical listing marked “A” (inserted in opening).

**665** [446] **June 1, 1739 – 1761** 862

*Debtors and creditors of Neri Andrea and Pietro B*

Parchment bound copybook (20x17x6 inches) of 467 papers.  
With alphabetical listing marked "B" (inserted in opening).

**666** [1053]

**1718 – 1761**

863

*Scrutinized book of the debtors and creditors' book A-B*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 17 written papers.

**Subseries: Inventories [667]**

**1725-1726**

864

1 register

**667** [945]

**1725 – August 9, 1726**

865

*Inventory of furniture, ornaments and livestock due to Very Illustrious Marchesi Neri Andrea and his Guadagni Brothers*

Parchment bound register (12x9x1 inches) of 73 papers.

With folders concerning the Palace of the County of Cesa, the Palace of the Bishop of Arezzo and others.

One of Neri Andrea's brothers, Giovanni Antonio Guadagni (1674-1759) was Bishop of Arezzo from 1724 until 1730, when his uncle Pope Clement XII appointed him Archbishop of the same. Could it be that, generous as always, he had lent some Guadagni silverware and ornaments to decorate the Archbishopric of Arezzo and now these items were due to be returned to their original Guadagni owners?

The Bishop of Arezzo was also "Lord of the County of Cesa" until 1860, when the Church properties were abolished.



Palace of the County of Cesa



County of Cesa, Tower of the Clock



Marciano, County of Cesa.

It all started with Bishop of Arezzo Elemperto (from 986 to 1010), over 1000 years ago, who was also a Feudal Lord, Count of Cesa. In 998 Holy Roman Emperor Otto III visited Bishop Elemperto and his Bishopric. When he died, Bishop Elemperto left his County of Cesa to the Bishopric of Arezzo. Because of him, the Bishop of Arezzo has also been Lord of the County of Cesa from 1010 to 1860, for 850 years! Maybe Bishop Giovanni Antonio lent Guadagni items also to the County of Cesa, of which he was the ruler as Bishop of Arezzo..





**Palace of the Archbishopric of Arezzo**

**Series: Neri Andrea Guadagni (1673-1748), son of Donato Maria Guadagni and Maria Maddalena Corsini**

866

“In 1718, Neri Andrea married Argentina Vettori, who gave him two children and died in 1722”, states the Inventory of the Guadagni Archives.

Passerini does not mention a second child. He only states that the first child, our direct ancestor Donato Guadagni, was born in 1719, and that Argentina Vettori Guadagni “died suddenly”, four years later, on January 21, 1723. Where does Rita Romanelli, the author of the “Inventory of the Archive of the Guadagni Family” get this information about a second child? We might find a birth certificate of him or her and more information in the Archives later on.

**Subseries: Journals [668]**

**1698-1706**

867

1 register

**668** [586, 27]

**July 1, 1698 – April 12, 1706**

868

“27” *Gain and expense and Journal [of Neri Andrea Guadagni]* A

Parchment bound register with leather supports (12x9x2 inches) of 141 papers.

**Subseries: Gain and expense [669-672]**

**1698-1707**

869

4 registers

**669** [775, 28]

**July 1, 1698 – 1707**

870

“28” *Gain and expense [of Neri Andrea Guadagni]*

Cardboard bound register (12x9x1 inches).

The register has been attributed to Neri Andrea Guadagni due to the ancient shelfmark and the indication of property of Francesco Guadagni's nephew [Neri Andrea is Francesco Guadagni's nephew].

**670** [354, 34]

**1708 – 1717**

871

*"34" Gain and Expense 1708*

Cardboard bound register (13x8x2 inches).

With alphabetical listing (inserted in opening).

Money spent and received by Marchese Neri Andrea Guadagni in Vienna.

Neri Andrea, son of Donato Maria, was born on April 13, 1673. Under the protection of his father, Neri Andrea was admitted to the court of the Grand Duke when he was very young.



Cosimo III de' Medici (1642-1723), Grand-Duke of Tuscany from 1670 to 1723

He had a very pleasant personality, and he soon became one of the sovereign's favorite Gentlemen-in-waiting.

In several previous chapters, we have shown the inside of the Guadagni Palaces of Santo Spirito, Nunziata and dell'Opera. Recently, we have also shown the inside of the Corsini



Palace of Lungarno Corsini. It gives us an idea of how our ancestors lived. Now, we will briefly show a few pictures of the Pitti Palace of Florence, where the Grand-Dukes of Tuscany lived. It is the Court of the Medici Grand-Dukes in Florence. When Florence and Tuscany joined the Kingdom of Italy in 1860, it became the Florentine Palace of the Kings of Italy. Now it is a Museum. The Pitti Palace was the palace of the rulers of Tuscany, like Buckingham Palace for the Kings of England and Versailles for the Kings of France, while the Guadagni and Corsini Palaces were private residences. Sometimes, however, the Guadagni and the Corsini would compete with the Grand-Dukes for the splendor of their palaces. Neri Andrea Guadagni used to spend many hours of his life in the Pitti Palace as Gentleman-in-waiting of the Grand-Duke of Florence.



Pitti Palace: Palace of the Medici Grand-Dukes



Hall of Venus





Hall of Mars





Hall of Saturn



The Throne Hall



The White Room





The Yellow Room





The Blue Room





The Chapel





Grand Duke's Bedroom





The Grand-Duchess' Bedroom





The Parrot's Room

In August 1705, Neri Andrea was sent as an Extraordinary Ambassador to Vienna, to the Austrian Emperor Joseph, to lament the death of the monarch's father, and to congratulate him on his succession to the throne.



Leopold I of Hapsburg, Holy Roman Emperor (1640-1705), who passed away in 1705. His son, Joseph I (1678-1711) was Holy Roman Emperor from 1705 until his death in 1711. Joseph had been crowned King of Hungary at the age of nine, in 1687, and King in Germany at the age of eleven in 1690.

Is that Joseph looking at his father from the couch?





Joseph I of Hapsburg, Holy Roman Emperor (1705-1711)

Neri Andrea remained in Vienna for eight months. He had to deal with the request of enormous financial contributions the Emperor made on the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany, often in a threatening and violent way. It seems the Emperor liked him however, because he asked him to become resident ambassador at the Imperial Court.

Neri Andrea remained in Vienna as a resident ambassador from 1708 to 1713. He always had to fight with the government of the Emperor over monetary contributions continuously demanded of the Grand Duke of Tuscany. In those years Europe was torn apart by the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714): the last Spanish descendant of Holy



Roman Emperor Charles V of Hapsburg, King Charles II of Spain, died childless in 1700. He had an Austrian Hapsburg cousin and a French Bourbon cousin. Both wanted



Charles II of Hapsburg, King of Spain [The lower lip protruding more than the upper one is known as the “Hapsburg lip” because several members of their family, including King Charles II, had it that way. Francesco Carloni de Querqui’s father, Tonino Carloni, Isabella Guadagni’s husband, had a great admiration for the Hapsburg Family and would often say proudly that he too had the “Hapsburg lip”.]

to become King of Spain and of its colonial empire, at that time the largest in the world: South and Central America (except Brazil), Mexico and what is now South Western United States, the Philippines, Belgium, Southern Italy, Florida and strongholds in Africa and all over the world. Part of Europe was in favor of the French candidate, part in favor of the Austrian one and the war between the two European coalitions ravaged Europe during 13 years. Tuscany was neutral. The Holy Roman Emperor wanted the army of the Grand-Duke of Tuscany to join the Austrian and German troops in their conflict against the French, and to recognize the Austrian pretender, the Archduke Charles, as the legitimate King of Spain.



Archduke Charles of Hapsburg (1685-1740), Austrian pretender to the throne of Spain as Charles III. Eventually, at the death of his older brother Holy Roman Emperor Joseph I in 1711, Charles became the new Holy Roman Emperor as Charles VI, until his death in 1740.

A close-up of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored surface. The signature is written in a cursive script, starting with a large 'C' and ending with a flourish.

His signature in Latin “Carolus VI”.

The Guadagni fought on both sides, the French branch for the French coalition and the Florentine one for the Holy Roman Empire.

In 1704, at the head of a French-Bavarian Army, Marshall Camille de la Baume d'Hostun (1652-1728), Duke of Tallart (often simply called "Tallart"), of the Gadagne d'Hostun Family, invaded the Holy Roman Empire and quickly marched towards Vienna, its capital.

Camille de Tallart, one of the greatest and most famous generals of the French Army, started as a flag-bearer in the company of Gens d'Armes (French nobles' heavily armed cavalry). His brave behavior during the victories of Mulhouse (1674) and Turckheim (1675) against the troops of the Holy Roman Empire, earned him the grade of Brigadier.

A swift and secret march in mid-winter from one end of the Vosges Mountains to the other (picture below), led by French Marshal Turenne and Camille de Tallart, who galloped unceasingly towards the enemies, takes the anti-French allies by surprise and heavily defeats them at Turckheim, on January 5, 1675.



French Victory at Turckheim, in 1675.

Camille participated in the conquest of the Franche-Comte' and in all the military campaigns in Holland (1676-1678).



French troops cross the Rhine River in the successful conquest of Franche-Comte' and invasion of Holland (1676-1678).

In 1678, Camille de Tallart is promoted field-marshal. He leads the French Troops in the Nine Years' War (1688-1695), between King Louis XIV of France and a European-wide coalition, called the Grand Alliance, led by England, Holland, Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, King Charles II of Spain, Victor Amadeus II of Savoy, and major and minor princes of the Holy Roman Empire on the other. In 1691, he participated in the sieges of Courtaay, Dixmude and Luxembourg.





Castle of Luxembourg

Camille is transferred to the French Army in Germany. On March 30, 1693, after the invasion of the Palatinate Region of Germany, he is awarded the grade of Lieutenant-General.

On September 7, 1703, the Duke of Burgundy and Tallart take the town of Breisach. Camille proceeds to invest Landau in mid October. The German Prince of Hesse-Kassel comes to the rescue of Landau. Camille roundly defeats him in the battle of Speyerbach on November 15, 1703.

In his book “Gustavus Adolphus, a History of the Art of War from its revival after the Middle Ages to the End of the Spanish Succession War, with a detailed account of the most famous campaigns of the Great Swede (above mentioned Gustavus Adolphus King of Sweden and brilliant general) “, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1895) American Historian Theodore Ayrault Dodge recounts the above victory by great-uncle Camille de Tallard as the first bayonet charge in world history!

“Taillard’s 1703 campaign was a remarkable one; it showed great ability, singular push, and a decided preference for fighting over manoeuvres. Moreover he was opposed by an active and intelligent soldier, the prince of Baden.

‘The operations on the Rhine this year were not important, except the first bayonet charge on record, not preceded by fire. The Prince of Hesse was advancing on

Speyer, at the head of twenty-four thousand men, purposing to relieve Landau, when Field-Marshal Tallard, who had just blockaded the place, went on to meet him with nineteen thousand. As the Prince was crossing the Speyerbach, Camille's columns reached the stream. Seizing the instant, and without waiting to form line of battle, Camille ployed his marching columns into column of attack, and just as they were, charged in on the enemy with the bayonet. The result was a brilliant victory."

"Tallard ordered the first bayonet charge in world military history. It was odd to note that military critics looked on this charge as a gross error, an inexcusable variation from the rules of the military art, and universally condemned it; though, had Tallard commanded pikemen merely, the charge would have been his only resource, and would have been considered bold and skillful. In any event, Tallard won, and concluded his work by the capture of Landau, to the confusion – in our eyes – of the critics."



Landau's main square

Wikipidia recounts in more detail this great victory of great-uncle Camille, in one of the more important battles of European history.

"The Battle of Speyerbach took place on November 15, 1703 in the War of Spanish Succession. A French army besieging Landau surprised and defeated a German relief army near Speyer.

In mid October 1703, the allied armies (of the Grand Alliance) prepared to go into winter camp along the Moselle River when Marshal Camille de Tallard by surprise closed in on Landau and started the siege on October 17.



Speyerbach River near Speyer

On October 28, the allies ordered the Crown-Prince of Hesse-Kassel, the future King Frederick I of Sweden, to move South to lift the siege of Landau. Hesse-Kassel would have to cooperate with the Count of Nassau-Weilburg, who was on the right bank of the Rhine with 24 battalions and 18 squadrons. Both armies met on November 13 near Speyer and made camp south of the river Speyerbach, where Nassau-Weilburg and Heisse-Kassel waited for reinforcements to march to Landau on November 6.





Prince of Hesse-Kassel, future King Frederick I of Sweden (1676-1751), who led one of the German armies in the battle of Speyerbach against Tallard, by artist Martin van Meytens

Tallard had meanwhile decided not to wait for the enemy at Landau, but to march towards them and deliver battle. He ordered troops under Armand, Marquis de Pracomtal at Saarbrücken, to join him at Essingen.

The German troops were not expecting a French attack and their camp was not planned for defense. Furthermore, the command, including both Hesse-Kassel and Nassau-Weilberg, were gathered in Spier on November 15, in order to celebrate the Emperor's birthday.



City of Speyer, Germany

At 07:00 the united French armies marched towards Speyer, where they arrived at noon and deployed until 1:00 pm. The German troops, in absence of their leaders reacted slowly and in confusion. General Vehlen did his best to position the army, but large gaps were left in the left wing.

Tallard ordered 14 squadrons of his right wing to attack. This attack failed to destroy the allied left wing but succeeded in passing through the gaps in their line. At about this moment Nassau-Weilburg arrived on the field and intervened with his cavalry. This led to a defeat of the French cavalry. Instead of disengaging his troops and reforming a line, Nassau-Weilberg pursued the French with his Palatine cavalry on a terrain which was not suitable for horses.

About 2:00 pm the whole French army attacked. On the left wing the French cavalry was decisively beaten by the allied cavalry. The French lost 19 standards and Pracontal was killed. In the center the allies held, but on their right wing the French were successful. On the utter right, 6 battalions started by driving Vehlen's cavalry back. It lost its cohesion and fled. The French infantry attacked the Palatine infantry and this fled too.



The French then started to envelop the enemy center. This caused an enormous amount of casualties amongst these troops. The remaining German troops retreated in good order and the battle ended when they started to recross the Speyerbach at about 5:00 pm. The French did not hinder them in this operation.

The casualties were 6,000 killed or wounded and 2,500 prisoners on the German side, and 3,500-4,000 killed or wounded on the French side.

The Count Frederick Louis (1683-1703) of Nassau-Weilburg, commander of one of the two German armies, was killed in the battle. He was only 20 years old and heir to the throne of the Prince of Nassau-Weilburg. His younger brother, Charles August (1685-1753) became the next Prince of Nassau-Weilburg.



French cavalry attacking in the Spanish Succession War.

Our great-uncle Camille de Tallard achieved one of the biggest French victories of the war. Landau capitulated the same day. Shortly after, great-uncle Camille is created Marshal of France.

The following year, a combined Franco-Bavarian army defeats the Imperial Armies. At the head of a new army, Camille is victorious in the Electorate of the Palatinate



Our great-uncle Camille de la Baume d'Hostun, Duke de Tallard (1652-1728) (also spelled "Tallard") of the Gadagne d'Hostun branch of the Family



Palace of the Princes-Electors of Palatinate

At this point, French leaders entertain grand designs: they plan to conquer Vienna, capital of the Holy Roman Empire, by using a combined French Bavarian army, under the leadership of our great-uncle (and cousin) Marshal Camille de Tallard, promoted Commander of all the French armies in Germany. They hope this would lead to the collapse of the Grand Alliance.

So the French-Bavarian army, led by Camille, starts marching towards Vienna. On the other hand, the Duke of Malborough, commander of the English Army, is marching from Holland to stop them. And Prince Eugene of Savoy, at the head of the Austrian army is coming from the South to join Malborough.

On May 14, Imperial general Baron Thungen tries to stop Camille's advance through the Black Forest, in Southern Germany. However "with considerable skill Marshal Tallard manages to bring 10,000 reinforcements and vast supplies and ammunitions through the difficult terrain, whilst outmaneuvering Baron Thungen, who sought to block his path. Tallard then returns with his own force to the Rhine River, once again side-stepping Thungen's efforts to intercept him. The whole operation is an outstanding military achievement" [FALKNER, "Blenheim 1704", page 20]

However, on June 13, Camille's plan to change the direction of his advance to protect Bavaria from Malborough's incoming British army is stalled by French bureaucratic complications. The rigidity of the French command system was such that any variations from the original plan had to be sanctioned by Versailles (the Palace of the Kings of France, a few miles from Paris).

Eventually, Camille's progress through the rocky passes of the Black Forest slows down a lot, allowing Malborough's and Prince Eugene's forces to meet and prepare for the great battle against the allied French-Bavarian forces.

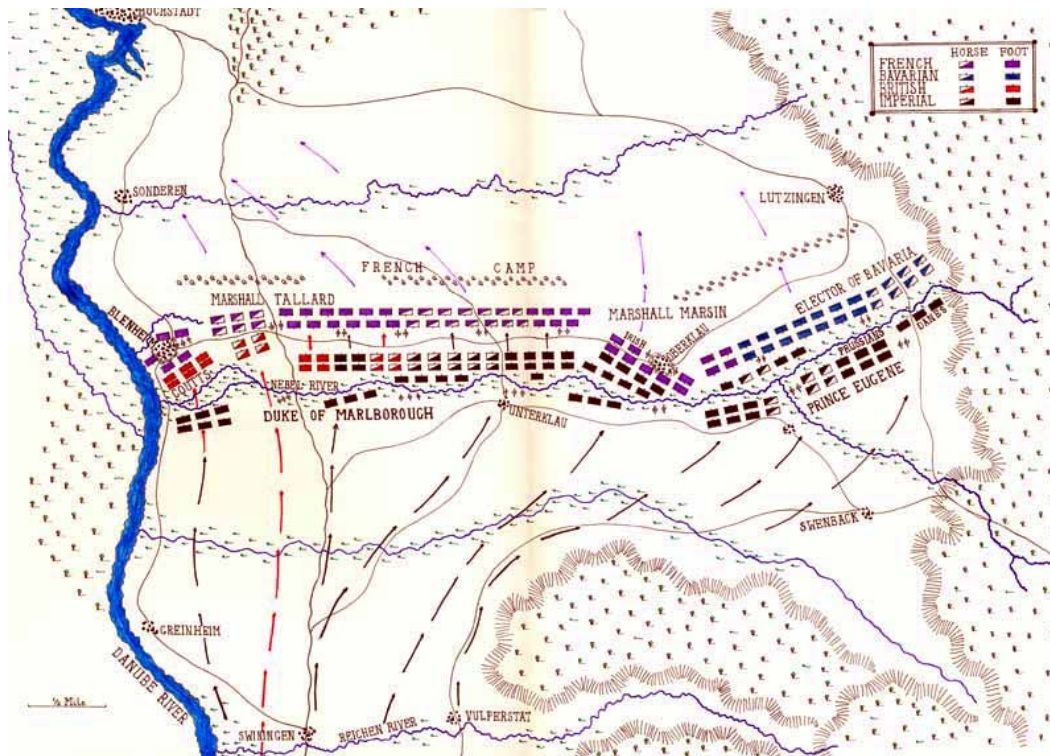
Many of Camille's cavalry horses are suffering from glanders, and the mountain passes are proving tough for the 2,000 wagons of provisions. Local German peasants, angry at French plundering, compound Tallard's problems, leading Count Merode-Westerloo, commander of the Flemish troops in Tallard's army, to bemoan: "the enraged peasantry killed several thousand of our men before the army was clear of the Black



Jean-Eugene Philippe de Merode-Westerloo

Forest" [CHANDLER, "Malborough as Military Commander", page 131]. However also the British and Austrian march has not been without loss: French spies reported that 900 sick had been left at Kassel.





Battlefield of Blenheim, August 13, 1704. We can see the Danube River on the left, going from top to bottom, the small river Nebel from right to left in the center of the picture finishing into the Danube, the town of Blenheim, giving its name to the battle, at the intersection of the Danube and the Nebel Rivers in the center left. The Prussian Troops of Prince Eugene are in Black, the British of Marlborough are Red, the French of Tallard and Marsin are purple and the Bavarian troops are blue.

Finally, the two opposing armies face one another on August 12, 1704. The Franco-Bavarian forces are encamped behind the small river Nebel, near the village of Blenheim on the plain of Hochstadt. Marlborough and Eugene's troops camp at Munsters, 5 miles from the French camp. The ensuing battle, a major battle of the War of the Spanish Succession, was fought on the following day, August 13, and is known as the Battle of Blenheim or as the Second Battle of Hochstadt. Camille's army numbers 56,000 men and 90 cannons, the army of the Grand Alliance, 52,000 men and 66 cannons.

The battlefield stretches for nearly 4 miles. The extreme right flank of the Franco-Bavarian army is covered by the Danube River; to the extreme left flank are undulating

pine-covered hills. A small stream, the Nebel, (the ground either side of which is soft and marshy and only fordable intermittently) is in front of the French line. The French right rests on the village of Blenheim near where the Nebel flows into the Danube; the village itself is surrounded by hedges, fences, enclosed gardens and meadows.

In front of the superior numbers of the enemy, and aware of their strong defensive position, some allied officers remonstrate with Malborough about the hazards of attacking; but the Duke of Malborough is resolute: "I know the danger. Yet a battle is absolutely necessary, and "I rely on the bravery and discipline of the troops, which will make amends for our disadvantages". Malborough and Eugene decide to risk everything and attack.

The British-Austrian forces leave their camp at 2:00 a.m. and march silently towards the French-Bavarian positions. The last thing Camille expects that morning is to be attacked by the Allies. Assured of his strong natural position, he is convinced that Malborough and Eugene are about to retreat north-eastwards towards Nordlingen. He writes a report about it to the King of France Louis XIV. The messenger has just galloped away with the note for the King, when the Allied army begins to appear opposite the French camp. "I could see the enemy advancing ever closer in nine great columns", writes Merode-Westerloo, "...filling the whole plain from the Danube to the woods on the horizon." [BARNETT, "Malborough", p. 109]

Camille and the other two commanders, French general Marsin and the Elector of Bavaria, have different views on how to best defend their position: Marsin and the



Count Ferdinand de Marsin, Marshal of France (1656-1706)

Elector want to advance their troops to the edge of the river and kill the enemy while they are getting out of the water. Tallard wants to lure the attackers out of the river and then unleash the cavalry upon them, causing panic and confusion, while the enemy is struggling in the marshes.

Eventually, they got to a compromise and deployed their forces at a certain distance of the river. On the other side, it took a while for Prince Eugene's forces to get ready for the attack, due to the difficult terrain and enemy fire. In the meantime, the British forces, well deployed in front of the river at 10:00 am, had to endure three hours of fire from the French artillery and suffered 2,000 casualties before the attack even began.



John Churchill, Duke of Malborough (1650-1722), commander of the British Army at Blenheim and direct ancestor of Winston Churchill

Finally at 1:00 pm. British Brigadier-General Archibald Rowe's brigade begins the attack. The English infantry rise from the edge of the Nebel River, and silently march towards the fortified town of Blenheim, a distance of about 150 yards. When they get to a distance of 30 yards the French fire a deadly volley and Rowe falls mortally wounded. The English survivors close the ranks and attack anyway but repeated French volleys and the counterattack of the French Aristocratic eight squadrons of elite soldiers, called Gens d'Armes, force them to retreat.

However, helped by the German Hessian Brigade, the English repulse the "Gens d'Armes", and launch another attack.

Also this second attack is repulsed. However, the persistent attacks on Blenheim panic the Marquis of Clerambault, French commander of the town. So, without consulting the commander in chief Camille de Tallard, he orders his reserve battalions into the village, upsetting the balance of the French position and nullifying the French numerical superiority. "The men were so crowded in upon one another", wrote Merode-



Westerloo, “that they couldn’t even fire – let alone receive or carry out any orders” [FALKNER: “Blenheim 1704”, page 70].



Brigadier-General Archibald Rowe’s brigade attacking Blenheim.

Malborough spots Clerambault’s error and countercommands Lord Cutt’s intention to launch a third attack. He orders him simply to contain the enemy within Blenheim; no more than 5,000 Allied soldiers are thus able to pen in twice the number of French infantry and dragoons.

On the Allied right, the Imperial troops of Prince Eugene have a hard time attacking the armies of general Marsin and the Elector, who are superior in number. Merode-Westerloo writes:”...Prince Eugene and the Imperial troops have been repulsed three times – driven right back to the woods – and had taken a real drubbing,”





Prince Eugene of Savoy leads the Austrian troops (with the two headed black eagle on gold background flags) against the French-Bavarian forces in the Battle of Blenheim, 1704.

While these events are taking place, however, Marlborough and his English troops are crossing the Nebel. Again the elite Gens d'Armes charge at them. This time, however, Colonel Francis Palmes' five English squadrons face them. To the consternation of the French, the Gens d'Armes are pushed back in terrible confusion. "What? Is it possible?" the Elector of Bavaria exclaims, "the gentlemen of France fleeing?"



Summer of 1704 - Battle of Blenheim: In spite of their bravery the French –Bavarian troops are defeated by a coalition of English and Austrian and their march towards Vienna blocked.

Camille is facing the British. He is alarmed by the repulse of the elite Gens d'Armes and urgently gallops across the field to ask Marsin for reinforcements. However French General Marsin is hard pressed by Eugene's repeated attacks on his side and refuses. As Tallard and Marsin consult with each other, more of Marsin's infantry is taken into the village of Blenheim by panicked Clerambault. Camille is left with just nine battalions of infantry to oppose Marlborough's massed attacking enemy ranks.

Finally Marsin sees Camille's problem, and sends his cavalry to attack Marlborough's open flank. Marlborough asks Eugene for help. Even though Prince Eugene is himself in a desperate struggle trying to attack well entrenched superior enemy forces, he immediately sends Count Hendrick Fugger and his Imperial Cuirassier brigade to help repel the French cavalry. This was a great advantage the Imperial and British armies had: even though Eugene and Marlborough had personally met for the first time only shortly before the battle, they immediately became friends, trusting each other's military valor and uprightness of intents. They showed a high degree of confidence and mutual cooperation during the whole battle. The French generals instead carried each one their own personal plan, often damaging the needed cooperation between allied forces.





The Battle of Blenheim by Joshua Ross

On seeing the Imperial Cuirassiers galloping towards them, Marsin's cavalry turns around to face them, allowing Marlborough's troops to complete the crossing of the Nebel River. The Cuirassiers defeat the French squadrons who retreat in disorder. Merode-Westerloo tries to extricate some French infantry crowded in Blenheim, but Clerambaut orders the troops back in the village.



French Cavalry charge Marlborough's troops.



Tallard's cavalry squadrons, lacking infantry support, tired and ragged, attack nevertheless Marlborough's troops and manage to push them back for a while. So much so that an English officer turns around and attempts to leave the field. –“Sir, you are under a mistake, the enemy lies that way...” Marlborough rebukes him. More numerous, the united Allied cavalry finally put Tallard's tired horsemen to rout, even though suffering heavy casualties.



Diorama of the battle in the Hochstadt museum. In the middle ground the Allied cavalry (British “red coats”) are fighting Tallard’s squadrons. The foreground depicts the fierce fighting in and around Blenheim.



British cavalry attacks the French at Blenheim

The remaining nine French infantry battalions fight with desperate valor, trying to form a square. But it is futile. They are overwhelmed by English close-range artillery and platoon fire. Merode-Westerloo later wrote: “They died to a man where they stood, stationed right out in the open plain – supported by nobody.”

In their disordered retreat, many of Tallart’s troops plunge in the Danube River and over 3,000 French horsemen drown there. Others are cut down by pursuing Imperial cavalry. Camille tries a final rally behind his camp’s tents, shouting entreaties to stand and fight, but eventually he is caught up in the rout. Surrounded by a squadron of Imperial Hessian cavalry, Marshal Tallard surrenders to Lieutenant-Colonel de Boinenbourg, aide-de-camp of the Prince of Hesse-Kassel. Boinenbourg sends him under escort to Malborough.

The Duke of Malborough welcomes the French commander – “I am very sorry that such a cruel misfortune should have fallen upon a soldier for whom I have the highest regard”. With salutes and courtesies, Camille is escorted to Malborough’s coach.





Our great-uncle Marshal de Tallard surrenders to the Duke of Marlborough, commander of the British troops, at the end of the battle of Blenheim, lost mainly because of the ineptitude of a French subordinate general, who fled when things were turning bad, and drowned in the nearby Danube River. After the battle, all the French officers were let free after ransom, except for our great-uncle who was kept prisoner for several years in England. The British were too afraid of having Camille de Tallard, the best French general of his time, commanding a French Army against them again.

Among the French losses was Francois de la Baume d'Hostun, Camille's oldest son, who had just married his 19 year old cousin Charlotte-Louise de Gadagne d'Hostun (1685-1750).

Camille was taken to England and housed on parole in Nottingham until his release seven years later, in 1711. The writer Daniel Defoe reported that his "small, but beautiful flower parterre, after the French fashion", was one of the beauties of Nottingham.

Blenheim was the first and only defeat of great-uncle Camille, one of the greatest generals in the history of France and Europe. British historian Sir Edward Sheperd Creasy considers Blenheim one of the most important battles in world history, writing: "Had it not been for Blenheim, all Europe might at this day suffer under the effect of French conquests resembling those of Alexander the Great in extent and of the Roman Empire in durability." [EDWARD SHEPHERD CREASY, "The Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World, 1851"]

According to an Italian historian, Prince Eugene of Savoy was one of the 5 greatest generals in world history of all times, the other 4 being, Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Julius Caesar and Napoleon. So Blenheim was a battle of "Giants", great-uncle Camille de Tallard, being one of them. In spite of his subordinate's serious mistakes, the outcome of the battle was uncertain until the end, even after cousin Tallard was captured.



“In the evening, the Bavarian troops repel a third attack of the Imperial cavalry. Prince Eugene is exasperated. He shoots two of his troopers to prevent a *general flight* (and the loss of the battle). He declares in disgust that he wishes to “fight among brave men and not among cowards”. However he leads a fourth attack and finally the Bavarian capitulate. The French infantry is defeated in a desperate hand-to-hand bayonet struggle. At this point the Elector and Marsin decide that the battle is lost and retreat hastily from the battlefield.”

Malborough now sends all his troops on the village of Blenheim, last resisting bastion of the French forces. Clerambaut realizes that his tactical mistake on confining his huge force in the village has contributed to Tallard’s defeat in the center. So, shameful and panicky, he quickly deserts Blenheim and the 27 battalions defending the village and reportedly drowns in the Danube while attempting to make his escape.

Blenheim is attacked on all sides and catches fire. “...our men fought in and through the fire...until many on both sides were burned to death.” – Private Dean, English 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Foot Guards writes. Hearing the din of the battle, Great-uncle Camille sends a messenger to Malborough offering to order the garrison to withdraw from the field. “Inform Monsieur Taillard”, replies the Duke, in the position in which he is now, he has no command.”

After a very bloody fight of several hours, at 9:00 pm. The Marquis de Blanzac, who has taken charge in Clerambaut’s absence, reluctantly accepts the inevitability of defeat, and some 10,000 of France best infantry lay down their arms [FALKNER: “Blenheim 1704” p. 98].

The fact that a Gadagne was the chief commander of one of the two armies fighting in one of the 15 most important battles in World history, indicates that the Guadagni make and change the history of the World.

In spite of Blenheim, and maybe because of it, of the bravery shown by the French and Bavarian soldiers preferring to die rather than retreat, and by their commander Marshal of Tallard, trying to encourage and reorganize the remains of an army in front of galloping attacking enemy cavalry, the new King of Spain is Philippe V of Bourbon, grandson of French King Louis XIV, not a Hapsburg. Thus, the Bourbon became the most important Royal Family of Europe, having sovereigns in France, Spain, Parma and Piacenza, and the Two Sicilies (i.e. Sicily, Naples and all of Southern Italy).

Below are representatives of the 4 Bourbon branches, the Spanish is actually on the throne, the other three are in exile, for the moment. We hope all of them will regain their throne one day. They are all cousins of the Guadagni.



Philippe V of Bourbon (1683-1746), King of Spain.

Juan Carlos of Bourbon (1938 - ), actual King of Spain



Spanish Royal Family attends Easter Mass. The King of Spain, Juan Carlos de Bourbon, stands next to the Archbishop. His wife, Queen Sofia, daughter of the King of Greece, is on the far right.



French Bourbon Royal Family. Lost their throne in 1848



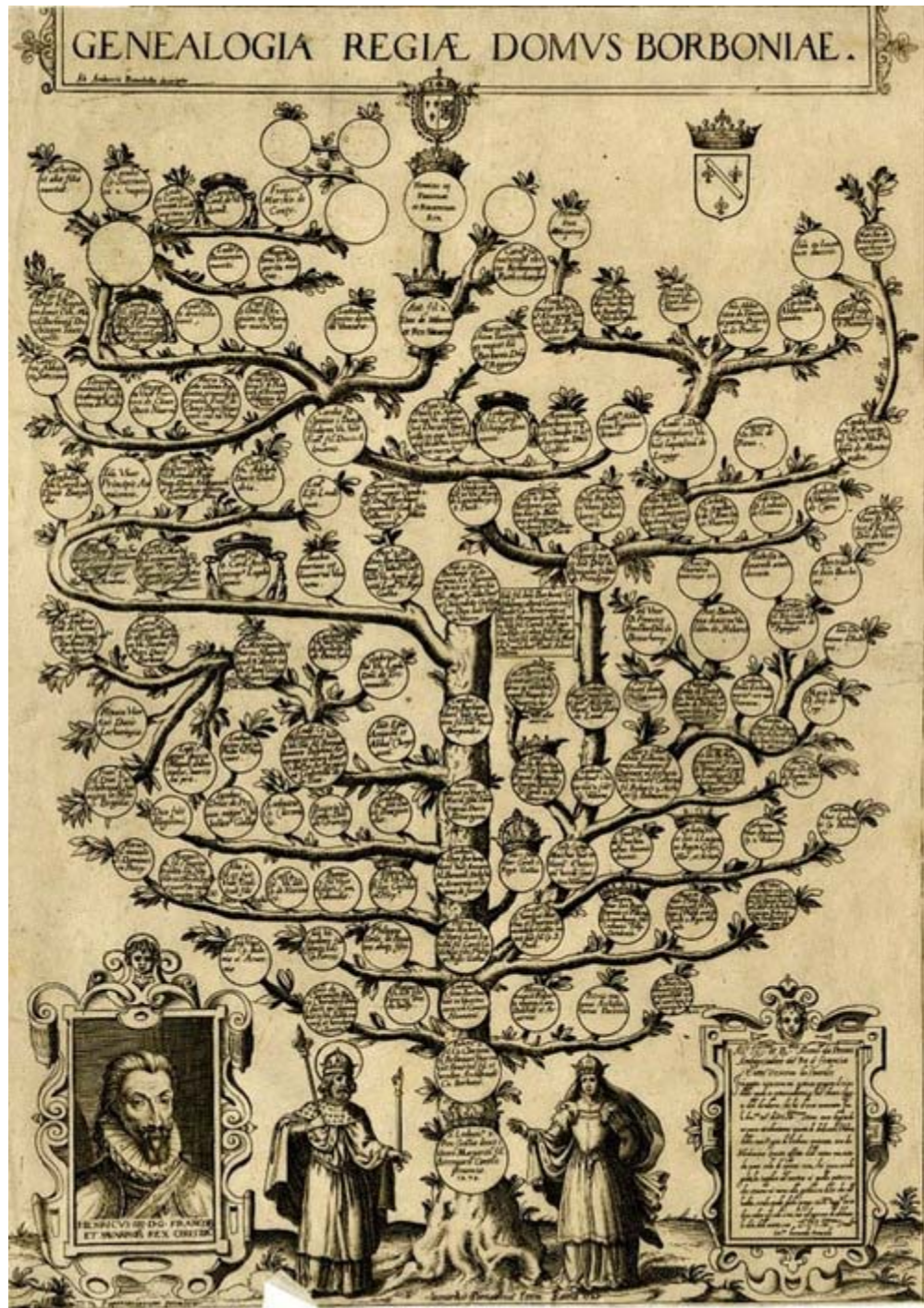


Royal Family of the Bourbons of the Two Sicilies: Don Carlos de Bourbon and Duchess Anne. Lost their throne in 1860



Duke Jaime de Bourbon Parme and Viktoria Cserenyak after their wedding. Lost their throne in 1860.





Family Tree of the Bourbons. Down left you see the portrait of their founder, Henry IV of Bourbon, King of France. His wife was Maria de' Medici, cousin of the Guadagni. So, all of the actual members of the 4 Bourbon Families, France, Spain, Parma and Piacenza, and Two Sicilies are cousins of the Guadagni.

Released in 1711, Camille returns to France. King Louis XIV makes Tallard a Duke in 1712 and a Peer of France in 1715. He is also appointed Lieutenant General for



the Dauphine' Region and made Knight of the Orders of the King. He is also appointed Governor of the Franche-Comte' Region.



Louis XIV (1638-1715) King of France (aka the “Sun King”)

In his Will, the King appoints Camille to the Council of Regency. Camille is elected President of the Science Academy in 1724. He becomes French Minister of State in 1726. He dies in Paris on March 30, 1728. He is buried in the Church of Saint Elizabeth, at the Door of the Temple.

The importance of great-uncle Tallard in European military history is further proved by the “astonishing reward” that the “British nation” gave Marlborough for his victory at Blenheim. Tallard had been undefeated until then and seemed “invincible”. His march towards Vienna, to topple the whole Holy Roman Empire, for several centuries the largest and most important country in Europe, seemed daring and full of negative consequences for the British desire of a European “balance of power”.

Two of the most brilliant European generals of all-times, the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy were going to join forces and try and stop him. Would they be able to defeat “great-uncle Camille” and change the history of Europe?

The importance of the battle for Great Britain was well-known to Marlborough. At the end of the day, still in the saddle, the Duke was conducting the pursuit of the broken enemy. Pausing for a moment he scribbled on the back of an old tavern bill a note addressed to his wife, Sarah: “I have no time to say more but to beg you will give my duty to the Queen, and let her know her army had a glorious victory.”  
[BARNETT: “Marlborough”, p.121]



The Duke of Marlborough signing the dispatch at Blenheim, oil painting by Robert Hilingford

As a reward for his victory at Blenheim, Marlborough was given the former royal manor of Hensington to site the new palace and Parliament voted a substantial sum of money towards its creation. It was called “Blenheim Palace” in remembrance of his victory.

It is a monumental country house situated in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England, residence of the dukes of Marlborough. It was built as a gift to John Churchill, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough, from a grateful nation in return for military triumph against the French and Bavarians at the Battle of Blenheim. It is the only non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace. The palace, one of England’s largest houses, was built between 1705 and circa 1722. Blenheim Palace was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.



Blenheim Palace (“Gift to the Duke of Marlborough from a grateful Nation”)

James Thornhill painted the ceiling of the hall of the palace in 1716. It depicts Malborough kneeling to Britannia and proffering a map of the Battle of Blenheim. The hall is 67 ft high, and remarkable chiefly for its size and for its stone carvings by Gibbons, yet in spite of its immense size it is merely a vast ante-room to the saloon.

The saloon, painted by Laguerre, is an example of three-dimensional painting. The Peace of Utrecht was about to be signed so all the elements in the painting represent the coming of peace. In the domed ceiling John Churchill is represented in the chariot, holding a zigzag thunderbolt of war, and a woman holding back his arm represents peace. To the right of the doorway, Laguerre included French spies, said to have big ears and eyes because they may still be spying. In the northern end of the library is housed the largest pipe organ in private ownership in Europe, built by England's great Organbuilder Henry Willis & Sons.





The column of victory in the palace grounds.



The tomb of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Malborough in the Palace Chapel.



Library of the Palace.

No other victorious British general has ever received even a portion of the size and value of Blenheim Palace as a reward for his victory from the British Nation. We conclude that no other general was considered as capable, brilliant and dangerous for the British Nation as great-uncle Camille de Tallard of the Baume d'Hostun branch of the Gadagne.

Even though we now know the end of the story, i.e. that a French Bourbon prince will become King of Spain, let us study the actions of Ascanio Guadagni (1685-1759), officer in the army of the Holy Roman Emperor, and Neri Andrea Guadagni (1673-1748), Ambassador in Vienna of the Grand-Duke of Tuscany, during the War of Spanish Succession (1701-1714).

Before leaving the story of the battle of Blenheim, Aug. 14, 1704, where the Franco-Bavarian Army, led by great-uncle Marshal Camille de Tallard (1651-1728), was defeated by the British Army of the Duke of Marlborough allied with the Austrian Army of Prince Eugene of Savoy, let us remember sadly even though with pride, that among the over 30,000 French casualties was our young cousin, Francois de la Baume d'Hostun, eldest son of Camille de Tallard, cavalry brigadier, recently married (on February 28, 1704) with his 19 year old cousin Louise Charlotte de Gadagne d'Hostun, while he was charging the enemy. He was seriously wounded at his knee, and died of the consequences of it, on September 20, 1704 in Strasbourg where he had been taken. So Blenheim is not just a name for us. Somewhere, in the bloody battlefield, littered with corpses and cannon holes, one of us fell, doing his duty for his King and Country.



Ascanio Guadagni (1685-1759), son of Pierantonio (1629-1709) and Ottavia Benigna Piccolomini (+1725) was born in 1685, second youngest of 7 siblings, 4 brothers including him (Enea Silvio 1681-1722; Ulivieri 1682-1708; Ottavio 1684-1746), and 3 sisters (Maria Benigna b. 1677; Maria Maddalena b.1679, and Violante 1693-1744).

Ascanio's father, Pierantonio, was son of Tommaso Guadagni (1582-1652) and Maria Acciaioli (+ 1675). Pierantonio's aunt Ortensia Guadagni Salviati was the first Marchese of San Leolino. When she passed away in 1659, his older brother, Francesco Guadagni (1627-1696) inherited the title and the Marquisate of San Leolino. When Francesco died, single and childless in 1696, he left the Marquisate to their youngest brother Donato Maria (1641-1718) our direct ancestor. Grieved by it, Pierantonio bought the Marquisate of Montepescali, in Val di Bruna, from Marquis Lelio Tolomei of Siena, and was invested with it by Grand-Duke Cosimo III de' Medici (1642-1723).

Pierantonio Guadagni was Gentleman-in-waiting of the golden key, i.e. Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I, i.e. manager of the Household of the Holy Roman Emperor.

Historian Passerini states that he obtained this honor also because he was related to Piccolomini, through his wife Ottavia Benigna Piccolomini. Ottavia's great uncle, Ottavio Piccolomini (1599-1656), was an Italian nobleman whose military career included service as a Spanish general and then as a field marshal of the Holy Roman Empire. Ottavia's brother was Duke Lorenzo Piccolomini, also field-marshal of the Holy Roman Empire, and Prince of Nachod, in Bohemia (part of the Holy Roman Empire).



Inside of the Castle of Nachod, Bohemia. It used to belong to our Piccolomini great-uncles.





Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna.

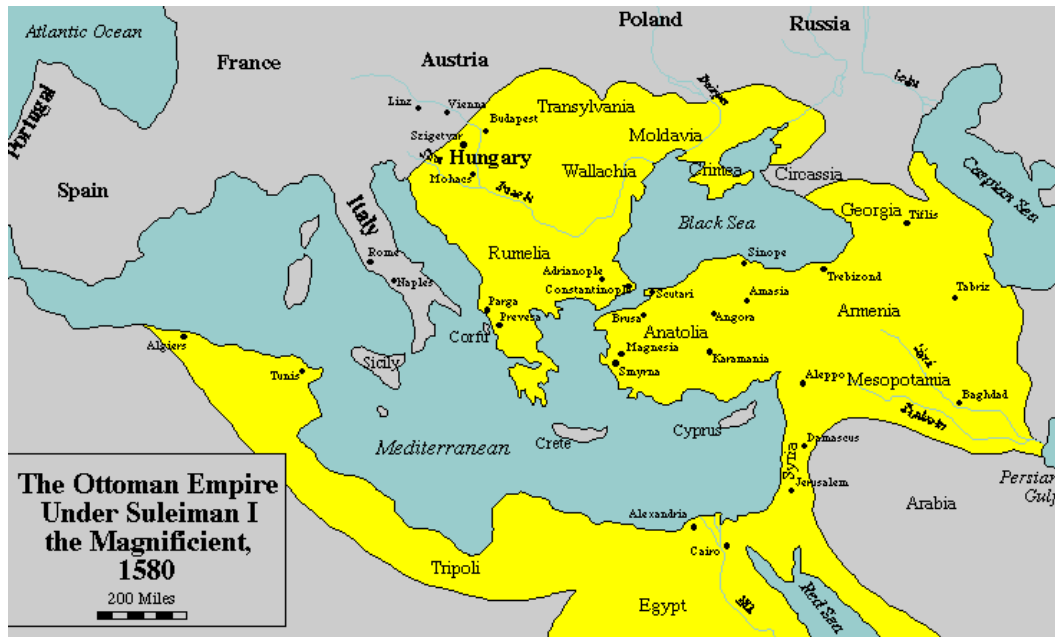


Holy Roman Emperor, King of Hungary and Croatia and King of Bohemia Leopold I of Hapsburg (1640-1705).

Leopold was the second son of Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand III, by his first wife, Maria Anna of Spain. He became heir apparent in 1654 by the death of his older

brother Ferdinand IV. He was elected Holy Roman Emperor in 1658, and would rule as such until his death in 1705.

Leopold's reign is known for the conflicts with the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire in the East, and the rivalry with King of France Louis XIV, a contemporary and first cousin of his, in the West.



Ottoman Empire at its greatest, under Sultan Suleiman I, in 1580. As we see Hungary with its capital Budapest, is part of it. Vienna, Capital of the Holy Roman Empire, is dangerously close to its border. Most of Eastern Europe is part of it, as is most of the Mediterranean Sea. The islands of Cyprus, Crete and Malta (little unnamed island under Sicily), were strenuously defended by the Knights of Malta, of whom several Guadagni were members.

After more than a decade of warfare, Leopold emerged victorious from the Great Turkish War thanks to the military talents of Prince Eugene of Savoy (the same one who fought against great-uncle Camille de Tallart at Blenheim). By the Treaty of Karlowitz, Leopold recovered almost all of the Kingdom of Hungary which had fallen under the Turkish yoke in the years after the 1528 Battle of Mohacs.

Leopold fought three wars against France – the Dutch War, the Nine Years' War, and the War of the Spanish Succession. In this last, Leopold sought to make his younger son, Archduke Charles, the Austrian Heir of the Kingdom of Spain and of all its Colonial Empire. As we know, France wanted to put a French Bourbon Prince on the throne of Spain. Leopold started a war with France which soon engulfed much of Europe. The early years of the war went fairly well for the Holy Roman Empire but later on it became a stubborn war that would drag on until 1714, nine years after Leopold's death and end up with a French Bourbon King of Spain. I wonder what Imperial Chamberlain Pierantonio Guadagni's advice was for Emperor Leopold, as they aged together as time



went by. Pierantonio was eleven years older than the Emperor but he survived him four years.

In 1704, when he was nineteen, Ascanio Guadagni, son of Imperial Chamberlain Pierantonio, went to Germany to enlist in the army of the Holy Roman Empire. Memory of his uncle, Field Marshal Piccolomini was still vivid. That was the year his older French cousin, Camille de Tallard, fighting against the troops of the same Holy Roman Empire, was taken prisoner by their British allies, and Camille's son, Francois, only a few years older than him, was killed in the Battle of Blenheim.

Also Ascanio was sent to participate in the War of Spanish Succession. On May 5, 1705, Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I passed away aged 64. His oldest son, Joseph I (1678-1711) was Holy Roman Emperor from 1705 until his death in 1711.



Holy Roman Emperor Joseph I

Military uniforms during the War of Spanish Succession

1685/5 Bourscheidt, Bettendorf, Evertz, Norprath



Tambour



Knopf



Trommel (rekonstruiert)



Unteroffizier



Mann



Mann nach 1708

1703/2 Nassau-Dillenburg, Neu-Efferen



Mann 1706



Mann 1708



Knopf

Artillerie und Train



Mann nach Lutz [9]

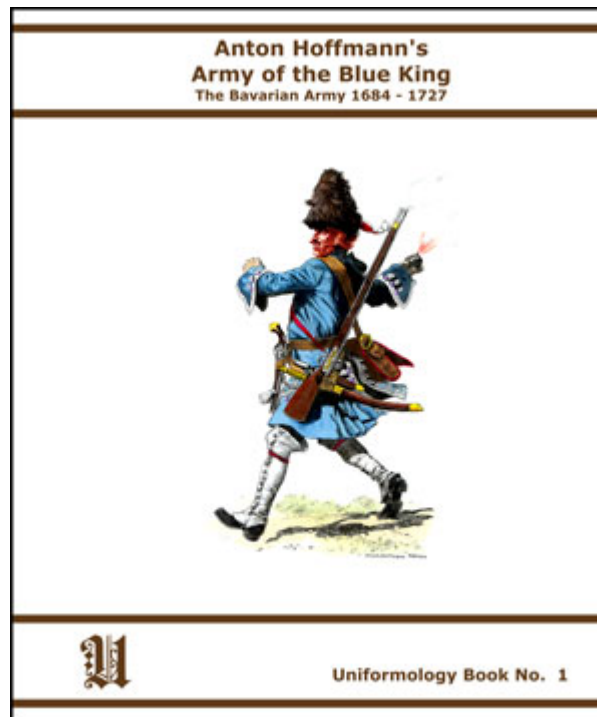


Knopf



Mann nach Bezzel [15]

Uniform of the Palatinate Elector (German allied with the French)



Bavarian Army (German allied with the French)

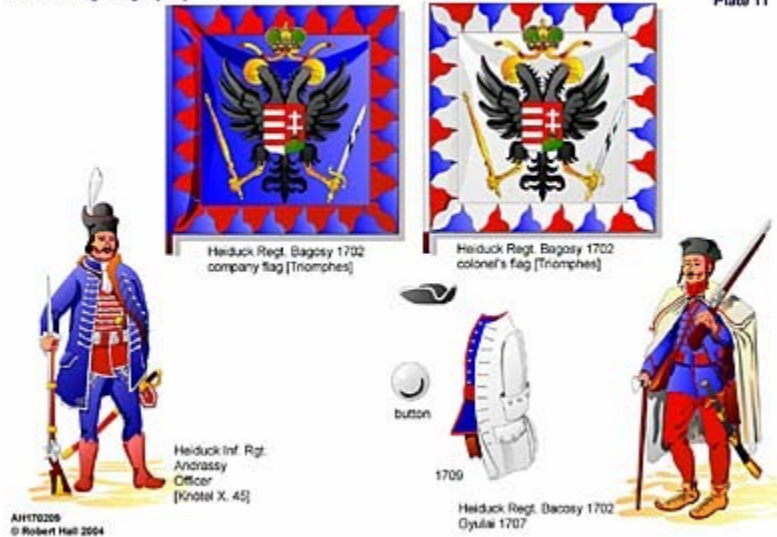


Bavarian Army





French (left) and British (right)



Austrian and Hungarian Infantry (this was the army where Ascanio Guadagni was enlisted) Two-headed Imperial Eagle: Austria and Hungary, united under one Hapsburg Emperor.



French cavalry



Spanish Armies





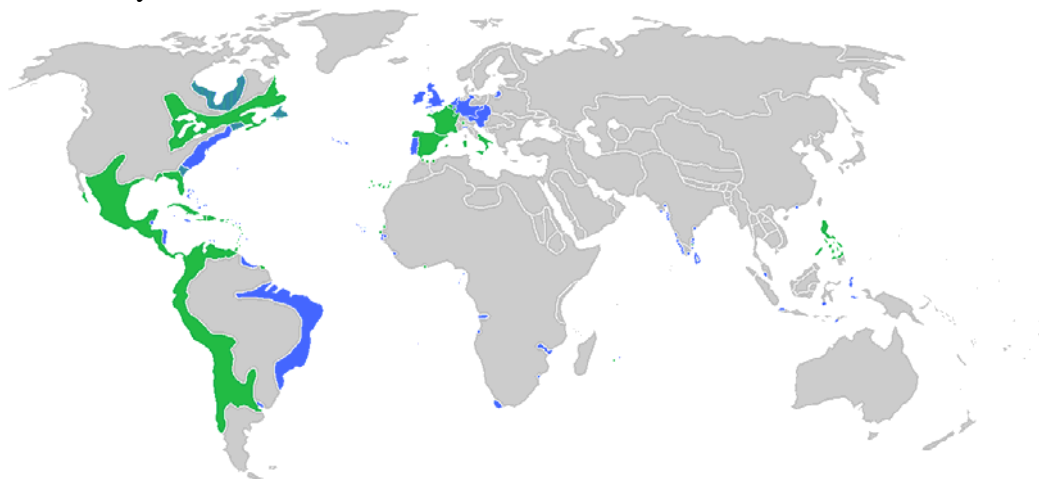
Spanish Infantry



French Infantry



British Infantry



World participation in the War of Spanish Succession: Colored green (France, Spain under Bourbon King Philip V, grandson of the King of France Louis XIV, Spanish colonies in Italy, Mexico, Florida, Central and South America and the Philippines, French colonies of Quebec and Louisiana) against colored blue (Holy Roman Empire and Hungary, England and the American Colonies, Netherlands, Portugal and its colonies of Brasil, Africa, India and Far East Asia).

In the Early Renaissance, Spain and Portugal were the only European countries discovering other continents and converting them to Roman Catholicism. To avoid that two Catholic countries would fight one another to conquer Pagan countries and convert them to Catholicism, the Pope divided the whole world in two: from Eastern South America (Brasil), across the Atlantic Ocean, Africa, Asia and the Indian Ocean to the Philippines excluded, only Portugal could explore, conquer and convert; from West of Brasil, across North and South America, the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines included, only Spain.

In 1700, the King Charles II of Spain died childless. His Will named the 16-year old Philip, grandson of Charles' half-sister Maria Theresa of Spain, first wife of King of France Louis XIV, as his successor. Upon any possible refusal, the crown of Spain would be offered next to Philip's younger brother, the Duke of Berry, then to the Archduke Charles of Austria, later Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI.



King Philip V of Spain (1683-1746)



Philip had the better genealogical claim to the Spanish throne, because his Spanish grandmother and great-grandmother were older than the ancestors of the Archduke Charles of Austria. However, the Austrian branch claimed that Philip's grandmother had renounced the Spanish throne for herself and her descendants as part of her marriage contract. This was countered by the French branch's claim that it was on the basis of a dowry that had never been paid.

After a long Royal Council meeting in France at which the Dauphin (Philip's father) spoke up in favor of his son's rights, it was agreed that Philip would ascend the throne, but would forever renounce his claim to the throne of France for himself and his descendants.

After the Royal Council decided to accept the provisions of the will of late King of Spain Charles II naming Philip king of Spain, the Spanish ambassador was called in and introduced to his new king. The ambassador, along with his son, knelt before Philip and made a long speech in Spanish which Philip did not understand, although his grandfather King Louis XIV (the son and husband of Spanish princesses) did. Philip only later learned to speak Spanish.



Proclamation of Philip V (16 years old) King of Spain in the Palace of Versailles, near Paris (France) on November 16, 1700. Spanish Ambassador is kneeling in front of him. The Ambassador's son, in light blue, is getting ready to kneel also, on the left.



King of France Louis XIV (1638-1715), aka the “Sun King”, grandfather of Philip V, King of Spain, in 1701.



Archduke Charles of Hapsburg (1685-1740) He was two years younger than his rival Philippe V of Bourbon, and the same age as Ascanio Guadagni.

Following the death of Charles II of Spain, without any ostensible heir, Charles of Hapsburg declared himself King of Spain-both were members of the House of Hapsburg. The ensuing War of Spanish Succession, which pitted France's candidate, Philip, Duke of Anjou, Louis XIV of France's grandson, against Austria's Charles, lasted for almost 14 years. The Kingdom of Portugal, Kingdom of England, Scotland, Ireland and the majority of the Holy Roman Empire endorsed Charles's candidature.

Charles III, as he was known, disembarked in his kingdom in 1705, and stayed there for six years, only being able to exercise his rule in Catalonia, until the death of his brother, Joseph I, Holy Roman Emperor; he returned to Vienna to assume the imperial crown. Not wanting to see Austria and Spain in personal union again, like at the time of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, the new Kingdom of Great Britain withdrew its support from the Austrian coalition and the war culminated with the Treaties of Utrecht and Rastatt three years later.

The former, ratified in 1713, recognized Philip as King of Spain, however, the Kingdom of Naples, the Duchy of Milan, the Austrian Netherlands and the Kingdom of Sardinia – all previously possessions of the Spanish – were delegated to Austria. To prevent a union of Spain and France, Philip was forced to renounce his right to succeed his grandfather's throne.

Charles was extremely discontented at the loss of Spain, and as a result, he mimicked the staid Spanish Hapsburg court ceremonial, adopting the dress of a Spanish monarch, which, according to British historian Edward Crankshaw, consisted of "a black doublet and hose, black shoes and scarlet stockings".





Charles II (1665-1700), the last Hapsburg King of Spain.



Prince of Spain Balthasar Charles of Hapsburg (1629-1646), older brother of King Charles II, by Velasquez (1640)



Prince of Spain Balthazar Charles of Hapsburg by Martinez del Mazo (1642)



Spanish Infanta Margarita Teresa of Hapsburg (1651-1673), sister of Charles II and Balthasar Charles, in blue dress by Velazquez (1659).

So we are going to follow three young men, Ascanio Guadagni, Philip of Bourbon, and Charles of Hapsburg, almost of the same age, barely out of their teens, fighting against each other, or side by side, in the War of Spanish Succession, considered the first “World War”, because so many countries in Europe and their colonies, located all over the world, including the American colonies, participated in it.

In 1705, Ascanio, enlisted in the Austrian Army, fought in the taking of Barcelona. The siege of Barcelona took place between September 14 and October 19 1705. Ascanio was 20 years old and this was his first conflict as a military. A multinational Grand Alliance Army (England, Austria, Portugal, Dutch Republic, Pro-



Hapsburg Spain), led by Lord Peterborough, supporting the Hapsburg pretender to the Spanish throne, captured the city of Barcelona from its Franco-Spanish Bourbonic defenders. Following the capture of Barcelona, Ascanio participated in the capture of Lerida, Tarragona and other cities of Catalonia.



Lerida (Lleida in Catalan Language)



Tarragona



Lord Peterborough overseeing the siege of Barcelona.

An attempted landing had been repulsed the previous year at the Battle of Barcelona (1704). Following the city's capture by Peterborough, the French and Spanish launched a concerted attempt to recapture it the following year during the Siege of Barcelona (1706).



Barcelona, Spain

The Siege of Barcelona took place between April 3 and 27, 1706, when a Franco-Spanish army led by Philip V laid siege to Barcelona in an attempt to recapture it following its fall to an English-led Allied army the previous year. Ascanio participated in the defense of the city against the Franco-Spanish besiegers.

The siege was abandoned, following the appearance of a large English fleet under the command of John Leake, carrying reinforcements.



Appearance of the British Fleet



The Franco-Spanish army was forced to abandon its supplies and artillery in its hasty retreat. King Philip V was cut off from returning to Madrid and so he crossed into France. Barcelona remained in Allied hands until 1714. The belligerents were: defenders of Barcelona: England, Austria, Dutch Republic, Pro-Hapsburg Spain; attackers: France, Pro-Bourbon Spain.

In that same year, King John V of Portugal's grand general, the Marquis of Minas, (Portugal was allied with the Holy Roman Empire) led an invasion of Spain from Portugal, managing to capture Madrid, capital of Spain.



Marquis of Minas and Count of Prado (1666-1722) murdered on 9/17/1722.



Royal Palace of Madrid

By the end of the year, however, Madrid was recovered by an army led by King Philip V, grand-son of King of France Louis XIV and French Bourbon candidate for the throne of Spain, and the Duke of Berwick (the illegitimate son of King James II of England, serving in the French army).



Duke of Berwick (1670-1734) illegitimate son of King James II of England and Arabella Churchill, sister of the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Malborough, winner of Blenheim. He died beheaded by a cannon ball, during a battle, when he was 64.

The Earl of Galway, a French Huguenot (Protestant) fighting for the British and Holy Roman Empire, led another attack on Madrid in 1707, with young Ascanio in his army, but Berwick attacked him in the Battle of Almansa on April 25, 1707.





The Battle of Almansa (April 25, 1707)

#### Belligerents

England	Bourbon Spain (Spain was divided, part for the Bourbon candidate and part for the Hapsbug Candidate)
Portugal	
Dutch Republic & Ascanio Guadagni	Kingdom of France

#### Commanders

Earl of Galway & Marquis of Minas	Duke of Berwick
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#### Strength

22,000	25,000
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#### Casualties and losses

5,000 dead or wounded	3,500 dead or wounded
12,000 captured	

The Battle of Almansa was one of the most decisive engagements of the War of Spanish Succession. At Almansa, the Franco-Spanish army, under Berwick soundly defeated the allied forces of Portugal, England and the United Provinces led by the Earl of Galway, reclaiming most of Eastern Spain for the Bourbons.

It has been described as “probably the only Battle in history in which the English forces were commanded by a Frenchman, the French by an Englishman.



Battle of Almanza, 1707: French severely defeated the Army of the Holy Roman Empire and Ascanio Guadagni was wounded.

The Bourbon army of about 25,000 was composed of Spanish and French troops in equal proportions, as well as an Irish regiment. Opposing them was a mainly Anglo-Portuguese force with strong Dutch, German (Ascanio), and French Huguenot elements.

The battle began with an artillery exchange. When Galway committed his reserves to an attack on the Bourbon centre, Berwick unleashed a strong force of Franco-Spanish cavalry against the weakened Anglo-Portuguese lines, sweeping away the Portuguese cavalry. A general rout followed, only the Portuguese infantry held, attacked by the three sides, and tried to retire fighting. They surrendered by nightfall. Galway lost 5,000 men killed and 12,000 taken prisoners; of his army of 22,000 only 5,000 escaped to Tortosa.





The victory was a major step in the consolidation of Spain under the Bourbons. With the main allied army destroyed, Philip V of Spain regained the initiative and gained Valencia.



Battle reenactment and the castle in the background

Before long, the only remaining allies of the Hapsburg pretender, Archduke Charles, were his supporters in Catalonia and Balearic Islands.

King Frederick of Prussia referred to Almansa as “the most scientific battle of our century”, while Winston Churchill once compared the crushing English defeat to the



disasters awaiting the British Army at the hands of Nazi Germany in the early years of World War II.

Ascanio, who was 22, was wounded. However, the following year he was fighting again in the army of the Emperor.

In spring 1710, the Spanish Army entered Catalonia from Aragon, crossing the River Segre. Philip V, the French Bourbon claimant to the throne, joined the Spanish army in May. The opposing Allied Army, where Ascanio Guadagni was enlisted, consisting of Austrian, British and Dutch troops, was joined by Archduke Charles of Austria, the Hapsburg claimant in June.

In July, General Guido von Starhemberg, Supreme commander of the Austrians in Spain (as the Emperor of Austria was also Holy Roman Emperor, “Austrian” and “of the Holy Roman Empire” are synonymous), received reinforcements and decided to attack. He crossed the Noguera River taking up positions on the heights of Almenar.



Guido von Starhemberg (1657-1737)

Lord Stanhope then, commander of the British contingent of the Allied Army, crossed the Segre at Balaguer (north of Lerida) marching to the bridge of Alfarras, crossing it on July 27.

Francisco de Villadarias, commander of the Spanish Army, opened the battle with a cavalry attack which was initially successful, but the initiative was wasted by pursuing groups of fleeing enemies.



18<sup>th</sup> century Austrian soldiers. Ascanio Guadagni was one of their officers.

Then the British infantry attacked the left wing, which fled, taking the second line with it. Then Ascanio Guadagni and the Austrians attacked and destroyed the right wing, where Bourbon King Philip V risked his life fighting and was almost captured by the allies.



Angel on top of the church spire of Almenar main church





Battle of Almenar, Spain, July 27, 1710 (Ascanio was 25 years old, when he fought it)  
The Spanish had 1,000 dead and 3,000 captured. The Allied Forces only lost 400 soldiers.

The Spanish troops had to leave Catalonia and withdraw to Aragon, where the battle of Saragossa took place on August 20, 1710.



Lord James Stanhope, Commander of the British Forces, allied to the Austrians of Ascanio.

On August 9, the Spanish army reached Saragossa and the Marquis de Bay, new commander of King Philip V's army (General Villadarias was fired after the Bourbon defeat of Almenar), positioned his troops between the river Ebro (on his left) and the Torrero heights (on his right).



Ebro River in Saragossa, Spain

On August 15, an allied cavalry-attack was successfully countered. Five days of skirmishes followed. On August 19, the allied troops crossed the river Ebro unchallenged and were allowed to deploy their army during the night.

The allied left-wing was composed of Spanish and Dutch troops under the Count of Atalaya. The right-wing was commanded by Stanhope and was composed of British, Portuguese and Austrian troops. Starhemberg was in charge of the center, which was mainly German, Austrian (Ascanio) and Spanish infantry. The Allied army consisted, in all, of thirty-seven battalions and forty-three squadrons, while the Spanish-Bourbon army was composed of thirty-eight battalions and fifty-four squadrons. On August 20, at 08:00 am, an artillery-duel started which lasted until noon.

General Stanhope began the attack on the Bourbon-Spanish left wing. At first the Spanish and Walloon (Belgian) troops of the Bourbon army seemed to gain the advantage, having defeated a body of 8 Portuguese squadrons, which they chased from the field. This pursuit opened a gap in the Bourbon army lines which gave Stanhope an opportunity of piercing them. The British general put in flight the disorganized Spanish soldiers, while at the center and the right their attacks were repulsed.

The battle was more or less a repeat of the Battle of Almenara. The cavalry of the Bourbon army attacked fiercely and were almosty successful, but the allied troops, with Ascanio Guadagni among them, stood firm. Then, the Allies counter-attacked with the infantry and the Spanish army was pushed back. In less than three hours of battle the Allied army won a complete victory. All the artillery (20 cannons) of the Bourbon army



and all their colours (73 flags) were seized. Between 5,000 and 6,000 Spanish soldiers were killed or wounded, and another 7,000 were made prisoners. The Allied were put as 1,500 men dead or wounded.

Ascanio Guadagni fought in both battles, Almenar and Saragossa. The Allied occupied Saragossa.

Archduke Charles of Hapsburg, the Austrian Pretender to the Spanish throne, entered Saragoza the day after the battle. The defeat of the army of King Philip V of Spain was severe, the way to Madrid was open.

Philip V abandoned Madrid on September 9, and went to Valladolid.

On September 21, the Archduke – Charles III of Spain, according to the Allies, entered his prospective capital, a very hostile and almost empty Madrid, deserted by all except the poorest of its inhabitants. Charles commented: “This city is a desert!” The invasion of 1710 proved to be a repetition of the invasion of 1706: the Alliance’s 23,000 men, reduced by a loss of 2,000 in the actions of Almanara and Saragossa, by constant skirmishes with the *guerrilleros*, and the general opposition of the people, by disease, were unequal to the task of holding their conquests and occupying the two Castiles. The Portuguese were unable to offer help.

The Grand Alliance’s position became untenable. On November 9, the Alliance, including Ascanio, evacuated the city and embarked on a retreat to Catalonia. Leaving behind the main body of the army, the Archduke advanced with a guard of 2,000 cavalry, hurrying back to Barcelona.



Madrid in 1562 by Anton van den Wyngaerde



Duke of Vendome (1654-1712)

The Bourbon army was rapidly refitted and reorganized by French general the Duc de Vendome, who was lent to Philip V's service by the latter's grandfather, the Sun King (Louis XIV). Spanish volunteers and regular units were joined by the Irish brigade (the Irish Brigade was a brigade in the French army composed of Irish exiles, led by Lord Mountcashel) and by French troops secretly directed to enter Spanish service.





Brihuega – Cadena Gate





Brihuega – Bullring for the corridas (“Plaza de toros” in Spanish)

The rest of the army marched in two detachments, the division being imposed on them by difficulty of foraging. General Guido Starhemberg marched ahead with main body of 12,000 men, including Ascanio, a day’s march ahead of the British troops, 5,000 men under Lord Stanhope. This division of forces invited disaster in the presence of the Duke of Vendome, a capable and resourceful leader.

Vendome set out for Talavera with his troops, and pursued the retreating British army with a speed perhaps never equaled in such a season and in such a country. The middle aged Frenchman led his Franco-Spanish army day and night. In typical Vendome style, he swam, at the head of his cavalry, the flooded Henares and in a few days he



Henares River, Spain.

overtook Stanhope, who was at Brihuega with the left wing of the Grand Alliance army.

“Nobody with me,” said the British general, “imagined that they had any foot within some days’ march of us and our misfortune is owing to the incredible diligence which their army made.” Stanhope had barely enough time to send off a messenger to the centre of the army, which was some leagues from Brihuega, before Vendome was upon him on the evening of December 8. The next morning the town was invested on every side.

Blasting the walls of Brihuega with heavy cannon, a mine was sprung under one of the gates. The British kept up a terrible fire till their powder was spent. They then fought desperately against overwhelming odds as Vendome's men stormed the city with bayonets fixed and began to take the town by bloody close quarters fighting, street by street. The British set fire to the buildings which their assailants had taken but in vain. The British general saw that further resistance would produce only a useless carnage. He concluded a capitulation and his army became prisoners of war on honorable terms.

Belligerents

Great Britain	Kingdom of France Bourbon Spain
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Commanders and leaders

James Stanhope (POW)	Louis Joseph de Vendome
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Strength

4,000	10,000
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Casualties and losses

600 dead, 3,400 wounded or captured	1,200 dead or wounded
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The British troops did not remain in captivity for long before they were exchanged and sent home in October 1711.

Scarcely had Vendome signed the capitulation, when he learned that Staremberg and Ascanio were marching to the relief of Stanhope.

When General Starhemberg was informed of the attack on the British column, he moved his troops to help Stanhope's army, unaware that he had capitulated. In the morning of the next day, he found the Franco-Spanish army waiting in the plain of Villaviciosa.

Compared to the 14,000 soldiers of the Austrian general, the Duke of Vendome had deployed in battle order about 20,000 soldiers, among whom was King Philip V of Spain himself, and other troops of the Duke who had joined in the morning. Both armies deployed in two lines, as was the custom of the time, on two parallel heights.

The battle began in the afternoon and lasted until midnight. Both armies possessed the same amount of artillery, 23 pieces each, and they both were deployed in the same way: in 3 batteries. The fire of the artillery began at the same time and both armies were damaged.

The Marquis de Valdecanas in command of the cavalry in the Bourbon right wing began the attack, where King Philip V was present, and sent his cavalry against the enemy left wing, composed of German infantry (Ascanio), and Portuguese and Spanish cavalry under the Imperial general von Frankenberg. The German infantry with the help of the Portuguese cavalry, tried to stop the Bourbon charge. Ascanio loaded and fired his pistols continuously, encouraging the German soldiers around him. The Spanish stallions were rearing and neighing, dust and gunpowder were floating all over, the Spanish sabers came down relentlessly on the German fantassins, Spanish cavaliers were also hitting the dust with loud groans, the brown dirt was mixing with red blood. Finally the Allied defense relented and Ascanio himself had to draw back to cover the slow retreat of the wounded soldiers being carried away by their comrades.



In the end, the German left wing was completely destroyed. The Spanish captured the pieces of artillery and massacred the Anglo-Dutch troops that were sent to help the left wing. With the Allied left wing destroyed, the Archduke's infantry, which Ascanio had joined, advanced towards the Franco-Spanish center and drove back the Bourbon infantry. The Marquis of Toy went and tried to prevent the decrease in the center and avoid the division in two of their army, but most were taken prisoners by the Portuguese soldiers.



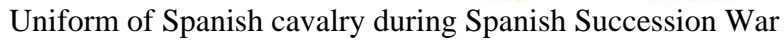


Spanish Cavalry attacking at Villaviciosa



The calm and tranquil small town of Villaviciosa.





While the center Bourbon was in serious difficulties under the counterattack of Ascanio and the Archduke's infantry, the Count of Aguilar threw the cavalry against the right wing of the Archduke, commanded by General Starhemberg himself, formed by the brightest grenadiers and cavalry squadrons of the allied army.

Coin of King of Spain Philip V of Bourbon below.







Commander of the Franco-Spanish Army: Louis Joseph Duke of Vendome

The charge was unstoppable, and the Allies were unable to contain the cavalry of the Count of Aguilar. The right wing of the Archduke was saved from disaster by the support of the allied center, led by Spanish general Villaroel. General Starhemberg, aided by Ascanio, regrouped and reorganized his forces, and finally rejected the cavalry of the Count of Aguilar, and charged against the Bourbon left wing. The allies captured the cannons of the left wing and immediately Starhemberg launched his army, also led by Ascanio, against the center (see picture below).



BATALLA DE VILLAVIEJA QUE GANO SU MAESTRO FELIPE Y EUDEAN. DICIEMBRE ANNO MDCX.

En esta batalla se peleó el día 23 de Diciembre de 1521 entre el ejército de Hernán Cortés y el de Cuauhtémoc. El ejército de Cortés, compuesto de españoles y aliados indígenas, logró una victoria decisiva, lo que permitió la caída de Tenochtitlán y la fundación de la Nueva España. La batalla fue uno de los momentos más cruciales de la conquista de México. El ejército de Cuauhtémoc, aunque valiente, no pudo resistir al ataque de Cortés. La victoria de Cortés marcó el fin de la independencia de México y el inicio de la colonización española. La batalla de Villavieja es recordada por su intensidad y por el papel decisivo que jugó en la conquista de México.



General Vendome (left) offers the captured enemy flags to King of Spain Philip V (right).

The Bourbon center and left wing began to retreat, and the right wing cavalry was occupied in the pursuit of the enemy, in the allied left wing. Then, the Count of Aguilar attacked with his cavalry and *Dragoons* against the right wing of the Archduke.





Franco-Spanish cavalry charge at Villaviciosa

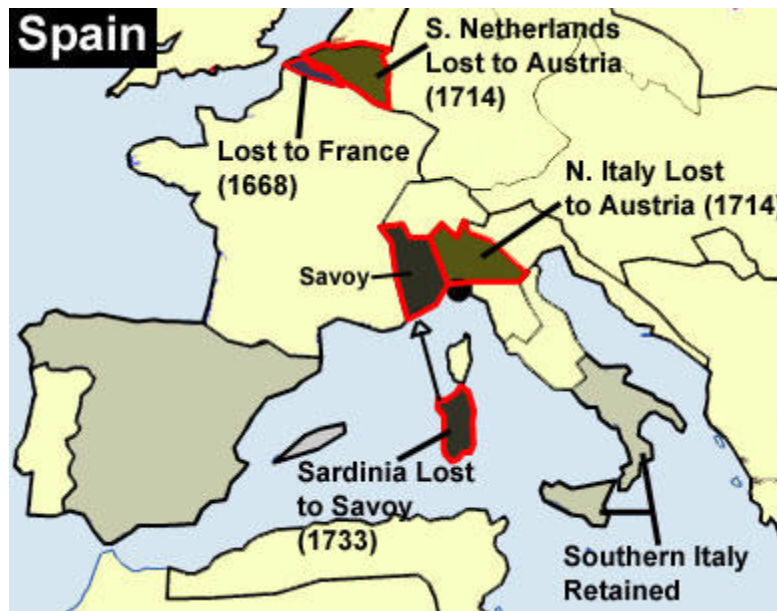
The German and Portuguese cavalry under the command of the Count of Atalaya, resisted the first charge, but finally the cavalry of Aguilar broke the lines on the right wing of the enemy. At the same time the cavalry of Valdecanas joined the attack and caused a severe blow to the allied army, and Lt. Gen. Mahony and the Field Marshal Amezaga with their troops charged from the right wing. General Starhemberg was not impressed by the burden of Bourbon commanders Mahony and Amezaga, and launched three charges of cavalry against them. In the fighting Field Marshal Amezaga was injured in the face. Finally, Starhemberg's forces retreated to a nearby forest to escape the Franco-Spanish cavalry, and the allied forces began to withdraw in the cover of the night.

Both Philip V of Spain and Archduke Charles claimed the victory, but the number of dead and wounded, the pieces of artillery and other weapons abandoned by the Allied army, and the strategic consequences in the war, confirmed the decisive victory obtained by Philip V of Spain.

Starhemberg was compelled to continue his retreat, harassed at every step by the Spanish cavalry. His army was reduced to 6,000 or 7,000 men when he reached Barcelona on January 6, almost the only place in Spain, which still recognized the authority of Charles.

The battle for the Spanish throne was finally secured for Philip V of Spain, when Archduke Charles left Spain in April 1711, to become Holy Roman Emperor, after the death of his older brother.

The war went on slowly, until the signature of the peace treaty of Rastatt, on September 5, 1714.



European possessions lost by Spain after the Spanish Succession War in exchange of international recognition of their new King Philip V of Bourbon.

Ascanio returned to Germany, where he was compensated for his campaign by being promoted captain. He did not remain idle long.

In 1716, two years after the signature of the peace treaty of Rastatt, Ascanio went to Hungary, with the Austrian Army, to fight against the Turks. He was 31 years old.