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Wounds & Weapons in the Napoleonic War: a database of the Peninsular War

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ABSTRACT

*The research supporting the authors' book *Officiers de Napoléon tués ou blessés pendant la Guerre d'Espagne (1808-1814)* has uncovered a database of over 4,000 entries where the wounds, and the weapons that produced them, are described in some detail. This information can be cross-referenced with any of the other data in the book. The note includes tables relating the location of the wound, the different weapons causing the wound and the breakdown by arm (infantry, artillery, cavalry). The authors are ready to provide a suitable version of the database to researchers working in the field.*

Introduction

It is hard even for the most dedicated historian to disregard the images created in books (historical or fictionalized), movies and battle recreations when picturing the reality of Napoleonic warfare. The noise, smoke, thundering horse-hoofs, and bristling steel of the advancing masses is a scenario difficult to dispel, being a part of the Napoleonic myth.

However, what was the truth? How did soldiers become casualties? Was it the musket, an edged weapon, or cannon that was most effective?¹ Unfortunately, research about

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¹'Edged weapon' includes swords, bayonets and lances.

the type of wounds and the weapons that caused them is scarce and has been based only on memoirs and witness accounts that cannot always be quantified.²

The information contained in the authors' book *Officiers de Napoléon tués ou blessés pendant la Guerre d'Espagne (1808-1814)* lists 12,439 events involving 10,102 individual officers of the French Army during the Peninsula War.³ The officer records in the 2Yb volumes at the *Service Historique de la Défense* (Vincennes, Paris) and other contemporary documents referenced in the book, describe the injuries in as many as one in three of the cases with sentences like: 'blessé d'un coup de feu à la cuisse gauche' ('wounded by a shot in the left thigh') and 'blessé d'un éclat d'obus au côté droit et d'une balle au bras droit' ('wounded by shrapnel in the right side and a bullet in the right arm').⁴

It could be argued that the written source for the information on the wounds and weapons might influence how they are described so as to obtain rewards or other benefits. This is surely not the case with the laconic entries in the 2Yb registers although this might apply in descriptions taken from hagiographic collections of biographies.⁵ Even with such sources it is relatively easy to reduce the heroic sentences to a statistically relevant 'what kind of weapon caused a wound in which part of the body'.

²See Jean Morvan, *Le soldat Impérial*, (Paris: Librairie Historique F. Teissedre, 1999), t. II, pp. 282-286; Rory Muir, *Tactics and the experience of battle in the age of Napoleon*, (New York: Yale University Press, 2008); or more recently, Francois Houdeceq, 'Combattre sous l'Empire: de la peur du conscrit à la médaille du héros', *Napoleonica, La Revue*, 2016/3 (27), pp. 84-99.

³Jorge Planas Campos and Antonio Grajal de Blas, *Officiers de Napoléon tués ou blessés pendant la Guerre d'Espagne (1808-1814)*, 2e édition, corrigée et augmentée, (Legardeta: FEHME, 2020).

⁴Service historique de la défense (SHD), Section 'b' of the sous-série 2Y (*Registre des contrôles des officiers*) has the officer records of all infantry units of the French army in all theatres of war between the Revolution and 1880. The quotes relate to Lieutenant Alexandre Maximilien d'Abos de Binanville of the 7th cuirassiers during the siege of Zaragoza on 23 July 1808 and Captain Pierre Nicolas d'Ambly, of the 40th infantry regiment, at the battle of Orthez respectively.

⁵Such as A. Liévyns, J.M: Verdoot and P. Bégat's five-volume *Fastes de la légion-d'honneur, biographie de tous les décorés accompagnée de l'histoire législative et réglementaire de l'ordre*, (Paris: au bureau de l'Administration, 1844-1847).

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Altogether 3,995 events detail the nature of the wounds and 4,359 the weapons used. However, in only 230 cases out of the 3,126 officers killed in action (KIA) or died of wounds (DOW), do we have information on what caused their death.

But can the conclusions from the analysis of this detailed database be applied to the rank and file? To address this question the 12,600 entries in the *registres matricules* (regimental returns) of the *100e regiment d'infanterie de ligne* have been analysed.⁶ They contain information on the nature of the wounds of 491 individual casualties in the Peninsula, all rank and file, of which 22 were killed or died of wounds. The detailed comparison between the officer and other rank records, broken down by cause and location of wound, is given below (Tables 10 & 11). This supports the view that the officer records are representative of the army as a whole.

Example Data

Twelve different weapons or munitions appear mentioned in the database:⁷

- *Coup de feu* (musket or rifle fire)
- *Balle* (musket or rifle ball)
- *Baïonnette* (bayonet)
- *Sabre* (sword)
- *Lance* (lance)
- *Obus* (howitzer's common shell)
- *Canon* (cannonball)
- *Mitraille* (canister shot)
- *Biscaïen* (grapeshot)
- *Boulet* (round shot)
- *Grenade* (siege grenade)
- *Bombe* (common shell)

For clarity, in some tables the information on the weapons used has been compiled according to three basic categories and not by the projectiles used:

- Firearms (muskets, rifles, pistols)
- Ordnance (cannon, howitzers, siege guns, shrapnel)
- Edged weapons (swords, lances, bayonets)

⁶SHD, SHD/GR 21Yc 727 to SHD/GR 21Yc 731.

⁷Approximate translation of French terms as per B. P. Hughes, *Firepower* (New York: Sarpedon, 1997).

In addition, a fourth category, Contusions, is included in some data sets. This includes all recorded injuries not caused by the weapons or munitions listed above. This would include, for example, a fall from a horse, injuries sustained while scaling a wall or by the stock of a rifle.

Twenty-one different wound locations are referenced. These are:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • <i>bras</i> (arms) | • <i>main</i> (hand) | • <i>poignet</i> (wrist) |
| • <i>avant-bras</i> (forearm) | • <i>jambe</i> (leg) | • <i>cuisse</i> (thigh) |
| • <i>hanche</i> (hip) | • <i>pied</i> (foot) | • <i>genou</i> (knee) |
| • <i>poitrine</i> (chest) | • <i>tête</i> (head) | • <i>oeil</i> (eye) |
| • <i>front</i> (forehead) | • <i>col</i> (neck) | • <i>joue</i> (cheek) |
| • <i>mâchoire</i> (jaw) | • <i>ventre</i> (abdomen) | • <i>épaule</i> (shoulders) |
| • <i>fesse</i> (buttocks) | • <i>dos</i> (back) | • <i>reins</i> (kidneys) |

Again, these locations have been collated into eight basic body parts as follows:

- Arms (*bras, main, poignet, avant-bras*)
- Legs (*jambe, cuisse, hanche, pied, genou*)
- Chest (*poitrine*)
- Head (*tête, oeil, front, col, joue, mâchoire*)
- Abdomen (*ventre*)
- Shoulders (*épaule*)
- Buttocks (*fesse*)
- Back (*dos, reins*)

The data can also be divided between the classical arms of the army: infantry, cavalry, and artillery.⁸

Of the 4,129 officers with a record of the weapons that produced their non-fatal wounds, 76.4% were caused by firearms, 8.1% by ordnance 11.4% by edged weapons and 4.1% by contusions. However, the different lethality becomes evident when analysing the weapons that killed or mortally wounded 230 officers: 77.0% by firearms, 19.1% by ordnance, and 3.5% by edged weapons. Relative to death by firearm,

⁸Infantry is taken to include other services: general staff and *aides-de-camp*, *gendarmerie*, medical and administrative services. The artillery includes engineers (*génie, mineurs* and *sapeurs*) as well as horse and field and artillery.

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ordnance caused, in proportion, three times more deaths, while edged weapons were slightly less than one quarter as lethal.⁹

	All arms					Cavalry					Artillery					Infantry & other services					
	Tot	b	t	m		Tot	b	t	m		Tot	b	t	m		Tot	b	t	m		
<i>feu</i>	2950	68%	2792	94	64	305	46%	295	6	4	54	31%	48	6	0	2591	74%	2449	82	60	
<i>balle</i>	381	9%	362	14	5	56	9%	53	3	0	50	28%	45	3	2	275	8%	264	8	3	
<i>baïonnette</i>	139	3%	136	1	2	25	4%	24	0	1	3	2%	3	0	0	111	3%	109	1	1	
<i>sabre</i>	301	7%	298	3	0	185	28%	184	1	0	5	3%	5	0	0	111	3%	109	2	0	
<i>lance</i>	58	1%	56	1	1	30	5%	30	0	0	2	1%	1	1	0	26	1%	25	0	1	
<i>contusion</i>	179	4%	178	0	1	14	2%	14	0	0	3	2%	3	0	0	162	5%	161	0	1	
<i>obus</i>	100	2%	96	3	1	14	2%	14	0	0	15	9%	12	2	1	71	2%	70	1	0	
<i>canon</i>	22	1%	15	6	1	5	1%	4	1	0	5	3%	1	4	0	12	0%	10	1	1	
<i>mitraille</i>	36	1%	33	2	1	1	0%	1	0	0	6	3%	5	1	0	29	1%	27	1	1	
<i>biscaïen</i>	83	2%	76	4	3	9	1%	8	0	1	9	5%	8	1	0	65	2%	60	3	2	
<i>boulet</i>	71	2%	52	14	5	14	2%	11	2	1	14	8%	9	4	1	43	1%	32	8	3	
<i>grenade</i>	16	0%	16	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	4	2%	4	0	0	12	0%	12	0	0	
<i>bombe</i>	23	1%	19	4	0	0	0%	0	0	0	6	3%	5	1	0	17	0%	14	3	0	
	4359		4129	146	84	658		638	13	7	176		149	23	4	3525		3342	110	73	

b: wounded t: killed in action m: dead of wounds

Table I: Breakdown and consequences of wounds by weapon.

⁹This proportion is calculated comparing the total number of deaths with each weapon in the sample with the number of wounded with the same weapon.

	All arms				Cavalry				Artillery				Infantry & other services			
	Tot	b	t	m	Tot	b	t	m	Tot	b	t	m	Tot	b	t	m
bras	678	669	1	8	111	109	0	2	18	17	1	0	549	543	0	6
main	245	242	2	1	44	44	0	0	11	11	0	0	190	187	2	1
poignet	35	35	0	0	12	12	0	0	1	1	0	0	22	22	0	0
avant-bras	63	63	0	0	9	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	53	53	0	0
jambe	621	606	4	11	70	70	0	0	21	18	1	2	530	518	3	9
cuisse	687	669	4	14	57	54	0	3	24	20	2	2	606	595	2	9
hanche	99	97	1	1	9	9	0	0	2	2	0	0	88	86	1	1
pied	201	200	0	1	21	21	0	0	6	6	0	0	174	173	0	1
genou	155	149	1	5	28	28	0	0	6	6	0	0	121	115	1	5
poitrine	169	157	9	3	24	23	1	0	8	7	0	1	137	127	8	2
tête	390	373	12	5	78	76	2	0	34	32	2	0	278	265	8	5
oeil	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
front	18	16	2	0	5	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	12	11	1	0
col	46	45	1	0	5	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	38	37	1	0
joue	42	42	0	0	8	8	0	0	1	1	0	0	33	33	0	0
mâchoire	41	41	0	0	7	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	33	33	0	0
ventre	102	99	1	2	7	7	0	0	5	5	0	0	90	87	1	2
épaule	341	337	1	3	57	56	0	1	13	13	0	0	271	268	1	2
fesse	16	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	15	0	0
dos	10	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	8	0	0
reins	33	33	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	29	29	0	0
	3995	3902	39	54	556	546	4	6	159	148	6	5	3280	3208	29	43

b: wounded t: killed in action m: dead of wounds

Table 2: Breakdown and consequences of wounds by location.

When collating the information by the eight body parts mentioned, the implications are more apparent:

	Wounded		Killed		Dead of wounds		Total	
Arms	1009	25.9%	3	7.7%	9	16.7%	1021	25.6%
Legs	1721	44.1%	10	25.6%	32	59.3%	1763	44.1%
Chest	157	4.0%	9	23.1%	3	5.6%	169	4.2%
Head	520	13.3%	15	38.5%	5	9.3%	540	13.5%
Abdomen	99	2.5%	1	2.6%	2	3.7%	102	2.6%
Shoulders	337	8.6%	1	2.6%	3	5.6%	341	8.5%
Buttocks	16	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	16	0.4%
Back	43	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	43	1.1%
	3902		39		54		3995	

Table 3: Location and consequences of wounds by body part.

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The data matches quite closely with that found by Nebiha Guiga for Austrian officers wounded at the battle of Austerlitz in her well-documented thesis: 26% of the wounds in the upper members, 45% in the lower members, 6% in the head, 9% in the upper body, 4% in the back.¹⁰

Although the sample size for those killed in action and died of wounds is small, the numbers confirm the expected lethality of certain wound areas: those in the chest and head were deadly, while those in the arms and legs could cause death probably by amputation or gangrene.

There is additional information in 3,619 cases when the injured body part is cross-referenced with the weapons that caused the wounds.

	Total	Arms	Legs	Chest	Head	Abdomen	Shoulders	Buttocks	Back
firearm	2848	692	1343	121	310	78	255	13	36
ordnance	209	37	103	6	34	6	19	1	3
edged weapon	424	155	71	20	131	8	33	1	5
contusion	138	24	66	12	10	7	15	0	4
	3619	908	1583	159	485	99	322	15	48

Table 4: Body part injured by cause of injury.

While 71.5% of the firearm wounds hit the arms and legs and 10.9% the head, edged weapons were the cause of 36.6% of arm wounds and 30.9% of those in the head.

When allocating the 424 edged weapons casualties to the different weapons in this category, there is another important fact: 67.0% of wounds were from swords while only 22.9% were caused by bayonets and only 10.1% from lances.

	Total	Arms	Legs	Chest	Head	Abdomen	Shoulders	Buttocks	Back
bayonet	97	26	40	7	12	4	5	1	2
	22.9%	16.8%	56.3%	35.0%	9.2%	50.0%	15.2%	100.0%	40.0%
sword	284	115	22	7	110	4	25	0	1
	67.0%	74.2%	31.0%	35.0%	84.0%	50.0%	75.8%	0.0%	20.0%
lance	43	14	9	6	9	0	3	0	2
	10.1%	9.0%	12.7%	30.0%	6.9%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	40.0%
	424	155	71	20	131	8	33	1	5

Table 5: Body part injured by type of edged weapon.

¹⁰NebihaGuiga *Le champ couvert de mort sur qui tombait la nuit: être blessé au combat et soigné dans l'Europe napoléonienne (1805-1813)* (doctoral thesis, EHESS, 2021), p. 134.

The relatively low number of bayonet wounds suggests that either close-quarter combat only happened occasionally or that wounds inflicted by the bayonet were slight and not worth recording.

Dividing the data by arm, the following tables provide food for thought regarding the effectiveness of the different weapons and the vulnerability of foot soldiers versus cavalry and artillery.

Firearms		All arms		Cavalry		Artillery		Infantry & other	
		feu	balle	feu	balle	feu	balle	feu	balle
<i>bras</i>	469	430	39	49	3	3	3	378	33
<i>main</i>	156	144	12	12	1	2	1	130	10
<i>poignet</i>	18	16	2	2	0	0	0	14	2
<i>avant-bras</i>	49	45	4	2	1	1	0	42	3
<i>jambe</i>	466	433	33	46	6	5	3	382	24
<i>cuisse</i>	545	478	67	32	11	6	3	440	53
<i>hanche</i>	72	67	5	7	0	1	0	59	5
<i>pied</i>	145	123	22	11	4	0	3	112	15
<i>genou</i>	115	99	16	15	3	0	1	84	12
<i>poitrine</i>	121	97	24	9	4	4	2	84	18
<i>tête</i>	205	180	25	14	5	6	5	160	15
<i>oeil</i>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>front</i>	10	8	2	1	1	0	1	7	0
<i>col</i>	36	31	5	3	0	1	1	27	4
<i>joue</i>	28	26	2	3	1	0	0	23	1
<i>mâchoire</i>	30	25	5	3	1	0	1	22	3
<i>ventre</i>	78	67	11	3	1	1	2	63	8
<i>épaule</i>	255	229	26	31	5	2	6	196	15
<i>fesse</i>	13	12	1	0	0	0	0	12	1
<i>dos</i>	8	6	2	0	0	0	1	6	1
<i>reins</i>	28	24	4	2	0	0	1	22	3
	2848	2541	307	245	47	32	34	2264	226

Table 6: Firearms – wounds recorded to each arm by location of wound.

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edged weapon	All arms			Cavalry			Artillery			Infantry & other services		
	baionnette	sabre	lance	baionnette	sabre	lance	baionnette	sabre	lance	baionnette	sabre	lance
bras	76	14	54	8	2	38	4	0	0	12	16	4
main	57	10	43	4	4	26	1	0	1	0	6	3
poignet	13	2	10	1	0	8	1	0	0	2	2	0
avant-bras	9	0	8	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	3	1
jambe	11	6	4	1	3	3	0	0	0	3	1	1
cuisse	35	23	10	2	6	5	0	1	1	16	4	1
hanche	6	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1
ped	6	1	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1
genou	13	6	4	3	2	3	2	0	0	4	1	1
poitrine	20	7	7	6	2	3	4	0	0	5	4	2
tête	108	7	95	6	1	48	3	0	2	6	45	3
oeil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
front	6	2	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0
col	5	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1
joue	9	1	6	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	4	1
mâchoire	3	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
ventre	8	4	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	0
épaule	33	5	25	3	0	14	3	0	0	5	11	0
fesse	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
dos	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
reins	3	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
	424	97	284	43	22	163	22	1	4	1	74	20
		22.9%	67.0%	10.1%			207			6		211

Table 7: Edged weapons – wounds recorded to each arm by location of wound.

Ordnance	All arms							Cavalry					Artillery					Infantry & other services											
	abus	canon	mitraille	bascaïen	boulet	grenade	bombe	abus	canon	mitraille	bascaïen	boulet	grenade	bombe	abus	canon	mitraille	bascaïen	boulet	grenade	bombe	abus	canon	mitraille	bascaïen	boulet	grenade	bombe	
bras	23	6	0	5	5	5	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	5	5	2	0	0
main	13	4	0	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	2	4	0	1	0
poignet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
avant-bras	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
jambe	37	13	3	5	7	6	1	2	2	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	11	1	5	4	2	1	2	
cuisse	33	10	1	3	12	4	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	6	1	3	9	1	3	0	
hanche	8	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	
ped	18	9	0	2	4	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	4	1	0	0	
genou	7	3	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	
poitrine	6	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	
tête	24	3	1	7	5	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	5	3	2	1	1
oeil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
front	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
col	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
joue	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
mâchoire	5	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0
ventre	6	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
épaule	19	5	0	1	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5	0	1	3	5	0	0	0
fesse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
dos	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
reins	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	209	63	6	27	60	33	12	8	7	1	0	7	7	0	0	7	1	2	10	8	4	4	49	4	25	43	18	8	4
					209							22							36						151				

Table 8: Ordnance - wounds recorded to each arm by location of wound.

Contusion	Tot	Cavalry	Artillerie	Infantry
<i>bras</i>	20	1	0	19
<i>main</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>poignet</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>avant-bras</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>jambe</i>	21	1	1	19
<i>cuisse</i>	19	0	0	19
<i>hanche</i>	12	0	0	12
<i>ped</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>genou</i>	11	0	0	11
<i>poitrine</i>	12	3	0	9
<i>tête</i>	6	1	0	5
<i>oeil</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>front</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>col</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>joue</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>mâchoire</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>ventre</i>	7	0	0	7
<i>épaule</i>	15	0	0	15
<i>fesse</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>dos</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>reins</i>	4	1	0	3
	138	7	1	130

Table 9: Contusions - wounds recorded to each arm by location of wound.

Finally, comparing the summary figures for wounds to officers against those to the rank and file:

Weapons	Officers	Rank and file
Firearms	79%	78%
Cold Steel	6%	5%
Ordnance	12%	11%
Other	4%	6%

Table 10: Wounds to officers and rank and file by cause of injury.

WOUNDS AND WEAPONS IN THE NAPOLEONIC WAR

Body Areas	Officers	Rank and file
Arms	26%	22%
Legs	44%	40%
Chest	4%	6%
Head	14%	24%
Abdomen	3%	1%
Shoulder	9%	7%
Buttocks	0%	0%
Back	1%	0%

Table 11: Wounds to officers and rank and file by location of injury.

Conclusions

Much more information can be retrieved from the original database as 93% of the recorded events contain other information relevant to the circumstances surrounding each specific action. This includes:

- Name, place and date of birth, rank and unit.
- Location and date of the action that ended with a wound or a death.
- Whether the action was against regular or irregular forces.
- If the subject was a graduate of one of the military schools or an elite corps.
- Match, when applicable, with Martinien's work.¹¹
- Sources for the information on each individual.

There remain many avenues for novel research, studying, for instance, the wounds received by French officers in some of the significant combats during the War, e.g. Salamanca (202 casualties with wound reports), Talavera (151), the sieges of Zaragoza (159), Albuera (160), etc. The numbers are high enough to be statistically useful in verifying or complementing the eye-witness accounts of how those battles were fought. Further, the database could be used to study the effectiveness and lethality of the various weapons in comparison to other theatres of war and other epochs. One final example of a question that could be explored using this data would be, what were the weapons of choice used by guerrillas against the French Army?

The authors are ready to provide a suitable version of the database to researchers interested in pursuing any of these or related lines of investigation.

¹¹Aristide Martinien, *Tableaux par Corps et par batailles des officiers tués et blessés pendant les guerres de l'Empire (1805-1815)*, (Paris: H. Charles-Lavauzelle, 1899).