

A FINE AND RARE FRENCH LÉGION D'HONNEUR AWARDED TO CAPTAIN AND SQUADRON COMMANDER OF THE 10E RÉGIMENT DE CHASSEURS À CHEVAL DU GARD WHO HAD SERVED IN WAR IN SPAIN 1810-13, WITH THE 13TH CUIRASSIERS AND WHO QUITTING HIS REGIMENT IN MARCH 1815 TO JOIN DUKE OF ANGOULEME'S ROYALIST ARMY ON NAPOLEON'S ESCAPE FROM ELBA



LÉGION D'HONNEUR, 1814-30, SECOND RESTORATION, KNIGHT'S BREAST BADGE, IN SILVER, GOLD AND ENAMELS, WIDTH 42MM, WITH ORIGINAL VELLUM ORDRE ROYAL DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR, BREVET DE CHEVALIER CHEF D' ESCADRON VICOMTE JEAN MAURICE DE ROCHEMORE, RÉGIMENT DE CHASSEURS À CHEVAL DU GARD, 30 OCTOBER 1816

Vicomte (Viscount) Jean Maurice de Rochemore, Baron d'Aigremenont was born on 2 September 1788 at Aigremenont and entered service with the 13e Régiment Cuirassiers as a Sous Lieutenant in 1809 and was promoted Lieutenant in 1812. Promoted Adjutant Major in 1813 and joined the 9e Régiment Cuirassiers in August 1814. Promoted Capitaine Adjutant Major in 1815, he was appointed Chef d' Escadron that year also. In 1816 he transferred to the Regiment; 10e Régiment de Chasseurs à Cheval du Gard in 1815 and it was as a Chef d' Escadron (Squadron Commander), that de Rochemore's was awarded the Légion d'Honneur in 1816

During his service, de Rochemore served with the 13e Régiment Cuirassiers in the French army of Spain (Peninsular War) for four years between 1810 and 1813. In 1814 it returned to France and was engaged in the battles for Lyon.

When Napoleon escaped Elba and landed in France in March 1815, unlike many, de Rochemore left his regiment at Colmar to join the Duke of Angouleme (later Louis XIX) when he landed in France with British forces and commanded the Royalist Army in the Southern Rhone River Valley. The Duke of Angouleme was forced to flee to Britain after Napoleon entered Paris and it is not clear when service de Rochemore saw during the rest of the 100 days campaign, However according to his papers, de Rochemore *"Was in Beaucaire (Southern France) on June 26 when he displayed the white cockade, and fought on the 27th against the revolt"*

Still in service with 10e Régiment de Chasseurs à Cheval in 1823, de Rochemore was awarded the Officier Légion d'Honneur on 24 August that year. He died on 2 March 1853 at Nimes.

De Rochemore's Légion d'Honneur document is dated 30 October 1816, Château des Tuileries, which was a Royal and Imperial palace in Paris.



13E RÉGIMENT CUIRASSIERS

Created in 1807 as the 1er Regiment Provisoire de Grosse Cavalerie which had been formed from existing Cuirassier and Carabinier Regiments. It became the 13e Regiment de Cuirassiers in 1808

“Campaign History:

1809: Zaragossa

June 1809 siege of Moria. November 1809, Suchet 3rd Corps is ordered to march on Valencia. At Castellon de la Plana, in March 1810, trooper Vinatier forces a passage of the fortified bridge.

1810: In April 1810 during the siege of Lerida, in the plain of Margalef, 450 men of the regiment returning by forced march, attack and rout a relieving Spanish column taking a general, three colonels, three guns and three flags. Lerida falls on May 14th. Mequinenza falls on June 8th. They lay siege to Tortosa. In November 1810 the 13e Cuirassiers and the 4e Hussars defeat the Spaniards of Uldecona.



1811: Tortosa capitulated January 2, 1811

The regiment spent two months in Santa Olalla and Daroca. Meanwhile, in another action against Uldecona, Robichon with 57 cuirassiers of the 3e escadron attacks 500 Spanish cavalry and routs them. Napoleon gives orders to withdraw 400 troops to reinforce the cuirassiers depot

for the Army of Germany. During the siege of Tarragona (Catalonia), which falls in June 1811 and is accompanied by the massacre of the population who had resisted for three months, part of the regiment is used to cover the rear in Lower Aragon. Suchet, now a Marshal, marches on Valencia. The Spanish occupied the fort at Murviedo (Sagunto) in an effort to stop Suchet's march. Several French assaults over a period of a month are beaten back but on October 25th Blake moves to relieve the fort and the French turn to engage him. During the subsequent action, the French cavalry are being forced back when Captain Gonneville leads a charge of his 2e escadron against 1500 cavalry, they rout the Spanish, capturing General Caro. Sagunto falls.

1812: Valencia capitulates on January 9, 1812, and the enemy's cavalry file past the 13e Cuirassiers before giving up their weapons and horses. Suchet was given the title of Duke of Albufera. Gonneville notes that besides the horses, his regiment also recovered a maître de musique! The regiment is stationed in outposts around the city and patrols the region. In 1812, the unit had 34 officers, 591 NCOs and soldiers including 26 acting as personal escort to Suchet. At Castalla (July 21 1812) Suchet faces a Spanish army under O'Donnell. The advanced guard with the 24e Dragoons and a squadron of the 13e Cuirassiers commanded by General Delort is victorious. Trooper Becheret captures a flag.



1813: In September threatened by the English army, Suchet seizes the Col d'Ordal.

1814: 13e Cuirassiers led by de Bigarré returns to France. It is engaged in the battles for Lyon and is in action at the Battle of Limonest on 20th March sabreing a battery of 8 guns and capturing its train.

Battle Honours
Lerida 1810, Sagonte 1811, and Col d'Ordal 1813”

The above taken from:

<http://thenapoleonicwargamer.blogspot.com/2010/07/13e-regiment-de-cuirassier.html>

This Légion d'Honneur and his 1823 award almost certainly de Rochemore's only awards.



Condition VF, enamel chipped in places. Award document 45 x 37cm. A Fine award group to a French Officer who served both for and again Napoleon 1810-15. Sold with de Rochemore's Légion d'Honneur dossier and additional copied research.