



CRAONNE 2013



Dear re-enactor friends,

The 7th et le 112th Régiment d'Infanterie de Ligne are happy to invite you to the Craonne Living History campaign event they traditionally use to open the re-enactment season with. This event will take place on the 9th and 10th of Mars 2013 (arrival recommended on the 8th).

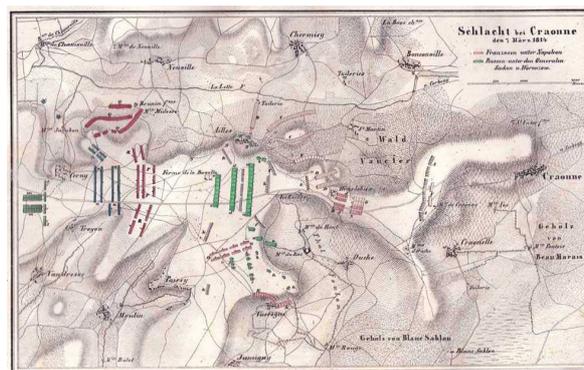
199 year ago, the small village of Craonne witnessed a bloody clash between the agonizing Imperial armies of Napoleon and the Prussian/Russian army of Silesia that had resolutely taken the offensive in 1814 under the command of marshal Blücher. A small Prussian detachment (Landwehr and Braunschweig Gelernte Jäger Kompanie), heavily outnumbered by the French forces, has already courageously participated to the 2012 Craonne Living History campaign edition. We hereby thank them for their presence and compliment them for their impressive maneuvering performances during the whole weekend against overwhelming French assailants. We hope to welcome them again in 2013!

This year however, the Craonne Organizing Committee wishes to equilibrate the belligerent forces in the field. This is why we pro-actively want to approach the Allied regiments that would potentially be interested in participating to this authentic Living

History event first. This will enable the organizers to have a better view on the Allied forces that would be committed to the event before assembling the French forces. We hope to be able to attract an Allied contingent of about 45 men (infantrymen only) to oppose to an equal number of French bayonets.

The weekend's program is set up based on the experiences of the previous 2011 and 2012 editions and the multiple and constructive feedback we received from the participants to those editions. The organization wishes above all to maintain the strong spirit of Living History the previous editions where inspired on to maximize the feeling of authenticity of the experience for the re-enactors.

We plan to have the Allied contingent camp settled at Craonne, on the hills of the Chemin des Dames, while the French forces would set up their tents at Craonnelle on the Allied right flank, from where they marched against Blücher's army on the 7th of March 1814. On Saturday, the Allied will take the initiative by doing the siege of Craonnelle, skirmishing in the streets and the woods against the French until night falls. On Sunday, the French will take over the offensive against tactically retreating Allies (heading for Loan) on the hills of le Chemin des Dames and Craonne.



The old battlefield of Craonne is perfectly suitable for maneuvering small infantry units in skirmish combats without losing the slightest notch of credibility of the experience. We warmly recommend you to join us at Craonne to discover this unique and growing 1814 event. You will receive all the support needed (or to be agreed upon) during the entire event.

The detailed program will be sent early 2013. **However could you please let the organization know whether your regiment would be interested in participating at this 2013 Craonne Living History campaign event as soon as possible and give us an idea of the number of men you would be able to align on the field?** Please, address your response to gontransoumoy@yahoo.fr. We are of course at your disposal for any further assistance and are keen to answer your questions and hear your suggestions and/or remarks on the subject. For the Allied side, your contact persons will be Marc Middleton, Oliver Schmidt and Gontran Soumoy (see e-mail addresses below).

We are very much looking forward to meeting you in Craonne in 2013.

Kind regards,

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Oliver Schmidt (22ème RiL sans-souci@gmx.de),

Marc Middleton (1er RiL marc_middleton@hotmail.com)

