

The Ambush of Miajadas, 21st March 1809

A Cavalry Skirmish set in Western Spain during the Peninsular War



Summary: On 21st March 1809 on the road the Miajadas, a vanguard detachment of the 10th Chasseurs à Cheval fell into an ambush. Charged by horsemen of the Infante (Line) and Almanza (dragoon) regiments, lost 63 men who were savagely massacred.

Location: A village in the western province of Extremadura, south of the Sierra de Guadalupe and on Route V/E90 between Trujillo in the north and Merida.



Outcome: A Spanish victory over the French

French Forces: General de Division Lasalle's Light Cavalry Division of the Reserve Cavalry, spearheading Marshall Victor's thrust south to find and destroy Cuesta's army. 10e Chasseurs à Cheval, 4 squadrons, ca. 420 men under Colonel Subervie.



Colonel Jacque Gervais Subervie

French Losses: 1 officer and 62 men killed, 70 wounded.

Spanish Forces: Lieutenant General Henestrosa. Infante and Almanza cavalry regiments, 8 squadrons, ca. 1,200 men.

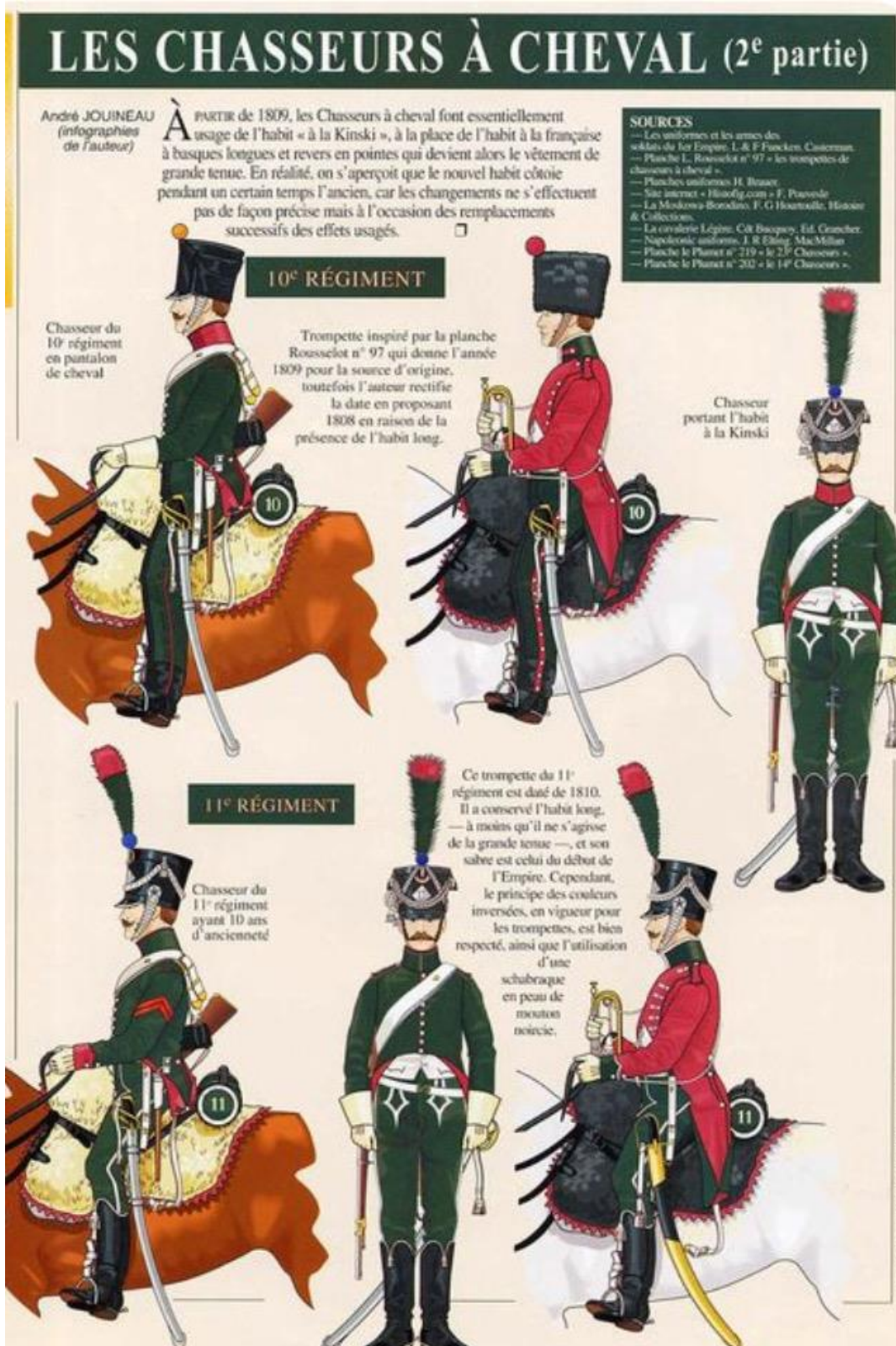
Spanish Losses: None.

Comment: This was a well-laid Spanish trap, baited with one cavalry squadron north of the village, the rest of the cavalry and infantry concealed on either side of the road. The French rode straight into it. After the action the Spanish withdrew south at the approach of Victor's main body.

Details: On that day, preceding the rest of Lasalle's division, the 10th French Horse Chasseurs Regiment under the command of Colonel Jacque Gervais Subervie arrived nearby the village of Miajadas, without suspecting the presence of the Spanish rearguard. Seeing this isolated regiment, Henestrosa put a small detachment of cavalry in front of Miajadas to lure his opponents and hid his own units, the Almanza and Infante Cavalry Regiments, on each side of the road. Subervie committed himself into the trap and charged the few Spanish cavalrymen positioned outside the village. The Spanish cavalry in ambush charged immediately and quickly got the better of the 10th Chasseurs which suffered significant losses during the unequal fight. Then, Henestrosa was able to withdraw without being engaged by Lasalle who had just arrived on the battlefield with the rest of his division.

Illustrations of Units involved:

10e Chasseurs à Cheval



Almanza Dragoon Regiment



Infante Line Cavalry Regiment

