

Vitoria 21 June 1813

French order of battle

	Regiments	Strength
Commander	Joseph Bonaparte	
Chief of staff	Marshal Jean-Baptiste Jourdan	
Chief of artillery	GD Louis Tirlet	
Army of the Midi		
Commander	GD Théodore-Maxime Gazan, Comte de la Peyrière	
<i>1st Division</i>	<i>GD Jean François Leval</i>	
Mocquery	9 Léger (2); 24 Ligne	2,600
Morgan	88 Ligne; 96 Ligne	1,900
Artillery	Foot battery (6x8pdr)	
<i>3rd Division</i>	<i>GD Eugène-Casimir Villatte</i>	
Rignoux	27 Léger; 63 Ligne	2,300
Lefol	94 Ligne (2); 95 Ligne	3,000
Artillery	Foot battery (2x8pdr, 2x4pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>4th Division</i>	<i>GD Nicolas François Conroux</i>	
Rey	32 Ligne (2); 43 Ligne (2)	3,500
Schwitzer	55 Ligne; 58 Ligne	2,500
Artillery	Foot battery (2x8pdr, 2x4pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>5th Division</i>		
Maransin	12 Léger (2); 45 Ligne	2,800
<i>6th Division</i>	<i>GD Augustin Darricau</i>	
Baille de St. Pol	21 Léger; 100 Ligne	2,600
Rémond	28 Léger; 103 Ligne	2,200
Artillery	Foot battery (2x8pdr, 2x4pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>Light Cavalry</i>		
P. Soult	2 Hussars (2); 5 (2); 10 (2); 21 Chasseurs (2)	1,500
Artillery	Horse battery (4x8pdr; 2xhow)	
<i>Dragoons</i>		
Tilly	2 (2), 4 (2), 14 (2), 17 (2), 26 (2), 27 Dragoons	2,200
Digeon	5 (2); 12 (2); 16; 21 (2) Dragoons	1,300
Artillery	Horse battery (4x8pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>Corps artillery</i>		
Reserve	Battery 1 (6x12pdr, 2xhow) Battery 2 (4x8pdr, 2xhow)	
Army of the Centre		
Commander	GD Jean-Baptiste Drouet, Comte d'Erlon	
<i>1st Division</i>	<i>GD Jean Darmagnac</i>	
Chassé	28 Ligne (2); 75 Ligne (2)	3,000
Neuenstein	2 Nassau (2); 4 Baden; Frankfort	2,900
Artillery	Baden foot battery (4x4pdr; 2xhow)	

<i>2nd Division (AoM)</i>	<i>GD Louis-Victorin Cassagne</i>	
Braun	16 Léger; 8 Ligne	2,000
Blondeau	51 Ligne (2); 54 Ligne (2)	2,900
Artillery	Foot battery (4x4pdr, 1xhow)	
<i>Other units</i>		
Avy	27 Chasseurs; Nassau Horse Jagers (2)	600
Trelliard	13; 18 (2); 19; 22 (2) Dragoons	1,000
Artillery	Foot battery (3x8pdr)	
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Army of Portugal		
Commander	GD Honoré Charles Reille	
<i>4th Division</i>	<i>GD Jacques Thomas Sarrut</i>	
Fririon	2 Léger; 36 Ligne	2,400
Menne	4 Léger; 65 Ligne	1,800
	Foot battery (2x8pdr, 2x4pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>6th Division</i>	<i>Thomas-Mignot de Lamartinière</i>	
Gauthier	118 Ligne; 119 Ligne	2,000
?Bouthmy	120 Ligne (2); 122 Ligne	2,900
	Foot battery (4x4pdr, 2xhow)	
<i>Cavalry</i>		
Boyer	6; 11; 15; 25 Dragoons	1,400
Curto	3 Hussars; 13 (2); 14; 33; 36 Chasseurs	1,600
<i>Corps Artillery</i>		
Reserve batteries	Battery 1 (3x12 pdr, 1x8pdr, 2xhow)	
	Battery 2 (5x8pdr, 1xhow)	
	Battery 3 (4x8pdr, 2xhow)	
	Battery 4 (4x6pdr, 2xhow)	
Horse artillery	1 Battery (4x4pdr; 2xhow)	
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Other units		
Casapalacio	Castilla Light; Toledo (Spanish)	900
	1; 2 Horse Cazadores (Spanish)	400
	Foot battery((4x4pdr)	
Army of N.	4 Ligne (French)	600
Guye	Grenadiers; Tirailleurs; Fusiliers (Royal Guard)	1,700
Jamin	Chevauleger (4) ; Hussars (2)(Royal Guard)	600
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In the vicinity of Vitoria

		Strength
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Army of the North		
Commander	GD Bertrand Clauzel	
Abbé (Division)	5 Léger (2); 10 Léger (2); 3 Ligne; 105 Ligne	2,900
Barbot (Division)	25 Léger; 27 Ligne; 50 Ligne; 59 Ligne	2,800
<i>3rd Division (AoP)</i>	<i>GD Eloi Charlemagne Taupin</i>	
Brigade 1	31 Léger; 70 Ligne	1,800

Storm-de-Grave	26 Ligne; 47 Ligne	2,300
<i>Division</i>	<i>GD Edmé-Martin Vandermaesen</i>	
Brigade 1	1 Ligne; 34 Ligne (2)	1,900
Brigade 2	34 Léger; 130 Ligne (2)	2,200
<i>Cavalry</i>		
Cavalry	1 Hussars (2); 15 (2); 31 Chasseurs; 20 Dragoons	1,100
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Biscay forces		
Commander	GD Maximilien Sébastien Foy	
Bonté	6 Léger; 69 Ligne (2)	1,800
Thévenet	39 Ligne; 76 Ligne	1,300
Berlier	40 Ligne (2); 101 Ligne	2,000
<i>5th Division (AoP)</i>	<i>GD Antoine Louis Popon de Maucune</i>	
Montfort	17 Léger; 15 Ligne	1,500
Pinoteau	66 Ligne; 82 Ligne; 86 Ligne	1,800
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Notes

Abbreviations: GD = Général de Division. The numbers in brackets are the numbers of battalions or squadrons where there is more than one. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 so as not to give a spurious sense of accuracy.

This is not a work of definitive research – it is a resource designed to be used by wargamers. The above represents no more than a best guess of the state of the French army on 21 June 1813. Historians usually content themselves with incomplete details from returns dated 31 May. Between 31 May and 21 June there were both casualties and reinforcements. The above agrees with both Oman and Sarramon in its estimate of 57,000 infantry and cavalry overall – though both these historians arrive at these numbers by slightly different routes, as do I. When getting down to brigade level, more guesswork was needed. It was a question of working forward from 31 May adding in known events, and working back from returns made after the army's reorganisation in July.

Even more educated guesswork was needed for the artillery. The 31 May returns give the number of men, not ordnance, and in any case further resources were available from the Army of the North. Somewhat more information is available from returns made on 1 May (for Midi and Portugal anyway), and both Oman and Sarramon quote some overall numbers from General Tirlet's report. Finally there is a report in *The Times* of the pieces captured at the battle by type, which apparently include all but two of the pieces present. The above is a triangulation between all these sources to come up with something plausible at unit level. It assumes a degree of reorganisation since 1 May. It includes four 6pdr guns not included in the Times report – I assume they have been mis-identified as 8pdrs. Neither does it include the "about 40" pieces described by Tirlet as being in the reserve at Vitoria. There is no evidence that these were brought into use – no doubt due to shortages of personnel and horses. If my guesses are right then these spare pieces were about 50/50 4pdrs and 12pdrs. I have accounted for all the 8pdrs and nearly all the field weight howitzers. The howitzers appear to be a mixture of old Gribeauval 6" pieces and the more recent 5.5" ones – the records aren't very good at distinguishing between the two.

The forces in the vicinity may have included artillery – or they may have been left their ordnance at Vitoria or back at their bases on the march. For wargames purposes it is safest to assume they left their guns behind, if you want to bring these forces into play.

Matthew Green
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