

to the Hague, and the troops, in the beginning of November, took up winter quarters in the principal posts of their new conquests from the sea to the Meuse.

On the Rhine Villars, as before, was opposed by the Margrave of Baden. The campaign was opened by the French, who forced the lines formed by the Germans on the Motter, drove them back to the Lauter, and reduced Drusenheim and Haguenau, which contained their principal magazines. But the fatal battle of Ramillies debilitated their efforts in every quarter; the reinforcements drawn to the Netherlands reduced the French commander to the defensive. The cautiousness of the German Princes, and the march of the Imperial cavalry against the rebels in Hungary, prevented the Margrave from profiting by the weakness of his antagonist.

In consequence of the civil war in Hungary, and the exertions of the Imperialists in other quarters, the affairs of the Emperor, and his ally the Duke of Savoy, had rapidly declined in Italy. On the other hand, Louis made vast preparations to achieve the conquests of Piedmont, or detach the Duke of Savoy. Reinforcements were sent by sea from Provence; and a corps of 10,000 men, under la Feuillade, bursting from Dauphine, opened a passage through the Alps along the Doria, by the capture of Exilles and Susa, with their dependent forts. By these accessions of force the French army was increased to 40,000 men; and Vendome leaving his brother, the grand prior, to clear the country south of the Po, and close the passages into Italy, crossed the Po at Trino, in the face of the Austro-Savoyard army, and subjugated all the principal fortresses of Piedmont, gradually pushing the Duke of Savoy to the vicinity of his capital, Turin.

This career of success was checked before the small but strong fortress of Verrua, which commands the navigation of the Po,

and by its position forms an outwork of Turin. The garrison, helped by continual reinforcements from Victor Amadeus, their Duke, who was at Crestino, on the opposite side of the river, held out with incredible bravery and perseverance until March 11th 1705. The French lost 18,000 men in taking the place, and then rendered the capture of little value, by blowing up the fortifications. The losses of the French, and the fatigues of a winter siege, prevented Vendome from pursuing his operations further. After allowing his troops to rest until the middle of June, he advanced to attack Civasso, behind which the Austro-Savoyard army had retired, as a prelude to the siege of Turin.

He was, however, suddenly called away from this mission in order to aid his brother, who was opposed by Prince Eugene. While Vendome was occupied in Piedmont, the grand prior, favoured by the connivance of the Papal officers in the Ferrarese, had driven the remnant of the Imperialists into the Trentin, with the loss of all their baggage, shut up the principal passes into Italy, and blockaded Mirandola, the last place held by an Imperial garrison. In this state of affairs, Eugene reached the Trentin, followed by 8,000 Prussian auxiliaries, who had been subsidised by England. Failing in his attempts to drive the French from the Minicio, he suddenly crossed the Lake of Garda, joined the Imperial corps, who during the winter had maintained themselves on its western shore. Eugene by a rapid march avoided the French commander, who took up positions before his camp astride the lake, and gained the passage of the Oglio at Urago. He advanced to Romanengo in his way to the Adda, and would probably have joined the Duke of Savoy had not his progress been checked by the arrival of Vendome with considerable reinforcements.

Eugene spent the rest of the campaign of 1705 in marches and counter-marches, in

which he exhausted all his resources to gain a passage over the Adda or the Po; but was baffled by the vigilance of his antagonist, and the difficulties of a country abounding in defiles, and intersected by innumerable canals and torrents. The Only striking event of the campaign was the short but desperate battle of Cassano, which took place during one of these marches. On the 16th of August, Eugene attacked a part of the French infantry, while separated from their cavalry, which had been pushed across the Adda to oppose his passage. The strength of the enemy's position, and the sudden arrival of Vendome with the rest of the troops from the opposite side of the river, robbed him of the victory. Yet, though foiled in his intention of joining the Duke of Savoy, he succeeded in maintaining his presence in Italy by establishing his winter quarters on the skirt of the mountains, between the Lake of Garda and Brescia; while by drawing off so considerable a portion of the French force, he relieved, though he could not assist, the Duke of Savoy, and suspended the siege of Turin.

Eugene could not, however, prevent the success of different French enterprises in Savoy-Piedmont. Mirandola was captured after a long blockade; on the side of the Alps, Villafranca and the citadel of Nice were reduced, and the fortress of Montmelian, the only remaining post in Savoy, surrendered after an investment of eighteen months. The only compensation obtained by the Confederates for those losses was the recovery of Asti, which being evacuated by an erroneous order, was instantly occupied by Staremberg, and maintained against all the efforts of la Feuillade.

Early in 1706 Vendome silently and gradually assembled his choicest troops and surprised the Imperialists in their winter quarters, attacking and breaking the forces who were hastily assembled near Calcinato and driving them back into the Tren-

tin. Afterwards the French dislodged them from the quarters which they occupied between the Adige and the Po. He profited by this bold and successful enterprise to shut up all the avenues by which they could descend into Italy. Count Medavi, with 8,000 men guarded the passes to the west of the Lake of Garda. Entrenchments, defended by 15,000 men, extended from Garda to the Adige. 12,000 were distributed along the river, as far as St. Pietro di Legnago, and St. Fremont, with 6,000, was entrusted with the defence of the Lower Adige.

While Vendome was thus employed in closing the passes, active preparations were made for reducing Turin. Immense magazines were formed at Susa, Casale, Crescentino, and Civasso, and an army collected for the siege, under the command of La Feuillade, exceeding 50,000 men. The city was invested in May, and trenches opened in the commencement of June against the citadel and a work stretching towards the Doria. The Duke of Savoy remained in Turin until after the investment, to oversee the necessary arrangements; but before the circumvallation was completed he left the command of the town to the Marquis di Carail, and of the citadel to Count Daun, with a garrison of 10,000 men. The Duke took the field with his cavalry and eluded the French, successively retreating to Villestellone, Coni, Civasso and Saluzza, along the borders of the mountains, and at length threw himself into the valley of Lucerna, where he dismounted his troops and sent his horses to the pastures in the Alps. His retreat having left the open country in the power of the enemy, Asti was besieged by the Milanese militia, Mondovi and Ceva surprised. The Duchess of Savoy, with her infant family, sought refuge in the Genoan Republic.

Early in the spring Eugene hastened to the frontiers of Italy with the intention of resuming the plan on which he had be-

gun during the last campaign. But, on arriving at Salo, he had the mortification to find his designs disrupted by the unexpected defeat of the Imperialists in their quarters, and with difficulty secured the retreat of the fugitive army, which was reduced to 11,000 men. His future operations were attended with embarrassment which would have discouraged an inferior general. To attain the object of his expedition it was necessary to traverse a country above two hundred miles across, full of strongholds, watered by numerous rivulets, canals and torrents while faced with a superior enemy who guarded every avenue. Deeming it impossible in this situation to force his way through the district north of the Po, Eugene drew his troops by Riva round the northern point of the Lake of Gardi, and suddenly descended, as before, by the sources of the Brenta into the Veronese. Being joined by 10,000 of the auxiliaries from Germany, he left 6,000 men under Wetzel at San Martino, to secure the junction of 6,000 Hessians who had yet to arrive, and to divide the attention of the enemy. He occupied the French with feint attacks along the course of the Adige, while a strong detachment secured a passage and constructed a bridge at Ruotanova. The whole army promptly passed without opposition, pushed the corps of St. Fremont beyond the numerous canals and streams between the Adige and the Po, passed the Po near Biaggio, secured Finale and Biondena, dislodged the enemy from the Panaro and the Canale di Modena and followed them to the river Parmegiana.

In this situation Vendome was recalled from Italy to head the army in Flanders, which was dispirited by the defeat of Ramilies, and the command in Italy was given to the Duke of Orleans, under the direction of Marsin. The new general obtained reinforcements of 15,000 men from la Feuillade. Leaving a corps of 10,000, under Medavi, to observe the Imperialists at San Martino, with the rest of the army

he crossed the Po and joined the retreating body on the Parmegiana, thus blocking the advance of Eugene.

Prince Eugene, too weak to force the position of the enemy, employed himself in securing Carpi, Reggio, and Corregio, until the the Hessians arrived and enabled the corps beyond the Po to approach the Mincio and capture Goito. This diversion forced the French to again fall back beyond the Po. The Imperialists pushed forward with unexpected speed. Although they were exposed to the burning rays of an Italian sun, and suffered equally from drought and want of provisions, Eugene anticipated the movements of the French, though their march was facilitated by waggons from the Milanese. While he allowed his army to rest and wait for supplies he pushed forward detachments by night to secure the passes, and throw bridges over the numerous rivers which swell the waters of the Po. He crossed the Tanaro above Isola and after a march of thirty-four days united at Villastellone with the Duke of Savoy, who, on his approach had quitted the mountains, roused his faithful peasantry, and collected a respectable force. They crossed the Po near Moncaliere, and advanced to the neighbourhood of Chieri, in the vicinity of Turin, on the very day in which the Duke of Orleans with Marsin reached the lines before Turin.

Turin was in a dire state. Every means of attack and defence had been exhausted by both parties during a contest of near twelve weeks, but now the besieging French had gained the upperhand. The outworks, in spite of a brave defence, were successively carried. The ramparts were assailed. Within provisions were reduced, the ammunition exhausted; that part of the town which was exposed to the enemy's batteries presented only a heap of ruins. The brave garrison, worn out by incessant exertions, were threatened with an assault without the means

of resistance.

The Duke of Savoy and Eugene ascended the heights of Superga above Chieri, which commands a view of Turin and the circumference of entrenchments which invested the capital, and formed a circuit of thirty miles. From their vantage point they saw or heard the repeated signals of distress made by the besieged. They watched, with a mixture of hope and anxiety, the movements of the enemy, whom they expected to quit their posts, concentrate their forces, and prepare for a contest on the open field, in which they could employ all the advantages derived from superior numbers. But the spirit of the French army seems to have subsided, the effects of the Confederate victory at Ramillies were felt in Italy. The allies had the satisfaction to see them remain in their posts. With that decision, promptitude, and energy which characterised the operations of Eugene, he selected as the point of attack that part of the lines which crossed the Peninsula formed between the Doria and the Stura, where the two rivers at once secured his own flanks, and presented considerable obstacles to the movements of the enemy. On descending from the heights, orders were instantly given for the march. The Confederates crossed the Po near Moncagliere and intercepted a considerable convoy which the enemy were anxiously expecting from Susa. The Imperialists then passed the Doria, reduced the castle of Pianessa and extended themselves between the Doria and the Stura. Having collected a force of 10,000 militia to throw forward, should the enemy quit or weaken any part of their lines, they made preparations for an immediate assault.

At sunrise, on the morning of September 7th, the Confederates advanced towards the entrenchments in several columns preceded by all the grenadiers in a single body. When arrived within cannon-shot the infantry formed in two lines, with the

artillery in the intervals between the battalions, and the cavalry in the same order behind, though exposed to a heavy cannonade. They then moved to attack. The first line of Prussian infantry on the right, commanded by the Prince of Anhalt, made the assault against the left of the French, which was flanked by the Doria and the castle of Lucento. Being thrown into disorder by a sudden sallie by the French cavalry, Eugene rushed forward to rally and lead them again to the charge. In the midst of the confusion he was thrown from his horse, and two domestic servants killed at his side, but he instantly revived the courage of his soldiers, by rising and waving his hat as a sign that he had received no injury. He remounted, led on his troops, who derived new spirit from his escape, and captured the entrenchment. The Prince of Wurtemberg, at the same time, carried the works on the side of the Stura, and opened a way for the cavalry; but his troops, impelled by their ardour, pursued the French far beyond the entrenchment, and would have been cut off, had not the regiment of Staremberg opportunely advanced from the second line, seized the abandoned artillery, and turned it on the enemy, who began to rally. The centre, led by the Duke of Savoy, succeeded also in gaining the works, after a dreadful carnage, and opened a passage for the cavalry. The French, however, still disputed their ground with great bravery. Their cavalry broke through the ranks of the allies and attacked them in flank and rear, and, though repulsed, again rallied and renewed the fight. But nothing could withstand the impetuosity of the troops led by Eugene and the Duke, who lavishly exposed their persons. The second line with the artillery advanced, as a desperate battle took place, and the French finally gave way under the increasing pressure. One body fled over the Doria, and there made a stand; a second attempted to gain the Po, but was intercepted by a sallie from the city; and a

third, which took refuge in the enclosures of the Old Park, between the mouths of the Doria and Stura, was driven into the Po.

Beyond the Doria, the troops in the trenches continued their fire against the city during the whole action, greatly annoying the garrison with their bombs; but, perceiving the day lost, they blew up their magazines, and retired quickly to Moncalgiere. Marsin was mortally wounded. 6,000 men, among whom were several distinguished officers, were made prisoners, and 2,000 killed. The Confederates lost only 1,500.

The Duke of Savoy and Eugene, having given the necessary orders for securing the magazines and encamping the troops, entered the capital amidst a vast crush of people, and returned thanks to God in the cathedral. The last powder left in the place was spent in the rejoicing on this occasion.

Although only part of the French army was engaged, and their utmost loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners scarcely exceeded 9,000 men, the death of Marsin, and the want of an experienced general to replace him, made this action resemble a total defeat of the French. The French troops retreated in confusion toward Pignerol, and abandoned the garrisons in the Milanese. The Confederates hastened to profit by their victory. The militia, supported by a regular force, followed the retreating army to the frontiers of Dauphine, secured the passes of the Alps, and frustrated all their attempts to re-enter Piedmont. The towns, which had dismantled fortifications or were weakly garrisoned, again raised the standard of their beloved sovereign. At the same time the Duke and Eugene turned against the French corps under Medavi, who, on the 9th of September, two days after the battle of Turin, had defeated the Prince of Hesse at Castiglione with the loss of 4,000 men.

They opened a passage into the Milanese by reducing Novarra, passed the Tesino, received the submission of Milan, and blockaded the French troops in the citadel of the city of that name. Being joined by the Prince of Hesse, who after his defeat crossed the Lower Adige and the Po and marched through the Cremonese, they drove the corps of Medavi into Mantua. Before the close of the campaign they had recovered many of the posts occupied by the French in Lombardy, confining the remnant of their forces to the citadels of Milan and Mantua, Finale, Valencia, Mirandola, Sabionetta and Cremona. Eugene, who was nominated Governor of the Milanese, received the allegiance of the natives in the name of their new sovereign. Joseph invested his brother with the Duchy as a fief of the Empire, and yielded to the Duke of Savoy the provinces of Valenza and Alessandria, the Lumellina, and the Val di Sesia, which had been promised as the price of his alliance.

After landing in Portugal, Charles Hapsburg published a manifesto or declaration of his rights and the King of Portugal a justification of his conduct in changing sides. Both monarchs, at the head of their army, advanced to the frontier with Spain. The army of Portugal was poorly disciplined, inefficient, and ill-equipped; the aid given by her allies too scanty to make a permanent impression. Above all, none of the parties had appreciated the effects of national and religious prejudice. The proud and spirited Castilians, however dissatisfied with the administration of the French, were indignant at having a sovereign forced on them by the Portuguese, whom they detested, and by the English and Dutch whom they stigmatized as heretics. At this moment they were encouraged by the arrival of 12,000 French under the Duke of Berwick, and conciliated by the recall of the Princess Orsini. and the French agents, who had rendered them-

selves unpopular. Won also by the bravery and exertions of Philip himself, they rallied around their acknowledged sovereign, and, instead of waiting for an attack, became themselves the assailants.



The Battle of Turin

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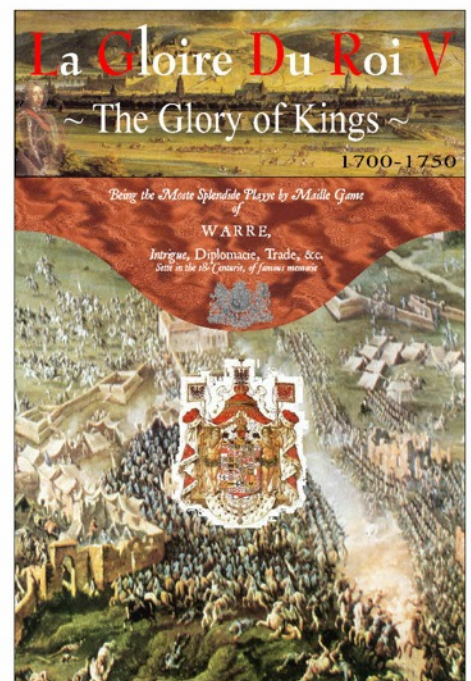
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