

Archaeology of Conflicts II

Pavel Drnovský – Petr Hejhal – Ladislav Rytíř (eds.)



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Published by Pavel Mervart Publishing,
P. O. Box 5, 549 41 Červený Kostelec,
2023
Translation Jana Kličová, Urszula Baron and authors
Printed H.R.G., spol. s r. o.
www.pavelmervart.cz

Reviewed:
PhDr. Jan John, Ph.D.
doc. Mgr. Petr Květina, Ph.D.

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ISBN 978-80-7465-596-8

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The Battle of Znojmo/Znaim 1809

A redoubt and two types of mass graves of fallen soldiers

Jaromír Kovárník

Abstract: *The battle of the retreat near Znojmo (German Znaim) in 1809 followed in the war of the fifth coalition between the troops of the Austrian Emperor Francis II (or I) under the command of Archduke Charles of Austria, Duke of Teschen (5 September 1771–30 April 1847) and the military corps of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte I (15 August 1769–5 May 1821) after the Battle of Wagram (5–6 July 1809). An armistice was signed in a farmhouse „Roter Hof“ in the village Suchohrdly at Znojmo on 12 July 1809.*

A very interesting find is the pentagonal ground plan of the redoubt. We found this fortification in a strategic location on one of the hills between the town of Znojmo and the village of Přímětice (German Brenditz). It is significant that the small castle in the village of Přímětice, the summer residence of the Ugarte family, housed the military headquarters of the Austrian Emperor's troops. This redoubt could possibly be part of the defense against the French's advance towards the village of Přímětice. We know that Austrian troops operated in this area on 10–11. July 1809. Redoubt is quite old. We will therefore further research the dating of this.

Very interesting objects include, for example, the vertebra with a projectile. It is a find from a mass grave near the village of Suchohrdly (German Zuckerhandl). It is one of the evidences of serious injuries of soldiers, which bring with them wars. The French army had the military headquarters in the village of Suchohrdly. Therefore, fierce fighting took place here.

Previously was published an article on the archaeological research of mass graves from the Battle of Znojmo in 1809. There were a total of 58 human skeletons or parts of them in mass graves. The basic characteristic of mass graves of the Battle near Znojmo on 10 – 11 July 1809, Brněnská Street no. 2937/21, is the fact that all six graves had very shallow grave pits. Skeletons of soldiers were placed in several layers above each other in antipodal position. All graves were very poor on archaeological finds. It is obvious that fellow soldiers of fallen soldiers used undamaged parts of their suits and equipment for further use.

However, some valuable or interesting things were found.

The soldiers fell or died in the battle of Znojmo according to anthropological research aged between 15 and 40–50 years. The most numerous group was 16–19 years of age. It points to the fact that by 1809, a male population aged 20–30 was exhausted in the Napoleonic wars. We do not exclude that this statistics were influenced by the inexperience of young soldiers in combat. Anthropological studies have shown that over half of the skeletons exhibited pathological changes for lack of nutritious diet, long and exhausting marches, and poor hygienic conditions. Numerous were injuries mostly fire open and fragmented.

Key words: Napoleonic wars 1809 – Znojmo – redoubt – 2 types of mass graves (during and after battle)

Introduction

The Battle of Znojmo/Znaim (Fig. 1) was not just an episode of the Napoleonic Wars period. It became the finale of important battles of Aspern, Essling and Wagram in the political game concerning the Spanish throne. The mentioned war campaign was the height not only of the efforts to secure the Spanish throne. At that time, Napoleon Bonaparte developed a plot much bigger already (concerning



Fig. 1 Map of the Czech Republic. The town of Znojmo/Znaim in southern Moravia.

not only Spain) and his influence grew largely. Arbitrating the dispute between the Spanish King Charles IV and his son Ferdinand, the Emperor installed his brother Joseph twice to the Spanish throne. The “revolutionary Emperor” Napoleon was highly interested in dethroning the Spanish King Charles IV. It was invoked both by the necessity to remove the last Bourbon and by the pursuit to fulfil the testament of the French King Louis XIV, according to which one single sovereign should rule in France and Spain. Therefore, the family conflict over the Spanish crown that had started between the King Charles IV, the queen, her lover minister Godoy, and Prince Ferdinand VII suited Napoleon very much. Napoleon settled the dispute in Bayonne, where he summoned the quarrelling Spanish royal family. Napoleon took advantage of the abdication of the King Charles IV, who refused, however, to pass the crown to his son at the same time, and enthroned his own brother Joseph I. The Emperor made the most of this situation with a very smart political move (Jover Zamora 1999, 385–391; Ferro 2006, 189–190).

Napoleon’s immense interest in the Iberian Peninsula and its occupation was based on the efforts to prevent military and trade penetration of the Englishmen, the masters of seas, at the time of the continental blockade. However, the French campaign gave rise to the War of Independence in Spain in years 1808–1814 that subsequently ignited the Patriotic War in Russia in 1812 and the War of Liberation in Germany in 1813. The Spanish War of Independence was the reason for the abdication of the King Charles IV. Juntas came to power on behalf of Ferdinand VII in various parts of the country that set afoot the bourgeois revolution (Jover Zamora 1995, 381).

Austria suffered a defeat in years 1800–1801 (Švankmajer 1995, 218). The defeat of joint Austrian and Russian armies of Generals Mack and Kutuzov at Austerlitz on December 2nd 1805 had much heavier impact (Ferro 2006, 187).¹ Austria lost Tyrol, Venetia, larger part of Istria and Dalmatia with the peace signed in Bratislava (Havránek 1968, 45–46; Hlavačka 2002, 368–369). On the other hand, it did not give up the aspiration to oppose Napoleon’s dominance in Europe as a Central European great power (with its economical and political ambitions). That is why it again entered the war against

¹ The total number of combatants amounted to 150,000 at the Battle of *Austerlitz*.

him in 1809, mainly because the Grande Armée of Napoleon Bonaparte numbering 150,000 men took part in military operations in Spain. The Austrian Emperor Francis I came to the conclusion, therefore, that Napoleon's forces were divided and that the fitting moment to defeat him had come. However, Napoleon calculated with military help from the Russian tsar Alexander I in accordance with promises made in Erfurt during the campaign against Austria (Ferro 2006, 190).

The Austrians began to incite the army and the population against Napoleon through German national thinking and Czech patriotism, even in the form of Hussite traditions. A ground defense was established to strengthen the defense forces, but all preparations were not provided financially, so the weapons were not repaired in either quantity or quality. On the 9 April 1809, Austria started a war of the Fifth Coalition against France. The war took place on Austrian territory. Napoleon ruled Vienna (Havránek 1968, 46). In the ensuing battle of Aspern and Essling on 21–22 May 1809 (cf detailed Wöber 2018; here more references), for the first time, Napoleon's army began to show shortcomings in its composition, when it consisted of soldiers from enslaved nations who, unlike the Austrians (and later the Russians in 1812), had no emotional interest in further fighting. The French soldiers were already showing the gradual disappearance of the euphoria of the great revolution, partly due to the long-lasting struggles that brought the soldiers war misery and hardships.

The retreat Battle of Znojmo/Znaim (Fig. 2) took place on 10 and 11 July 1809 (Fig. 3–4) followed an important Battle at Wagram between Emperor Napoleon I Bonaparte and Austrian Emperor Francis II on 5–6 July 1809. The French army, under the command of Emperor Napoleon with about 141,000 soldiers, has moved to Znaim (Fig. 5). The Austrian troops in the number of about 40/47–60 thousand soldiers (Baker 2006, 1112), under the command of Archduke Charles manoeuvred around the town from Oblekovice/Oblas in the south through Dobšice/Klein Teßwitz in the southeast, Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl in the east, Kuchařovice/Kukrowitz in the northeast of Přímětice/Brenditz in the north in three positions. The Austrian troops, in the number of about 60 thousand soldiers, occupied the defensive positions of the town of Znojmo/Znaim in the shape of an arc from the south through the east to the north. The General Staff of the Austrian troops was established in the small castle of the Count Ugarte large farm in Přímětice/Brenditz (Fig. 6). Archduke Charles housed the adjacent presbytery since 9 July.

The chasing XI Army of Marshal August Frederic Louis Marmont (20 July 1774–2 March 1852) reinforced by the 2nd Bavarian Division and later also the army corps No. IV under the command of Marshal André Masséna advanced in the direction of Nový Šaldorf/Neu Schallersdorf, Oblekovice/Oblas (Fig. 7) and Dobšice/Klein Teßwitz. The French Emperor, who arrived with the main military forces later, planned to bypass the Austrian troops from northeast through the village Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl towards Přímětice/Brenditz.

The citizens of Znojmo made several records of this battle near Znojmo in 1809. One of them is a note in the diary of Johann Slowak (1783–1844), the owner of a majolica manufactory in Znojmo (Fig. 8). He noted: „... The French enemy came to Znojmo for the second time on the 11th of July, 1809. They stayed for 17 weeks and then left on 4 November 1809. ...“² The parish priest from Přímětice/Brenditz wrote in the chronicle that on Saturday, 9 July before the battle, Archduke Charles held in the presbytery a banquet for 300 official guests in the twelve rooms of the presbytery from 9 am to 10 pm. The parish priest further stated that all the houses in the village were abandoned at that time. He also complained that he had to remind the Austrian army command to pay for the banquet. In Znojmo/Znaim, Kovářská Street no. 19 a parchment was discovered (dating to 1842) with a memorial record of the then owner of the burgher house Johann Höck (Bína 1988). The parchment document states that Marshal Masséna attacked the city several times. These attacks were repulsed by a Battalion of Viennese military volunteers under the command of Major Count Salis. After signing of the ceasefire,

² Many thanks to Mr. Libor Slovák from Znojmo, a descendant of Johann Slowak, for donating this document. J. Slowak's native language was Czech in a dialect of southwestern Moravia: „... Podrohi fran. Nepřítel přišel do znoima dne 11 Měsíce Czerwence Roku 1809 Tade bili 17 Neděl pak šli přič šli přič dne 4 Měsíce Listopad 1809 Roko“.

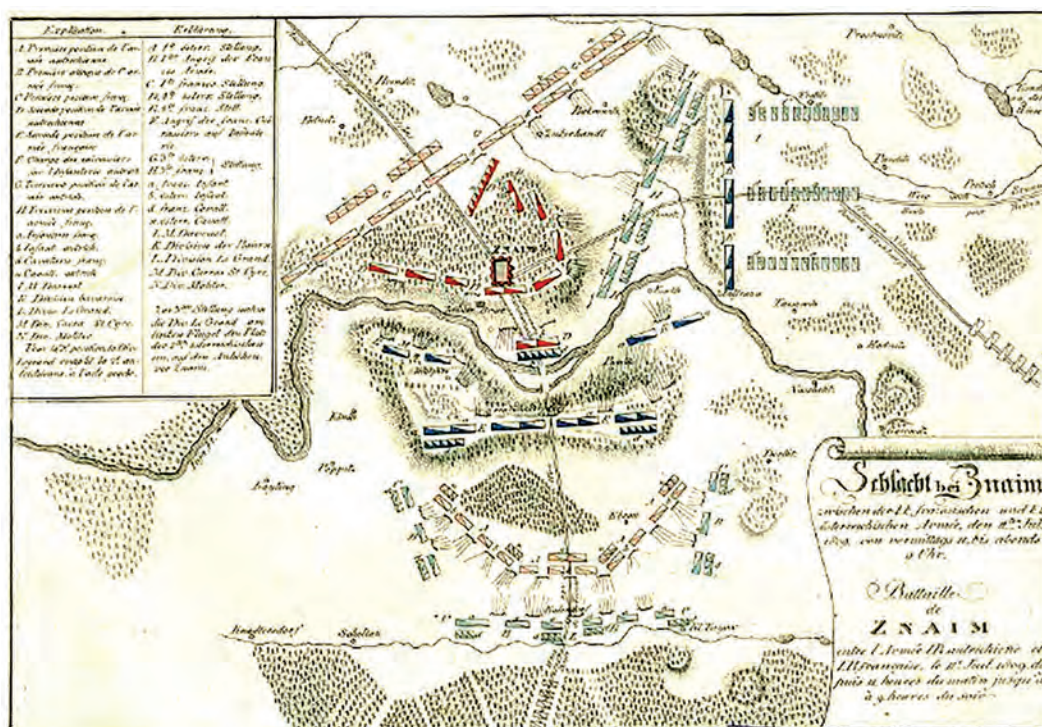


Fig. 2 Historical military map of the Battle of Znojmo/Znaim 1809(after Rehm 1809-1810?, according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 2).

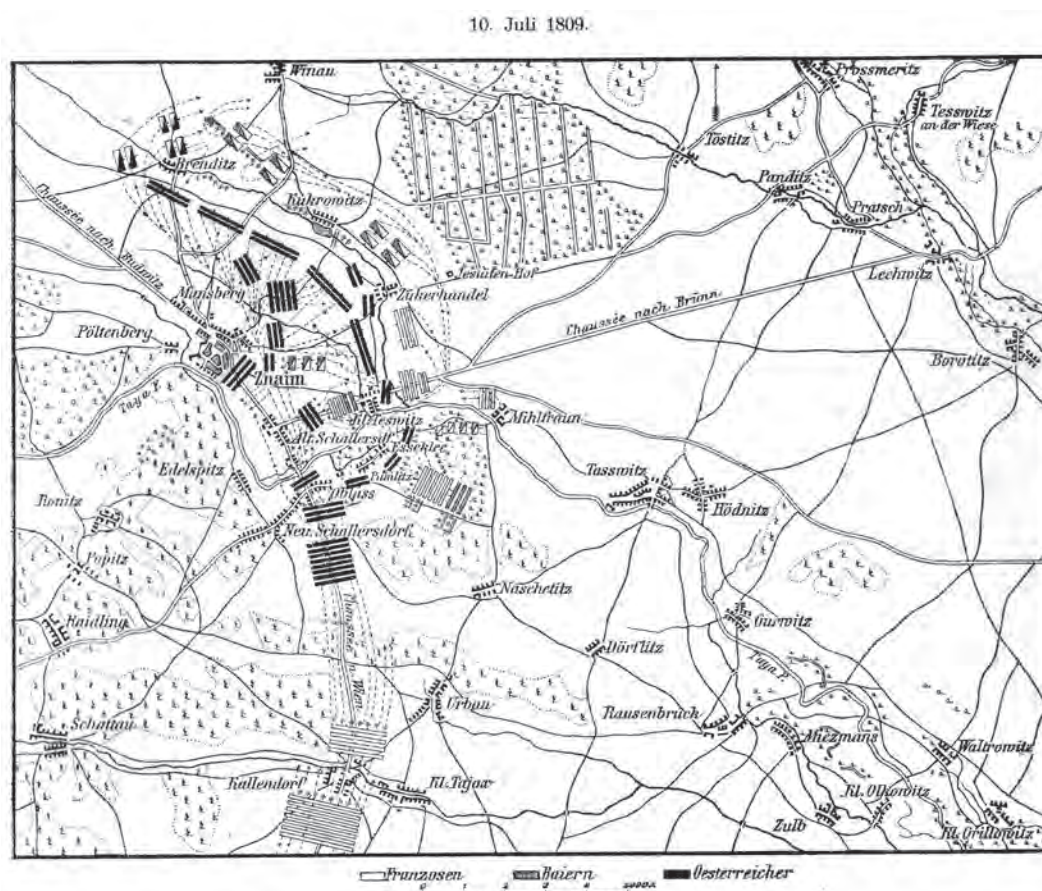


Fig. 3 Military map of battle positions of Austrian, Bavarian and French troops on day 1 of the Battle of Znojmo/Znaim 10 July 1809 (according to Wisnar 1910, Annex 2).

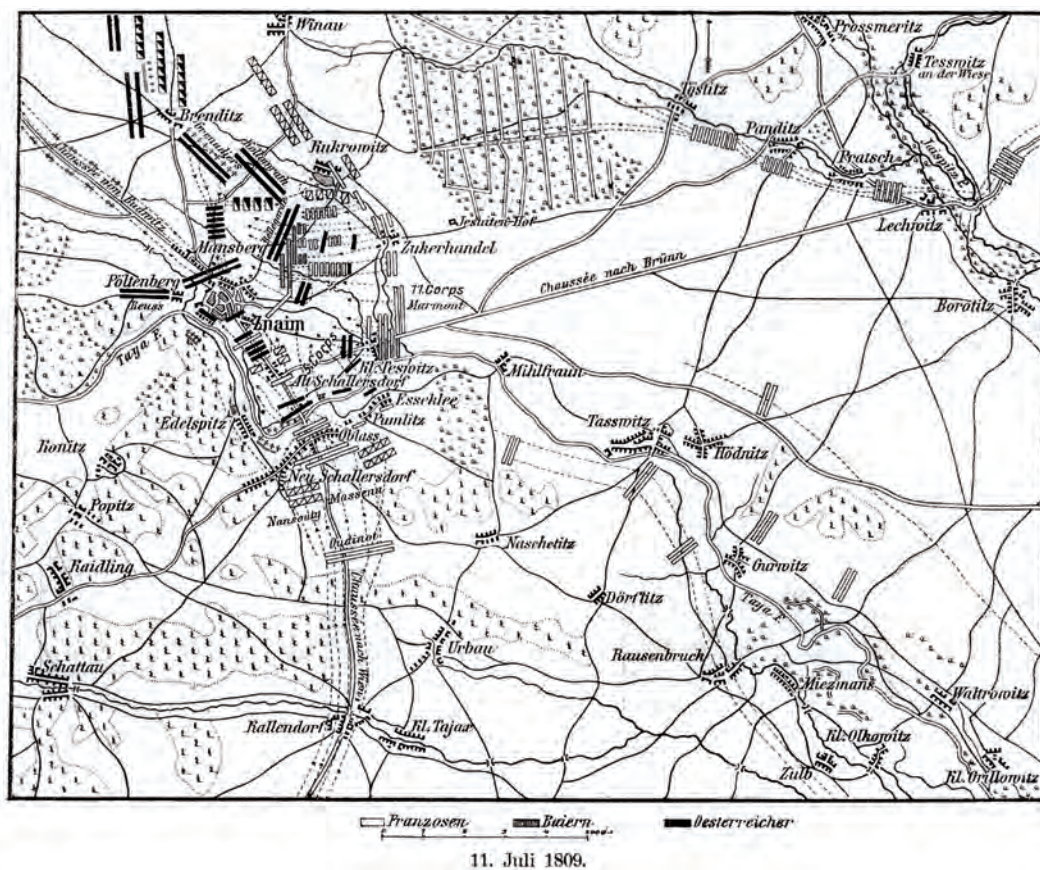


Fig. 4 Military map of battle positions of Austrian, Bavarian and French troops in the battle of Znojmo on 11 July 1809 (according to Wisnar 1910, Annex 2).



Fig. 5 Albrecht Adam. French troops near the village of Dyje/Mühlfraun not far from Znojmo/Znaim at the time of the battle in 1809, pen-and-ink drawing (according to Mžuková 1995, cat. no. 210).



Fig. 6 Přímětice/Brenditz. Photograph of Count Ugarte's farmhouse, where was the General Staff of the Austrian troops (according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 5).



Fig. 7 Anonym. Scenery of the battles for the bridge in Oblekovice/Oblas 1809 (according to Blatný 1995, 160).

the French troops occupied the part of Brno and Znojmo regions for 110 days. Homeowners (in Znojmo) had to support 2, 4, 6, 10 or more French soldiers at a good level. The document further states that the French behaved well as enemies.

The population of not only Moravia but also Bohemia was interested in the battle of Znojmo / Znaim in 1809. Czech patriotism and desires for the originality of the Czech nation were encouraged by reports of very good combat activities Army Corps No. III of the Field Armorer Count Kolowrat and Army Corps No. VI of the Field Lieutenant Marshal Count of Klenová (Klatovy District)/Klenau in this battle against Napoleon (Polišenský 1971, 92). Army Corps No. III arrived in Oblekovice/Oblas on 10 July, defended and subsequently crossed the local bridge over the Dyje with strategic importance.

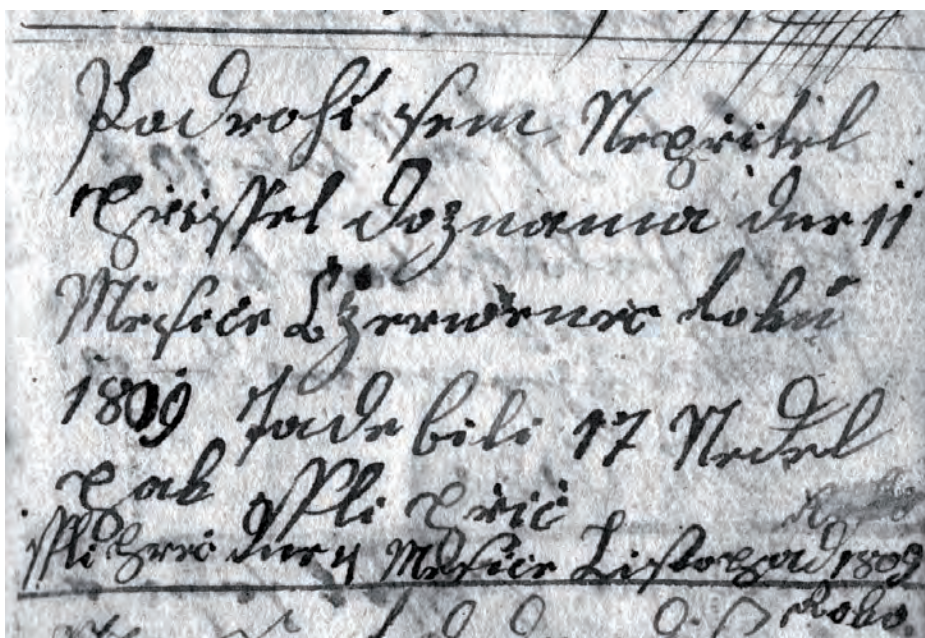


Fig. 8 Johann Slowak's manuscript (1783–1844) from Znojmo/Znaim with a record of the presence of French soldiers after the battle of 1809 in the town.

Count Kolowrat's Infantry Regiment no. 36 was especially famous here. Army Corps No. III then bypassed the city of Znojmo/Znaim to the north. Field Armourer Count Kolowrat took up positions to the left of the Army Corps No. I to defend a very important road from Znojmo/Znaim to Přímětice/Brenditz (and further in the direction of Moravské Budějovice/Mährisch Budwitz). Field Marshal Count of Klenová/Klenau with his Army Corps No. VI defended the city of Hollabrunn to keep Napoleon's army from pursuing. The Archduke Charles, Generalissimo, therefore awarded him the Commander's Cross of Maria Theresia on behalf of Emperor Francis I for his bravery.

For the first time, official propaganda by the Austrian Empire allowed appeals against Napoleon as the will of individual nations, not as an earlier official position of „the will of the Almighty.“ The greed of the „French system“ was emphasized (Polišenský 1971, 92–93).

Many researchers dealt with the course of the Battle of Znojmo in 1809. These include J. Wisnar (1910), J. H. Gill (1992³; 2020), or L. Mucha (2002 etc.), who significantly contributed both to the refinement of knowledge and the presentation of the described historical events.⁴

Field relic of the redoubt

A very interesting find is the pentagonal ground (Fig. 9) plan of the redoubt (Kovárník 2018, 210, Fig. 7). This field relic of the fortification is situated in a strategic location Town grove (historical German name Kühberg) on one of the hills between the town of Znojmo and the village of Přímětice/Brenditz (Fig. 10). This monument is situated at spot height of 315.42 m above sea level. It is significant that

³ Gill 1992, 48, 56–58, 110, 114, 116, 201, 205–207, 211, 238, 242–243, 358, 482, 484.

⁴ JUDr. Ladislav Mucha (January 18, 1954) is a full member of the Czechoslovak Napoleonic Society (founded in 1931). He is also the chairman of the Military History Club in Znojmo. He was also the commander of the historical association 10th Feldjäger „Kopal“ Bataillon. (It was Bataillon, who took part in the suppression of the Italian uprising in the struggle for independence in the Austrian Empire in the first Italian war between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Sardinia in 1848 (Strack 1864, 109; Kovárník – Horáčková – Mucha – Vargová 2009, 106–107).

the small castle/farmhouse in the village of Přímětice, the summer residence of the family Count Ugarte (Fig. 6), housed the military headquarters of the Austrian Emperor's troops. This redoubt could possibly be part of the defense against the French's advance towards the village of Přímětice. It is known that Austrian troops operated in this area on 11. July 1809 (Fig. 4). Austrian troops are shown in the places where the redoubt was found on a map of the fighting of July 11, 1809 (Wisnar 1910, Annex 2).

The redoubt (Fig. 11–14) is oriented southwest towards the city of Znojmo. The northeastern part of the redoubt is the right edge of the road from Znojmo to Únanov/Winau. The approximate lengths of the sides inside the ditch are as follows. The northwest side has a length of about 21.40 m, similarly the southwest side about 25.20 m, the south about 19.40 m, the southeast about 31.70 m and the northeast side about 29.50 m. The moat has a preserved width of about 6.10 m up to 10.30 m. The rampart is up to 4.50 m wide. The remains of the rampart are about 1.37 m high (minimum altitude 315.18 and maximum 316.55 m). The ditch has the greatest preserved depth of about 1.61 m (minimum altitude 314.04 and maximum 315.65 m above sea level).

The redoubt is quite old. The ground plan of this redoubt is already shown on the map of the 2nd Military Survey (from the Austrian State Archive/Military Archive in Vienna), which dates from the years up 1836 to 1852 (Fig. 15–17). It is noteworthy that the surrounding area is here named as a military exercise area/Exeziererplatz. It should be noted that in the complex of buildings of the abolished Premonstratensian monastery in Louka/Kloster Bruck, the Engineers/Sappers Academy was established based on the imperial decision of February 24, 1851, which was transformed into a military quarters in 1869 (Hosák – Zemek 1981, 272; Kroupa 1997, 48–50). Between the founding of the Military Engineering/Sappers Academy in 1851 and the end of 2nd Military Survey in 1852, less than two years passed. It would be a big coincidence if the redoubt was built at that time and then surveyed. Colonel Gustav Konrad, commander of the Engineering/Sappers Academy in Znojmo-Louka/Kloster Bruck, elaborated a report on April 12, 1861, stating that "... students study fortifications, but never see them, study artillery, but never see artillery battery ... simply study the prescribed fields, but only as abstract subjects. ...". It is clear from this report that the students did not participate in any construction of the redoubt until the abolition of the Engineering/Sappers Academy in Znojmo-Louka/Kloster Bruck (Kroupa 1997, 48). It can be therefore assume that the described redoubt probably could date back to the period preceding the beginning of the 2nd Military Survey in 1836.

Earlier finds of other mass graves

Other finds are in the collections of the South Moravian Museum in Znojmo. In the village of Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl, the Military Napoleon's army occupied the large farm „Rother Hof“ (Fig. 18), where the General Staff of the army of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte worked. The French adjusted a field military hospital in the farm, where Emperor Napoleon had the best surgeons of the time, Dominique Jean Larrey, Alexandre-Urbain Yvan or Pierre-François Percy (Kovárník 2018, 210). Very noteworthy is the discovery of a vertebra with a shot projectile (Fig. 19–20) from the village of Suchohrdly. It can be assumed that other skeletons and amputated limbs will be found in a mass grave or more graves near the premises of the large farm „Roter Hof“ (Red Farm) in the village of Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl near Znojmo.

Massgraves near Dobšice

It is needed to return to the find of soldier mass graves from the Battle of Znojmo/Znaim in 1809. The building operation of the Interspar hypermarket in Znaim, Brněnská Street, was carried out directly



Fig. 9 Znojmo/Znaim – Městský lesík. View from the southwest on the hill where the redoubt terrain relic of the Austrian army was discovered (photo author).



Fig. 10 Znojmo/Znaim – Městský lesík. Map showing the redoubt for the Austrian artillery, preserved in relief, scale 1 : 15120 (according to <https://ags.cuzk.cz/av/>).



Fig. 11 Znojmo/Znaim, Town grove. Photograph of the discovered redoubt terrain relic of the Austrian army (according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 7).



Fig. 12 Znojmo – Městský lesík/Town grove. Digital terrain model of the redoubt, scale 1 : 3780 (after <https://ags.cuzk.cz/av/>).



Fig. 13 Znojmo – Městský lesík/Town grove. Digital terrain model of the redoubt, scale 1 : 1880 (after <https://ags.cuzk.cz/av/>).



Fig. 14 Znojmo – Městský lesík/Town grove. Digital terrain model of the redoubt, scale 1 : 945 (after <https://ags.cuzk.cz/av/>).

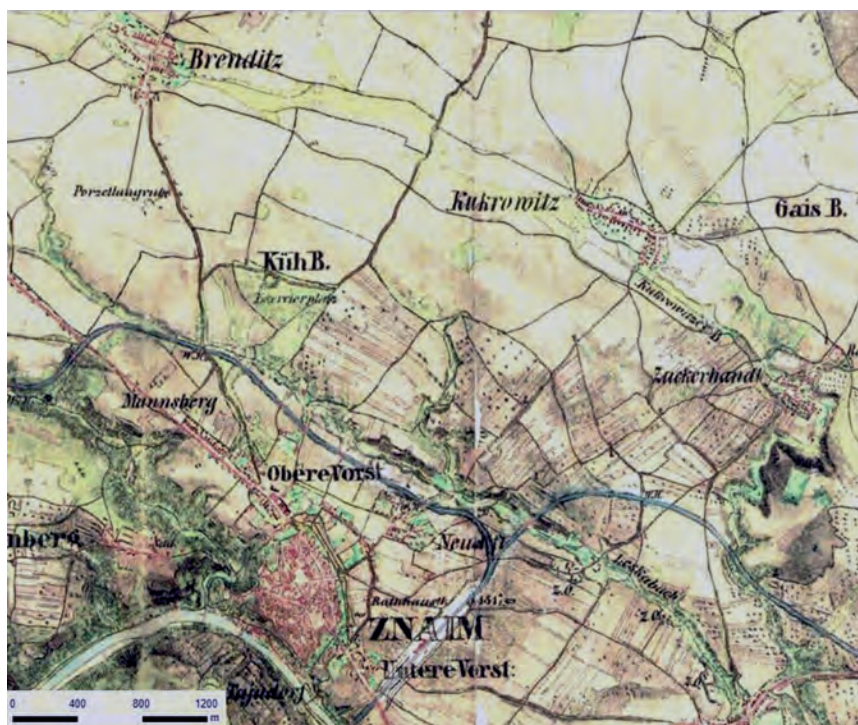


Fig. 15 Znojmo – Městský lesík / Town grove. Historical map of the IInd Military Survey (from the Austrian State Archive/Military Archive in Vienna) with the battlefield and redoubt (after <https://mapy.cz/19stoleti?x=16.0409002&y=48.8697252&z=14&l=0>).

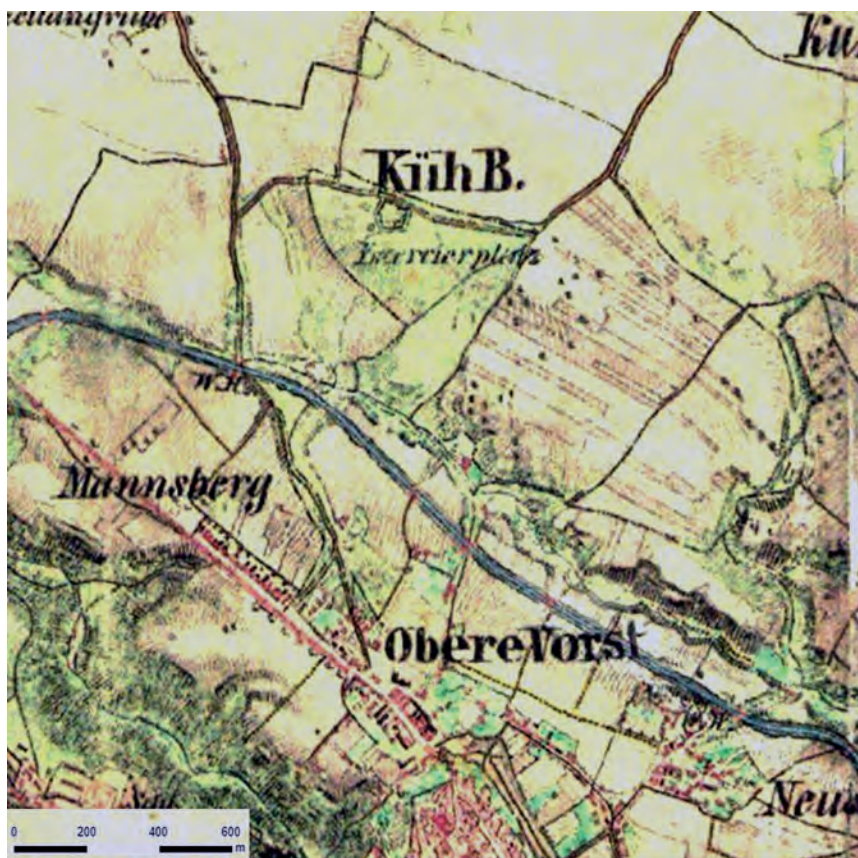


Fig. 16 Znojmo – Městský lesík / Town grove. Historical map of the IInd Military Survey (from the Austrian State Archive/Military Archive in Vienna) with the battlefield and redoubt (after <https://mapy.cz/19stoleti?x=16.0468386&y=48.8726115&z=15&l=0>).



Fig. 17 Znojmo. Situational map of the battlefield with the location of the bridge in Oblekvice/Oblas (1), mass graves near Dobšice/Klein Tesswitz (2), the redoubt in Městský lesík/Town grove (3), the military headquarters of the Napoleon's army in Suchbátka/Zuckerhandl (4) and Austrian Emperor's troops in Přímětice/Brenditz (5), scale 1 : 60480 (after <https://ags.cuzk.cz/av/>).

in the battlefield (Fig. 17). Six mass graves with fallen 52 soldiers and one woman were found at the edge of the left terrace the Thaya River along the road leading from Northeast to Southwest from the village of Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf on the southern suburbs of Znaim to the village of Dobšice/Klein Teßwitz. Five skeletons could not be determined anthropologically. Was needed to excavate the mass graves from no. I to VI and to save these graves for destruction during construction work. In the course of their scientific evaluation were gained new information on both the reconstruction of the battle, the soldiers' health and the form of mass graves. These are mass graves from the battlefield.

Recapitulation of archaeological finds

From the overview of these findings, it is clear that in the mass graves were not buttons of military uniforms (cf. Kovárník – Horácková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, 322). It could indicate that the

fallen soldiers were buried without uniforms. Clearly the most valuable archaeological find alongside the remnants of fallen soldiers, which are decorated with piety, was the archaeological find of a large silver coin (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 26). This coin (Fig. 21–22) was found on the chest skeleton of male skeleton no. 2 in the mass grave no. I. The coin is a silver écu is the excavation of the French King Louis XV (Sejbal 1997, 250–251). The finding of the silver écu proves unambiguously that the killed soldiers discovered in the mass graves belonged to French troops in most cases. We know that the Army Corps No. XI (the so-called Dalmatian Army) was engaged in the combat here under the command of Division General and later Marshal Auguste-Frédéric-Louis de Marmont. The Army Corps No. V of Prince Reus-Plauen stood against them. The finding is important not only because it is a discovery of mass graves on the very battlefield, but also because it is the first case of unambiguously identified graves thanks to the described French silver coin.

A very interesting find was also in the mass grave no. II, at the female skeleton no. 2 (the satler?) aged from 35 to 44 years (Fig. 23) from the grave no. II. The two-piece bronze knob has fixed a cut yellowish-green hexagon (glass?) on the front (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 27). A flat bronze metal ring (Fig. 24) was on the finger of the left upper limb of skeleton no. 3 from the grave no. IV (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 28). Two bone buttons (Fig. 25) were in the thoracic cage at the skeleton no. 4 in grave no. IV (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 29). Another archaeological find, a small green glass bead (Fig. 26), was found in the area of cervical vertebrae at skeleton no. 3 from the grave no. V (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 31). Small bone object of circular shape (Fig. 27) lied on the skeleton no. 4 in the grave no. V (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 32). The bronze pendant (Fig. 28) laid on the rib of the skeleton no. VI/8 (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 33). It has an oval shape. On the reverse is a relief of the Madonna with Child. The scraps of textile also were managed to save, the guimpé with silver thread and a small bronze clasp at skeleton no. VI/6. The described finds could indicate that the individual could have an officer rank.



Fig. 18 Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl. Photo of the southeastern tract of the Baroque farmhouse „Rother Hof“, where General Staff of the Napoleon's troops was located (according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 9).



Fig. 19 Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl. The vertebra with a shot projectile, a lead bullet with a calibre of 13,825 mm (South Moravian Museum Znojmo, inv. no. A 24447), (according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 29).



Fig. 20 Suchohrdly/Zuckerhandl. The vertebra with a shot projectile, the other side (South Moravian Museum Znojmo, inv. no. A 24447), (according to Kovárník 2018, Fig. 30).



Fig. 21 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The silver écu from the mass grave no. I (skeleton no. I/2), aversé (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 25).



Fig. 22 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The silver écu from the mass grave no. I (skeleton no. I/2), reverse (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 26).



Fig. 23 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The decorative bronze button with ground glass from the mass grave no. II (skeleton no. II/2) (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 27).



Fig. 24 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The bronze ring (detailed view) from the mass grave no. IV (skeleton no. IV/3), (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 28).



Fig. 25 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The pair of bone buttons from the mass grave no. IV (skeleton IV/4), (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 29).



Fig. 26 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The small bead made out of light green glass from the mass grave no. V (skeleton no. V/3), (according to Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 31).



Fig. 27 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The bone button from the mass grave no. V (skeleton no. V/4), (according to Kovárník – Horácková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 32).



Fig. 28 Znojmo, Brněnská street. The bronze medallion with the Virgin Mary with Child from the no. VI (skeleton no. VI/8), (according to Kovárník – Horácková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, Fig. 33).



Fig. 29 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the makeshift (battle) mass grave no. III with the skeletons of 14 fallen soldiers from the first group of graves, probably placed in the pit after the exploded ammunition.

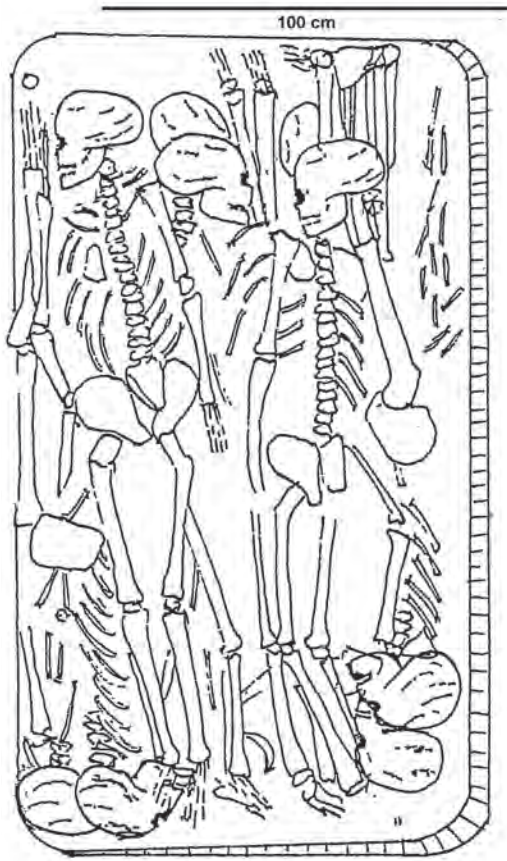


Fig. 30 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Plan of the mass grave no. V from the second group of graves with skeletons of fallen soldiers from the first upper layer A, placed in a shallow grave pit, scale 1 : 20.



Fig. 31 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the mass grave no. V from the second group of graves with skeletons of fallen soldiers from the second layer B, placed in a shallow grave pit.

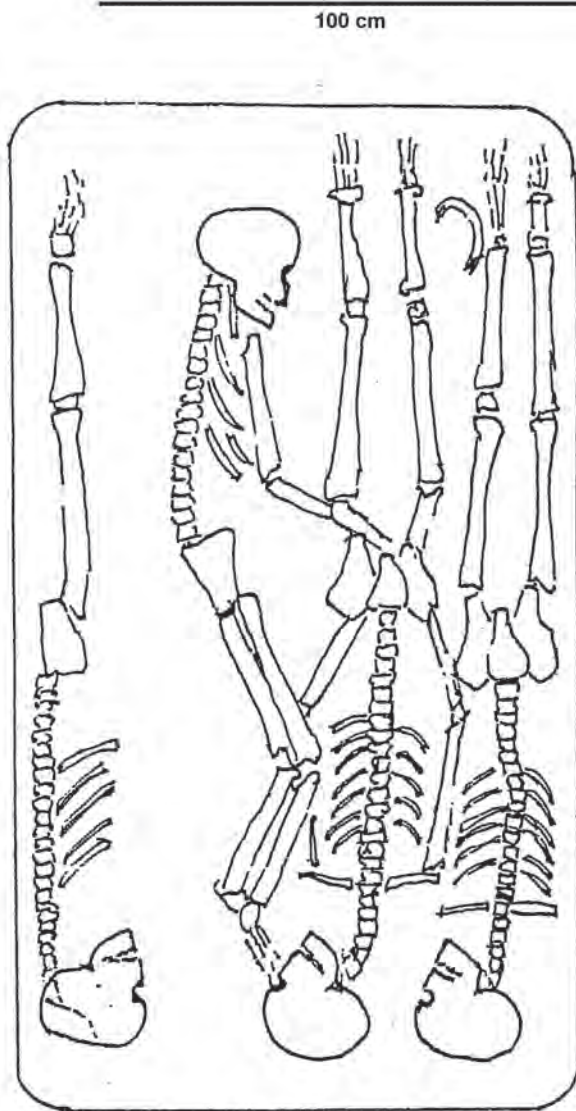


Fig. 32 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Plan of the mass grave no. V from the second group of graves with skeletons of fallen soldiers from the third layer C, placed in a shallow grave pit, scale 1 : 20.

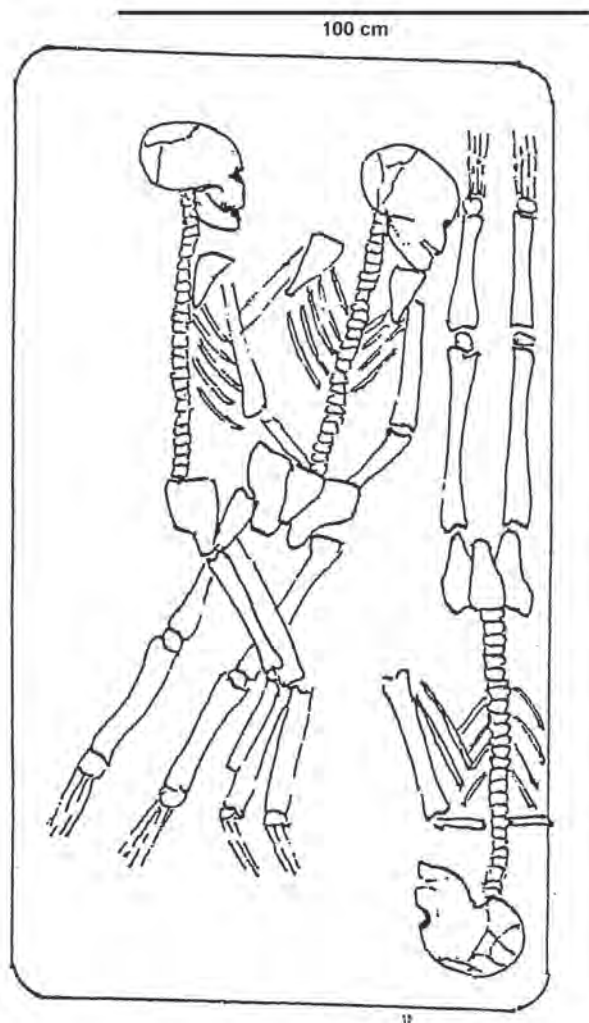


Fig. 33 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Plan of the mass grave no. V from the second group of graves with skeletons of fallen soldiers from the fourth lower layer D, placed in a shallow grave pit, scale 1 : 20.



Fig. 34 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf. (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).



Fig. 35 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, memorial plaque in Czech (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).

Fig. 36 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, emblem of the town of Znojmo/Znaim (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).



Fig. 37 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, memorial plaque in German (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).

Fig. 38 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, emblem of the Austrian Empire (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).



Fig. 39 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, memorial plaques in French (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).

Fig. 40 Znojmo, Brněnská street. Photograph of the memorial at the new grave of soldiers from the battle of 1809 in the cemetery in Znojmo/Znaim-Léry (Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, emblem of the Grande Armée (Photo Jaromír Kovárník jr.).

Results of anthropological analysis

We thank very much our colleagues L. Horáčková, L. Vargová and A. Vachunková for anthropological analyzes of rescued 58 skeletons from the graves. The analyzed male skeletons were 52 and one was female skeleton. The average age of the fallen soldiers from the explored mass graves was very low (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, 322–326).

From the anthropological analysis of the skeletons, the conclusion is that the army (of Emperor Napoleon) was forced to recruit in 1809 young soldiers, especially at the age of boys aged from 15 to 19 years, juvenis. It follows from this finding that at that time there was already a shortage of the team at the optimum age of 20 or 30 years, adultus I and adultus II. We further infer that the young soldiers did not have enough combat experience and therefore very often fell in a battle (Kovárník – Horáčková – Vargová – Vachunková – Mucha 2006, 322).

Long, exhausting marches resulted in a very frequent occurrence of a foot lesion (calcar calcaneare) among fallen soldiers. Such a large joint wear occurs only after the age of 40. Inflammatory changes (periositis) were also analyzed on the blades of the fallen. Changes on the shoulder blades could have been the result of a heavy load on this part of the back while wearing very heavy military equipment, but also the result of physical punishment. Severe war injuries were mostly the gunshot wounds. The result was open and fragmented fractures with fragments that threatened the surrounding tissues.

The symptoms of syphilis have been occurred. The signs of syphilis at a very young soldier from 18 to 20 years, the skeleton no. 7 from the mass grave no. V prove the inborn origin (from the mother's womb) of this disease. Pathological changes were noted on the ribs of the female skeleton no. 4 from the grave no. II. They are a symptom of longer-lasting tuberculosis.

Determination of two types of mass graves of fallen soldiers

The results of rescue archaeological research have provided clear data on the typology of mass graves, which are located in the places of the battle of Znojmo/Znaim in 1809. The mass graves of fallen soldiers can be divided into two basic types. Graves no. I and no. II were very disturbed. Grave pit no. III had an irregular shape (Fig. 29). There were skeletons of 14 individuals in it, which were in a random position. At work, this grave can be described as a battle, provisional. It was not a deliberately excavated grave pit, but probably a pit created by an explosion of ammunition. The fallen soldiers were probably only quickly pulled into this pit. Body of soldiers were laid in a mess.

The mass graves no. IV–VI from the second group are completely different. The grave pits were carefully excavated. The described type of graves can be named as regular. However, these are not graves that complied with all funeral rules, ie regular deep graves. These graves could have arisen only after the battle, or in a longer period of „ceasefire“. The bodies of fallen soldiers in such graves were stacked on top of each other vice versa in antipodal position as is customary in military mass graves.

For example, in grave pit no. V, 200 cm long, 110 cm wide and 40 cm deep, 10 skeletons were closely placed. In the first completely lower layer D (Fig. 30) and the second layer C (Fig. 31), three and three skeletons were uncovered. There were then two and two skeletons in the third B (Fig. 32) and fourth A upper layers (Fig. 33). It is therefore very likely that all these shallow mass graves were covered by a small borrow. Therefore, after the erosion of this borrow, graves of this type were frequently damaged during plowing of the fields. There have been such cases.

The common feature of all mass graves was that they were either completely free of finds or only with trifles. Only on the bony thorax of the skeleton of man no. 2 (24–30 years) in grave no. I was a large silver coin (écu from 1768, minting of the King of France Louis XV: Fig. 21–22).

Conclusions

Archaeological and paleoanthropological studies of skeletons from mass graves of soldiers from the Battlefield of the Battle of Znaim 1809 widen the knowledge of Napoleonic wars.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the remains of soldiers from mass graves I–VI were secondarily buried with a pieta in a new common grave in the cemetery of the former village of Starý Šaldorf/Alt Schallersdorf, today Znojmo-Léry, Brněnská street, not far from the site of the mass graves. Also present were experts participating in the international conference „200. anniversary of the battle of Znojmo 1809–2009 ” (Brno – Znojmo, 25–26 June 2009). In honor of the funeral of the remains of fallen soldiers, a ceremonial salvo was fired from rifles of members of the Military History Club k.u.k. Field Hunter „Kopal“ Battalion No. 10 Znojmo on 26 June 2009. Further negotiations with the Municipal Office in Znojmo in 2019 aimed at building a dignified memorial at this grave.⁵ Texts in the Czech, French and German languages, as well as a working design of the monument, were prepared and subsequently handed over (Fig 34–43). Annual commemorative events are held at the memorial on the anniversary of the Battle of Znojmo.

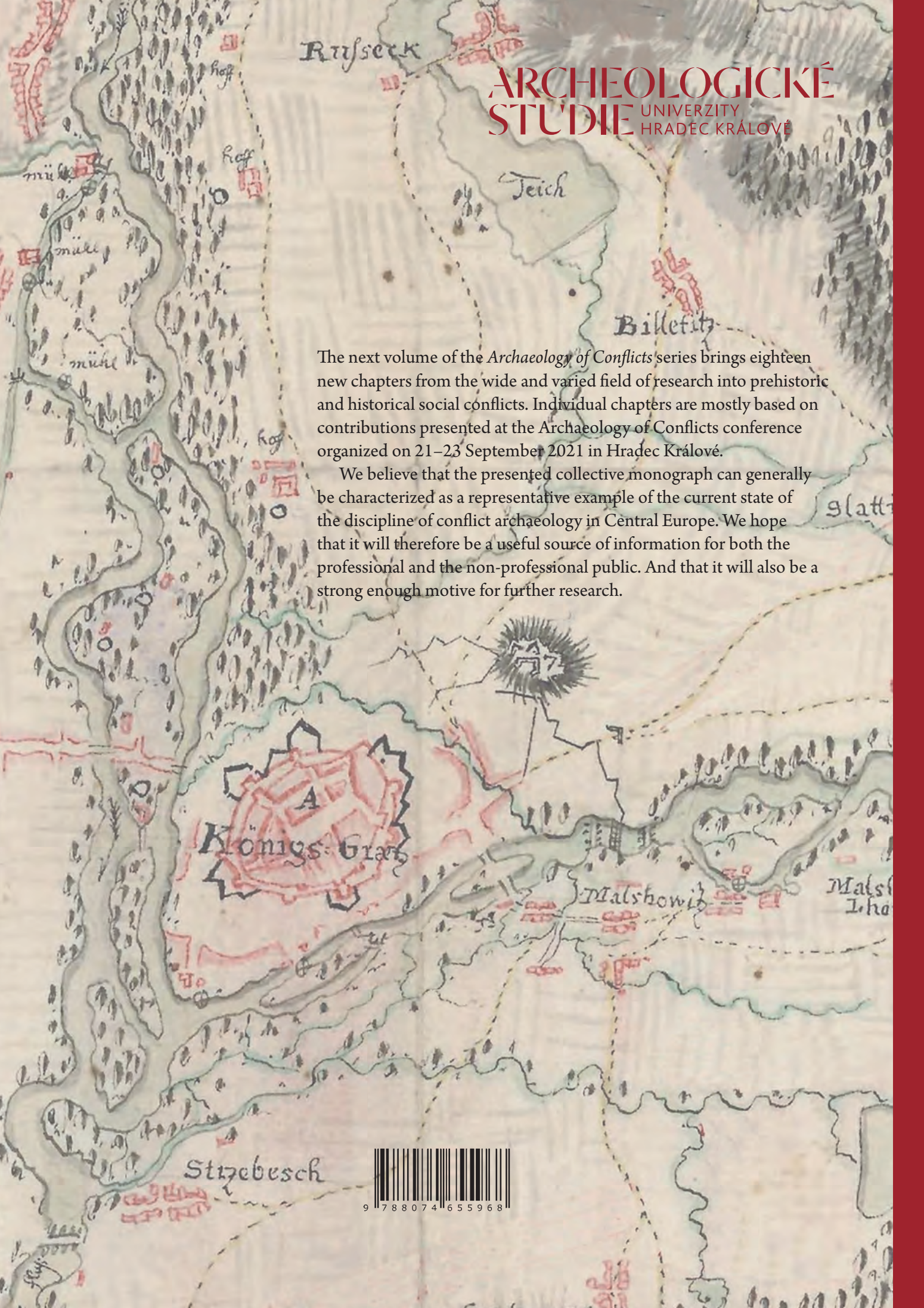
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⁵ Letters addressed to the mayor of 31 January, 6 February, 8 February, 13 May, 9 July, 10 July (etc.) year 2019 (author's archive). The monument was created by academic sculptor Petr Roztočil.

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A historical map of the Hradec Králové region, showing the city of Hradec Králové (Königs-Gratz) in the center, surrounded by a river and various settlements. The map is drawn in a hand-drawn style with black ink and red ink. The city is depicted with a red outline and a black star-like symbol in the center. The river is shown in blue. Other settlements include Russek, Billetitz, Malshowitz, and Stizebesch. The map also shows various fields, forests, and other geographical features.

ARCHEOLOGICKÉ STUDIE

UNIVERSITY
HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

The next volume of the *Archaeology of Conflicts* series brings eighteen new chapters from the wide and varied field of research into prehistoric and historical social conflicts. Individual chapters are mostly based on contributions presented at the Archaeology of Conflicts conference organized on 21–23 September 2021 in Hradec Králové.

We believe that the presented collective monograph can generally be characterized as a representative example of the current state of the discipline of conflict archaeology in Central Europe. We hope that it will therefore be a useful source of information for both the professional and the non-professional public. And that it will also be a strong enough motive for further research.



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