

The Story of Lieutenant Gouley of the 69eme.

There are several mentions of Gouley's exploits in the regimental history:

Battle of Fuentes de Onoro

the 69eme and 6eme leger, started the attack, Lieutenant Gouley at the head of the Grenadiers, charged a position and put to flight its occupants, this triggered a panic in the village of Pozzo-Bello the village was taken 'a la bayonette'. English infantry and cavalry fell back in disorder. Mont -Brun failed to follow up on this break through and left the 1<sup>st</sup> division isolated neither attacking nor withdrawing.

Skirmish after Mondragon at Tolossa.

The English were on the ascendance after Vittoria, Foy was set in Tolossa, when two columns one Anglo Spanish and the other French arrived at the outskirts. There was a furious skirmish between the two, where two officers distinguished themselves and Foy requested they received the Cross of the legion of honour. The 69eme held back the larger enemy column, Lieutenant Gouley of the 2eme company of the 2eme battalion, was with his section when he was surrounded at fifty paces by a Scottish regiment. He only had twenty men with him, most of which were injured. He swore he would rather die than be taken prisoner. Already asked twice to surrender, Gouley charged the enemy with sword in hand, he hacked a passage that allowed all his men to escape and gain access to the gates of the town. Grievously injured by a musket ball during this action, did not want to leave the battlefield until all were safely inside, closed the gates himself and threw the gate keys into the river at the fort of the ramparts.

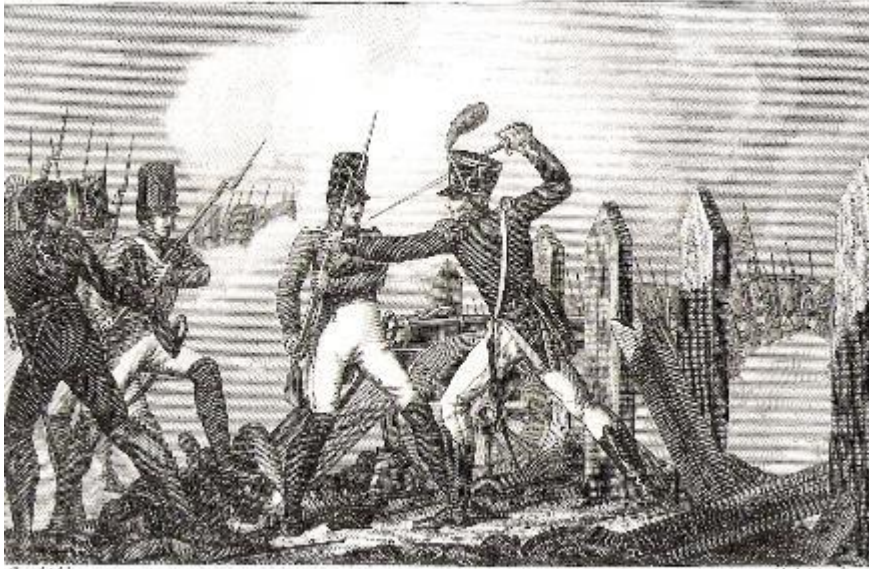
Battle of Nive.

Gouley did not only work with Grenadiers but was clearly working with voltigeurs also !

Later we see another heroic action at Nive Battle.

Dug in, the enemy were firing on the regiment, Gouley charged on ahead of the voltigeurs and got there alone where the firing was at its most deadly. He grabbed the musket of a Spaniard and jumped into their position, the defenders turned to run. Gouley threw himself in front of them and said stop there prisoners. No not prisoners one replied in lunging a bayonet towards him, Gouley dodged the thrust, grabbed the musket and plunged his own sword into the body of the man, another fired at the same instant at Gouley but the ball went through his shako, Gouley jumped on him and killed him. Scared by such audacity, thirteen Spaniards gave themselves up and Gouley marched them back to be taken care of by the voltigeurs.

FESTES DE LA GLOIRE.



GOULEY, Lieutenant de Grenadiers au 69<sup>e</sup> Régiment de ligne.

*«Holla-là, prisonnier.»*

It is this action that was captured for immortality in the set of engravings known as Les Fastes de la Gloire.