

Le sergent Louis PETIT et la « Maison de Napoléon 1er» à Saint-Riquier

In the town of Saint Riquier, in the Somme, near Abbeville, there existed a House of Napoleon 1. Its gable was in the form of the hat of the emperor and was topped with a statue of the Emperor.

This house was built by Louis Petit, who was pre-occupied with handing down to future generations the memories of history, and of his brother Edme, who was lost at Leipzig in 1813.

Louis-Joseph Petit, built this house, was born in Breviandes (in the Aube) where his father was a stocking maker, on the 8th March 1792. In his service record at the War Ministry it is mentioned that his profession prior to enlistment was a notary clerk. Conscripted in 1812, he went to the 69^{eme} regiment on the 3rd April 1812. He was attached to the 5th battalion, 4th company, he became corporal on the 1st November 1812, caporal fourier the 23rd March 1813, sergeant the 10th November 1813. Later he transferred to the 2^{eme} company of the 64^{eme} regiment in 1814.

On his Livret de Soldat he was marked down as being 1m 59cm, full of face, high forehead, brown eyes, middle-sized mouth, pointy chin, brown hair and eyebrows, tanned skin complexion. He was part of the Grand Armee, went to Germany and did the campaign of 1813 with the army of the Moselle in 1814 and army of the North in 1815. He was injured with a musket ball to both legs on the 16th June at Ligny whilst serving with the 64^{eme}.

The history of the house is interesting in that it had several different statues of Napoleon on it, the latest placed with the descendants of Murat and the prince Napoleon. The house later became a post office for the commune. It was built in 1840 and brought up his off-spring in the cult of the Emperor. He later became captain with the local fire brigade. He received the St. Helena Medal .

Information gleaned from Souvenir Napoleonien number 170-171 – 1962. Les Amis de Ligny. <http://www.ligny1815.org>

