

G U S T A V U S    A D O L P H U S  
A HISTORY OF THE ART OF WAR FROM ITS  
REVIVAL AFTER THE MIDDLE AGES  
TO THE END OF THE SPANISH  
SUCCESSION WAR, WITH A  
DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE MOST  
FAMOUS CAMPAIGNS OF THE  
GREAT SWEDE ...

BY

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average generals opposed to him, and have placed France much nearer to success. His 1703 campaign was a remarkable one; it showed great ability, singular push, and a decided preference for fighting over manœuvres. Moreover he was opposed by an active and intelligent soldier, the prince of Baden.

The operations on the Rhine, this year, were not important, nor characterized by anything out of the ordinary, except the first bayonet charge on record, not preceded by fire. The prince of Hesse was advancing on Speyer, at the head of twenty-four thousand men, purposing to relieve Landau, when Field-Marshal Tallard, who had just blockaded the place, went out to meet him with nineteen thousand. As the prince was crossing the Speyerbach, Tallard's column reached the stream. Seizing the instant, and without waiting to form line of battle, Tallard ployed his marching columns into column of attack, and just as they were, charged in on the enemy with the bayonet. The result was a brilliant victory.

It is odd to note that military critics looked on this charge as a gross error, an inexcusable variation from the rules of the art, and universally condemned it; though had Tallard commanded pikemen merely, the charge would have been his only resource, and would have been considered bold and skillful. In any event, Tallard had won, and concluded his work by the capture of Landau, to the confusion — in our eyes — of the critics.

In the campaign of 1703 the emperor had been sadly hampered by the rebellion in Hungary, which monopolized many troops and more attention. The year had made the French masters of the middle Rhine crossings. Landau and Neubreisach enabled them to debouch into the enemy's country, and Bavaria was a salient thrust forward into it by which to reach and manœuvre on the Danube. In the Netherlands