**Joseph Souham**

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| General Joseph Souham.JPG |
| **Born** | 30 April 1760 (1760-04-30)[Lubersac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lubersac), [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) |
| **Died** | 28 April 1837 (1837-04-29) (aged 76)[Versailles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Versailles_%28city%29), [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) |
| **Allegiance** | [France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) |
| **Service/branch** | [French Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Army) |
| **Rank** | [Général de division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divisional_General) |
| **Battles/wars** | [French Revolutionary Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolutionary_Wars)[Napoleonic Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars) |

**Joseph Souham** (30 April 1760 - 28 April 1837) was a French general who fought in the [French Revolutionary Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolutionary_Wars) and the [Napoleonic Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Wars). He was born at [Lubersac](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lubersac) and died at [Versailles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Versailles_%28city%29). After long service in the French Royal Army, he was elected to lead a volunteer battalion in 1792 during the [French Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution). He was promoted to [general of division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_of_division) in September 1793 after playing a prominent role in the [defense of Dunkirk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Dunkirk_%281793%29). In May 1794 with his commander absent, he took temporary command of the [*Army of the North*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_of_the_North_%28France%29) and defeated the Coalition army at [Tourcoing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tourcoing). He led the covering forces at the [Siege of Ypres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Ypres_%281794%29) and participated in the successful invasion of the [Dutch Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_Republic). He spent many years in occupation duties in Holland and then his career suffered because of his association with [Pichegru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Charles_Pichegru) and [Moreau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Victor_Marie_Moreau). Starting in 1809 he was employed in Spain during the [Peninsular War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peninsular_War), winning the [Battle of Vich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Vich) where he was wounded. In army command again, he forced [Wellington's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley%2C_1st_Duke_of_Wellington) army to retreat at [Tordesillas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tordesillas_%281812%29) in 1812. The following year he led a division at [Lützen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_L%C3%BCtzen_%281813%29) and a corps at [Leipzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Leipzig). He remained loyal to the Bourbons during the [Hundred Days](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hundred_Days).

**French revolutionary years**



Coats of arms of Joseph Souham

Souham served in the Royal French army as a private from 1782 to 1790. In 1792, having shown himself active in the cause of the [Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolution), he was elected commandant of a volunteer battalion from the [Corrèze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corr%C3%A8ze). He served with his unit at the [Battle of Jemappes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Jemappes).

By 1793, Souham had risen to the rank of general de division during the [Flanders Campaign](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flanders_Campaign). When his army commander, [Jean-Charles Pichegru](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Charles_Pichegru) fell ill, Souham assumed army command and defeated the Allied army at the [Battle of Tourcoing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Tourcoing_%281794%29) in May 1794. He served under Pichegru in Holland (1795), but in 1799 he fell into disgrace on suspicion of being involved in Royalist intrigues. He was reinstated in 1800 and served under [Jean Moreau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Victor_Marie_Moreau) in the Danube campaign of that year. During the Consulate he appears to have been involved in conspiracies and was suspected with his old commanders Moreau and Pichegru of participation in the plot of [Georges Cadoudal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Cadoudal).

**Empire and later years**

He was unemployed from 1800 to 1809. In the latter year a shortage of available experienced officers caused him to be put back on active duty. He was sent to Spain where he took a notable part in [Gouvion St Cyr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurent%2C_Marquis_de_Gouvion_Saint-Cyr)'s operations in [Catalonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catalonia). The actions at [Vic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vic) in which he was wounded won him the title of count.

When [Marshal Marmont](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auguste_Marmont) had been wounded at the [Battle of Salamanca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Salamanca) in 1812, Marshal [André Masséna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_Mass%C3%A9na), who was unable to assume the post himself, recommended Souham for the post. The latter was thus pitted against [Wellington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley%2C_1st_Duke_of_Wellington), and by skilful maneuvers drove the allied general back from [Burgos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burgos) and regained the ground lost at [Salamanca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salamanca).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Souham#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911436-1) In January 1813, he was recalled to France.

In 1813, he took command of a division in Marshal [Michel Ney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michel_Ney)'s III Corps. At [Lützen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_L%C3%BCtzen_%281813%29) he greatly distinguished himself. Faced by the bulk of the combined Russian and Prussian armies, he bitterly defended the area around Gross-Gorschen. At the [Battle of Leipzig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Leipzig) he was wounded while leading III Corps.

After the fall of the First Empire he deserted the emperor and, having suffered for the Royalist cause, was well received by [Louis XVIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XVIII_of_France), who gave him high commands. These honors Souham lost at the return of Napoleon and were regained once more after the Second Restoration. He retired in 1832, and died on 28 April 1837 in Versailles.

**References**

* 1. [**Jump up ^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Souham#cite_ref-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911436_1-0) [Chisholm 1911](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Souham#CITEREFChisholm1911), p. 436.
*  This article incorporates text from a publication now in the [public domain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_domain): *Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "[Souham, Joseph, Count](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Souham%2C_Joseph%2C_Count%22%20%5Co%20%22wikisource%3A1911%20Encyclop%C3%A6dia%20Britannica/Souham%2C%20Joseph%2C%20Count)".* [*Encyclopædia Britannica*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica_Eleventh_Edition)***25*** *(11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 435.*