

***General Marie Mong's Campaigns against the Oulad Nail Lands
1844-1848***

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Received: 27/10/2024 Accepted: 13/12/2024 Published:17/12/2024

Abstract:

The tribes of Oulad Nail have recorded a historical jihadist journey and immortal stances in the pages of national history. This journey began with their allegiance to Prince Abdelkader and their provision of support in terms of men and supplies, ensuring the continuity of national resistance under his leadership in the central plains and at the edge of the desert. All of this prompted the colonial authorities to pursue Prince Abdelkader's path and punish the tribes that pledged allegiance and support to him, including the Oulad Nail. Consequently, they decided to launch military campaigns against the regions inhabited by the Oulad Nail tribes during the period from 1844 to 1852. This was a critical phase in the expansion of French colonialism into the vast south, allowing the colonial authorities to establish their military bases and administrations to continue the occupation. In their efforts to ensure France's security within those areas and to seek control over desert trade caravans, various factors contributed to the colonial forces' push for expansion through military campaigns. Among the fiercest of these were the campaigns directed towards the Oulad Nail regions, led by General Marie Mong, which will be examined in this research paper.

Keywords: Marie Mong; Oula Nail; Jihad; Abdelkader; continuity.

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ملخص:

لقد سجل قبائل أولاد نايل في صفحات التاريخ الوطني مسيرة جهادية ومواقف خالدة ،كانت بدايتها مبايعة الامير عبدالقادر وتقديم الدعم له بالرجال و المؤونة وضمنان استمرار المقاومة الوطنية بقيادته، في السهول الوسطى ومشارف الصحراء ،كل ذلك جعل من السلطات الاستعمارية تتبع مسار الامير عبدالقادر و معاقبة القبائل التي قدمت له البيعة و المساندة، ومن بينها قبائل أولاد نايل ،فقررت شنّ حملاتها العسكرية على مناطق تواجد قبائل أولاد نايل، من الفترة الممتدة بين (1852/1844م) وهي مرحلة حاسمة في توسّع الاستعمار الفرنسي إلى الجنوب الكبير حتى يستتب للسلطات الاستعمارية وضع قواعدها العسكرية وإداراتها لمواصلة الاحتلال، وحرصا على أمن فرنسا داخل تلك المناطق والسعي للسيطرة على القوافل التجارية الصحراوية، عوامل ساهمت في دفع القوات الاستعمارية للتوسع عن طريق شن حملات عسكرية، كان من أشرسها تلك الحملات التي وجهت نحو مناطق أولاد نايل حملات الجنرال ماري مونج، التي سوف نقف عليها في هذا الورقة البحثية. كلمات مفتاحية: المقاومة . الأمير عبدالقادر.. ماري مونج. أولاد نايل.. المبايعة. الجهاد

- Introduction:

The Oulad Nail tribes occupy a prominent strategic position in terms of location and geographical concentration. Their site serves as a vital link between the coastal and desert regions on one hand and between Eastern and Western Algeria on the other. The importance of this location stems from the crucial role it plays in both economic and social life, particularly in facilitating the movement of the Oulad Nail tribes' winter and summer journeys across those areas .

The geographical spread of the Oulad Nail tribes in their vast territories has enabled them to occupy a geopolitical position in the high plateaus and at the edges of the desert, starting from the southern

Atlas region, passing through the Bougar area in the Sur Ghazlan, then to Ain Bousif, and from there to the central region of M'Sila in the north, extending to the geographical borders of Laghouat and the outskirts of Ghardaia, Ouargla, and Touggourt in the south, and from the Ziban in the east, and from the west, the Chala and the Amour Mountains in the northeast of Laghouat, which represent a strategic center that Prince Abdelkader would exploit during his resistance, as it could serve as a base for launching military operations as well as supplying and funding his soldiers to enable the continuation of the resistance in those regions. (Naybi, 2014, p. 39) .

Given the material, natural resources, and considerable population of the Oulad Nail tribes, they became a focus of interest for the French colonial authorities as they were part of the vast desert areas. This interest in these strategic areas was due to the writings left by European travelers since the 17th century and the reports of Western spies, who documented very precise information about the regions inhabited by the Oulad Nail tribes in their works. The English traveler Thomas Shaw, in his book containing a map of his own making, is considered one of the earliest known maps to include the term Oulad Nail as a region. Shaw's map documented several geographical features of the Oulad Nail area, with his journey to Algeria dating back to 1724-1725, and his book containing the map published in 1738. Among the observations he made during his travels was: "the movement and activity of several Oulad Nail tribes between Bougzoul and Laghouat, and he mentions the salt trade from the salt flats and the Salt Mountain where salt was a commercial commodity transported north..." He also stated: "He described the road between Ghardaia and Algiers that passes through the Bâtma floodplain, which served as a rest stop or station for the merchants' caravans of the Ben M'zab..." (SHAW, 1830. P. 327) .

Shaw also included in his book a map with names of several regions of the Oulad Nail tribes, including the Kasr Amoura and Kasr Demed. He further discussed some points and cities in the Oulad Nail region, mentioning the Tower of the Sentries, which is the last Ottoman military outpost to the south, southwest of Ain Bousif. Shaw noted the grazing lands of the Oulad Nail tribes, including Oulad Madi and Oulad Malik, and specified the locations of these pastures between the Tower of the Sentries and the Dchar of Laghouat, and the foothills of the Amour Mountains (SHAW, p. 338) .

Shaw referred in his work to the name Bâtma floodplain as one of the pastures of the Oulad Nail, based on the abundance of Bâtma trees in the area, considering it an important stop for the Ben M'zab and desert tribes on their way to the city of Algiers. (SHAW, p. 340) .

As for the German traveler Paul Grehard Mariner, he described the nomads in North Africa, categorizing them into four main groups: the nomads of the plateaus, including the Oulad Nail region, the desert nomads, semi-nomads, and mountain nomads. His anthropological studies focused on the Oulad Nail tribes, as they are the largest in number and occupy the largest geographical area in Algeria (Ismail 1983, p. 36) .

The report directed towards training administrative administrators stated: "The Oulad Nail Federation extends from Bousada to Biskra, including the Amour Mountain, Laghouat, Wadi Jidi, and Touggourt, with Djelfa and M'Saâd as central points." (- Les Ouled Naïl (report), their history, origins, customs, and traditions. (AOM). GGA. H 110/88. P 03). This is not much different from what Arnaud noted, where he states: "The Bedouin tribes known as Oulad Nail are usually concentrated in the area extending between Biskra and Bousada, including Mount Seba Rous, Mount Ouaguit, and the borders of the Oran region, reaching Mount Sardon, Mount Amour, Laghouat, Wadi Jidi, and Touggourt. However, their places of presence extend beyond

these areas due to their continuous movement." (- ARNAUD: 1872, p. 277) .

Through these sources, studies, and reports that the French colonial administration possessed, which demonstrated the value and importance of the high plateaus, the homeland of the Oulad Nail tribes, the colonial authorities sought to extend their influence and control over the areas inhabited by the Oulad Nail tribes due to their strategic and economic significance, given the available material resources and considerable human power. These resources of the Oulad Nail tribes were what led Prince Abdelkader, during the expansion of his geographical jihadist resistance against French colonialism, to consider expanding his influence to their areas of presence and through this to broaden the scope of resistance since the mid-1830s, especially after the victories achieved by the resistance of Hassan the Derkaoui, which was fueled and supported by the tribes of these numerous areas, led by the Oulad Nail, who were renowned for their strength, bravery, horsemanship, wealth, and rejection of the colonizers. These were factors that the prince invested in strengthening his state, especially in terms of military support through men, supplies, and horses (ARNAUD: 1873 p. 376).

1- Support of the Oulad Nail Tribes for the Prince and Colonial Reactions

The mobility of the Oulad Nail tribes across the homeland, in search of livelihoods, trade, or grazing for their livestock, allowed them to stay updated on the developments occurring in the coastal northern regions. These areas were subjected to occupation, repression, killing, and injustice against the Algerians, which led to popular reactions among the inhabitants of these regions, fostering solidarity with their brethren in the north. This situation prompted many individuals from these areas to join the jihad and resistance .

Due to the communications initiated by Prince Abdelkader to enlist the Oulad Nail region in the struggle alongside his resistance, he

began sending messengers to the Oulad Nail starting from late 1835 or early 1836, calling for support and allegiance. This call from the prince received a significant response from the tribes in these regions. The first to declare allegiance to the prince from the Oulad Nail was Sheikh Oulad Saad Ben Salem Si Bouhali (François 1995, p. 112), who sent a message to the prince affirming the allegiance of the Oulad Saad Ben Salem to him and their support for the jihad (Brabih: (1849-1854)) .

By the beginning of 1838, Prince Abdelkader was able to extend his influence over the provinces of Oran and Titteri and the Algerian territory extending between Chiffa and Wadi Qadara, as well as Maghouna and the eastern Zab. In 1841, he began to organize the Oulad Nail tribes by appointing a new leader, Ben Youssef, as their Agha, placing a Sheikh at the head of each tribe. Among those appointed were Tali Belkahl, Mohamed Ben Zbida, Miloud, Ben Atiya, and Hiran as tribal leaders. However, he restructured this organization in 1845, appointing Si Cherif from the Oulad Ghwen as a Khalifa and naming Tali Belkahl from the Oulad Si Ahmed, Mohamed Ben Atiya from the Oulad Diya, and Ben Abdul Salam from the Oulad Ghwen as Aghas. (- Archives De Aix –En Provence, Gouvernement Général De L’Algérie, 10h/78. Armée D’Algérie, Province D’Alger, Subdivision De Médéa, Année 1846, 47, 48. Renseignement Historique Et Géographique 1- Historique Des Oulad Nays (M. Le Général Marey) Organisation De Cette Tribus. Note Sur Les Oulad Nails Et L’organisation A Leur Donner) .

The urgent military necessity compelled the prince to rely on the loyalty of tribal leaders to grant them administration over the regions under his authority. Therefore, he did not interfere in the internal affairs of the tribes, maintaining the same leadership structure that existed during the Ottoman era. He aimed to ensure the stability of the previous administration and was able to utilize the same mechanisms that the Ottoman authorities had established for tax collection and appeasing traditional leaders to avoid the recurrence of the experiences of many local leaders who had placed their services under colonial authority, similar to the Zamalek and Dawair tribes in the

west, and the Oulad Mukhtar, Oulad Shuaib, and Bwaich tribes in Titteri after the fall of Zamalek and Prince Abdelkader on May 16, 1843.

2- Colonial Authorities' Positions on the Jihad of the Oulad Nail:

In the framework of the colonial expansion strategy for total occupation, under the leadership of General Bugeaud (Bassem, 1982, p. 11), the colonial administration adopted a different approach to expansion and settlement through military force and extermination, on one hand, and countering the Algerian resistance led by the prince by surrounding and curbing its military expansion and influence, and by blocking its advance toward the mountainous coastal ranges where the open plains are located (Tlemceni, 2022, p. 29) .

Through this repressive and expansionist policy imposed by the sword, they allowed their armies to employ all inhumane means and methods to achieve their colonial goals, resulting in massacres and destruction that still bear scars in the collective memory today .

As a consequence of the Oulad Nail joining the jihad alongside Prince Abdelkader's resistance, French forces mobilized their efforts to punish them and prevent them from supporting the prince with money, arms, horses, or supplies .

Given the vast areas inhabited by the Oulad Nail, the French authorities resorted to imposing military discipline and laying siege by following a military strategy of launching campaigns and formations led by their best generals, sending them periodically against the Oulad Nail (Sanousi, 2014, p. 28). During the course of colonial penetration into the central steppes and the edges of the desert, nearly 23 military campaigns were conducted, all of which were characterized by plundering, destruction, invasion, and killing against the Oulad Nail tribes without distinction between young and old. In this research paper, we focus on one military leader, General Marey Monge, who was the first to lead a military campaign toward the high plateaus and the edges of the desert in February 1844.

Who is General Marey Monge and What was His Military Policy Against the Oulad Nail ?

3- -General Marey Monge (1863-1796)

Marey Monge Guillaume-Stanislas was born on March 17, 1796, in the city of Neuilly, France. He was the youngest son of Monge, the founder of the French polytechnic school. He served as an officer in the French artillery, entering the polytechnic school in 1814, then joining the engineering school in 1817. He attained the rank of lieutenant in the artillery in 1824, and was promoted to captain in 1828. He published 12 reports that attracted the attention of the higher artillery council, which earned him the title of attaché to the French military campaign in Algeria in 1830, as an officer in the general staff, and he participated in the Battle of Staoueli. He became the first commander of the local cavalry regiment in October 1830 (- Narcisse 1889, p. 375) .

He returned to Algeria after a period at the head of 300 fighters and was promoted to Marshal in 1843. He led the first exploratory campaign toward the high plateaus and the edges of the desert in February 1844. During this time, he was tasked with preparing a topographical study of the distance between Medea and Laghouat and provided maps of this study to the military forces, which benefited from them in subjugating the areas of the central plateaus and the edges of the desert. He was promoted to the rank of general in 1848, then transferred to serve as Deputy Governor-General of Algeria from July 20 to November 4, 1848. After being summoned to France, he successively held the positions of commander of the 5th Alpine Army Corps in Dijon, commander of the 13th Corps in Clermont-Ferrand, and finally the 3rd Corps in Metz (Narcisse 1889, p. 376). He passed away on June 15, 1863, and among his most significant literary works are the translations of the poems of Prince Abdelkader, which included military organizations, and writings about the Laghouat Campaign of 1844 and the history of the Zanakhra in 1864 (Narcisse 1889, p. 376).

4- Campaigns of General Marey Monge against the Ouled Nail (1845-1844)

In 1844, the colonial authorities continued their military and expansionist efforts to occupy the desert following the elimination of the Zamalek under Prince Abdelkader and the ongoing pursuit of him.

All of this marks the beginning of a new strategy in the expansionist settlement policy in the interior regions and the desert, starting from the borders of the high and middle plateaus as the first phase, reaching the northern borders of the desert as the second phase .

As for the Ouled Nail area, which belongs to the vast geographical region of the middle high plateaus, military campaigns began to roam the area, with the foremost being the column of General Marey Monge, who conducted three military campaigns to subdue the region under colonial administration by force and to block the way for the return of the prince.

5-The First Campaign of General Marey Monge (March 1844):

The exploratory campaign conducted by General Marey Monge in 1844 is considered the first campaign directed toward the plateaus and central plains where the Ouled Nail are located, exploiting the circumstances facing the resistance led by Prince Abdelkader following the fall of the Zamalek, cutting off trade routes between the tribes supporting and backing the prince, and preventing the Ouled Nail from their journeys to the Tell (- François De Villaret: Previous reference, pp. 111, 112). All these factors encouraged the colonial authorities to carry out punitive campaigns against the Ouled Nail tribes who supported Prince Abdelkader and formed a fortress and defensive lines. Hence, General Marey Monge launched his military campaign towards the Ouled Nail .

The campaign began in March 1844, where a force of 1,500 soldiers crossed the small desert heading south of the capital of the Tell, Médéa, towards the Sahari mountains and then through Djelfa, reaching as far as the Zakar Palace (Senoussi, p. 58). Arnaud mentions that Marey Monge was the first Frenchman to penetrate the desert (Chouali 2017, p. 209). During his presence in the area, Sheikh of Laghouat Ahmed Ben Salem (Issa 2009, p. 22.) proposed placing southern Algeria under French authority (- Arnaud: p:310, 311). This proposal was approved after consultations with Marshal Bugeaud, and Ahmed Ben Salem was appointed as the Khalifa in the south on behalf of France (Arnaud, 1873, p. 311). As a result of the campaign, General Marey Monge imposed a financial penalty of 400,000 French

francs as a war tax on the southern tribes, primarily the Ouled Nail tribes. (Le Moniteur Algérien 1844, p. 02).

6-The Second Campaign of General Marey Monge (May-June 1844):

A second military campaign was formed in May-June 1844 (Marey 1844, p. 5). It consisted of 2,800 soldiers, 1,700 animals, food supplies sufficient for approximately 21 days, and 7,200 cartridges. The campaign reached the Tajmout Palace near Ain Madi on 21 May 1844, where General Marey Monge found Ahmed Ben Salem and the local chiefs loyal to him (Kazi, 2014, p. 59). Marey Monge appointed Ahmed Ben Salem as Khalifa over Laghouat and its palaces and tribes on 23 May 1844, thus the Laghouat area and its outskirts fell under French rule, away from the authority of the prince .

It can be said that one of the outcomes of the second campaign in 1844 was the first era of dispersing the Ouled Nail confederation between southerners and northerners during the French occupation (Chouali, p. 201).

7-The Third Campaign of General Marey Monge (1845):

French colonial newspapers began to address the situation in Ouled Nail territory, providing important details about the region and its rebellious tribes. For instance, the newspaper "L'Afrique" (L'Afrique, p. 138) mentioned that calm had spread over the Tell region and that the Arabs had submitted to the leaders appointed by France, except for the Ouled Nail, who had broken their vows of obedience and still bore the burden of paying a large part of the imposed fine. Meanwhile, on April 15, 1845, the newspaper "Le Moniteur" reported the details of an attack led by one of the Ouled Nail chiefs, Tili Belkahl, against a caravan of the Khalifa of Laghouat, "Ahmed Ben Salem," which was on its way to Médéa carrying livestock, goods, and tents. Although the caravan was dispersed, he managed to reach Médéa (L'espérance, 1845, p. 02) along with some members of his caravan. As a result, General Marey Monge decided to invade the Ouled Nail to restore the status of the French Khalifa and punish the rebels (Chouali et al., previous reference, pp. 211-212) .

On November 24, 1845, the campaign set off from Médéa, composed of the third battalion of the Zouaves and the first and second battalions (A.M.G, H212). The expedition included infantry regiments, a battalion of Algerian sharpshooters, the fourth and fifth companies of African sharpshooters, a battery of artillery, and a rescue unit, with the command staff led by General Marey Monge, with Bedeau as the deputy (Alphonse, 1937, p. 29). The column reached Ben Chekaw in Médéa, and by the evening of November 25, it arrived at the Bukhari Palace (Tlemcani, , 2015, p. 29). On the other hand, the prince had launched a raid on the rebellious tribes adjacent to Boghar, including the Zanakra.

On November 26, 1845, Marey Monge was able to seize a massive number of livestock and cattle from the tribes living on the outskirts of the Bukhari Palace. At the same time that an African sharpshooter detachment and 400 Zouaves moved west of Wadi Majlin, Marey Monge and Bedeau advanced southward to pursue some movements reported by their spies. Marey Monge confirmed that a large number of horsemen, numbering around 3,000, attacked the pro-French tribes of the Tell region. The Aga Jdida and the Ouled Chaib tribes confronted the prince's forces that roamed the area (A.M.G.; H212) .

A military report prepared by Captain Dupin regarding Marey Monge's mission stated that it aimed to ensure stability in the areas south of Boghar and to protect the cooperating tribes from the Zanakra, Ouled Chaib, and Ouled Mokhtar, while simultaneously pursuing the army of Prince Abdelkader and tightening the siege on the supporting tribes, especially the Ouled Nail (Senoussi Naibi, p. 61) .

The report notes that Marey Monge recruited a local force of 400 horsemen from the tribes loyal to France, including the Ouled Zanakra and the Bouaich, in addition to the Ouled Mokhtar and Ouled Chaib. Thus, Marey Monge continued to chase the prince's forces, forcing him to retreat to the western Tell and depriving him of spending the winter in the plateaus. Marey Monge and his forces moved towards Qjila after receiving news about the prince's movements in the

outskirts of the area, indicating that he had not succeeded in pursuing him despite the support of General Youssef's column. General Marey Monge failed to ambush the prince.

On December 6, 1845, in reaction to General Marey Monge's failure, he retaliated against the residents of the Qjila Palace (Tlemcani, 2015, p. 30) by burning the palace due to their cooperation with the prince's forces and killing a large number of the Ouled Makhalif tribe. On December 12, 1845, the column returned to the Bukhari Palace, and General Marey Monge began organizing the tribes surrounding the palace .

Around December 20, 1845, General Marey Monge launched a reconnaissance campaign towards the Shabounia area after receiving news about the movements of the pro-prince Ouled Nail, who led a raid against the Ouled Rahman tribes (Mohamed Ben Abdul Rahman El-Disi, previous reference, p. 54). The tribes called upon the Bouaich horsemen for assistance, and the general provided military support to those tribes, where a fierce battle took place in Qiltat El-Satl, resulting in the loss of 20 men from the Ouled Nail and several others (A.M.G.; H212) .

All this support from General Marey Monge to the Ouled Rahman and Bouaich tribes was a reason for the Ouled Nail to stand alongside Prince Abdelkader in his resistance. This situation exemplifies the policy adopted by France in its attempts to divide the tribes and even create divisions within a single tribe to subdue them and hinder their resistance against the prince.

8-Marey Monge's Fourth Campaign - February 1847:

The primary reason for the launch of this campaign was to pursue the resistant Sharif Boumaiza, who had been expelled from the vicinity of Mount Amour and had taken refuge in the lands of the Ouled Nail, where he found support and hospitality. The second reason was to thwart the resistance of Sheikh Moussa Ben Hussein Al-Darqawi in Messad, where he had established his Darqawi zaouia and declared jihad (Tlemcani, 2015, p. 65). In response to these events, the colonial authorities formed military columns to pursue Boumaiza. General Bedeau quickly mobilized a military column from Sétif and

another from Biskra, simultaneously requesting assistance from the Governor General, Marshal Bugeaud. The latter ordered his troops to form columns and converge on Boghar on January 26, 1847, where they came under the command of General Marey Monge (AMG:., H 213).

The military campaign commenced from Boghar toward Qiltat El-Satl via Ain Oussera, aiming to pursue Sharif Boumaiza and exact revenge on the branches of the Ouled Nail that collaborated with him. This compelled the Ouled Nail to flee south toward the Qawasim Mountains, despite the harsh weather conditions, particularly as this period saw heavy snowfall, which greatly affected their tents and livestock (AMG:., H 214).

Marey Monge's campaign had a significant impact on the areas inhabited by the Ouled Nail, particularly the stretch between Djelfa and Bou Saada, where they endured severe hardships from pursuit, confiscation, and harsh conditions coupled with a lack of fodder in the southern region. During this time, the general learned through his spies that some rebellious branches of the Ouled Nail had appeared in that area. He launched a swift campaign to pursue them, which consisted of 900 soldiers and three companies of cavalry, while leaving the remainder under the command of Colonel Kerbousia (Mangin 1894, p. 97-98).

On February 13, 1847, French forces led by Herbioun set out from Médéa to pursue the Ouled Aïssa tribe, a branch of the Ouled Nail. The forces reached Zaghir, passing through Qiltat El-Satl, and on February 15 entered the city of Djelfa, where fierce clashes broke out between them and the horsemen of the Ouled Aïssa. The French forces managed to kill 50 men and seize 500 sheep, 250 cattle, and 50 camels, while they lost three men and had eight injured soldiers, along with a significant number of horses (Barabih 2018, p. 154).

According to the official colonial newspaper published on June 30, 1847, which reported on the situation and focused on Marey Monge's campaign against the Ouled Nail and the losses they suffered, it was mentioned: "A large herd of livestock moved from Mount Boukhill to over a hundred locations in the city of Algiers, confiscated

from the Ouled Aïssa as a tax imposed on this tribe by General Marey Monge, arriving in Médéa under the simple guard of six horsemen" (Le Constitutionnel, 1847, p. 01).

On February 22, 1847, General Marey Monge ordered the branches of the Ouled Nail to move to the north of Mount Al-Muqsim, threatening that those who delayed would face a raid. Most of the tribal branches in the region were placed under house arrest in Mount Al-Muqsim, except for a few branches that refused to submit and fortified themselves, claiming they were collaborating with the prince. This information reached him through the appointment of a group of spies tasked with gathering information about the non-submissive tribes. He received intelligence about the movement of the commander of the Wadi Kurad group, a branch of the Ouled Saâd Ben Salim. In response, the general formed a light column of 900 infantry, 250 cavalry, two artillery pieces, and 800 local horsemen to raid six villages. The column reached Rujm Al-Sharqi, where they seized 100 camels, 10,000 sheep, and 100 cattle from the Ouled Saâd Ben Salim tribe following the first operation (Touillon, 1850, p. 213).

The tribes were unable to withstand and could not defend their livestock, resulting in the killing of several tribesmen. Additionally, approximately 200,000 francs were collected as a fine imposed on the tribes of the Ouled Nail region .

On Tuesday, February 23, 1847, General Marie Monge ambushed the village of El-Mejbara located at the foot of Mount Boukheil and invaded it to pursue the rebel Boumeazza, who had taken refuge there and was honored by its inhabitants while on his way to the Ziban. The "Constitutional Newspaper" reported details of two campaigns, one near Mount Boukheil and the second on February 23 near the El-Mejbara palace, executed by France's ally, the Khalifa of Laghouat, Ahmed Ben Salem. Each campaign consisted of 200 horsemen, who managed to seize 100 heads of cattle and between three to four thousand heads of sheep from the area. This campaign completely destroyed the El-Mejbara palace, necessitating its reconstruction in 1854(Le Moniteur Algérien, 1847, P01).

The general was keen on appointing leaders and sheikhs loyal to him among the local people and distributed parts of the sheep heads, while the cows were placed at the disposal of the administration, and the camels were sold at auction for the benefit of the colonial administration (Tlemcani, op. cit. p. 69).

8-1-Organization of the Region:

The general gathered the chiefs of the Ouled Nail and assigned them the following tasks:

- Appointing Tali Belkahl as Aga.
- Miloud as Deputy.
- Bourouba as the leader of the Ouled Nail.
- Meanwhile, Qattaf maintained his independent leadership.

According to the French report, the results of this campaign included (A.M.G: - Journal des opérations de la colonne expéditionnaire dirigée contre Ouled Nail, H211):

- Calmness and submission prevailed in the region of Biskra.
- The return of General Herbioun at the head of his column to Biskra.

However, they were hindered by some movements of the rebels, as they attacked General Herbioun in the southeastern region, preventing him from moving to Médéa and requesting assistance from General Marie Monge, who also headed toward them.

9-The Fifth Campaign of Marie Monge in 1848:

The last expedition of Monge against the Ouled Nail took place on May 9, 1848, shortly before his promotion to the position of acting Governor General of Algeria. In a letter he sent to Pigeau, Monge explained the reason for this campaign, stating: "All areas of Laghouat are quiet, but among the Ouled Nail, there are some leaders who have not yet surrendered... I will lead my campaign south this winter to punish the Ouled Nail for hosting individuals we consider our enemies without our approval..." (Shouli et al., op. cit. pp. 225, 226) .

In addition to these unnamed leaders, Monge listed the names of resistors that the region was sheltering at that time, including Ben Abdel Salam, who he mentioned led a small group, and Moulay Arabi, the leader of the Darqawis who fled from the Wansharis to the land of the Ouled Nail, whom Monge described as wise and intelligent. The third person mentioned was Haj Moussa the Darqawi, whom he

believed did not currently pose a significant threat to the French. The fourth name mentioned by Monge was Sidi Khaladi, who fled from Sidi Khaled (near Biskra) to the Ouled Nail, and whom Monge described as a distinguished and influential marabout. All of these individuals, according to Monge, could pose a threat to the French in the event of an uprising(Shouli et al., op. cit. p. 225).

Thus, Monge set out in the spring of 1848 from Médéa toward the Ouled Nail and met Tali Ben Lakahal with the prominent figures of the Ouled Si Ahmed near Zafran, where the tribe paid the previously mentioned war fines. Additionally, Monge fined the Ouled Ghouini 6,000 duros for hosting the "rebel" Abdel Salam(Ibid. p. 226).

One of the reasons for this campaign was the conditions that the Ouled Nail region was experiencing, which aroused the suspicion of the French generals. In a letter from Marie Monge dated December 30, 1847, addressed to Marshal Pigeau, details about the situation in the south were provided, with the last paragraph focusing on the situation in the Ouled Nail region. Monge stated :

"Here is some information about our south: All areas of Laghouat are calm. However, among the Ouled Nail, there are some leaders who have not yet surrendered, in addition to a small group led by Ben Abdel Salam, which includes 20 horsemen—a very small number. As for the non-surrendering individuals, we find:

- Moulay Arabi, the leader of the Darqawis, who is an intelligent and wise person. He left the Wansharis to settle among the Ouled Nail as a refugee rather than as an enemy to us.
- .Haj Moussa, who invaded Médéa in 1834 and was defeated by Prince Abdel Qadir between Médéa and Miliana. He returned west to Laghouat and then left it since our invasion toward the Kabylie area, where our campaigns have pursued him in "Dmad" for the past three months without any threat to us.
- .Sidi Khaladi, who was captured by General Herbioun near Sidi Khaled last year. He is a distinguished and influential marabout, but he is not dangerous at the moment.

These elements could pose a danger to us in the event of an uprising, but they exercise their influence over their own issues. I will lead my campaign south this winter to discipline the Ouled Nail for hosting individuals we consider our enemies without our approval...) (Ibid. p. 226)

Additionally, the French newspaper "L'Évangile" reported in its issue dated March 30, 1848: (We have learned that there is a multitude of thieves and bandits in the Ouled Nail ... a strange matter, as this does not occur except in countries where our rulers have not yet settled.) This implies that French authorities and their allies were affected by these actions, especially since the tribes of the Ouled Nail region were obstructing the caravans coming from Laghouat. Moreover, some "rebels" of the area took refuge in Tamanrasset and displayed animosity toward France. Sheikh Touggurt Boujelab went to fight them, killing many of the fighters and cutting down ten thousand date palms in the orchards of Tamanrasset, whose inhabitants sought safety. Boujelab, an agent of France, agreed to this on the condition that they pay 116,000 francs as a fine to the authorities and expel all rebels against France, such as the Ouled Zaid and other factions of the Ouled Nail (L'Évangile, No. 14, March 30, 1848, State Printing Office, Algeria, p. 03).

These circumstances compelled General Marie Monge to arrest Omar Ben Waddah, known as "Akhwam," the brother of the leader Boumeazza. He was transferred to Algiers, where he was beheaded. Monge then moved from the Titteri region to the Ouled Nail in May 1848. He entered with the Aga Tali (L'Évangile, No. 18, May 30, 1848, p. 02) and quickly imposed a fine of 35,000 francs on the people and the elders of the Ouled Si Ahmed near Zafran. The newspaper "L'Évangile" mentioned in June 1848 that Monge had invaded the Ouled Nail and imposed a fine of 41,000 duros on the Ouled Si Ahmed and 6,000 duros on the Ouled Ghouini for hosting the rebel Abdel Salam. This campaign appears to have been extensive in terms of both its geographical and temporal scope, carried out in three phases with an average of one campaign per month (L'Évangile, No. 26, June 30, 1848, p. 03).

- Conclusion:

The response of the Ouled Nail tribes to Prince Abdel Qadir's call for support and solidarity was, in fact, the beginning of a resistance movement that emerged in the vast Ouled Nail region, extending from Bougar to Tamanrasset and from the Amour Mountains to the western areas of Biskra. These resistances played a crucial role in obstructing and delaying the colonial expansion project towards the south for more than a quarter of a century. This extended period is rare compared to other parts of the country. All of this led the area inhabited by the Ouled Nail to be subjected to military campaigns led by the strongest French officers. The campaigns of Marie Monge were merely a response to the policies that the Ouled Nail stood against with all their might. The frequency of these military campaigns was a direct result of the failure of those policies, which only strengthened the tribes' commitment to resistance and uprisings

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