

1624 - 1631

A captain's colour from the Catholic League supreme commander Johan Tzerclaes von Tilly's own regiment. Captured at the battle of Breitenfeld in 1631.

The Altötting Church, 80 km east of Munich, with its miraculous sculpture of the Madonna, is the most important pilgrim shrine in Bavaria. The Virgin Mary holding the Infant Jesus in her arms is depicted in a mandorla of sunrays hovering over a representation of the characteristic church with a lind tree of great age; the lower branches can be seen supported by props. General Tilly was a devoted worshiper at this shrine and his belief in the power of the Madonna's likeness is witnessed by his use of the motive on the colours of his regiment. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Lech in 1632 and is buried at Altötting, his heart being separately interred at the shrine.

Made of lightweight silk in two yellow and two white triangles, the decor carried out in coloured insertions.

Height 2,33 m, width 2,9 m.

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