

## **Augustin Marie Olivier De Langlais**

Nantes (France), March 1, 1822 – Le Mans (France), October 15, 1902

The son of Félix Laurent Olivier and Marie Françoise Hippolite Peltier, Augustin was popularly known as “De Langlois,” a nick name that suggests a tie with English, England, or Englishmen. Very little is known of his early life before 1852, when he showed up in Rome as a petty officer in the first Belgian-French Rifle Battalion, an infantry force of Papal Zouaves. He subsequently became the head of the companies-at-arms loyal to the Bourbons who were fighting to restore the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. From 1860 and 1862, he was responsible for supplying arms to the various bands of brigands in Southern Italy. In particular he was involved with the band of the famous outlaw Carmine Crocco.

We know from history that he often got into heated arguments with Catalan General Borges, who wanted to organize the various loyalist insurgents into a proper army, and who on numerous occasions offensively termed the French guerilla fighter ‘an imbecile’.

In 1864, Augustin De Langlais returned to France and was named Special Commissioner for the French Ministry of the Interior, a title that seems to indicate that he was effectively a secret agent.

After the fall from power of Napoleon III, De Langlais became a “railroad functionary,” until 1902 when he died.