

NAPOLEON THE STRATEGIST

6 APRIL — 22 JULY 2018

0 1

BATTLES

0 2

GLOSSARY

0 3

MILESTONE DATES

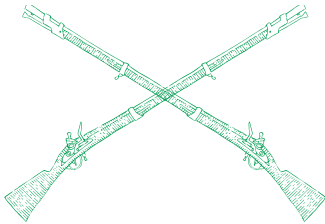
BATTLES

01

- ARCOLE - 15-17 NOVEMBER 1796

FIRST ITALIAN CAMPAIGN, 1796-1797

On 15 November 1796, General Bonaparte attacked the town of Arcole, where the Austrian army was entrenched. Leading his troops in an attack across the bridge, he was driven back. However, the French general did not give up and had a bridge of boats built across the river. On the 17th, he ordered a new attack which forced the enemy to fall back.



- THE PYRAMIDS - 21 JULY 1798

EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN, 1798-1799

On 21 July 1798, the French army led by General Bonaparte met the Mamluk forces near Cairo. The French infantry with its 25,000 men formed into squares protected by artillery pieces. The Mamluk cavalry joined battle but immediately came under fire from the French infantry squares and had to fall back. Bonaparte entered Cairo the next day.

- MARENGO - 14 JUNE 1800

SECOND ITALIAN CAMPAIGN, 1800

In June 1800, after crossing the Alps, Bonaparte marched on Genoa to come to the aid of Masséna's division, besieged by the Austrians. On the 14th, he clashed with Melas's army, which attacked him on the Marengo plain. Forced to withdraw, the French army took advantage of the arrival of reinforcements from Desaix's division. Victory went to the French.

- AUSTERLITZ - 2 DECEMBER 1805

GERMAN CAMPAIGN, 1805

At Austerlitz, Napoleon was fighting both Emperor Alexander I of Russia and the Holy Roman Emperor Francis II. Pretending to withdraw, he created the impression that he was in a weak position: this trick encouraged his enemies to attack. On the morning of 2 December 1805, the Austro-Russians attacked the villages of Telnitz and Sokolnitz, but their offensive was brilliantly contained by Davout. At the same time, Napoleon was taking the enemy by surprise with an attack which broke through the centre of the allied army. The enemy suffered a decisive defeat.



- JENA/AUERSTAEDT -
14 OCTOBER 1806

PRUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, 1806

In October 1806, Napoleon met the Prussians in Germany. On the morning of 14th October, he attacked the enemy lines at Jena, believing that he was facing the entire Prussian army. Further north, the 3rd corps led by Marshal Davout, who had received the order to take the enemy from the rear, came up against the main body of the Prussian army at Auerstedt: despite its inferior numbers, it won a resounding victory over the enemy, adding to Napoleon's success at Jena.

- EYLAU -
8 FEBRUARY 1807

POLISH CAMPAIGN, 1807

On 8 February 1807, Napoleon faced the Russians at Eylau. The French columns led by Augereau, blinded by a snowstorm, were decimated by the Russian guns: the army corps was lost and the French army in a critical situation. To resolve the situation, Napoleon decided to send in his cavalry. With Murat at its head, it succeeded in retrieving the situation.

- FRIEDLAND -
14 JUNE 1807

POLISH CAMPAIGN, 1807

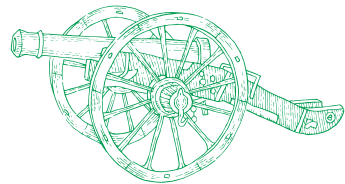
In June 1807, Napoleon met the Russians in Poland. On the 13th, he sent Marshal Lannes' army corps to Friedland in the hope of forcing the enemy army to fight. Although he had fewer men, Lannes attacked the Russians and informed Napoleon. The Emperor hastened to the aid of his marshal at the head of three

army corps and the Imperial Guard. The battle gradually shifted in favour of the French troops who finally triumphed.

- WAGRAM -
5-6 JULY 1809

AUSTRIAN CAMPAIGN, 1809

On 6 July 1809, Napoleon decided to muster a battery of a hundred cannons to the north of Vienna in order to contain the Austrian army. The canons fired several thousand times. 8,000 French infantrymen with fixed bayonets in columns and reinforced by several cavalry charges then crushed the Austrian army. Napoleon won a major victory, forcing the Austrians to sue for peace command.



- BORODINO -
7 SEPTEMBER 1812

RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN, 1812

On 7 September 1812 at the Battle of Borodino, the 100,000 men who made up Napoleon's army encountered an equal number of Russian troops led by Marshal Kutuzov. The Russian commander adopted a defensive strategy: his soldiers were entrenched in fortified redoubts. Napoleon ordered his heavy cavalry to attack the redoubts. The action was unheard of, since the infantry were usually assigned this type of mission, and forced the Russians to withdraw.

- LEIPZIG -
16-19 OCTOBER 1813

GERMAN CAMPAIGN, 1813

In October 1813, after the slaughter during the retreat from Russia, Napoleon was leading an inexperienced army which had endured several defeats: he concentrated all his forces around Leipzig. On 16th October, the Russian, Austrian and Prussian allies attacked the town. After four days of fierce fighting, the French were beaten. Known as the 'Battle of the Nations', it was the bloodiest combat in the Empire's history.

- WATERLOO -
18 JUNE 1815

BELGIAN CAMPAIGN, 1815

On 18 June 1815, Napoleon attacked the British and Prussian troops stationed in what is now Belgium: 70,000 French soldiers faced 68,000 British, German, Dutch and Belgian troops comprising Wellington's army, firmly dug in on the heights of Waterloo. Napoleon launched several attacks against the British lines, which resisted until the arrival of Prussian reinforcements led by General Blucher. Napoleon was vanquished and abdicated a second time.

**YOU CAN CONTINUE YOUR VISIT ON THE INVALIDES SITE,
WHERE NAPOLEON HAS LEFT A LASTING MARK:**

ON THE SECOND FLOOR

23 exhibition rooms contain collections relating to Napoleonic military history. This floor also proposes a visit directly linked to the Napoleon the Strategist exhibition as well as new multimedia installations.

ON THE FIRST FLOOR

The cabinets of curiosities feature a series of figurines, artillery models and musical instruments, some of them dating back to the First Empire.

ON THE GROUND FLOOR

In the Vauban Room, you will find three cavalymen from the Napoleonic wars era.

SOUTH GALLERY

Artillery equipment from the Napoleonic era is displayed on the first floor.

MAIN COURTYARD

Towering over the courtyard is a statue of Napoleon by Charles Émile Seurre. The statue once stood atop of the Vendôme column.

THE DOME CHURCH

Is home to Napoleon's body.

02

GLOSSARY

Here you can find definitions of the words marked with an asterisk on the exhibition panels.

ARMY CORPS / *n.* { 'ɑ:mi kɔ:ɾ }

Created in 1805, the army corps are made up of troops from all branches (infantry*, cavalry* and artillery*) under the same commander. They are autonomous and capable of mustering, marching along the same route and deploying in a single day.

ARTILLERY / *n.* { ɑ: 'ti:ləri }

The artillery branch covers all heavy weapons (cannons, mortars and howitzers) used to launch projectiles (cannonballs, grapeshot, bombs and shells) long distances at the enemy or its positions. Artillery pieces are used by gunners. (see Cavalry, Infantry)

BATTALION / *n.* { bæ 'tæli.ən }

A battalion comprises a varying number of foot soldiers, trained to take action and fight together as though forming a single body. It is created by combining several companies. A company is led by a captain. A battalion is led by a battalion commander. Combining several battalions from the same branch forms a regiment. (see Squadron)

BATTLE / *n.* { 'bæt.əl }

A battle is a fight between two armies or navies whose outcome influences the course or conclusion of a war.

BRIGADE / *n.* { brɪ 'geɪd }

A brigade is a unit generally made up of two or three regiments in the same branch: infantry*, cavalry* or artillery*.

CAMPAIGN / *n.* { kæm 'peɪn }

A campaign covers all military operations, including manoeuvres* and battles*. It is led by a fighting force in a given geographical area, at a given moment, pursuing a specific goal.

CAVALRY / *n.* { 'kæv.əl.ri }

The cavalry branch covers all military units fighting on horseback, and the soldiers are called cavalymen. (see Artillery, Infantry)

CAVALRY CHARGE / *n.*

{'kæv.əl.ri tʃɑ:dʒ}

A cavalry charge is not a stampeding forward push, but an offensive manoeuvre organised on a squadron* basis. The charge begins slowly before speeding up as the riders approach the target, so they can reach the necessary galloping speed over the last few metres for the shock attack* to work.

COLUMN / *n.* {'kɒl.əm}

A column is a formation where soldiers are positioned behind each other across a front with limited width but significant depth. It can be used for marches or in combat. (see Line)

DIVISION / *n.* {'dɪ'vɪʒ.ən}

A military formation created in 1788 by royal decree, the division was then made up of a cavalry brigade* and of one to four infantry brigades* supported by around thirty artillery* pieces. This joint forces unit has all the resources it needs to survive, march and fight autonomously.

FIRE / *n.* {'faɪə}

Fire encompasses several types of devices used by armies to attack enemies at a distance. It is more efficient when concentrated on a specific enemy position, when it combines several types of firing devices, and when the army is mobile enough to change target. (see Shock attack)

INFANTRY / *n.* {'ɪn.fən.tri}

The infantry branch covers military units fighting on foot, and the soldiers are called infantrymen. (see Artillery, Cavalry)

LINE / *n.* {'laɪn}

A line is a formation where soldiers are positioned next to each other on a broad but shallow front. (see Column)

LOGISTICS / *n.* {'lɒ'dʒɪs.tɪks}

Logistics cover all operations relating to army food and ammunition supplies, transport, combat, evacuations and medical treatment.

MANOEUVRE / *n.* {'mə'nu:vər}

The goal of manoeuvres is to confuse the enemy by moving troops around. They target the enemy's weak points and try, for example, to outflank and encircle it and cut it off from its supply bases. It requires troops to be highly mobile, thus increasing the opportunities for action and for surprise effects.

REGIMENT / *n.* {'redʒ.ɪ.mənt}

A regiment is a body of troops made up of several battalions or squadrons from the same branch and commanded by a colonel. During the Revolution, the regiment was called a demi-brigade. (see Brigade).

SHOCK ATTACK / *n.* {'ʃɒk ə'tæk}

A shock attack aims to disorganise or destroy the enemy by setting a mass of men in motion in a violent manoeuvre against one or more enemy positions. The mass of men is organised either in infantry columns, who advance with fixed bayonets, or as a cavalry* charge* with drawn swords. It relies on the men being disciplined and determined to engage the enemy in close combat. (see Fire)

SKIRMISHERS / n. { 'skɜːmɪʃ.ərs }

Deploying skirmishers is a battle tactic used by the infantry, often with the deployment of light infantrymen in front of the main body of troops to harass the enemy using firearms.

SQUADRON / n. { 'skwɒd.rən }

A squadron is the cavalry equivalent of a battalion*. It is led by a squadron commander.

SQUARE / n. { skweə }²

The square is a defensive tactical* formation used by the infantry* to repel a cavalry charge. The soldiers position themselves in three rows. The first row of soldiers kneels on the ground as the second row fires. The last row holds fire. To increase the action's efficiency, the commander, positioned in the middle of the square, gives the order to fire at the last minute. The cavalry* is often powerless to get the better of this human fortification and has to resort to artillery*.

STAFF / n. { stɑːf }

Military staff is made up of officers in charge of helping military commanders with their tasks.

STRATEGY / n. { 'stræt.ə.dʒi }

Strategy encompasses all operations relating to warfare in general, defending or conquering territory, drawing up campaign plans and large-scale operations, the principles for deploying armies, and the art of leading them until they enter into contact with the enemy. Napoleon discovered the word in Saint Helena in a translation of a book by Archduke Charles of Austria. Napoleon referred to 'grand tactics', like the 18th-century authors he had read.

TACTICS / n. { 'tæktɪks }

Tactics comprise all operations relating to the battle field when armies face each other. In particular, they concern infantry troops' movements and positioning, the use of artillery fire and cavalry charges.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CURATORS

ÉMILIE ROBBE: chief heritage curator, head of the modern department

GRÉGORY SPOURDOS: senior documentary research fellow at the modern department.

HÉLÈNE BOUDOU-REUZÉ: conservation assistant at the painting and sculpture department.

JULIA BOVET: assistant curator

PICTURES AND IMAGE RIGHTS

LÉA CHARLIQUART: conservation assistant at the modern department

LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Layout design:
Helft+Pinta

Lighting design:
David Debrinay

Graphic design:
Violaine & Jérémy

PUBLICATION

Exhibition catalogue published by Éditions Liénart with the support of the Fondation Napoléon.

On sale in the museum book & gift shop.

PROGRAMME

Guided tours:

Families, school groups and students:
jeunes@musee-armee.fr

Adults: benedicte@cultural.fr
+33 (0) 0825 05 44 05

Fun family visits

Children from 8 upwards.
Price: €7 per child and €12 per adult

Bookings: musee-armee.fr or
jeunes@musee-armee.fr

Download the visit booklet and games booklet (8 and upwards) online.

Concerts

Music and the Voice of the Emperor

A cycle of 14 concerts brings to life the epic thunder of battles and other sounds of war from the Napoleonic campaigns.

Full programme, information, prices and bookings:
saisonmusicale@musee-armee.fr
+33 (0)1 44 42 54 66
5 April to 18 June 2018

Conferences

Napoleon the Strategist themes

A series of conferences shines a light on the way in which Napoleon the strategist combined military, diplomatic and economic action.

In partnership with the Université Permanente de la Ville de Paris

Austerlitz Auditorium
Free admission with reservation, subject to seat availability:
histoire@musee-armee.fr
29 May to 14 June 2018

Cinéma

The Emperor Strikes Back

Since the dawn of cinema, numerous filmmakers from

France and the rest of the world have been fascinated by Napoleon Bonaparte. The big and small screen have thus perpetuated Napoleon's legacy to an extent he could not have imagined, by highlighting his military brilliance and his role as a master strategist at the heart of a vast array of military and political matters.

The film cycle programmed to reflect the *Napoleon the Strategist* exhibition aims to illustrate the way in which this aspect has been depicted on the screen.

Austerlitz Auditorium
Free admission with reservation:
musee-armee.fr
+33 (0)1 44 42 38 77
14 to 18 May 2018

FOLLOW US



Musée de l'Armée

129, rue de Grenelle
75007 Paris
musee-armee.fr

This exhibition is supported by:



The exhibition is organized in partnership with:

Le Point

**LE FIGARO
HISTOIRE**



3 MILLESTOVE DATES

1769 -1785

ANCIEN RÉGIME. THE EDUCATION OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

15 August 1769:
Birth of Napoleon Bonaparte.

April 1779 - October 1785:
Military training at the Royal Military
Schools in Brienne and Paris.

1792 -1797

FRENCH REVOLUTION. WARS OF THE FIRST COALITION

20 April 1792: France declares war
on Austria and its allies. Start of
the Revolutionary Wars.

18 September - 18 December 1793:
Bonaparte commands the French
artillery during the siege of Toulon.

April 1796 - March 1797: In Italy,
General Bonaparte wins a series
of victories against the Austrians
(Montenotte, Mondovi, Castiglione,
Lodi, Arcole, Rivoli, and so on).

17 October 1797:
Austria is defeated. France annexes
Belgian territories and extends
its influence over Italy.

1798 -1802

1804

FIRST EMPIRE. NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BECOMES EMPEROR

18 May 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte
becomes Emperor of France by
a *senatus consultum*.

2 December 1804: Coronation
of Napoleon I, Emperor of the French.

REVOLUTION/CONSULATE. WARS OF THE SECOND COALITION

July 1798 - August 1799:
The French army commanded by
General Bonaparte occupies Egypt
after its victory on 21 July 1798 at
the Battle of the Pyramids.

February - June 1799:
Bonaparte is beaten in Syria after his
defeat at Acre.

9 November 1799:
Coup of 18 Brumaire, Year 8:
Bonaparte becomes First Consul.

April - December 1800: The French
army under Bonaparte crosses the Alps
and defeats the Austrians at Marengo
on 14 June 1800, restoring a situation
marked by a series of French defeats
in 1799.

25 March 1802: The Treaty of Amiens
brings the Revolutionary Wars to
an end. Europe is at peace for the first
time in a decade.

1805

FIRST EMPIRE. WARS OF THE THIRD COALITION

8-20 October 1805:
Napoleon forces the Austrian army
to capitulate at Ulm.

14 November 1805:
Napoleon enters Vienna.

2 December 1805: Napoleon wins
a decisive victory against the Austro-
Russian forces at Austerlitz.

26 December 1805: Treaty of Pressburg:
Austria, beaten, loses its influence
in Italy and Germany, which profits
France and its allies.

1806 -1807

FIRST EMPIRE. WARS OF THE FOURTH COALITION

October 1806: Start of the wars of
the Fourth Coalition against France.

14 October 1806: Napoleon wins
a major victory over the Prussians at
Jena. The same day, Marshal Davout
beats the Prussians at Auerstedt.

27 October 1806:
Napoleon enters Berlin.
The war against Russia continues.

8 February 1807:
French and Russian forces clash in
a bloody battle at Eylau.

14 June 1807:
Napoleon wins a major victory over
the Russians at Friedland.

7-9 July 1807: France and Russia sign
a treaty of alliance at Tilsit.
Prussia loses some of its territory to
countries allied with Napoleon.

1808 -1813

FIRST EMPIRE. PENINSULAR WAR

April 1808: Bayonne meeting. Napoleon forces the King of Spain to abdicate, replacing him with Joseph Bonaparte, his own brother.

2-3 May 1808: The people of Madrid rise up against the French presence. The partisan uprising spreads across the country.

19 June 1808: France's General Dupont is forced to capitulate at Bailén.

3 November 1808: Napoleon intervenes personally in Spain and takes control at the head of the army.

30 November 1808: Napoleon wins a victory over the Spanish at the Somosierra pass.

4 December 1808: Napoleon forces Madrid to surrender.

21 February 1809: Saragossa is captured by the French after fierce street fighting.

17 January 1809: Napoleon quits Spain. He leaves his forces under the command of his brother and several marshals, but they fail to defeat the British-backed Hispano-Portuguese forces.

21 June 1813: At Vitoria, the French army is dealt a decisive defeat and withdraws from all of Spain apart from Catalonia.

1809

FIRST EMPIRE. WARS OF THE FIFTH COALITION

21-22 May 1809: The French army under Napoleon is repelled by the Austrians at the Battle of Aspern-Essling.

6 July 1809: Napoleon wins a major victory over the Austrians at Wagram.

14 October 1809: Treaty of Schönbrunn. France consolidates its positions in Germany and Italy. It annexes the Illyrian Provinces. The French Empire is at its zenith.

1812 -1814

FIRST EMPIRE. WARS OF THE SIXTH COALITION

24-25 June 1812: Napoleon's Grande Armée crosses the Neman and invades Russia.

7 September 1812: On the Moskova (Borodino), the Grande Armée repels the Russians after a fierce battle.

14 September 1812: Napoleon enters Moscow.

19 October 1812: Napoleon leaves Moscow. The retreat from Russia begins.

26-29 November 1812: Harassed by Russian forces, the Grande Armée manages to cross the Berezina River, but with heavy losses.

Early December 1812: The remnants of the Grande Armée reach Vilnius. Of the 600,000 men who marched into Russia, less than 80,000 are fit to fight.

April 1813: The war in Germany continues against the Russians, Austrians, Prussians and Swedes.

May - August 1813: Napoleon wins several victories, notably at Lützen, Bautzen and Dresden.

16-19 October 1813: Napoleon loses the Battle of Leipzig. He is forced to abandon Germany and retreat to France.

January - March 1814: Napoleon wins several victories, notably at Brienne, Montmirail and Montereau.

30-31 March 1814: Despite his victories, Napoleon cannot prevent the fall of Paris.

6 April 1814: Napoleon I abdicates for the first time.

3 May 1814: Napoleon arrives on the island of Elba, becoming its sovereign.

1815

WARS OF THE SEVENTH COALITION

1 March 1815: Napoleon lands at Golfe-Juan at the head of 1,000 men and marches on Paris.

20 March 1815: Napoleon arrives in Paris and resumes power.

15 June 1815: Start of the Belgian campaign.

16 June 1815: Napoleon wins his last victory over the Prussians at Ligny.

18 June 1815: At Waterloo, the French army under Napoleon is crushed by the British and Prussian coalition.

22 June 1815: Napoleon I abdicates for the second time. He is exiled to the island of Saint Helena.

5 May 1821: Napoleon dies in captivity.

