



Austerlitz 2016 – The *Coalition* begins to crack as Napoleon (Ed Wimble COA– green shirt) orders the Guard forward. The Tsar’s staff (Dennis Spors ME - white shirt and Jim Soto ME blue shirt to Dennis’ left), contemplate a response.

## ***Marshal Enterprises’ Periodic Blog #4***

We at Marshal Enterprises (ME) are bearing down and getting ready for our next release...but we will not be announcing the name of the game until the Consim meeting in Tempe, held this year from June 23 to June 30. We will be announcing the title during one of the special meetings which are always part of the Consim meeting—probably during the first part of the week...and we hope to do it with a certain amount of hoopla. This new release, as we did with all of our other releases, will be published on October 1. Also, as is our custom we will only publish 400 numbered copies.

The game will also be played as part of *Duel in the Desert*, so those of you there at Consim will be able to see it there in all its glory. *Duel in the Desert* is one of the few monster games in the La Bataille community every year. We play using *Premier* rules, which are especially designed for large, multi-player games.

## ***Duel in the Desert to Introduce New ME Title***

The *Duel in the Desert* contest functions as a playtest for us at ME, and we always learn something from the competitive nature of our contest. But we also have a rip-roaring good time.

We started attending the Consimworld Expo in 2011 where we played *Duel in the Desert* for the first time (the initial *Duel* was *La Bataille de la Moscova*). We have played every year since—starting to introduce our new releases in 2013 (Leipzig). This year, *Duel in the Desert* will have 14 people signed up to play in what will be our largest game in terms of participants.

Playtests have already started in California for our new game. We are experimenting with some peripheral game systems to supplement the *La Bataille* system. We have some interesting design issues which have arisen and are being resolved in a unique fashion for this particular game. We will keep you all posted as to the progress, but there have been several permutations of the new system. The new game will have the equivalent of 8 1/2 maps. There are also some additional charts and maps.

## ***La Prusse 1806 Down To Less Than 50 Copies Left***

As for *La Bataille Pour La Prusse 1806*, we are down to less than 50 games left for sale as of mid-April. We are pleased that we continue to have new customers. This month we have seen new customers from Italy to Yuma and from New York to San Diego, not to mention our continuing purchases from several of our existing customers. We know our hobby needs to find new players, so as we find those newer players we will want to make sure we make their entry into the *La Bataille* community as easy as possible...every new *La Bataille* release will either have a small game to play in just a couple of hours or a smaller scenario of a larger game or a small game. There are actually two smaller games in the *Prusse 1806* package. There is *La Bataille de Saalfeld*, which can easily be played in just a couple of hours. The results of that game can affect the setup for the *Jena* games. There is also *La Bataille de Halle*, which won a Roberts award when it was first released back in 2011.

*Halle* features Marshal Jean Bernadotte. One of our editorial pieces is about Marshal Bernadotte and explains how he became the King of Sweden. Though Bernadotte has many detractors among those with a French bent; he was, above all, the consummate survivor, and our piece demonstrates his cat-like nine lives abilities. He became the most successful participant in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars in addition to being married to the legendary Desiree Clary. We hope you will read our essay on this most successful man in *La Bataille pour la Prusse 1806*.



*General Count Horace Sebastiani*

### ***General Count Horace Sebastiani, ME's Man of the Moment***

We have developed a special fondness for noting the non-military abilities of many of the French generals and marshals, especially Napoleon's aides de camp, during the Napoleonic era. We have already written about General Count Jean Rapp, who in addition to winning the last battle of the Napoleonic Wars at La Suffel on June 28, 1815 two weeks after Waterloo, was a magnificent administrator during two different stints as Governor of Danzig. We have also written of General Count Henri Bertrand, the engineer extraordinaire, whose bridging feats at Aspern-Essling and Wagram were just but a few of his non-military feats accomplished by this "first and final" Bonapartist who, with his family, was with Napoleon during the Emperor's final days on St. Helena.

This month, as our Marshal Enterprises Man of the Moment, we will consider the talents of the Corsican-born General Count Horace Sebastiani de la Porta, who in addition to his relatively modest military skills excelled as a diplomat both during Napoleon's rule, but also after the fall of Bonaparte. His most noteworthy diplomatic accomplishment during Empire was in 1807 when, as French Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, convinced the Ottomans to declare war on the Russians, and then assisted the Turks in defeating the British fleet which attempted to take Constantinople.



*Ambassador and General Sebastiani thwarting the British at Constantinople in 1807*

After being recalled to Paris, he participated in the Spanish campaigns, commanding the IV Corps for several years. There were those who reported he had plundered several Roman Catholic convents in Spain. Whether that is true, that allegation is minimized by his restoration of the Moorish palace at *The Alhambra*, where he was noted to live in lavish luxury. The American author Washington Irving, he of *The Knickerbocker Tales*, wrote of Sebastiani's restorative powers to the ruins in Spain and claimed that civilization can thank Sebastiani for all that did in Granada for the arts and architecture.

Sebastiani started the 1812 campaign in Russia as a cavalry divisional commander. However, as casualties mounted, he became a cavalry corps commander and was the first French command to enter Moscow after Borodino. Sebastiani's stock fell as he had several defeats at the hands of the Russians both before and after Borodino, where he was soon dubbed General Surprise, as he was frequently surprised by the Russian commanders. In December 1812, he was named commander of all the French Cavalry—but there was precious little of that arm left. The two 1813 campaigns and into the 1814 campaign saw his star rise once again, and he fought in almost every battle of those three campaigns, becoming wounded at Leipzig by a lance, but recovering to fight at Hanau with distinction. His service with Marshal MacDonald during the 1814 campaign came with several victories in what was a lost cause.

After the Napoleonic Era, Sebastiani had a long and distinguished career as a diplomat and cabinet member during the Bourbon Restoration and reign of Louis Philippe. Finally, the murder of his daughter Fanny in 1847 had a complicated and sad tie-in to the elevation of Louis Napoleon to President of France and then later Emperor. Count Horace Sebastiani---soldier and diplomat-- is worthy as our Marshal Enterprises Man of the Moment.