

## ***Periodic Blog #5---ME Man of the Moment Spans Revolutions***

Time marches on towards the announcement of our newest game in Tempe later this month, and then our publication of that game on October 1. We have started playtesting a number of scenarios in different parts of the country...we think everyone will be pleased with the title. We have less than 40 copies of *La Bataille Pour La Prusse 1806* left in our inventory.

We already have a few people who have ordered the new title and are asking us to set aside a copy of *Prusse* now, and then when the new game comes out, the customer will be sent both *Prusse* and the new title. This is a great way to lower postage and handling costs, because we only charge for postage for one game no matter what. As has been discussed on Consim, postage costs generally continue to escalate, and our way of shoveling against that tide has been to look for creative ways to keep our costs to the consumer down, yet still provide a high level of service. Despite our postage and handling costs, we lose money on the postage charges for every copy we ship.

### ***ME's Man of the Moment***

Sometimes history is like the recipe that somehow just evolves without too much control by the chef. Despite the chef's best intentions, the dish just evolves and grows and morphs on to an entirely different culinary track, completely out of character with what was hoped to have been. And despite those human intentions, the recipe has taken on a life of its own. Just as pizza started off as little snacks made from left over unused bread dough in Naples, only to become a whole cuisine in America supported by thousands of pizza restaurants, each new one becoming more eclectic than the previous one. Or just as beer, unexpectedly, came about from the cultivation of various cereals throughout the civilized portions of the ancient world, to its exalted position as the beverage of choice for those who prefer an inebriated view of our world; the French Revolution came about through the glorious cultivation of many new ideas. Unfortunately, the humans who brought forth these revolutionary ideas, could not control them; and Europe, and the European influenced world of the time spun out of control.....good thing it did for this blog, otherwise we might be writing about the cultivation of grains rather than the Age of Napoleon.

Many historical events are often like that, and this blog's Marshal Enterprises (ME) Man of the Moment is a perfect example where the fates were fooled by how an individual might have been destined to the dustbins of history, but in fact became, if only for a brief time, a hero for the ages. How this all comes together will be revealed later in this piece, but an introduction is now in order.

### ***Archduke John-- Hapsburg Military Wunderkind***

Our hero is none other than the Archduke John (or Johann), the Hapsburg relation whose brother was Francis II, last Holy Roman Emperor—and then became Francis I, the first Emperor of Austria in what was the fast-shifting political order of Europe in the Age of Revolution and Age of Napoleon.

The son of Leopold II, the Holy Roman Emperor from 1790-1792, young Johann was born in Tuscany, and was fluent in Italian and considerably less so in German. John had 16 siblings, including the Emperor and his general brother, the Archduke Charles, the finest military mind from Austria at the time. His aunt was none other than Marie-Antoinette, Queen of France, and the irony of his pedigree will become evident later in this piece.



*Archduke John's Portrait at a Young Age*

Though only born in 1782 (and 13 years younger than Napoleon), John, at the age of 18 was named commander of the combined Imperial and Bavarian army in the fall of 1800. This was the most important command the Austrians had. The Archduke, however, did not necessarily aspire to his command. It was just that no Austrian, including his brother, the Archduke Charles, would otherwise take command. He was facing the French Army of the Rhine, at the time, the most important command in the French army. The Army of the Rhine straddled the upper Rhine in Southwestern Germany and was commanded by General Jean Moreau.

John initially managed his forces well in the first couple weeks of the campaign, but John was no match for the wily Moreau, who defeated him easily at Hohenlinden on December 3, 1800 after a few days of maneuvering. After the battle, the French pursued John so relentlessly that in the five succeeding days after the battle, the Austrians had disintegrated into a mob and were just 80 kilometers from Vienna. At that point, the Archduke Charles took command of the Austrian remnants and arranged for an armistice. This set the stage for a treaty with First Consul Bonaparte, who also had defeated the Austrians at Marengo in June 1800.

### ***John in the Wars of the Second and Third Coalitions***

After the subsequent Peace of Luneville, John became a director of engineering and fortifications for the Austrians, and later director of an Austrian military academy. John learned much in the less than five years that passed between Hohenlinden and the start of the War of the Third Coalition in the fall of 1805. Still in his early twenties, John again took a military command—this time commanding the Austrian forces guarding several mountain passes in the Tyrol. He was far more successful in his generalship, so much so that he was awarded the Military Order of Maria Theresa for his efforts in this again losing effort for the Austrians. More important than his military efforts were the relationships John established in the Tyrol, which would later be his home for the rest of his life? Though the Austrians had been defeated and the Bavarians now controlled the Tyrol, John continued to covertly work with many Tyrolean leaders who, like Andres Hofer, were waiting to break from the Bavarian administration which was perceived as cruel and too secular for a religious region.

When the War of the Fifth Coalition erupted in 1809, the Tyrolians also erupted into revolt. The Austrians had used the complex but broken terms of the earlier treaty between Bavaria and Austria to initiate the war with Bavaria and their French patrons by invading Bavaria (mainly the Tyrolean part of what was then Bavaria). During that war, Archduke John was commander of the Austrian Army of Inner Austria. His army invaded Italy and faced off against the French commander of the Army of Italy, Eugene Beauharnais, and Napoleon's step-son. After winning several minor victories, including

Sacile and Caldiero, John was finally defeated by a reinforced Eugene at Piave River. John started pulling back into the heart of Austria, where Eugene defeated him again at Raab on June 14. John pulled back into Hungary and was ordered to rejoin his brother, Archduke Charles at Wagram, but literally was hours late in joining the Austrian main host and preventing the French defeat of the Hapsburgs. Those few hours might have changed the outcome of Wagram, but it was too late.

Despite the defeat of his brother at Wagram, John wanted to continue the fight. John had then hoped to set off a general insurrection in Austria, inspired by the Tyrolean revolt, which was continuing after Wagram. John's hopes for continuing the struggle against the French were all but ignored as the hypnotic power of Metternich spread over the Hapsburg Empire and suppressed the spirit of resistance. The will to fight dissipated as a fog burning off in the morning sun, and the war ended with almost a whimper. Thus, John retired to his estates, sadly disappointed that the Austrian insurrection would not be encouraged, and the Hofer's Tyrolean revolt would be crushed in the next several months, ending with Hofer's capture and execution. John would never return the battlefield.



*An Older John Around 1848*

## ***John as the Styrian Renaissance Man***

But John was only 27 in 1809, and he had the rest of his long life before him, which would go on till 1859. He moved to Styria and married a middle-class woman in a morganatic marriage, forever renouncing the Hapsburg throne. There in Styria, he would raise a family; become a scientist; industrialist and railway tycoon. His popularity and his interests would multiply. His fellow Styrians would naturally defer to John's political leadership over the years.

During the Revolution of 1848, the Germans were close to establishing a unified Germany. During the revolutionary machinations of the time, John was elected Regent of the Reich, and was thus the first leader of a unified Germany. This nephew of Marie Antoinette would lead a unified Germany for nearly a year. However, the new Germany had a weak constitution and the new state would fall apart over a myriad of disputes especially which states would control and command the armies. These squabbles were, in large part, instigated by Prussia, which was unwilling to relinquish power over its military to civilian control by other German states.

He returned to Styria in 1849 and died in 1859, filled with regret that this first, peaceful attempt at German unification was unsuccessful.

The Revolution that consumed Marie-Antoinette in 1789, would beget the German Revolution of 1848, and the Archduke John was almost able to do what that 1789 revolution aspired to—create a world of Liberty; Fraternity and Equality.

Signing off till our next blog...

Jim Soto for Marshal Enterprises