

***Getting Ready For Our Next Game...
Periodic Blog #14***



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It has been a while since our last Marshal Enterprises (ME) blog, published in the fall of 2020. While we deferred publication of a new game due to *la peste* (or more properly, *le fléau*) of Covid to 2021, that doesn't mean that we stopped working! In fact, we have been working quite diligently.

Work has proceeded for more than a year on our next game. On June 14, 2021—which is the dual anniversary of Marengo and Friedland—we announced the title of the next game, *La Bataille de Berlin 1813*. The game, or more correctly, games, will recreate Napoleon's drive to Berlin in 1813 and his attempt to knock Prussia out of the Sixth Coalition.

It includes the battles of Gross Beeren, Blankfelde, Hagelberg and Dennewitz. Along with the hundreds of counters; the many historical articles; and the extensive special rules; the game will include eight maps.

We have now been working for more than a year on our next package. We have been engaged in playtesting across the nation as well as much intellectual debate of the merits of the various elements of the new game's design. This game will approach *La Bataille* in a different fashion in many ways, yet in many other ways, our traditional approach will be evident.

The game will be published on October 7, 2021 and goes on sale on the website on August 6, 2021. It will be quite the package!

Speaking of anniversaries, the Napoleonic-centric world is commemorating the bicentennial of the death of the Napoleon I, which occurred on May 5, 1821. Though he died more than 200 years ago, stories filter through the internet haze of what might have happened had the emperor managed to flee to America instead of being virtually imprisoned at St. Helena. Those stories and legends could fill a library of blogs on related subjects about Napoleon's final days and his passing...The painting above is entitled "Allegory at the Tomb at Saint Helena: Napoleon's Army Mourning His Death" by Jean Alaux (1837). We think it captures the spirit of the time and perhaps even the spirit of today in its celebration of memory, honor and remembrance.

Two excellent sources of information on the Napoleonic Death Bicentennial: First, Canadian author Shannon Selin wrote a historical novel called "Napoleon in America" and publishes a Napoleon-centric blog. Her website is shannonselin.com. Then the Foundation Napoleon in Paris, is a large compendium of all things Napoleonic featuring both First and Second Empires. Their recent review of events in the Napoleonic Death Bicentennial is as thorough as anyone has. The foundation's website is The Fondation Napoléon

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Here is our schedule for the next several months:

- June 14, 2021...ME announced our new title, *La Bataille de Berlin 1813*
- August 6, 2021...Game goes on sale on ME website
- August 29, 2021 through September 4, 2021 ...ME attends Consim meeting in Tempe for resumption of *Duel in the Desert*...ME to play the Coalition side
- October 7, 2021...Game to be published and shipping begins

We will also be involved in *Raszyn* and *Hagelberg* remote-play tournaments throughout the summer. The *Raszyn* tournament as of this writing, had at least six different contests going on. The *Raszyn* contest will be going on till the end of July, so there is plenty of time to get involved. Check out the *Recession Games* portion of our website for more details and to enter the contest.

These next five months will be very busy for ME!

ME's Man of the Moment: The Steadfast Morand— Division Would Be In Good Hands

French divisional commanders could almost always be counted on to be superior to their Coalition counterparts. ME's *Man of the Moment* epitomizes this superiority. He was promoted to general at the battlefield of the Pyramids. He served with gallantry and competence from Austerlitz; through Auerstadt; Friedland; Wagram; Borodino; the many battles of the 1813 campaign; and finally at Waterloo.

Charles Antoine Morand was the son of a lawyer in Doubs from the old Franche Comte province near the Swiss border. Born in the small town of Pontalier, which was noted for its production of absinthe, Morand was trained to follow in his father's footsteps as an attorney, but following his graduation from his law studies, the young Morand, caught up in the enthusiasm of the French Revolution, joined the Doubs volunteers in August 1792, and was made a lieutenant colonel just a month later.

He served the Republic with distinction in the Armies of the North; Sambre-et-Meuse; and Egypt. He returned to France in 1801. He was then appointed to serve with Soult. During the 1805 campaign, he served as a brigade commander at Donauworth; Ulm and Austerlitz. He became a full general after that battle.

Working With Davout

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Charles Antoine Morand—ME's Man of the Moment

In 1806, he moved to Davout's command as a divisional commander for the next seven years. His service with the best of Napoleon's marshals was noteworthy for his gallantry and bravery. Morand fought at Auerstadt—and was wounded; he fought at Eylau—and was wounded; and he fought at Wagram—and was wounded.

While his division was garrisoning Warsaw in 1807, he met his future wife Emilia at a Polish ball. She was daughter of Count Parys, a Polish aristocrat and colonel in the Saxon army. Morand married her in 1810. In 1808, he was made Count of the Empire.

Morand and Davout had a falling out in 1810, and only the personal intervention of Napoleon kept them working together in the newly named I Corps in the 1812 campaign. In Russia, Morand was at Smolensk; Borodino—where he was wounded when a shell fragment shattered his jaw; Moscow; Vyzama; Krasnoi. By the time he reached the Nieman, his 10,000 man division had been reduced to just 300.

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As the 1813 campaign started, he was given a brand new French division, the 13th. He and the division were part of Bertrand's IV Corps. His division was at Lützen; Bautzen; Blankenfelde; Dennewitz; Wartenburg; and Lindenau. After Leipzig, Bertrand left IV Corps to be Grand Marshal of the Palace, and Morand took over command of the corps. Morand and the whole of the corps underwent *The Siege at Mainz*, and would not surrender till April 1814, after Napoleon had abdicated.

When Napoleon returned from Elba, Morand returned to the French colors and served as commanding general of the Chasseur Division of the Guard. Morand fought at Waterloo, and upon Napoleon's second abdication, was exiled to Poland, and later condemned to death. The intervention of Marshal St. Cyr, back in Paris, led to Morand's exoneration, but Morand did not serve the Bourbons. He only returned to French service after the July 1830 Revolution, but he died a short time later in 1835 and is buried at Pere-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, not far from where Davout and Ney are buried.

Morand was a study in steadfastness and duty. His career had become the script for the perfect divisional general. His story is the explanation for the success of French arms during the Revolution and First Empire.

