

## Periodic Blog # 9- Winter turns to Spring

The tedium of the winter months has worn off to become spring with all the creativity of new life—and the creativity of wargaming is no different. As game designing blossoms forth, and as Marshal Enterprises shakes the cobwebs from our collective selves; our latest design is becoming our new game. We are now actively play testing our next release. As has become our tradition, we will be releasing our next, as yet untitled, game in the first week of October—specifically Thursday, October 3, 2019. As always, we will only publish 400 copies. Our price is yet to be determined.

We will announce the title of that game at the Consim Tempe meeting in June. The game will be one of our largest releases. The release will feature several kinds of infantry: each type having different capabilities. The maps will sprawl over seven sections.

We should have more details about the release by the time Blog # 10 is published sometime in June. Play tests will be in three time zones in four states. Those play tests will be in full force by the time Blog #9 is released.

### ***Duel in Desert IX Developments***

Plans for *Duel in the Desert IX* are coming along with sides now selected by the players. We expect the number of players to be around 10 or 11 this year. The new release will be the game to be played over a four day period from Wednesday through Saturday of the Tempe Week. As in several *Duels* in previous years, there will be a preliminary game to be played of a related battle on the Tuesday of the week. The outcome of the Tuesday game will affect the set-up of the game starting on Wednesday. Previous *Duels* in chronological order have been: Moscova; Friedland; Leipzig; Les Batailles de Juin 16, 1815; Aspern-Essling; Austerlitz; Prussia 1806; and Wagram.

We anticipate our latest game will find either side in a competitive cauldron with both the French and the Coalition having an equal opportunity to compete for a victory. Once the Duel is done, then ME will fine tune the actual game for publication, which should go on pre-sale in late August. This year, ME will be the Coalition.

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

This Blog's Marshal Enterprise (ME) Man of the Moment is a prominent French general, but one who fought with the Russians: Guillaume Emmanuel Guignard, Vicomte de Saint-Priest (1776-1814). As we have reported several times before, the Russians relied upon a whole menagerie of foreign-born generals to provide a very large percentage of their leadership. It was almost as if Russia preferred *ancien regime* based leadership so as to appear more reactionary than was the reality. These foreigners, whether they be French or German or Swiss, seemed to fit the recipe. Saint-Priest, who was the son of one of Louis XVI's key ministers, would seem to have fit the bill. The elder Saint-Priest and all of his sons, save our Russian General, were incessantly involved in palace intrigues throughout the continent, with one of our Saint-Priest's brothers being mysteriously murdered in London in 1812.

ME's Man of the Moment however seemed to have passed on the intrigues the court. He was a regimental commander of the Guard Chasseurs at Austerlitz; fought at Elyau; and was promoted a Lieutenant General during the Russian campaign in October 13. He was at Lutzen; Bautzen; and in the Leipzig campaign where he defeated the French General Azemar on September 14, 1813. He entered France in February 1814 before being pummeled at Reims by Napoleon in March 1814 after overextending the Russian command. While he was not a brilliant commander, he was competent and above all, relentless in his pursuit of the Imperial forces.



*Saint-Priest from a painting in the Winter Palace*

How ironic that Saint-Priest, having been born in Constantinople, educated at the University of Heidelberg, and missing the turmoil surrounding Revolution in Paris should exhale his last breath in France following a mortal wound at the Battle of Reims in March 1814....from his perspective, his passing was at least in the cause of ending the Revolution. He is buried in the cathedral in Laon. .

### ***Other ME Developments***

In other ME developments, while there are no copies of any games left for sale, we still have some extra counter sets for Wagram, which are available for \$75, which includes shipping to United States domestic locations. Shipping to international locations for a small additional fee can also be arranged. We are searching our archives for additional extra counter sets to other games, but we have not finalized that process yet. Finally, in a few weeks, I will be retiring from my official position at my company. I have worked in my field for more than 41 years. I hope to be devoting more time to ME as well as doing some writing perhaps in fields other than the Age of Napoleon. Monte and Dennis continue doing what they do (very successfully I might add) so we will see what the future may hold. Till our next blog, we hope your exploration of the Ages of Revolution and Napoleon will find you new destinations and new truths in your journeys.

James G. Soto

ME Household