



The Longman Companion to  
**Napoleonic Europe**

Clive Emsley



*The Longman Companion to*  
Napoleonic Europe

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# Napoleonic Europe

**Clive Emsley**



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## Preface

Napoleon was regarded by his contemporaries with admiration and adulation or with fear and loathing; sometimes, it would seem, with a mixture of all four. The fascination with him as an individual and with the colossal changes wrought by his wars across Europe has continued among historians, and many others, ever since. This guide is designed to provide readily accessible information on Napoleonic Europe. While it attempts to provide detail on rather more than the ever-popular military aspects of the period, and to cover the whole of Europe, it is by no means exhaustive. I have, for example, not included a biography of every Napoleonic marshal, but I have tried to include something on the principal monarchs and statesmen of the period and, given the various embargo acts and the Anglo-American War, I have included material on the United States. In several instances also, I have run chronologies on beyond 1815 to give an impression of the immediate legacy of the Napoleonic years. Economic and population statistics for the period are not particularly reliable, and I have been very selective here seeking to give suggestive comparative material and/or the kind of detail which I believe will be of the most value.

Any book of this sort relies heavily on the detailed research of others. But in addition to published works my particular thanks are due to John Breuilly for help on Germany, to Charles Esdaile who generously provided me with advice and detail on the Iberian peninsula and to Tim Blanning who cast a critical eye over the manuscript. The errors which remain, and the omissions, are, of course my own.

As ever, I owe an enormous debt to my wife, Jennifer, and to Mark and Kathryn, who put up with me.

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For Kathryn and Mark

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## SECTION I

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### **Chronologies: international affairs and military campaigns**

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## **1. The wars of the French Revolution and the rise of General Bonaparte, 1792–1801**

**1792 April 20** The French declare war on the King of Hungary and Bohemia (i.e. the Holy Roman Emperor), leading to the invasion of France by Austrian, Prussian, Hessian and *émigré* armies.

**July 29** A Manifesto signed by the commander of the invading Austrians, the Duke of Brunswick, threatens Paris with destruction if the royal family are harmed. This leads to

**August 10** The Parisians storm the Tuileries Palace and imprison the royal family in the Temple.

**September 20** French victory over the Prussians at Valmy.

**21** First meeting of the National Convention; suspension of the monarchy; beginning of Year I.

**November 6** French victory over Austrians at Jemappes.

**1793 January 21** Execution of Louis XVI.

**February 1** National Convention declares war on Britain.

**24** Levy of 300,000 men decreed for French army leading to the uprising in the Vendée and the beginning of the war against the *Chouans*.

**March 7** National Convention declares war on Spain.

**August 10** Decree of the *levée en masse* requires every Frenchman to play a part in fighting for 'his nation.'

**27** French seaport and naval arsenal of Toulon surrenders to the British.

**September 22** Beginning of Year II.

**October–December** Succession of defeats for Vendéan rebels.

**December 19** British evacuate Toulon; Captain Bonaparte noted for his role in commanding the artillery at Toulon.

**1794 June 26** French victory at Fleurus leads to conquest of Belgium.

**July 27** Overthrow of Robespierre (9 Thermidor).

**September 22** Beginning of Year III.

**1795 January 20** French army enters Amsterdam.

**February 17** 'Pacification' of the Vendée at La Jannaye.

**April 5** French make peace with Prussia.



**22** Peace of La Prevalaye with the *Chouans*.

**May 16** French make peace with Holland.

**July 22** French make peace with Spain.

**September 23** Beginning of Year IV.

**October 1** French annex Belgium.

**5** Revolt in Paris of 13 Vendémiaire suppressed by General Bonaparte's 'whiff of grapeshot'.

**10** Bonaparte appointed commander of the Army of the Interior.

**26** Dissolution of the National Convention.

**November 3** Directory established.

**1796 February 23** General Bonaparte appointed commander of the Army of Italy.

**March 9** Bonaparte marries Josephine de Beauharnais.

**11** Bonaparte leaves Paris to take command of the Army of Italy.

**April–May** Bonaparte fights a brilliant campaign (battle of Lodi, 10 May) forcing the Austrians to withdraw to the Adige. Intervening elsewhere in the peninsula he establishes the Ligurian Republic (6 June) and the Cisalpine Republic (9 July).

**September 4** Coup of Fructidor in Paris establishes a more radical tone to government.

**November 15–18** Bonaparte wins the battle of Arcola.

**1797 January** French expedition to Ireland dispersed by gales.

**14** Bonaparte wins the battle of Rivoli.

**February 12** Bonaparte enters Mantua and

**19** imposes the Treaty of Tolentino on the Papacy.

**April 19** Bonaparte agrees to the preliminary Peace of Leoben with the Austrians.

**May** Bonaparte occupies the Venetian Republic.

**October 18** Peace of Campo Formio between Austria and France.

**26** Directory authorises the creation of the Army of England under the command of Bonaparte.

**December 5** Bonaparte returns to Paris from Italy.

**1798 February** Bonaparte persuades the Directors that the best way to beat Britain would be a thrust at India and plans are made for the expedition to Egypt.

**May 19** Bonaparte embarks with his Egyptian expedition from Toulon.

**July 1** The French army begins to disembark at Alexandria.

- 21** Bonaparte wins the battle of the Pyramids.  
**31** Nelson destroys Bonaparte's fleet in the battle of the Nile.  
**August** French expedition under General Humbert lands in Ireland; it enjoys initial success, but is too small, and too late to assist the main Irish rebellion.  
**September 5** Jourdan Law establishes conscription in France.  
**9** Bonaparte's Egyptian successes lead to Turkey declaring war on France.  
**November** War renewed in Italy; an anti-French coalition established between Britain and Russia, later to be joined by Austria and Naples.  
**1799 March 12** War renewed with Austria and there follows a succession of French reverses (Stockach in Baden, 25 March; Magnano in Italy, 5 April; Russian troops enter Milan, 28 April, Turin, 27 May; French also defeated at Novi in Italy, 15 August). Most of Bonaparte's Italian gains are lost. Conscription sparks off internal disorder in France.  
**August 22** Bonaparte leaves Egypt.  
**27** Anglo-Russian landing in Holland.  
**September 25–27** Masséna wins battle of Zurich.  
**October 9** Bonaparte lands in France, and  
**16** arrives in Paris.  
**18** British agree to evacuate Holland by the Convention of Alkmaar.  
**23** Tsar Paul withdraws from the anti-French coalition.  
**November 9–10** Coup of 18–19 Brumaire establishes the provisional Consulate.  
**1800 May 6** Bonaparte leaves Paris and heads for Italy crossing the Great St. Bernard Pass (15–23).  
**June 14** Bonaparte wins the battle of Marengo and agrees an armistice with Austria.  
**July 2** Bonaparte returns to Paris.  
**November 28** Armistice with Austria expires.  
**December 3** Moreau beats the Austrians at Hohenlinden.  
**16** Tsar Paul organises the Armed Neutrality.  
**1801 February 9** Peace of Lunéville between Austria and France.  
**March 21** British army defeats the remains of Bonaparte's army in Egypt.  
**23** Assassination of Tsar Paul, together with  
**April 2** Nelson's victory at Copenhagen, undermines the Armed Neutrality.

**October 1** Preliminary peace treaty of London between Britain and France.

**1802 March 27** Treaty of Amiens ends war between Britain and France.

See maps 1 and 2 on pages 000 and 000.

## 2. The Napoleonic Wars, 1803–15

### The Anglo–French War, 1803–14

The principal opponents throughout the wars were Britain and France. The British, supreme at sea, financed a succession of European coalitions against Napoleon's Empire. Napoleon, supreme on land, contemplated the invasion of England particularly between 1803 and 1805, but never succeeded in controlling the Channel to enable such an enterprise to be launched. Both sides sought to cripple the economic power of the other. The chronology of the Anglo–French War therefore largely becomes subsumed in that of other conflicts.

**1803 16 May** Britain declares war on France seizing all French ships in British ports. Napoleon arrests all British residents in France (*détenus*) and sends troops to occupy Hanover (ruled by George III as elector) and ports in southern Italy. French troops begin massing around Boulogne for the invasion of England.

**1804 12 December** Spain declares war on Britain.

**1805 March–April** French and Spanish fleets attempt to draw British warships from the Channel to enable Napoleon to mount his invasion, but the fleets miss their *rendez-vous* in the West Indies and return to their home ports. The British warships also fail to be drawn.

**April 11** Treaty of alliance between Britain and Russia (not ratified by the Tsar until July); the former promises to pay £1.25m annually for every 100,000 Russian soldiers in the field. The treaty constitutes the beginning of the Third Coalition.

**August 9** Austria secretly joins the Anglo–Russian alliance.

**October 21** French and Spanish fleets, having put to sea again, meet Nelson's fleet off Cape Trafalgar and are decisively defeated. Nelson is killed, but the battle largely destroys the French naval threat to Britain.

**1806 January** British capture Cape of Good Hope from Dutch.

**February** British capture San Domingo from French.

**March–April** British government makes tentative suggestions about peace negotiations.

**May 16** A British Order in Council declares a blockade of Europe.

**June** A small British fleet under Commodore Sir Home Popham with 1200 British troops commanded by Lt. Gen. William Carr Beresford arrives off the River Plate (having sailed from the Cape of Good Hope) hoping to raise the Spanish colonists in revolt. The weak Spanish viceroy in Buenos Aires surrenders the city without a fight, but the colonists are not keen to rise up on Popham's urging, especially after he seizes over 1m. dollars from the public treasury and ships them back to Britain.

**June–July** Acting on the authority of the British government, Lord Yarmouth, one of many Englishmen under restraint in France, begins tentative and ultimately unsuccessful negotiations in Paris.

**July 6** A small British force, raiding the Italian mainland from Sicily, defeats French troops at Maida.

**August 12** The Spanish colonists in Buenos Aires, led by a French officer in Spanish pay, drive Beresford from their city. Popham is called home to face a court-martial.

**November 21** Napoleon issues the Berlin Decree declaring a blockade of Britain.

**1807 February** British troops in Spanish America, now reinforced, capture Montevideo.

**March 17** In an attempt to take Turkish pressure off the Russians 5000 British troops land in Alexandria, but the campaign against the Turks under Mehemet Ali is a succession of disasters.

**July 5** A new attack on Buenos Aires fails. British troops withdraw from South America. Gen. Whitelock, in command of the unsuccessful attack, is court-martialled and dismissed the service.

**September 14** The remnants of the British expedition to Egypt evacuate Alexandria.

**1808 May–June** British expedition commanded by Sir John Moore is sent to Sweden to aid Gustavus IV against Franco–Russian attack. Moore refuses to agree to the King's demands for an offensive to regain Finland and Pomerania. Moore is arrested but escapes, and the British army, most of which has never left its ships, returns home.

**August 1** Sir Arthur Wellesley lands in Portugal marking the beginning of the British involvement in the Peninsular War.

**1809 August–October** Disastrous British expedition to Walcheren Island. The objectives of the expedition, to destroy Dutch shipping and naval facilities in the Scheldt, are never clearly defined or planned. Flushing surrenders on 18 August, but large French reinforcements deter any attempt to invade the mainland. Many troops are struck down with fever.

(For remainder of conflict see pages 12–16, Peninsular War and page 20, Waterloo campaign)

### **The Austerlitz campaign, 1805**

**1804 November 6** A secret agreement is made between Austria and Russia to oppose Napoleon's Italian policies.

**1805 April–August** The Third Coalition is organised, with Britain agreeing to finance Russian and Austrian armies against Napoleon.

**August 24** Napoleon signs a defensive treaty with the Elector of Bavaria.

**26** Napoleon abandons the camp at Boulogne and prepares to march his army into Germany.

**September 2** Austrian armies begin to mobilise: Archduke Ferdinand and General Mack begin their march towards Ulm as a warning to the Elector of Bavaria; Archduke Charles prepares to attack Masséna's French army in Italy. Three Russian armies prepare for a juncture with the Austrians and a drive on Strasbourg.

**25** The first French troops cross the Rhine. Napoleon leads the main body of his army in a march towards the Danube; the river is crossed east of Ulm thus cutting Mack's lines of communications and seeking to prevent any link up with the Russians. A series of minor engagements are fought (Albeck on 11 October and Elchingen on 14) until

**October 15** Mack is completely surrounded at Ulm.

**17** Mack opens negotiations and, hoping for the arrival of the Russians, agrees to lay down his arms if he is not relieved in 21 days. Trouble breaks out between Austrian and French troops in the town; Napoleon sends in troops to restore order and as a consequence

**22** Mack is compelled to agree to an unconditional surrender with 23,000 men. Another 10,000 Austrians subsequently surrender at Heidenheim.

**29** Masséna attacks Archduke Charles at Caldiero; he is checked, but it is the Austrians who withdraw.

Napoleon presses further along the Danube, fighting two minor actions (Dürrenstein on 11 November and Hollabrün on 16)

**November 15** Napoleon enters Vienna without resistance. The Austro–Russian armies begin to concentrate around Olmütz.

**17** Leaving a garrison in Vienna Napoleon marches north from the city hoping to tempt the Austrians and Russians to battle.

**December 2** Battle of Austerlitz. Napoleon crushes the Austrian and Russian armies.

**4** Austria signs armistice. Russian armies withdraw homewards.

**26** Peace of Pressburg between Austria and France.

## **The Prussian campaign, 1806**

**1805 September** French troops violate Prussian territory by passing through Ansbach. Prussia threatens to mobilise.

**October 1** Prussian army is mobilised.

**November 3** Prussia signs the Treaty of Potsdam with Austria and Russia offering armed mediation with France; if Napoleon refuses the mediation, Prussia promises to join the allies.

Prussian envoy Haugwitz leaves for meeting with Napoleon.

**December 13** Haugwitz meets Napoleon at Schönbrunn.

**15** Haugwitz signs Treaty of Schönbrunn with Napoleon; under the terms of this treaty Prussia is promised Hanover.

**1806 July 12** Napoleon establishes the Confederation of the Rhine. Prussia, alarmed by this and angered by Napoleon's discussions with Britain (wherein he offered to return Hanover to George III) enters into a rapprochement with Russia.

**August 26** Prussia issues an ultimatum to Napoleon requiring him to withdraw his armies to the west bank of the Rhine by 8 October.

The Prussians plan an advance into Bavaria but

**October 8** Napoleon forestalls them by advancing into Thuringia.

**14** Napoleon inflicts a crushing defeat on the Prussian army at Jena, while Davout, with the vanguard of the *Grande Armée*, withstands a series of attacks from a second Prussian army at Auerstädt; Davout is also victorious when additional troops under Bernadotte arrive.

**25** Davout enters Berlin.

**27** Napoleon enters Berlin. There follows a mopping up operation.

**November 7** The last major Prussian army under Blücher surrenders at Lübeck. A smaller force under Kalckreuth retires into Danzig, while another under Lestocq joins up with the Russians in Poland. Frederick William III of Prussia takes refuge with the Tsar.

The Prussian campaign then merges into

## **The Polish campaign, 1806–7**

**1806 November 2** Concerned about the Russian alliance with Prussia Napoleon orders his army forward into Poland.

**28** French occupy Warsaw, but the Russians are beginning to harry their lines of communication. Napoleon attempts to cut off the Russian army in front of him but, partly because of the terrain, the appalling weather, and the exhaustion of his troops, his manoeuvre fails.

**December 26** The Russians fight a rearguard action at Pultusk, and successfully withdraw.

**1807 January** The two armies retire into winter quarters after Pultusk, but foraging by the French brings confrontations with Russian outposts. The Russians believe the French are reopening hostilities and fighting recommences.

**February 8** Indecisive battle of Eylau fought in appalling weather with heavy casualties on both sides. Both sides withdraw, once again, into winter quarters.

**March 18** French begin siege of Danzig.

**April 26** Convention of Bartenstein by which Prussia and Russia agree to continue the war against France and invite Britain, Sweden, Austria and Denmark to join them. Only the two former respond.

**May 27** Danzig falls to the French.

**June 5** Fighting is renewed in Poland, particularly in the area around Königsberg where the main Russian supplies are.

**10** Battle of Heilsberg; a French attack is repulsed but the Russians withdraw.

**14** Battle of Friedland; Napoleon orders Lannes to seize the town but the Marshal comes upon the whole Russian army. Napoleon comes to his support and inflicts a decisive defeat.



- 15 Königsberg surrenders to the French.
- 19 Napoleon occupies Tilsit. The Russians seek an armistice.
- 23 Armistice signed.
- 25 Napoleon and Alexander meet at Tilsit on a raft in the middle of the Niemen.
- July 7–9** Treaties of Tilsit.

### **The Peninsular War, 1808–14. See map 3, p. 299**

(In Spain this war is more commonly known as ‘the War of Independence’.)

**1807 August** Napoleon orders Portugal to comply with his blockade of Great Britain and British goods or face his army.

**October 19** Junot leads a French army into Spain en route for Portugal.

**27** France and Spain agree, by the Treaty of Fontainebleau, to divide Portugal between them.

**November 30** Junot’s army enters Lisbon.

**1808 January** Napoleon orders more troops into Spain, ostensibly to assist Junot, but they promptly occupy the Spanish fortresses of San Sebastien, Pamploná, Figueras and Barcelona.

**March 26** Murat occupies Madrid.

**May 2** *Dos de Mayo*, the people of Madrid rise against the French occupation and are brutally suppressed. The example of the *Madridileños* provides the spark for similar uprisings in the provinces and a series of juntas are established. The French are forced to attempt to pacify the whole country fighting a series of Spanish provincial armies and mounting a series of sieges (notably of Gerona, Valencia and Zaragoza).

**July 14** The Spanish army of Galicia is decisively defeated at Medina de Rio Seco.

**26** A French army under Dupont is forced to surrender at Bailén, and gradually the French are compelled to withdraw to the Ebro River.

**August 1** A British army led by Sir Arthur Wellesley lands at Mondego Bay, Portugal.

**17** Wellesley defeats a small French force at Rolica.

**21** Junot attacks Wellesley at Vimeiro and is defeated, but Wel-

Wellesley's superiors arrive (first Sir Harry Burrard, then Sir Hew Dalrymple) and rather than pursuing and destroying Junot's army on

**30** they sign the Convention of Cintra allowing the French to take ship back to France. Burrard, Dalrymple and Wellesley are recalled to face a court-martial. Sir John Moore takes command of the British army in Portugal.

**September** Napoleon begins reorganising the French army on the Ebro. The Spanish also reinforce their armies, but they are weakened by a lack of central command, by provincial jealousies and pride; many generals will not co-operate with each other.

**October** Moore begins marching from Portugal to link with the Spanish troops on the Ebro.

**November 6** Napoleon takes personal command of the French army on the Ebro and a succession of battles fought by his marshals (Espinosa, Gamonal, and Tudela) break the Spanish armies.

**28** Moore, at Salamanca, receives the news of the Spanish defeats and decides to return to Portugal.

**30** Napoleon captures the pass at Somosierra opening his way to Madrid.

**December 4** The French reoccupy Madrid.

**19** Napoleon sets off in pursuit of Moore.

**20** Beginning of the second siege of Zaragoza.

**1809 January 1** Napoleon hands the pursuit of Moore over to Soult.

**11** Moore's depleted army reaches Corunna to embark on board ship, but bad weather has delayed the troop transports.

**14** Moore's ships arrive.

**16** Soult attacks Moore at Corunna but is beaten off; Moore is killed, but his army escapes.

**January–March** A series of new French successes against the Spanish at Uclés and Medellin. Zaragoza is captured on 20 February after a terrible siege. Soult invades Portugal and captures Oporto.

But the French are spread thinly over the whole peninsula.

**April 22** Wellesley, exonerated over the Convention of Cintra, returns to Portugal to take command of the British and Portuguese armies.

**May 12** Wellesley attacks Oporto and forces Soult to retreat leaving behind his artillery.

**July 17** Having joined with the Spanish General Cuesta, Wellesley begins a march along the Tagus to Madrid. But there is much

wrangling between the two armies until, confronted by a French army under Joseph and Victor, they agree to withdraw.

**27–28** The battle of Talavera: Wellesley repulses Victor's attacks and is eager to advance once again but Cuesta refuses. Threatened by a new army under Soult, Wellesley separates from the Spanish and withdraws to Portugal. As a reward for his victories Wellesley is created Viscount Wellington of Talavera.

**October** In winter quarters in Portugal Wellington gives orders for the construction of a line of fortifications 25 miles north of Lisbon – the Lines of Torres Vedras.

**November** Having embarked on a winter campaign the Spanish are defeated at Ocaña and Alba de Tormes.

**1810** In the new campaigning season, and following his success over the Austrians in the Wagram campaign, Napoleon pours heavy reinforcements into Spain intent on both pacifying the country and driving the British from the peninsula.

**April 17** Masséna is appointed commander of the French Army of Portugal; he arrives in Salamanca to take command of his army one month later.

**June** Masséna launches his army into Portugal capturing the Spanish fortress of Ciudad Rodrigo (10 July) and the Portuguese fortress of Almeida (26 July). Wellington withdraws before him.

**September 27** Wellington, in a strong defensive position at Busaco, repulses Masséna's attack, and then continues to withdraw.

**October 10** Wellington enters the lines of Torres Vedras. Masséna camps before them for a month, and then withdraws 30 miles to winter at Santarém.

**1811 March 5** Sir Thomas Graham, having led a combined force of British, Portuguese and Spanish out of the besieged port of Cadiz, lands behind the French army surrounding the city and wins the battle of Barrosa.

Masséna, his army starving and demoralised, begins his retreat from Portugal, pursued by Wellington.

**April** Wellington, concerned at the French occupation of the frontier fortresses of Almeida, Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo, begins the siege of the two former.

**May 3–5** Masséna, attempting to relieve Almeida, is beaten by Wellington at Fuentes de Oñoro.

**10** The French garrison escapes from Almeida destroying the fortifications. Napoleon replaces Masséna with Marmont.

**16** Soult, attempting to relieve Badajoz, is driven back at Albuera by the British under Beresford.

The remainder of the year sees the French continuing to attempt to pacify the country, but with little success against the increasing number of guerrilla bands – the exception is the army under Suchet in Aragon. French armies continue to menace Wellington, but fight no major actions with him. Wellington remains on the Portuguese–Spanish frontier planning the reduction of the fortresses.

**1812 January 8** Wellington begins the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo.

**19** Ciudad Rodrigo is stormed and captured; the French siege train is captured with it.

**March 17** Wellington begins the siege of Badajoz.

**April 5** Badajoz is stormed and captured; the French pontoon train is captured with it. The British troops suffer heavy casualties in the attack (about 5000 men) and run amok in the city for two days.

Wellington advances into Spain.

**July 22** Wellington defeats Soult at Salamanca.

**August 12** Wellington enters Madrid. But French armies from all over Spain begin to converge on him and he withdraws back towards Portugal.

**September 22** Anglophile deputies in the Cortes succeed in having Wellington appointed supreme commander of the Spanish armies, but the move is not popular with some Spanish generals.

**November 19** Wellington re-enters Ciudad Rodrigo bringing the year's campaigning to an end.

**1813 May 22** Wellington's army marches out of winter quarters. The French under Joseph and Jourdan withdraw before him.

**June 21** Joseph attempts to make a stand at Vitoria, and is decisively defeated. Wellington turns his attention to the fortresses of Pamplona and San Sebastien.

**July 13** Soult takes command of Joseph's beaten army, reorganises it and

**20** launches a counter-attack towards Pamplona.

**26–August 1** The battle of the Pyrenees; Soult is repulsed with heavy losses.

**August 31** An attempt by Soult to relieve San Sebastien is beaten back by Spanish troops on the heights of San Marcial. San Sebastien is stormed and captured. Soult withdraws to defensive lines along the River Bidassoa.

**October 7–9** Wellington crosses the Bidassoa driving Soult before him.

**25** Pamplona captured.

**November 10** Wellington attacks Soult's position on the River Nivelle and pushes him back into France. Wellington's army crosses into France. Soult withdraws to the River Nive, south of Bayonne.

**December 9–13** Wellington strikes across the Nive; Soult counter-attacks but is repulsed and withdraws further to a position on the Adour.

**1814 January 9** Napoleon's overtures to the Spanish government are rejected.

**February 17–24** Wellington manoeuvres Soult out of his positions on the Adour; part of the Anglo-Spanish army is left to invest Bayonne while Wellington sets off with the major part in pursuit of Soult.

**27** Soult turns to face Wellington at Orthez but is defeated, enabling Wellington to occupy Bordeaux.

**March 26** Soult's army reaches Toulouse.

**April 10** Wellington attacks Toulouse and in spite of the heavy casualties inflicted on the Anglo-Spanish army...

**12** Soult evacuates Toulouse. Wellington hears of Napoleon's fall and informs Soult, leading to an end to hostilities between the two armies.

**14** Unaware of the events in Paris the garrison at Bayonne make a sortie; about 1000 casualties are suffered on both sides. This is the last action of the war.

## **The Wagram campaign, 1809**

**1809 April 6** Archduke Charles issues a proclamation to the German people announcing the Austrian aim of restoring German independence and national honour.

**10** Austrian troops cross the River Inn and invade Bavaria.

**13** Napoleon leaves Paris to take command of his army in Germany.

**17** Napoleon joins his army at Erfurt and repulses Charles in a series of battles notably

**22** Eckmühl, and

**23** Ratisbon, from where he continues his march on Vienna.

**May 13** Napoleon enters Vienna unopposed, but the Austrians have destroyed the bridges across the Danube.

**17–20** A bridge of boats is constructed downstream of Vienna to enable the army to cross the river.

**20–21** French troops led by Masséna and Lannes cross the Danube by the pontoon bridge and occupy Aspern-Essling.

**21–22** The Austrians attack and drive the French from Aspern-Essling; Lannes is killed.

The defeat is the cue for a series of uprisings against the French and their allies in Germany, notably that of Andreas Hofer in the Tyrol.

**June 14** An Italian army commanded by Eugène de Beauharnais defeats Archduke John at Raab and joins with Napoleon.

**July 4–5** The French successfully cross the Danube.

**6** Napoleon defeats Archduke Charles at Wagram.

**12** An armistice is signed between Austria and France.

**October 14** Peace of Schönbrunn.

### **The Russian campaign, 1812. See map 4, page 300**

**1812 April** Concerned by Napoleon's behaviour in developing the Grand Duchy of Warsaw and about the serious effect which the Continental System was having on Russian trade, Alexander issues an ultimatum to Napoleon: Russia is to be allowed to trade with neutrals and French troops are to evacuate Prussia. Following Napoleon's acceptance of these terms, Alexander is prepared to negotiate an indemnity for his brother-in-law (the Duke of Oldenburg, whose lands had been taken by Napoleon) and a reduction of the Russian customs dues on French goods.

**June 24** The first units of the *Grande Armée* (some 600,000 strong) cross the Niemen at Kovno. The Russians withdraw before them; probably at this stage they withdraw because they are reluctant to face Napoleon rather than because they are following any scorched earth policy.

**August 16** The French attack Smolensk.

**17** The Russians withdraw from Smolensk; but following this the Russian government orders Kutusov to block the French advance on Moscow.

**September 7** Inconclusive battle of Borodino fought between Napoleon and Kutusov; the Russians withdraw again.

**14** The French enter Moscow, but Alexander refuses to negotiate.

**October 19** The French evacuate Moscow intending to withdraw south but on

**24** at the battle of Maloyaroslavets, Kutusov forces Napoleon to retreat along the same route by which he had invaded.

**27** The first frost of the winter.

**November 9** The French reach Smolensk where they rest.

**16** The French withdraw from Smolensk.

The temperature falls to  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , sometimes to  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**26–28** The French cross the Berezina on pontoon bridges under attack from the Russians.

**December 5** Napoleon leaves the army at Smogorni and travels to Paris (arriving on 18).

**18** Remnant of the *Grande Armée*, about 18,000 strong, crosses the Niemen.

## **The German War of Liberation, 1813**

**1812 December 30** Convention of Tauroggen between the Prussians under Yorck von Wartenburg (technically part of the *Grande Armée*) and a Russian army under Diebitsch.

**1813 February 26** Treaty of Kalisch creates a military alliance between Prussia and Russia, but not made public until 13 March.

**April 25** Napoleon reaches Erfurt and assumes command of the French army in Germany.

**May 1** Napoleon marches into Saxony and occupies Lützen.

**2** A Russian attack on the French at Lützen is beaten, and Napoleon sets off in pursuit of the Russian and Prussian armies.

**20** Napoleon victorious at battle of Bautzen.

**June 4** Armistice of Poischwitz signed between the allies and Napoleon, to last for two months.

**14–15** Treaties of Reichenbach between Britain, Prussia and Russia; the former promises subsidies, and the latter two states promise not to make a separate peace with France.

**26** Napoleon meets Francis I and Metternich at Dresden but will not accept their mediation.

**27** Austria signs a new Treaty of Reichenbach with Britain, Prussia and Russia.

**August 11** Austria declares war on France.

Napoleon begins to advance on Berlin.

**26–27** Napoleon beats an allied army at Dresden, but his subordinates lose a succession of minor battles: Oudinot at Grössbeeren (23 August); Vandamme at Kulm (29 August); Ney at Dennewitz (6 September). These defeats force him to withdraw and concentrate around Leipzig.

**October 16–19** The ‘battle of the Nations’ at Leipzig; Napoleon is heavily defeated by the Austrian, Prussian and Russian armies supported by many of his former German allies who now turn against him.

**30** A largely Bavarian army impeding Napoleon’s retreat is swept aside at Hanau.

**November 5** Napoleon’s retreating army reaches Mainz.

### **The campaign in Northern France, 1814. See map 12, detail page 312**

**1814 January 1** Prussian troops begin crossing the Rhine and moving into France.

**25** Blücher enters Nancy and

**28** links with the Austrian advance guard at La Rothière.

**February 1** Napoleon attacks the allies at La Rothière and forces them to retire to Arcis-sur-Aube, but

**2** his follow-up attack is checked by bad weather and he is forced to withdraw.

**4** Blücher resumes his advance, but his forces are widely spread out and Napoleon is able to launch a series of successful attacks at Champaubert (10), Montmirail (11), and Vauchamps (14). Napoleon then turns on the Austrians, inflicting defeats in a trio of minor actions at Mormant (17), Montereau (18), and Méry (21).

**March 7** Blücher’s Prussians had joined with Bernadotte’s Swedish army, when Napoleon attacks and beats their advance guard on the plateau of Craonne.

**10** Napoleon attacks the main Prussian and Swedish force at Laon, where he is forced to retreat towards Rheims.

Napoleon determines to attempt to cut the communications of both the Prussian and the Austrian armies.

**20–21** He clashes with the Austrians and Russians at Arcis-sur-Aube and is forced to withdraw. At the same time his plans fall into allied hands and these, together with reports of dissatisfaction within Paris, decide the allies to march directly on the capital.



**31** Marshal Marmont, having tried to defend Paris from the heights of Montmartre, decides further resistance is impossible and agrees to an armistice.

## **The Waterloo campaign, 1815**

Following Napoleon's return from Elba the allies plan a general invasion of France for early July 1815. An Anglo-Dutch army under Wellington and a Prussian army under Blücher are to invade from Belgium; Austrian and Russian armies are to invade from the east. Napoleon seeks to forestall this by destroying his enemies piecemeal, beginning with those in Belgium.

**June 11** Napoleon leaves Paris for his army on the Belgian frontier.

**14** The French army crosses the frontier.

**16** Two indecisive battles fought at Quatre Bras (between Ney and Wellington) and at Ligny (between Blücher and Napoleon). Blücher is forced to withdraw; this leaves Wellington exposed and forces him to withdraw also. Napoleon sends Grouchy in pursuit of Blücher, but contact is lost with the major part of the Prussian army.

**18** Grouchy fights a minor action with a Prussian corps at Wavre. Napoleon attacks Wellington's position at Waterloo, but fails to break the British infantry lines, and the arrival of Blücher's main army in the afternoon ensures a crushing defeat for the French.

### 3. The Anglo–American War, 1812–15

Trouble developed between Britain and the US from the rupture of the Peace of Amiens as the Americans took more and more of the European carrying trade and as the Royal Navy sought to enforce the blockade and the control of neutral shipping. At the same time the Royal Navy was concerned about British seamen sheltering in the US and on US ships, while the Americans protested about the British pressing their nationals to serve on warships.

**1807 June 27** HMS Leopard fires on USS Chesapeake, forces it to surrender, and seizes four crewmen as British deserters. This is the most notable incident in the continuing quarrel over seamen and impressment.

**December 22** The Embargo Act prohibits trade with countries outside the US. This is a disaster for US trade; it especially angers New England merchants and is openly broken in spite of a succession of additional acts to strengthen it.

**1809 March 1** The Embargo Act is replaced by the Non-Intercourse Act prohibiting trade with Britain and France and their allies until one or both repeal their blockade decrees (Berlin and Milan Decrees, and Orders in Council). Thomas Jefferson's term as president ends; he is replaced by James Madison. David Erskine, the new British minister in Washington, suggests to Madison that US ships could be exempt from the Orders in Council if the US repeals the Non-Intercourse Act with reference to Britain.

**July–August** Canning repudiates Erskine's suggestion and recalls him. Madison re-establishes the Non-Intercourse Act against Britain.

**1810 May** Congress repeals the Non-Intercourse Act, but proposes to stop trade with whichever belligerent fails to modify its blockade decrees. Napoleon promises the Berlin and Milan Decrees will no longer apply to US shipping.

**November 2** A US proclamation imposes non-intercourse against Britain if the Orders in Council are not repealed within three months.