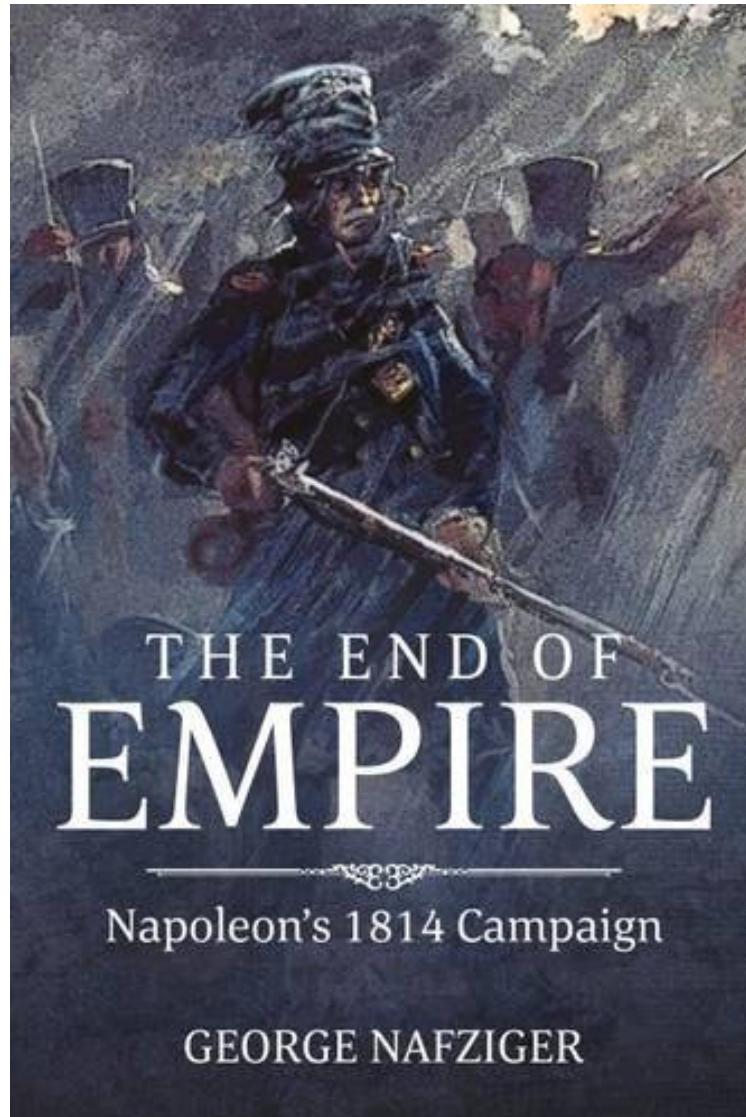


(Online library) The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign

The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign

George F. Nafziger

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#115949 in Books 2015-06-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .79 x 6.14 x 9.21l, .0 #File Name:
1909982962768 pages | File size: 32.Mb

George F. Nafziger : The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign:

6 of 9 people found the following review helpful. THE definitive account of the 1814 Invasion of FranceBy Michael J. FeinsteinGeorge Nafziger's "The End of Empire: Napoleon's 1814 Campaign" fills a critical void in Napoleonic military literature - a modern and comprehensive account of the Campaign of 1814. Consistent with his three-part history of the campaigns of 1813 in Germany, Nafziger has written an extremely detailed description (500 pages of text) of the battles, sieges and military movements of the French, Austrian, Russian and Prussian armies from

December 1813 to April 1814. It covers operations from Belgium to Switzerland (but not the Wellington versus Soult campaign in SW France). The book is logically organized with chapters (generally chronological) covering specific regions and campaigns. Nafziger's writing style is very straightforward and informative. It does lack the flowing narrative and descriptive color of some other Napoleonic military authors (my favorites being James Arnold, John Gill and of course David Chandler), but he makes up for it with extraordinary detail. While I'm not a wargamer, I do appreciate the orders of battle and other bits of information throughout the book. There are numerous maps (both campaign and battle scale) and they are pretty well done for the most part. There are plenty of illustrations (mostly battle scenes and portraits) as well. It is true that there are a number of typos here and there, but I didn't find them particularly distracting. My only reason for not giving 5 stars to this otherwise excellent military history is the rather ordinary writing style (more like a newspaper than a novel). That said, Nafziger's writing is still on par with most Napoleonic writers and his scope of coverage is unequalled. "End of Empire" is so filled with detail and information that it is still a "must have" for readers of Napoleonic history. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Finally a book that really covers the battles.

By THOMAS E. BOOKWALTER
Napoleon's 1814 campaign in France has fascinated me for decades. Unfortunately, there has been very little on it in the English language that went into any tactical detail. George Nafziger has now filled that virtual void. This book brings many battles to life. Instead of a few short paragraphs, these battle have pages devoted to them. In the past, my experience with reading on this campaign has been so heavily on the strategic level that it would become boring, reading about who marched where, but not any detailed battle accounts of what happened when they got there. This book covers the major battles (and some minor ones) in more detail than I have seen elsewhere in English. In this campaign, more than any other, the Imperial Guard, Old, Middle and Young were in the thick of it. Their exploits are well covered in End of Empire. Both students of military history and wargamers should find this book of great interest. Oftentimes the detail goes down to the battalion level. The battlefield maps are excellent for wargamers as there is enough detail to reproduce the key features on your table, but not so much that they are overwhelming or cluttered. The orders of battle, both as appendices and those within the text, are a wealth of knowledge in themselves. If a reader has an interest in this campaign, this book is essential. Admittedly, as mentioned before this review, there are a number of errors that could have and should have been corrected. Only due to those errors, did I not give the book five stars. However, taken as a whole, the book is still magnificent and I know of nothing that can come close to equaling it on this subject. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Grand Tactical Historian/Wargamers bible.

By Warwick Louth
Wow! What can I say? A book that could challenge/be put alongside Chandler's "The Campaigns of Napoleon"? Nafziger has done this. In military history circles it is claimed Napoleon's 1814 campaign was among his finest—the tactical: logistical ratio constantly being balanced has obvious connotations with the end of the Second World War in Germany—yet it is interesting that this has been addressed so little in the English language or indeed by previous publications. A cobbled together army, marshals deserting or trading position left right and centre, it should have been a foregone conclusion and yet Allied staff incompetence came to the fore yet again. Populist argument tends to have the central European war end at Leipzig, reintroduced with Wellington's invasion of France and Toulouse. This book is revisionist in its outlook for taking the challenge of taking on such a less supported theatre and breaking it down into its strategic components. For the grand tactical wargamer, military student and military historian it has all the detail you will ever need to inhabit or understand the turnings, events and nature of these battles. Fully annotated orders of battle mean we never have to assume unit sizes and positions again. Something to be kept next to the wargames table for those new scenarios perhaps?

Criticisms: The occasional mistake or confusion might pop in referring to individual positioning of movements or corps—the book is not meant as button counters bible to this campaign—Nafziger approaches the work as a grand tactical, statistical account, rather than a heads down analysis of that is going to get every statistical positioning correct. Future editions of this work may well correct them, it is not for me to judge. I would also argue, while there is a plethora of maps, my one criticism is their half page layout, which can prove slightly difficult to follow. It could be worse, there could be no maps at all, but just that added edge. Americanism's crop in—it was written by an American, the meaning of the subject is not lost, such phonetical mistakes can be overlooked, just as much as the occasional substitution of a meaning of one word for another, making an odd sentence, will likely creep in—it is a 700 page book. Overall a revisionist title, for those who like to know the full details of grand tactical logistics, organisation and movement, with well researched lists and statistics, this addresses an oft forgotten campaign with the treatment it deserves. The ability to ere my eye away from the current project on the painting desk, to the distant columns of a French Corps de Bataile shows that the book certainly has the desired effect. Highly recommended

"The End of Empire" is a continuation of Nafziger's definitive military studies of the Napoleonic era beginning with the 1812 campaign and progressing through the 1813 campaign. Having suffered a massive reversal of fortunes in Russia Napoleon found himself confronted, in Germany, by the combined forces of Russia, Prussia, and Austria. After the disaster of Leipzig Napoleon's German allies fell away and he was forced to fall back, beyond the borders of France. Offered a negotiated peace on the basis of a return to the pre-1792 borders, Napoleon chose to continue to fight, trusting in his star. He was, however, desperate for troops and short of horses and cash. Cornered and threatened

by three armies invading from the north, northeast, and east, every chance to stop the Allies had to be taken and there was desperate battle after desperate battle. Of all his campaigns, Napoleon's 1814 campaign was one of his most brilliant. Eventually, after several terrible defeats, the Allies refused to engage him in battle when he confronted them. Instead they pushed their other two armies forward, slowly driving him back as he rushed to block the advance of the other armies on Paris. This strategy proved successful and eventually Napoleon was obliged to abdicate when his marshals refused to fight further. "The End of Empire" includes a detailed text, specially commissioned maps and the author's trademark extensive orders of battle. REVIEWS "... fascinating. Nafziger does not shy away from describing Napoleon's occasional mishaps ..." Military History Monthly 'George Nafziger has consulted all authorities, considered the evidence, and gives a sound narrative and analysis of the fighting, with clear maps and good illustrations.' Soldier Magazine, July 2015

This is a splendid account of this campaign, covering just about every action fought on the eastern borders of France during 1814, and an invaluable reference for anyone interested in Napoleonic history. -- Dr John Rickard History of War 07/10/2015 ***** George Nafziger has consulted all authorities, considered the evidence, and gives a sound narrative and analysis of the fighting, with clear maps and good illustrations. ... Comprehensive, clear and well researched. -- Becky Clark Soldier Magazine 07/07/2015 "The End of Empire is fascinating. Nafziger does not shy away from describing Napoleon's occasional missteps, but his focus remains on the surprising time it took for him to be defeated." -- Neil Faulkner Military History Monthly 16/06/2015 About the Author George F. Nafziger, PhD, Captain USNR-Ret. earned his BA and MBA at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and his PhD from the Union Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio. His first book, "Napoleon's Invasion of Russia", was published in 1988 and was the first of a series of works on the Napoleonic Era. He has served as a Director of the Napoleonic Society of America and the Napoleonic Alliance. He is a fellow of the Le Souvenir Napoléonienne Internationale, and runs the Nafziger Collection, Inc., a publishing house specializing in military history. He served in the US Navy for 4 years and a further 20 in the US Navy Reserves. He did two tours to Vietnam and experienced combat firsthand.