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# Waterloo

ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN

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# Waterloo

ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN

*THE FRENCH REVOLUTION OF 1789 OVERTHREW OUR KING, LOUIS XVI. IN 1804, NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BECAME OUR EMPEROR. NOW, TEN YEARS LATER, THE WARS BY WHICH NAPOLEON EXPECTED TO CONQUER EUROPE WERE OVER. THE ALLIED POWERS OF EUROPE HAD DEFEATED US. THEY EXILED NAPOLEON TO THE ISLAND OF ELBA, AND RESTORED THE MONARCHY.*

*THE JOY OF THE PEOPLE WHEN LOUIS XVIII CAME TO THE THRONE WAS UNBOUNDED. WE HAD SUFFERED SO MUCH MISERY, AND WE WERE SO WEARY OF BATTLES, THAT WE WISHED FOR NOTHING BUT TO LIVE IN PEACE.*



I CAME BACK TO PFALZBOURG, TO MR. GOULDEN, WITH WHOM I HAD LIVED BEFORE BEING CONSCRIPTED INTO THE ARMY.

JOSEPH BERTHA! AH, MY DEAR CHILD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE LOST!



WE SOON RESUMED ALL OUR OLD HABITS. I WENT BACK TO LIVE AND WORK IN MR. GOULDEN'S WATCH SHOP.

YOU KNOW, JOSEPH, THAT PFALZBOURG SUFFERED HEAVILY DURING THE ENEMY'S SIEGE IN JANUARY.

YES WE ALL HAVE KNOWN GLORY AND WAR, AND, AS FOR ME, IT HAS GIVEN ME A GREATER LOVE FOR PEACE.



I THOUGHT CONSTANTLY OF CATHERINE, WHOM I PLANNED TO MARRY. BUT I WAS STILL A SOLDIER, AND THOUGH I COULD LIVE AT HOME, I NEEDED A PERMIT FROM THE WAR MINISTER TO MARRY. WHENEVER THE POSTMAN CAME TO OUR STREET

HAVE YOU NOTHING FOR ME?

NO, MR JOSEPH.



HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE, CHILD! THE PERMIT WILL COME.

BUT THE MINISTER HAS HAD TIME TO WRITE A DOZEN TIMES!



ON SUNDAYS, I WOULD GO TO SEE CATHERINE. AS I WALKED, I COULD SEE THE PEOPLE BUSY PLANTING THEIR CROPS.

THEY ARE DIGGING OVER THE GROUND TROODEN DOWN BY CAVALRY.



THE ROADS WERE FILLED WITH CARTS AND WAGONS LADEN WITH MATERIALS FOR REPAIRING THE HOUSES WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE HOWITZERS.

IT WILL TAKE TEN YEARS TO REBUILD THAT WHICH THE BOMBS DESTROYED IN TEN MINUTES.



WHEN I FINALLY GOT TO CATHERINE'S HOUSE, HER AUNT GREDEL WOULD COME TO THE DOOR.

HERE HE IS!



THEN

I WAS EXPECTING YOU.



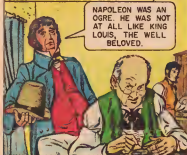
LATER, WE HAD OUR BREAKFAST.

THAT BEGGAR OF A MINISTER, HAS HE NOT WRITTEN YET? IT IS VERY DISAGREEABLE.

YOU ARE RIGHT, AUNT GREDEL. BUT STILL, WE CANNOT BE MARRIED WITHOUT A PERMIT.



EVERY DAY THAT PASSED BROUGHT SOMETHING NEW. IT SEEMS THAT WE WERE NOT DESTINED TO LIVE IN PEACE. ONE DAY, THE MAYOR OF HACMATT CAME TO HAVE HIS WATCH PUT IN ORDER.



NAPOLEON WAS AN OGRE. HE WAS NOT AT ALL LIKE KING LOUIS, THE WELL BELOVED.



HERE, TAKE YOUR WATCH! I WILL NOT WORK FOR YOU! WHY, ONLY LAST YEAR YOU CALLED NAPOLEON "THE GREAT MAN."



NOW YOU SAY HE IS AN OGRE, AND YOU CALL LOUIS XIII "LOUIS, THE WELL BELOVED." YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF!



DO YOU THINK PEOPLE HAVE NO MEMORIES? BEGGARS ARE BEGGARS UNDER ALL GOVERNMENTS!



WHEN THE MAYOR HAD GONE

RASCALS LIKE HIM TREAT WHOEVER IS RULING LIKE A GOO, FOR THEY WANT TO BE IN HIS FAVOR. BUT THEY ARE QUICK TO PLAY THE SAME ROLE UNDER SOMEONE ELSE. AND THEY ARE ALWAYS AT THE TOP, WHILE HONEST PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS IN TROUBLE.

THEN WE HAD A NEW SIGHT--THE RETURN OF THE EMIGRES, THE NOBLES WHO FLED WHEN THE REVOLUTION OVERTHREW THE KING.



SOME OF THOSE OLD FELLOWS FOUGHT AGAINST US IN THE WAR BUT WE ROUTED THEM AFTER ALL.



SOON THE EMIGRES WERE CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE OUR MASTERS AND HAD RETURNED TO RESTORE US TO ORDER.

THE NOBLES WILL DEMAND THE RESTORATION OF THEIR PARKS AND CHATEAUX, AND THEIR PENSIONS, AND FAVORS OF EVERY KIND. THEY WILL DESTROY ALL WE HAVE DONE FOR THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.



IF THE KING LISTENS TO THEM, THERE WILL BE CIVIL WAR, THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT ONE MAN IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER, AND ALL THESE "NOBLE RACES" ARE NONSENSE.

O, GOD, DELIVER US FROM THE NOBLES. LET THEM LEAVE US IN PEACE.



ONE DAY I WATCHED A PROCESSION HELD IN HONOR OF KING LOUIS XVI. SOME OF NAPOLEON'S OLD SOLDIERS, ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM AN ENEMY PRISON CAMP, WAITED FOR THE PROCESSION TO PASS.



A GROUP OF RASCALS WANTED TO SHOW THEMSELVES SUPPORTERS OF THE THRONE. THEY SAW THE SOLDIERS WERE STILL WEARING THE TRI-COLORED COCKADE WORN BY NAPOLEON'S ARMY.



DOWN WITH THE COCKADE!



THEN THESE WRETCHES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, FELL UPON THE OLD SOLDIERS.





THEY LEFT THEM COVERED WITH BLOOD  
AND LYING IN THE ROAD.



I RAN HOME.

WHY, JOSEPH!  
WHAT IS  
WRONG?

I HAVE  
SEEN A  
FRIGHTFUL  
THING.



I TOLD HIM OF THE  
AFFAIR.

IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE!  
WE ARE NOT  
SAVAGES!

IT IS TRUE!  
I SAW IT  
HAPPEN!

WELL, THEN,  
I MUST  
BELIEVE YOU.



IT IS A GREAT MISFORTUNE.  
IF THE KING DOES NOT PUT  
A STRONG CHECK ON THESE  
THINGS, HONEST PEOPLE  
WILL OPEN THEIR EYES.  
THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.



**M**ANY DAYS HAD PASSED SINCE I HAD APPLIED FOR MY MARRIAGE PERMIT. ONE MORNING

IN THE TIME OF NAPOLEON, WE HAD TO GO TO RUSSIA AND SPAIN TO FIGHT. BUT THE MINISTERS DID NOT LEAVE YOUNG PEOPLE TO PINE AWAY.



HERE IS SOMETHING THAT CAME FOR YOU.



IT IS THE PERMIT!



WE MUST LET CATHERINE KNOW IMMEDIATELY. WE MUST SEND A MESSENGER RIGHT AWAY!

GO YOURSELF. THAT WILL BE BETTER.



BUT THE WORK, MR. GOULDEN?

GO, CHILD! HOW COULD YOU WORK NOW? YOU CANNOT SEE CLEARLY.



WHEN I REACHED CATHERINE'S HOUSE...



THE PERMIT!

LONG LIVE THE KING!  
LONG LIVE THE MINISTER!



SOON THE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH NEIGHBORS, WHO CAME TO SEE WHAT THE EXCITEMENT WAS ABOUT.



WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR PERMIT TO MARRY!

IF THAT MINISTER WERE HERE, I WOULD INVITE HIM TO THE WEDDING. HE IS THE BEST OF MEN.



CATHERINE AND I WERE TOO HAPPY TO SAY A WORD.



**T**WO DAYS BEFORE MY MARRIAGE, MY OLD BATTALION CAME TO PFALZBOURG. I SAW MY OLD COMRADE, ZEBEDE.

ZEBEDE!



AH, IT IS YOU, JOSEPH!

YES, IT IS I, AND I AM GOING TO MARRY CATHERINE. YOU WILL BE MY BEST MAN.



**T**HAT DAY, ZEBEDE CAME TO DINNER. HE TALKED OF THE WAR WE HAD FOUGHT IN TOGETHER.

TO FIGHT, TO SUFFER HUNGER AND COLD IS NOTHING, BUT TO HEAR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WEEPING IN THEIR RUINED HOUSES, TO KNOW YOU CANNOT HELP THEM--THAT IS WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART.



YES, THAT IS WHAT GLORY COSTS. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LOSE OUR LIBERTY, WE MUST BE PILLAGED, SACKED AND BURNED.



**TWO DAYS LATER, ON JULY 8, I WAS MARRIED TO CATHERINE.**



**WE MOVED INTO TWO ROOMS OVER THE WORKSHOP AT MR GOULDEN'S. AUNT GREDEL CAME OFTEN TO SEE US**

THERE IS NO NEED TO ASK HOW THE CHILDREN ARE. YOU HAVE ONLY TO LOOK AT THEIR FACES.



**ALL THIS COMES FROM PEACE. PEACE MAKES EVERYBODY HAPPY.**



**EVERYTHING WAS BEAUTIFUL TO CATHERINE AND ME. NOTHING TROUBLED OUR JOY.**

THE NOBLES WANT TO PUT EVERYTHING BACK WHERE IT WAS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE SETTLED BY AND BY. SO LONG AS WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE, WE WILL BE SATISFIED.



**B**UT WE COULD NOT LIVE IN PEACE. AS THE MONTHS PASSED, CONDITIONS IN FRANCE GREW WORSE. DURING THE WINTER, THE DUKE DE BERRY VISITED PFALZBOURG

LONG LIVE THE KING!

LONG LIVE THE DUKE OF BERRY!



IN THE TIME OF NAPOLEON THEY CRIED, "LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!" THE SAME WAY



**L**ATER, THE DUKE DISTRIBUTED HONORS TO FAVORITES OF THE KING. IT SEEMED THAT ALL OF THE TURNCOATS AND TRAITORS AND RASCALS RECEIVED THE AWARDS. IT WAS A REAL SCANDAL.



**T**HAT EVENING

IF THE DUKE HAD KNOWN WHAT THESE PEOPLE ARE, HE WOULD HAVE HUNG THEM RATHER THAN DECORATE THEM.



THAT IS JUST THE TROUBLE. THE KING DOES MANY SUCH THINGS WITHOUT KNOWING IT. AND WHEN HE DOES KNOW IT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE. THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TURNED AGAINST HIM.



## WATERLOO

ONE DAY, ANNA-MARIE, A WOMAN WHO SPENT HER DAYS MAKING RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGES, CAME INTO THE SHOP. SHE KNEW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITHIN MILES OF THE CITY.

THE CHATEAUX ARE TO BE REBUILT, AND THE WOODS AND FIELDS GIVEN UP TO THE NOBLES. THOSE PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT AGREE TO THIS WILL BE FORCED TO DO SO.

WHEN ANNA-MARIE HAD GONE

YOU SEE, EVERYTHING WILL BE PUT BACK WHERE IT WAS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. THE NOBLES WILL HAVE THEIR PRIVILEGES AND THEIR PROPERTY AGAIN.

EVERYTHING GOES WELL NOW THE NOBLES WHO HAVE RETURNED FROM EXILE WILL HAVE THEIR ESTATES RETURNED.



BUT THE PEOPLE WILL NOT PERMIT IT, AND NAPOLEON WAITS ON HIS ISLAND WATCHING THE KING AND HIS ADVISERS LIKE THE SPARROW HAWK WHO PRETENDS TO SLEEP AS HE WATCHES GEESE IN A POOL.

BUT A FEW STROKES OF HIS WING AND HE IS UPON THEM. THEN WE SHALL HAVE WAR AGAIN.



NOT ONLY WERE THE PEOPLE DISSATISFIED, BUT THE SOLDIERS WERE, TOO. THEY LONGED FOR THE GLORY THEY HAD HAD UNDER NAPOLEON. ZEBEDE OFTEN BROUGHT US THE NEWS.

ONLY THE NOBLES ARE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATE THEIR SONS TO BE OFFICERS. THE PEOPLE'S SONS MUST REMAIN SOLDIERS.



THE CITY WAS FULL OF NAPOLEON'S OLD OFFICERS, NOW ON HALF PAY. THEY LIVED ON LITTLE MORE THAN A CRUST OF BREAD AND A GLASS OF WINE A DAY. ONE DAY, TWO OF THEM CAME INTO THE SHOP.

I WISH TO SELL THIS WATCH.

IT IS A BEAUTIFUL WATCH, COMMANDANT MARGAROT—FIT FOR A PRINCE.



IT WAS FROM A PRINCE I RECEIVED IT—FOR BRAVERY IN ACTION.



IT MUST BE HEARTBREAKING TO SELL AN OBJECT WHICH RECALLS SOME NOBLE ACTION. I WILL KEEP IT FOR YOU, AND ADVANCE YOU 200 FRANCS WHICH YOU SHALL REPAY ME WHEN YOU TAKE IT AWAY.

YOU ARE A GOOD PATRIOT. YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT IS STARVING US. THEY TREAT US BADLY.



LATER

THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR SUCH CONDUCT THEY ARE DOING EVERYTHING WHICH IS LIKELY TO DISGUST THE PEOPLE AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR NAPOLEON TO RULE AGAIN.





**A**ND ON MARCH 1, 1815, NAPOLEON LANDED IN FRANCE AND, WITH 1,000 MEN, BEGAN TO MARCH UPON PARIS.



**I**N PFALZBOURG

THEY HAVE TO SEND THE SOLDIERS TO STOP HIM, YET THEY ARE AFRAID THE SOLDIERS WILL ALL GO OVER TO HIM.



**A** FEW DAYS LATER

THE FIRST TWO BATTALIONS ARE GOING AWAY!

THEY ARE SENT TO STOP NAPOLEON?



YES, THEY ARE GOING TO STOP HIM.



**T**HEN ZEBEDE SHOWED ME THE INSIDE OF HIS SHAKO. THE COCKADE WORN IN NAPOLEON'S TIME WAS HIDDEN IN THE LINING.

LOOK, JOSEPH, DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT? ALL THE SOLDIERS HAVE IT!



WHEN ZEBEDE HAD GONE

NOW THERE WILL BE ANOTHER WAR IN EUROPE. INSTEAD OF LISTENING TO THE TICKING OF CLOCKS, I WILL HEAR THE THUNDER OF CANNON.



WE WAITED FOR THE MAIL COACH TO BRING THE NEWSPAPERS. AT LAST, JUST AS WE WERE READY FOR SUPPER

LISTEN!  
THE COACH!



WE RAN INTO THE STREET.

THERE IT IS!  
THERE IT IS!

THE NEWSPAPERS!  
THE NEWSPAPERS!



LET US HURRY TO THE CAFE. THE PAPERS WILL BE READ ALOUD THERE



WHEN WE GOT TO THE CAFE,  
COMMANDANT MARGAROT  
WAS READY TO READ THE NEWS.

SILENCE!



"NAPOLEON BONAPARTE,  
A PUBLIC ENEMY, HAS  
ESCAPEO HIS ISLAND.  
TROOPS FAITHFUL TO  
THE KING ARE ON THE  
MARCH TO STOP HIM  
ALL FRENCHMEN ARE  
COMMANDED TO FALL  
UPON BONAPARTE AND  
DELIVER HIM DEAD  
OR ALIVE."



WHEN HE READ THESE  
WORDS, THE  
COMMANDANT'S EYES  
BLAZED.



LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!



ALL THE OFFICERS IN THE CROWD REPEATED WITH ONE VOICE



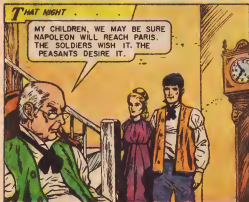
LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!



IT IS ALL OVER NOW. WHAT IS THE USE OF PREACHING PEACE TO SUCH PEOPLE?

THAT NIGHT

MY CHILDREN, WE MAY BE SURE NAPOLEON WILL REACH PARIS. THE SOLDIERS WISH IT. THE PEASANTS DESIRE IT.



BUT PERHAPS HE HAS GIVEN UP HIS IDEAS ABOUT WAR. LET US WISH IT FOR OURSELVES AND FOR HIM.



**O**N THE EVENING OF MARCH 21, THE MAN WHO HAD CHARGE OF THE TELEGRAPH RODE BY THE SHOP.

SOME IMPORTANT NEWS HAS ARRIVED.

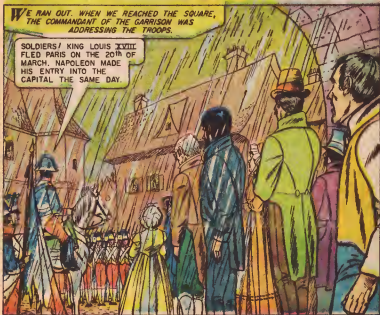


EITHER THEY ARE FIGHTING IN PARIS, OR NAPOLEON IS IN HIS OLD PLACE, AS HE WAS IN 1809.



**W**E RAN OUT. WHEN WE REACHED THE SQUARE, THE COMMANDANT OF THE GARRISON WAS ADDRESSING THE TROOPS.

SOLDIERS! KING LOUIS XVIII FLED PARIS ON THE 20TH OF MARCH. NAPOLEON MADE HIS ENTRY INTO THE CAPITAL THE SAME DAY.



HERE IS THE FLAG WHICH WE DYED WITH OUR BLOOD WHEN WE SERVED WITH NAPOLEON. I KNOW NO OTHER. LONG LIVE FRANCE! LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!



FROM EVERY WINDOW, FROM THE SQUARE, FROM THE STREETS, ROSE THE SHOUTS.

LONG LIVE FRANCE!  
LONG LIVE THE  
EMPEROR!



THE JOY WAS AS GREAT AS ON THE RETURN OF LOUIS XIII, AND PERHAPS STILL GREATER. WE LEFT THE SQUARE A SCENE OF WILD REJOICING.



WHEN WE REACHED HOME...

NOW WE SHALL AGAIN TALK OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY. THE NATION WANTS PEACE. BUT IF OUR ENEMIES START WAR TO RESTORE THE KING, WOE BE UNTO THEM.



I LOOKED AT CATHERINE AND FELT THAT WE WOULD SOON BE FORCED TO PART.



**T**HE GENERAL SATISFACTION CONTINUED FOR FIVE OR SIX DAYS. THEN ORDERS CAME TO ARM THE PFALZBOURG RAMPARTS.

IF THEY ARE GOING TO ARM THE RAMPARTS, THAT MEANS THEY WILL NEED SOLDIERS.



**W**E HEARD, TOO, THAT NEW REGIMENTS WERE TO BE FORMED.

DON'T WORRY, JOSEPH! NAPOLEON'S ADVISERS WILL PREVENT HIM FROM GOING TO WAR.

ALL THESE NEW REGIMENTS ARE TO BE FILLED, THAT IS CERTAIN. I WILL SOON BE ON THE MARCH AGAIN.

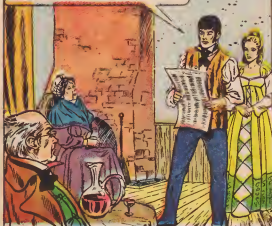
WHY MUST I GO AND FIGHT AGAINST PEOPLE WHOM I NEVER SAW?

PERHAPS YOU WON'T. OUR ENEMIES WILL NOT CARE TO ATTACK US AGAIN.



**B**UT THE ALLIES--THE MAJOR POWERS OF EUROPE--FEARED THAT NAPOLEON WOULD AGAIN ATTEMPT TO CONQUER THEM. ONE DAY, AUNT GREDEL SHOWED US A PROCLAMATION FROM THE ALLIED POWERS WHICH HAD APPEARED IN THE PAPERS.

"NAPOLEON BONAPARTE HAS SHOWN THERE CAN BE NEITHER PEACE NOR TRUCE WITH HIM. THE ALLIED POWERS ARE DETERMINED TO REPLACE LOUIS XVIII ON THE THRONE."



THAT MEANS THAT JOSEPH WILL BE COMPELLED TO GO AWAY AGAIN.



**F**OR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, I WORKED AT THE PFALZBOURG ARSENAL REPAIRING ARMS. I WATCHED THE CONSCRIPTS AND OLD SOLDIERS PASS THROUGH THE TOWN.

WHEN WILL I BE CALLED?  
AND WHAT WILL CATHERINE DO,  
NOW THAT SHE IS TO BE A MOTHER?



**T**HEN, ON MAY 23

JOSEPH, THE ARSENAL COMMANDANT WISHES TO SEE YOU.

WHAT DOES HE WANT OF ME?







THAT NIGHT WAS THE MOST TERRIBLE I EVER PASSED IN MY LIFE. AT DAWN, AFTER A LONG FIT OF WEEPING, CATHERINE FELL ASLEEP. I WENT OUT SOFTLY.

SHE IS ASLEEP, AND THAT IS A BLESSING. YOU WILL GO BEFORE SHE WAKES.



LATER WE HEARD THE DRUMS OF THE GARRISON BEAT THE ASSEMBLY. IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE.

JOSEPH, THE DANGER IS SO GREAT THAT FRANCE HAS NEED OF ALL HER CHILDREN. THIS TIME IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF ACQUIRING FROM OTHERS, BUT OF SAVING YOUR OWN COUNTRY.



REMEMBER THAT ALL THAT IS DEAREST TO YOU IN THE WORLD IS AT STAKE.

I WILL REMEMBER.



I WENT TO THE BARRACKS. THERE



LATER, WHEN THE BATTALION FILED OUT OF THE CITY, A FEW CHILDREN RAN AFTER US AND THE SOLDIERS ON GUARD PRESENTED ARMS. WE WERE EN ROUTE FOR WATERLOO.



**WE** MARCHED THROUGH THE VILLAGES, THE HILLS, THE VALLEYS OF FRANCE.



**I** MARCHED BESIDE A NEW CONSCRIPT, A PEASANT, JEAN BUCHE.

MY FEET HURT BECAUSE I AM FORCED TO WEAR SHOES. SHOES SHOULD ONLY BE WORN ON PARADE.



**WE** WERE MARCHING TOWARD BELGIUM, WHERE BOTH THE ENGLISH AND THE PRUSSIAN FORCES WERE.

IT IS SAID WE WILL DESTROY FIRST THE PRUSSAINS, THEN THE ENGLISH, BEFORE THEY HAVE A CHANCE TO UNITE AGAINST US.



WELL, I HAVE FOUGHT THE PRUSSAINS, RUSSIANS, AUSTRIANS, BAVARIANS AND SWEDISH NOW I AM GOING TO MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF THE ENGLISH, ALSO.



IF I AM DOOMED TO LEAVE MY BONES ON THE BATTLEFIELD, I CAN DO NOTHING. BUT IT IS TRUE THAT THE MORE WE DESTROY OF THE ENEMY, THE BETTER ARE THE CHANCES FOR US.

THAT IS GOOD REASONING.



OUR MARCH CONTINUED. ON JUNE 14, WHEN WE HAD CAMPED FOR THE EVENING, A PROCLAMATION FROM NAPOLEON WAS READ.

"SOLDIERS! THE ALLIED POWERS HAVE COMBINED TO ATTACK THE SACRED RIGHTS OF FRANCE. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO CONQUER OR TO PERISH!"



THE EMPEROR HAD BREATHED HIS WAR SPIRIT INTO OUR HEARTS AND MOVED US AS ONE MAN TO DESTROY OUR ENEMIES.

LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR!



LATER

I DESPISE THE ENEMY. MY SABRE CUTS LIKE A BUTCHER'S KNIFE. THEY SHOULD BE AFRAID TO ENCOUNTER ME.



YES, WE'LL SETTLE THE RASCALS. WE WILL SHOW NO MERCY.



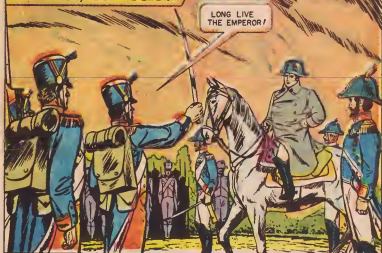
THE NEXT DAY, WE MARCHED THROUGH A VILLAGE FROM WHICH THE ENEMY HAD JUST BEEN DRIVEN.

THOSE ARE PRUSSIANS. I SAW THEM IN THE LAST WAR. YOU ARE GOING TO SEE THEM, TOO, JEAN.

THAT IS WHAT I WANT.



ON JUNE 16, WE FACED THE PRUSSIANs AT LIGNY IN BELGIUM. AS WE WAITED FOR OUR ORDERS, WE SAW THE EMPEROR.



WE SAW HIM POINT UP THE ROAD TO LIGNY.

WELL, JOSEPH, THE DANCE IS GOING TO COMMENCE.

YES. IF I SHOULD DIE, CATHERINE WILL HAVE OUR CHILD TO CONSOLE HER.



THE ATTACKING COLUMNS WERE FORMED. I WAS IN THE ONE ON THE LEFT.



THERE WAS A ROAR OF CANNON, THOUGH WE COULD NOT TELL WHETHER THEY WERE OURS OR THE PRUSSIANS.

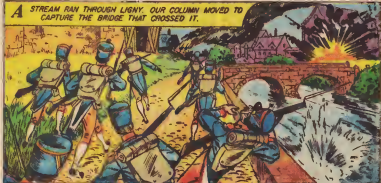
FORWARD!  
NO QUARTER!



IN A FEW MINUTES, WE WERE IN THE VILLAGE.



A STREAM RAN THROUGH LIGNY. OUR COLUMN MOVED TO CAPTURE THE BRIDGE THAT CROSSED IT.



**F**IFTEEN OF US WERE POSTED IN AN OLD BARN TO COVER THE ATTACK ON THE BRIDGE.



**S**UDDENLY, WE HEARD A GREAT ROAR. A PRUSSIAN BATTERY AT THE HEAD OF THE STREET OPENED FIRE.



**O**UR WHOLE COLUMN RETREATED, LEAVING US STRANDED IN THE BARN. A MOMENT LATER, THE PRUSSIANS WERE UPON US.



**Z**EBEDE FELL.

TO THE BAYONET!



**WE DROVE THE PRUSSIANS BACK AND STARTED UP THE LADDER**



**IN THE LOFT, ZEBEDE REGAINED HIS SENSES. HE SHOT THE LADDER FROM ITS ROUNDS.**



**BELOW US, THE UPGRAAR WAS TERRIBLE THE WHOLE STREET WAS FULL OF PRUSSIANS.**



I WILL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS. BUT I WILL SELL MY LIFE AS DEARLY AS POSSIBLE.

**SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION. WE ALL FELL IN A HEAP.**





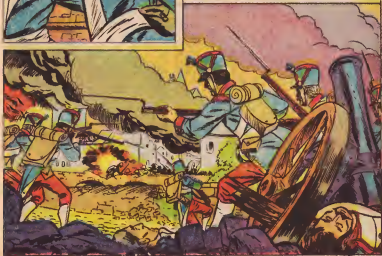
**A** LIGHTED BOMB WHICH THE PRUSSIANS HAD ROLLED INTO THE BARN HAD EXPLODED. THEY THOUGHT TO PROFIT BY OUR SURPRISE BY CLIMBING UP TO THE LOFT AND BUTCHERING US.



**T**HE NOISE WAS FRIGHTFUL. THE FLASHES OF THE MUSKETS LIGHTED UP THE STREET LIKE A MOVING FLAME.



**T**HEN OUR TROOPS RECAPTURED THE STREET. THE PRUSSIANS RETREATED.



**A**N HOUR BEFORE, FIFTEEN OF US HAD ENTERED THAT OLD BARN. ONLY SIX CAME OUT.



**W**E JOINED THE ATTACKING COLUMN.



**T**HE SLAUGHTER CONTINUED ALL THAT DAY.



**A**T LAST, THE PRUSSIAN WITHDREW.

**W**E HAVE WON THE BATTLE OF LIGNY.



**T**HE NEXT DAY, JUNE 17, WE RESUMED OUR MARCH.

WELL, WE HAVE DRIVEN THE PRUSSIAN'S BACK.

YES, BUT WE HAVE NOT CRUSHED THEM.



**L**ATER, WE SPOKE TO ZEBEDE.

THE EMPEROR HAS SENT MARSHAL GROUCHY TO PURSUE THE PRUSSIAN'S AND DESTROY THEM.



IT IS SAID THE ENGLISH ARE RETREATING TO WATERLOO, NEAR BRUSSELS. WE WILL ATTACK THEM THERE.

**T**HAT NIGHT, WE SLEPT IN THE FIELDS NEAR WATERLOO. WE COULD NOT LIGHT OUR FIRES FOR FEAR OF ALARMING THE ENGLISH.

HERE WE LIE, SHIVERING IN THE RAIN, AND WITH NO RATIONS, AND WE WILL BE COMPELLED TO ATTACK THE ENGLISH, WHO SLEEP WITH THEIR FEET TO THE FIRE AND THEIR STOMACHS WELL LINED.

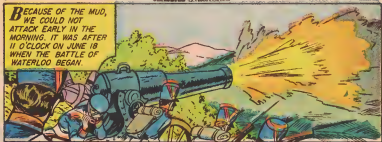


I HAVE BEEN THROUGH WORSE RAINS THAN THIS, BUT THEN I HAD AT LEAST A CRUST OF BREAD.

THE RAIN IS BAD HOW WILL OUR CANNON ADVANCE TOMORROW IN THIS MUD?



**B**ECAUSE OF THE MUD,  
WE COULD NOT  
ATTACK EARLY IN THE  
MORNING. IT WAS AFTER  
11 O'CLOCK ON JUNE 18  
WHEN THE BATTLE OF  
WATERLOO BEGAN.

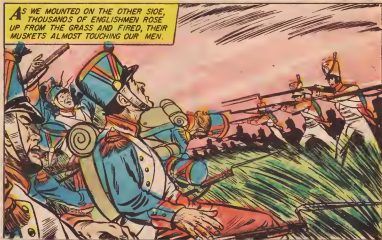


**A**BOUT NOON, IT WAS OUR TURN TO  
ADVANCE. WE DESCENDED  
INTO THE VALLEY.

CLOSE UP THE  
RANKS FOR BATTLE.



**A**S WE MOUNTED ON THE OTHER SIDE,  
THOUSANDS OF ENGLISHMEN ROSE  
UP FROM THE GRASS AND FIRED, THEIR  
MUSKETS ALMOST TOUCHING OUR MEN.



**A**LMOST AT THE SAME INSTANT, ENGLISH CAVALRY SWEEPED DOWN ON US. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST TERRIBLE MOMENTS OF MY LIFE



**T**HEN THE ENGLISH FOOT SOLDIERS ATTACKED WITH BAYONETS



**T**HE NEXT MOMENT, OUR COLUMNS WERE IN RETREAT. WE RUSHED DOWN THE HILL.



**T**HEN THE ENGLISH MOUNTED OUR SIDE OF THE VALLEY. IT WAS THEIR TURN TO BE MASSACRED.



**B**UT IT WAS NOT YET FINISHED. THE COMPANIES RE-FORMED AND THE BATTLE CONTINUED. YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT MEN'S LIVES WERE OF NO VALUE.



**W**HERE THE ROAD MOUNTED THE HILL TO THE ENGLISH POSITION, THERE WAS A LARGE FARMHOUSE CALLED HAIE-SAINTE. THE ENGLISH HAD FORTIFIED THIS, AND FILLED IT WITH GERMAN TROOPS.

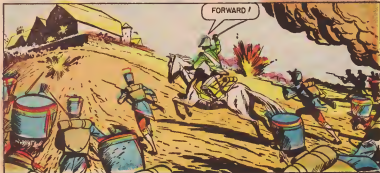


**M**ARSHAL NEY RODE UP. HE POINTED TOWARD HAIE-SAINTE

WE ARE GOING TO TAKE THAT. IT WILL BE THE TURNING POINT OF THE BATTLE.



FORWARD!



**WE REACHED THE WALL SURROUNDING THE BUILDINGS.**

BREAK THAT IN!



**WHEN THE WALL WAS BREACHED, WE RUSHED THROUGH LIKE A PACK OF WOLVES**



**SOON WE WERE VICTORIOUS. WE WERE MASTERS OF THE PRINCIPAL OUTPOST OF THE ENGLISH.**

THE MAJOR PART OF THE BATTLE HAS BEEN FOUGHT. ANOTHER HOUR AND THE ENGLISH WILL BE FINISHED.



**THEN WE HEARD TERRIBLE NEWS.**

THE PRUSSIAN ARE ATTACKING ON OUR RIGHT!



THEN MARSHAL GROUCHY DID NOT DESTROY THEM!

NO! THEY HAVE COME TO AID THE ENGLISH. WE WILL HAVE TWO BATTLES, ONE IN FRONT AND ONE ON OUR RIGHT!



**I** WAS ONE OF THE MEN LEFT TO GUARD MAIE-SANTE. FROM MY POST, I COULD SEE OUR CAVALRY ADVANCE INTO THE VALLEY.



**O**N THE RIGHT, I COULD SEE THE WHITE SMOKE RISING ABOVE THE TREES.



IT IS THE ATTACK OF THE FIRST PRUSSIAN CORPS.

**T**HE GREAT, THE REAL BATTLE WAS WITH THE ENGLISH. AT EACH NEW CHARGE, IT SEEMED AS IF THEY MUST BE OVERTHROWN.



**B**UT THE GREAT RED LINES STOOD STEADFAST AS WALLS.



**I**T WAS GROWING DARK WHEN AN OFFICER CAME TO SUMMON US.

MEN, THE TIME HAS COME TO CONQUER OR TO DIE.





**N**APOLÉON'S FINEST TROOPS, THE GUARD, LED THE FINAL ATTACK. EVERYONE WHO COULD PUT ONE FOOT BEFORE THE OTHER JOINED THEM.



**T**HE WHOLE OF THE ENEMY FELL UPON US. IT WAS THE LAST, TERRIBLE BATTLE. WE WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED.



**I SOBBED LIKE A CHILD.**

WE ARE LOST—  
EVERYTHING IS  
LOST!

LET US TRY  
TO SAVE  
OURSELVES



**WITH THE OTHERS, WE FLED ACROSS THE  
FIELDS. MUSKET SHOT PASSED OVER US  
FROM THE RIGHT AND LEFT.**

THE PRUSSIANS TAKE  
NO PRISONERS. THEY  
KILL WITHOUT MERCY.



**AT ONE TIME WE MET AN OFFICER.**

DID THE EMPEROR  
PERISH IN THE BATTLE?

NO. I  
BELIEVE HE  
WAS SAVED.



**ON AND ON WE RAN.**



**A**BOUT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, WE CAME TO A BEECH GROVE.

I AM SO WEARY  
I CANNOT TAKE  
ANOTHER STEP.

LET US GO IN  
THERE AND  
LIE DOWN.



**W**HEN WE AWOKE, THE RETREATING ARMY HAD PASSED US. WE WALKED ALL THAT DAY.



**T**HAT NIGHT WE MET A COMPANY OF FRENCH INFANTRY.

YOU WILL  
JOIN US



**T**HE NEXT MORNING, WE SAW MANY OTHER REGIMENTS ON THE MARCH WE ALL WERE RETREATING TOWARD PARIS.



ON JUNE 24, AS WE CAMPED FOR THE NIGHT, WE HEARD THE NEWS.

THE EMPEROR HAS ABDICATED!

SO BE IT, BUT NOW WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT THE ENEMY DOES NOT ENTER PARIS.



ON JULY 2, WE WERE IN THE SUBURBS OF PARIS, THERE THE PRUSSIANS ATTACKED. WE FOUGHT THEM WITH A NEW FURY



WE WERE FIGHTING FOR OUR CAPITAL. THE PEOPLE AIDED US AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.



**T**HE NEXT DAY, HOSTILITIES WERE SUSPENDED.

THE SUSPENSION IS UNDOUBTEDLY TO GIVE NOTICE TO THE ENEMY THAT IF THEY DO NOT QUIT OUR COUNTRY, FRANCE WILL RISE AS ONE MAN AND CRUSH THEM ALL.



**B**UT ON JULY 4, THE ARMISTICE WAS READ TO US.

"THE ENGLISH AND PRUSSAINS WILL OCCUPY PARIS. THE FRENCH ARMY IS TO RETIRE BEHIND THE LOIRE RIVER."



**W**HEN WE HEARD THIS, WE WERE FURIOUS.

ARE WE TO BE SUBJECTS OF THE PRUSSAINS? MUST WE OBEY THEM?

WE ARE BETRAYED!  
IT IS A DISGRACE!



THE SHAME IS NOT OURS. WE HAVE DONE OUR DUTY.

YES. SINCE THEY HAVE BETRAYED US, LET US GO. ALL OF THIS IS NONE OF OUR CONCERN ANY LONGER.



**T**HE DESERTIONS COMMENCED THAT VERY NIGHT. ALL THE SOLDIERS WENT.

COME, JEAN. WE ARE USED TO LONG MARCHES.



**O**N JULY 16, WE CAME IN SIGHT OF PFALZBOURG. I COULD NOT RESTRAIN MYSELF. I BEGAN TO RUN.



**A** FEW MINUTES LATER, CATHERINE WAS IN MY ARMS.

I KNEW YOU WOULD COME BACK!

JOSEPH! THE LORD HAS HAD MERCY ON US!



**Z**EBEDE CAME BACK ALSO. WE ALL WOULD OFTEN SIT AND TALK ABOUT THE WAR.

WHEN NAPOLEON TOOK FRANCE, SHE WAS A GREAT NATION. TODAY WE ARE RUINED, CONQUERED. SEE WHAT IT COSTS TO PUT LIBERTY, FORTUNE AND HONOR IN THE HANDS OF AN AMBITIOUS MAN.



BUT WE MUST NOT BE DISCOURAGED. IF WE PROFIT BY OUR MISTAKES, LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE WILL SOMEDAY RETURN TO FRANCE.

AND PERHAPS PEOPLE WILL SOMEDAY REALIZE THAT WAR BRINGS NOTHING BUT MISERY



THE END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS *Illustrated* EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN

**ERCKMANN-CHATRIAN** is the joint signature of two men, Emile Erckmann and Alexandre Chatrian.

Erckmann was born in 1822 in Pfalzbourg, France. As a young man, he attended the College of Pfalzbourg. After graduation, he went to Paris to study law. He had to return to Pfalzbourg five years later because of a serious illness. During his convalescence, he began writing stories to pass the time.

Chatrian was born in 1826 in Soldatenthal, France. He, too, attended the College of Pfalzbourg. After graduation, he went to Belgium to work in his father's glass factory. His father had always hoped that Chatrian would someday take over the business. But Chatrian was not happy in the factory, and he went back to Pfalzbourg to teach.

In 1849, Erckmann and Chatrian met. They discovered a common interest in writing and soon became friends. Together they began writing stories which appeared in obscure newspapers in Strasbourg and Paris.

The two men worked hard and waited patiently for the fame they were certain would come to them. It came with the publication of the *Illustrious Doctor Malthus*. They were transformed almost overnight from struggling, unknown writers to celebrities.

They continued writing and published *Therese*, *Friend Fritz*, *Waterloo* and other books. In *Waterloo*, as in many of their books, Erckmann and Chatrian attacked war by portraying its horrors rather than its glamor.

When Erckmann and Chatrian were ready to work on a book, they would together decide upon its theme. After further preliminary discussion, Erckmann would then write the book and submit it to Chatrian for corrections. Chatrian also served as business manager for the pair. He made all the contracts and collected the royalties on the books for both of them.

Erckmann and Chatrian took their work seriously, and they would often rewrite a book two or three times before it suited them. Once, when a new manuscript did not please either of them, they decided to burn it. The book represented months of labor and creation, but it was tossed into the fire. They had to start all over again.

The two men wrote together for many years. Then they quarreled over money matters and this led to a law suit. When Chatrian died in 1890, they had not been reconciled. Erckmann died nine years after Chatrian.



# THE STORY OF GREAT BRITAIN

## PART 9: THE RESTORATION

WHEN MONARCHY WAS RESTORED IN ENGLAND IN 1660, AND CHARLES II BECAME KING, THE PEOPLE REJOICED.



AFTER ELEVEN YEARS OF LIVING UNDER SOMBER PURITAN RULE, THE UPPER CLASS ENGLISH BURST FORTH IN AN ORGY OF PLEASURE SEEKING. CLOTHING BECAME ELABORATE AND GAY, AND MEN WORE MORE FRILLS THAN WOMEN DID.

THAT IS A FINE NEW WIG

AYE, IT'S MY THIRD NEW ONE THIS MONTH. ONE NEVER HAS ENOUGH.



THEATERS, WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED WHILE THE PURITANS RULED, WERE REOPENED. WITTY COMEDIES MADE FUN OF PURITAN VIRTUES.



FOR THE AVERAGE PERSON, THOUGH, THERE WERE FEW PLEASURES OR PRIVILEGES. ONLY RICH BOYS WENT TO SCHOOL. POOR BOYS, WHEN THEY WERE TEN OR ELEVEN, WERE APPRENTICED TO TRADESMEN.



MANY BOYS WENT TO SEA AND SAILED ENGLISH SHIPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.





**S**HORTLY BEFORE CHARLES II DIED IN 1685, SIR ISAAC NEWTON DISCOVERED THE LAW OF GRAVITY. HE FIGURED IT ALL OUT BY MATHEMATICS.



**A**BOUT THE SAME TIME, A MAN NAMED JOHN LOCKE WAS WRITING IDEAS WHICH LED TO REVOLUTIONS

ALL MEN WERE CREATED FREE AND EQUAL... ALL RELIGIONS MUST BE TOLERATED... MAN HAS THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY.



**W**HEN CHARLES II DIED, JAMES II CAME TO THE THRONE. HIS HIGH HANDED RULE SO ANTAGONIZED THE PEOPLE THAT IN 1688, ENGLISH LEADERS INVITED HIS DAUGHTER, MARY, AND HER HUSBAND, WILLIAM OF ORANGE, TO RULE ENGLAND. JAMES II FLED.



**W**ILLIAM AND MARY AGREED TO RULE UNDER A CONSTITUTION WHICH MADE THE MONARCH RESPONSIBLE TO PARLIAMENT. A BILL OF RIGHTS WAS PASSED GUARANTEEING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE. BY 1700, DEMOCRACY WAS BECOMING A REALITY IN ENGLAND.

WE'VE THROWN OUT THAT TYRANT, JAMES, AND WON RIGHTS FOR ALL OF US. THAT'S A REVOLUTION, ALL RIGHT.

AND NOT A DROP OF BLOOD WAS SPILLED! IT WAS A GLORIOUS REVOLUTION!



**THIS IS THE NINTH OF TWELVE FEATURES ON THE HISTORY OF GREAT BRITAIN. IN THE NEXT ISSUE: "THE AGE OF REVOLUTIONS."**

## RETREAT FROM MOSCOW

**O**N June 24, 1812, the French army, half a million strong, marched into Russia. At the head of the troops was the Emperor Napoleon. His brilliant leadership had brought the French victory after victory in Europe. Now he was determined to make Russia his newest conquest.

As Napoleon marched his army through Russia, he expected every day to meet up with Russian troops. But he found only broken bridges and burned and deserted villages. The Russians were deliberately withdrawing before him, wasting the country and carrying off all supplies.

This went on for weeks and French supplies began to dwindle. Finally, Napoleon caught up with the Russians at the city of Smolensk. After storming the city three times, it fell and the French were victorious. But as they prepared to enter the defeated city in search of food, they were forced back by smoke and flames. The Russians had set Smolensk on fire. Napoleon later said of the Russians, "To burn one's own cities! A demon inspires these people!"

Leaving Smolensk, the French advanced toward the Russian capital, Moscow, where they hoped to renew their supplies and force the Russians to surrender. When they finally reached the gates of the capital, Napoleon expected to be met by the Russians begging for peace. But no one appeared. When the French troops entered the city, they found it completely deserted.

It was the strangest victory Napoleon had ever won. A French soldier wrote of the deserted city, "I passed through immense squares and broad streets. I glanced into the windows of every house and, not finding a soul within, I grew numb with horror."

Napoleon decided to remain in Moscow to replenish his army's supplies and to wait for the Czar of Russia to agree to a treaty of peace. But that same night a fire broke out in several parts of the city at the same time.

When Napoleon saw the flames, he said, "They themselves are setting it afire. What a terrible spectacle!" He gave orders for his army to abandon Moscow. A French soldier later wrote, "We were besieged by an ocean of flames. Haste was imperative. Every instant the roar of flames grew louder. The Emperor strode forward through the flaming bonfires, to the crash of collapsing arches and falling rafters."

Without supplies and with winter coming, there was nothing left for Napoleon but retreat to France. Napoleon, who had never known defeat, said, "It will look like flight! What an effect it will have in Europe!"

The French army began the retreat from Moscow on October 19, 1812. The troops were demoralized by the forced marches, the shortage of food and the cold Russian winter. They were unaccustomed to the bitter climate and were not properly equipped to bear the cold. Thousands froze to death in their sleep because they had only the snow to cover them.

During the long march home, the French were attacked by bands of Russians who killed many of them. Those that survived the cold and the Russian attacks were prey to disease, starvation and fatigue. There were long roads strewn with the corpses of the French soldiers.

What was left of the once glorious French army straggled back across Europe with clothes in shreds and feet wrapped in rags. Less than 100,000 men returned to France. It was one of the worst disasters the world has ever known.



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5	25	45	63	85	112	136	158
6	26	46	64	86	115	137	163
7	27	47	65	87	116	138	164
9	28	48	67	89	117	140	165
10	29	49	68	90	118	142	166
11	30	50	69	91	119	143	
12	31	51	70	95	120	146	
13	32	52	72	96	122	145	
15	34	54	75	97	123	146	
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