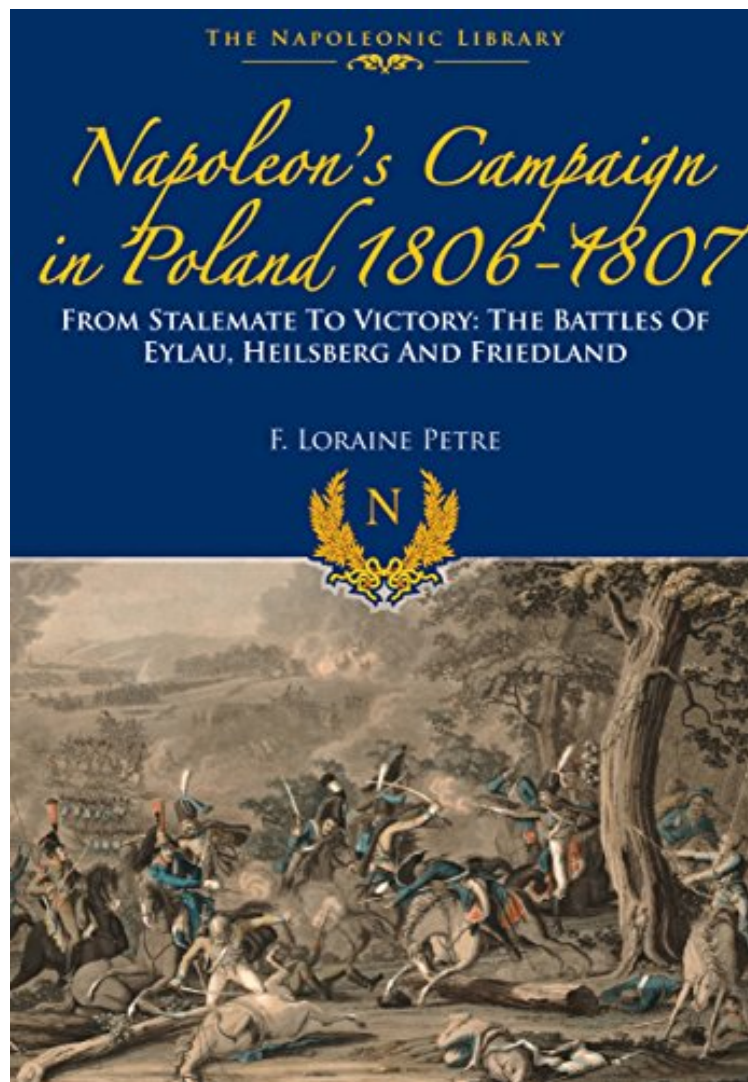


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Napoleon's Campaign In Poland 1806-1807: From Stalemate to Victory: The Battles of Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland (The Napoleonic Library)

F. Lorraine Petre

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F. Lorraine Petre : Napoleon's Campaign In Poland 1806-1807: From Stalemate to Victory: The Battles of Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland (The Napoleonic Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon's Campaign In Poland 1806-1807: From Stalemate to Victory: The Battles of Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland (The Napoleonic Library):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. From Eylau To Friedland By Roger Kennedy
Petre belongs to that older school of classic Napoleonic writing. As an English historian he preferred to cover the major campaigns of central Europe and left to others the British Campaigns in the Peninsular. His five volumes cover major aspects of Napoleon's Campaigns, although he restricts himself from Russia and Spain preferring to leave that to others. For the modern reader his prose might seem a little dated at times, but he is a spirited writer none the less. Since he covered many of these battlefields in person, Petre likes to give detailed analysis of the ground and terrain that was fought over. Sometimes this can get a little long winded, and his maps depending on the edition you read are not the most clear to follow. This trade paperback edition was hard to read w/o a magnifying glass. This is unfortunate as Petre likes to have the reader follow along as the Corps and Divisions march. This detail does not always make clear what is going on however, as Petre typical of that time of historical writing assumes the reader already has some prior knowledge or is just able to follow along anyway. Where the author excels is in his battle scenes. I doubt one will find a better Eylau than here. He draws upon several contemporary authorities from both sides including the Prussians who did extensive studies later in the 19th century of these campaigns as part of their developing general staff system. You will also get plenty of details on lesser known actions of the Campaign besides the two major battles of Eylau and Friedland which are well known. Petre tries to get into the head of those making the decisions and with his often detailed notes contained within the body of the text will try to explain why certain courses of action were embarked upon, especially when these were controversial. He provides some good tactical details here and there pointing out that both sides deployed their battalions in the first line and supported them with a close column in the second line between the intervals. This shows us that both the French and Russians in this period were fighting in much more linear formations than they would in 1812 and later. Admittedly as the armies got larger the quality of the soldiery declined. For the French this would certainly be so as this was the last of their Austerlitz veterans who knew their drills. The conscripts who followed increasingly were formed into those large columns made famous in later battles and in the Peninsular. As an English historian one can tell that his bias is not in favor of Napoleon's actions all the time. In this respect he would agree with how some recent historians have taken a more critical and less heroic approach toward L'Empereur. Several times he attributes the mass suffering of all those around him to his own vanity, and despite how horrific things became during this campaign, the great man never let it phase him. All was simply a mathematical process that could be modified and changed as needed. Petre gives him his due in that regard, acknowledging his genius in managing huge amounts of detail all at once. But it was a cold and pitiless genius that took no account of how those suffered from his decisions. Those who are fans of the great Corsican, especially in the USA should take note of this at times. The 1806-07 Campaigns were the toughest the French had fought so far. In the Russians they found a tenacious enemy in terrible winter conditions. Napoleon would remember his Polish Campaigns when planning for the epic 1812 venture. At Eylau he received his first check, but he quickly rallied from it over the Winter coming back to win handsomely at Friedland in the new year. This extreme of fortunes probably made him think that the Russians, while tough, were apt to make mistakes. This might have been what drove him to go on in 1812. For the true Napoleonic fan Petre's books remain classics to read today. In trade paperback form they are much more affordable than in years past. Despite the map problems this and the other books in his series on the Napoleonic Wars in Europe are must reads. Enjoy and Vive L'Empereur!
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Mapless By Rocconisense
This book will occupy a welcome niche among my collection of hardbound Napoleonic Campaign literature. The historical verbiage is concise and the designation of troop movements are accurate and apparently well researched and documented. My principal criticism is relative to the sorry state of the maps located toward the back of the book. Not only are the maps few, they are practically illegible. The original map keys are not provided and handwritten explanations are meant to suffice in lieu of the original map keys. I personally believe this to be a disservice to the student of military history and an annoying shame. If you have no objection to a significant dearth of geographic reference material, you are likely to enjoy this read.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By james kelly
another great book by an outstanding author.....

After Napoleon's humiliation of Prussia, on the battlefield at Jena, the French Emperor turned his attention to subduing his Russian foe and marched into Poland in the winter of 1806. Six months later, the Russians had been beaten and brought to the peace table and Napoleon was at the height of his powers. In his detailed study of this remarkable episode of Napoleonic history, F. Loraine Petre follows every move of the campaign. He assesses the defeat of Prussia, analyses the strengths and weaknesses of both Napoleon's army and that of his Russian opponents, details the bloody battle of Eylau and describes Napoleon's crushing victory over the Russians at Friedland. F. Loraine Petre's campaign studies are renowned for their scope, detail and clarity, and Napoleon's Campaign in Poland, is a brilliant overview of Napoleon's vaunted army confronting some of its most worthy opponents at a time when Napoleon dominated Europe.

This work details all aspects and phases of Napoleon's defeat of Russian forces in Poland. It gives background on events leading to the campaign against Russia and provides details on the leaders and provisions of the French and

Russian armies. The book describes the physical environment, climate, and weather during the period, then chronicles the various campaigns. Bw historical illustrations and maps are included. The book was first published in 1901 by Sampson Low; it was the first of author Petre's five studies on the Napoleonic period to be published. It was later published in a revised edition in 1907, 1989, and 2001. This reprint is complete and unabridged from the Greenhill Books edition of 2001. (Protonview)From the PublisherA comprehensive study of Napoleon's campaign in Poland. Describes such key battles as Eylau, Heilsberg and Friedland and provides a remarkable insight into Napoleon's genius for war.About the AuthorFrancis Loraine Petre, who was born in 1852, was a British civil servant in India before becoming a distinguished military historian and student of Napoleonic tactics and strategy. He wrote five important studies, including the present volume, which have enjoyed enthusiastic popularity since the time of their writing.