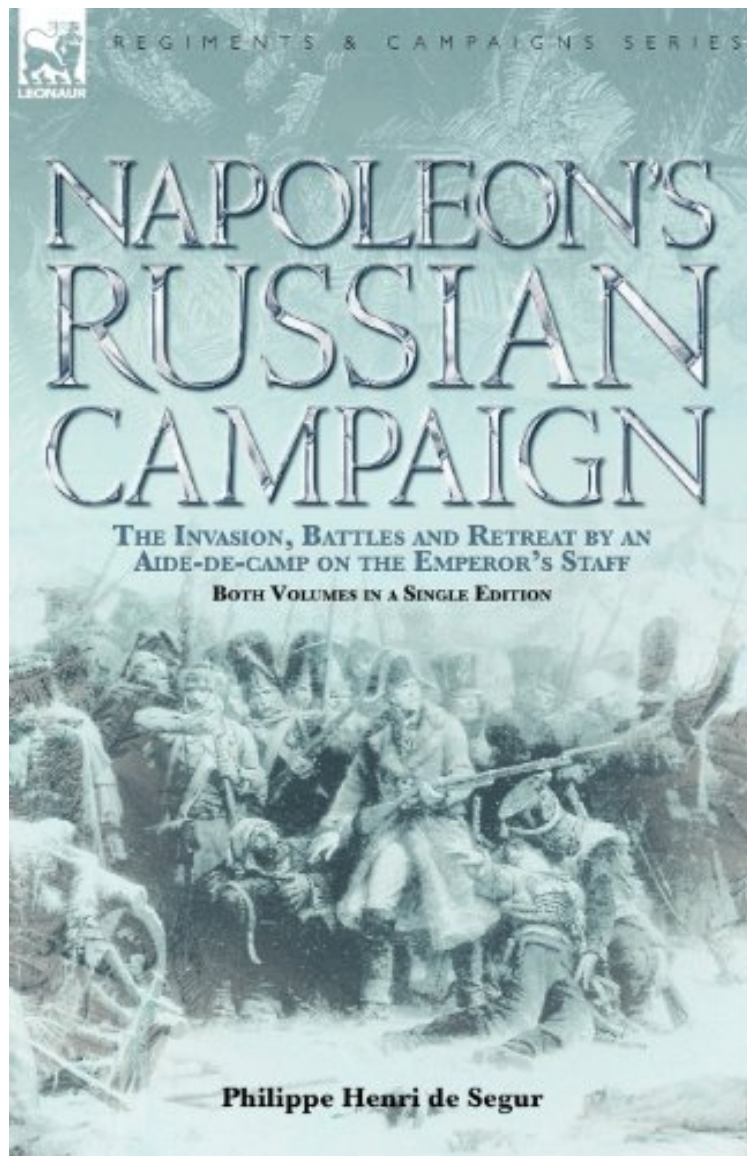


(Download) Napoleon's Russian Campaign: The Invasion, Battles and Retreat by an Aide-de-Camp on the Emperor's Staff

Napoleon's Russian Campaign: The Invasion, Battles and Retreat by an Aide-de-Camp on the Emperor's Staff

Philippe Henri De Segur

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Philippe Henri De Segur : Napoleon's Russian Campaign: The Invasion, Battles and Retreat by an Aide-de-Camp on the Emperor's Staff before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon's Russian Campaign: The Invasion, Battles and Retreat by an Aide-de-Camp on the Emperor's Staff:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Just a great book. A real in depth analysis of Napoleon ...By David Van Slyke
Just a great book. A real in depth analysis of Napoleon as a man, general and emperor.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A classic tale of hubris, loyalty and bad management
By Banjo Baba
I have read this book several times over the years and it always amazes me.
In the first pages the good Count tells how Napoleon's horse stumbles in the sand on the banks of the Neman river while preparing to enter the Russian frontier. Napoleon is thrown off and someone states, "An ill omen, a Roman would turn back." We are also treated to an incredible scene of French cavalry being swept away to their deaths while doing an exploratory fording of the river. Their last words are, "Vive L'Empereur" as they salute Napoleon before drowning.
But, of course, they forge ahead and one of the greatest man made disasters in history is created. So how could Napoleon have been so stupid despite having Charles XII of Sweden's history before him? What were the thoughts of his commanders as they embarked upon this doomed venture? There is plenty to ponder in this fascinating tale of how a successful organization can be taken down by one really bad idea.
For the ultimate treat I would combine the reading of this with the BBC series of War and Peace starring Anthony Hopkins.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Demoralization precedes defeat
By Stratiotes Doxha Theon
The author relates, in vivid detail, how an unconventional strategy can first demoralize then bring a conventional and technologically superior force to complete and humiliating defeat. The description of Napoleon's retreat is a heart-wrenching first-person account. I literally could not put it down and was drawn into the story as if hearing the account for the first time. Every page lured me to the end. And it still lures me back to read again and again. This is the definitive work on Napoleon's doomed campaign.

Philippe Henri de Segur was a French officer-an aide de camp-on Napoleon's staff-who served with the Grand Army throughout the Russian Campaign of 1812. This made him the ideal author for its history. He witnessed the early successes of the French and allied armies and the pyrrhic victory of Borodino. He accompanied Napoleon to the Kremlin and saw Moscow burning. By no means least, he was able to report the nightmare retreat through the snows of winter which brought about the destruction of an army and the beginning of the end of Napoleon and the golden epoch of the First Empire. Segur has created a memorable work-part history-part first hand account-which takes the reader vividly to the heart of these terrible events whilst clearly explaining their sequence. Originally published in two substantial volumes, Segur's entire work appears here its entirety-in a single comprehensive edition from Leonaur.

?The influence of [this] work, now made available in a new translation, was felt for many years. The giants of literature used it as a source book and as an inspiration.... It is still the most vivid account of that apocalyptic disaster.?-
New York Times
Language Notes
Text: English, French (translation)