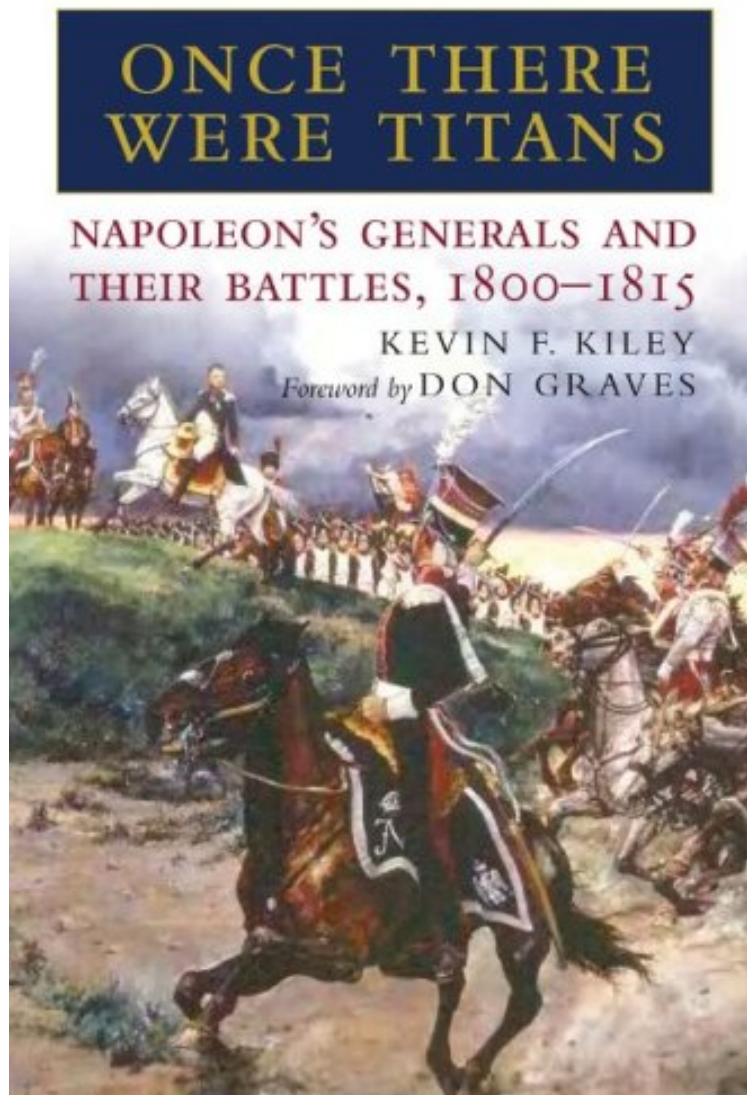


(Free) Once There Were Titans: Napoleon's Generals and Their Battles, 1800-1815

# Once There Were Titans: Napoleon's Generals and Their Battles, 1800-1815

*Kevin F. Kiley*

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**Kevin F. Kiley : Once There Were Titans: Napoleon's Generals and Their Battles, 1800-1815** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once There Were Titans: Napoleon's Generals and Their Battles, 1800-1815:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good story of Napoleon's generalsBy Nicholas RobertsA good book on many of the numerous figures in the Napoleonic Wars that seem to not get their just due. The book is not split into

chapters based on commander. For example it does not devote a chapter completely to Massena, another to Vandamme, etc. It actually takes selected battles where there was tactical and strategic insight and tells the story through that commander's actions. Although the book claims it is about Napoleon's generals, it has significant information about Napoleon's marshals as well. The book covers A LOT of commanders and you will not remember a lot of them. Many of the biographies of the commanders are very short, a paragraph or so. Nevertheless it is the only book giving credit to the lesser known figures of the Napoleonic era. Although I wished it went into more detail I enjoyed it and would recommend it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Needs An Editor By Barry E. Endsley I would have liked to have given it a better rating, as there was a lot of enjoyable reading here. You do have to already know quite a bit of Napoleonic lore to fully enjoy it, I think. It skips around and presents fragments here and there. But the real drawback is the editing or lack of it. As others have noted, lots of duplication, many times from one paragraph to the next. Lots of grammatical errors. Looks like it wasn't edited at all, just run through a spell checker. Spell checker doesn't care if the meaning is wrong, as long as the words are spelled correctly. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Not Quite There Yet By Tokyo Glenn An interesting read and a good accompaniment to books on the time period, but I was expecting more on the Generals themselves. The book places the key generals at specific battles but writes of them purely in that context. No real in-depth biographical information can be found on the Generals, and some only receive a few paragraphs of text. Again, it's a good read with a little extra information on a number of generals but not the General by General description and biographical information I thought it would be.

This is a masterly study of generalship in Napoleon's Grande Armée. Napoleon arguably had the greatest collection of military talent to ever serve one man working for him during the period 1800-15. The role of the Marshals of the Empire has been covered many times, and due credit is also given to them here; however, for the first time Kevin Kiley also examines in depth the contribution of the generals who never made that rank. Fifty-two general officers - some well known and some not - are examined using the battles they fought to illustrate just how valuable they were. From Marengo in 1800 to Ligny in 1815, both French victories and defeats are studied in meticulous detail, each chapter covering a battle fought and the generals who commanded them. Diverse source material has been consulted in the preparation of this volume, including after-action reports, memoirs and correspondence from officers including Senarmont, Eble, Drouot, Teste, Marmont, and Davout, as well as from lesser-known characters such as the artillerymen Boulart and Nol, and the Polish cavalryman Niegolewski, who led the final dash up the pass of Somosierra. Furthermore, those closest to Napoleon such as Fain and Marchand give their piece and provide invaluable information. Taken individually, this material paints a vivid picture of the Grande Armée and those who led it into fire. Taken as a whole, it provides an invaluable source and tells the remarkable story of the officers without whom Napoleon could never have achieved as much.

About the Author Kevin Kiley, a life-long student of the Napoleonic period and author of *Artillery of the Napoleonic Wars*, served for many years as an artillery officer and is currently a history teacher.