

# **Memoirs Of General De Caulaincourt The Russian Campaign: A Personal Account of Triumph and Tragedy**

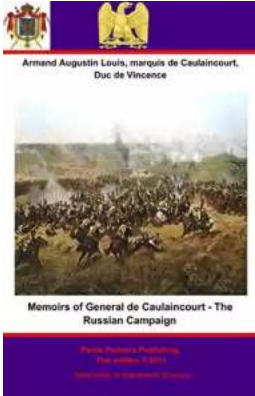
The Russian Campaign of 1812 is a historical event that has captivated the minds of historians and enthusiasts for centuries. Count Armand-Augustin-Louis de Caulaincourt, also known as General De Caulaincourt, offers a unique and personal perspective on this momentous campaign through his memoirs. In his memoirs, General De Caulaincourt vividly recounts the triumphs and tragedies of the Russian Campaign, providing an authentic and intimate account of the events that shaped the destiny of Europe.

General De Caulaincourt's memoirs serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of both the French and Russian armies during this tumultuous time. His firsthand experiences and reflections provide readers with a more nuanced understanding of the motivations, strategies, and emotions at play during this crucial chapter in history.

## **The Rise of General De Caulaincourt**

Born into a noble family in 1773, Armand-Augustin-Louis de Caulaincourt was destined for a career in the military. He quickly rose through the ranks, showcasing his exemplary leadership skills and strategic acumen. By the time of the Russian Campaign, General De Caulaincourt had established himself as a trusted confidant of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, serving as his aide-de-camp and diplomat.

**Memoirs of General de Caulaincourt - The Russian Campaign** by Charles Morris (Kindle Edition)



★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1086 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 398 pages



It was this close proximity to Napoleon that granted General De Caulaincourt a front-row seat to the unfolding events of the Russian Campaign. His unique perspective as both a military strategist and diplomat allowed him to provide invaluable insights into the decision-making processes and political negotiations that influenced the course of the campaign.

## **Triumphs and Setbacks: A Rollercoaster of Emotions**

In his memoirs, General De Caulaincourt recounts the early triumphs of the French army as they made swift advances into Russian territory. He describes the initial jubilation of a seemingly unstoppable force, brimming with confidence and high spirits. However, as the Russian winter set in and the realities of the harsh climate and guerrilla warfare took their toll, the tone of his memoirs shifts dramatically.

General De Caulaincourt paints a vivid picture of the hardships faced by the French soldiers, from the bitter cold to the scarcity of provisions. He captures the devastating consequences of the ill-fated decision to press forward despite mounting losses. The once indomitable French army now found itself in a

desperate struggle to survive, with General De Caulaincourt bearing witness to the unraveling of Napoleon's grand vision.

## **Political Intrigues and Diplomatic Challenges**

Beyond the battlefields, General De Caulaincourt's memoirs shed light on the complex political intrigues and diplomatic challenges that unfolded during the Russian Campaign. As Napoleon's trusted diplomat, he was often involved in negotiations with Russian authorities, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the diplomatic efforts to secure peace or gain military advantage.

General De Caulaincourt's memoirs reveal the difficulties faced in forging and maintaining alliances with other European powers. From the strained relationships with Austria and Prussia to the political maneuverings of Tsar Alexander I, readers gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex web of alliances and rivalries that shaped the course of the campaign.

## **A Personal Journey Through Triumph and Tragedy**

What sets General De Caulaincourt's memoirs apart from other historical accounts is the deeply personal nature of his narrative. This is not merely a detached retelling of events but a deeply introspective journey through triumph and tragedy.

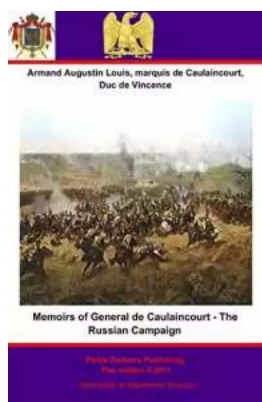
General De Caulaincourt's memoirs allow readers to experience the joys of victory and the depths of despair through his own eyes. His emotional account of the losses suffered during the campaign portrays the toll it took on both the soldiers and their leader. The memoirs serve as a reminder of the human cost of war and the enduring impact it has on those who participate in it.

## **The Significance of General De Caulaincourt's Memoirs**

The memoirs of General De Caulaincourt hold immense historical value, providing a crucial firsthand account of the Russian Campaign from a key participant. They offer a unique perspective on Napoleon as a military strategist and leader, as well as insights into the geopolitical dynamics of the time.

Moreover, General De Caulaincourt's memoirs contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the human aspects of war. They serve as a reminder of the personal sacrifices made by soldiers and the enduring impact of historical events on individuals and nations.

Memoirs Of General De Caulaincourt The Russian Campaign is a captivating account of triumph and tragedy. Through his memoirs, General De Caulaincourt brings the Russian Campaign to life, offering readers a personal and insightful perspective on this momentous historical event. From the initial triumphs to the bitter setbacks, from the political intrigues to the emotional journey, General De Caulaincourt's memoirs leave an indelible mark, reminding us of the complexities and profound human experiences that shape history.



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Recognized as the most important Napoleonic source discovered in the last hundred years, the three volume memoirs of Napoleon's Master of Horse are also exceptionally well written, and vividly portray Napoleon during his disastrous last years of power. The memoirs of one Napoleon's most senior ministers and closest advisors, with whom he was often very candid, remained unpublished for over a century since they were left by Armand de Caulaincourt, unearthed with by Jean Hanoteau who was eminently familiar with the period, and on part of the French ministry of War's historical section. The notes and annotations of Capitaine Hanoteau illuminate the text for both the enthusiast of the period and the general reader.

The title of "Master of Horse" perhaps in modern light does not quite reflect the position that Caulaincourt held within Napoleon's inner circle. He was responsible for all of the transportation for Napoleon's headquarters, the messengers that provided the eyes and ears of the campaign and furthermore he was ambassador to Russia for a number of years before hostilities commenced. A highly decorated cavalry officer before his tenure as ambassador, his advice should have been invaluable to the Emperor in assessing the huge undertaking of attacking the Russian empire, and Caulaincourt along with many others were ignored as Napoleon embarked his last invasion. Caulaincourt had much reason to be bitter as the Emperor was quite cruel to him personally, but his narrative maintains balance and although critical of Napoleon's decisions he does not descend into recriminations.

The first volume of the memoirs includes an excellent to Caulaincourt and his history outside of the time-frame of the memoirs; it covers the period 1811-1812 to the point of the Grand Armée's retreat from Moscow. Sketches of many of Napoleon's entourage including Berthier, Duroc, Murat et. al. feature, as do the battle for Smolensk, Borodino and the great fire of Moscow.

Not to be confused with the Charlotte de Sor penned "Recollections of Caulaincourt", which are apocryphal and according to Tulard of little or no value.

This edition is superior to the translated and heavily edited Libraire edition.

Author – Armand Augustin Louis, marquis de Caulaincourt, Duc de Vincence (9th December 1773– 19th February 1827)

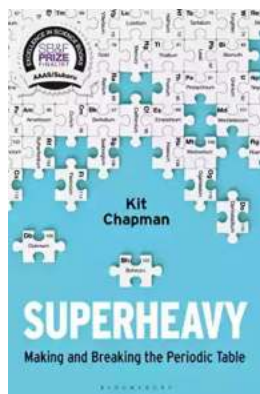
Translator – Hamish Miles (????- 27th December 1937)

Editor – Jean Hanoteau (17th December 1869 - 24th December 1939)



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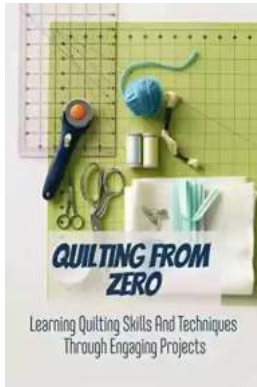
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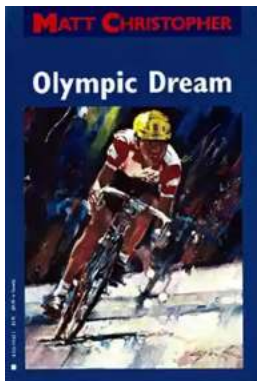
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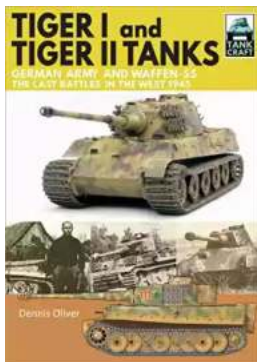
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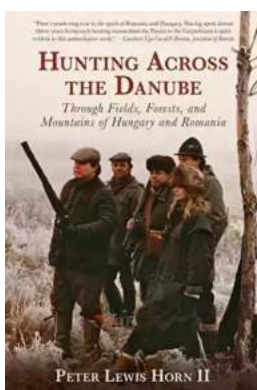
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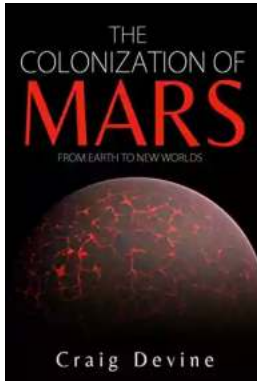
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