

# Napoleon's Imperial Headquarters and the 1st Corps: The French at Waterloo

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The Battle of Waterloo, fought on June 18, 1815, was a pivotal moment in European history. It marked the final defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte and the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The battle was fought between the French army under Napoleon and the Anglo-Allied army under the Duke of Wellington.



## The French at Waterloo—Eyewitness Accounts: Napoleon, Imperial Headquarters and 1st Corps (The French at Waterloo: Eyewitness Accounts) by Andrew W. Field

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In the center of the French army was Napoleon's Imperial Headquarters. This was the command post from which Napoleon directed the battle. The

Imperial Headquarters was located on the farm of La Belle Alliance, which is now in Belgium.

The 1st Corps was one of the most important corps in the French army. It was commanded by Marshal Michel Ney, one of Napoleon's most trusted generals. The 1st Corps was responsible for defending the center of the French line.

## **Napoleon's Imperial Headquarters**



The Imperial Headquarters was a small complex of buildings located on the farm of La Belle Alliance. It included a farmhouse, a barn, and a stable. The farmhouse was where Napoleon and his staff worked and slept. The barn was used as a hospital, and the stable was used to house the horses.

The Imperial Headquarters was a busy place during the battle. Napoleon and his staff were constantly sending and receiving messages. The

wounded were brought to the barn for treatment. And the horses were kept in the stable so that they could be used to transport Napoleon and his staff in case of an emergency.

## **The 1st Corps**



The 1st Corps of the French army at the Battle of Waterloo

The 1st Corps was composed of four divisions. Each division was made up of two brigades. The 1st Corps was also supported by a number of artillery batteries.

The 1st Corps was one of the most experienced and well-trained corps in the French army. It had fought in many battles, including the Battle of Austerlitz and the Battle of Borodino.

At the Battle of Waterloo, the 1st Corps was responsible for defending the center of the French line. It was attacked by the Anglo-Allied army several

times, but it held its ground. However, the 1st Corps was eventually defeated when the Anglo-Allied army launched a massive attack on the French center.

## **The Battle of Waterloo**



The Battle of Waterloo began at about 11:00 AM on June 18, 1815. The French army attacked the Anglo-Allied army in the center of the line. The Anglo-Allied army counterattacked, and the battle soon became a general engagement.

The battle raged for several hours. The French army fought bravely, but it was outnumbered and outgunned. By the end of the day, the Anglo-Allied army had defeated the French army.

The Battle of Waterloo was a decisive victory for the Anglo-Allied army. It marked the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the beginning of a new era in European history.

Napoleon's Imperial Headquarters and the 1st Corps played a important role in the Battle of Waterloo. The Imperial Headquarters was the command post from which Napoleon directed the battle. The 1st Corps was responsible for defending the center of the French line.

The Battle of Waterloo is still studied today by military historians. It is a classic example of how a well-trained and well-led army can defeat a larger and more experienced enemy.

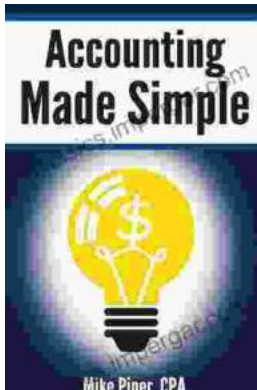


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