La Boissière-Ecole Campaign 1815

29 - 31 August 2025

Info & Pre-Registration Dossier

Europe's premium immersion-friendly Living-History campaign tactical weekend is coming back in 2025.
Are you ready to live the Napoleonic campaign dream that only this event can provide?

Summary

Event Background	2
Event Scenario	2
Practical Information	2
Organisation & Conditions of Participation	3
Rules of Engagement	4
Provisional Registration Form	5

Organisors: Association « Les Cavaliers de l'Histoire »

Imperial Forces Co-Ordinator:
Alexandre Clerc - Tel : +33(0)6.85.12.50.24
Email : clerc.alex71@orange.fr

Allied Forcs Co-Ordinator:
Marc Middleton - Tel: +33(0)6.50.76.45.05
Email : marc_middleton@hotmail.com

Event Background :

The “La Boissiére-Ecole 1815” campaign tactical event is the brainchild of a group of re-enactors who were fed-up of the bog-standard, scripted, 9am-to-5pm events that were available to them throughout Europe and which they had started out on during their first days in the re-enactment hobby. It became apparent to them all that what they had read in memoirs heard in conferences and seen in documentaries was often very far from what was sold to them on many of these events but recognising to some extent that the rules of society and the modern way of life meant that this was the way it would certainly stay unless they took matters into their own hands and created their own event. And create their own event is exactly what they went and did!

On the bicentennial of the Emperor Napoleon’s coronation, this group of like-minded people got together around a table in Paris and the “Living History Charter” (Charte d’Histoire-Vivante) was born. This simple document put on paper what their ideas and aspirations within their hobby were and spelt them out into simple rules that took into account national legislation, modern welfare and, most importantly, the thirst to re-create on the field a 18th century time-zone for the space of a weekend.

It was then decided to organise a calendar which would contain events representing the different types of situations that military men might find themselves in: Within a garrison, in a camp, inside barracks and of course, on campaign. For the latter, it was decided that the village of La Boissiére-Ecole was the ideal location for this sort of event.

Several editions of this event have taken place since then and the participants have always been satisfied with their outing and the numbers of participants has increased with each edition. The event’s reputation is such that it has even attracted participants from as far away as Malta and the United States of America!

Event Scenario :

1815, after the battle of Waterloo, the French army has been routed and the reserves around Paris are now being mobilised for the purpose of defending the capital from the Allied advance. The 248th Military Detachment, a composite unit made up of various drafts from different regiments from the different nations of Allied field armies of Waterloo, is instructed to locate, hassle and force the Imperial forces within the La Boissiére-Ecole area to battle.

Pratical Information :

Contrary to traditional events, the campaign weekend does not have a standard “9am-5pm” program. It is run as a 24hr campaign weekend, which will start at 06h00 Saturday and end at 12h00 on the Sunday. The reason for the early stop on the Sunday is to allow our British, Belgian, Dutch and German participants to be able to pack up and return home at a reasonable hour after the efforts of the previous day.

Military hours and campaign dispositions will all be taking place between these hours and historical personas must as much as possible remain in place. However, it is to be noted that “modern zones” will be designated away from living-history areas in order to provide participants a moment’s reprise from their representation if they wish. Considering the nature of the activities of the weekend, it is insisted upon, both for historical experimentation and convenience, that participants construct makeshift shelters and leave their tents at home. Since the troops will be sleeping on different locations each night, it would be a most unbearable burden to ask the soldiers to carry tents on their backs.

Since this is a completely private event, and therefore without any financial support from public powers or sponsors, it will be asked that each participant pays a participation fee. This fee has always been used to pay for general organizational costs and, essentially, for the hire of a horse and cart to act as our logistic train over the weekend. The amount will be communicated later once all costs have been calculated but should not exceed 20 €.

There is no powder issue for this event and groups are required to provide their own ammunition. However, the organisers will be able to buy powder on behalf of interested parties for a certain price. Please get in touch with the organisers to discuss your requirements. In terms of food, no food subsidy will be organised. Troops are to bring their own food for the weekend (which must be package authentically…NO PLASTIC) and to perhaps use their persuasive powers to scrounge or buy food from the locals. As the troops will mostly be on the march, it is important that each soldier must be able to carry all his provisions on his person.

Organisation & Conditions of Participation :

In order for this event to be a success, we have put in place some simple rules and guidelines that have, over the many years of the event's existence, allowed each and every participant to have a great experience.

Organisation Allied Forces	**A Command Cell with:** ➢ **1 Field Commander** ➢ **1 or 2 cavalrymen to act as messengers**
	Independent Detachements to be comprised of: ➢ 1 Section Commander ➢ 1 or 2 SNCOs ➢ 2 or 3 Cavalrymen ➢ 15-25 Infanterymen
Bivouacs	➢ Changing bivouac site every night ➢ Construction of campaign shelters or sleeping under the stars ➢ Blankets, if any, must be carried by the participants
Food	➢ Rations to be wrapped in brown paper with string prior to attending the event ➢ Drinks to be in glass bottles (without any labels) and must be transported in participants backpacks ➢ Food preparation to be conducted within each infantry squad ➢ Cooking utensils to be carried by the participants
Uniformes & Kit	➢ All Allied nations are welcome but their uniform must be that worn in 1815 ➢ Powder and cartridges to be supplied by participants ➢ **Organisors can provide powder for a price** ➢ Backpacks are mandatory ➢ Tools such as axes, bill-hooks, spades, etc… are allowed but must be historically compatible and carried by participants.
Rules of Engagement	Please consult the next page.

Rules of Engagement :

During the event, combat will be decided by means of some basic wargame-type rules.
The Allies will be considered as being the Attackers based on the fact that they are the invading force.
The French will be considered as being the Defenders.

The Attackers have the advantage of having the initiative during all engagements EXCEPT in the following instances:
- The Defenders have set-up an ambush, which means that they will have the advantage of the element of surprise.
- The Defenders have more detachements on the battlefield than the Attackers.

Example: a French detachement comes into contact with an Allied detachement which has set-up an ambush…
- *The French have the initiative due to the element of surprise so the Allies are considered as the Defenders in this instant and must give way to any French initiative.*
- *A second Allied detachement arrives on the scene and now it is the Allies that are considered the Attackers and have the advantage of the initiative on the French, who must give way.*

During a skirmish, if the Attackers advance (without charging bayonets), the Defenders must give way but can continue to fight.
The Attackers signale the end of a skirmish with a bayonet charge (no other bayonet charge is permitted in order to confuse anyone).
When the Attackers initiate a bayonet charge, the Defenders must immediately cease fighting and flee the combat area. The Attackers may only take the ground previously occupied by the Defenders and allow him to get away. The Attackers must give at least 15 minutes to the Defenders to escape, which will allow them to set-up the next skirmish area.
After the route of the Defenders, the cavalry of both armies may cover their respective infantry, acting as a rear-guard for the Defenders whilst the cavalry of the Attackers acts as a van-guard.

	➢ Please refer to general rules detailed above. In the event of facing soldiers in skirmish order: ➢ Skirmishers must give way and fall back if soldiers in line or column march on them. ➢ Skirmishers may never charge soldiers formed in line or column.	➢ In open terrain, infantry must flee when charged by cavalry. SQUARES ARE FORBIDDEN. ➢ Infantry that is actively supported or defended by their own cavalry may ignore enemy cavalry in open ground. ➢ Cavalry may not charge infantry sheltering in a wood or using a entrenched around a wall/edge, in a trench, around a waggon, etc…
	➢ In open terrain, infantry must flee when charged by cavalry. SQUARES ARE FORBIDDEN. ➢ Infantry that is actively supported or defended by their own cavalry may ignore enemy cavalry in open ground. ➢ Cavalry may not charge infantry sheltering in a wood or using a entrenched around a wall/edge, in a trench, around a waggon, etc…	➢ The cavalry with the lowest numbers must give way when charged by enemy cavalry in larger numbers.
	➢ Infantry formed in line or column must seek shelter in a wood or an entrenched position if under fire from artillery. (If there isn't any such shelter at hand, the soldiers must lie down). ➢ Artillery must retreat when faced with soldiers in skirmish order.	➢ Artillerymen must abandon their guns if they are charged by cavalry, unless if actively supported by cavalry or infantry. ➢ Cavalry may not charge artillery deployed in a wood or in an entrenched position .

Provisional Registration Form

To be returned **before 25 avril 2025** by email:
marc_middleton@hotmail.com

Regiment represented:

Responible Person & Contact Details:

Nation represented :

Provisional Numbers :

Officier(s): *Rank(s):*

Sergents:

Corporals & Privates:

Drummers & Fifers:

Period Civilians:

Remarks:

I hereby declare that I have taken note of the information within this dossier and accept to adhere to the rules and conditions of the event organisors.
Signature: