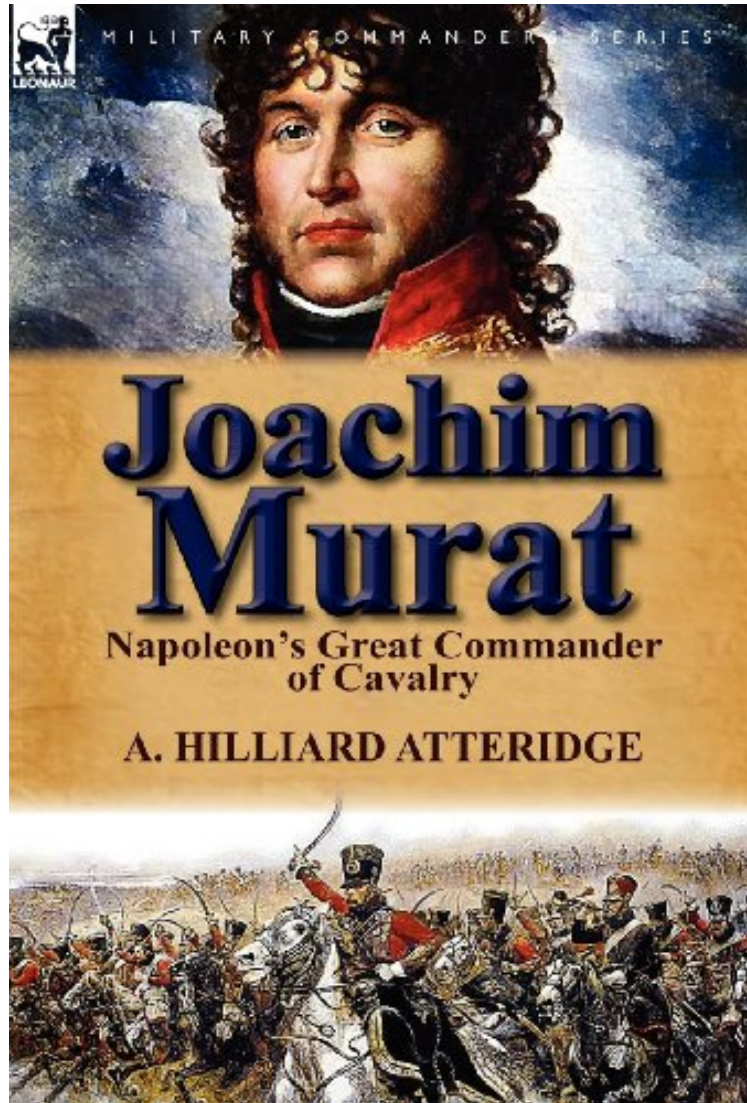


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Joachim Murat: Napoleon's Great Commander of Cavalry

A. Hilliard Atteridge

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A. Hilliard Atteridge : Joachim Murat: Napoleon's Great Commander of Cavalry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Joachim Murat: Napoleon's Great Commander of Cavalry:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book about a STRANGE character who had physical courage ...By Tim ProeberGreat book about a STRANGE character who had physical courage beyond comprehension but was a very very flawed individual. Murat was someone you wanted on YOUR side for sure! My favorite parts of the book is when the author shows the letters between Murat and Napoleon and how Napoleon would get sooooo frustrated with

him and the CRAZY things Murat would write to Napoleon. After Austerlitz he performed one of history's all-time pursuits. The Austrians had a 3 day head start and he caught them in five -- he wasn't sentimental towards his horses and would ride them to death. This is a narcissistic person who MADE HIS OWN UNIFORM -- who does that -- EVER? The French uniforms weren't fancy enough. He would ride at the front of 10,000 horses into the melee. Sometimes even as a Marshal of France he would dismount and fight shoulder to shoulder with the privates and corporals. He married Napoleon's sister -- which Napoleon didn't want. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a great disappointment. By Peter G. Tsouras Dreadful book which I will promptly return to . Where to start? Incredibly, the table of contents belongs to a book on Marshal Ney not Murat. Now that is a first, and it has a typo to boot. There is no index which tells you the publisher is both careless and cheap. Most importantly, it is light on Murat's military performance and heavy on his peacocking. All in all, a great disappointment.

Napoleon's gorgeous centaur-the life of Murat Joachim Murat has come to epitomise the beau ideal cavalryman. Indeed, in the decades following the Napoleonic era, as a horse soldier excelled to extraordinary prominence, the name of Murat was often considered as analogous. In reality nobody could come close in stature and performance. Murat was one of many young men who saw the French Revolution as an opportunity to prosper in influence, power, status and wealth. An unabashed self publicist, his gorgeous uniforms were singular and exceptional even in an age when the dandy in military uniform was the norm. His ambition was insatiable and in this was the root of his downfall, for he lacked the intelligence and moderation to consolidate his advantages. Yet, Murat rose to be a soldier of the highest rank, through marriage a member of Napoleon's own family, he was elevated to the aristocracy as Duke of Berg and in time crowned King of Naples. Though, like many of his calling, he was no military mastermind Murat was a reliable lieutenant to Napoleon often achieving-through deeds of daring-far more than other senior officers could for their emperor. Above all there could be no doubt about the quality of Murat's personal courage. He led from the front and latterly rode into the fiercest melees armed only with a riding crop. Though he came from a different and lesser mould than his master Napoleon, Murat fatally shared his weakness for conceits and hubris and, as with Napoleon himself, poor judgment ended his career ignominiously before a firing squad of his former subjects. Atteridge's biography is a well regarded classic and is highly recommended. Leonaur editions are newly typeset and are not facsimiles; each title is available in softcover and hardback with dustjacket; our hardbacks are cloth bound and feature gold foil lettering on their spines and fabric head and tail bands.