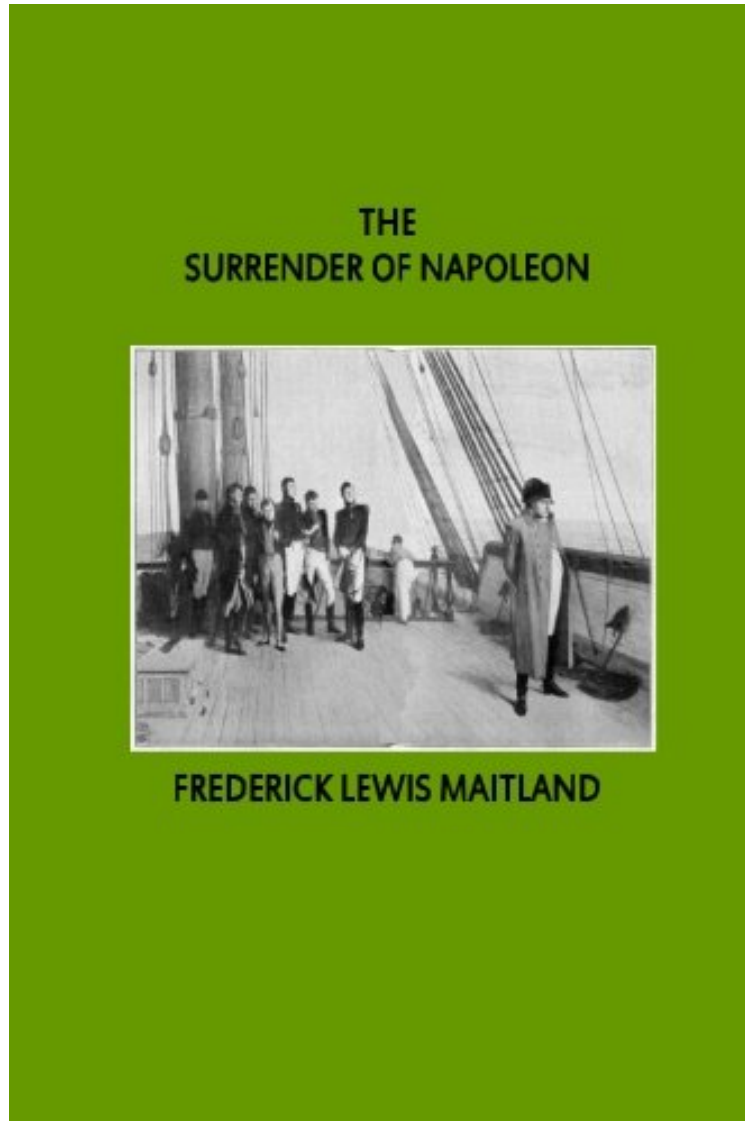


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## The Surrender of Napoleon

*Frederick Lewis Maitland*  
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**Frederick Lewis Maitland : The Surrender of Napoleon** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Surrender of Napoleon:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Capture of the EmperorBy JEPGreat book, loved it. Maitland was the Captain of the Bellerophon, the Royal Navy ship to which Napoleon surrendered and which then transported Napoleon to England (before he was sent to St. Helena). The book reads almost like a novel in the Hornblower series or Patrick O'Brian's "Master Commander" books, and would appeal to anyone who enjoys those types of stories.

Maitland describes the thin blockade that led to Napoleon's capture and prevention of his escape to America, which was a very near run thing in actuality. There is also a fascinating account of Napoleon's time on the ship and the tangled dealings of both Maitland and Napoleon with other Royal Navy officers and government officials, including some that are humorous. Lord Keith is a major player in the story, and other events and persons alluded to will also be familiar to readers of O'Brian's series. Amazingly, the biggest personality involved, over any of these men of high rank, was one Madame Bertrand, the hot tempered and melodramatic wife of one of the French generals who decided to accompany Napoleon into exile - much to the chagrin of Mdm. B. She's a character that a novelist would love to have created. The hardcover version of the book that I purchased also includes a bio of Maitland's full naval career and some related materials that are very interesting - Not sure if these are in the apparently shorter paperback version, though.

The Surrender of Napoleon tells the true story of how the legendary French Emperor surrendered to the British on HMS Bellerophon shortly after his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo. While HMS Bellerophon was stationed off Rochefort in the Bay of Biscay observing French warships in the harbour, Napoleon had been defeated at the Battle of Waterloo on Sunday 18 June 1815. News reached Captain Frederick Lewis Maitland ten days later that Napoleon was planning an escape to America from the French Atlantic coast, possibly from Bordeaux. Believing that Rochefort was the more likely point of escape, Maitland sent two ships to cover the ports of Bordeaux and Arcachon whilst covering Rochefort himself. Maitland's instincts proved correct and Napoleon arrived at Rochefort in early July. Finding escape barred by Maitland's blockade and unable to remain in France, he authorized the opening of negotiations with the commander of the British warship off the coast. Maitland refused the request to allow Napoleon to sail for America, but offered to take him to England. The negotiations went on for four days, but eventually Napoleon agreed to terms and formally surrendered to Maitland on 15 July 1815 and was conveyed to Plymouth. The final decisions over Napoleon's fate were made by the British Government on 7 August 1815, and Napoleon and his staff were transferred to HMS Northumberland, where he was conveyed to exile on Saint Helena where he eventually died six years later. The Surrender of Napoleon is Maitland's detailed, tense and fascinating narrative of the French Emperor's desperate attempts to escape France and of his time on HMS Bellerophon. Originally published in a shorter form in 1826, this is the rarely told final chapter in Napoleon's career as a world leader, narrated by the man that experienced it firsthand

About the Author Sir Frederick Lewis Maitland (7 September 1777-30 November 1839) was an officer in the Royal Navy during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. He rose to the rank of rear admiral and held a number of commands. The most famous event of his career occurred when Napoleon Bonaparte surrendered to him onboard HMS Bellerophon, marking the final end of the Napoleonic Wars.