

*General order to the commanders of I, II, III & IV Cavalry Corps issued by Imperiale Headquarters 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1813*

*We find ourselves temporarily on the strategic defensive however the vast armies arrayed against us have been unable to subdue the initiative, fighting spirit and élan of our soldiers. After we have regrouped we will again resume the offensive and crush this coalition of mediocrity for ever.*

*For the present I am relying on each of you to devote yourself once more to the glorification of French arms in the face of difficulties beyond the scope of any General other than a Frenchman.*

*Holding back the tide of numbers has necessitated the dispersal of our main force with each Army Corps currently attempting to disengage from action against pursuing enemy forces. We must consolidate behind the Tiefefluss and in order to do so, the bridge at Flüssgarten must be held. As our disparate forces come together once more, time will be needed to reform, rearm and provision.*

*For the moment the enemy must be held at bay. Sebastiani's and Macdonald's Corps will hold firm before the river until other troops arrive to reinforce. I will send reinforcements as and when this is possible*

*The future of France and the Empire is in your hands today as never before.*

*Napoleon*

## French Commanders

Commander in Chief & Garde Imperiale: Dave O'Brien

1<sup>st</sup> Corps: Andrew Nicholson

2<sup>nd</sup> Corps: Dale Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> Corps: Graham/Steve/Andrew T

4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Corps: Bob Lauder