

HOW NAPOLEON WON THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.



ON FEBRUARY 26, 1815, NAPOLEON BONAPARTE set sail for France from his exile on the island of Elba. His mission was to restore constitutional rule to his adopted land, an idea that other European monarchs had vowed to fight to the death.

After landing at Antibes on March 1st, he set about preparing for war. A war that would culminate near the tiny Belgian village of Waterloo.

Napoleon knew that, to prevail, he would need to strike first. And he knew that such a tactic would require precise information and an effective way to analyze it. But, with limited resources and little time, a mainframe computer system was out of the question.

Then an aide alerted him to the ideal alternative. Open systems information processing software from Informix.

At the heart of the solution was **INFORMIX® OnLine**, the first mainframe replacement database management system.

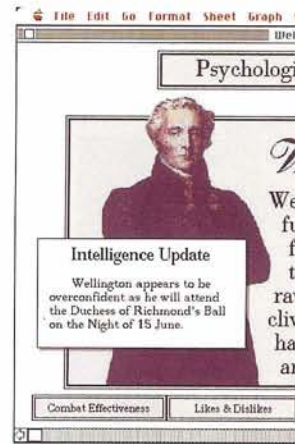
BEFORE EVEN ONE SHOT WAS FIRED, Napoleon relied on OnLine's high capacity to direct the flow of troops and materiel.

OnLine's distributed computing power meant he could successfully avoid information bottlenecks while thousands of transactions were processed at outposts throughout France every minute of every day.

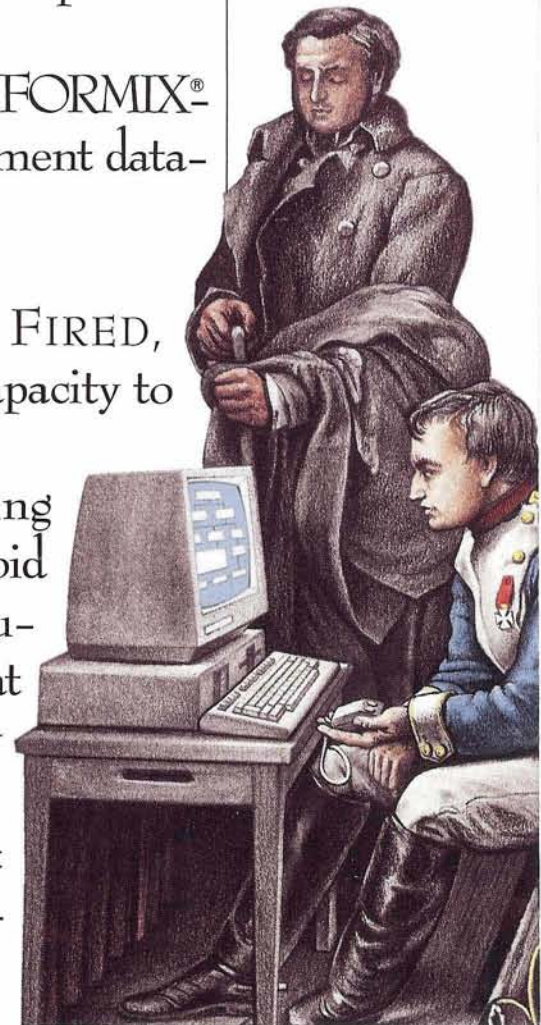
Napoleon soon learned that OnLine could do something no main-

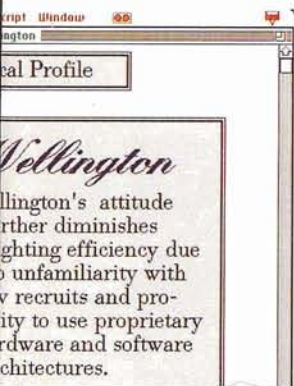


EARLY MAPS OF THE PERIOD INDICATE THAT THE FRENCH HELD A TREMENDOUS EDGE OVER THEIR ENEMIES. THE PERFORMANCE, CAPACITY AND RELIABILITY OF INFORMIX-ONLINE MAINFRAME REPLACEMENT SOFTWARE. WITH INFORMIX DATABASE SOFTWARE RUNNING ON VIRTUALLY EVERY UNIX® SYSTEM, NAPOLEON WAS ABLE TO CHOOSE THE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE HARDWARE CONFIGURATION FOR EVERY LOCATION AND APPLICATION. NOTHING BUT MUCH LARGER AND MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE SYSTEMS HAD EVER APPROACHED THIS SOLUTION IN THE PAST.



NAPOLEON'S STAFF COMBINED THE WINGZ HYPERSCRIPT® PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE WITH DATALINK TO CREATE A CUSTOMIZED EXECUTIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM THAT COULD EASILY RETRIEVE SQL DATA BY CLICKING ON-SCREEN BUTTONS. NAPOLEON USED THIS SYSTEM TO ANALYZE EVERYTHING FROM WELLINGTON'S TACTICAL PREFERENCES TO HIS SOCIAL SCHEDULE THE NIGHT BEFORE BATTLE.





frame could. Its multimedia feature meant he could store data in virtually any form. Including reconnaissance photos. Three dimensional maps. Multi-colored charts. Even clandestine sound recordings collected by his intelligence network.



WITHIN THREE MONTHS, THE FRENCH COMMANDER had amassed an army of 120,000 men, supported by 246 pieces of artillery. The opposition would be a far greater allied force comprised of British, Dutch, Belgian and Prussian troops, led by the Duke of Wellington.

But, while Wellington's staff struggled with traditional database systems that required experts and hours of work to generate reports, Napoleon's cadre had instant access to information through Wingz™ DataLink and INFORMIX-OnLine.

Historians acknowledge that this Executive Information System was perhaps the most formidable weapon in the French arsenal.



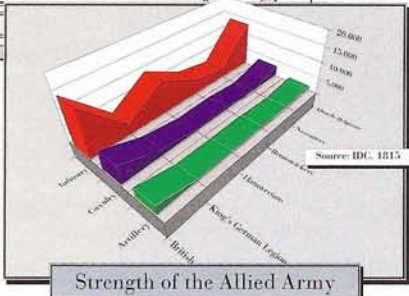
ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 16th, NAPOLEON led his army across the Sambre River into Belgium, established headquarters at Beaumont and began his analysis.

As early reports came in, his strategic responses were transmitted to the field.



AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK ON THE MORNING OF the 18th, Napoleon rose from a brief nap and

THE LOYALTY OF NAPOLEON'S STAFF DID NOT EXTEND TO THEIR CHOICE OF HARDWARE. HEADQUARTERS WAS EQUIPPED WITH A VARIETY OF UNIX SERVERS. COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD SELECTED THEIR OWN WORKSTATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FROM SUN, IBM, APPLE, HEWLETT-PACKARD, DATA GENERAL, DEC AND NEXT. FORTUNATELY, NAPOLEON'S CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER FOUND THAT INFORMIX DBMS PRODUCTS RAN ON MORE THAN 450 DIFFERENT COMPUTERS, WHILE WINGZ SUPPORTED ALL THE MAJOR GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACES, FROM MACINTOSH, PRESENTATION MANAGER AND MICROSOFT WINDOWS TO MOTIF, OPEN LOOK AND NEXTSTEP.



USING EITHER WINGZ ON GRAPHICAL PC'S, OR SMARTWARE® ON DOS MACHINES, NAPOLEON'S STAFF COULD EASILY ANALYZE DATA AND PRODUCE REPORTS THAT COMBINED TEXT, GRAPHS AND DATA, ALL ON ONE PAGE.

HISTORIANS NOTE THAT NAPOLEON HIMSELF KNEW LITTLE OF COMPUTERS. BUT WITH WINGZ DATALINK, THE INFORMIX-ONLINE DATABASE BECAME AS EASY TO USE AS A SPREADSHEET.

