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RETURN TO PARIS-THE DIVORCE-DECEMBER 31, 1809 -- CHAPTER II --
MISSION CONFIDED TO ME BY THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON -GENERAL
DORSENNE AT BURGOS-KING JOSEPH AT MADRID-GRENADA-CORDOVA
-SEVILLE-THE BATTLE OF CHICLANA, OPPOSITE CADIZ-MARSHAL
VICTOR AT SANTA MARIA-MARSHAL SOULT AT SEVILLE -- CHAPTER III
-- I AM TAKEN PRISONER AND ALL BUT HANGED -- CHAPTER IV -- MY
STAY AT FORTON-I LEAVE ASHBY-I ARRIVE AT BOULOGNE-PRINCE
BERTHIER -- CHAPTER V -- PASSAGE OF THE NIEMEN-WITEBSK -
POLOTSK- SMOLENSK-WIASMA -- CHAPTER VI -- BATTLE OF THE
MOSKWA -MOSCOW-BEGINNING OF OUR RETREAT-BATTLE OF MALO-
JAROSLAVITZ -- CHAPTER VII -- VIASMA-KRASNOE-THE BERESINA
DISASTER-THE EMPEROR LEAVES THE ARMY-WILNA -- CHAPTER VIII --
THE ARRIVAL OF THE EMPEROR AT PARIS-THE CAMPAIGN OF 1813-
LUTZEN-BAUTZEN-THE ARMISTICE, DRESDEN -KULM, LEIPZIG-HANAU-
MY RETURN TO PARIS.

Sommario/riassunto

Amongst the many memoirs of the Napoleonic period, there are a number that stand out not just for their historical value, but also for their actual written style, however in this sense Lejeune stands alone. Lejeune was by nature an artist and is still famous as a noted painter of scenes of battles, most of which he witnessed. As such his scenes are like his painting filled with evocative detail. The narrative in Vol. II runs from the Napoleon's divorce of the Empress Josephine and his subsequent marriage to Marie-Louise of Austria with the attendant balls and festivities. As the war in Spain drags on, he is sent on an important mission to collect information for the Emperor, during which he is ambushed and captured by partisans. His subsequent imprisonment and transfer to Britain are painted in vivid colours and are surpassed only by his subsequent escape to France and evasion of the dread smuggler "Brick." Lejeune was on the staff of Marshal Berthier and, thereafter Marshal Davout, during the Russian campaign of 1812, and was witness to the bloody struggle to Moscow and the disastrous retreat back to Prussia. His numerous vignettes of the retreat are often quoted due to their detail and incisive nature, his description of his purchase of a bearskin from its unwilling seller, a colonel swaddled in furs, on the retreat is priceless. Lejeune also served on in the twilight of the Empire, at the battles of Lutzen, Bautzen, and Leipzig. His military career was ended by wounds from a shell fragment the day after the battle of Hanau in 1813.
