The #1 *New York Times* Best-Selling Series

AN OFFICIAL WHOHQ BOOK

Who Was Napoleon?

by Jim Gigliotti

Who Was Napoleon?

by Jim Gigliotti

illustrated by Gregory Copeland

Penguin Workshop
An Imprint of Penguin Random House

For Carmela, because the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world—JG

To the "Box"—GC

PENGUIN WORKSHOP
Penguin Young Readers Group
An Imprint of Penguin Random House LLC

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as "unsold and destroyed" to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this "stripped book."

Penguin supports copyright. Copyright fuels creativity, encourages diverse voices, promotes free speech, and creates a vibrant culture. Thank you for buying an authorized edition of this book and for complying with copyright laws by not reproducing, scanning, or distributing any part of it in any form without permission. You are supporting writers and allowing Penguin to continue to publish books for every reader.

Text copyright © 2018 by Jim Gigliotti. Illustrations copyright © 2018 by Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved. Published by Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 345 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014. PENGUIN and PENGUIN WORKSHOP are trademarks of Penguin Books Ltd. WHO HQ & Design is a registered trademark of Penguin Random House LLC.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available.

ISBN 9780448488608 (paperback)
ISBN 9781524788537 (library binding)
ISBN 9781524790165 (ebook)

Version_1

Contents

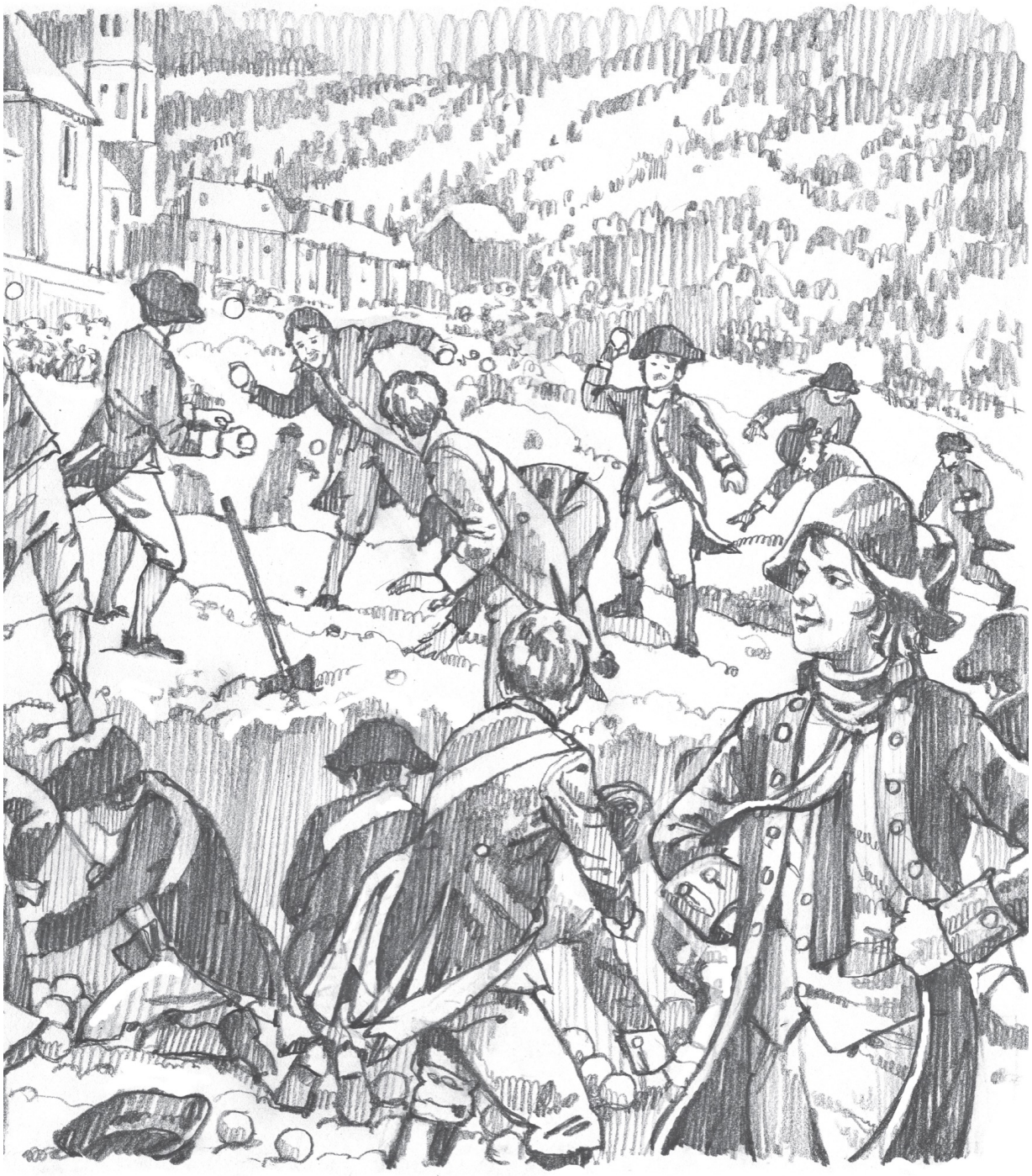
Title Page
Dedication
Copyright
Who Was Napoleon?
Island Beginnings
Birth of a Military Career
Changing Times
The Little Corporal
Conquering Hero
Emperor
Beginning of the End
Exile
Timelines
Bibliography
About the Author

Who Was Napoleon?

One day early in 1784, a heavy snowstorm covered the grounds of the military school for boys in Brienne, France. There was so much snow that the students couldn't get their usual exercise after class. But fourteen-year-old Napoleon Bonaparte had an idea: snowball fight!

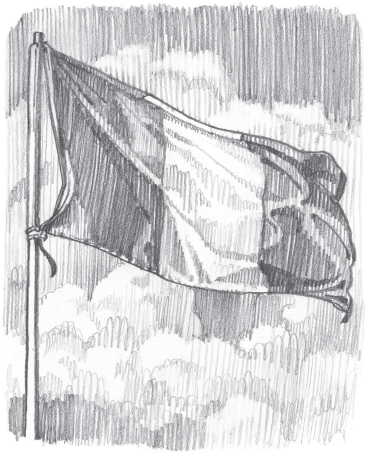
This being a military school, however, Napoleon wasn't thinking about any ordinary snowball fight. Instead, he wanted the boys to put to use what they had been learning in the classroom. They built forts and dug trenches. On Napoleon's orders, a snowball war began. It lasted two full weeks during the times that the boys weren't in class. Some days, Napoleon commanded one side. Some days, he commanded the other.

The snowball war wasn't entirely harmless. After a while, small rocks got mixed in with the hard ice. Those snowballs hurt! So the school put an end to it. Napoleon's first "war" was over.



The teachers weren't happy about their students getting hurt. But they *were* happy to see Napoleon take charge. Ever since he arrived at the school four years earlier, he had been moody and quiet. He didn't have a lot of friends. But he seemed happy to lead the school's snowball battles.

Little did his teachers know that Napoleon would go on to become one of the most famous military commanders in the history of the world. He would lead hundreds of thousands of men into battle. And with a combination of courage and strategy, he won most of the battles he fought.



Napoleon went on to build a vast empire for France. At the height of his career, he ruled over more than seventy million people. To the French people, Napoleon was a good guy. To his enemies, he was not. Late in Napoleon's life, those same enemies defeated him and sent him to live on a tiny island. There, he had plenty of time to talk about his memories.

"What a novel my life has been!" Napoleon exclaimed one day to the assistant who was writing it all down.

Napoleon's life had it all: friends and enemies, politics and war, a love story, and so much more. And Napoleon himself—the main character—was famous,

clever, and brave. But a novel is a made-up story. Napoleon lived it all for real.