**5 January 1809** Through the good offices of Austria the nominal state of war between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire ends with the Treaty of the Dardanelles.

Martin de Garay Perales replaces Pedro Cevallos Guerra as First Secretary of State of the resistance government of Spain.

**7 January 1809** Ludwig van Beethoven accepts the offer of King Jerome Bonaparte of Westphalia to be Kapellmeister at Kassel.

**9 January 1809** Following the report of last 22 November, the US government decides to enforce the Embargo of 1807 more vigorously. The predictable effect is more damage to the US economy.

**11 January 1809** British forces reach La Coruña but find no transports to evacuate them.

**12 January 1809** British and Portuguese troops capture Cayenne, French Guiana. French Guiana is occupied by Portuguese forces from Brazil.

**13 January 1809** French forces attack the Spanish at Uclés, forcing many to flee in panic.

**14 January 1809** British transports reach La Coruña and immediately begin evacuating the army.

An alliance is signed in London between Great Britain and the Spanish junta. Spain is forbidden to sign a separate peace with France. Britain is required to give all assistance to the defeat of the French in Iberia.

**16 January 1809** French troops attack the British at La Coruña but are repulsed. The fight results in 2,300 casualties, including the death of the British commander Sir John Moore.

**18 January 1809** The British successfully complete their evacuation from La Coruña, thus ending this phase of the peninsular war.

**19 January 1809** The *Bath Chronicle* announces that Samuel Wesley (42) is in town and is waiting for an invitation to give an organ concert.

British forces land on Martinique.

**22 January 1809** Two British ships run aground in separate incidents at Falmouth in a blizzard. *HMS Primrose* goes down with her entire complement, save one boy. The troop transport *Dispatch*, carrying 100 soldiers home from Spain, is also wrecked. Only seven are rescued.

**23 January 1809** Emperor Napoléon returns to Paris and moves his headquarters from the Tuileries to the Elysée Palace.

**27 January 1809** After a siege of five weeks, French troops storm Zaragoza and advance into the city where brutal street fighting ensues.

**30 January 1809** Fromental Halévy (9) enters the Paris Conservatoire.

British forces land on Martinique.

**1 February 1809** *Kanatate zum Geburtstag von Amalia Beer* by Meyer Beer (Giacomo Meyerbeer) (17) is performed for the first time, in Berlin.

French troops abandon Fort de France, Martinique and concentrate within Fort Bourbon.

**3 February 1809** Felix Mendelssohn is born in Hamburg (currently occupied by France), the second of four children born to Abraham Mendelssohn, a banker, himself the son of the Enlightenment philosopher Moses Mendelssohn, and Lea Solomon, daughter of the Prussian court jeweler and granddaughter of Daniel Itzig, a financial advisor to King Friedrich II of Prussia and one of the most affluent citizens of Berlin.

Johann Friedrich Reichardt’s (56) *Bradamante* to words of von Collin is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

**4 February 1809** British forces on Martinique begin a siege of the French inside Fort Bourbon.

**8 February 1809** Fearful of an attack by Napoléon, Emperor Franz of Austria and the Imperial Council decide to resume war against France.

**10 February 1809** Brutal street fighting having gone on for two weeks in Zaragoza, the French explode a 3,000 pound mine under the Spanish stronghold in the convent of San Francisco and launch a desperate assault.

**11 February 1809** Robert Fulton receives a US patent for his steamboat.

**18 February 1809** French attackers at Zaragoza finally gain the upper hand against the Spanish.

**19 February 1809** The Spanish junta orders that all weapons in the hands of civilians must be surrendered immediately.

**20 February 1809** After two months of siege and battle, the starving and decimated Spanish defenders of Zaragoza surrender. Approximately 54,000 people, soldiers and civilians, died in the siege and fighting.

**23 February 1809** *The Circassian Bride*, an opera by Henry R. Bishop (22) to words of Ward, is performed for the first time, in the Drury Lane Theatre, London. Unfortunately, the theatre will burn down tomorrow, taking the score with it.

**24 February 1809** While enjoying a drink at a nearby London coffee house, Richard Brinsley Sheridan witnesses his new Drury Lane Theatre burn to the ground. He reportedly remarks, “A man may surely be allowed to take a glass of wine by his own fireside.”

**25 February 1809** French forces defeat the Spanish northwest of Valls in Catalonia.

The Spanish junta rules that all money or property taken from the French will belong to those who took them.

The French garrison on Martinique surrenders to invading British.

**28 February 1809** Great Britain and Portugal conclude a treaty of alliance and trade.

**1 March 1809** After learning that Beethoven (38) has accepted an offer in Kassel, three young Viennese aristocrats, Prince Joseph Lobkowitz, Prince Ferdinand Johann Nepomuk Kinsky and Archduke Rudolph, agree to pay the composer an annuity for life in return for a promise to remain in Vienna.

Three days before he leaves office, US President Thomas Jefferson signs the Non-Intercourse Act. It repeals the widely unpopular Embargo Acts of 1807 and 1808 and limits the embargo to trade with Great Britain and France.

Lord Byron’s satire *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers* is published anonymously this month.

**3 March 1809** Napoléon creates his elder sister, Princess Elise, as Grand Duchess of Tuscany and annexes Lucca to Tuscany. He also creates five-year-old Charles-Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte Grand Duke of Berg under his own regency.

**4 March 1809**  James Madison replaces Thomas Jefferson as President of the United States.

**5 March 1809** The Cello Sonata op.69 by Ludwig van Beethoven (38) is performed publicly for the first time, in Vienna.

**7 March 1809** Johann Georg Albrechtsberger dies in Vienna, in the Archduchy of Austria, of kidney stones, aged 73 years, one month and four days. His mortal remains will be laid to rest in St. Marx Cemetery, Vienna.

**9 March 1809** French troops cross from Spain into Portugal, behind schedule.

**10 March 1809** Samuel Wesley (43) begins a series of lectures on a variety of musical subjects at the Royal Institution, London.

**13 March 1809** King Gustaf IV Adolf of Sweden is arrested by his nobles and liberal army officers after he insists on pressing a war against Russia. His uncle Carl becomes the de facto regent.

**17 March 1809** The House of Commons votes 279-193 to exonerate the Duke of York of any wrongdoing stemming from the charges brought against him by his mistress Mary Anne Clarke. But because the vote against him is so high, he will resign as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army tomorrow.

**20 March 1809** A hastily assembled Portuguese force trying to stop the French advance on Oporto is easily broken up by the French at Braga.

**25 March 1809** The Duke of York resigns as commander-in-chief of the British Army after he is publicly accused by his mistress of selling commissions through her.

**27 March 1809** Tsar Alyeksandr addresses the elected Finnish Diet at Borgå. From now on, Finland and Russia are united only through the person of the Tsar.

With the help of cannon from British ships, Galician rebels are able to retake Vigo from the French.

**29 March 1809** King Gustaf IV Adolf of Sweden formally abdicates his throne.

As the French army attacks Oporto, 12,000-15,000 civilians attempt to flee across a bridge made of boats (Ponte das Barcas). The bridge collapses, killing hundreds. The French give over to murder, looting and rape. 8,000 Portuguese men, women and children are killed.

At the same time at Medellín, Spain, the Spaniards almost gain a victory over the French but in the end are forced to flee.

In the State Hall at Porvoo, the four Finnish estates swear allegiance to Tsar Alyeksandr as Grand Prince of Finland. The Tsar pledges to respect the Finnish constitution and form of government.

**1 April 1809** Franz Joseph Haydn (77) sells his piano in Vienna.

**7 April 1809** An agreement is reached between British Minister to the US David Erskine and US Secretary of State Robert Smith in Washington about the outstanding issues between the two countries. Erskine promises that Britain’s policy will change by 10 June.

**10 April 1809** The Austrian army crosses the River Inn at Branau into Bavaria, a French ally, without a declaration of war. Residents of the Tyrol revolt against the Bavarians.

**13 April 1809** One day after learning of the Austrian advance into Bavaria, Emperor Napoléon departs Paris for the front.

**18 April 1809** After a brief campaign, the French garrison on Île de Les Saintes surrenders to the British.

**19 April 1809** French and Austrian forces clash near Kelheim and Abbach on the Danube, 22 km southwest of Ratisbon (Regensburg). The French successfully defend against Austrian attacks.

Austrian forces attack Poles and Saxons at Raszyn. A long see-saw battle results in the Poles leaving the field.

Based on the Erskine-Smith agreement of 7 April, US President Madison resumes trade with Great Britain.

**20 April 1809** French troops attack the Austrians between Abensberg and Eckmühl, 20 km south of Ratisbon (Regensberg). The Austrians are forced to withdraw.

**22 April 1809** British commander Arthur Wellesley lands at Lisbon at the head of a combined British-Portuguese force.

Austrian troops occupy Warsaw.

**23 April 1809** After four days of furious fighting, Austrian forces retreat north of the Danube at Ratisbon (Regensburg). The Austrian rear guard holds the Ratisbon garrison against French attacks until evening.

**24 April 1809** Mergentheim is attached to Frankfurt.

**25 April 1809** A treaty of friendship is signed between Great Britain and the Sikhs in Amritsar. British influence in the region is bounded by the River Sutlej.

**30 April 1809** Henry R. Bishop (22) marries Elizabeth Sarah Lyon, a singer at St. Martin’s-in-the-Fields, London.

**2 May 1809** Austrians hold the Ebersberg bridge over the Danube against strong French assaults but are finally dislodged.

**4 May 1809** The Austrian royal family evacuates Vienna, including Beethoven’s (38) patron Archduke Rudolph. The composer pens the first movement of the piano sonata op.81a “Les adieux” at the occasion.

**9 May 1809** The French army surrounds Vienna.

**10 May 1809** Carl XIII of Sweden formally begins his reign. He has been regent since the arrest of his nephew, Gustaf IV Adolf.

**11 May 1809** A Missa in B flat by Antonio Salieri (58) is performed for the first time, in Vienna.

British and Portuguese troops defeat the French at Grijó.

**12 May 1809** 21:00 French forces outside Vienna begin to bombard the city. It lasts all night. Directly in the line of fire is the house of Ludwig van Beethoven (38). Fortunately, the composer escapes the shelling, either to the house of his brother Caspar Carl or that of the poet Ignaz Franz Castelli. Four shells explode near the home of Franz Joseph Haydn (77), one blowing open the door to his bedroom. He is shocked but physically unhurt. The building housing the Imperial and Royal City Seminary is hit by a shell. Fortunately, none of the students, including Franz Schubert (12), are injured. Also in the line of fire is Maria Anna Lager, who in two years will become the mother of Franz Liszt.

French defenders of Oporto are defeated by the British and Portuguese, forcing them to retreat north to Léon.

**13 May 1809** French troops occupy Vienna.

**17 May 1809** Emperor Napoléon signs a decree in Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna annexing the Papal States, and abolishing the temporal power of the Papacy. Pope Pius VII is confined to the Quirinal Palace.

**18 May 1809** A second French army in Portugal, pursued by the British and Portuguese, manages to straggle across the border into Galicia.

**19 May 1809** Andrew Law (60) receives a US patent for the *Art of Playing the Organ and Piano Forte*.

**20 May 1809** French forces capture Oviedo in Asturias from the Spanish.

**21 May 1809** Austrian forces attack French troops who have just crossed to the area of Aspern and Essling, north of the Danube across from Vienna.

**22 May 1809** After two days of fighting at Aspern-Essling, the French are forced to quit the field, leaving 45,000 total casualties, and much of their prestige, on the battlefield.

The Spanish junta announces that a new Cortes will be called within a year.

The Eleventh Congress of the United States convenes in Washington. Voting for the House of Representatives took place between April 1808 and May 1809. Federalists gain 24 seats but are still in the minority to the Republicans 92-50. In the Senate, Republicans lose one seat and the parties stand at 27-7.

**23 May 1809** French attempts to dislodge the Spanish from Alcañiz in Aragon are thrown back with heavy losses and they are forced to retreat to Zaragoza.

**26 May 1809** An officer of the French occupying forces pays a visit to Franz Joseph Haydn (77) to make his acquaintance. The two have a pleasant chat and the officer sings an aria from *The Creation*. The composer is emotionally uplifted by the experience, but it is the last music he will ever hear.

**30 May 1809** British Foreign Minister George Canning disavows the Erskine-Smith agreement of 7 April.

**31 May 1809** 00:40 Franz Joseph Haydn dies peacefully at his house in Gumpendorf, (presently 1060 Vienna, Haydngasse 19) Vienna, Duchy of Austria, aged 77 years and two months.

**1 June 1809** The earthly remains of Franz Joseph Haydn are taken in an oaken coffin to Gumpendorff Church, carried around the church three times, blessed and then taken to Hundsthurm Cemetery where they are laid to rest.

Three Piano Sonatas op.53 by Leopold Kozeluch (61) is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**2 June 1809** A requiem mass is said in memory of Franz Joseph Haydn in the Gumpendorf church. The music is a setting of the requiem by Michael Haydn (†2).

**3 June 1809** Austrian troops are forced to withdraw from Warsaw by advancing Russians and Poles.

**6 June 1809** The Riksdag of the Estates adopts the Instrument of Government for Sweden, returning constitutional government after 37 years of absolutism.

**7 June 1809** In London, William Crotch (33) plays a program of his own organ and piano arrangements of the music of Handel (†50) for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the composer’s death.

**8 June 1809** The first ocean-going steamboat, the *Phoenix*, leaves New York for Philadelphia.

Thomas Paine dies in New York City at the age of 72.

**9 June 1809** Carl Axel Trolle-Wachtmeister become Prime Minister for Justice of Sweden while Lars von Engeström becomes Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs.

**10 June 1809** This is the effective date of the end of British restrictions against US ships.

**11 June 1809** Pope Pius VII excommunicates Emperor Napoléon, although not mentioning him by name.

**14 June 1809** French forces defeat the Austrians at Raab, 47 km west of Linz.

**15 June 1809** French forces throw the Spanish back at María, southwest of Zaragoza.

A great service is held in memory of Franz Joseph Haydn in the Schottenkirche, Vienna. The *Requiem* of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (†17) is performed. The French army sends an honor guard.

*Mora’s Love, or The Enchanted Harp*, a Scottish ballet by Henry R. Bishop (22) to a story by d’Egville, is performed for the first time, in the King’s Theatre in the Haymarket, London.

**26 June 1809** Constanze Mozart marries Georg Nikolaus Nissen in Pressburg (Bratislava) Cathedral.

**2 July 1809** Internal government in Spain is reorganized by King José I. 38 new provinces are created.

**3 July 1809** At the instigation of the British government, the Duke of York’s chief accuser, Gwyllym Wardle, MP, is sued by an upholsterer, Francis Wright, for non-payment. It turns out that Wardle paid to furnish the London house of Mary Anne Clarke, the former mistress of the Duke of York. In the course of the court action, it becomes evident that Wardle probably paid Clarke for her testimony against the Duke. The jury finds for Wright.

**4 July 1809** Under cover of a heavy bombardment and in a violent thunderstorm, French forces attack northeast from Lobau Island across the Danube near Vienna.

**5 July 1809** French and Austrian forces numbering a total of 400,000 people begin a major conflict at Wagram, 50 km northwest of Vienna.

**6 July 1809** In retaliation for the excommunication of 11 June, French troops arrest Pope Pius VII and convey him to Savona, near Genoa.

After two days of fighting at Wagram, the Austrians are forced to retreat but the French are too exhausted to immediately pursue. The cost of the battle is 70,000 casualties or approximately one-quarter of both of the opposing armies.

**7 July 1809** After a siege of eight months by Spanish insurgents, French forces in Santo Domingo surrender to the British ships blockading them.

**10 July 1809** French troops catch up to the retreating Austrians at Znaim (Znojmo). As the battle is joined, the Austrians ask for an armistice.

**12 July 1809** An armistice is signed between France and Austria at Znaim (Znojmo).

The first of seven installments of the first biography of Franz Joseph Haydn (†0), by Georg August Griesinger, appears in the *Allgemeine musikalische Zeitung*.

**13 July 1809** British forces occupy the French colony of Senegal. They have held Gorée (Dakar) since 1800.

**14 July 1809** Russian forces accept the surrender of the Austrian garrison of Kraków after the Poles have reduced its defenses.

**16 July 1809** Pedro Domingo Murillo leads a revolt by criollos and mestizos in La Paz and proclaims an independent state in Upper Peru (Bolivia) in the name of King Fernando VII.

**19 July 1809** The *Wiener Zeitung* announces the rescinding of all Austrian censorship regulations by the French. New productions in Vienna will include *Don Carlos*, Schiller’s *Wilhelm Tell* and Goethe’s *Egmont*.

**26 July 1809** The publication of Jan Ladislav Dussek’s (49) Three Trio Sonatas for piano four-hands C.230-232 and Notturno for piano and violin C.233 is entered at Stationers’ Hall, London.

**28 July 1809** French forces attack the British and Spanish at Talavera, 105 km southwest of Madrid. After a furious see-saw battle, the French retreat towards the capital. Because of this victory, the British commander, Arthur Wellesley, will be created Viscount Wellington.

**30 July 1809** The Royal Navy begins landing 39,000 men on Walcheren Island at the mouth of the Scheldt River.

**1 August 1809** *The Vintagers*, a musical romance by Henry R. Bishop (22) to words of Eyre, is performed for the first time, in the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, London.

**3 August 1809** *HMS Lark* goes down at anchor in a gale off Santo Domingo. Only three of her 120-man crew are saved.

**8 August 1809** French forces defeat the Spanish at Puente del Arzobispo, southwest of Madrid.

**9 August 1809** British troops capture Flushing but do not advance on Antwerp.

Ludwig van Beethoven (38) is nominated as a member of the Gesellschaft der Schönen Künste und Wissenschaften in Amsterdam.

Once the British disavowal of the Erskine-Smith agreement becomes known, US President Madison orders a resumption of the embargo against Britain.

**11 August 1809** French forces defeat the Spanish at Almonacid, south of Madrid.

**10 August 1809** Citizens of Quito, opposed to Napoleonic Spain, depose the Audiencia and establish local rule.

**15 August 1809** A Mass in G by Giovanni Paisiello (69) is performed for the first time, in Paris.

**17 August 1809** Matthew Boulton dies in Birmingham at the age of 80.

**18 August 1809** Tsar Alyeksandr of Russia decrees that higher ranks of state service be attainable only by university study or examination.

The French government of Spain dissolves all religious orders.

**19 August 1809** Russian forces attack the Swedes at Sävar and force them to retreat.

**20 August 1809** The Russians catch up to the Swedes at Sävar but are cut to pieces by Swedish artillery.

**22 August 1809** Swedish forces take ship at Sävar and depart.

**25 August 1809** A Sinfonia in E flat by Gioachino Rossini (17) is performed for the first time, in the Liceo Musicale, Bologna.

**4 September 1809** British Prime Minister William Henry Cavendish, Duke of Portland resigns owing to poor health.

**7 September 1809** Buddha Loetla (Rama II) replaces Buddha Yodfa (Rama I) as King of Krung Thep (Thailand).

**17 September 1809** Russia and Sweden agree to peace at Fredrikshamm and to set their border at the River Torneälv/Torniojoki.

**18 September 1809** The Covent Garden Theatre, London reopens after the devastating fire of 1808, with a performance of *Macbeth*. During the evening riots break out over the ticket prices which are higher than the old theatre. The riots will last for over two months until manager John Philip Kemble rescinds the new prices and issues an apology.

**20 September 1809** The Duchies of Saxe-Weimar and Saxe-Eisenach, in personal union since 1741, are joined to form the Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach.

An overture and marches for *Turandot, Prinzessin von China*, a play by Schiller after Gozzi, by Carl Maria von Weber (22) are performed for the first time, in Stuttgart.

**21 September 1809** British Foreign Minister George Canning and Secretary for War Lord Castlereagh take part in a duel on Putney Heath. Canning is upset that Castlreagh took troops he intended for Portugal and used them in the Walcheren operation. Canning is hit in the thigh. Public sentiment turns against both of them.

**1 October 1809** Adrien Boieldieu (33) is hired by Tsar Alyekandr to write and teach at the Imperial Theatre School, St. Petersburg.

**4 October 1809** Spencer Perceval replaces William Henry Cavendish, Duke of Portland as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

**8 October 1809** Clemens Wenzel Lothar, Count Metternich-Winneburg Portella succeeds Johann Philipp Karl, Count Stadion-Warthousen as Lord Chamberlain, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs to Emperor Franz I of Austria.

**13 October 1809** Pedro Rivero replaces Martin de Garay Perales as First Secretary of State of the resistance government of Spain.

**14 October 1809** A treaty of peace is signed at the Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna. Austria gives up Trieste and Illyria to France, Galicia to Saxony and Russia and Salzburg and the Inn District to Bavaria. Austrian lands in Poland are handed over to the Duchy of Warsaw and Austria is required to pay an indemnity of 85,000,000 francs. Southern Tirol is transferred to the Kingdom of Italy. Austria also joins the continental system against Britain.

**16 October 1809** Before the King, Queen and the entire court, Georg Joseph Vogler (60) gives the innaugural concert on the organ at St. Peter’s in Munich, which he recently rebuilt.

A decree of King José I of Spain abolishes internal customs barriers.

**18 October 1809** French troops attack a superior Spanish force at Tamames, southwest of Salamanca, and are thrown back with heavy losses.

**23 October 1809** A young German named Stapps attempts to stab Napoléon but is stopped by the emperor’s aide, General Rapp. Although he will be offered clemency by Napoléon in return for an apology, Stapps will refuse and be executed.

**26 October 1809** After his defeat of Austria, Emperor Napoléon arrives back in Paris.

**30 October 1809** Francisco de Saavedra y Sangronis replaces Pedro Rivero as First Secretary of State of the resistance government of Spain.

**19 November 1809** French forces defeat Spaniards at Ocaña, opening the way to Andalusia.

**20 November 1809** France ends its occupation of Vienna.

**28 November 1809** Austrian Chief Minister Clemens Wenzel Lothar, Count Metternich-Winneburg Portella moves into the Ballhausplatz, his official residence in Vienna. He will not move out for almost 40 years.

Retreating Spanish troops are attacked by French cavalry at Alba de Tormes, southeast of Salamanca, and flee in great disorder.

Gaspare Spontini’s (35) tragédie lyrique *Fernand Cortez, ou La conquête du Mexique* to words of Jouy and d’Esmenard after Piron, is performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra in the presence of the Emperor as well as King Friedrich August I of Saxony and King Hieronymus Bonaparte of Westphalia.

**30 November 1809** *Pimmalione*, a dramma lirico by Luigi Cherubini (49) to words of Vestris after Rousseau and Sografi, is performed for the first time, privately, in the Tuileries, Paris. Legend has it that Emperor Napoléon resolves to divorce his wife during this performance.

**4 December 1809** After four and a half months on Walcheren Island, the last British troops are removed and transported home. 4,066 men died during the operation, almost all from disease.

**11 December 1809** After a siege of six months, the Spanish defenders of Gerona, in Catalonia, surrender to the French.

The case of Gwyllyn Wardle, MP is heard in king’s bench. In an attempt to clear his name, he charges the Duke of York’s former mistress, Mary Anne Clarke, Francis Wright, and Wright’s brother Daniel of conspiring in the case decided last 3 July. The case is decided against Wardle.

**15 December 1809** In his office at Fontainebleau, before his brothers and sisters, Emperor Napoléon and Empress Josephine sign the act of annulment.

**16 December 1809** By act of the French Senate, Emperor Napoléon is divorced from Empress Josephine.

**25 December 1809** France organizes the Illyrian Provinces in the Balkans. The Province of Fiume is created.

Dr. Ephraim McDowell performs the first successful removal of an ovarian tumor in history, in Danville, Kentucky. The patient, Jane Todd Crawford, survived the 25-minute operation without anaesthesia, and will live for 32 more years.

**26 December 1809** King Louis of Holland arrives in Paris in an attempt to smooth over differences between him and his brother Emperor Napoléon. He will fail.

**30 December 1809** Giovanni Paisiello (69) is nominated as one of the eight “associés étrangers” of the Fine Arts section of the French Imperial Institute.

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6 April 2016