

## COLLINGWOOD AND THE FRENCH

Britain and France were enemies in the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century. They fought many wars. The final war with the French lasted from 1793 - 1815, a staggering 22 years! Napoleon Bonaparte was ruler of France during this time until he was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. What did Collingwood think of the French and why?

Look at the evidence below and make up your own mind.

I hope the miseries of France will be such a lesson to the people of this country as will teach them the danger of trying to change society and show them the true value of this form of government, which affords the means of happiness to all who have from their birth deserved it.

Collingwood to Dr Alexander Carlyle (September 1792)



Napoleon planned to invade England in 1803. This cartoon pokes fun at his attempt which barely got underway.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This war is certainly unlike any before it. The object is a great and serious one, to resist the evil plans of a mad people who, under the mask of freedom, would stamp their tyranny in every country in Europe, and support and defend the happiest government that ever wisdom formed decent society.

Collingwood to Sir Edward Blackett (March 1794)