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 Against the Odds Annual 2019
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2019 Annual as we visit the internecine battlegrounds of the Vendée. It is a stark reminder that some of the worst depredations in war come when a country splits and wars with itself. The bloody subjugation of the Royalist cause in the Vendée had its precursors in the violent suppression of Scottish and Irish revolts against British rule that remained unchallenged until the American Revolution.

The French population saw what happened across the Atlantic and how a determined group, aided by their own king, threw off the imperial yoke and founded a democratic society, where the population elected its leaders, and they hungered for the same. French nobility like the Marquis de Lafayette looked to the day when a copy of the French Constitution would be framed and hung beside his copy of the American version.

Alas, the French Revolution did not spawn the truly democratic society Lafayette hoped for. In France, the landed gentry and nobility were deeply invested in the current system of government and were more interested in suppressing revolutionary thoughts. Lafayette found himself an outlier of the *ancien régime* he belonged to as reactionary notions entered into the nobility and the Catholic Church. The labyrinthine systems of courts, churches, and the *intendants* became too burdensome for the middle class. Something had to give, and the French Revolution was the result.

Because the fighting was against the very center of powers in France, anger and violence poured out in the battlefields and courts of revolutionary France. One system after another rose and fell: The Committee for Public Safety, the Estates-General, the Directorate, the Consuls, and, of course, the Reign of Terror and King Guillotine. The Reign was so vile and far reaching that even its most notable adherent, Maximilien Robespierre, was devoured by it.

It is hardly surprising that there would be a part of France so appalled by the goings on in Paris that they would long for the stability of the days of the monarchy. In the Vendée, they rose, and they paid in blood.

If you are new to our magazine and enjoyed this issue, consider a subscription. We have a long line of successful, award-winning games. Information can be found within. In the meantime, come with us now as we prowl the desecrated fields of the Vendée, following behind the Infernal Columns as they suppress by any means necessary those citizens who would see a Bourbon on the throne of France once more, or be that band of brave Royalists, aghast at the senseless slaughter of Frenchmen by Frenchmen, ready to take up arms against those who would rule by musket and torch, even though their struggle is Against the Odds.

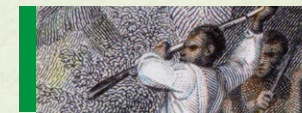
Last, some copies of ATO issue #53 (*ROME, Inc.*) had a misprinted page of charts. You'll find a complete 4 page replacement set in the center of this issue—just lift the staples and pop them in your copy of *ROME, Inc.*

Andy

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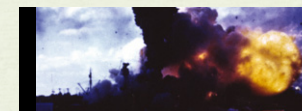
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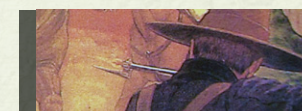
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