French Order of Battle for Yorktown Campaign (1781)
By Dr. Jeff Glasco

French Army (at Yorktown):
- Lieutenant General comte de Rochambeau (army commander)
- Major General chevalier de Chastellux (Chief of Staff)
- Colonel Desandrouins (Engineer)

Lauzun's Legion (595)
- BG Duke de Lauzun
- Colonel Count Dillon
  - 1st Squadron/Lauzun's Legion Hussars (@120)
  - 2nd Squadron/Lauzun's Legion Hussars (@120)
- Grenadier Company (@120)
- Chasseur Company (@120)
- Artillery Company (@120 w/ 2 x 4-pdr OR 2 x 1-pdr) [maybe 4 x 4-pdr OR 4 x 1-pdr]

Naval Brigade: (800)
- Brigadier General Duke de Choisy
  - 1st Battalion (400)
  - 2nd Battalion (400)

Bourbonnois Brigade
- Major General Baron de Viomenil

Bourbonnois Regiment (@850)
- Colonel Marquis de Leval
  - 1st Battalion/Bourbonnois Regiment (4 companies = @340)
  - 2nd Battalion/Bourbonnois Regiment (4 companies = @340)
- Grenadier Company (@85)
- Chasseur Company (@85)
- Artillery (4 x 4-pdr Gribeauval)

Royal Deux-Ponts Regiment (@900)
- Colonel Comte de Deux-Ponts
  - 1st Battalion/Royal Deux Ponts Regt. (4 companies = @360)
  - 2nd Battalion/Royal Deux Ponts Regt. (4 companies = @360)
- Grenadier Company (@90)
- Chasseur Company (@90)
- Artillery (4 x 4-pdr Gribeauval)

Soissonnois Brigade
- Major General Comte de Viomenil

Soissonnois Regiment (@1000)
- Colonel comte de Saint-Maisme
  - 1st Battalion/Soissonnois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
  - 2nd Battalion/Soissonnois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
Grenadier Company (@100)
Chasseur Company (@100)
Artillery (4 x 4-pdr Gribeauval)

Saintonge Regiment (@1000)
  Colonel comte de Custine
  1st Battalion/Saintonge Regiment (4 companies = @400)
  2nd Battalion/Saintonge Regiment (4 companies = @400)
  Grenadier Company (@100)
  Chasseur Company (@100)
  Artillery (4 x 4-pdr Gribeauval)

Agenois Brigade
  Major General Marquis de Saint-Simon
  Agenois Regiment (@1000)
    Colonel comte de Beaumont d'Autichamp
    1st Battalion/Agenois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
    2nd Battalion/Agenois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
    Grenadier Company (@100)
    Chasseur Company (@100)
    Artillery (4 x 1-pounders a la Rostaing)

Gatinois Regiment (@1000)
  Colonel Marquis de Rostaing
  1st Battalion/Gatinois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
  2nd Battalion/Gatinois Regiment (4 companies = @400)
  Grenadier Company (@100)
  Chasseur Company (@100)
  Artillery (4 x 1-pounders a la Rostaing)

Touraine Regiment (@1200)
  Colonel Vicomte de Pondeux
  1st Battalion/Touraine Regiment (4 companies = @480)
  2nd Battalion/Touraine Regiment (4 companies = @480)
  Grenadier Company (@120)
  Chasseur Company (@120)
  Artillery (4 x 1-pounders a la Rostaing)

2 hussar companies/First Legion of the Volontaires Etrangers de la Marine (100)

French Artillery:
  Colonel D'Aboville
  Sappers & Workers (50)
  2nd Battalion/Auxonne Artillery & 4 companies Metz Artillery (@500)
    [Rochambeau]
  2 companies Metz Artillery (104) [Saint Simon]

Field Artillery:
  Auxonne Artillery (8 x 12-pdr - Gribeauval)
  Auxonne Artillery (6 x 6" howitzer - Gribeauval)
Metz Artillery (8 x 4-pdr Swedish)

Siege Artillery:
- Metz Artillery (2 x 8" howitzers -Valliere)
- Auxonne Artillery (12 x 24-pdr - Gribeauval)
- Auxonne Artillery (8 x 16-pdr - Gribeauval)
- Auxonne Artillery (4 x 8" mortars)
- Auxonne Artillery (8 x 12" mortars)
- Auxonne Artillery (2 x 8" howitzers Gribeauval)

Notes:
1. The above French strengths are based on a French strength report for November 1781 with comparisons to strength reports from July and August, 1781.
2. As per Dr. Selig's research, the French infantry regiments who came from the Caribbean had the older 1-pdr Rostaing cannon for their battalion guns. Also it appears that the artillery which came from the Caribbean used the older Valliere system of guns, while Rochambeau's artillery that came directly from France used the new Gribeauval system (at least that is what Selig's research argues).
3. The best secondary source research can be found in the various articles by Dr. Robert A. Selig, found at http://www.w3r-us.org/history/history_index.htm.
4. French infantry regiments had two battalions, each with four companies of fusiliers and one grenadier and one chasseur (light infantry) company per regiment. Sometimes the grenadier and chasseur companies were converged into flank battalions of the same type, while in other cases the two elite companies of each regiment might be converged into a mixed flank battalion for that regiment.
5. The Marine battalions were mostly composed of men drawn from infantry regiments in France (about 725 enlisted and 23 officers); the other 50 or so men might have been actual French marines.
6. There may have been additional French sailors sent ashore to man some of the siege artillery.
7. In Saint Simon's journal he lists the following strength returns for his forces: Agenois = 1000 men, Gatinois = 1000 men, Touraine = 1200 men, detachment of Metz Artillery = 100 men, "Volontaires de la Marine" = 100 men. He also gives a return for Rochambeau's four infantry regiments of 4600 men and 800 for the marines and 600 for Lauzun's Legion.

Sources:


----------. various posts found at http://www.w3r-us.org/history/history_index.htm.

Marquis de Saint-Simon. *Journal des Campagnes de l'Amerique, depuis le 5 Juill et 1781 jus qu'au 12 Avril 1782*. http://memoirevive.besancon.fr/ark:/48565/a011323529025v1qcCo/1/1
