



THE ADJUTANT

SPRING/SUMMER 2013



Frost at Ickworth Park



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Editorial Note

Hello,

I really hope you enjoyed the last *Adjutant*, this edition is a bit later than planned as the Committee wanted to make sure that some of the news from Wollaton made it in to this edition.

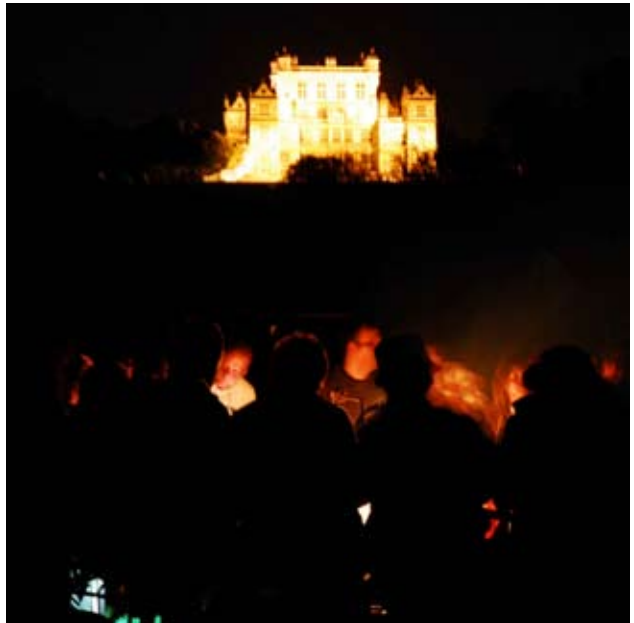
Well so far the season has got off to a somewhat cold but busy start. At Ickworth we had the launch of the “Road to Waterloo” campaign and we were kept busy by the filming work. Please see our special thank you from Liz Thomas the Event Organiser at Ickworth House for the National Trust. It is wonderful to get thanks for something that we love to do!

Wollaton was not as cold as Ickworth but was windy and was possibly our biggest public event so far with lots of families coming out for the May Bank Holiday to enjoy the sunshine. It is going to be a very busy and productive season for the Napoleonic Association with more events and promotional work coming along in the run up to 2015.

Finally many thanks goes to Rachel Coman and Adam Paylor for supplying some lovely pictures for this issue and thanks also goes to Barry Draper and Will Fletcher to whom I have to say thanks but also sorry as I didn’t have room for all of the articles that they have sent to me for this issue. I will use them for the next one.

Tracey H

**Around the fire at
Wollaton**



British Commander's Report

As I was acting Brigade Commander at the Ickworth Event the Brigade Commander has asked me to pen a report.

First of all I would like to thank all of you who attended what was a bitterly cold if dry weekend? As we had a blizzard in East Anglia on the Thursday before the event the fact that it was a dry weekend was a welcome relief! The Event started with a combined French and British Brigade Parade where we paid our respects to our friends who had died since we were last together with a minutes silence in their memory.

Most of the Saturday was taken up with filming. As usual this resulted in the normal sitting about waiting followed by successive takes of action from different angles. I would like to thank all of those of you who took part for your forbearance and patience. Saturday evening saw a free play skirmish between the French, aided and abetted by the 3/95th, and the British. The aim being to capture/hold two bridges, one of stone and one of wood, the latter being constructed by our Sappers and Miners. The umpires decided that the British captured one bridge but the French held the other!

Sunday allowed units and Divisions to drill and culminated in a skirmish. The Ickworth House walls allowed us to have stone back drop to a wooden redoubt built once again by the Sappers and Miners – thank you gentlemen for your building skills for both the redoubt and the wooden bridge. The scenario was of the need to capture the redoubt before the walls could be stormed. Many of you will be aware of an incident when the contents of an ammunition pouch ignited. This incident has been the subject of an enquiry within the unit involved and a report on the incident has been submitted to the Association Safety Officer. Two of our members, Edmond Gulvin and Stephen Lancaster, were injured in the incident and I am sure you will join me in wishing them the best and hope they are fully recovered and ready for the fray once again.

Once again I would like to thank those of you who attended and say that it was a pleasure to command you at this event. With that I will relinquish temporary command and hand the Brigade to its Commander.

Acting Brigade Commander
I am, Sirs,
Your Obedient Servant,
Martyn Monks
Colonel

French Commander's Report

I'm writing this following the weekend at Wollaton Hall, where at long last summer made an appearance and sun block was the order of the day. The season started a few weeks earlier and set off with a bang at Ickworth House - quite literally! Excellent pyrotechnics were provided by Jim Paylor and his team throughout the weekend, with one excellent explosion being caught on camera by Ad Paylor as part of his 'Road to Waterloo – Quatre Bras' promotional short film. I'm grateful to those NA French personnel who took part at the event and appreciate their patience during the two lots of filming on the first day. If only all film crews could work at the speed with which Ad was able to complete his various takes. I would also like to say a massive 'thank you' to Phil Merriott and his Artillery; to the Russian Gun Crew; and to our friends in 21e for taking part because between them we ensured that we were able to put a reasonably powerful force onto the field. During the evening there was a short campaign style battle staged just for the re enactors. This seemed to go well and was enjoyed by all, at least it was once all the aches and pains had worn off. Wollaton Hall provided a splendid backdrop to our most recent event. The sun shone throughout, although there was a strong wind blowing whilst most folk were setting up camp. Thanks to all those who supported each other putting up tents/awning and unpacking and thanks also to those who helped packed everything away on Monday. It was nice to hear Darren Gallagher say 'I think the camaraderie within the French Brigade is as high as it's ever been'. Little things like supporting each other set up and break camp help achieve this. Let's keep it going, after all the hobby is meant to be 'fun' and 'enjoyable' for all. Communal cooking also helps and there was always someone on hand to help with everything that needed doing within camp whether it was loaning a musket; helping to clean muskets; repair kit; cut wood; induct new unit members; talk to the music stars of tomorrow (or maybe today – I've no idea who they were) whilst they made a new music video; or even to chase off the local 'wild boys' who decided to attack the wood supply and water bomb the camp. We had a number of new guys attend the event and I'd like to formally welcome them to The French Brigade through this edition of The Adjutant. I hope you all had an enjoyable time and we really look forward to seeing you at as many events that you can make in the future. I really do have to single out Rhandolph for praise. He travelled to and from the event by public transport all the way from Brighton. No mean feat especially on a Bank Holiday weekend. Not only that, he did it all in kit and still insisted on

sleeping outside in the open. He eventually relented and agreed to sleep under an awning. Rhandolph save that for Stanton St John or you'll never survive a whole session.

I was particularly pleased with the drill sessions over the weekend. Some of the new manoeuvres worked very well. It's not often that we get applauded by the members of the audience for our drill sessions. Those watching us certainly seemed very impressed with the alignments. We'll look to add a couple of additional movements as per regulations at each event. A special thanks to Richard for ably assisting throughout the drill sessions.

A lasting memory of Wollaton Hall will be the huge numbers of public who attended, especially on the Monday. We usually only see crowds that size at events held across the channel. It was great to see everyone within The Brigade being happy to actively converse with the public and explain things to them. The feedback that we received from the organisers and the public was very good indeed. One proud Mum was happy that having a local 'Napoleonic event' was the only thing that would get her son away from his PC where he usually sits, totally hooked to the 'Napoleon - Total War' PC game. For one so young he certainly had a good understanding and knowledge of history. We will hopefully have attracted a number of new recruits to the Brigade following our discussions with the public throughout the weekend.

Hopefully this edition of The Adjutant will be out before Hunton – The Battle of the Nations. That event seems to be gearing up to be bigger and even better than last year and it would be great if you can support it by being there even for a single day, if you can't make the whole weekend. Bonne chance et meilleurs voeux à le vieux 'tachu'. If the event has already happened by the time you read this, then I hope it lived up to its' billing.

Let's keep the spirit de corps going and if you've any ideas on ways to enhance the camp, battlefield, or living history please let me know. Similarly if you think anything needs changing let me know.

Salut et Fraternite

Lieutenant Duncan Miles

45e



Duncan leading the French into battle

A Thank You from The National Trust

Dear James

Thank you so much for the wonderful weekend you provided us with at Ickworth. The atmosphere was absolutely brilliant and the crowds you have attracted have been a real boon following on from such a hard time before Easter with the cold weather. We've been absolutely delighted with everything you did and it really provided one of the best attractions held here all year. The verbal feedback over the weekend was top rate and I met many delighted people happily recounting your exploits. We handed out a large number of visitor surveys this weekend as a consequence of your attendance and the happy crowd it attracted and I'll be sure to get you the feedback. In the meantime we will follow you on Twitter and continue to like you on facebook!

You may be interested to know that the numbers over the weekend were nearly 5,500 people and was equivalent to the third busiest weekend from all of 2012 so from our perspective you've helped to transform our visitor numbers. Once again thank you for a brilliant weekend and for your phenomenal organisation that makes it a complete breeze for us and me in particular. Please pass on our thanks to Tony and the other Regiment leaders for their time, support and overall friendliness.

Kindest regards

Elizabeth Thomas

Events coordinator, Ickworth

Will it be Waterloo?

A Wargamer's Perspective.

During the 2012 season I demonstrated at several events, in my rôle as a pensioner reliving his past glories, a home-made wargame that attracted the attention of the public. The game was played as a table top scaled down representation of various battles of 1792, as near to 20 years previous to the actual date as I could get. (OK, 220 years, but 20 years before the fantasy we were recreating at the time.)

For 2013, with the NA starting the "Road to Waterloo" I thought it might be useful to prepare something complementary, and I have actually begun a series of wargaming projects based around June 1815. Some can be demonstrated "in period" at events, others will be more modern in nature. This is the story of what, at the time of writing, I hope to have ready for Wollaton at the beginning of May.

Will it be Waterloo? My aim is to display and replay the Belgian campaign of June 1815 with public participation. Visitors (failing visitors, passing re-enactors) will see the map of Belgium and the three armies, and be asked to assist Wellington, Napoleon or Blücher in their strategic decisions. The twist is that the movement of the armies on the map will be subject to a delay so they will not see the current situation, but the last reported positions of the enemy and/or allies. This will need meticulous note-taking, and I wonder who will be the most confused – the three virtual commanders or me as umpire!

Armies will be represented at divisional level and combat will be a simple matter of comparative manpower with a random element to represent the effect of the ground fought over, the commander's skill and the level of enthusiasm and training of the troops.

I was able to find a downloadable copy of a period map of Belgium in 1804 on the internet, and I have produced two copies. One is on heavy-duty paper and will be used on a corkboard with small pin flags. The other covers a slightly smaller area on finer paper and will be used with magnetic unit tokens and fixed to a steel sheet, which can be put on an easel. This is the version I intend to use at Wollaton. With a week to go, the map is printed but not assembled from the A4 sheets, the units are printed but only half the labels are fixed to the magnets and the rules have yet to be written.

But will it be Waterloo? I very much doubt if the armies will clash there – it isn't even on the map! (continued below)

Was it Waterloo?

Well, not yet.

There was a battle of Waterloo, and it was not named after the station.

A map showing places like Brussels, Ostend and Bruges is probably Belgium. Brussels is the capital of Belgium, and being the capital of Belgium is unlikely to be in France. Belgium is just across the English Channel. Lord Nelson was not at Waterloo. The area around his London statue is called Trafalgar Square for a good reason.

Having sorted out the elementary school work, most people were interested in the potted history of the Hundred Days, the reason for Napoleon's move into Belgium and his plan of attack.

The younger audience in particular were surprised to find that information used to take a long time to move around, and therefore if Wellington had his forces deployed around western Belgium to guard against an attack anywhere along the border it would take a day to get orders to some of them and two or three days to gather them together in one place.

One family took up this theme and we had a long discussion about swifter forms of communication such as telegraph, semaphore and pigeons. (Note to self: research when pigeons and semaphore flags were first used by the military). Another father took the opportunity to ask his children to point out the differences between the 1804 map and a modern Ordnance Survey map.

An elderly Belgian lady identified all the places on the map where her extensive family live or lived, and we then engaged in an inconclusive debate in French about whether Dinant is currently French or Belgian. As France apparently has several Dinants, she claimed the one on the map for her country, and it turns out that she is correct.

All in all, the display was a success, but the original aim was too ambitious. There were simply too many visitors to engage anyone in the operation. I intend to continue the exercise at an event in the future, having recorded the dispositions at the end of the weekend.

What happened in the game?

This is the dreadfully boring bit, so unless you are a wargamer or historian of the campaign I suggest you read no further!

15th June 2015

The French army crossed the border at 3 a.m. on Thursday 15th June. Aware of the concentration of the French army between Maubeuge and Philippeville, Blücher had ordered his 2nd, 3rd and 4th Corps to move westwards. His 1st Corps was covering the river Sambre around Charleroi.

First contact was at 6 a.m. between the cavalry of d'Erlon's 1st Corps (French) and van Merlen's Dutch cavalry brigade near Binche.

Wargame rule: When contact is made the opposing strengths are compared as a simple ratio rounded down and the weaker side rolls against the odds to determine if it will stay and fight.

Van Merlen rolled a 1 and sensibly retreated, sending a message to Corps HQ at Nivelles.

At 9 a.m. The Prince of Orange, commanding the Anglo-allied 1st Corps received the message and ordered his corps to concentrate at Nivelles and Mons. He sent the news to Wellington in Brussels, but the message would not arrive until 3 p.m.

At the same time Pajol's 1st Cavalry Corps (French) attacked General Steinmetz's 1st Prussian infantry division at Fontaine l'Eveque and received a severe mauling.

Wargame rule: After the contact rule above, if the weaker side stays to fight, compare the strengths and roll 2 dice for the effects of terrain, commanders and other variables. Add the difference between the dice scores to the strength. Subtract the lower total score from the higher and remove that number of strength points from the loser for future engagements. Then run the contact rule again to see if the loser retreats. Simple!

At 12 noon there were two further engagements. Exelmans' 2nd Cavalry Corps (French) attacked General Pirch's 2nd Prussian infantry division at Marchiennes. The Prussians lost the battle, rolled a 1 and retreated towards Gosselies.

At Seresse the French 1st Corps pushed van Merlen's cavalry back towards Nivelles. Blücher ordered 2nd and 3rd Corps to move to Gosselies and Jenepe respectively.

We were so busy with visitors at Wollaton that the campaign only progressed as far as noon on 16th June. My starting point was 3 a.m. on 15th June 1815 and the armies were laid out in their dispositions researched from Captain Siborne's book "The War in France and Belgium". Napoleon and Blücher had already issued orders the evening before and movement according to these orders was started.

At 3 p.m. Wellington sent orders for the cavalry to move to Soignes, Hill's 2nd Corps, which was widely scattered, to concentrate at Hal and the reserve corps under his own command to move forward from Brussels to Braine l'Alleud.

General Ziethen moved his 1st Prussian Corps up to the line of the river Sambre and concentrated them at Charleroi and Jenepe.

At 6 p.m. Exelmans rolled a foolhardy 6 and attacked the Prussians at Charleroi at odds of 1:3. Unsurprisingly for him and his men the war was over.

All three armies consolidated their positions overnight while messengers raced around western Belgium with orders for the 16th.

16th June 1815

At 9 a.m. d'Erlon's 1st corps accompanied by Marshal Ney attacked part of the Prince of Orange's 1st Corps (now joined by Wellington) at Nivelles. Historically this would have been the battle at Quatre Bras, a few miles to the east. The allies took a beating but did not retreat.

At Charleroi Vandamme's French 3rd Corps attacked part of Ziethen's 1st Prussian Corps and drove them back towards Gosselies. General Gérard's 4th Corps also inflicted casualties on the remainder of the Prussian 1st Corps at Jeneppe, but they held.

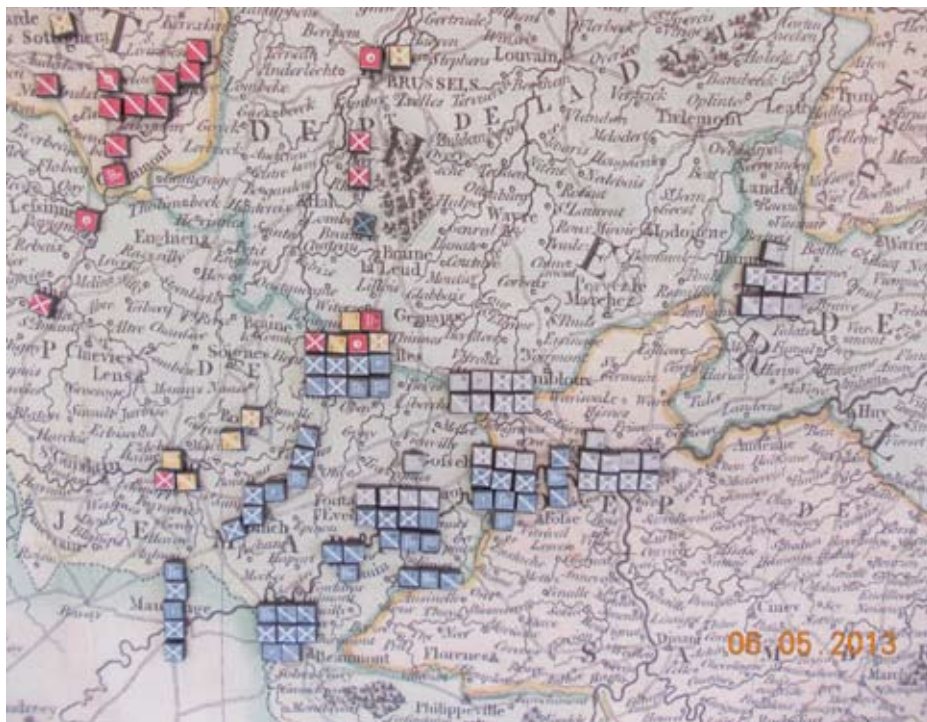
Uxbridge and Hill have received their orders from Wellington, but they need to be communicated to the divisional commanders.

To be continued...

Paul Wisken



The display: The Decanter of “incredibly strong Port “ is a necessity even if it's only Cherry juice.



Dispositions at 12 noon on 16th June 1815

A Sad Announcement

-----Original Message-----

From: ext Roderick Stacey [mailto:Roddles@ncable.net.au]

Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 2:00 AM

To: a-troop@16ld.org

Subject: Winding up of the Australian Napoleonic Association

Hello Andrew,

I have the sad duty to inform you that the Australian Napoleonic Association, due to external and internal difficulties, will cease to operate.

If you could remove any links to the now defunct ANA from your most excellent website, that would be greatly appreciated.

If you could circulate this news to NA members that would be appreciated and on the ANA's behalf, I would like to thank the NA for its support.

Regards,

Roderick Stacey

ANA Administrator.

Member of the 95th Rifles Australia Inc.



The Road To Waterloo 200

In January this year we came to you with a proposal for the NAs Road to Waterloo 200 campaign. We had an aspired programme and a fledgling partnership with the Waterloo 200 committee, the Belgian Tourist Office and the Army Benevolent Fund. We proposed three aims for the project that would guide our activities and event programme for the next three years and beyond. We say beyond because although we are working towards the Waterloo bicentenary in June 2015 we are also aware that the question on many people's mind is what happens after 2013?

Aims

We proposed the following aims for the project:

- Promote and coordinate the educational aspects of the Napoleonic wars (European History Education).
- Advertise the International event that Belgium is hosting in 2015 (Advertise).
- Raise an awareness of and fund raising for the Army Benevolent Fund.

With your unanimous support we were able to take these aims to our partners with confidence in a series of meetings over the intervening months. We are pleased to announce that they have been adopted universally with everyone working together to promote them across UK, Europe and the world. We are already getting support from other organisations that are keen to support the campaign. Well that's all very encouraging but what have we actually achieved apart from promises of support?

In April we launched our journey at the National Trust's Ickworth House. The aim of this event was to start to bring everyone both NA and other societies and associations together in a unified march. This was the first effort to get others to engage with us with a view to ensuring that everyone who wants to take to the field in 2015 can do so safely and in a manner that will serve as a lasting tribute to the men and women of all nations who were present at Waterloo 200 years ago. At Ickworth we had a more than 50 re-enactors from other periods as well as other Napoleonic groups join us to drill, train and work together to present a truly splendid spectacle. We have set the ground-ing for continued cooperation and made many friendships that should act as an inspira-tion for others. From the National Trust point of view we raised their visitor numbers from an expected 500 – 600 to more than 5,500. The result is that the NT have engaged fully with our project and have confirmed that we are welcome to return for the next 3 years and beyond.

To look a bit more closely at other areas we can confirm that our aspired concert in one of the Royal Parks has floundered at the moment when their commercial depart-ment placed a price of £150,000 on the use of Greenwich for the weekend. We felt that this was not in the spirit of our project and so declined. We are sure that you would all agree with us, however don't be surprised if this comes back as we believe that other influences may well be brought to bear to stage an event of this type in London. For the time being we have entered into partnership with JSL the event company who promote the Battle Proms and agreed two Proms dedicated to the Road to Waterloo at Blenheim Palace in 2014 and 2015. The first will be set as the Battle for Quatre Bras and will be a major NA event. It is being promoted and a film trailer that was filmed at Ickworth was launched on 27th April. The film has already gone global and is being adopted by our partners on their web sites and for presentation.

The second event in 2015 will happen after the bicentenary in July 2012. It will be staged as the Waterloo Victory Prom and feature a re-creation of the battle. Again this will be a major NA event. Any profits raised over the average gates for both proms will be donated to the ABF.

Next we have been booked to appear at the British Military Tattoo in 2014 and 2015 with the themes again as Quatre Bras and Waterloo. Again the event in 2015 will be after the Battle in June staged as a celebration of the victory. So we are already build-ing a programme after the big day. Next came an invitation to appear on Horse Guards Parade as a part of the Beating of the Retreat with the massed bands of the Household

Division in front of the Queen in June. Plans are already at an advanced stage with units involved practicing their counter marching etc. And there's more.....

In November we will be marching in the Lord Mayor of London's Parade. This event will cost in excess of £6,000 which the Belgium Tourist Office are paying for as a high profile marketing opportunity. They are keen to support the event again in 2014 with the ABF keen to allow us to use their float as well allowing us to march 150 re-enactors. In 2014 we will be staging an event at Royal Chelsea Hospital in London involving a parade down the Kings Road, living history camp, battle and many other attractions in partnership with the In- pensioners.

In July this year we are at Vitoria in Spain and have been asked to provide an honour guard in support of the Army's remembrance parade on the Friday morning. These events are just the beginning of what is going to be a great journey for everyone. Of course this will mean a lot of work for all of us. Your response at the AGM this year was brilliant with lots of volunteers to help. A lot of you have already taken on jobs for which we thank you. For those yet to be asked don't worry there will be plenty to go around as this will need all of us to pull it off. If you have any ideas for the campaign or potential events please let us know through Tony Wilks our Event Coordinator and we will get right back to you.

For those wondering what's next here is a look at the programme so far:

2013

April – Ickworth House, Recruiting and Training Camp.

May 4 & 5 - Woolerton Hall, Nottingham Partnership event with ABF supported by local army units.

May 25 & 26 - Battle of the Nations - Partnership event with ABF.

May 31 – Wellington Ball – City of London Club.

June – Beating the Retreat – Horse Guards Parade.

June – Vitoria Spain – European launch.

July – Aug Battle Prom concerts. NA marketing with displays and promotional film

to 70,000 -90,000 spectators (Burghley House, Lincolnshire – Blenheim House, Berkshire - Hatfield House, Hertfordshire – Highclere Castle, Berkshire – Althrop Park, Northamptonshire – Ragley Hall Warwickshire.)

Aug 24 -26 – Sheffield, Yorkshire - NA Major Marketing event.

November - Belgium Trade Show – Excelsior Centre London

9 November - Lord Mayors Show – London (70 marchers, sponsored by Belgium Tourist Office)

2014

April – Ickworth House, Recruiting and Training Camp.

June - Battle Rehearsal WATERLOO (TBC)

28/29 June – Royal Hospital Chelsea, NA Parade Major Marketing event.

July – Aug Battle Prom concerts. NA marketing with displays and promotional film to 70,000 -90,000 spectators (Burghley House, Lincolnshire – Hatfield House, Hertfordshire – Highclere Castle, Berkshire – Althrop Park, Northamptonshire – Ragley Hall Warwickshire.)

July – Blenheim Battle Prom, NA major Quatre-Bras Re-enactment displays and promotional film.

September – Colchester Military Tattoo.

November - Lord Mayors Show – London

December – British Military Tattoo Earls Court – Battle of Quatre-Bras

2015

Aug 24 -26 – Sheffield, Yorkshire - NA Major Marketing event.

November - Belgium Trade Show – Excelsior Centre London

March – Press event Wellington Arch – London

April – Ickworth House, Recruiting and Training Camp.

June - Battle Camp WATERLOO

June - BATTLE OF WATERLOO

July - Blenheim Waterloo Victory Battle Prom, NA major Waterloo Re-enactment displays and promotional film.

Dec – British Military Tattoo Earls Court – Battle of Waterloo Victory Calibration
(Note: date may be brought forward)

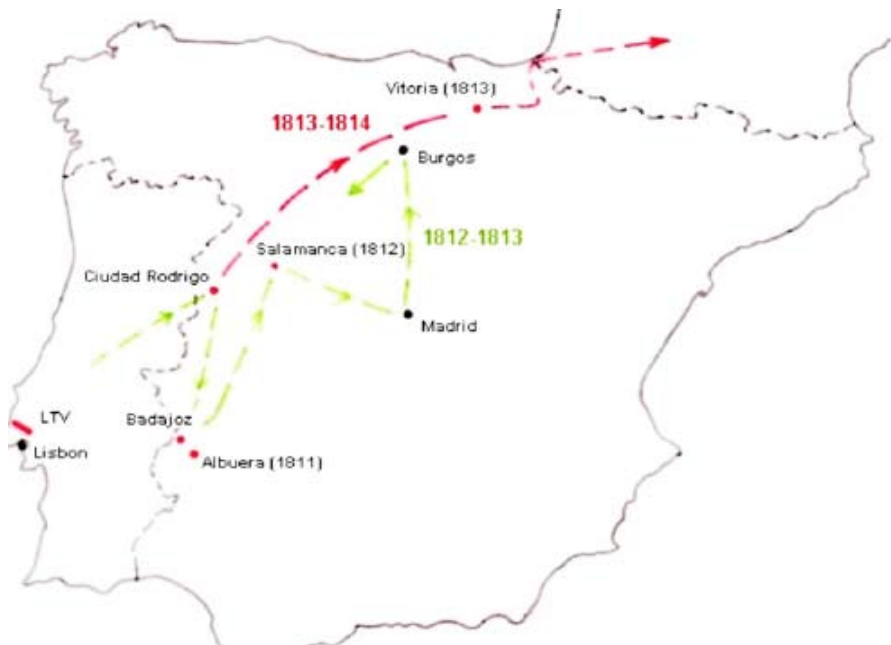
Everyone should be able to attend the battle at Waterloo, but it is very important that they do it safely and we provided a memorial fitting to the memory of our gallant forefathers.

Vitoria - June 1813

Background

In July 1812, after the Battle of Salamanca, the French had evacuated Madrid, which Wellington's army entered on 12 August 1812. Deploying three divisions to guard the capital's southern approaches, Wellington then marched north with the rest of his army to lay siege to the fortress of Burgos, 140 miles (230 km) away, but he had under-estimated the enemy's strength and on 21 October he had to abandon the Siege of Burgos and retreat. By 31 October he had abandoned Madrid too, and retreated first to Salamanca then finally to Ciudad Rodrigo, near the Portuguese frontier, to avoid encirclement by French armies from the north-east and south-east.

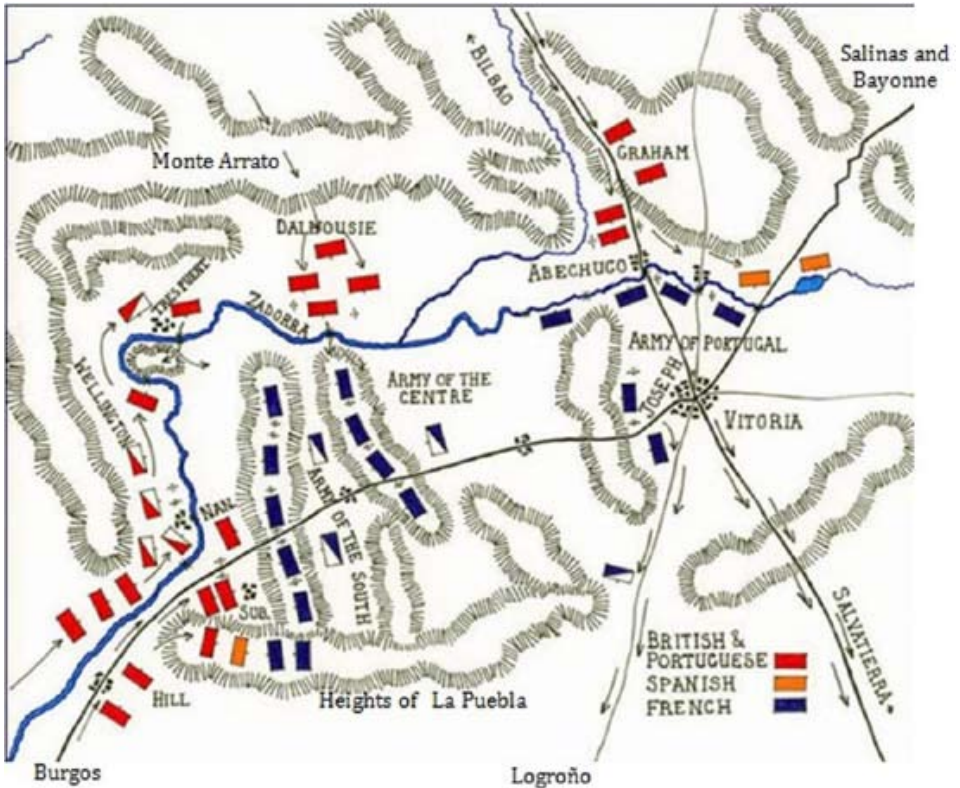
Wellington spent the winter reorganising and strengthening his forces. By contrast, Napoleon withdrew many French soldiers to rebuild his main army after his disastrous invasion of Russia. The following year, Wellington marched 121,000 troops (53,749



British, 39,608 Spanish, and 27,569 Portuguese) from northern Portugal across the mountains of northern Spain and the Esla River, by 20 May 1813, to outflank Marshal Jourdan's army of 68,000 who were strung out between the Douro and the Tagus. The French retreated to Burgos, with Wellington's forces marching hard to cut them off from the road to France. Wellington himself commanded the small central force in a strategic feint, while Sir Thomas Graham conducted the bulk of the army around the French right flank over landscape considered impassable. Wellington launched his attack at Vitoria on 21 June, in four columns.

Terrain

The battlefield centres on the Zadorra River, which runs from east to west. As the Zadorra runs west, the river loops into a hairpin bend, finally swinging generally to the southwest. On the south of the battlefield are the Heights of La Puebla. To the northwest is the mass of Monte Arrato. Vitoria stands to the east, two miles (3 km) south of the Zadorra. Five roads radiate from Vitoria as follows, north to Bilbao, northeast to Salinas and Bayonne, east to Salvatierra, south to Logroño and west to Burgos on the south side of the Zadorra.



Plans

Jourdan was ill with fever all day on 20th June. This meant that few orders were issued and the French forces stood idle. An enormous wagon train of booty clogged the streets of Vitoria. A convoy left Vitoria during the night but it had to leave the siege artillery behind because there weren't enough draft animals to pull the cannons.

Gazan's divisions guarded the narrow western end of the Zadorra valley, deployed south of the river. Marasin's brigade was posted in advance, at the village of Subijana. The divisions were disposed with Leval on the right, Daricau in the center, Conroux to the left and Villate in reserve. Only a picket guarded the western extremity of the Heights of La Puebla.

Further back, D'Erlon's force stood in a second line, also south of the river. D'Armagnac's division deployed on the right and Cassagne's on the left. D'Erlon failed to destroy three bridges near the river's hairpin curve and posted Avy's weak cavalry division to guard them. Reille's men originally formed a third line, but Sarrut's division



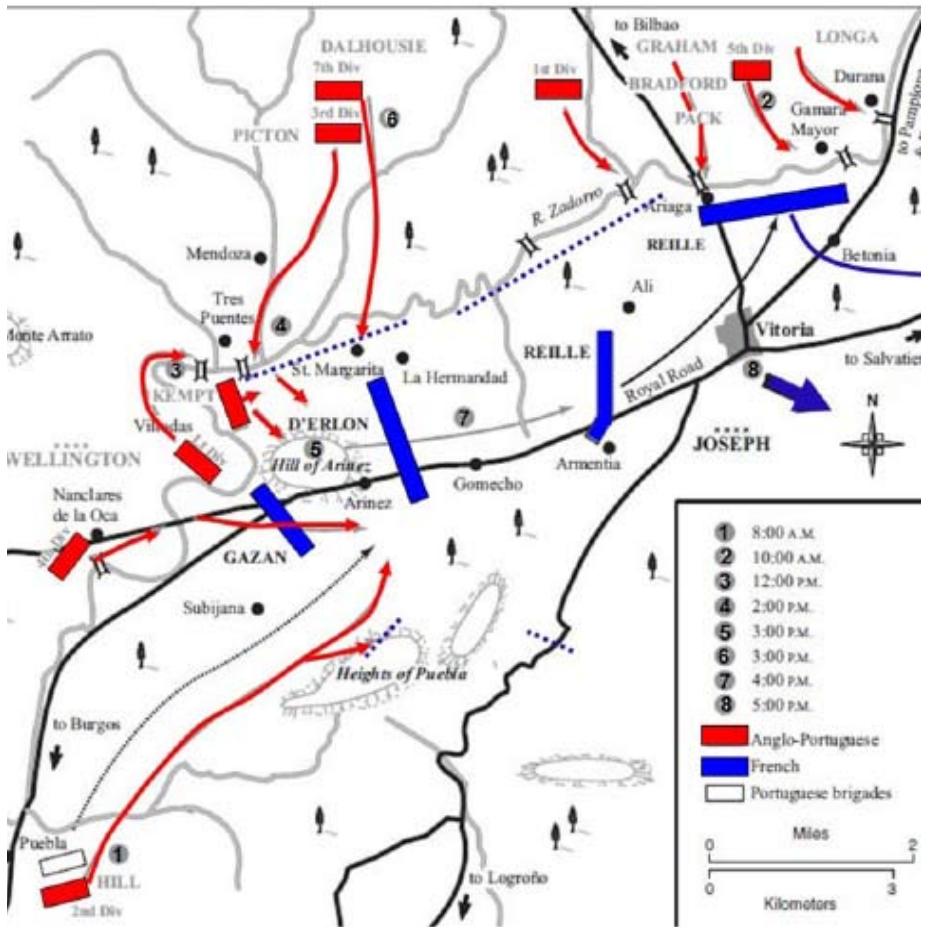
Battle of Vitoria

was sent north to of the river to guard the Bilbao Road while Lamartinière's division and the Spanish Royal Guard units held the river bank.

Wellington directed Hill's 20,000-men Right Column to drive the French from the Zadorra defile on the south side of the river. While the French were preoccupied with Hill, Wellington's Right Centre column would move along the north bank of the river and cross the river near the hairpin bend behind the French right flank.

Graham's 20,000 men of the Left Column were sent around the north side of Monte Arrato. This force would drive down the Bilbao Road, cutting off the bulk of the French Army. Dalhousie's Left Centre column would cut across Monte Arrato and strike the river east of the hairpin, providing a link between Graham and Wellington.

Battle



Battle Map with Time Sequence

Coming up the Burgos Road, Hill sent Morillo's Division to the right on a climb up the Heights of La Puebla. Stewart's 2nd Division began deploying to the left in the narrow plain just south of the river. Seeing these moves, Gazan sent Marasin forward to drive Morillo off of the heights. Hill moved Col. Henry Cadogan's brigade of the 2nd Division to assist Morillo. Gazan responded by committing Villatte's reserve division to the battle on the Heights.



The bridge at Trespuentes over which Kempt's Brigade crossed the River Zadorra

About this time, Gazan first spotted Wellington's column moving North of the Zadorra to turn his right flank. He asked Jourdan (now recovered from fever) for reinforcements. Having become obsessed with the safety of his left flank, the Marshal refused to help Gazan. Instead he ordered some of D'Erlon's troops to guard the Logroño road.

Wellington thrust James Kempt's brigade of the Light Division across the Zadorra at the hairpin. At the same time, Stewart took Subijana and was counterattacked by two of Gazan's divisions. On the Heights, Cadogan was killed, but the Anglo-Spanish force managed to hang on their foothold. Wellington suspended his attacks to allow Graham's column time to make an impression and a lull descended on the battlefield.

2- At noon, Graham's column appeared on the Bilbao road. Jourdan immediately realised he was in danger of envelopment and ordered Gazan to pull back toward Vitoria. Graham drove Sarrut's division back across the river, but could not force his way across the Zadorra despite bitter fighting. Further east, Longa's Spanish troops defeated the Spanish Royal Guards and cut the road to Bayonne.

With some help from Kempt's brigade, Picton's 3rd Division from Dalhousie's column crossed to the south side of the river, According to Picton, the enemy responded by pummeling the 3rd with forty to fifty cannon and a counter-attack on their right flank (which was still open because they had captured the bridge so quickly) causing the 3rd to lose 1,800 men (over one third of the all Allied losses at the Battle) as they held their ground. Cole's 4th Division crossed further west. With Gazan and D'Erlon on the right, the French attempted a stand at the village of Arinez. Formed in a menacing line, the 4th Light, 3rd and 7th Divisions soon captured this position. The French fell back to the Zuazo ridge, covered by the their well-handled and numerous field artillery. This position also fell to Wellington's attack when Gaza refused to cooperate with his colleague D'Erlon.

Soon French morale collapsed and the soldiers of Gazan and D'Erlon ran for it. Artillerists left their guns behind as they fled on the trace horses. Soon the road was jammed with a mass of weapons and carriages. The efforts of Reille's two divisions, holding off Graham, allowed tens of thousands of French troops to escape by the Salvatierra road.



The 14th Light Dragoons capture King Joseph's baggage during the battle



One of the items looted from Joseph Bonaparte's baggage was a silver chamber pot. The regiment who liberated the pot, the 14th Hussars retained it as a trophy and to this day use it on regimental guest nights to toast with champagne.

Aftermath

The Allied army lost about 5,000 men. By nationality, there were 3,675 British, 921 Portuguese and 562 Spanish casualties. French losses totaled at least 5,200 killed and wounded, plus 2,800 men and 151 cannon captured. By army, the losses were South 4,300, Centre 2,100 and Portugal 1,600. There were no casualty returns from the Royal Guard or the Artillery.

French losses were not higher for several reasons. First, the Allied army had already marched 20 miles (32 km) that morning and was in no condition to pursue. Second, Reille's men valiantly held off Graham's column. Third, the valley by which the French retreated was narrow and well-covered by the 3rd Hussar and the 15th Dragoon Regiments acting as a rear-guard. Last, the French left their booty behind.

Many British soldiers turned aside to plunder the abandoned French wagons, containing "the loot of a kingdom". It is estimated that over one million pounds of booty (perhaps £100 million in modern equivalence) was seized, but the gross abandonment of discipline caused an enraged Wellington to write in a dispatch to Earl Bathurst, "We have in the service the scum of the earth as common soldiers". The British general also vented his fury on a new cavalry regiment, writing, "The 18th Hussars are a disgrace to the name of soldier, in action as well as elsewhere; and I propose to draft their horses from them and send the men to England if I cannot get the better of them in any other manner." (On 8 April 1814, the 18th redeemed their reputation in a gallant charge at Croix d'Orade, shortly before the Battle of Toulouse.)

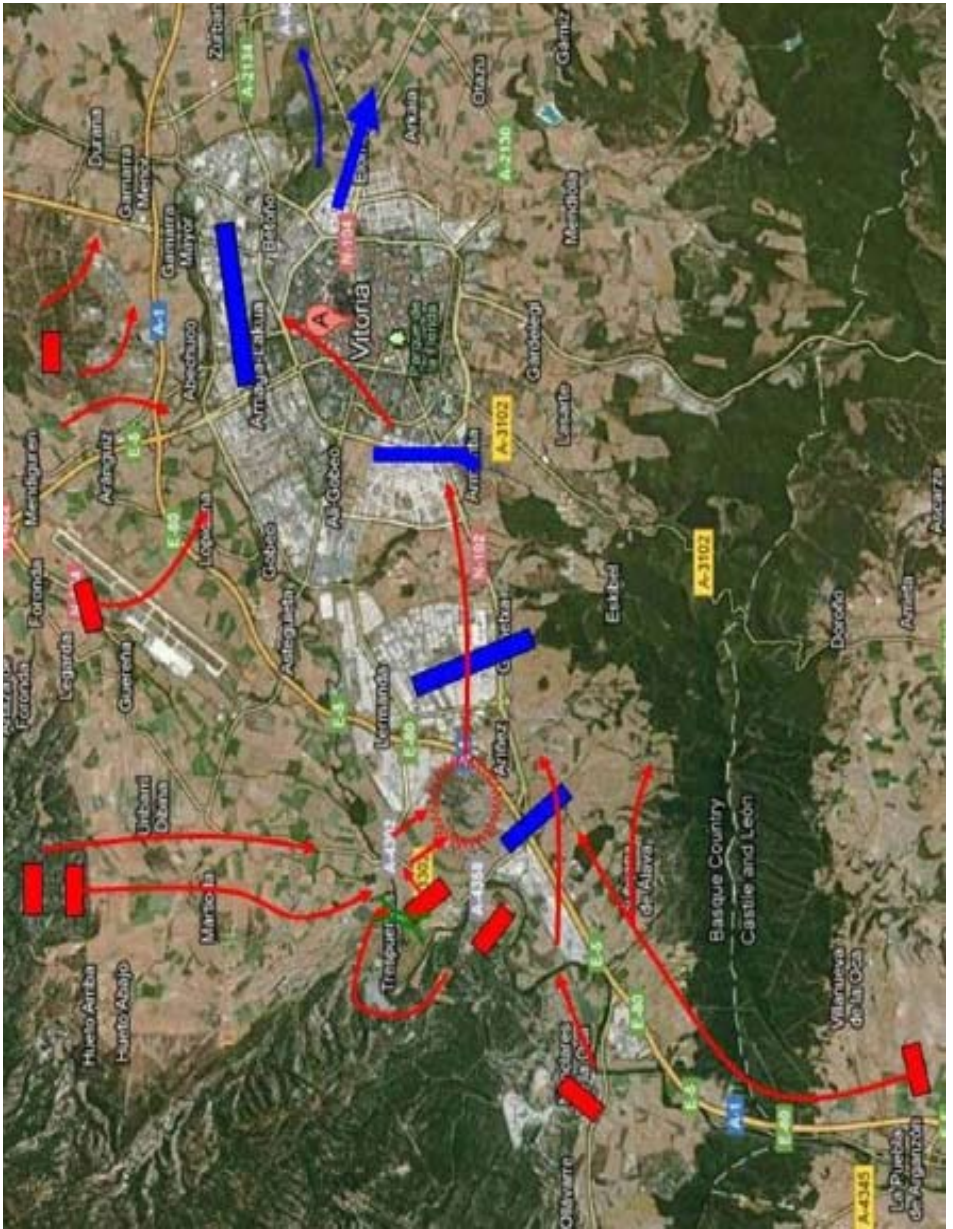
Order was soon restored, and by December, after detachments had seized San Sebastián and Pamplona, Wellington's army was encamped in France.

The battle was of wide significance throughout Europe. The Emperor Napoleon was already reeling from the catastrophe of the Russian campaign. Vitoria helped to show that his dominance of the continent was coming to an end. The battle established Lord Wellington's reputation throughout Europe, as is indicated by Beethoven's tribute (see below). On hearing the news of the battle the Austrians mobilised and declared war on France. The Emperors of Russia and Austria both offered Lord Wellington the command of their armies.

The battle was the inspiration for Beethoven's Opus 91, often called the "Battle Symphony," or simply "Wellington's Victory", which portrays the battle in a form of a musical drama. The climax of the movie *The Firefly*, starring Jeannette MacDonald, occurs with Wellington's attack on the French centre. (The film used music from an opera of the same name by Rudolf Friml, but with a totally different plot.)

Monument at Vitoria





Napoleonic Association Annual Research Conference 2013

This year's research conference was held once again, in the War Studies Department at King's College London. It was a very successful and enjoyable day with a set of excellent speakers each contributing on a subject of their own expertise. The primary focus was on the events of 1813, to mark the bicentenary of that year, and a wide range of topics was covered, catering for everyone's interests.

The day began with Julian Spilsbury's lecture on The Battle of Leipzig 1813. As usual, Julian's talk was very lively, and his 'unique' use of an OHP, hand drawn maps and a 'pointy stick' proved that technology can be over-rated. His knowledge of the ground, from his battlefield guiding meant that he could describe the battle with some authority. The campaign and battle were put in their strategic contexts, and this was combined with a number on detailed occurrences that took place during the battle. This ranged from Murat's hotheadedness in the South, resulting in one of the largest cavalry actions of the Napoleonic Wars, to the difficulties of the French Guard Artillery in putting on the full dress uniforms whilst round shot was bounding in and around their position. This was a good talk which broadened the theme of the day from just concentrating on British aspects.

Josephine Oxley (Keeper of the Wellington Collection, at Apsley House) came down the road from No.1 London to give the next talk. The history and contents of Apsley house were described, with specific reference to 1813 and Wellington's rewards after Vitoria. This was particularly interesting of the history and importance of certain objects, which could easily be missed when visiting the house itself. Many of us felt another visit would now be the order of the day. One fascinating idea presented was that Wellington's decision to have a house in London rather than an additional country house may have saved the family from bankruptcy in later years, a fate many others suffered.

After lunch Dr Honig from the War Studies Department was the 'headline act'. His lecture on the invention of the decisive battle, certainly gave an academic slant to the day. This was superb, and very difficult to relate in a few lines, but basically his theory which he is still developing, questions when in history the real importance of a decisive battle came about? It was certainly challenging!

To round off the day John Morewood gave an excellent talk about the British Cavalry in the 1813 Peninsular campaign. This explained their importance and many episodes which are often overlooked. His main focus was that the Cavalry arm has been much maligned and we must understand that they were a key component of the British Army in the Peninsula under Wellington.

All in all it was a good day with a wide range of topics and types of speakers. Many interesting ideas were thrown up, and the lectures gave a chance for the re-enactors as well as the researchers to further their understanding of the period, not only of the occurrences in the Peninsula, but also in the rest of Europe. Plans for the 2014 conference are under way – I'll let you know in good time!

William Fletcher (NA Research Officer)

QUATRE BRAS FARMHOUSE UNDER THREAT

If you've visited Quatre Bras in recent years you'll know how the farmhouse has been allowed to become badly rundown. This is, apparently, despite the local Mayor placing an enforcement order against the owners to rectify the situation. Now, through contact with European re-enactors, we have learnt that planning permission has been granted in favour of having the buildings redeveloped despite such an application having been turned down twice before. There is a feeling that the owners have deliberately allowed the buildings to deteriorate in order to gain support for the redevelopment.

The NA, amongst others, was asked to add their voice to the concerns raised by re-enactors and historians by the decision to allow the redevelopment to go ahead. It was agreed that we would do so and the NA has written to the Ministers of three Walloon Government departments emphasising the historical importance of Quatre Bras and asking them to look at restoration as the way forward rather than redevelopment.

The NA has now received a letter from one of the Regional Government Ministers in response to ours advising that the Councillors representing the Commune of Genappe have lodged an appeal against the decision and the planning permission is currently the subject of a new investigation. Once this is completed a decision will be taken based on all the information available. The Minister indicated that he had received a considerable amount of correspondence about the planning decision and thanked us for putting forward our views.

Let's hope that a sensible decision or compromise can be reached.

Barry Draper
Admin Officer