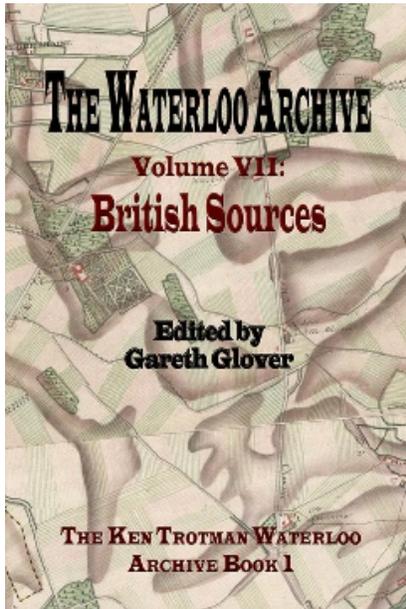


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Glover, Gareth. *The Waterloo Archive Vol. VII: British Sources*. Godmanchester: Ken Trotman, 2019. 272 pages. £25



This is the 7th book in Gareth Glover's *The Waterloo Archive*.¹ It focuses solely on British sources or individuals who served in the British Army, such as Major General William de Dornberg who commanded the British 3rd Cavalry Brigade in the campaign. Although on the same topic it is a bit different than previous volumes. In the past the books tended to contain only diaries, letters, and memoirs. However Volume 7 has three sections that do not fall into these categories.

The first is a series of 34 watercolor landscapes by artist [Thomas Stoney](#) who visited the battlefield two days and spent considerable time painting it. Although not too graphic, the artist did include corpses in some of the paintings. These watercolors are among the first paintings to ever be made of the battlefield and were not available to the public until 2015. Unfortunately, due to cost, the images are in black and white, but even so, it does not diminish the importance of them.

The second is a set of Cavalry General Orders by the commander of the cavalry in Wellington's Army, Lieutenant General Henry Paget, 2nd Earl of Uxbridge. These were not tactical orders, but covers how the cavalry was managed administratively. For example General Order for 27 May discusses how the regiments and brigades were supposed to form up and pass in review for the big parade on 29 May and attended by most of the senior officers in Allied Army, as well as Marshal Blucher. Those dated 7 June are about what speed the cavalry should move when they are trotting, what clothing and equipment each trooper was supposed to have with him, and the proper way to wear the canteen and haversack. There are 36 pages of these orders and they provide a fascinating insight into the thinking of the cavalry commander and how he tried to instill uniformity into his command.

The third is the Letter Book of Major General Sir Richard Vivian Hussey, who commanded the 6th Cavalry Brigade. It contains the official correspondence of the brigade commander, most of it in response to letters from his subordinates. Most of it is administrative in nature

¹ Reviews of many of the previous volumes can be seen at our [Reviews of Memoirs & Other Primary Sources Index](#).

and involves personnel. Like the above mentioned general orders, it gives the readers an idea of some of the mundane issues that a commander dealt with on a daily basis.

Although it is an accepted truth that most Other Ranks, i.e. those soldiers who were not officers, non-commissioned officers, and musicians, were illiterate. Yet once again Gareth Glover challenges this belief with unearthing several by cavalry and infantry privates.

All branches of the army are represented. The cavalry, with 83 pages of material by 12 different individuals, is covered the most. For the artillery enthusiast, there is the diary of First Lieutenant Mathew Louis of Major Robert Bulls Royal Horse Artillery Troop. The Foot Guards are not to be left out. Possibly my favorites are the letters from Ensign Seymour Bathurst, son of 3rd Earl Bathurst, the Secretary of War.

Not to be outdone by the cavalry, the infantry has 59 pages of letters including one by a private in the 81st Foot, which was on garrison duty in Brussels on 18 June. The Support Services are also covered. One of the more interesting one is the letter from Captain William Stavely of the Royal Staff Corps to his mother on 19 June informing her that he was unharmed, despite being hit in the gut by a spent round, which did not penetrate.² There are also 30 pages of highly detailed letters from Captain John Oldfield of the Royal Engineers.

In a departure from previous books, Mr. Glover includes ten letters from British civilians in Brussels. Several are very poignant, including one from Lady Georgina Lennox to Lady Georgina Bathurst dated 16 June, very worried about her friends and relatives who marched off to war in the previous 24 hours. Another is from Ensign Bathurst's older brother to their father written on 19 June letting him know that his was safe.

Mr. Glover has once again put together a fine collection of primary sources that are essential to understanding what happened in the Waterloo Campaign. This is another must have book for those who specialize in events of the Hundred Days and aficionados of personal stories of the Napoleonic Wars. Highly Recommended.

Reviewed by: [Robert Burnham](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: November 2019

² I am not sure this is something any mother would want to know!