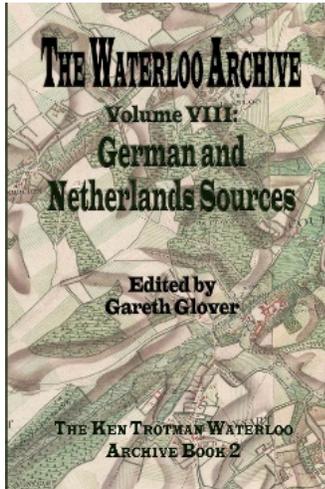


## The Napoleon Series Reviews

Glover, Gareth (ed.). *The Waterloo Archive Vol. VIII: German and Netherlands Sources*. Godmanchester: Ken Trotman, 2019. 278 pages. £25.



As the title says, this is the 8<sup>th</sup> volume in Gareth Glover's collection of primary sources relating to the Waterloo Campaign. Although it is an eclectic mix of material, but the vast majority of it is from Dutch sources. This makes it unique because there are very few Dutch primary sources in English. In the book you will find reports from the Dutch-Belgian cavalry, artillery, infantry, and engineers. The entries are a mix of contemporary letters and memoirs written years later.

There are 23 pages of material on the Dutch cavalry, with about half of it being an account written by Sergeant Major Johannes Fundter, who served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Dutch Light Dragoons. It covers the period 15 June to 25 August 1815 and provides great detail on the regiment's actions during the campaign.

About 20% of the book are accounts by the Dutch infantry. Most of these accounts were written by junior officers and an occasional sergeant or private soldier. Eight different Dutch infantry units are represented, with six of them being from militia units, including the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Battalions. A typical entry for these battalions ranges from 5 – 20 pages long.

Surprisingly, there is a rather long entry for the Dutch engineers. It is the memoirs of Lieutenant Sent Foppes Klijsma and covers from April to December 1815. He and his company were stationed in Brussels on 18 June and were located just south of Brussels. Their mission was to block access to the city to any unit or individual who was not wounded. His account is filled with anecdotes of how they dealt with those who fled the battlefield and how the wounded were treated.

About half the book is devoted to the various German contingents, including the King's German Legion, Hanoverians, Nassau regiments, Brunswickers, and Westphalians. In Volumes II and V of the Waterloo Archive, there are many letters and reports gathered by Dr. Julius von Pflugh-Harttung and first published in 1915. Mr. Glover has found more of these reports, including ones by members of the King's German Legion. The 2<sup>nd</sup> KGL Light Dragoons have reports by two officers and a sergeant, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> KGL Hussars by two troop commanders. There are three different reports by officers in the King's German Artillery. The infantry is represented by accounts by Major George Barrington, commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> KGL Light Infantry Battalion and by Captain Leopold von Rettberg of the 1<sup>st</sup> KGL Line Battalion. The 5<sup>th</sup> KGL Line Battalion's story is told by its commander, Lieutenant Colonel William von Linsingen.

There are also reports from various Hanoverian infantry units including a very detailed one by Major O.H. Müller of the Field Battalion Bremen, plus those by Colonels Charles Best and Ernst von Vincke, who commanded the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Hanoverian Brigades respectively. Other German material: includes Major General August von Kruse's report on the Nassau Troops during the campaign; a report on the Brunswick troops; and a long letter written by a Westphalian landwehr soldier.

I have all 8 volumes of the *Waterloo Archives*, plus Siborne's *Waterloo Letters*, Gareth Glover's *Letters from the Battle of Waterloo*, Stephen Beckett's [Operations of the Armée du Nord: 1815](#), and many volumes of memoirs and letters. The collection probably totals over 4,000 different sources. Less than 5% of this collection is from Dutch and German eyewitnesses. *Waterloo Archive* Volume 8 fills a huge gap in non-British and French sources! The material on the Dutch infantry is worth the price of the book alone. Highly Recommended.

Reviewed by [Robert Burnham](#)

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