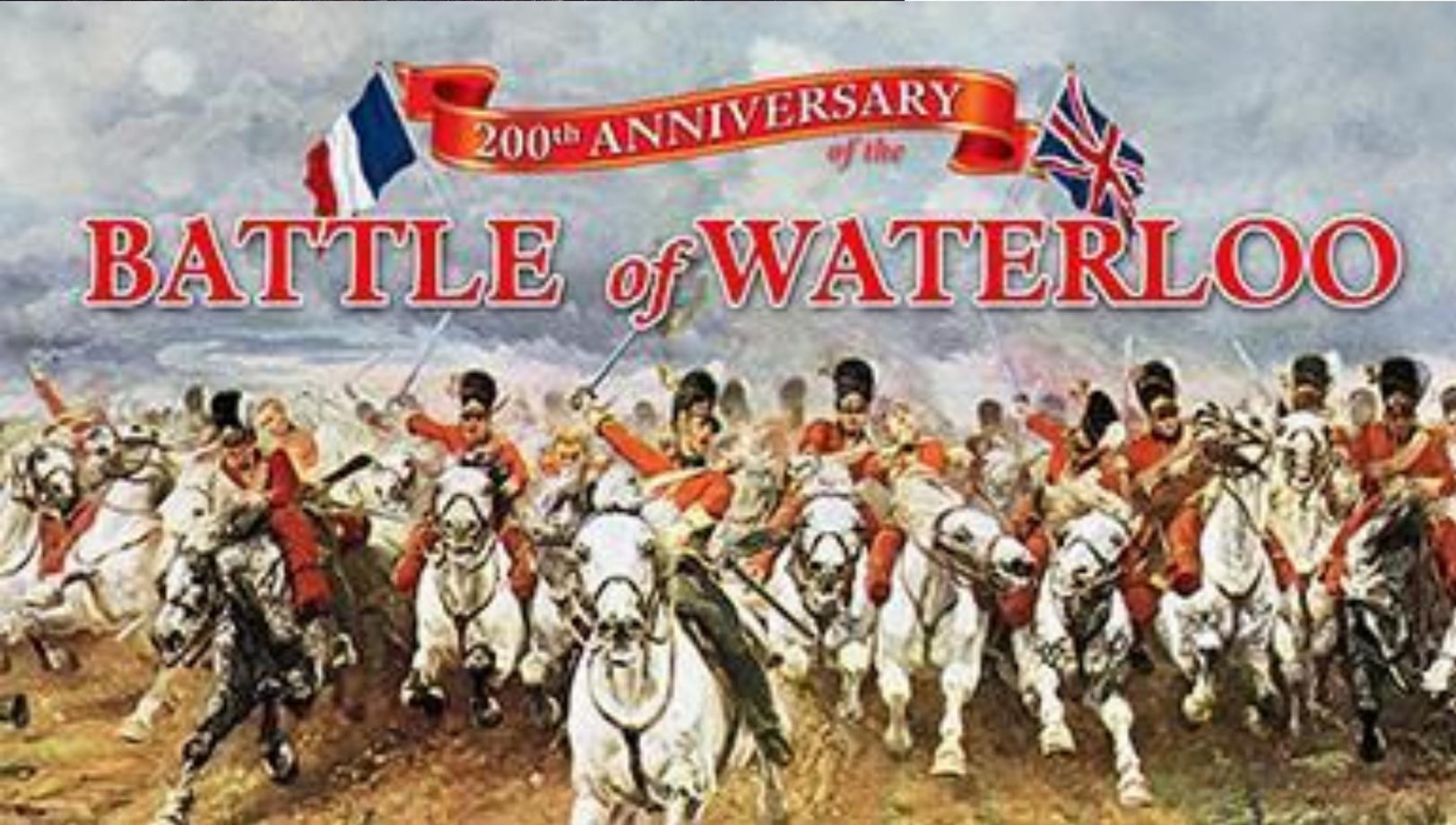


The Battle of Waterloo



CONTENTS

	page
Context.....	3
Tactics of the battle.....	4
C.Wood.....	6

Context

Napoleon's Goal was to capture Brussels and Waterloo was estimated to be about 13 kilometres south of Brussels and is now in the modern day Belgium.



After the failure of the Russian campaign, in 1812 Napoleon was forced to abdicate and was exiled to an isolated island called Elba in 1814, however only 8 months later as the new King alienated his people Napoleon saw an opportunity to return to power. He returned to France where thousands of his old soldiers joined him as he marched on Paris where he again became Emperor. When the rest of Europe heard about this they renewed their declaration of war against Napoleon and united in a coalition to defeat him. The Continent had only just been restored to normality and peace again. Napoleon had to be stopped before he tried to dominate

Europe yet again.

The Battle of Waterloo was fought on 18th June 1815 . At Waterloo Napoleon faced the allied forces of Prussia under Blücher, the Dutch - Belgium under Bylandt and under the command of the Duke of Wellington, the whole coalition of British, Dutch, Belgian and German soldiers.

The Odds were against Napoleon and to win he had to separate the allies and defeat them individually whereas to win the allies needed to unite together and this was difficult as they did not know when or where Napoleon would attack next.

Tactics of the Battle

Napoleon was outnumbered: he had 105,000 troops whereas the British coalition had 68,000 and the Prussians 89,000. Napoleon knew he had to strike fast before further allies arrived. In fact the Austrians and Russians arrived after Napoleon had been defeated because they were on a different calendar format.

Napoleon wanted to head between the two armies, forcing them to retreat to their supply lines, then he could double back and defeat each army in a figure of eight. Napoleon started well and defeated the Prussians at Ligny on 16th June 1815, forcing them to



retreat, however unknown to Napoleon they were able to regroup. Napoleon then turned on Wellington who had made a stand at the small town of Waterloo a few miles south of Brussels. The weather was bad the previous night so Napoleon delayed the start of the battle for two hours to let the fields of Waterloo dry out.

Wellington realised that his troops were outnumbered and decided to stand firm until the Prussians could come to his aid, he stationed most of his troops out of sight behind the ridge of Mont St Jean and stationed some in front at nearby farms of Hougoumont, La Haye Sainte and Papelotte.

Napoleon occupied the ridge of La Belle Alliance across the valley. The bulk of the British were on the right flank at Hougoumont as Wellington expected Prussian reinforcements to arrive on the left flank of Papelotte.

At 11:30am on the 18th June 1815 the French launched a diversionary attack on

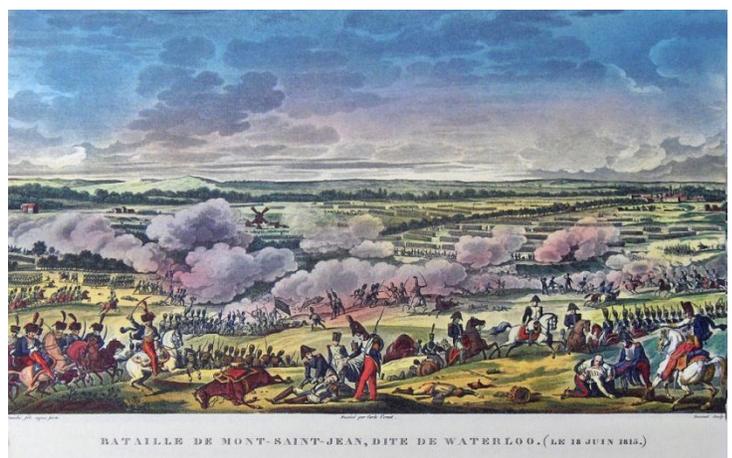


Hougoumont thinking that it would soften the allied centre at La Haye and launch a full attack on the ridge But Napoleon's brother Jerome had other ideas such as trying to attempt to capture the farm at Hougoumont but Wellington however stood firm.

At 13:30 pm Marshall Ney came over the ridge of Mont St Jean opposite la Haye sainte with 74 guns and 17,000 infantrymen of D'Erland's corps to begin an attack on Wellington's left and centre. Wellington made an important tactical decision and ordered his men to lie down behind the ridge to avoid getting hit and so they avoided the worst of the cannonade. The French managed to capture Papelotte and surround La Haye., Wellington sent in his reserve to beat back the French from La Haye. Wellington ran home his advantage by having cavalry brigades attack. The French infantry were surprised and easily overcome but the allied cavalry was badly hit during a counterattack and General Ponsonby, commander of the Union Brigade was killed. Meanwhile Napoleon intercepted a message between the allies about the Prussian return and he sent troops to face them.

At 3pm, knowing that La Haye Sainte was a key stronghold. Napoleon ordered Marshall Ney to capture it but Ney saw wounded British walking along the road to Brussels, believing the British to be retreating Ney abandoned taking La Haye and prematurely charged at the ridge, Wellington's infantry formed squares with artillery batteries which the French were unable to penetrate. In the next 3 hours, 12 cavalry assaults were made on the allies with increasing numbers of troops committed with no success and as this was not working, Ney then turned to La Haye and La Haye was overwhelmed. Ney was sure he could now defeat the allies, Ney called on Napoleon for reinforcements but there were none available as they were being used to repel the Prussians who were continuing to advance. Ney had lost his opportunity.

Napoleon diverted Guards too late to assist Ney, as they climbed the ridge the allies were ready having been alerted by a deserting French soldier. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd regiments were repelled, but when the 4th regiment advanced Sir John Colborne's forces outflanked the guard firing a destructive volley into their left flank. The whole of the guard were driven back and retreated to the cry of "La Guard recule". Within 15 minutes, Wellington appeared and gave the signal for a general attack in pursuit of the French and Napoleon's army fled the field of battle.. Three battalions of the Old Guard fought to the end to secure Napoleon's escape from the battlefield. General Cambronne is reported to have said " the guard may die but will never surrender."



In the fighting at Waterloo Napoleon lost around 25,000 killed, 8,000 wounded and 15,000 missing. Coalition losses numbered 22,000 - 24,000. Napoleon fled to Paris and tried to rally the nation but

in the end abdicated on June 22. He tried to flee overseas without success and on July 15 surrendered and was exiled to St Helena where he died in 1821. The victory at Waterloo ended more than 20 years of almost continuous fighting in Europe and the end of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

Napoleon loss reasons

The weather

Napoleon's tactics lacked his usual brilliance: Napoleon had the advantage: Wellington did not have all the allied forces at Waterloo and at least half his men were of much lower quality than Napoleon's AND Prussians were miles away delayed by muddy lanes.

His poor judgement of leaders - he left much tactical handling to Ney but kept hold of his reserves and denied Ney of them when he needed them most. The Prussian advance on right forced commitment of large numbers of men and the commitment of large numbers of men in futile attacks eg Hougoumont by his brother.

Wellington win reasons

The Battle of Waterloo established Wellington as a great commander

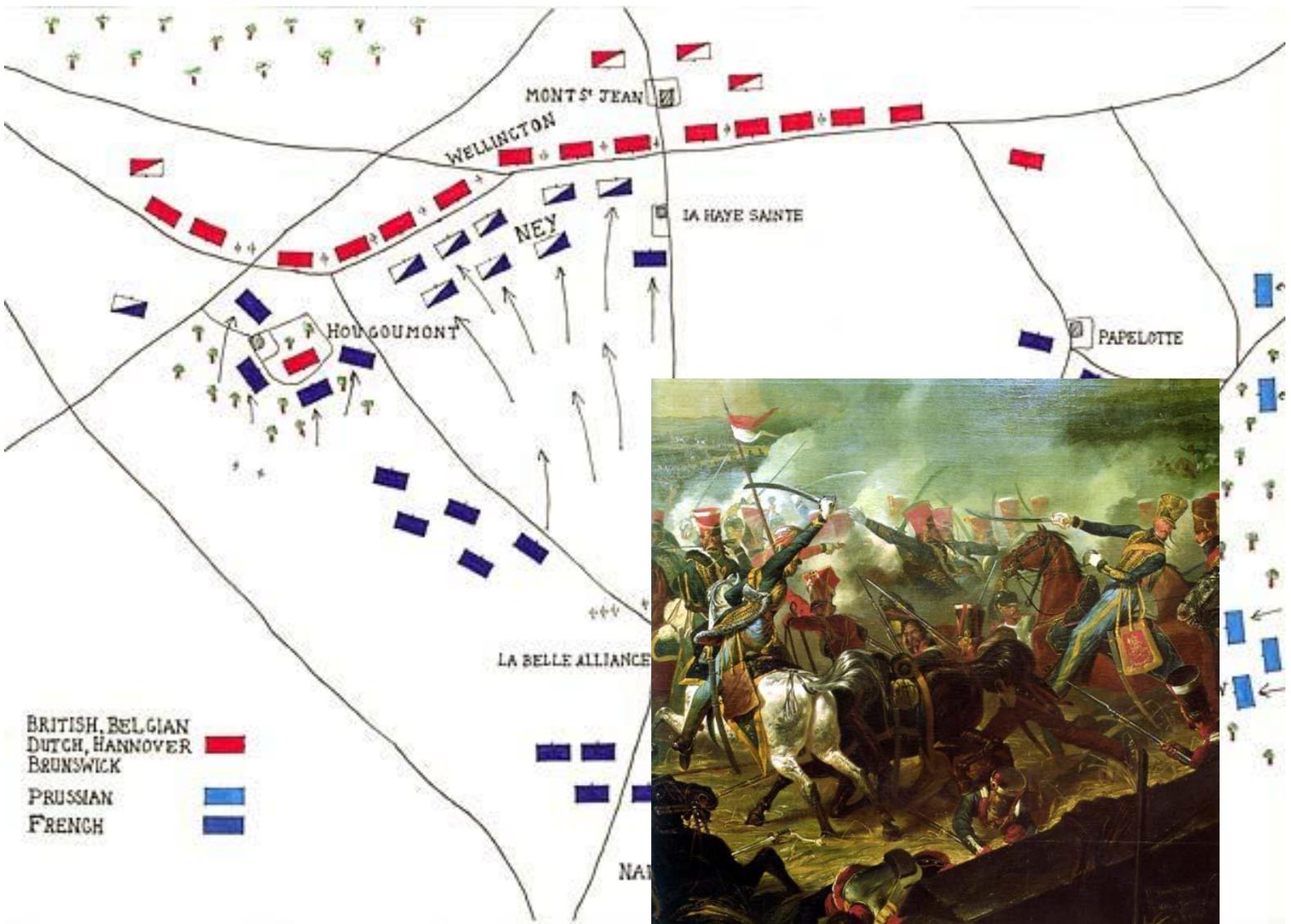
Wellington stood firm to wait for the Prussians and coordinated/communicated with them regarding their return the tactical handling of the troops was superb. Wellington used the cover of the ridge of Mont St Jean to protect his men. Wellington was always present at crucial moments to steady his men and handle tactical situations and he personally handled the formation of artillery squares that led to the defeat of the final French assault.

C.WOOD

Born 4 December 1790 - 13 December 1877

Gownboys April 1801 - February 1809

Our Old carthusian, named Charles Wood was the 8th son of his father Thomas Wood and his mother, Mary Wood. He was born on 4th December 1790 and was the son of a fairly rich man considering that he sent his son to Charterhouse. (None of his siblings went to Charterhouse).



There is no record of which primary school he went to or what nursery he did go to either because most schools in those times did not keep records or do not exist today.

After his time at Charterhouse which he was unfortunately expelled from for starting a riot. He joined the 52nd Foot regiment of Oxford as an Ensign in 1809 (the lowest rank much like private today) then he moved onto the 68th Foot of Durham in 1812 and this came with a promotion to lieutenant.

Then he joined the 18th Hussars in 1813, which is a regiment of horses and he was further promoted to captain then in 1839 he joined the 10th Hussars and was promoted to Major then later that year he joined the 52nd Foot as a Lieutenant-Colonel and later retired that year, from guessing he was an extremely experienced soldier and he was awarded the Prussian Order of Merit.

He served in the Peninsula in Germany (a group of mountainous islands and later in Waterloo.

In the battle of Waterloo He was in the 10th Hussars and was a major he must have fought with the prussians or of some form helped them out because the Prussian order of Merit is a highly commended piece. He married Susan Mary in 1819 so while he was still a young man at the age of 29 (but oddly he would be considered middle age by now). He went on to produce a son, Charles Arthur Watkins Wood, who came to Charterhouse under the sponsorship of Wellington in 1830 and he was not expelled like his father.

London Charterhouse and his Time there

The London Charterhouse was a monastery before it was knocked down by Henry VIII and then our famous founder, Thomas Sutton brought up 17 acres of land and constructed his famous school with his own money it started off with 40 boys by the end of the 19th century (when Charles Wood was there) there were 400 pupils. They studied Maths, English, French, Natural sciences. There were 4 houses, Gownboys, Verites, Saunderites and Duckites. Gownboys was the leading house with all the scholars and all the sports. It was the centerpiece of the school and Charles Wood was in it.



There are no exam records, copies of sports teams etc. but we do know that he was expelled from Charterhouse for starting a riot on Founders day and at Founder's Feast. We do not have record of his exam grades or forms but we can tell that he would've been at the top end of one aspect of the school, he must've been alright at sport as well because of his highly commendable soldier talent.



Army Career

He joined the 52nd Foot regiment of Oxford to start with directly after being expelled he joined as an Ensign and these were your standard everyday light infantry. They fought in the Peninsula in Germany, which is a group of islands just off the German North coast he was in that regiment for 3 years then he was promoted to the title of Lieutenant and was then transferred to the 68th regiment bear in mind he fought in the Peninsular wars as well until 1813 when he was promoted yet again to Captain and transferred to the 18th Hussars (Hussars are Horsemen) he was then next year, transferred to the 10th Hussars, this is the regiment he fought in at Waterloo he was then promoted to Major. He must've somewhere down the line done something for the Prussians. As he was awarded the Prussian Order of Merit, one of the highest awards that could be awarded by the prussians. He fought with the 18th Hussars until 1839 where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and he returned to the 52nd foot soldiers he retired later that year. One notable thing to say was that he was injured during the battle of Waterloo but he recovered and returned to full health and fought on.

Later Life

Again there are few records reaching back this far but we have gathered that he married Susan Mary (Susan Wood) and he had a son, Charles Wood who he sent to Charterhouse. His father in law was the reverend Thomas Watkins FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society) which means that he was a scholar and a very well renowned person he was also a chaplain. He died aged 84 in Pontefract and he died in his sleep peacefully. He had a very good life as a soldier did everything he had to and succeeded.

