

- 0. WATERLOO ILLUSTRATED Story Preface
- 1. NAPOLEONIC WARS
- 2. NAPOLEON ABDICATES
- 3. WATERLOO OVERVIEW
- 4. WATERLOO ILLUSTRATED
- 5. WATERLOO HIGHLIGHTS
- 6. A CLOSED SOCIETY
- 7. BECKY SHARP
- 8. ILLUSTRATIONS in VANITY FAIR
- 9. EAST INDIA COMPANY
- 10. BRITAIN AND INDIA

WATERLOO ILLUSTRATED



Decades after Napoleon left France for the last time, Sir William Quiller Orchardson imagined what the scene might have been like aboard ship as Bonaparte watched the French shoreline receding in the distance. Orchardson's painting, owned by the Tate Britain, is called "Napoleon on Board the Bellerophon." Click on the image for a better view.

Waterloo—one of the most important battles in the history of warfare—took place fourteen years before the <u>world's first photograph</u> (called <u>a heliograph</u>) was made by a Frenchman, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce. Although we don't have pictures of battles in progress, we have other illustrative sources.

The U.S. Military Academy's annotated maps, for example, reconstruct events as they occurred on the various fields leading up-to (and including) Waterloo. Drawings and paintings, recreating the battle scenes, permit us a trip back in time to view the maneuvers and witness the carnage.

- Situation on 1 June 1815 depicts location and strength of opposing forces.
- Troops in and around Brussels on 16 June 1815 shows movements after June 1st.
- Situation at 8 p.m. on the 16th of June 1815 reflects major action at Quatre-Bras and Ligny.
- Midnight (on June 17-18) Wellington, Blücher and Napoleon are <u>moving into</u> battle positions in the vicinity of Brussels.
- <u>10 a.m.</u> on June 18th opposing forces are largely <u>in position</u> on the <u>Waterloo Battlefield</u>.
- Battlefield positions at <u>4 p.m.</u> on the 18th of June Napoleon still thinks he will win.
- Battlefield positions at 7:30 p.m. on the evening of June 18 Napoleon has "met his Waterloo."

At the end of the battle, the casualties were staggering. Although he lived, Napoleon himself was a casualty. Not wanting to "have Paris run with blood," Napoleon abdicated—for the second time—on June 22, 1815. A month later, he was aboard a British ship, enroute to a <u>remote island in the South Atlantic</u> called St. Helena. He would spend the rest of his life there, in exile.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WATERLOO-ILLUSTRATED-Vanity-Fair</u>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WATERLOO-ILLUSTRATED-Vanity-Fair

Media Stream















World's First Photograph

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/World-s-First-Photograph

Map of North Western Europe in 1815 Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-North-Western-Europe-in-1815

Map of Quatre-Bras and Ligny, 1815

View this asset at:

Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Quatre-Bras-and-Ligny-1815

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-of-Brussels-and-Vicinity-1815-Just-Before-Waterloo-Battle

Brussels and Waterloo - Detail, 18 June 1815. 10AM

Map - Waterloo Battlefield, 1815

Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA. View this asset at:

Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Waterloo-Battlefield-1815

Map of Brussels and Vicinity, 1815, Just Before Waterloo Battle Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA.

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Brussels-and-Waterloo-Detail-18-June-1815.-10AM

The Waterloo Campaign: Map of Brussels 1815 Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Waterloo-Campaign-Map-of-Brussels-1815



<u>Waterloo, Belgium</u> Image online, courtesy the <u>Abingdon Study</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Waterloo-Belgium</u>

View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Waterloo-Battle-Map-18-June-1815-at-4PM</u>

Map image from the U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection. Online, courtesy USMA.



Waterloo Battle Map - 18 June 1815 at 7:30 PM

Waterloo Battle Map - 18 June 1815 at 4PM

Map image from the <u>U.S. Military Academy's Map Collection</u>. Online, courtesy USMA. View this asset at:

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