



0. WATERLOO HIGHLIGHTS - Story Preface

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This painting—called "The Morning of the Battle of Waterloo," by Ernest Crofts (1847-1911)—is an artistic impression of the famous battle that ended Napoleon's rule once and for all. The original painting is maintained by the Museums Sheffield.

What of the Waterloo combatants? The British (23,000 men) together with 44,000 allied Germans, Belgians, Dutch and Prussians (and their 160 guns) fought against 74,000 members of the French Grande Armée (and their 250 guns).

Approximately 141,000 men fought on the Waterloo battlefield that day. (Some accounts put the numbers even higher.)

- The French Army before the battle begins.
- French Cuirassiers at Waterloo, attacking a Highland square.
- Wellington decides that Hougoumont Chateau is key to his position. During the night of June 17th, British troops fortify the palace. Despite tremendous efforts, the French are unable to take Hougoumont. Their dead fill the fields nearby. Defending their position, British losses are also horrific.
- French cavalry attack a British square with Hougoumont burning in the background.
- British Cavalry Charge at the Battle of Waterloo.
- One day later, British casualties still lie on the field of battle.

The British, Belgians, Dutch and Germans sustained 15,000 casualties - or approximately one out of four who fought. The Prussians (under the command of von Blücher) lost 7,000 men. French losses were estimated at 25,000 dead and wounded with 8,000 prisoners taken and 220 guns lost.

Every year, while he lived, the Duke of Wellington held a "Waterloo" banquet for his officers. After he died, the banquet continued and is still held to this day.

It was against the backdrop of Waterloo, as Britain finally settled into peace in the 1820s, that William Makepeace Thackeray wrote his classic novel, Vanity Fair.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WATERLOO-HIGHLIGHTS-Vanity-Fair>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WATERLOO-HIGHLIGHTS-Vanity-Fair>



France's Grande Armee at Waterloo

Image online, courtesy the BBC website.

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Cuirassiers Attack at Waterloo

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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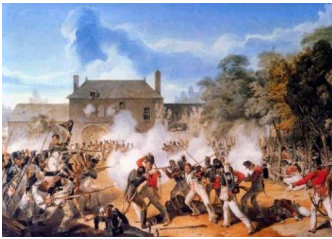


Waterloo - French Attempt to Seize Hougoumont Chateau

Image online, courtesy the [National Museums Scotland](#) website.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Waterloo-French-Attempt-to-Seize-Hougoumont-Chateau>



Waterloo - British Hold Fast at Hougoumont Chateau

Image online, courtesy the [National Army Museum](#) website.

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Hougoumont Smolders while French Cavalry Attacks

Image, described above, online courtesy British Battles.

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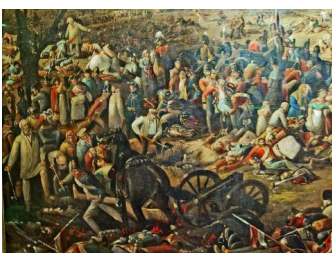


British Cavalry at Waterloo

Image, described above, online courtesy British Battles.

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Waterloo - Casualties on the Field

Image, described above, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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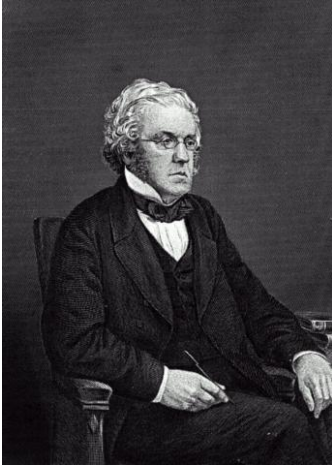
Hero of Waterloo - Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher

Portrait of Blücher, from *History of the World*, H.F. Helmolt, ed. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1902.) Image online, courtesy the Portrait Gallery, University of Texas at Austin.

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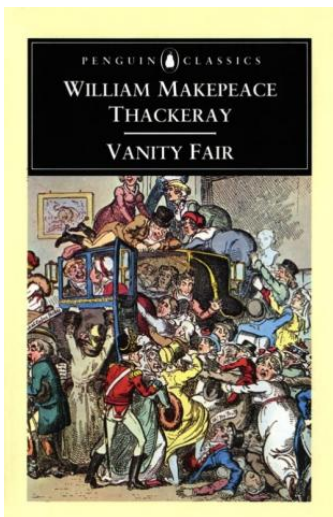
William Makepeace Thackeray - Portrait

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Vanity Fair by William Makepeace Thackeray

Image online, courtesy amazon.com website.

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Battle of Waterloo - Napoleon Delays His Attack

Clip from *Battlefield Detectives: Massacre at Waterloo*, produced by Granada.

Online, courtesy DrBogdanovic's Channel at YouTube.

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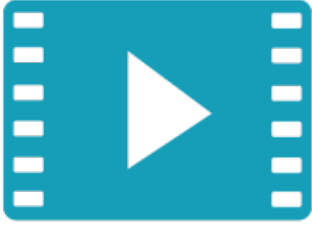
Battle of Waterloo - Bombardment, Napoleon Style

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Battle of Waterloo - Injuries and Death

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Battle of Waterloo - End of the Fighting

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