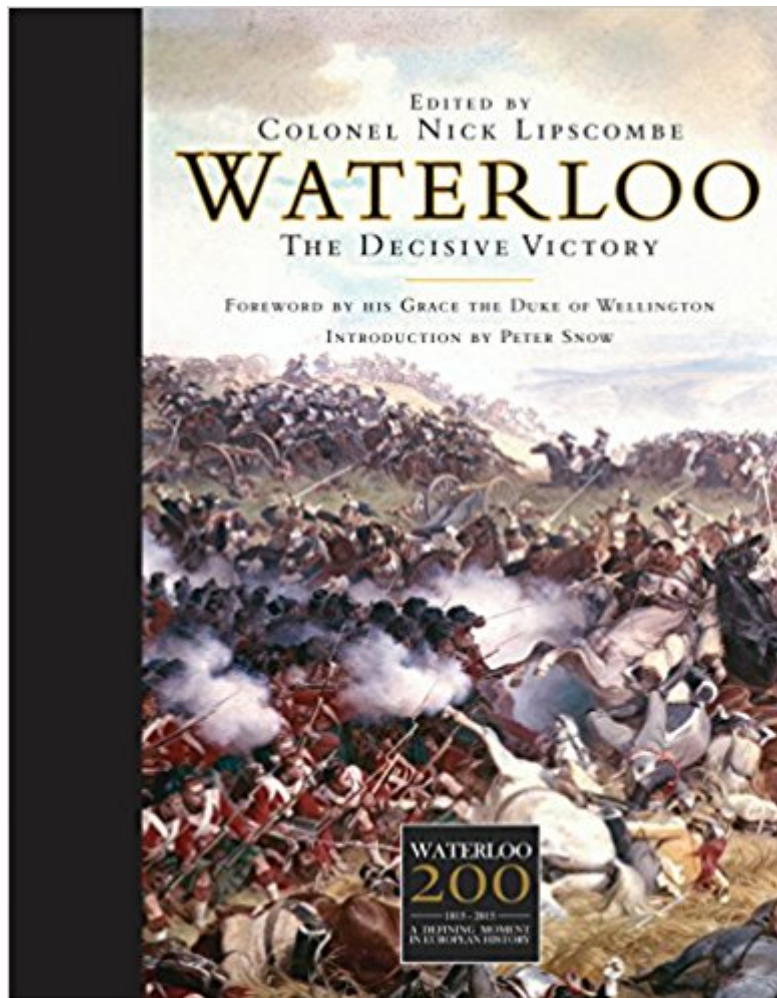




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Waterloo: The Decisive Victory (Companion)



Synopsis

Published to coincide with the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, this lavishly illustrated volume looks at all different aspects of the campaign with ten major articles by a host of well-known international academic figures. From the microcosm of the bitter fighting for the fortified farmhouse of Hougoumont, to a wider perspective of the Hundred Days campaign in its entirety, this collection spans the whole range of the subject from the perspective of all the sides involved. Authoritative and accessible, *Waterloo: The Decisive Battle* offers a unique history of one of the most important battles in world history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“To commemorate the upcoming bicentennial (2015) of the Waterloo Campaign, historian Lipscombe presents a visual history of the ultimate battle of the Napoleonic Wars. This pertinent collection of primary and secondary sources humanizes the conflict, featuring numerous photos of Napoleon and his nemesis Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, alongside several memoir excerpts from subordinates. The editor relays how the steadfast loyalty between the Duke of Wellington and his Prussian ally Gebhard von Blücher ensured Napoleon’s defeat and how that humiliation led to the rise of military theorist Carl von Clausewitz. Tangential topics, such as common risks associated with the popular musket ‘Brown Bess,’ add creative interest.”
—[Library Journal](#)

Colonel Nick Lipscombe was born in Angers, France. He has a degree in business studies and an MSc in defence studies. He was commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1980. During his thirty years in the British Army he has seen considerable operational service with the British and American armies, as well as with NATO and the UN. He was awarded the US Bronze Star in 2006. A keen interest in military history followed his academic studies at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst concentrating on the Napoleonic era and the Peninsular War in particular. He is Chairman of Peninsular War 200, the UK official organisation for the commemoration of the bicentenary of the Peninsular War. He speaks German and Spanish, currently works in Portugal and lives in Spain with his wife Janny and their three daughters. The author lives in Alicante, Spain.

I still haven't made it all the way through this beautiful, information-filled book, but only two chapters left and it's intriguing all the way. A varied group of authors give their individual takes and unique perspectives on specific topics on the battle, with many illustrations from the period to assist in comprehension. This is an elegant book with a protective sleeve and ribbon bookmark, printed on heavy glossy paper that does justice to the illustrations. Well worth the price.

This is a handsomely produced volume issued by Osprey to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The hardcover is slip-cased, printed on high-quality paper, lavishly illustrated, and complete with a page-marker ribbon. Color is used throughout for illustrations. Rather than being a straight chronological account, the book is basically a collection of 10 essays presented as chapters and covering the campaign (Ligny and Quatre Bras), the battle itself (e.g. "The Cavalry Charges"), and related topics. Each chapter has a different author, and several of the top current authorities are represented (Haythornthwaite, Adkin, Esdaile). A good Order of Battle table, and a useful bibliography are also included. Overall, a very nice presentation with good content. So why not 5 stars? While Osprey is justly famous for its commissioned art work depicting the look of soldiers, their equipment, and scenes of battle, there is almost none of that here; most of the art (and there is a lot of it) is drawn from historical sources. Thus while the illustrations are very pleasing to the eye, and provide a good visual narrative, they are less useful as strictly a visual reference. Moreover, a few of the illustrations seem to have received less-than-perfect reproduction and are a bit fuzzy or soft-edged. Sadly, examples of this include the famous Lady Butler paintings "Scotland Forever", and the stand of the 28th at Quatre Bras. Lastly, make no mistake: this is a British publication and takes an unabashedly pro-British view. Rather than an unbiased account of the battle, this is a celebration of a British victory (the Prussians do get fair mention too), viewing

Wellington as every bit the equal of Napoleon. Overall, though, anyone interested in Napoleonic military history, the Waterloo campaign, or Napoleon or Wellington will be well-served by this volume, and happy to have it.

This volume is a great disappointment. I have great respect for Nick Lipscombe as a writer and historian. His Peninsular War Atlas is exceptional, and a classic, and is a must for any serious student of the period. And his Wellington's Guns is another must-have. Lipscombe is a thorough researcher and his writing style is easy to read, interesting, and informative. It is a great shame that he wasn't the author of this volume instead of merely the editor. I bought the book because I saw Nick Lipscombe's name on the book and didn't notice that he was the editor. And unfortunately, this book has not broken any new ground nor is it a good history of the battle. The Introduction to the book raises the old specter of comparing Napoleon to Hitler, which is not only grossly inaccurate, it has been shown by excellent historians such as JC Herold and Vincent Cronin to be an illogical and inaccurate analogy. As the previous reviewer accurately stated this is a collection of ten essays on the battle and it misses out on some of the more interesting facets of the battle such as the French infantry and close-support artillery attacks that were gathering momentum after the failure of the French cavalry attacks and posing a serious threat to Wellington's center. The artillery section is poor, and the lack of solid artillery references in the bibliography clearly indicate that little care was taken with this section. Overall, while a visually impressive publication, the overall value of the book is diminished greatly by what is not included and because of that lack, the book is near-useless as a substantive reference on the battle. It is not recommended, unfortunately

enjoyed reading the book

This is the best book that I have read about this battle/campaign. The attention to detail and the color plates is great. It was really unique the way a different author presented each chapter/phase of the battle

I gave this to my husband for a Christmas present. He loves this book. I have not read it, as I am not the historian that he is, but it is beautifully bound and makes a lovely gift.

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