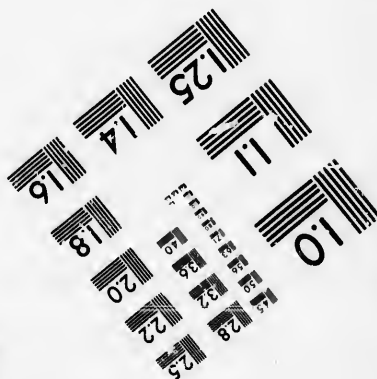
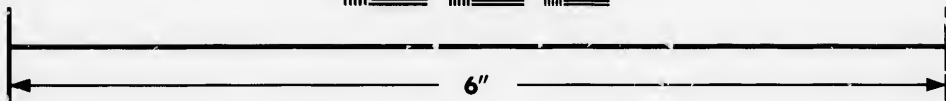
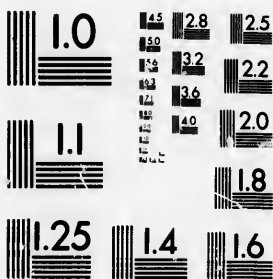


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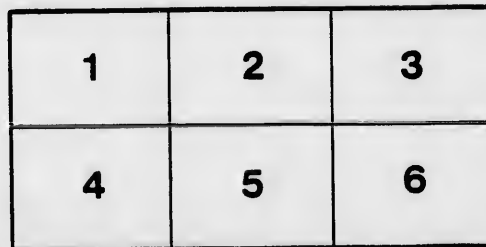
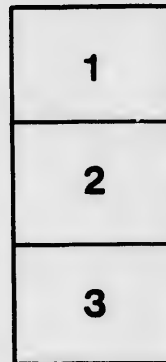
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302 Hist. d'Europe, N° 6

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
FIELD OF BATTLE,

*And disposition of the Troops engaged in the Action, fought on the
18th of June, 1815, near*

WATERLOO,

Illustrative of the representation of that great event in the

PANORAMA,

PAINTED BY MR. H. A. BARKER.

Of London.

From Drawings made on the Spot.



"Rivers of blood I see and hills of slain,
"An Illiad rising out of one campaign."



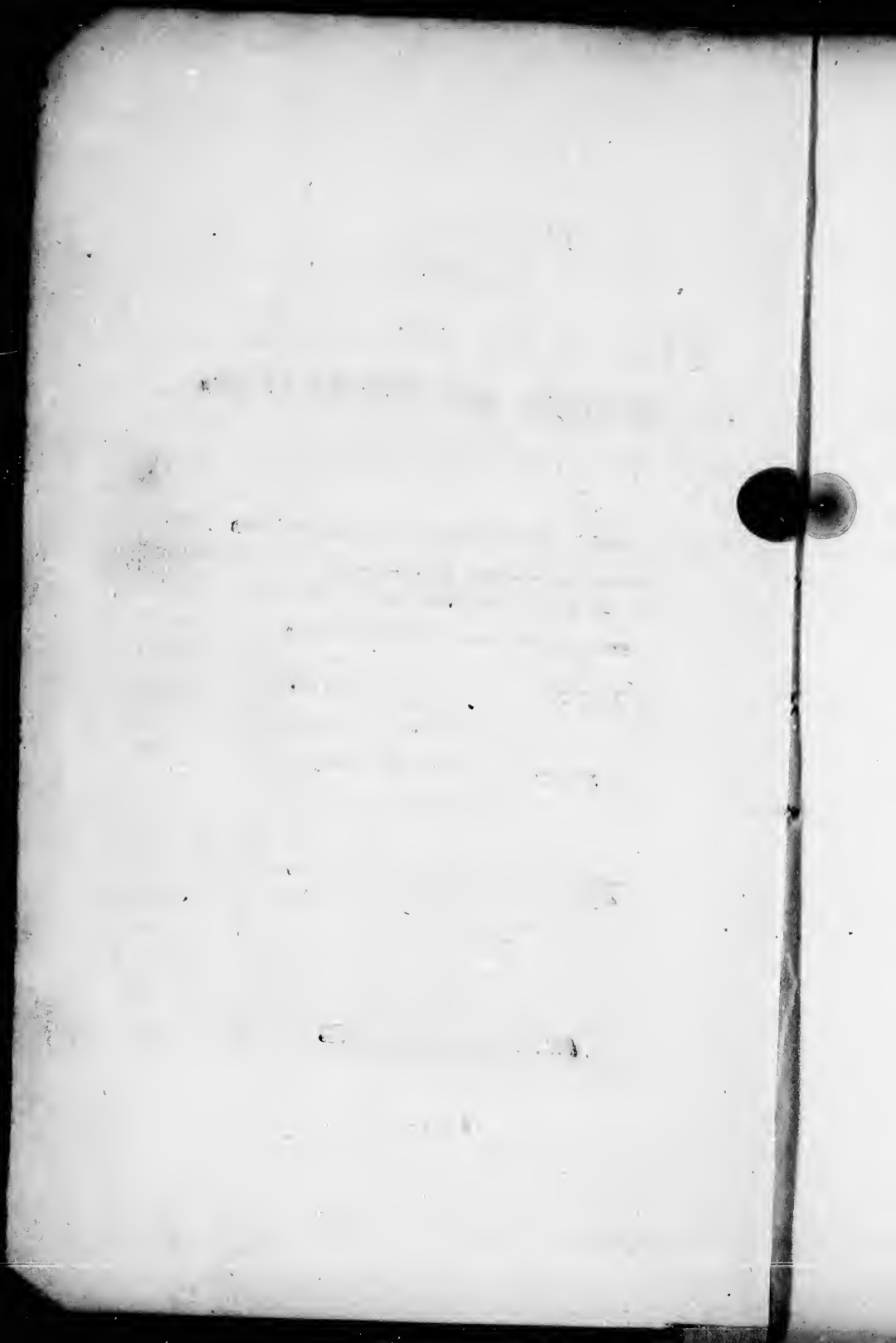
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PRINTED BY L. BEDARD,
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1817.



*A. J.
Cart. 427*



DESCRIPTION
OF THE
Battle of Waterloo.

THE British army, after the action of Quatre Bras, fought on the 16th, retired upon Genappe, and on the 17th arrived at the Village of Mont St. Jean, a league in front of Waterloo. The enemy having come up with the army on that day, a slight cannonade and some skirmishing took place in the evening ; but, night putting a stop to any further operations, the army bivouacked near the position it held the following day.

A violent storm of rain, accompanied with thunder, continued to fall during the night, and our brave men were obliged to sleep on ground already trampled into sandy mud. The cold was excessive, but the state of the weather prevented the possibility of lighting many fires ; yet, notwithstanding these disadvantageous circumstances,

our troops were formed early in the morning, full of ardor, to meet the enemy, who appeared on the opposite heights, collecting in considerable force.

“ But on the British heart were lost,
 “ The terrors of the charging host ;
 “ For not an eye the storm that view'd,
 “ Chang'd its proud glance of fortitude.”

Walter Scott's Battle of Waterloo.

Gloomy clouds and passing showers, ushered in the day, which continued dark and lowering till the afternoon, when the weather began to clear. About seven in the evening, the clouds breaking, the setting sun burst forth with glowing splendour over our victorious army, now ordered to charge the formidable columns of the enemy ; which, unable to bear the shock, were driven down the hill they had just gained, leaving the ground covered with their dead.

“ Then, Wellington ! thy piercing eye,
 “ This crisis caught of destiny.
 “ The British host had stood
 “ That morn 'gainst charge of sword and lance,
 “ As their own ocean-rocks hold stance ;
 “ But when thy voice had said “ Advance !”
 “ They were their ocean's flood.”

Walter Scott's Battle of Waterloo.

This is the period represented, generally, in the Panorama ; though a liberty has been taken, as to time, in introducing the glorious charge made by the Highlanders, and General Ponsonby's brigade

of cavalry, upon the enemy's corps, commanded by Count d'Erlon, consisting of 20,000 infantry, who were all dispersed, killed, or taken prisoners; losing two eagles in the conflict. The charge was made a few hours before the general advance of the British army.

Formation of the British Force, under the command of the Duke of Wellington.

* * The whole was divided into two Corps d'Armee.—The first, under the command of his Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, comprized the 1st, 3rd, and 5th divisions. The second Corps, commanded by General Lord Hill, was composed of the 2nd, 4th, and 6th divisions.

On the right of the Genappe Road.

	BRIGADES.	REGIMENTS.	
1st Division,	1st Brit. Brig. Gen. Maitland—	1st Gds. 2nd & 5rd Bat	
M. Gen. Cooke,		2nd ditto Gen. Byng —2nd and 3rd Guards.	
	5th Brit. Brig. Gen. Halket —	30th—73rd	
		69th—33rd	
3rd Division,	1st Brig. K. G. Leg. Col. Ompteda	5th—8th	
Sir C. Alten.		—1st and 2nd light	
		1st Hanoverian Brigade —D. of York, &c.	
	3rd Brit. Brig. Gen. Adam —	52nd—71st	
2nd Division,	1st Brig. K. G. Leg. Col. du Platt—	—95th	
Sir H. Clinton.		1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.	
		3rd Hanov. Brig. Col. Halket	
	4th Brit. Brig. Col. Mitchell —	14th, 23rd, and 51st.	
4th Division,	6th ditto Gen. Johnson } These 2 brig. were at Hal.	and not in the action.	
Sir H. Hinuber.			6th Han. Brig. Gen. Lyon }

On the left of the Genappe Road.

5th Division,	8th Brit. Brig. Gen. Kempt —28th, 32nd, 79th, 95th.	
Sir T. Picton.		9th ditto ditto Gen. Pack —1st, 42nd, 44th, 92nd
		5th Han. Brig. Col. Vinke
6th Division	10th Brit. Brig. G. Lambert —4th, 27th, 40th, 81st	
	4th Han. Brig. Col. But	

CAVALRY.

Under the command of the Earl of Uxbridge, now Marquis of Anglesea.

1st Brigade	-	Lord E. Somerset	{ 1st and 2nd Life Guards Horse Guards 1st Dragoon Guards
2nd ditto	- -	Sir W. Ponsonby	—Royals, Greys, and Enniskillens
3rd ditto	- -	Sir W. Dornberg	—1st & 2nd Lt. Drag. K.G.L. & 23d
4th ditto	- -	Sir I. O. Vandeleur	—11th, 12th, 16th, Light Drag.
5th ditto	- -	Sir C. Grant	—2nd, 7th, 15th Hussars
6th ditto	- -	Sir R. H. Vivian	—1st, 10th, 18th ditto
7th ditto	- -	—	—Arentschildt—3rd Hussars, 13th Light Drag.
8th ditto	- -	not in action	

ARTILLERY.

GENERAL STAFF.

Colonel Sir George Wood, commanding in general.
 Lieut.-Col. Sir Augustus Frazer, ditto British Horse Artillery.
 Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, commanding under Sir Augustus Frazer.
 Lieut.-Col. Sir J. Hartman, commanding German Artillery.

Field Officers commanding two Brigades attached to each Division of the Army.

DIVISIONS.		DIVISIONS.	
1st. Lieut.-Col. Adye		3d. Lieut.-Col. Williamson	
2d. Lieut.-Col. Gold		5th. Major Heise, Hanoverian	
		Major Drummond—Reserve,	

Officers commanding Troops and Brigades.

Cavalry—Lieut.-Col. Smith, Horse Artillery
 Ditto —Major Ramsay, ditto
 Ditto —Captain Mercer, ditto
 Ditto —Lieut.-Col Bull, ditto
 Ditto —Major Whinyates, ditto, and Rocket Troop
 Ditto —Lieut.-Col. Sir R. Gardiner, Horse Artillery

DIVISIONS.

1st.	{ Captain Sandham, Foot Artillery Major Kohlman, Horse ditto (German)
2d.	{ Major Sympher, ditto ditto Captain Bolton, Foot Artillery
3d.	{ Major Lloyd, ditto Major Cleeve, ditto
4th.	Captain Rettberg, ditto (Hanoverian)
5th.	{ Major Rogers, Foot Artillery Captain Braun, ditto (Hanoverian)
RESERVE.	Captain Sinclair, ditto
Ditto.	Major Bean, Horse ditto
Ditto.	Lieut.-Col. Sir H. Ross, ditto.

The field of action extends about two miles and a half, by nearly two miles.* Its greatest length runs east and west, having two commanding positions separated by a considerable valley, in which are several gentle undulations. The whole ground is perfectly open, and at the commencement of the action was covered with corn and clover, but towards the close of the day all appearance of cultivation was entirely destroyed. The high road from Brussels to Genappe intersects the field, dividing it almost equally.

On the north side of the valley is the village and *Plateau* of Mont St. Jean. Here the Duke of

* This measurement includes the whole ground occupied by the two armies; but the British and French positions were not more than half a mile asunder at the nearest points.

Wellington formed the British line, extending from beyond the Chateau Gomont, (commonly called Hougomont,) situated in the west end of the valley, to the village of Ter la Haye,* on the east. The front line was formed by a small bye road, running from the Nivelles road, along the whole position. The reserve was posted in the valleys, and on the small rising grounds near the Village of Mont St. Jean, turning its front opposite to Braine la Leude. The British center had, on its right, the Chateau Gomont, and on its left the Farm of La Haye Sainte, situated in the valley on the west side of the Genappe road.†

The French line, posted upon the heights on the south side of the Valley, extended from the Village of Planchenoit, (the spot where Bonaparte slept the night previous to the action,) to a point beyond the Chateau Gomont; extending their skirmishers to within a short distance of Braine la

* Ter la Haye takes its name from the only hedge of consequence in this part of the country, running from the left of the Genappe road, along the bye-road on which Sir Thomas Picton's division was stationed, to the village, which is intercepted in this view by high ground behind the tree where Sir Thomas was killed.

† The present view was taken from the Plateau of Mont St. Jean, in the rear of this farm, upon a small stage sufficiently elevated to see into the valleys and clear the objects.

Leude. La Belle Alliance was on the right of their centre; and, in the rear of their left was a small wood, in which stood a lofty scaffold.* At this point Bonaparte remained, and gave his orders, during the early part of the day.

Count Lobau commanded on the right, Jerome Bonaparte on the left, and in the center were the corps of Erlon and Reille; behind them, Bonaparte with the Imperial Guards. Thus situated, the action commenced between ten and eleven, A. M. by Bonaparte ordering the troops on the left, to attack the Wood and Chateau of Gomont, defended by General Byng's brigade of guards, with one battalion of Brunswick, and two battalions of Hanoverian troops attached to it. The attack was most furious; but no efforts of the enemy, though they gained the wood, could drive the British from the Chateau, which they defended with obstinate bravery, notwithstanding it was set on fire by shells from the French howitzers. The wall surrounding the garden of the Chateau was loop-holed

* This scaffold, or platform, about sixty feet high, was erected by order of the King of the Netherlands, as a signal station to announce the approach of the enemy, but the French arrived before it could be completed. It is not true that Bonaparte ascended the platform, there being no ladders, nor any other means left to get up.

by our troops, and every means of defence adopted ; as the loss of that point, which was considered the key of our position, would have enabled the enemy to have brought up his guns on our right, and thereby enfilade our whole line.

During the attack upon Gomont, the enemy opened a tremendous fire, from upwards of 200 pieces of artillery, upon our whole line, to cover the advance of his masses of cavalry and infantry, who made repeated attacks upon our troops drawn up in echelons of squares. In one of these attacks the French gained possession of the farm-house of La Haye Sainte, defended by a detachment of the light battalion of the King's German Legion, who, having unfortunately expended all their ammunition, and their communication being cut off, they were overpowered, and fell a sacrifice to the fury of the assailants.* The French kept possession of La Haye Sainte during the remainder of the day till the period represented in the Panorama, when they retreated, and were fired upon by the 1st Foot (Royals), then situated upon the left of the road.

* This was the only advantage the enemy gained during the day, and is what Bonaparte, in his bulletin, pompously called taking the Village of Mont St. Jean, which the French never reached, as must be evident to those who see the position the British troops held during the action.

Towards the close of the battle, Bonaparte seeing all his attempts to break through the British line defeated, ordered a strong column of the middle Guard, led on by Ney, to advance and charge the British centre. They were preceded by cavalry, who wheeled off to the right and left upon gaining the crest of the hill, leaving the Imperial Guards opposed to General Maitland's brigade of the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 1st Foot Guards, now wheeled up from square into a line of four deep. Another column of the French infantry threatened, at this moment, the right flank of the Guards, but General Adam's brigade, coming rapidly up, took this corps in flank, and opening their fire, drove them down the hill. The Guards then advanced upon the Imperial Grenadiers, and giving them a steady, well-directed volley, charged them with such impetuosity, that they fled in the greatest confusion.* The British cavalry now coming up, the Life Guards, with the Marquis of Anglesea at their head, and Captain (now Major) Kelly, charged the Cuirassiers, who, notwithstanding their armour, were completely overturned and trampled down by

* About this period the Prussians, under Bulow, had come up near Planchenoit, and are seen, in the distance, beginning to skirmish with the light troops of the French right wing.

the superior weight of our horses. The French now ceased to be the assailants. The Duke of Wellington, seizing the critical moment, ordered the whole army, which had stood upon the defensive the entire day, to advance. The effect was dreadful—they poured upon the enemy like a torrent, sweeping all before them! It was in vain that the Old Imperial Guard formed upon the heights near La Belle Alliance, in four solid squares, to cover the retreat of their terrified comrades; they were also compelled to retire, and the whole became a complete rout.

The Duke of Wellington is represented in the foreground, near the Guards; but to say where he actually was, at this period, is impossible. His Grace, in the course of the day, went to every part of the line, animating the troops with his presence; and, in some cases, leading them on. Exposed to the greatest danger, the Duke stood to reconnoitre the manœuvres of the enemy, and gave his orders with the most intrepid coolness, amidst showers of shot and shells; but, though so much exposed, he miraculously escaped being hurt.

“ A thousand fiery deaths around him fly,
 “ And burning balls hiss harmless by;
 “ For every fire his sacred head must spare,
 “ Nor dares the lightning touch the laurels there.”

Congrave's Ode on the taking of Namur, 7th Stanza.

During the advance of the Guards to the last charge, Ensign Muir, of the 2nd battalion, carrying the king's colour, was wounded, by a ball, near the knee. The colour in consequence fell to the ground, but was immediately picked up and given to Ensign Allen; who is represented in a grey great coat, receiving the flag from a serjeant. General Maitland is also seen, mounted, near the centre of the line, with his hat off, cheering on his men. A little nearer the spectator, some drummers are taking up Lieut. Col. Thomas, who was killed in the charge, as was also Lieut. Col. Sir F. D'Oyly, seen falling from his horse in the rear of the 3d battalion.

A troop of the mounted rocket-brigade came up a short time previous to the close of the action, and threw some rockets among the solid masses of the enemy, which contributed to the general confusion. The troop is seen upon the sand-bank, on the left of the Genappe road, near La Haye Sainte.—The Rocket-brigade generally had guns in the action.

During the battle several ammunition waggons were blown up; one in particular, after the accident, was drawn through the field in flames, by the terrified horses. This incident is represented near the Village of Mont St. Jean.

A Life Guardsman, who, from being very bald, was called the Marquis of Granby by his comrades, had his horse shot under him in the charge. His helmet fell off, and, on foot, he attacked a Cuirassier,* whom he killed, and rode off with his horse; his comrades cheering him with "Well done, Marquis of Granby." This circumstance is represented to the right of La Haye Sainte; and

* The Cuirassiers of the French Imperial Guard, are all arrayed in armour. The front Cuirass is in the form of a pigeon's breast, so as effectually to turn off a musket shot, unless fired very near, owing to its brightness; the back Cuirass is made to fit the back,—they weigh from 14 to 18*lbs.* each, according to the size of the men, and are stuffed inside with a pad: they fit on with a kind of fish-scaled clasp, and are put on and off in an instant; they have helmets the same of our Horse-Guards, and straight long swords, and pistols, but no carbines. All accounts agree in the great advantage the French Cuirassiers derived from their armour. Their swords were three inches longer than any used by the Allies; and in close action, the cuts of our sabres did no execution, except they fortunately came across the neck of the enemy. The latter also feeling themselves secure in their armour, advanced deliberately and steadily, until they came within about 20 yards of our ranks, as a musket ball could not penetrate the Cuirasses at a greater distance. The Cuirass, however, was attended with one disadvantage; the wearer, in close action, cannot use his arm with perfect facility in all directions, he chiefly thrusts, but cannot cut with ease. They are all chosen men, must be above six feet high, have served in three campaigns, twelve years in the service, and of a good character; and if there are good horses to be found, they have them. It is to be observed, that a wound through a Cuirass generally proves mortal.

Shaw, who performed prodigies of valour, but was afterwards killed, is seen rushing upon some Cuirassiers; still more to the right.

FINIS

