

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

HERITAGE – WELLBEING – EDUCATION
PROJECT REVIEW – VOLUME 2
2017–2018



THE GROUNDBREAKING CHARITY THAT COMBINES
WORLD-CLASS ARCHAEOLOGY WITH
VETERAN CARE AND RECOVERY



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



By co-founder **Major Charlie Foinette**

As Waterloo Uncovered moves into its seventh year (2021), it is with delight that I introduce Volume Two of our Project Review covering our work in 2017 & 18, both on the archaeology of Waterloo and with veterans and serving military personnel. The Project Review has been pulled together by an extremely dedicated team led by Florence Laino, who has been patient and tenacious in equal measure as she corralled and edited contributions, assisted by the technical might of Francesca Benetti, the Deputy Editor of the journal 'Public Archaeology'. Supporting them were a host of other characters at the centre of our charity including our tireless Head of Communications, Mike Greenwood, and Katie Buckley our

Head of Operations. They have put together a vivid and readable account that continues the story presented in Volume One, and I hope it will be received with just as much enthusiasm. I am hugely grateful to them for their hard work – I know it will be a great relief to finally see it in print!

Those who have followed the excavation via our own Dig Diaries (<https://waterloouncovered.com/dig-diary/>) or through reports in the Media will know that the archaeology of Waterloo continues to surprise and excite. The shift last year to Mont-Saint-Jean took us from the 'battle within a battle' of Hougoumont to the grand open-field actions that pitted cavalry against square, and artillery against massed formations.

This project is, of course, much more than 'just' archaeology, and this Review explores all facets of our work, including welfare support, education and public outreach. So many people are involved that it would be quite impossible to thank all those to whom we owe the continued success of Waterloo Uncovered, but all – staff, volunteers and participants alike – are united in gratitude to the supporters whose continued generosity underpins everything we do.

At the heart of the project are our partners: organisations led by an array of international experts in their field who have given generously of their time and resources to enable and sustain our work. Without them, and the institutions they represent, we simply wouldn't exist. Chief among them are: from the UK, Professor Tony Pollard of *The University of Glasgow* and Dr Stuart Eve and his colleagues at *L - P: Archaeology*; from Belgium, M. Dominique Bosquet and Mme Véronique Moulaert from *L'Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine*, and Professors Marc van Meirvenne and Phillipe De Smedt of *Ghent University*; and from the Netherlands, Mrs Vicki Haverkate of *University College Roosevelt*. They continue to be supported by a huge cast of volunteers across a wide range of disciplines; people whose practical skills and expertise in everything from geophysical surveying and finds processing to minibus driving and sandwich making are essential.

We are also immensely grateful to those who have provided support, guidance and access 'behind the scenes': they include Mme Nathalie du Parc, whose role with *Intercommunale 1815* has been central to securing our access to excavation sites; and *Project Hougoumont* and *Waterloo 200* as two of the organisations closely involved with heritage management on the battlefield. (In 2019 Nathalie handed over to Chantal Versmissen-Sollie, who has continued to provide this essential and much appreciated support for WU). On the other side of the Channel, we benefited enormously from the assistance and monetary support of the Coldstream Guards, *ABF The Soldiers' Charity*, the *Lt Dougie Dalzell MC Memorial Trust* and *The Rifles Care for Casualties*.

We continue to rely on our donors large and small, ranging from well-known names such as *Bonhams*, to individual supporters and fundraisers who have been imaginative and generous in equal measure. Thank you all: we are a small charity, and have been continually astonished by the kindness and good faith we have encountered.

This Review places on record all that Waterloo Uncovered stands for, and serves to acknowledge, formally, the hard work and passion of all involved. I fear that my thanks, and indeed the space available in the articles that follow, do not suffice properly to repay those contributions, but I hope that readers will feel that the results speak for themselves. Thank you all – you have made an enormous difference, and I hope you enjoy reading about all the things you have achieved.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE REVIEW



By **Alison Rose**, *British Ambassador to Belgium 2014-2019*

I was appointed the British Ambassador to Belgium in August 2014. I arrived to a crescendo of preparation for the bicentennial commemorations of the Battle of Waterloo in June 2015. The Embassy focused on the farm at Hougoumont, then being restored by a wonderful coalition of Belgians and Britons, with the support of Governments on both sides of the channel and the local authorities. The opening of Hougoumont Farm on June 17, 2015 was a grand and splendid occasion, with military bands, music, television cameras, and, in attendance, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, Princess Astrid, descendants of the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon and Blücher and members of the Regiments who took part.

In the midst of these very public events, I became aware of another project taking inspiration from the bicentenary. Along with the restored farm, it provides a lasting legacy for the commemorations. Waterloo Uncovered is quietly expanding our understanding of what happened at the Battle of Waterloo and helping veterans and serving personnel of more recent conflicts suffering Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other injuries relating to their service. Founded by two people who

are passionate about archaeology and know something of the cost of war, this charity works at Hougoumont Farm and on the wider battlefield for a fortnight each year. It was an annual delight for me to go and visit the 'dig', to see that year's finds and hear the personal stories of the multi-national group of people taking part. I am therefore delighted to write this introduction to their latest project review and to commend their work.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Brigadier **Greville Bibby**, CBE

My closing comment in Volume One of our Project Review was, 'There is much more to do!'. This was an open-ended remark because, although we all recognised the truth in this statement, very few of us predicted what was to follow.

I never cease to be amazed how a 'good idea' grew so quickly into something as real as Waterloo Uncovered. And it has become very real. Not only have we established ourselves as a ground-breaking charity, in every sense, but we are something people invest in and something people have come to rely upon. This is a truly remarkable thing, about which all involved should be immensely proud. When I say invest, of course I refer to people contributing their time and expertise as much as their money. A charity will always need money, but without the people who are prepared to go the extra mile we would be nothing.

Apart from putting the charity firmly on the map these past two years have witnessed the consolidation of so much. Above all else has been the way we have developed the experience and support offered to our serving military personnel and veterans. For many, Waterloo Uncovered has played, and continues to play, a critical role in their journey, and to my mind this is what matters the most, remaining true to the original 'good idea'. But alongside this we have grown the archaeology, broadened the international dimension, expanded the educational opportunities and the increased significantly the number of friends with whom we collaborate and who support us so generously.

In summary, Waterloo Uncovered goes from strength to strength. There will always be more to do but, unlike two years ago, we now have a much better feel for the art of the possible and the direction we want to take the charity; essentially do what we do now, but do it even better and more of it. I commend this Review to you.

FOREWORD

By **Dominique Bosquet**, Director of Operations at the Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine (AWaP)
- Waterloo Uncovered Archaeological Director

Following Volume One, this review presents the results of the archaeological research and activities carried out in 2017 and 2018 on the Waterloo Battlefield by the Waterloo Uncovered team. It is the only large-scale archaeological project ever undertaken at this major site of historic importance. After its beginnings in 2015, the project is in full development: staff numbers have increased significantly in the field; skills and activities have diversified to go beyond archaeology alone, with a special effort made to engage the public's interest in the work of the project.

My involvement in the project began in 2015, when I met Charlie Foinette at Hougoumont Farm to discuss an archaeological project for which they were requesting an excavation permit from the SPW-Walloon Heritage Agency (AWaP). To be frank, I was quite doubtful of the value that archaeological research could bring. I am in the first instance a Prehistorian, and while for Prehistory, archaeology is obviously the only possible source of information, this is hardly the case for the 19th century, and *a fortiori* for one of the most important events of modern European history. I was really wondering what archaeology could do in the midst of all that? Spending two hours with Charlie were however enough to convince me that not only should the excavation permit be granted, but that better still, AWaP should be associated with the excavation and actively take part in the project. Indeed, it rapidly became clear to me that archaeology could help make historical accounts more objective, as it relies on bringing to light facts that are irrefutable (although of course their interpretation may vary). Of course, the willingness to carry out this research with veterans and serving military personnel, to help them to heal their wounds and trauma and to allow them to share their soldiering experience with us, made the process particularly interesting, promising a unique and enriching experience for all. Moreover, I was born in Waterloo, so for me it was also a kind of return to my roots!

From an archaeological point of view, 2017 and 2018 gave us the opportunity to deepen research in and around Hougoumont Farm, looking at Wellington's defences on the right of the Allied front line. Our 'zones' of investigation were the killing ground, the formal garden, the kitchen garden, the pond and the southern wood, which were the subject of intense and systematic metal detector surveys, as well as mechanical and manual trenching. The interior of the farmhouse was also thoroughly investigated by means of hand-dug trenches carried out on the foundations of the buildings that played a key role at the time of the battle. The reconstruction of these farmhouses remains difficult because it cannot rely entirely on illustrations and paintings, which are too imprecise and sometimes vary greatly depending on their author. The results achieved at Hougoumont in 2017 and 2018 thus make it possible to gradually reconstruct a more complex and nuanced history than that which historical accounts have so far put forward. On the other hand, the search for mass graves and pyres that had been set up and maintained for the treatment of corpses after the battle has remained unfruitful at this stage, against the preconceived ideas conveyed by the illusive accounts about these events around Hougoumont. Therefore, the mystery on this subject remains and it is elsewhere that these features will have to be sought.

2018 was also for the first time, an opportunity for research outside Hougoumont, near the farms of Mont-Saint-Jean and La Haye Sainte. At Mont-Saint-Jean, it was the construction of a new roundabout that gave us the opportunity to carry out some surveys, unfortunately negative, while at La Haye Sainte, it was the search for a "sandpit", illustrated on many documents that was the focus of our attention, as it was supposed to have served as a mass grave. On this side of the Battlefield the research, still limited, will have to continue.

I cannot conclude this foreword without mentioning the quality and friendliness of the exchanges I have had for the past three years with my British colleagues Mark Evans, Tony Pollard, Stuart Eve and Charles Foinette, as well as with my colleague Véronique Moulaert who led the AWaP team in 2017 and 2018. I have great affection for all the wonderful people involved at various levels in this fantastic project and who make it such a special adventure: veterans, serving military personnel, archaeologists, students or simply history and archaeology enthusiasts, English, Belgian, French, Dutch and German. Long live WU!





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FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: TWO YEARS OF GROWTH AT WATERLOO UNCOVERED

By **Mark Evans**, CEO of Waterloo Uncovered

The period covered by this review – 2017 and 2018 – was when Waterloo Uncovered (WU) really established itself as many things – an annual event on the Waterloo Battlefield, an internationally acclaimed archaeological project that is unearthing new truths about the battle, a leading charity for veterans and serving military personnel (VSMP) that is making a real difference to the lives of those who have served, and a truly international project.

In 2015, the original vision had been a one-off excavation with twenty or so participants (50% archaeologists and 50% veterans and serving military personnel), so to see a team of almost a hundred return to Hougoumont Farm for two weeks in July 2017 really was quite something to behold. This is even more impressive when we consider the year-round work that is involved in getting everyone there – the planning and directing of the excavation, processing and managing the finds and discoveries, communicating all of this to the public, ensuring the welfare of the VSMP, and securing funding for everything. It shouldn't be a surprise then, that by 2017 the charity had two full-time employees, but still relied heavily on the support of its volunteers, not least those from its five supporter organisations, and those who make up the part-time communications team.

In 2017, as well as the excavation, there was also the first WU conference held at Waterloo in April, over a day, with over 80 delegates (including archaeologists, historians, veterans) from the UK, France, Belgium, Germany, and The Netherlands. The aim was to present our work from the first two years, discuss plans for the future, and get new information and ideas. The spirit and results were great, and we were especially glad to welcome a delegation from the Dutch Veterans Institute. Having visited the excavation in 2016, they were keen to include their veterans in the 2017 dig and help to ensure that the role of the Dutch in the battle is better understood. What better place to cement this relationship than beneath the Lion Mound, built as a memorial to the Prince of Orange!

Other attendees would become some of our first *Visiting Historians* that summer, contributing their expertise to help tell the story of the battle. Others would go on to conduct the first academic research into the benefits to wellbeing that archaeology offered – to VSMPs and the full team, and to the wider population. For example, David Ulke and Jenny Dayes, from Leicester and Bradford Universities respectively, looked at the benefit WU offered our VSMP participants; Vicki Haverkate, from UCR, looked at the impact of our project upon other participants – the team, students, and volunteers.

In terms of archaeology, in 2017 and 2018 we found ourselves back and based at Hougoumont Farm. The renovated farm build-

ings continued to provide an ideal HQ for the team. The excitement of the archaeologists mounted as the foundations of buildings destroyed in the battle, as well as evidence of the fighting, came to light in the courtyard. More than one question was answered, and, as is the case with archaeology, many more questions were raised. Not least "is the Great Barn we refer to today actually the Great Barn referred to in the contemporary accounts," and: "if, as we are led to believe, the farm and chateau was quite a modest establishment, why then did it have such an impressive and incredibly well-built drainage system (another of our intriguing finds in the Courtyard)?"

We also continued working outside of the courtyard, and took significant steps towards completing our work in the Killing Ground (the area of open ground outside the walls, where the attacking French were shot down in their hundreds) and the Walled Garden. We also ventured outside of Hougoumont and carried out some metal detecting work in the area occupied during one of the most tragic and costly episodes in the battle by the Inniskilling Square, as well some excavation at other farmsteads on the Battlefield around La Haye Sainte and Mont-Saint-Jean. In particular, our work at Mont-Saint-Jean was a real milestone, as we had been invited to do the work by the local authority ahead of works to construct a new roundabout, reflecting on what continues to be a relationship of mutual respect and trust between our project and the Belgians who, with kindness, support and generosity, enable the entire enterprise.

The metal detecting near Le Haye Sainte was also very important. It was part of a metal detecting course we ran to teach metal detectorists (from the UK, Denmark, Poland, Belgium, and the Netherlands) the methods and – importantly for Waterloo Uncovered – the ethics we use in archaeology. This course would prove to be an essential step in effecting positive changes to metal detecting policy in Wallonia. It felt to us like the charity was having a real effect beyond the bounds of the two weeks spent on site.

Of course, with five years now under our belts, our methods of VSMP support have really come on a long way. This would be proved by the research I have already mentioned and it was very apparent on the ground. It's also evidenced by the number of established organisations who were keen to support us and help us to develop our work. We have grown a Welfare team and created a robust approach to selection and year-round support. We also developed aspects of the dig to include a more comprehensive programme covering evenings and weekends, which includes activities such as model painting, art and meditation, a creative writing course, and a trip to Ypres. As far as education is concerned,



This is the best therapy I have ever had. At first, I was nervous, but the staff really pushed me outside my comfort zone. I can't thank you all enough. You have made a big difference to this old soldier's life. Since I returned home, my two therapists have seen a big change in me.

2017

2018

CORE TEAM 67

Additional 18 involved as visitors or those running side projects

8 – students
25 – beneficiaries
23 – archaeologists
11 – staff



CORE TEAM 94

Additional 47 involved as visitors or those running side projects

2 – other volunteers
25 – students
25 – archaeologists
12 – beneficiaries
30 – staff



100% of respondents found WU **'inspirational' and 'adventurous'**

85% say their family and/or support network benefited from their participation in WU

20/22 respondents found it **'life changing'**

75% of our 2018 beneficiaries say WU made a **very positive difference** to their recovery or personal journey

All would recommend WU to others

All say they got benefit out of WU

The rich multi-disciplinary mix you have on the project was the key to improving my ongoing rehabilitation and my enjoyment of the two weeks. I think I returned to my family more relaxed and with a more positive outlook about the future

Ages ranged from early 20s to late 70s





The WU crew is split into different teams, each coordinated by a trench supervisor

we have also worked with the University of Utrecht to launch a summer school, *Battlefields Uncovered* and ensure all veterans on the excavation gain an academic qualification.

Looking for ways to broaden our reach to veterans, particularly those who are unable to participate in the two-week excavation for health or other reasons, we developed a relationship with the *Taxi Charity for Military Veterans*, which turned out to be a real game-changer. Their black cabs are not only iconic, but an ideal mode of transport for injured and elderly veterans, who might not otherwise be able to participate in our archaeological excavation in Belgium. Each year now, a convoy of London cabs brings over a group of veterans to spend the weekend with us while the excavation is going on. What is more, on top of providing an ideal mode of transport, they do it with a smile, with such care and incredible respect for their passengers. Their charity knows no bounds, and we are so glad to work with them.

As well as new beneficiaries, we have also been keeping in touch with our past participants. Some have started university and some have started jobs, others have gone back to work (with new hope and renewed energy), and many have seen their recovery continue to a better place. Waterloo Uncovered has played a central part in this – a success that is being recognised and has influence beyond the organisation. We have, for example, been invited to contribute a chapter to a book about Wellbeing and Heritage. Furthermore, we were invited to Sweden to help set up a military-archaeology charity there, and on an increasing number of occasions we are asked to speak about the Waterloo Uncovered approach at events in the UK and Netherlands.

Speaking opportunities, outreach and communications in general, are vital to getting the message out about what we do, both in the realms of archaeology and VSMP support. Our website and social media, lectures, and prestigious events such as the Chalke Valley History Festival have all played their part. We also launched the first *Waterloo Weekend* – the opportunity for the public to visit and see our work while we were on site in Belgium. We were also lucky enough to work with artist Helen Chester, who produced portraits of some of our veterans (combining their past with their present) and Major General James Cowan who gave a lecture at the Cavalry Guards Club – an event that has now become an annual fixture for Waterloo Uncovered. This lecture was part of our ongoing fundraising programme, to which we would add in November 2018 a fabulous event at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, presided over by the Duke of Wellington and General Nick Carter, the Chief of the General Staff of the British Army.

Last but not least, we must thank Bonhams, who became our first official dig sponsor, funding the entire field season of 2018. It was with their support, and indeed the continued support of so many other organisations that we have been able to lay the foundations of a charity with a bright future ahead of it. I hope, if you read but one thing in this review, it is the stories of the wonderful and inspirational people who have participated in the dig these past two years: the veterans and serving personnel, the archaeologists, the students and the volunteers who in their own words can represent the possibilities this future holds.



About the author:

Mark Evans studied archaeology at UCL before joining the Army in 2004. His subsequent career fostered a keen interest in the welfare and recovery of injured service personnel, whilst service in the Army's oldest regiment continued to inspire his love of history. Mark retired from the army in 2010 when he was diagnosed with PTSD. After his subsequent treatment and recovery, Mark founded Waterloo Uncovered together with Charlie Foinette in 2015 and is now the charity's CEO.



Veterans enjoy the camaraderie whilst excavating the original foundations of Hougoumont's Walled Garden



Metal detecting on the Allied front line



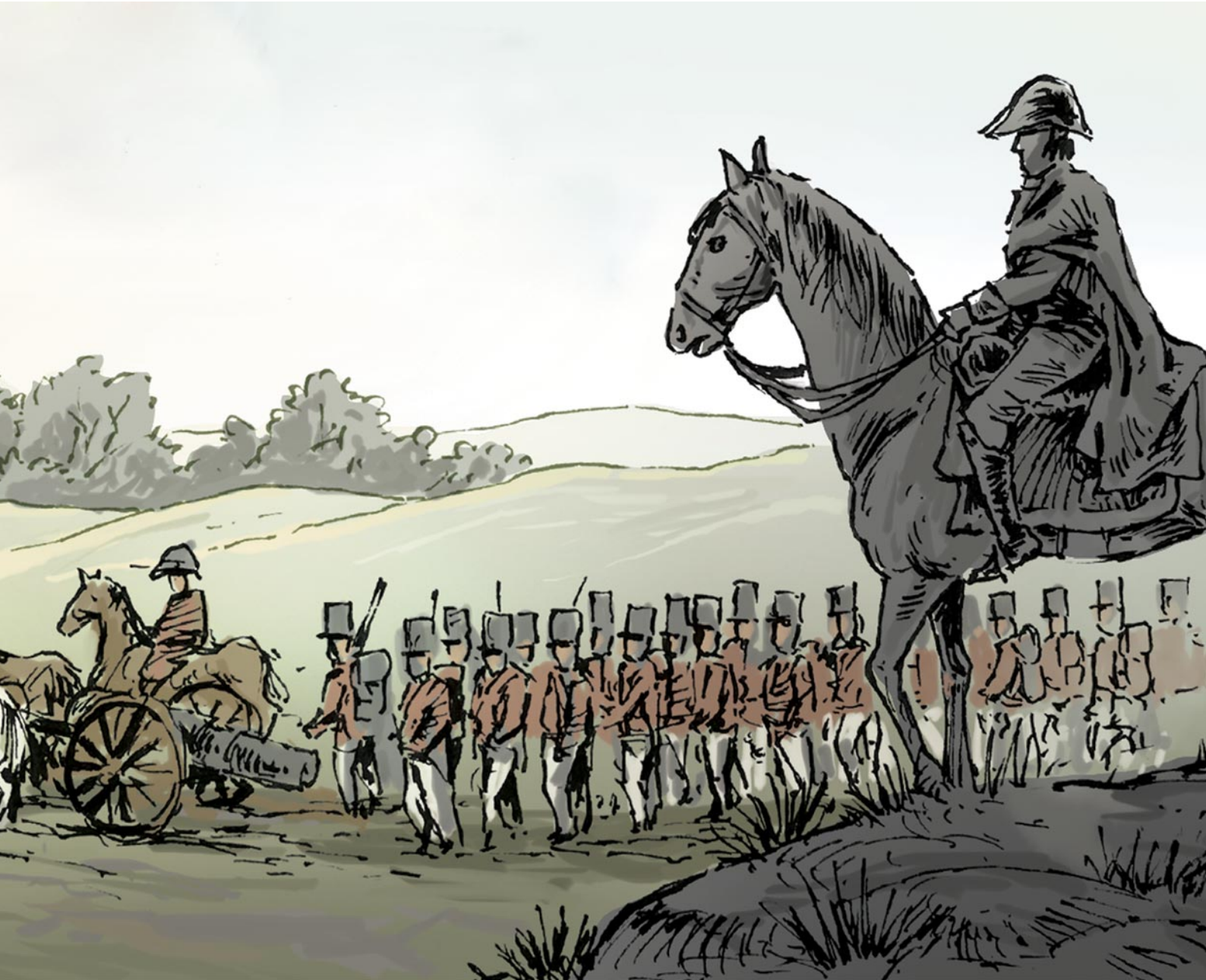
Presiding over the past: a reenactor follows the excavation by the North Gate of Hougomont



Cleaning the battlefield clay from a find

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Need a history refresher? This play by play takes you through the dramatic events of the battle...



About the author:

This comic has been illustrated by Dr Juan Hiriart. He is a senior lecturer in Interactive Media Art and Design at the University of Salford, and has worked in a range of creative industries. Juan and his students have been working with us across different projects to help visualise and tell the story of our data. He is interested in storytelling as a means to convey historical knowledge and archaeological research.





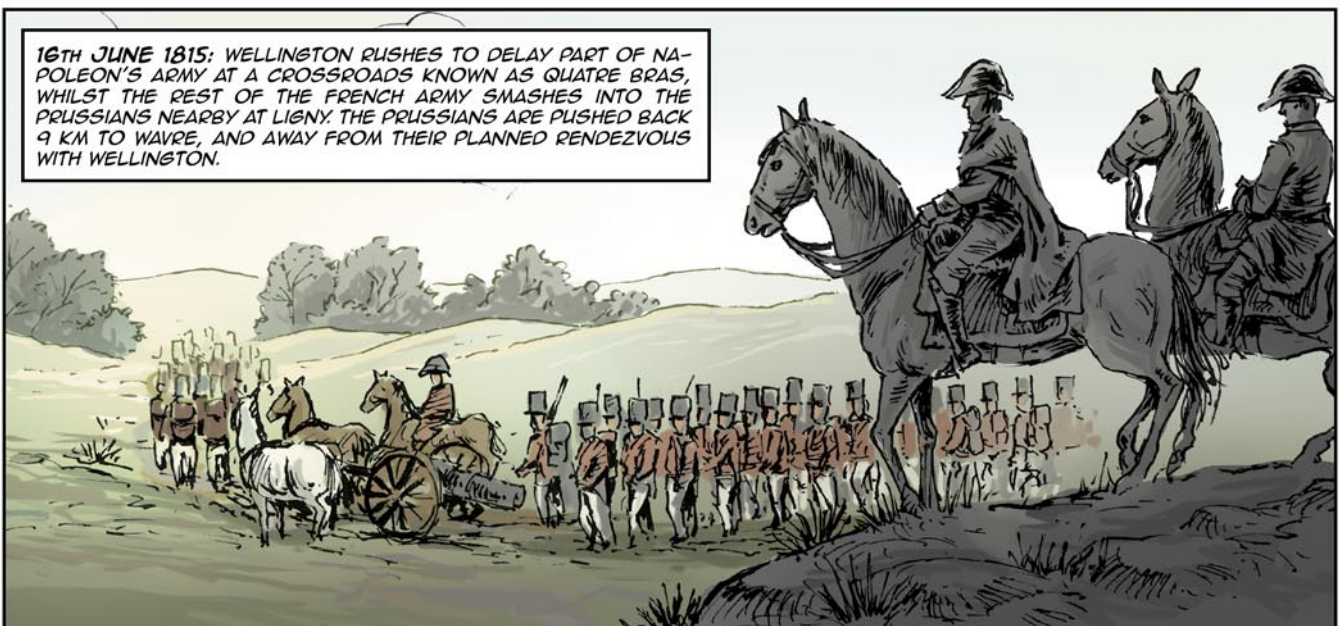
THE ALLIED ARMIES GATHERING IN BELGIUM AWAITED NAPOLEON'S ATTACK. WELLINGTON'S ALLIED ARMY WERE 73,000 STRONG, BLÜCHER'S PRUSSIAN ARMY, 84,000. NAPOLEON LED 107,500 MEN, AND PLANNED TO OUT-MARCH AND DEFEAT HIS OPPONENTS BEFORE THEY COULD COMBINE.



15TH JUNE 1815: WELLINGTON, ATTENDING A BALL IN BRUSSELS, RECEIVES THE SHOCK NEWS THAT NAPOLEON HAS CAPTURED CHARLEROI (32KM SOUTH OF WATERLOO).



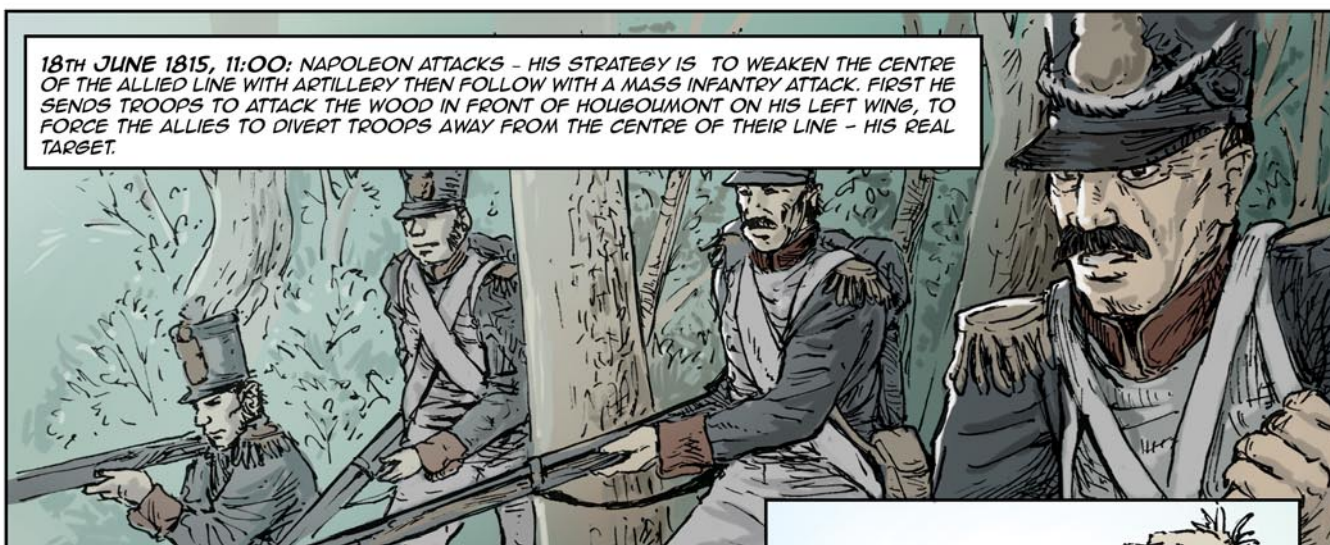
16TH JUNE 1815: WELLINGTON RUSHES TO DELAY PART OF NAPOLEON'S ARMY AT A CROSSROADS KNOWN AS QUATRE BRAS, WHILST THE REST OF THE FRENCH ARMY SMASHES INTO THE PRUSSIANS NEARBY AT LIGNY. THE PRUSSIANS ARE PUSHED BACK 9 KM TO WAVRE, AND AWAY FROM THEIR PLANNED RENDEZVOUS WITH WELLINGTON.



17TH JUNE 1815: A STORM HOLDS OFF THE BATTLE LONG ENOUGH FOR WELLINGTON TO BED INTO HIS POSITION ON A RIDGE SOUTH OF BRUSSEL NEAR WATERLOO, A 2KM WIDE LINE WITH THREE FARMHOUSE STRONGHOLDS - HOUSSOLMONT, LA HAYE SAINTE, AND PAPELOTTE. BLÜCHER PROMISES TO COME TO HIS AID WITH 50,000 TROOPS.



18TH JUNE 1815, 11:00: NAPOLEON ATTACKS - HIS STRATEGY IS TO WEAKEN THE CENTRE OF THE ALLIED LINE WITH ARTILLERY THEN FOLLOW WITH A MASS INFANTRY ATTACK. FIRST HE SENDS TROOPS TO ATTACK THE WOOD IN FRONT OF HOUSSOLMONT ON HIS LEFT WING, TO FORCE THE ALLIES TO DIVERT TROOPS AWAY FROM THE CENTRE OF THEIR LINE - HIS REAL TARGET.



LITTLE DID THE THE FRENCH KNOW THAT BEHIND THESE WOODS WERE 1,200 MEN WAITING ALONG THE WALLS AT HOUSSOLMONT, READY TO PICK THEM OFF AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO CROSS THE OPEN GROUND...



... WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS THE 'KILLING GROUND'.



11:30-13:00: FRENCH GUNS ARE DRAWN UP IN A 'GRAND BATTERIE' TO BOMBARD THE ALLIED RIDGE IN THE CENTRE. AT 13:00 NAPOLEON FINALLY ORDERS AN INFANTRY ATTACK. IT NEARLY SUCCEEDS UNTIL ROUTED BY A CHARGE OF BRITISH CAVALRY. BLOODY LOSSES ARE SUFFERED ON BOTH SIDES. THE BATTLE BECOMES A DESPERATE SLOGGING MATCH.

16:00: BELIEVING THE BRITISH TO BE RETREATING, MARSHAL NEY LEADS AN ATTACK OF 8,000 CAVALRYMEN. IN FACT, THE ALLIES HAD WITHDRAWN TO DEFENSIVE SQUARES HIDDEN JUST BEHIND THE RIDGE; THE HORSES WERE MET WITH DEADLY HEDGES OF BAYONETS, MUSKET, AND CANNISTER FIRE FROM CANNON AT CLOSE RANGE. MEANWHILE SOUNDS OF FIERCE BATTLE IN THE REAR AND FLANK OF NAPOLEON'S ARMY SIGNAL THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRUSSIANS, COMING TO KEEP THEIR RENDEZVOUS WITH WELLINGTON.



18:00: WITH MANY MEN COMMITTED TO A FRUITLESS ASSAULT ON HOUBOUMONT AND HIS CAVALRY FAILING TO BREAK THE ALLIED SQUARES, NAPOLEON PLAYS HIS FINAL CARD, HIS ELITE RESERVES -THE IMPERIAL GUARD.

THEIR DEFEAT BY WELLINGTON'S INFANTRY AND THE ARRIVAL OF MORE PRUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS TURN FRENCH FAILURE INTO A ROUT. NAPOLEON'S ARMY DISINTEGRATES AND HE FLEES THE BATTLEFIELD.



WATERLOO LEFT 45,000 MEN DEAD AND WOUNDED, IN EQUAL PARTS ON EACH SIDE. THE WAKE OF THE BATTLE WAS A DEVASTATING SIGHT; WITH MANY OF THE WOUNDED MEN AND HORSES NOT ABLE TO LEAVE THE FIELD, DYING SLOWLY AND ENDURING THE PITILESS ATTENTION OF LOOTERS.



"NEXT TO A BATTLE LOST, THE GREATEST MISERY IS A BATTLE GAINED" - WELLINGTON

15TH JULY 1815: AFTER FAILING TO RAISE NEW ARMIES, NAPOLEON IS DEPOSED AS EMPEROR. FEARING DEATH IF HE FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF THE VENGEFUL PRUSSIANS, HE HANDS HIMSELF OVER TO THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY CAPTAIN OF THE HMS BELLEROPHON. HE IS EXILED TO ST HELENA, A REMOTE ISLAND IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, WHERE HE DIES IN 1821.

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO ESTABLISHES BRITAIN AS A MAJOR POWER ON THE WORLD STAGE.



ARCHAEOLOGY ROUNDUP: EXCAVATION RESULTS 2017-2018

*The field seasons of 2017 and 2018 resulted in some truly special battle-related archaeological results, from artefacts to buried buildings. Archaeological Directors **Tony Pollard** and **Véronique Moulaert** explain the importance of the findings to date.*

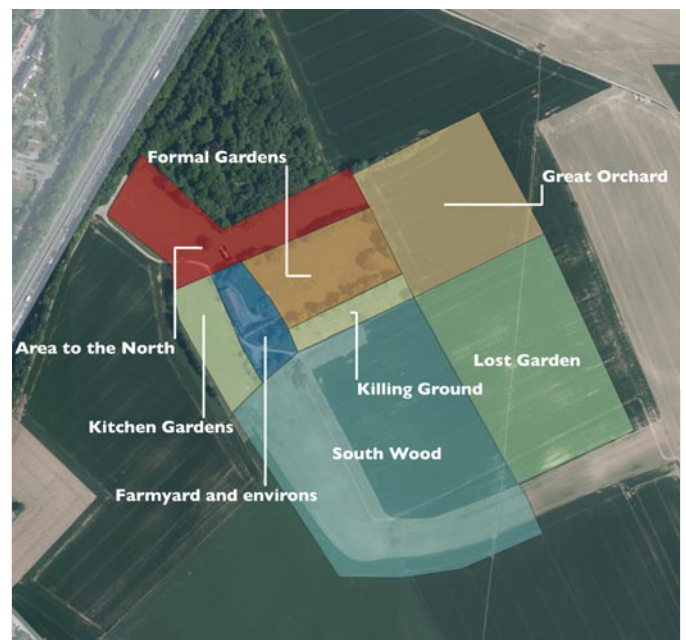
Building upon the results of previous years, we have continued our archaeological excavations concentrating on the farm complex, which is made up from a series of zones, each of which played a role in the 'battle within a battle', that was the fight for Hougoumont.

A summary of the results of our work in 2015 and 2016 can be found in the first volume of our *Project Review* (<https://www.waterloouncovered.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/WU-review-volume1-digital.pdf>). This includes the excavation of the sunken way to the north of the buildings and garden, which served as a vital supply route providing access to the higher ground on which Wellington's right wing was positioned. Although still visible today, our work has demonstrated that it was considerably deeper at the time of the battle and so would have provided effective cover from enemy observation and fire. Thanks to geophysical survey we also encountered the remains of buried kilns that provided the bricks from which the 17th century Chateau and related complex was built. Since that first report, the metal detector surveys have continued to provide visceral evidence for the French attack on the farm, adding valuable new insights into incidents that were at the time poorly recorded in the history books.

The results of the 2017 and 2018 field seasons have built on the experience and results gained during those first two years, and have included some outstanding artefacts from within and outside the walls of Hougoumont. Of course, the battle played out over a much wider area, with the front lines extending for around three and a half kilometres – and these more recent field seasons have seen us, for the first time, move away from Hougoumont to begin investigations of other parts of the battlefield. These have included an area close to Mont-Saint-Jean farm, which served as the Allied field hospital, around 1.8km to the northeast of Hougoumont, and also fields to the northeast of La Haye Sainte farm, where the ill-fated Inniskilling (27th Foot) square was badly mauled by French artillery.

METAL DETECTOR SURVEY OF THE KILLING GROUND

Metal detector survey has been undertaken across all but one of the Hougoumont 'zones' of investigation, and at the time of writing this work has amassed an assemblage of well over 3000+ artefacts. Although a large number of these finds are not battle-related, our policy has been to retain all artefacts from all periods, resulting in a collection of objects spanning several centuries in



Aerial photograph of Hougoumont Farm, showing the different zones of interest

date. Further on in this publication, in the article on the *Finds of Waterloo Uncovered*, Euan Loarridge looks at the mixed fruits of our labour – examining some truly special metal finds. At the more prosaic end, our "retain everything" policy has also resulted in a collection of over 200 coins from around the battlefield, a large number of which speak to the irresistible pull of the Waterloo battlefield to visitors across two centuries.

Documentary sources tell us that visitors began to visit the battlefield while it was still strewn with the dead and the wounded and their accounts have provided a very important insight into the aftermath of battle. The coins do not gift us with such a detailed picture, but they do range from a Dutch William I coin minted in 1822, to an Australian dollar minted in 1997, and therefore do give an impression of the longstanding international appeal of this iconic site.

Our primary intention with metal detection, however, has been to recover evidence of the battle, and to this end our investigation



The 2017-18 field seasons took us to new locations on the Battlefield – the fields next to the farms of Mont-Saint-Jean, and La Haye Sainte



Illustration dated to 1816, showing tourists visiting Hougoumont (Public Domain). Notice large barn adjacent to North Gate at far left of complex

of the 'Killing Ground' – the open strip in front of the southern garden wall at Hougoumont – has continued throughout the project. Unlike other areas of the battlefield, where, because of crops and pasture we have been limited to detection from the topsoil, in the localised area of the Killing Ground we have been able to employ a novel approach of stripping off transects of topsoil in spits to detect more thoroughly than is usually possible. We have found that the majority of pieces of lead shot have worked their way deep underground, meaning that those finds obtained from surface detection represent but a tip of an iceberg. The results of this survey have been discussed in a recent article (Eve & Pollard, 2020), however some idea of what the analysis of the patterns of artefact distribution has told us is provided here.

Thanks to French shot being slightly smaller than the Brown Bess musket balls used by many of the British and Allied troops it is possible to distinguish between the two when they are recovered from the ground.

There are several concentrations of French musket balls clustered close to the wall. Some of these were highly distorted after hitting the wall and were impacted with brick dust. There is a reference to the red brick wall being mistaken for a line of British troops in red coats in early guidebooks (e.g. Murray, 1852, 79), but the original source of these tales is uncertain and it seems unlikely that this was the case. The defenders returned fire across the thirty metre wide stretch of open ground (though some maps have fruit trees here), at the French as they appeared through gaps in the hedge. The attackers had already fought their way through the wood behind the hedge, and had forced the defenders to retire to the farm. There are very few accounts of this action, but there are descriptions of the French dead lying thick on the ground in this area, where they were shot down trying to reach the defended wall (Eve & Pollard, 2020).

The major concentration of shot is towards the south-eastern corner of the wall, which would suggest that this marks the location of a major assault. This also roughly corresponds to what contemporary maps and excavation have shown to be the site of a gate or wide gap in the hedge (a gate here is also mentioned in a

number of eye-witness accounts). Large numbers of French troops would have been able to access both the Killing Ground to the west and the Great Orchard to the east of this position, with fire delivered to cover those movements. There are also smaller concentrations of French shot against the wall further to the east, and these might sit opposite narrower gaps in the hedge. The presence of French balls along the line of the hedge might indicate that these gaps were already present and even defended as the French advanced through the wood from the south, hence fire being directed at Allied troops positioned there.

Once inside the Killing Ground, the next objective was the wall and the garden beyond it, and the presence of fired musket balls from both sides inside the garden indicates that this was achieved, at least by a small number of French soldiers. There are no references for such an incursion in the British and Allied accounts, but there is some suggestion, although lacking in detail, in at least one of the French sources. Given the amount of fire delivered towards the south-eastern corner, this might be the place where the French got over the wall. Finds of iron grapeshot in the eastern end of the garden point to artillery also being used – not in this case to knock down the wall, but perhaps to keep the defenders' heads down as troops advanced on it and climbed over it. The fire fight inside the garden most likely resulted in the death of those determined French troops who managed to get inside. Here is a good example of archaeology bringing to light an incident which has been written out of history: there has been a lot written about the French getting in through the North Gate and the plucky defeat of that attack by the defenders, but little or nothing on the incredible effort put in by the French at the south wall.

The detailed metal detector survey of the Killing Ground has produced a vivid snapshot of the fighting in this area. Alas the ground in the western half of this zone, towards the farmhouse, had been disturbed by later sand quarrying and so did not contain any lead shot. Despite this drawback, the survey has made a valuable contribution to our understanding of a significant part of the battle. Since 2018, the focus for metal detecting has shifted to other parts of the battlefield, and the exciting results of this work will be reported in due course.

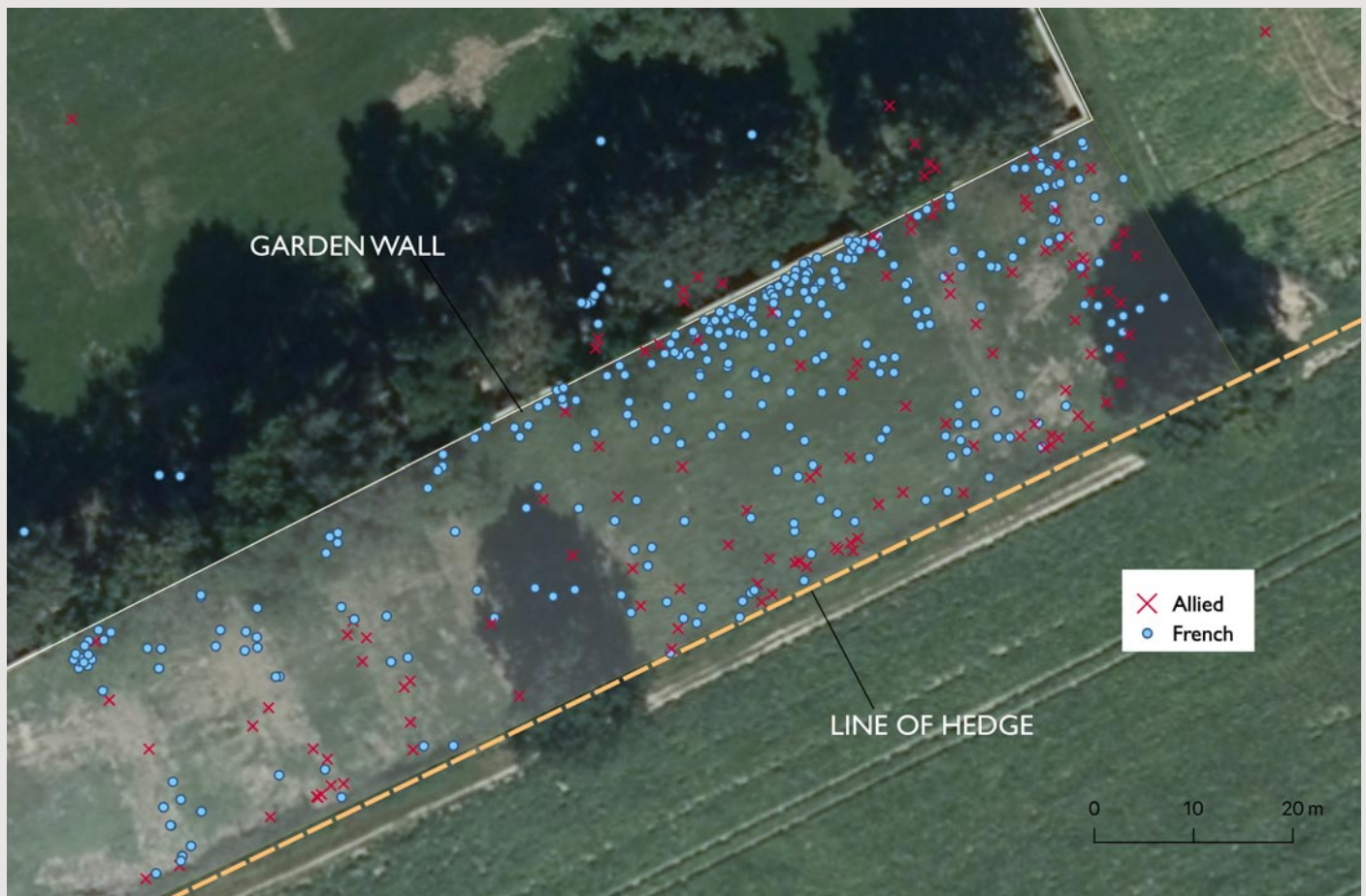
EXCAVATION: HOUGOUMONT 2017 AND 2018

Over the course of the 2017 and 2018 digs a further 25 trenches were excavated, with the major focus being the courtyard area of Hougoumont. Trenches were also opened to the west of the complex, in the area of the kitchen gardens recorded in the account by Matthew Clay of the 3rd Foot Guards (Scots Guards). However, aside from several interesting artefacts, little in the way of archaeological evidence was encountered here, though some original deposits might survive deeper than the levels we were able to excavate. Likewise, a trench to the north of the complex, to the north-east of the North Gate, revealed very little but buried modern detritus.

More interesting discoveries were made inside the courtyard. Here, historic maps are useful, but to understand the experience of the fight at Hougoumont it is essential to verify this layout: how did the size, location and architecture of the buildings influence the battle for the farm? This information is particularly relevant when it comes to the French attack through the North Gate, which saw thirty to forty French troops succeed in breaking through and getting inside the courtyard. All of these men were killed in the vicious fight which erupted within the confines of the walls, but



A historic plan showing the south-eastern corner of Hougoumont - the southern wall of the formal garden, the line of a hedge which ran parallel to it, and the 'Killing Ground', that formed between it. The plan appears to show the location of a gate; our excavations in 2015 discovered the outline of a feature on the same diagonal orientation



A plan showing the metal detector survey completed to date across the Killing Ground. The survey shows a cluster of Allied shot aimed at the probable location of a gate, seemingly where the French directed their incursion



Uncovering the remains of the Northern barn in the courtyard of Hougoumont farm

what did the courtyard look like then? As a number of the buildings, including the chateau, were burned down during the battle, with the burnt out shells demolished soon after, archaeology might be one way in which we can reconstruct this part of the complex.

In 2014, the southern part of Hougoumont's courtyard, close to the chapel, was excavated by AWAP-SPW as part of the restoration works carried out in preparation for the Bicentenary (there were originally two courtyards, one to the north of the chateau and one to the south, but its appearance today is of a single yard). This investigation revealed remains of the chateau. In 2016, the Waterloo Uncovered project turned its attention to the northern part of the courtyard, where no building remains were visible on the surface. These early trenches exposed building foundations and the well-preserved remains of a drain leading from a building against the eastern edge of the yard.

Over the course of 2017 and 2018, we opened further trenches in the courtyard – and these have revealed much about the layout of Hougoumont as it existed in 1815. These buildings included the massive northern barn next to the North Gate, and the smaller buildings along the eastern perimeter. The remains also suggest a great deal of alteration over time, with walls of different construction and phases. The most fruitful areas were covered by Trench 56 and Trench 64, opened in 2017 close to the North Gate, and reopened again in 2018 when they were expanded into a single trench in order to further explore these fascinating deposits.

Collectively, these trenches revealed an aisled barn of impressive dimensions, with its outer wall and its gable end to the west creating an internal width of 13 metres – far bigger than the measurements of any historical surveys we have on file. The foundations were built of a white limestone, consistent with the traditional vernacular of farm buildings in the area (brick walls, over stone foundations). At the base of this wall, a delicate delftware tile was found with a jaunty figure painted in blue upon its white glaze. We have yet to get an exact date from a delftware specialist, however it is likely upon initial research that this piece provides us with a 17th century dating for the barn walls.

Drawings made after the battle (see page 17) show the walls of the barn still upstanding, but within a few years the shell of the building was demolished. The residues left by this process are contained within the areas defined by the stumps of the walls



Serving Coldstream Guards Major Charlie Foinette examines a button from a brother officer's jacket, lost during the battle 200 years ago

exposed through excavation. Elsewhere in the northern part of the courtyard the dismantling of building remains appears to have been more complete, with only the wall foundations surviving.

In these trenches, layers of burnt debris included concentrations of slate tiles. These deposits were at first thought to represent destruction levels, resulting from the fire bringing the roof crashing down. However, further careful excavation revealed that these were deposits resulting from the clean-up operation after the walls were taken down, with some of the tiles dumped into a pit. This is perhaps not as exciting as a snapshot of the fire which raged during the battle, but it has provided important information. For one thing, we now know that the roof was covered with slates and not ceramic tiles or thatch as models and reconstruction drawings have suggested.

There were, however, some incredibly exciting finds contained within these post-demolition deposits. To the delight of all, excavation brought to light a button from a Coldstream Guard's tunic. Being in the ground for so long has caused the previously polished brass to turn a deep green, but the details of the regimental insignia stamped onto it were still clear; a star encompassing the flag of St. George, and the motto of the Order of the Garter "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*" (a French maxim, meaning "Shame be to him who evil thinks").

With this discovery, which was followed by further button finds, our trench across the corner of this huge building took on a whole new significance. For the first time inside the courtyard we had evidence relating to the human experience of the battle, seemingly sealed and untouched by the impacts of the modern world. In addition to buttons, we found a length of delicate silver epaulette wire, still shining as it did when it decorated the shoulder of the tunic worn by an officer of the Coldstream Guards. This find, in addition to the buttons, suggest that an entire tunic was abandoned in the building, perhaps after being removed from a wounded soldier who was tended within it – and we know a number of wounded soldiers died terrible deaths when these buildings were set on fire, probably by French howitzer shells.

The width of the building, from the northern wall to the south-western corner (the latter exposed in the trench), and the proximity of the surviving barn, means that when the French broke through



An early piece of delftware will provide us with dating for the construction of the Northern barn

the North Gate they did not find themselves in the open courtyard. The buildings created a confined space in which the French might have found themselves trapped, with the corners of the buildings forming a bottleneck, through which they would have to pass before gaining access to the more open space of the courtyard. Many of them might have been killed here, shot down by defenders in the yard, and perhaps picked off from above by men in the rafters of the buildings. Some of the early plans do reflect this configuration but it was only when the physical remains were uncovered during the excavation that the nature of the space, or lack of it, and its impact on movement became obvious.

The archaeological investigation of Hougoumont has reaped rich rewards. Repeated metal detector surveys have built up a visceral picture of the fight in the Killing Ground. The excavation in the courtyard has provided a much clearer impression of the appearance of the farm at the time of the battle and the influence of the space on the fighting there. Some archaeological investigation will continue at Hougoumont, but *Waterloo Uncovered* is on the verge of devoting serious effort to other parts of the battlefield – as will be described in the next volume of our Review.

2017: METAL DETECTION AND EXCAVATION AT MONT-SAINT-JEAN

In July 2017, ahead of the construction of a new roundabout the “Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine (AWaP)” investigated this area for archaeology, and happily *Waterloo Uncovered* was able to assist with this important work. While most of the team was pursuing the excavation at Hougoumont, a small group worked in a field close to the farm of Mont-Saint-Jean, which sat on the other side of the Chaussée de Charleroi. The farm of Mont-Saint-Jean is where the Allies established their field hospital during the battle. It was positioned advantageously, hidden behind the reverse slope, to the rear of the main Allied line, where it could not be seen by French gunners.

In 2012, about 200 metres southwest of this location, an evaluation had been undertaken by AWaP in advance of a car park extension for the Lion Mound monument and 1815 Memorial Museum. It was an intensive programme of work, with 120 trenches excavated. All but one of these trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The single exception contained the buried

remains of a soldier, resting 0.80 metres beneath the surface, with a French musket ball in the location of his right lung. Positioned at the base of a hill, it would appear that layers of soil built up over time, thus protecting the skeleton from the impact of modern farming. The individual is believed to have died aged between 20 – 29, and was of slender build with a slight curvature of the spine.

It has been suggested by the excavator (Bosquet et al., 2014, 19) that this individual, possibly a member of the King’s German Legion, was hastily buried by his comrades after dying on his way to a dressing station behind the lines. The body provides the only excavated remains of a soldier of Waterloo on the battlefield, and continues to raise the question of why this body exists in isolation, whilst our investigations around Hougoumont have produced only one small finger bone, in a location shown in historic artworks as the site of a mass grave.

In Volume One we suggested a possible answer to this. A convincing idea is that this single inhumation might be the case of the exception proving the rule, with some single inhumations or small group graves escaping the attention of post-battle bone harvesters, while larger mass graves – which were more obvious in the landscape and promised rich returns – presented more attractive targets. Into the second half of the 19th century, bonemeal was used on an industrial scale to enrich fertiliser, and it has come to our attention that the site of Waterloo may have provided rich pickings. Nevertheless, we maintained hopes that our foray into this area as part of our 2017 field season might yet encounter more remains of soldiers who sadly did not quite make it to the hospital, lying protected deep under the colluvium (more research on this topic is currently underway).

In the spring of 2017, a team from the University of Ghent’s soil prospection department “Ruimtelijke Bodeminventarisatie technieken” (ORBit) generously provided a geophysical survey of the area. This produced images of potential buried archaeology including a number of linear features, and dark spots which at first seemed reminiscent of the anomalies formed by brick kilns excavated in the environs of Hougoumont. Could this be evidence for the kilns used to produce the thousands of bricks used to create the pillar inside the Lion Mound, on top of which the bronze lion sits?

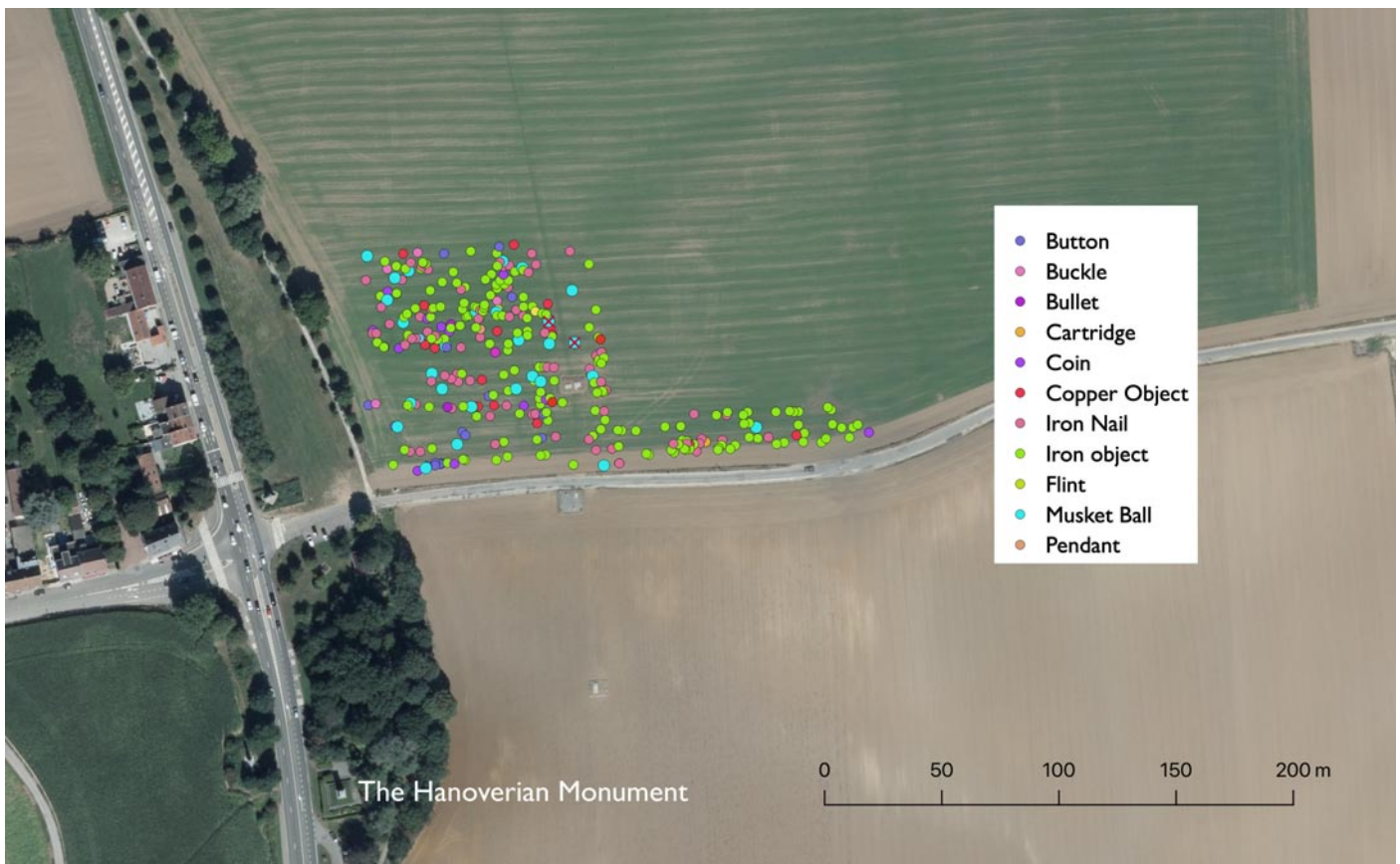
The entire area was metal detected and 14 trenches of varying lengths were excavated. We already know that some disturbance



Excavating trenches in the fields west of the Mont-Saint-Jean farm – the Allied Field Hospital during the battle



Metal detecting trenches at Mont-Saint-Jean ahead of road development



Plan of metal detected artefacts from the 2018 survey north of La Haye Sainte in the vicinity of where the Inniskilling regiment stood – and died – in square

had occurred in the area following the construction of the Lion Mound, even Wellington remarking that the construction had “ruined” his battlefield. It soon appeared that this situation was even worse than initially expected – a likely result of the construction of the “Ring of Brussels”, a ring road built in the 1970s and which passes just to the north of the site. The highest part of the field in this area was eroded, while at the base of the meadow, in the location where our trenches were located, it appeared that the ground had been raised up. In a nutshell, the 1815 layers were either gone, or buried under more than two metres of ground formed in modern times, which for logistical and practical reasons would make them impossible to reach.

Whilst the site proved to leave questions hanging about what happened in this area during the Battle of Waterloo, this was not the last time that this patch of Belgian soil was to provide the backdrop for war. One of the geophysical anomalies proved to be a Second World War bunker, measuring 10 x 14 metres. The presence of this bunker is still alive in the public memory and some pictures taken after the war show it, already destroyed. This bunker was used by German troops to interfere with the navigation of Allied planes, and was connected to an antenna placed on the Lion Mound.

2018: EXCAVATION AND METAL DETECTOR SURVEY AT LA HAYE SAINTE

The farmhouse of La Haye Sainte was defended by troops from the King’s German Legion, located at the centre of Wellington’s line. The farmhouse fell to Napoleon late in the day. As such,

metal detector survey around this key position has the potential to add much to the historic accounts of the battle in this location.

The farmhouse still stands today as a private residence, surrounded by the undulating agricultural fields. Usually access to farmers’ fields during the summer is prohibited by crop growth, however one of our observant team members noticed that the crops in the fields just to the east of La Haye Sainte had been harvested unusually early. Thanks to the kind permission of the landowner and tenant farmer, we were given access to detect here, although this was limited to surface detection, so as not to disturb the arable soils.

Metal detector survey recovered 365 metal artefacts, which included an array of buckles and buttons along with 30 pieces of lead shot. If our investigations at Hougoumont are anything to go by, this is a strong indicator that a great deal of lead shot will survive at greater depths.

Around 120 metres to the north west of La Haye Sainte, on the other side of the road, sits the Hanoverian monument, erected in 1818 to commemorate the members of the King’s German Legion who defended the farm. The monument was located close to the site of a quarry pit, usually referred to as a sand pit. The site is now covered by a small copse of trees, but we know from contemporary paintings that the ground was open in 1815. No trace of the sand pit, which was occupied by a unit of the 95th Rifles during the battle and was subsequently used as a mass grave, can be seen today. A geophysical survey carried out by our partners from the University of Ghent, found an ‘anomaly’ which was thought to correspond to the pit. In order to ground truth this anomaly, four test pits were

excavated in clearings in the copse and immediately to the south of the monument.

Only one yielded archaeological results, giving rise to more questions than answers. It was partly cut into the bank on which the Hanoverian monument stands, and measured 2.88m by 1.09m with a maximum depth of 1.22m. The trench revealed a series of striped horizontal sandy layers, believed to have been laid down in quick succession, and may be interpreted in one of two ways. The first is that they are deliberate attempts to backfill the sandpit, or else they may relate to the landscaping and stabilisation of the bank on which the monument is located.

No evidence for the sandpit, other than deposits of sand, was identified during this limited programme of work, but it is hoped to continue an investigation here in the future, with the aim of locating the edges of the pit which might lie outside the area investigated in 2018.



Stripy layers found within the bank around the Hanoverian monument



Metal detecting in the Killing Ground at Hougoumont

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About the authors:



Tony is Professor of Conflict history and Archaeology and Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. He has worked on conflict archaeology projects and iconic battlefields across the globe, and has worked widely in television, bringing battlefield archaeology to the public's attention with the BBC television series *Two Men in a Trench*. Tony is the co founder and co editor of the *Journal of Conflict Archaeology* and has written widely for both popular and academic audiences.



Véronique Moulart is a Belgian archaeological field director, at the Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine, the regional heritage service which protects and preserves archaeological remains.

STORIES

VETERAN

KEITH SPENCER VETERAN, DIGS 2016-2018

Royal Army Medical Corps 1970-1995.

I joined the Army straight from school at 15, serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps. During my career I served as a Combat Medical Technician in areas such as Cyprus, Belize, Germany and two tours of Northern Ireland. I retired in 1995 and found life as a civilian very hard to adjust to. I eventually found work as a crew Paramedic in the oil exploration industry working in remote areas both on land and at sea. During this time I was looking for something to keep my mind active during my off-duty periods and eventually decided to study a distance learning degree in Archaeology, a topic I had always had an interest in. As I became more engrossed with this course I was becoming disillusioned with the job I was doing and my wife suggested I should go to University as a full-time student which I did, graduating in 2004 with a BSc in Archaeology. After my graduation I worked as a field archaeologist until problems with my knees made it extremely difficult to dig and after surgery I was forced to leave the profession, this was in 2008. It was at this point that my mental health started to suffer and I found myself becoming withdrawn.

I took another job during this period but this only made me feel worse and I was eventually forced to resign in 2014. After a further period of unemployment my life was turned around when in 2016, my wife, who was at the time a serving officer in the education services of the Adjutant Generals Corps, took a phone call from Mark Evans who was asking for guidance on how to get veterans and injured serving personnel involved in Waterloo Uncovered. She immediately thought of my situation and mentioned it during their conversation. And so, I was invited to take part in the 2016 excavation season.

I was extremely uncomfortable around strangers and found the journey from London to Belgium very challenging as I could not bring myself to engage with anybody. On arrival at our hotel I had a bite to eat and went straight to my room to get away from the crowd. On the Monday morning we were on site at Hougoumont, a place I had read so much about, and I was assigned to work in the finds room. After a few days I began to come out of my shell; being involved in archaeological work alongside others with the same interests made a real difference and it was great to be around other veterans after being away from the army for so long. The banter hadn't changed at all and this was a real tonic.

After several days with the finds team I was assigned to work with Dr Stu Eve and his team and was put to work on a computer, digitising site plans. I found this work very interesting and I at last started to feel as though I was contributing something to the project. The staff and academics were very encouraging and supportive over the two weeks and this gave me the courage to reach out to other agencies for help with my mental health problems. As a result I was seen a few weeks later by the charity Combat Stress and was admitted to one of their facilities for a six week intensive therapy course during which time I was diagnosed with PTSD. Since that time life has improved steadily and I have been part of every season with WU since, making many friends along the way and I am now close to completing a Masters degree in Computer Applications in Archaeology. I will be forever grateful to the staff and beneficiaries of the charity for giving me the chance to get my life back on track. Even though I still have my ups and downs I now know that I have friends around me whom I can talk to. This would not have been possible without the work of Waterloo Uncovered.



JO CLARK

VETERAN, DIG 2018

Royal Army Medical Corps 2006 - 2011; Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps 2011 - 2020

I participated in the 2018 dig whilst on Recovery Duty for a chronic physical medical condition. Mark Evans invited me to apply for WU18 and I jumped at the chance. I had never known archaeology to be a possible 'therapy', let alone for it to be suitable for me. I liked a fast paced, busy lifestyle - and archaeology is the opposite, requiring a methodical and steady approach in whatever you do.

I won't lie... to start with I found it difficult to slow down in the trenches. I just wanted to get on and find stuff! The slow process of brushing back layers of history seemed pointless and somewhat neurotic. However, after 36 hours, something in me switched and I seemed to breathe out and relax. I started to enjoy the rhythm and teamwork of our trench (the wall-to-wall sunshine helped a lot with that too!). Each day we would unearth a little more that told a story of the past and we all seemed oddly connected to events from decades ago (and some more recent as we unearthed the occasional plastic scrap in upper layers... moral of the story guys; don't litter! It confuses archaeologists!).

An absolute highlight for me was digging up a piece of grape shot in the Killing Ground. I had no idea what it was, or the significance of evidence of cannon fire in that part of the farm, but I celebrated my find and felt like a hero of history! I'm hoping to return to the excavation once more, for a whole two weeks this time. I'm looking forward to unearthing more significant artefacts and, with my nursing background, perhaps I may even be able to help identify some human remains.

In addition to digging in the trenches, the whole team participated in a Reading to Remember event. This was such a lovely idea and helped to bring us closer to events of the Battle of Waterloo with the recap of personal written accounts. With plenty of relaxed down time and socialising the whole experience was brilliant. Oh, and I was 6 months' pregnant which just goes to show that the project really does cater for all shapes and sizes!

An unexpected but life-changing aspect for me was the permission it gave me to admit that my mental health was suffering from years of steadfast coping with and closing down of unwanted memories. As soon as I arrived on the dig I felt like part of a family and very safe. The team had invited several civilian and veteran mental health specialists on the dig to support us. I had never once felt able to speak about mental health from a personal viewpoint as I had always worried that, in the military setting, I would be judged or told I had no right to struggle with past experiences. One gentle but sincere conversation about my behaviour became a complete lightbulb moment that has seen me spend the past 18 months since the dig, breaking down and healing a very huge wall of unprocessed events in my life. Clearly still a work in progress but it's a start. The team at WU seem gifted with the ability to instil confidence for open dialogue about emotions, wellbeing and physical and mental ill health. I would urge anyone, particularly those living with a seemingly 'invisible' mental and/or physical illness to consider applying to go on a dig.



Jo working hard in trench 62, in the courtyard of Hougoumont Farm



THE ROAD TO WELLBEING

*As a young charity, reflecting and evaluating, understanding and refining our methods has been essential as we have grown year upon year. In this article **David Ulke** (our Welfare and Wellbeing Officer) tells us about how his academic study has been at the heart of this growth, and has found a place at the cutting edge of wellbeing and archaeology research.*

The mission that started out as a commemorative dig in 2015 to celebrate the bicentenary, proved not only that there was a wealth of buried evidence surviving underneath the battle ground, but just how productive and edifying an exercise it could be for everyone involved.

Building on the successes of the first pilot dig in 2015, we were able to secure enough support to give our charity a proper foundation, and to create a programme that set out to make a real difference. The start of this journey is charted in the first volume of the Project Review, with CEO Mark Evans' article 'Archaeology, Comradeship, Recovery' showing how, in just three excavations over two years, we were able to grow our dig team from 29 people in April 2015, to 61 for the excavation of July 2016.

We started off with modest aims, centred around taking people out of their comfort zone, for two weeks of excavation under the Belgian sun. The experience offered people a chance to learn new skills, to socialise with people of different nationalities and experiences whom they wouldn't normally meet. People were learning from one another. The benefits rapidly shone clear. What was emerging was a methodology to help veterans recover, to offer recuperation for service personnel, to bridge and support transition, and to combat that very modern and many-headed beast – social isolation. The stories dotted around this Review are abundant proof that the people who have joined us through the years have now become members of a dispersed community, bonded by their experience on the excavation.

Embarking on the 2017 field season, spurred on by the calibre of the archaeological results the project was yielding, we had been granted enough funding to start building a long-term project extending beyond 2020. We were able to take on more staff and

greater numbers of VSMP. We had come to a turning point and knew we had to reflect and learn more from the experiences that people were having. We had to measure and understand exactly how what we were doing was helping, specifically from a wellbeing point of view.

MEASURING MENTAL HEALTH

All along we had been collecting verbal and qualitative feedback, but we wanted to look for empirical ways to measure if, and to what extent, participation in our programme had allowed the development of new or transferable skills, or if there had been a positive impact on participants' mental wellbeing. We were also interested in neutral or negative outcomes as both were important in finding the best service and refining the programme to better suit participants.

Drawing on my expertise as a mental health nurse (having served for 27 years in the Royal Air Force), and my studies for a BA Archaeology degree at Leicester University, I proposed a way to investigate this in an academic forum, all the while adhering to the strict conditions required by the university ethics committee to undertake research in this way.

The previous six years had seen the appearance of a small number of programmes involving the use of archaeology as a tool for rehabilitation, and such research would have the potential to contribute to this emerging dialogue. Other organisations had also emerged with the express intent of assisting serving military personnel and retired veterans to develop transferable skills that could be put to good use after their time in the military ended. Both of these unique groups had faced varying levels of difficulty



Teams at work in two of our exciting trenches in the courtyard of Hougoumont



Every day participants take it in turns to prepare lunch for the whole team at 12pm

in recovering from and adjusting to their own particular experiences using the more traditional interventions predicated on clinical, social, and psychological support programmes.

WHAT IS 'WELLBEING' AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM MENTAL HEALTH?

Increasingly, the international community is settled on the concept of mental wellbeing and its contribution to all aspects of human life. Wellbeing can be described as “all the positive aspects of mental health combined”. Of course, there are many ways of describing an optimistic personal outlook, however wellbeing is considered to be more than just being happy, or the absence of disease. Wellbeing fluctuates through time and circumstances, and as such could just as easily be described as ‘flourishing’, as well as the ability of a person to respond to ‘challenging external circumstances in a way that is resilient’ (Warwick Medical School, 2020).

In 2007 the Universities of Warwick and Edinburgh, funded by NHS Health Scotland developed its Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS), a 14-item questionnaire, which has since become an internationally recognised way of measuring wellbeing within a generalised population.

The scale poses 14 positively worded statements from “*I’ve been feeling optimistic about the future*”, “*I’ve been thinking clearly*” to “*I’ve been feeling close to other people*”. Its subjects rate how well these statements describe them on a scale from “*None of the time*”, to “*All of the time*”. The resultant output will produce a numerical value, that can be used to compare the impact of a particular experience. The scale captures the wider conceptions of the mental wellbeing spectrum, targeting affective feelings (that is, emotional tone), psychological performance (task-relevant thought content, positive self-talk and being in the right ‘frame of mind’), as well as cognitive-evaluative dimensions which focuses exclusively on the positive (Tennant et al., 2007, 63).

With this tool, and with willing participants from the 2017 campaign, I embarked upon this research exercise. Participants were surveyed three times; day one of the excavation, at the end of the excavation, and 12 weeks after the excavation – to allow for timely collection of data. I also asked participants to complete a ‘*Baseline*’ and ‘*End of Intervention*’ questionnaire, to provide some further qualitative and quantitative context.

I made it clear that candidates could withdraw without prejudice at any time from participating, particularly as we were worried about whether the exercise would undermine the experience of

the dig. We have never wanted to ‘medicalise’ our VSMP, the whole point of the programme is to focus on new experiences rather than lingering on mental health – in the words of one of our WU veterans “it isn’t therapy, but it sure feels like it”.

Perhaps unexpectedly what we found however was that people seemed to value the objectivity of the practice, that participants drew worth from the experiment, and from the prospect of being able to contribute to creating a robust dataset that may be useful to others just like them.

The full results of the study are due to be published later this year all being well. However we would like to share some of the initial findings here. In table one below you will see the results of changes in wellbeing for 13 participants. As with any empirical study one expects to get a range of results; and in the spirit of good science, we are glad to show and share our workings of this experiment.

You’ll see that over a period of twelve weeks, the study generated a range of results, with some participants reporting positive change, some no change, and some even reported a negative change, once they had returned to normal life. What I would draw your attention to, is the effect of the dig on the participants’ wellbeing at Week 2; with all but three reporting a positive increase at the end of the dig. Clearly, what we were doing within a two-week time-frame, was making an important difference.

Respondent ID	Status	Baseline	Week 2	Week 12	Overall Well-being Experience
A3	Veteran	M	H	H	Positive
A5	Serving	M	M	H	Positive
A6	Veteran	L	L	L	No Change
A10	Serving	M	H	H	Positive
A12	Serving	H	H	H	No Change
A13	Serving	M	M	M	No Change
A14	Veteran	L	M	L	Negative
A17	Serving	M	M	M	No Change
A18	Veteran	L	M	L	Negative
A19	Serving	L	H	H	Positive
A20	Veteran	L	M	M	Positive
A21	Serving	L	M	H	Positive
A22	Serving	M	M	M	No Change
WEMWBS ‘Sense of Wellbeing’ Criteria: L=Low, M=Moderate, H=High					

Well-being Experience	Veterans	Serving	Total
Positive	2	4	6
No Change	1	4	5
Negative	2		2*
*Note this was negative from weeks 2 to week 12 and not from baseline to week 12.			

Table 1. Comparison Matrix – Respondents Completing Baseline, Week 2 and Week 12 Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale (WEMWBS) returns



As of 2018 we started to incorporate other types of group activities into the daily programme, from groups painting model soldiers in the evenings, to morning meditation sessions

This empirical data has been crucial in shaping our approach going forward, and made us realise our ambitions as a charity. From 2018 onwards we have been developing a programme that goes far beyond the two weeks that we spend out in Belgium, and is active in the lives of our VSMP from weeks 1, 2, 12 and beyond.

It also became clear how different people gained different things from the experience and that the benefits were extremely personal. For some people it might be getting into university, for others it might be about getting out of the house and talking to people, about socialising again. As a direct result of these findings, we have sought to go beyond just archaeology on the dig, and started to incorporate other activities such as art, poetry, meditation and creative writing.

It also helped us see that our blend of recovery is simply just not right for certain people; perhaps because they're not quite ready to embark upon this type of endeavour, or it doesn't match their interests, or doesn't quite correlate to their needs. This has enabled us to better signpost applicants to other programmes that are more suited to the present stage in their recovery, and feed this

back to those organisations we work with when recruiting participants – Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, Walking With The Wounded, Defence Recovery Capability, BLESMA and individual regiments and units.

Selecting participants has always been an important part of the entire process. It takes place over two months and includes interviews conducted by core members of our Wellbeing and Mental Health team. Obviously we can't accept every single applicant, but for some, just putting pen to paper to put themselves out there can be beneficial. We stay in touch with unsuccessful applicants for whom we've signposted other options, and have also sought to develop other strands of the *Waterloo Uncovered* experience.

We have established the Black Cabs weekend scheme in association with the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, who drive individuals over in a convoy of cabs to join us for a Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Belgium. This offers a more short-term experience of the project, perhaps for those with lesser physical abilities, or who don't quite yet have the confidence to take on the full two weeks.

THE FUTURE

With this enriched understanding of the outcomes our charity can achieve, we have been able to see that how we help people centres around five key pillars – wellbeing, recovery, education, employment and transition. These core principles guide us in our decision making, our strategy and crucially, in our selection of participants. This research has enabled us to understand that our project and the Waterloo Uncovered 'experience', provide an important step in supporting people in their journey. Going forward we seek to provide 'wrap around' care for our VSMP over the course of the year, by continuing to develop links with other charities and military organisations to build and share knowledge, so we can better support our participants. We continue to use the Warwick Edinburgh Scale to build a dataset, year on year, and we look forward to sharing future results as we develop and grow.

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Readers may be interested in reading our contribution to a book on the subject: Mark Evans, Stuart Eve, Vicki Haverkate-Emmerson, Tony Pollard, Eleonora Steinberg and David Ulke, 'Waterloo Uncovered: From Discoveries in Conflict Archaeology to Military Veteran Collaboration and Recovery on One of the World's Most Famous Battlefields', in: Darvill, Timothy, Barrass, K., Drysdale, L. and Staelens, Yvette, eds. *Historic Landscapes and Mental Well-Being*. Archaeopress, 253-265.



About the author:

David Ulke is our Welfare and Wellbeing Officer. He joined the Waterloo Uncovered team having worked with the Royal British Legion after a career in the Royal Air Force as a Nursing Officer specialised in Mental Health.



The dig gives the chance for people to learn new skills from the world of archaeology, not just the practice of excavation but also skills such as finds photography

STORIES

STUDENT

CAMILLE MACHIELS

DIGS 2017-2018

Camille is a home-grown Belgian archaeologist who joined the project in 2017 as a student of Skidmore College (Saratoga Springs, NY), having just obtained a BA in Classics and Archaeology. Camille joined us again on her gap year in 2018, before successfully applying for a Master's Degree in Conflict Archaeology and Heritage at the University of Glasgow, studying under Professor Tony Pollard.

In 2017, I joined Waterloo Uncovered because I had an interest in conflict archaeology and I wanted to get some field experience before pursuing a Master's degree in the field. Being Belgian and living close to Waterloo, I couldn't let the chance to excavate the battlefield pass me by.

During the 2017 excavation, my main objective was to learn about the history of the Battle of Waterloo and its archaeology. I spent my days in the trenches working alongside the veterans, soldiers, students and volunteers. Apart from working on the archaeological techniques I had learned, I also discovered the methodology of responsible metal detecting alongside excavation to find metal artefacts. Previously I had a negative view of metal detectorists because of the practice of illegal detecting in Belgium. WU showed me how the two methodologies working side by side, can be rewarding for both archaeologists and metal detectorists alike. I also spent a few days in the finds room where I got to see and hold my first musket balls.

Returning for the 2018 excavation, I mostly put my native skills to use helping the communication team with translation. In addition, I helped excavate part of the northern barn at Hougoumont. It was really interesting to see the foundations of the barn that survive just beneath the ground. We also discovered that the roof of the barn was made out of slate and that it had collapsed as the barn was set on fire during the attack on Hougoumont. It was a privilege to be able to see the foundations, as they are only visible when Waterloo Uncovered excavate. I hope one day they will be left visible year-round so other visitors can see them.

Apart from the amazing archaeology that is being done, something that I really enjoyed about Waterloo Uncovered is the sense of community whilst on the excavation. I always enjoyed sharing what I know with people, and Waterloo Uncovered allows me to do this. Even during my first year of studies, my supervisor let me teach some of the archaeological skills to the veterans. This made me realise that I like to work with and teach people who are eager to learn about the work I do. I also learned a lot from the veterans as they bring their unique perspectives to the story.

As a whole, my entire experience at Waterloo Uncovered has been eye-opening. I had never thought that archaeology can be used as a way to help people, and I hope the project prospers for years to come.



Camille and fellow Belgian Eva Collignon excavating a pit in the Killing Ground in 2017

JAMES EARLEY

DIGS 2015-2018

James is an archaeologist who specialises in Post-Medieval archaeology and community archaeology. He has been involved in the project since the beginning, serving at points as both a Trench Supervisor, and dig 'quartermaster'; making sure that all team members are equipped with everything they need to dig on the battlefield.

I first got involved with Waterloo Uncovered through my work with *Operation Nightingale*, I met Mark (Evans) on a project I was helping coordinate out in Cyprus and one thing led to another, which ended with him calling me a few months later and asking if I would like to be a part of the project. I have always been fascinated by Napoleonic history, so it was like a dream come true for me to actually go and dig at Waterloo.

For the first two seasons I was a Trench Supervisor, looking after a team of veterans and students, but was later asked to oversee the logistics regarding the equipment and tools for the fieldwork, becoming the project's Quartermaster. I spend the majority of my day on site running between trenches making sure everyone has everything they need and just helping out with the smooth running of the project wherever I can. I was also asked to run the fundraising activity we undertake on site; *Reading to Remember*. This is a relay reading event that takes place over an eleven-hour period, which was roughly the duration of the battle. All of the project participants take turns reading contemporary accounts of the battle, in all of the languages that were spoken by participants.



Working with this project has been the highlight of my career. I have been working with serving soldiers and veterans for nigh on ten years now and can safely say that Waterloo Uncovered is the best project I have ever worked on. Whilst the archaeology itself is incredible, what truly makes this project as amazing as it is, are the people involved. The veterans all come with a unique perspective on what excavating this battlefield means to them, and what they get out of being there. The fact that it is an international team is also fantastic - it doesn't just feel like a bunch of 'Brits abroad' - this is a real collaboration between different countries, all with a personal interest in the excavations and the battlefield, each bringing their own unique insight and experience to the project.



James conducting a round-robin training session on archaeological stratigraphy on the first day of the 2017 dig

WATERLOO AND THE DUTCH

*In 2017 we took another step forward in our constant quest to be an international project, with a team of Dutch veterans joining us on the excavation. **Gielt Algra** of the Veterans' Institute in the Netherlands explains the involvement of the Dutch at the Battle, their significance to Wellington's army, but also how their part has since been somewhat overshadowed in the mythology of the battle*

When my grandmother, who was born in 1900, was still alive, she used to tell me the story of her own grandmother's mother hiding from the Cossacks in a ditch, when they arrived at the outskirts of her village in the province of Friesland in 1813. It is only a few generations away and the stories can still be told, passed on by word of mouth.

Probably it is because of the drastic impact of the Second World War on Dutch society, that the living memory of the Battle of Waterloo has been eclipsed. But never entirely. It is still a moment in Dutch history that most people understand the significance of, for both the kingdom of the Netherlands and the shape of Europe. The clearest landmarks are of course the squares and streets named after the Battle of Waterloo. And, although it is taught less now than in the 19th century, history education in the Netherlands never left this topic unmentioned. Many people in the Netherlands, interested in topics varying from 'the Napoleonic era' to the painting of tin soldiers will also have had, to a certain extent, an encounter with the heritage of the Battle of Waterloo.

It was only with the Nazi invasion of 1940 and then the introduction of *Remembrance Day* on the 4th of May and *Liberation Day* on the 5th of May in the aftermath of the Second World War, that the official 'Waterloo day', which had always been held on the 18th of June ceased to be celebrated. Probably the most spectacular celebration of 'Waterloo Day' in the Netherlands was in 1865 in Amsterdam. In the long parade through the streets of Amsterdam, veterans of the battle still participated accompanied by the banners of the armed forces and music bands. Besides the veterans who actually saw battle in 1815, there were many present within the audience, who still remembered how anxious they had been waiting for news of the outcome of the battle.

Though Napoleon wasn't always considered in the Netherlands 'the dictator' that many in the Anglo world would see him, by 1815, the economic hardship he had caused for the Netherlands had changed even the minds of those who originally joined his ranks, in various battles throughout Europe. His final defeat in 1815 was considered as a relief. During those anxious days of the Hundred Days campaign almost all of the Dutch army was concentrated in the South and virtually everyone in society knew someone who served either in a militia or in the regular army. Therefore the outcome of the fighting often had a personal dimension as well.

BIRTH OF A NATION

The Eighty Years' War, which ended Spanish rule over the Netherlands with the *Peace of Munster* in 1648 and the establishment of the united Dutch Republic, is considered 'the birth of the nation'. But the Battle of Waterloo is regarded by many as the birth of the Netherlands as a kingdom, or at least of the acceptance of the Royal family by the Dutch public. The heroic stories of the Prince of Orange



A soldier of the Oranje-Nassau Regiment (1815). From the collection of Hendrik Jacobus Vinkhuijzen. Public Domain.



Between 1824-1826, when the Walloon region belonged to the Dutch, the 'Butte du Lion' a commemoration of the Allies of Waterloo, was built over the supposed spot where the Crown Prince had been struck in the shoulder with a musket ball. Lithography by Marcellin Jobard after a Bertrand drawing 1825. Public Domain.



The Battle of Waterloo, painted by Jan Willem Pieneman in 1824, shows the Duke of Wellington receiving the message that the Prussian forces are coming to his aid. Lying wounded on a stretcher in the left foreground is the Dutch Crown Prince, later King William II. Public Domain.



playing an important role at both Quatre Bras and at Waterloo itself, eventually being carried off the battlefield after being severely wounded, were appealing to the Nation's collective imagination. Though the kingdom was originally installed in 1813, with the territory of the present Belgium and the Netherlands combined, the acceptance of the Royal family within this new kingdom was supported by the stories of the war hero son of Willem I.

Just as many of these stories might have been used as propaganda in the Netherlands, the same seems to have been true in the other participating nations. In Germany, for example,

the battle was known as "the Battle of La Belle Alliance" instead of "the Battle of Waterloo", as if to prove the significance of the Prussian role. Great Britain likewise glorified the Duke and his redcoats. To the dismay of many in the Netherlands, official historians like Siborne neglected Dutch sources or, worse still, didn't even mention the presence of Dutch troops and their role when describing the narrative of Waterloo, thus enlarging the role of Wellington and the British troops. Dutch historians made many attempts in the 19th century, and even in the 20th century to present a different and more accurate picture of the Dutch role.



Dutch veteran Moos Raaijmakers (right) sifting and detecting finds from trenches dug at La Haye Sainte in 2018

However, they have not always been very smart about it. It's hard to convince the British when you only publish in French and German! From then on a rivalry between Dutch and British historians seems to have begun which lasts until the present day.

Seeing it in this light, *Waterloo Uncovered* as a project becomes not just useful, but necessary in providing additions to the evidence from the written and oral sources available to historians. Even if the archaeology cannot further clarify the exact roles of the Dutch and the British in the battle, the unique combination of the two groups of veterans, from their respective countries working together along with students and professional archaeologists is, at least for the Dutch veterans taking part, an acceptance of the Dutch heritage at Waterloo. It feels for them as if finally they have a chance to tell the narrative of the Dutch involvement in the battle and the wider *Hundred Days Campaign*.

DUTCH VETERANS

Dutch veterans who take part in *Waterloo Uncovered* obviously represent those in the Netherlands who are interested in the first place. From my experience talking to the Dutch participants, that interest seems to have come from a set of rather similar experiences, which also apply to myself! Without exception all participants already had an interest in Waterloo and/or archaeology. Many of them had served in units which have a history in the *Hundred Days Campaign*. All of them had, as primary school pupils, visited the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and stared at the

most gigantic painting of their collection: 'the Battle of Waterloo' by Pieneman (1824). There we all saw the wounded Prince of Orange being carried off the battlefield, while Wellington is informed of the arrival of Prussian troops. This obviously had an effect on our imagination. It's also not too surprising that as children we all played with Airfix soldiers, and that we were always disappointed when visiting the toy store, that none of the Dutch units involved were available. So whilst the national commemoration of the Battle of Waterloo in the Netherlands might not be on the same level that it was in the 19th century, a lack of awareness is not the case for the Dutch veterans interested in joining *Waterloo Uncovered*.

No wonder they were and are enthusiastic, once they could join! Besides being veterans themselves it is perhaps rather natural that they support *Waterloo Uncovered's* goals for the wellbeing of veteran participants, suffering from PTSD or physical injuries and disabilities. So, it is interesting and pleasing that all of them endorsed the archaeological process, working in an international team and being outside in the fields of Waterloo as beneficial to them. We heard this from those who were suffering from both psychological and physical injuries and also veterans with no complaints whatsoever who still often considered their time on the dig an almost "healing experience" for themselves.

One of the Dutch veterans who suffered from PTSD called in again to the *Veterans Institute* in Doorn, the year after he had joined the excavation at Waterloo. He hoped that he could join in again, because "it had done him so much good" the previous year. The

change in him was well recognised by other Dutch veterans who knew how much this guy had struggled and how many social problems he faced due to his PTSD. This is exactly why Waterloo Uncovered is so much more worth than an 'ordinary' archaeological excavation. Perhaps it can be described best by using the words of one of the participating Dutch veterans themselves:

"Not only being outside, but voluntarily spending two weeks from home, with comrades, eating together, working together, relaxing together and sleeping within the same environment... perhaps this brings you back to your military mission, without being exposed to the dangers. That might create the environment veterans feel comfortable with and make it more easy to open up for each other."



Veterans at work, from top to bottom:

Frits Rosner digging with James Earley's team in the formal garden in 2017;

Moos Raaijmakers detecting finds from trenches dug at La Haye Sainte in 2018;

Hans Droppert processing finds on the 2018 dig.

About the author:

Gielt Algra is head of Research and Strategy at the Veterans Institute in the Netherlands.

UTRECHT UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL WITH WATERLOO UNCOVERED

***Vicki Haverkate** explains how Waterloo Uncovered participants can turn what they learn about archaeology into an accredited university course with the support of Utrecht University.*

At the heart of Waterloo Uncovered is the aim to encourage and equip our participants for new paths in life. From the first season in 2015 we noticed that veterans and serving personnel were just as keen to take up the opportunity to learn archaeological skills and expertise from our professional team as the University students taking part in the excavations. Some of them were thinking about a more academic route themselves and perhaps even of moving towards a new career, in archaeology or not, that would require such skills. We wanted to find a way for participants to formally record the practical skills they had learned whilst digging so that they might make better use of them after the excavation. We also wondered if we could help participants to develop academically as well and if there could be a way for them to demonstrate this too after their time with us. What might gaining recognition for academic achievements mean to some of our beneficiaries, be it simply in terms of self-confidence or as a stepping stone to a new career?

The opportunity to address these aims came in 2018, thanks to our co-operation with University College Roosevelt (UCR) in Middelburg, the Netherlands. UCR is part of Utrecht University which runs the largest University Summer Schools program in Europe. In my role at that time as UCR's Educational Outreach Officer, I had been bringing UCR students to join every summer excavation. I now saw a chance to establish a new program specially tailored for both students and Waterloo Uncovered's veteran participants.

Working with colleagues Dr Helle Hochscheid (archaeologist) and Dr Tobias van Gent (military historian) in Middelburg, and the Summer Schools team in Utrecht, two courses have been developed. Firstly, *Waterloo Uncovered Battlefield Investigation*, a field-school run during the summer excavation, which is largely practical and based on the archaeological skills developed in the field at Waterloo. All veteran participants are offered the opportunity to take part. Secondly, *Battlefields Uncovered: an Introduction to Archaeological and Historical Investigations of Conflict* is an entry level but more academic residential course run in Middelburg. Through a mixture of lectures, workshops and battlefield tours, it looks at both archaeological and historical approaches to battle and at the heritage industry around battlefield sites. This course is open to anyone with an interest, even if they haven't been on our dig, but we are keen to select the right balance of participants and to encourage our veterans to participate. Completing an official accredited Utrecht Summer School means that participants in both courses receive ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points for their work and gain a certificate.



MAKING THE DIG COUNT

In this first year, 2018, we were pleased to have seven British and Dutch VSMPs complete the *Waterloo Uncovered Battlefield Investigation* course whilst on the dig and gain the ECTS along with five university students from the UK, the Netherlands and the United States.

When any Waterloo Uncovered excavation participant enrolls as a Summer School student, the archaeological skills they develop are



Tobias van Gent and Battlefields Uncovered students at Westkapelle where the Allies bombed the sea dykes to deliberately but uncontrollably flood the land and force out the Germans on the 3rd of October 1944

monitored closely by the experienced field archaeologists who supervise the trenches at Waterloo, and who also record their progress in the British Archaeological Jobs Resource Passport (BAJR 2020). We know that participants cannot be experts after just two weeks but what counts is clear progress in a range of skills. Participants also produce a reflection piece in which they should show that they have deepened their understanding of the history of the Battle of Waterloo and of the interaction between historical and archaeological evidence in interpreting the past. Finally, this reflection is a chance to provide evidence of what academics call “democratic and collaborative learning” (Vázquez in Friedman, Haverkate et al 2015). At Waterloo Uncovered we think of that in terms of the experience of working with and learning from others. Each year, those on site have very diverse international and social backgrounds, a wide range of ages, life experiences, civilian and military statuses and varying physical and mental health needs. We have always known that people benefit hugely from interacting in these circumstances, so the reflection is a great way to make people more conscious of it themselves. Most people chose to write a diary style account, but some opted for a video or audio blog or even a creative piece such as a poem.

A STUDENT RESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE

The second course, *Battlefields Uncovered: an Introduction to Archaeological and Historical Investigations of Conflict*, contains more academic content and discusses conflict archaeology at Waterloo and beyond. In particular, participants explore the rich history of conflict in and around Middelburg where Napoleonic and Second World War history is sometimes well hidden behind the current image of a pretty University town and the excellent beaches so close to it.

Battlefields Uncovered participants investigate the interplay between historical and archaeological evidence when trying to piece together the events of past conflicts. They also explore the narratives and agendas that influence the way that past is remembered and presented today. There is a mixture of time periods and many in-



A class visit to the Napoleon sites in Veere, which were part of the 1809 British campaign to remove French control from the region

ternational regions are discussed. In our first year, 2018, there were nine students from the UK, The Netherlands and Belgium, of whom three were veterans. Lectures and practical workshops were given by Waterloo Uncovered’s Vicki Haverkate, Stuart Eve and Tony Pollard, UCR’s Helle Hochscheid and Tobias van Gent and by some excellent expert guests. The verdicts from students included:

“I learned a lot about archaeology and the use of archaeological findings. My view of landscape has changed now that I can see that what is there now is not how it might have been in the past.”

“I learned how to combine looking at paintings, documents and archaeological evidence to discriminate between a (frequently) told narrative and the real story.”

“I was really impressed to see how much modern technology is used in archaeology.”

The battlefield tours offered some rare opportunities. Students were able to hear Tony Pollard’s interpretation of our latest archae-

ological results at Waterloo whilst standing on the iconic spot themselves! On the same day he gave a lecture about his work identifying the war dead from the First World War Battle of Fromelles which students found both moving and fascinating, and which highlighted the dramatic change in attitudes towards the dead between the Napoleonic campaigns and the Great War. Tobias van Gent's tours in and around Middelburg investigated places where evidence of two moments of British and Allied invasion in the region is still clearly visible. Firstly, the fortifications used by Napoleon's troops to resist a British attempt in 1809 to remove them from the region. Secondly, parts of Hitler's Atlantic wall bunker system, which relate to the important but sometimes forgotten Battle of the Scheldt in 1944. They stand almost as they were left and are not readily open to the public. Students greatly enjoyed the experience and said the following:

"the tours and discussions on the battlefields were wonderful"

"the field trips were absolutely amazing."

"It is just so incredible to discover the history that lives all round you without you even noticing it"

"I was pleased to learn about the 1809 campaign and the Battle of the Scheldt. Both actions I previously knew nothing about"

"Tony's talk left me surprised by how emotional archaeology can be"

The course was designed to be entry level, so as to create a further stepping stone for students or VSMPs investigating a career or further studies in archaeology. To earn their ECTS point for this course, participants are assessed 50% on individual work and 50% on group work. The latter is a mix of written and practical exercises.

One practical exercise is to plan and carry out an outreach event for school children. The event entitled 'mud flights' presented around 50 young learners, mostly between 10 and 12 years old, with the question "how do we learn about past conflicts?" Through activities designed and led by the Summer School participants the children think about whether it is better to read historical accounts of past conflict, to look at archaeological objects, or to listen to personal stories from veterans. After using historical sources and paper masks to act out the Battle of Waterloo, getting to handle real finds and listening to the personal experiences of the veterans, the youngsters found it rather hard to choose!

Like the dig, the taught course also brings people from different backgrounds, notably students and veterans, into close contact with each other. Again, they learned as much from each other as from the academic part of the course.

"having the veterans on the course was very interesting. Talking with them has allowed me to better understand how war is experienced"

"I had a very naïve understanding of the military. I used to think, 'the army, who would go there?' I thought it was idiotic. To go from that perspective to an understanding of they (sic) are people who are attempting to do something so much braver than I could ever attempt"

On top of all that learning, it seems it was also fun:

"I greatly enjoyed the course and my stay in Middelburg"

"reduced my anxiety and built my confidence"

"the summer school is really well managed and coordinated with passion, enthusiasm, belief in what is presented and in the value of archaeology"



Emma de Graaf and Hans Droppert deep in discussion

"a thought provoking and enjoyable course which I highly endorse to any fellow military history enthusiast"

CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PLANS

The Summer Schools (the field-school and the *Battlefields Uncovered* residential course) will become a regular feature of the Waterloo Uncovered programme. At this early stage and with a small number of participants it is hard to measure what the impact of the course might have been beyond these personal testimonies, but this is something we hope to do in the future. Research into the impact of the summer schools specifically will also continue and the relationship with University of Utrecht is set to grow.

Waterloo Uncovered is proud of these developments in our educational provision. We feel that the summer schools have helped lower barriers to learning for all participants. Secondly, we consider our aim of developing a democratic learning model in which participants learn as much from each other as from the academic content or the professional facilitators of the courses is being well met. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are delighted that participants tell us that they have built social connections and developed their confidence as rounded people and perhaps as emerging academics.



About the author:

Vicki works as the outreach officer for University College Roosevelt (UCR) in the Netherlands. On our summer digs, UCR students begin as novice excavators along with the veterans. Vicki has a Master's degree in archaeology and worked for several years in commercial archaeology before moving into education and research. With Waterloo Uncovered, she is responsible for outreach and student support.

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ALISTAIR DOUGLAS

ARCHAEOLOGIST, DIG 2018

Alistair is a team member with a unique crossover; an archaeologist who has also served in the military. He is one of our Trench Supervisors who joined us on the 2018 dig, leading a team of veterans, soldiers and students to excavate around the boundary wall of Hougoumont Farm in the Killing Ground.



I am a professional archaeologist of over 30 years standing, working mostly in the London region. I have worked on a wide variety of sites which have involved standing masonry and buildings, as well as deeply stratified and multi-phased sites covering the Post Medieval, Medieval, Saxon, Roman and Prehistoric periods. I am also a military veteran having served in the 3rd Battalion Queens Regiment between the years 1976-1979, in Belize, UK and Northern Ireland.

My involvement with Waterloo Uncovered began with a friend, Adam Barker (2016 dig), who repeatedly urged me to get involved as he knew I would love it! I applied to Mark Evans who offered me the position of trench supervisor for the 2018 dig.

I had never been involved in battlefield archaeology before and had not associated with military personnel for over 40 years, so not knowing really what to expect and with a certain amount of trepidation, I joined a bunch of other 'recruits' for the long van journey from London to Waterloo.

I found the whole experience of the dig very emotional, totally exhausting, great fun and deeply rewarding. It has been an absolute privilege to work with such a great team of people. It has helped me to come to terms with my own military experience and I hope I have been able to give to others some benefit of my archaeological knowledge and skill.

I do not really know why what we do at Waterloo Uncovered works for so many military veterans and serving personnel in their efforts to transition to civilian life, but it does! Waterloo Uncovered is like a family, we help each other and look out for each other.



Alistair showing the team how to complete archaeological 'context' sheets

STORIES

VETERAN

RACHEL WILLIS VETERAN, DIG 2017 & 2018

Intelligence Corps

I first heard about Waterloo Uncovered whilst I was still serving but waiting to be medically discharged, via another veteran who had been on the 2016 dig and had had an amazing time.

Lo and behold not long after that, I saw the dig advertised on an archaeological Facebook group and it really piqued my interest. I had previously been on a dig with *Breaking Ground Heritage* and had started volunteering at Wessex Archaeology, but I was keen to do more.

I got through the application process and met up with some of the guys and gals who were going on the 2017 excavation, at the pre-dig trip to the National Army Museum, and bumped into the veteran who had told me about the dig previously (I just thought it was meant to be!).



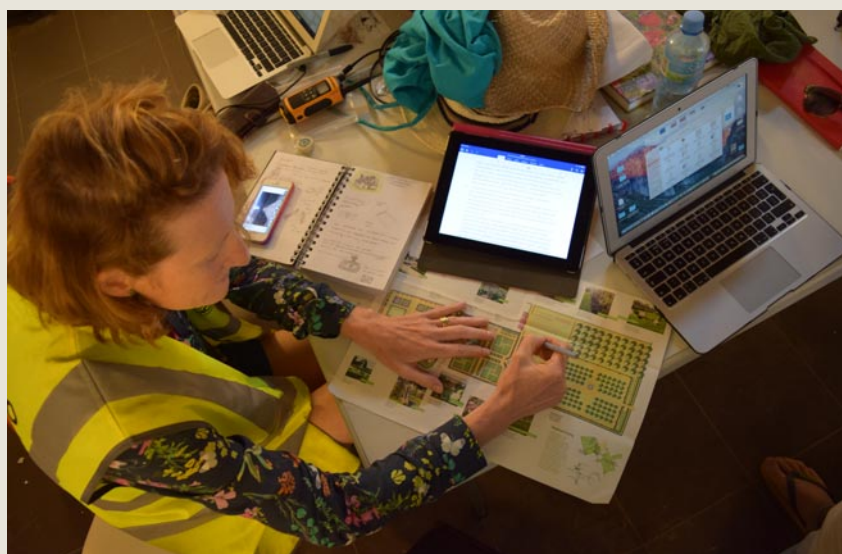
At the beginning of the dig, I found meeting up with everyone very daunting, as I was suffering quite badly with my PTSD symptoms at the time. I could spot the military types straight away, but there were also lots of weird, random-looking people – “must be the archaeologists, students and academics” I thought – and how right I was (but in the best possible way, as I later found out).

The dig was amazing. I got to meet like-minded people, some who had been through similar experiences as I and some who hadn't. Young and old, students, military, archaeologists, academics, different nationalities, all mixed together in a wonderful melting pot of life experiences.

I found out that I had a knack for surveying and after a couple of days I was taking other people around and showing them the ropes! Also my history bug got well and truly activated along with my other passions of horticulture and arts and crafts. I set about researching and reimagining what the walled gardens at Hougoumont would have looked like.

I was sad for the dig to end as I had enjoyed it so much and made many, many new friends. It happened just when I needed it in my recovery journey, as it enabled me to realise that I was still a worthy person and it also ignited old and new passions. It was a 'game changer'.

What's great is my Waterloo Uncovered journey has not stopped there as I help out at fundraisers, Chalke Valley History Festival and also at the annual digs. For the last couple of years I've worked alongside the *Taxi Drivers Charity for Military Veterans* to bring out groups of veterans and cadets to visit the dig. The arrival of a cavalcade of London Black cabs takes a lot of planning – but it's always a highlight!



Rachel's research into the appearance of the formal garden, alongside geophysical survey (see Volume 1), has enabled Dr Stuart Eve to recreate the garden in augmented reality

THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE

In this article Libby Dineley shares with us the experiences of soldiers of all sorts and stations, upon the eve of the battle.

First-hand accounts are, to me, always the most interesting. There are such a quantity relating to Waterloo that it seems best to take a single aspect, that of the beginning, before the battle started. I immediately question, what was the beginning? Some soldiers were at Quatre Bras, some at Ligny, some elsewhere altogether. I decide on the evening before the battle and to explore the discomfort of the night.

Sergeant William Lawrence was an experienced soldier, having served during the Peninsula campaign. "On the 17th of June, 1815, we marched through Brussels, amid the joy of the inhabitants, who brought us all manner of refreshments. I heard some remarks from them to the effect that we were all going to be slaughtered like bullocks, but we only laughed at this, telling them that this was nothing new to us." He goes on to say some of the new recruits were "terribly downcast and frightened at the idea of fighting."

They march five or six miles out of Brussels in the direction of Waterloo where they stop "so that night we crept into any hole we could find, cowsheds, cart-houses, and all kinds of farmstead buildings, for shelter, and I never remember a worse night in all the Peninsular war." He mentions the battles of Ligny and Quatre Bras, saying "but neither side had obtained any great success, beyond thousands killed on both sides; during the night of the 17th, therefore, firing was continually going on, which I could distinctly hear, in spite of its being considerably drowned by the thunder. All that night was one of continual clamour, for thousands of camp-followers were on their retreat to Brussels, fearful of sticking to the army after the Quatre Bras affair.....the roads were impassable, and the people were sometimes completely stuck in the mud."

George Simmons, an officer in the Rifles and another experienced soldier, wrote "The night was very bad. The field where we were was all mud. I got a bundle of straw to lie upon, and I smeared an old blanket with thick, clayey mud, and covered myself with the blanket, which prevented the rain from passing through, and kept me tolerably warm." On the morning of the 18th he says "at daylight the weather cleared. The men commenced cleaning their arms and preparing for the great contest."

What these soldiers politely omit is food, or lack of it. Lt James Hope of the 92nd Highlanders, was more forthright. "Fancy yourself seated on a few twigs, or a little straw, in a newly ploughed field, well soaked with six hours of heavy rain; - your feet six or eight inches deep in the mud.....without a fire, without meat, without drink." He had previously been sent on a mission to find water for the regiment. There were plenty of wells in the vicinity of Waterloo but no ropes. They buckled together twenty-three canteen straps but the wells were still too deep and the odd one they achieved getting to the bottom of, was empty.

The men seat themselves back to back and reminisce of past battles the night through. In the morning the Commissary provided some beef tea (a type of broth made with beef and water) "but very few seemed inclined to take it." They light fires and move to dryer ground. Lt James Hope cuts a steak from the hind quarters of a

bullock and attaches it to a ramrod "till it was tolerably warm." He eats it with some relish "but, to tell you the truth, I was extremely hungry, having had little of anything to eat for two days before." They get their ration of grog and settle to drying their clothes and even build some huts. "Three of us were asleep in one of these, when the bugle's shrill sound called on us to battle."

Private Wheeler of the 51st's comment on the night, when writing home, was "you often blamed me for smoking when I was at home last year but I must tell you if I had not had a good stock of tobacco this night I must have given up the Ghost."

Some people are always upbeat: John Kincaid, an officer in the Rifles, was one such. "It rained excessively hard the greater part of the night; nevertheless, having succeeded in getting a bundle of hay for my horse and one of straw for myself, I secured the horse to his bundle, by tying him to one of the men's swords stuck in the ground, and, placing mine under his nose, I laid myself down upon it, and never opened my eyes until daylight." He wakes up very wet. "I had slept so long and soundly that I had, at first, but a very confused notion of my situation; but having the bright idea that my horse had been my companion when I went to sleep, I was rather startled to find I was now alone." He reflects on the vital necessity of having a horse and the unlikely chance of finding him "amongst ten thousand others". After an hour's search, by great good luck, it is found.

"We made a fire against the wall of Sir Andrew Barnard's cottage, and boiled a huge camp kettle full of tea, mixed up with a suitable quantity of milk and sugar, for breakfast; and, as it stood on the edge of the high road, where all the big-wigs of the army had occasion to pass, in the early part of the morning, I believe almost everyone of them, from the Duke downwards, claimed a cupful."

Edmund Wheatley was a young officer in the Kings German Legion, a likeable sort of fellow but sometimes irascible, sometimes amusing. On the 17th he is accosted by an acquaintance wishing him to admire a new horse. He sends him about his business. "What provoked me was his prancing the mud in my face, by which manoeuvre my military hat fell in the mud, out of which dropped my night Cap and some brown bread which were completely soaked."

Previous to this he was under orders to clear the highway at Genappe where the wounded were coming in from Quatre Bras... "crowds and crowds of cavalry poured in each man leading his horse by the bridle with a wounded foot soldier laying across the saddle. A thought instantly suggested itself that instead of driving off the Commissary carts of beef and liquor, I would empty them in the ditches and put the wounded in [the carts], which my men succeeded in doing with considerable opposition." Wheatley was often high handed and I can see his point. It would however help explain why so few rations were forthcoming! "In the course of two hours we had pretty much cleared the place."

George Farmer of the 11th Light Dragoons was an experienced soldier. Provision of pay as well as food was erratic. Rapid as their march had been to get up to the front, they were too late for Quatre Bras but spent the night there. "The outposts of infantry chose to



"Camp Scenes" courtesy of the Council of the National Army Museum, London

skirmish instead of sleep, and we were in consequence kept constantly on the alert.....the horses had not tasted water since the march began, and the darkness was such as, combined with their extreme weariness, hindered our men in general from going in search of it." Farmer, aware how dependent he must be on the "efficiency" of his horse, said "I resolved, at all hazards, to fetch him some water."

"Armed each with a pistol, and carrying a sack and leathern bucket in our hands, my comrade and I stole from the bivouac." They make for a village they had noticed about a mile away. All had "the stillness of the grave" but finding a house with a light in the window they knocked on the door and were admitted. They were taken aback to find a French Grenadier smoking his pipe in the corner. Farmer cocks his pistol at him but "he welcomed us with perfect self-possession; and pointing to his knee, informed us he was wounded." They leave him alone. The master of the house tells them he has no food as the French have taken everything but Farmer's companion makes a search of the cellar and comes away with part of a ham, a loaf of bread and some butter. On the way back they find a ditch with some water so they fill the buckets and are able to tell the others where it is, so the horses are watered but no one else has any food.

The following day they cover the retreat towards Waterloo. "We halted that night behind the crest of the rising ground which is still pointed out to the curious traveller as the Duke of Wellington's

position on the great day of Waterloo." They too are in a ploughed field. "At every step you took, you sank to the knees, and your foot, when you dragged it to the surface again, came loaded with some twenty pounds of clay." They burnt "various articles of furniture" as there was no fuel to be had to make fires. "Then as to food – if I could except a single biscuit and a glass of spirits – none had been served out since daybreak, and none came throughout the whole of that dreary night, either to officers or to men."

They move camp before day-break. "We shifted our ground to the brow of the hill, and there watered our horses. That done we dismounted; and removing the remnant of our fuel to the new parade ground we again lighted fires, and dried as well as we could, both our clothes and accoutrements. The Commissary, however, was slow in making his appearance; so, entertaining serious misgivings both to my own powers of endurance, and those of my steed, which had been tried well-nigh to the uttermost, I determined, let come what might, to find a breakfast for both." You may be sure he was soon off, having spotted a village in the rear. "I ran thither, but looked about vainly, in every house, for those things of which I was in want. At last, just I had come to the conclusion that further search would be useless, and that I had best return, I entered an apartment, where, in the middle of the floor, sat a solitary Yorkshireman, with a brown jug between his legs. He laughed, begged me to come in, and offered to share with me what he had: it was bread and sour cream, out of which both he and I made a capitol breakfast. After which, I mounted by a trap-ladder to a loft, where to my great delight, stores of both oats and peas were deposited. I filled my handkerchief, which was a large one." Thus he contrived to feed himself as well as his horse but what about everyone else, less resourceful, less experienced? It is astonishing how man and beast survived the day on, in the majority of cases, no sustenance. It has been said that many survived intestinal wounds they might not have survived otherwise, owing to the emptiness, therefore cleanliness, of the gut.

To return to Edmund Wheatley, he and his detachment had spent the night in a barn and then moved up to Waterloo. "Nothing could exceed the miserable state in which I found the army." He states the position of his battalion and then goes on to describe, in poetic terms, how the massed French appeared on the "opposite heights... ..boding ruin and destruction." He "felt very uneasy that I had left no letter of remembrance behind me."

In 2002 I took a cutting from 'The Independent Review'. One William Allingham, on November 1st 1872, is dining in the company of the historian, Thomas Carlyle. "I told the account of the battle given me by Tom Patten of Ballyshannon, which amounted to this – he was 'a'most smothered with smoke, and *mortal hungry* (nothing to ait all day); when the French ran, he prowled about for something to put between his teeth, and found a live goose; three or four men came up, but he defended the goose at the point of the bayonet, and they agreed it should be shared; so they plucked it, made a fire and 'ait' it half raw.

About the author:

Libby Dineley is an author and a scholar of the Battle of Waterloo. She first began researching first hand accounts of the battle for her book, 'The Death of Lyndon Wilder and the Consequences Thereof', set in 19th century Britain. She has accumulated a tremendous personal archive of the experiences of the soldiers who fought in the Napoleonic Wars.

RUPERT BARCLAY

VOLUNTEER, DIGS 2015-2018

Rupert is a freelance Producer/Director & Digital Content Creator. He has been documenting the life of the project on film since the very beginning.

I studied a BA and MA in archaeology at UCL's Institute of Archaeology, in the same year as Mark, Charlie, Peter, Stuart and Vicki etc., and we are all buddies. I worked as a professional archaeologist for several years, mostly in the Middle East and North Africa, before moving into television production in the mid 2000's. I thought I had left archaeology behind me, but in 2014 Mark told me about the Waterloo Uncovered project as it was beginning to come together and I loved the idea of it.

When out at the battlefield I try to film as much as possible of what is happening in the trenches, to create a video archive for the project, but that is just the beginning. Every year the communications ('comms') for the project have become more and more sophisticated, with video content being created for TV and online platforms, as well as bespoke content for sponsors and events for publicity and fundraising. This means that in the comms team we film during the day and edit in the evening, in order to stay on top of the immediate demand from the press and the project's own daily content. There is a really good atmosphere and the energy bounces off one another.

I am currently finishing the edit on the 2018 'Archaeology Summary' and the 2018 'Veteran's Summary', which will go on the Waterloo Uncovered YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/waterloouncovered), and prepping for follow up films about some of our veteran participants. From the beginning I have been impressed by the level of commitment shown by those involved in the project, many of whom are volunteering their services whilst maintaining the highest of standards, whether they are archaeologists or providing support or involved in comms or managing the daily organisation. It is the veterans and soldiers however who are the most impressive source of inspiration, particularly through their resilience, bravery and spirit.



Friends since university (left to right): Vicki Haverkate, Peter Ginn, Matt Easton, Stu Eve, Mark Evans, Rupert Barclay, and Charlie Foinette

STORIES

ARCHAEOLOGIST

EMILY GLASS DIGS 2015-2018

Emily is an archaeological trench supervisor with Waterloo Uncovered. She has been an archaeologist for 25 years working on excavations across the UK and abroad and is currently completing her PhD at the University of Bristol. Her research takes a modern conflict archaeological approach to the militarised landscapes and 'mushroom-shaped bunkers' of Cold War Albania.

When I was given the opportunity to participate in the 2015 Waterloo Uncovered excavations, I was both honoured and excited to be involved with such an important historical site during its bicentennial year. Working with veterans and serving military personnel was to be a new experience for me and I relished the challenge, with the hope that we would find new insights into the battle through archaeology. Effectively we are looking for evidence of a single day's fighting and its immediate aftermath, but the landscape holds so much more. We have found remains of life prior to the battle, but also artefacts that relate to Waterloo commemorative activities, from battlefield tourism to re-enactment events. My interest in contemporary archaeology leaves me fascinated when we find objects from later acts of remembrance as these only exist because of what happened on the 18th of June 1815.

As a trench supervisor, I guide a mixed team of veterans, serving personnel and students, most of whom have never taken part in an archaeological dig before. My job is to show how archaeologists document soil differences and objects to produce detailed written and drawn records for the future; the participants become an active part of this. Between 2017 and 2018, I supervised trenches in the courtyard of Hougoumont Farm looking for evidence of the eastern and northern barn ranges. This was truly a unique experience as the walls we found gave us the barn dimensions, showed building divisions in the eastern range and established which parts were earlier than others through different construction techniques. This information has fed into the 3D-modelling and digital reconstructions that are being worked on by other members of Waterloo Uncovered.

My trench teams have been multinational as well as multi-ability, which led to us learning much from each other as well as bonding over shared experiences and stories. It is crucial to take differing abilities into consideration with regular task-swapping and tool-testing to see which implements work best for each person. Mental health issues are also prevalent, but it is the choice of that individual as to what they decide to share. A trench-routine develops over the first couple of days and participants become more confident in their work and with each other. This is something I feel privileged to witness, as helping people to learn new skills – particularly for tasks they are convinced they cannot achieve – is incredibly rewarding. No matter what mix of people and abilities I have worked with at Waterloo, I have always been left genuinely impressed by their teamwork, capacity and desire to get the trench finished to a high standard.

The personal and professional experiences I have gained with Waterloo Uncovered have gone so much further than my expectations back in 2015. This is an exceptional project that sits with me on a much deeper and constructive level than most other digs. Largely, this is due to the people and the solid sense of friendship and community that has grown out of our shared experiences on the Waterloo Battlefield. The project works hard to keep people connected, with the positive notion that no matter what level your involvement is, you are not alone, you are part of a team.



Emily, veteran Sean Douglas and serving soldier Charlie Foinette excavating metal detected finds in the Killing Ground in 2015

THE FINDS OF WATERLOO UNCOVERED 2017-2018

*With each year of excavation, more and more details of the battle and its location are brought to light, filling in gaps and often posing new questions. **Euan Loarridge** takes the story onwards.*

In the first volume of our Project Review, Finds Officer Hillery Harrison shone a spotlight on the work of our Finds Team and described some of the more interesting objects recovered from the 2015 and 2016 digs. In this article, we'll bring you up to date with an overview of the finds from our most recent 2017 and 2018 summer excavations. These last two years have proved particularly exciting. Not only has the quantity and quality of artefacts been exceptional, but as the focus of the project has moved beyond the environs of Hougoumont Farm, we've begun to encounter objects from other parts of the Waterloo Battlefield. These objects can help us understand more about the whole lifetime of the site: before, during and after the events of June 1815.

Throughout the 2017 and 2018 field seasons, our Finds Team have operated out of a room in the South Gatehouse of Hougoumont Farm. There, a rotation of team members assist Hillery, Euan and Emile to clean, dry and catalogue every single artefact recovered from the trenches. Each of these objects are then sent upstairs

to be photographed by Felicity Handford and her Photography Team. Once each find has been properly cleaned and recorded, it is carefully packaged for transport to L - P : Archaeology's finds processing unit in the UK. There, it undergoes more in-depth analysis.

Over the course of four weeks during the summers of 2017 and 2018, the Finds Team processed 2,008 individual artefacts from three different locations on the Waterloo Battlefield. However, less than 30% of these finds can be provisionally dated to the Napoleonic period. Furthermore, the vast majority of Napoleonic artefacts are pieces of lead shot, including 530 musket balls. This means that, aside from ammunition, artefacts directly related to the events of June 1815 remain relatively rare and important discoveries.

THE 2017 FIELD SEASON

2017 has perhaps proved to be our most successful summer so far with 1,158 finds being recovered over the course of two weeks.



Euan and Hillery giving a briefing in 2017 on handling artefacts once they've been excavated



(Left) Combi-tool found in the Killing Ground near the eastern corner of Hougoumont's boundary wall (BA17HOU_1873) and (right) a re-enactor's replica Combi-tool

The Finds Team debated on whether to name 2017, the 'year of grapeshot' or the 'year of the combi-tool' as both objects were found in impressive numbers. Iron grapeshot, used as close-range anti-personnel ammunition by Napoleonic artillery, have been found at Hougoumont Farm in previous years. However, in 2017, archaeologists and metal detectorists uncovered a dozen examples of these artefacts. More than twice as many as both the 2015 and 2016 seasons combined! These discoveries will play an important role in developing our understanding of the use of artillery fire support during the battle.

Meanwhile, metal detecting in the area known as the Killing Ground unearthed three iron combination tools used for disassembling and repairing flintlock muskets. These handy tools, important for maintaining a working weapon, are instantly recognisable to the modern soldier and would have been carried by every infantryman during the Battle of Waterloo. As such they are exactly the type of artefact that we would expect to be dropped and lost in the confusion of a Napoleonic battle. To find three examples, one after another, so close together is indicative of the heavy fighting which must have taken place outside of the boundary wall of Hougoumont's formal garden.

The argument over whether 2017 would be the year of grapeshot or of the combination tool was settled by a third discovery. Close to the end of our time on site, VSMPs working in the courtyard of Hougoumont Farm unearthed a small burnt copper button. Preserved in the buried remains of a barn which had burnt down during the battle, this button retained clearly the star of the *Order of the Garter*, identifying it as belonging to a soldier of the 2nd (Coldstream) Foot Guards. Its location, construction and preser-

vation date it to 1815. To find an artefact belonging to a Coldstream Guard, just metres from the North Gate, which was famously closed by members of that regiment, is one of the most exciting discoveries of the entire project so far.

While most finds in 2017 have come from the area around Hougoumont, a further 100 artefacts have been recovered from a secondary survey in the vicinity of Mont-Saint-Jean Farm (1.6km north east of Hougoumont). During the Battle, this farm served as the location for an Allied army field hospital, and it was hoped that this area could provide some artefacts related to medical or other rear support services. However, nearby road works have caused significant ground disturbance, meaning the potential for battle related finds wasn't very promising. Nevertheless, this survey produced our first musket balls from outside the Hougoumont area and we were excited to find seven examples of both Allied and French calibre lead shot. The further excavation of Mont-Saint-Jean will form an important part of our story of the 2019 dig.

THE 2018 FIELD SEASON

While 2017 had been one of our most productive years on site in terms of the quantity of archaeological finds, 2018 may well have been one of our poorest. The two-week field season took place in the midst of a heatwave, during which Belgium experienced its second highest temperature ever on record. Not only did this make working conditions more difficult, but it also dramatically affected the recovery of artefacts, as the dry soil proved resistant, both to excavation and to metal detectors. Two weeks of



Several pieces of grapeshot (pieces of round shot fired from cannons) were found in 2017 throughout the Killing Ground

excavation at Hougomont in 2018 yielded just 452 finds, less than half of what was found the year before.

This assemblage was supplemented by a further 401 artefacts from several secondary sites near La Haye Sainte, at what was the centre of the Allied line. 42 of these finds were pieces of battle related lead shot, musket balls and so on. But other interesting finds from this area included a late 19th century copper medallion commemorating the 1882 'Fete de Flammande' in Charleroi. This annual festival, which continues to this day, celebrates the famous Flemish victory over the French at the 1302 Battle of Courtrai (Kotrijk). This evidence of a Flemish festival taking place in the predominantly Wallonian city of Charleroi is a fascinating insight into a piece of Belgian social history.

The Battle of Waterloo was just one event in the long history of the site. During the 2018 dig we uncovered a number of artefacts that point to everyday life on Hougomont Farm in the centuries before the battle. One particularly important example is a customs seal recovered from the 'Kitchen Garden' area. This seal probably dates to the 17th century and would have been attached to a delivery of cloth (likely wool or linen) to the farmhouse. The textile industry was the backbone of the local economy during this period and the seal is physical evidence of the farm taking part in that trade network.

The 2018 season also added a wide variety of coinage to the collection, including two Spanish Netherlands coins from the 17th century, two 18th century Austrian Netherlands coins and even a 1793 1 Sol, or Sou, coin from the First French Republic. This latter coin is particularly interesting as it was recovered from the Killing Ground and could very well have been dropped by a French soldier taking part in the fighting on the 18th of June or perhaps even during earlier fighting. Taken together, these coins give an overview of the tu-

multuous political history of the region as it passed through Spanish, Austrian, French and Dutch influence before finally gaining its independence 15 years after the battle.

While the 2018 field season produced fewer finds than previous years, the quality has remained excellent. About 40% of the 853 finds recovered from both the Hougomont and La Haye Sainte sites can be dated to the Napoleonic period, including 178 musketballs. Perhaps the most inspiring find is another copper button, this time found in the Kitchen Garden outside Hougomont. At first, it was believed to be a French officer's button. However, after further research, it was confirmed to be a button worn by German Nassau light infantry in Dutch service. Nassau had been an ally of France until 1814 and still wore French style uniforms. The discovery of this button is a clear reminder of the Dutch-German contribution to Allied victory, a fact often overlooked in English language accounts.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

This article has aimed to give a brief overview of the material recovered during the 2017 and 2018 field seasons. However, there is still a lot of analysis to be done and what is presented here only scratches the surface. As of 2018, there are over four and a half thousand artefacts in the Waterloo Uncovered collection, making it one of the largest battlefield assemblages in the world. The work of the Finds Team continues long after the trenches are backfilled as we work to conserve and interpret these artefacts for the future. Nevertheless, as the project and the number of finds continues to grow, we remain excited to see what new material will be uncovered, particularly as the project begins to look further afield, to other parts of the Waterloo Battlefield.



A Coldstream Officer's button (BA18HOU_2258), and epaulette wire (BA18HOU_2259), found inside the burned buried remains of the north barn in Hougomont's courtyard



Button worn by the German Nassau light infantry (BA18HOU_2630)



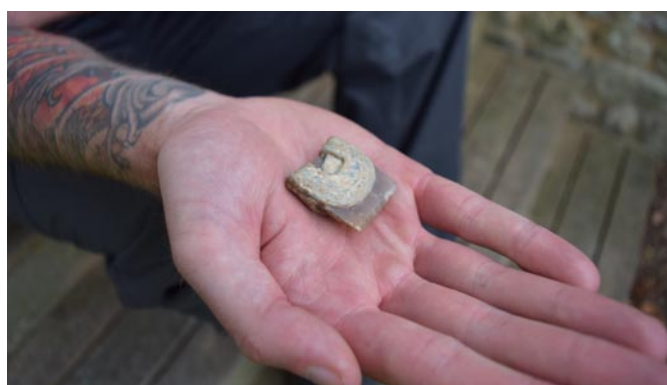
Seal for cloth delivery (BA18HOU_2644)



A Sol, or Sou, coin from the First French Republic dated 1793 (BA18HOU_2509)



Medallion commemorating the 1882 'Fete de Flammande' (LAS18LHS_202)



The gun flint is a part of the musket mechanism, which strikes the frizzen in order to ignite the gun powder - this French flint (BA17HOU_1408) has a decorative 'horseshoe' design



A mechanism of Musket furniture: A frizzen (BA17HOU_1742) (a piece of steel used to produce a spark when struck by the musket flint) considerably worn due to use in combat



Royal Marine veteran Mike Mortimore coaxes a musket ball from the sun-baked clay



About the author:

Euan is currently a PhD Student at the University of Glasgow, focusing on Conflict History and Archaeology. On site, he works with Hillery Harrison in the Finds Office, assisting in the cleaning, cataloguing, storage and analysis of all the artefacts recovered from the excavation.

FRANCESCA BENETTI

DIG 2018

Francesca is an Italian PhD student who joined WU in 2018 after an Erasmus study period in the UK.

The day I moved in with my boyfriend, he came home carrying a big poster with the famous painting of Napoleon by Jacques Luis David. "It's a bit old fashioned..." I tried to argue, but he insisted on having it hung just above the desk, in the study. I started writing my archaeology PhD thesis with Napoleon above my head. Then during my Erasmus period, I moved to London for six months and I found it funny that the very first lecture I attended at UCL was related to... Waterloo! Napoleon was following me! At that lecture Mark Evans introduced WU and their work at the Waterloo battlefield, and at the very end he called for volunteers. I jumped at the chance; I offered my professional experience in publishing for the production of the first Project Review (Volume 1: 2015 - 2016) and I then joined the team for the 2018 excavation.

Now, I should say that I grew up in Italy and before this experience I hadn't had any contact with military life. I admit that just before the start of the excavation I was a bit worried: two weeks of full immersion in a non-native language, working in battlefield archaeology with a methodology I wasn't familiar with, with military people who, before that time, I had only 'seen' in movies. When I got there, it took me a very short time to realise there was nothing to be worried about. At the dig I became part of the survey team, in charge of positioning all the finds using the GPS and the total station. I really enjoyed it, as it gave me the opportunity to see all of the finds across the excavation, and have a global vision of the site. I also had the chance to learn more about the Battle of Waterloo, something that wasn't on my school curriculum, and about battlefield archaeology, a field of study that in Italy is still undervalued and underrepresented at university. Most of all, however, I enjoyed having the opportunity to meet people that I normally don't have the chance to meet. I became friends with an amazing bunch of people and I feel I'll always have a second home in the UK.

Most importantly, participating in this dig forced me to get out of my comfort zone in a period when I was asking myself what purpose archaeology has in our society. At the end of the dig I had an answer to this question as I saw the benefits of archaeology for veterans, I felt more confident in myself, I found new friends and I learned a lot. When I got home, after the dig, I entered the study room to put my laptop back on the desk. Napoleon was still there, imperious on his horse. I smiled at him and switched off the light, secretly thanking him for following me to the UK and leading me to Waterloo.



Francesca and Dr Stuart Eve set up the GPS

STORIES

VOLUNTEER

DAVID ULKE VETERAN, DIG 2015

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service 1988-2014

David has served as the Veteran and Welfare/Wellbeing Officer since the first excavation in 2015. Two weeks away from home can often be equal parts invigorating and draining; throughout the dig David and the other members of the Wellbeing team provide their expertise as mental health professionals, to support anyone in need of a quick pit-stop. David is also at the heart of the applicant selection process.



After serving as a mental health nurse with the Royal Air Force a chance encounter towards the end of my military career reignited an interest in history and archaeology. As a board member sitting on the Defence Archaeology Group, an opportunity presented itself to take part in an excavation with *Operation Nightingale* in Wales. This resulted in a number of doors opening, including the chance to apply to read full-time for a degree in archaeology at Leicester University, and my asking to participate in the first full dig at Hougoumont Farm with *Waterloo Uncovered* in 2015. I was offered the role of 'digger' or welfare support for my fellow veterans on site, so I agreed to undertake both! That first dig emphasised that having someone with the requisite skills on site could prove beneficial, so the role and function for our Welfare and Wellbeing team (all of whom are mental health professionals who volunteer their time for the project) has developed over the ensuing years to form an integral part of supporting the 'Waterloo Uncovered experience' for anyone (veteran or serving personnel, specialist or volunteer) who participates.

It is worth repeating here that the Welfare/Wellbeing role is not about clinical intervention but more about providing consistent cover and the 'listening ear' offered to participants should they feel they need it, whether it is 'on site' or during 'down time'. The skill sets of our Welfare and Wellbeing team members mean we can give participants the time and space needed and also signpost them, if necessary, to established agencies in their home area. If they already are supported, we can ask permission to liaise and feedback to their clinician or support worker to ensure continuity in support.

Being part of the *Waterloo Uncovered* family has not been all one-sided of course. It allowed me to research what it is that veterans and serving military personnel gain from participating in archaeology as part of my undergraduate dissertation, with a view to publishing the results and pushing for more research in this field. I have also been able to meet some of the champions of archaeology and public engagement, which has helped me to enhance the delivery of the 'Waterloo experience', and has created new and lasting friendships. I could not really have anticipated or asked for more.

A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR BELGIAN COLLEAGUES

Dominique Bosquet is an Archaeological Director on the project, representing one of our key partner organisations - the Service Publique de Wallonie/Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine (SPW-AWaP). Dom explains how our Belgian colleagues came to be involved in the project and how their knowledge and expertise is a linchpin for our operation.

Wallonia is one of the sole regions of Europe where heritage is fully managed by the public authorities (SPW), by way of the Walloon Heritage Agency (AWaP). As a signatory of the Valletta Convention (Malta, 1992), Wallonia applies the preventive archaeology policy advocated by the convention. Preventive archaeology, sometimes known as Rescue archaeology, takes place ahead of developments to detect and record finds that might otherwise be lost. AWaP decides which urban projects should be subject to preventive archaeological interventions, provides excavation services, conducts post excavation research and publication, and delivers excavation permits to other archaeological teams, such as universities, local amateur archaeological associations, foreign researchers and other institutions.

AWaP's first archaeological encounters on the Waterloo Battlefield were made when various sites on the battlefield were subject to renovation in 2015, in preparation for the bicentenary of the Battle. This project included the construction of a new car park covering three hectares along the highway between the Lion Mound and Mont-Saint-Jean Farm. The results were negative in all but one of the 130 test trenches opened, in which the body of a young Hanoverian soldier with parts of his equipment were found. This was the first official archaeological discovery on the Battlefield, making quite a stir at that time.

SPW-AWaP has been involved in WU since the beginning. Rather than simply underwriting the permit for the excavation, it was obvious to SPW authorities that AWaP should be associated with the project and actively take part in it. This was especially important since the Waterloo Battlefield (the first site to have been legally protected in Belgium in 1915), had never been subject to any archaeological excavations worthy of the name before Waterloo Uncovered, except for the discovery of the famous Soldier.

Since 2015 (the first WU campaign at Hougoumont), the AWaP team has supported the dig with our archaeologists who have an in-depth knowledge of the geomorphological context in which excavations take place, close contacts with Walloon authorities and with the local landowners and all other local actors in a broad sense. WU also takes advantage of AWaP's logistics and scientific collaborations, notably with the Belgian Royal Institute of Natural Sciences.

As a permanent member of the Waterloo Uncovered team, each year AWaP works with our partners to set the excavation aims and strategy, with a collaborative mindset which characterises the project. This fruitful collaboration will obviously continue and will carry us all over the Battlefield, uncovering the fact-based reality about this monumental European battle.



AWaP's excavations on the Grognon (city centre of Namur): 10,000 years of continuous human occupation, 18 month of excavation

STORIES

VETERAN

BRADLEY HERNÁNDEZ

VETERAN, DIG 2017

4th Infantry Division and 82nd Airborne Division 2003 - 2010

I am a Mexican-American veteran from San Antonio, Texas who honorably served in the U.S. Army from January 2003 to November 2010 and was deployed three times to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 4th Infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division. After my eight year mandatory military service I decided to go to college and study archaeology because I wanted to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming an archaeologist.

After graduating from college in 2015 I participated in my first archaeological dig in Halmirys, Romania which was a Roman fort close to the Danube river. I really enjoyed it, and decided to go back the following summer. In 2017 while studying abroad in Rennes, France, I was contacted by another American veteran who knew Mark from Waterloo Uncovered. I had an interview with him and other members of Waterloo Uncovered and days later I was offered a place to dig at the battle site of Waterloo. The day I was accepted to be part of the Waterloo Uncovered group is among the happiest days of my life because not too many archaeologists have the opportunity to dig at one of the most important battle sites of Europe. I strongly believe that the Battle of Waterloo shaped the future of Europe in the 19th century.

Whilst excavating at Hougoumont Farm I had the opportunity to learn different techniques from professional archaeologists and photographers that were very useful for future excavations I went on. I enjoyed doing photography and curating the items recovered by the other members, but to me the best part was being part of an international team where most of the members were veterans. Working side by side and sharing my experience with British veterans helped me realise that the psychological and physical issues suffered from the military service are not unique to American veterans.

Being part of Waterloo Uncovered in 2017 was an experience and an adventure because I have travelled to different countries and being in England for the first time in my life, crossing the English Channel and visiting the Waterloo Memorial are memories that I won't forget. I also became friend with a Royal Marine veteran named Michael. I consider him a very close friend even though we shared just two weeks of digging at Hougoumont Farm. We realised that military service changes you for the rest of your life no matter the country or conflict you have served in. I believe that all the veterans have a connection that is understood by other veterans. I hope Waterloo Uncovered continues for many years helping those who served their countries.



Bradley and Michael

STEPHEN DEWHIRST

SERVING MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIG 2017

Royal Corps of Signals 2013 - 2018

I first heard about WU17 via an email sent to me from my chain of command. Having picked up an injury early in my career I hadn't had an opportunity to get away or to see anywhere new, so the chance to spend a couple of weeks in Belgium was what initially piqued my interest.

I didn't really know much about archaeology to begin with or in fact much about the Battle of Waterloo but it gave me a goal to go and research and learn about it. I didn't really know what to expect when I got there, but I felt very welcome from the off. I got to meet people in the same situation as myself - living with a degree of uncertainty about their future army career - and also veterans, archaeologists, students amongst others.

We were divided into teams with an archaeologist supervisor and on the first day had a "round robin" of training sessions before we started covering basic techniques, like how to excavate a trench, survey an archaeological site or record finds. Mainly I was excavating the Killing Ground where we uncovered musket balls and bits of artillery shells.

I also worked on digging a trench in a field of potatoes just beyond the killing ground. We were investigating for signs of any mass grave that might have been dug there for the casualties of the battle. Some of the drawings and prints made after the battle show a grave near to the south entrance of Hougoumont. We didn't find any evidence of one but we dug a neat trench. That's one thing the army teaches you to do well - to dig a hole!

During my time there I made some good friends, learnt a great deal about history, archaeology and more importantly myself. I'd definitely recommend anyone in the same situation as me to take the opportunity to go if it presents itself.



*On the left: Stephen holding a piece of grape shot he found
Above: "Round robin" session, dig day one, on how to lay out a trench*

MODELLING BATTLEFIELDS

Archaeologists and historians use many types of data to interrogate the past – Dr Stu Eve explains how one unusual source, a model made in 1838, is enabling us to understand the historic landscape of the battlefield.

SIBORNE AND THE LARGE MODEL

Over the last 200 years, the battlefield of Waterloo has been represented in countless different ways including stories; paintings; etchings; maps; models; and even computer games. However, one set of models stands out from the rest, and that is the large scale dioramas produced under instruction from the British army by Captain William Siborne in 1838. Commissioned in 1830 by the Commander in Chief of the Army, Lord Hill, Siborne was instructed to produce a scale model of the battlefield, partly in response to the new addition of the Lion Mound, which according to Wellington “ruined” his battlefield.

Siborne was an army officer by profession, but his real passion lay in surveying and model making. He authored a number of publications on the subject of topographical modelling:

“Nothing can tend more to facilitate the acquirement of a proper knowledge of physical geography than the study of models of different portions of the earth’s surface. Maps and plans, owing to the multiplicity of lines required both in the delineation of topographical detail and in that of the features of ground, soon fatigue the eye, even of a person long habituated to the use of them, and rarely succeed in impressing upon the mind that correct and distinct image of nature which we derive from the view of models.” – Siborne’s ‘Practical Treatise on Topographical Surveying and Drawing’ (1827).

Siborne ended up constructing a number of different models of Waterloo at various scales, but for the purposes of this short article I will concentrate on what has come to be called the ‘Large Model’, currently housed in the Battle Gallery of the National Army Museum (NAM), London.

The Large Model is indeed very large, it measures 8.3m x 6m and is constructed in 39 different sections. It covers the entirety of the battlefield and was made initially from a clay mould which was then cast in plaster. Siborne spent a total of eight months surveying and walking the battlefield of Waterloo – creating an incredibly accurate model of both the topography and also the terrain. As many Waterloo enthusiasts will be aware, alongside the physical landscape survey, he also sent out hundreds of letters to unit commanders and Waterloo veterans from all sides of the conflict in order to ascertain and properly model the locations of the troops at a particular time of the battle (the so-called ‘crisis’). These accounts and his placement of the thousands of tin soldiers proved to be extremely controversial and there is little room here to discuss them further, however for those that want to learn more of the controversy please refer to Peter Hofschröer’s *‘Wellington’s Smallest Victory’* or Malcom Balen’s *‘A Model Victory’*.

For our current purposes, however, as part of the responses to his letters Siborne also requested the commanders provide an overview of the elements such as the state of cultivation of the crops and



Fig. 1. A snapshot of one of the sections of Siborne's model, housed at the National Army Museum

the placement of the hedges in the various areas of fighting. This information allowed him to augment his model with the correct tree and crop cover across the entirety of the battlefield. This is invaluable to archaeologists and historians as it allows us to visualise each field across the battlefield, and get a much clearer idea of lines of sight and the possible difficulties of troop movement. His overall aim was to produce a model as topographically accurate as possible, and as shall be seen he did an extremely good job of it.

USING THE MODEL FOR RESEARCH

The battlefield as it stands today has been protected for a long time, and therefore has not changed a massive amount compared to the fate of many other famous battlefields around the world. Nonetheless, the processes of modernity have inevitably taken a toll where areas of new development and road building schemes cluster around the battlefield's edges. Intensive farming has inevitably caused erosion and hillwash (the accumulation, through gravity, of soil and rock at the bottom of a hill) in various areas. Industrialised farming and consolidation has also shifted field boundaries on the battlefield and removed hedge lines. The layout of some of the buildings used during the battle have also changed. We were wondering if we could find a way to compare the field systems and buildings of Siborne's model with the current landscape, to find out where change has occurred, understand what is on the ground and to better inform our excavations.

In order to achieve this, we decided to use a technique known as photogrammetry to capture the model digitally in 3D. Photogrammetry works by taking photos from many different angles of the object and feeding them into a series of algorithms, that compare the photographs, find points of convergence and finally extract the 3D information. This model can then be manipulated on a computer, viewed from different angles and the 3D information can be further extracted and analysed.

As a trial of the technique, the National Army Museum kindly allowed us to visit their storage facility while the model was being

conserved before display in their newly refurbished Battle Gallery. We made a photogrammetric model of a number of sections, including Hougoumont and the results were very impressive (Figure 2). Following this trial work, the NAM decided to commission a scan of the entire model, both for use in their AV exhibit, but they have also made it available to WU for use in our research. This has allowed us to use the model in a number of different exciting and useful ways.

'GOOGLE EARTH 1815'

Firstly, we can take the 3D model and use it in the same way that Google uses satellite images for Google Earth. By aligning and scaling the model using real geographic coordinates we can overlay an ortho-rectified (a process that removes distortions in the image) copy onto our modern maps and have a picture of the lay of the land in full colour (with the different crops, and field boundaries on show). As can be seen from Figure 3, the alignment of the historic features with the modern features is excellent. This alignment works at larger scales as well (Figure 4), and as can be seen from the overlay of the two sections near Hougoumont, is a real testament to Siborne's accuracy and precision in surveying and modelling.

EXTRACTING AND USING THE DIGITAL ELEVATION MODEL

The beauty of using a physical model in this way, is that we can also extract the 3D data from it as well, so as well as comparing the landscape in two dimensions (X and Y), we can also use the Z axis to compare the elevation data of the original 1815 landscape with the modern landscape. This allows us to identify areas where the landscape has changed, such as areas that have been built up or raised, or areas that have been excavated since 1815. The first process is to extract a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) from the 3D model of Siborne's model (Figure 5). In a similar way to displaying data from drone surveys or laser scanning, we take the z values from the 3D model and convert them to a greyscale range, with the darker areas being low elevation and the brighter areas being higher elevation.

We can then compare the elevation taken from Siborne's model with the modern elevation model extracted from a LiDAR survey of the battlefield area. The LiDAR model is created by flying an aeroplane with a laser scanner attached, that records elevation

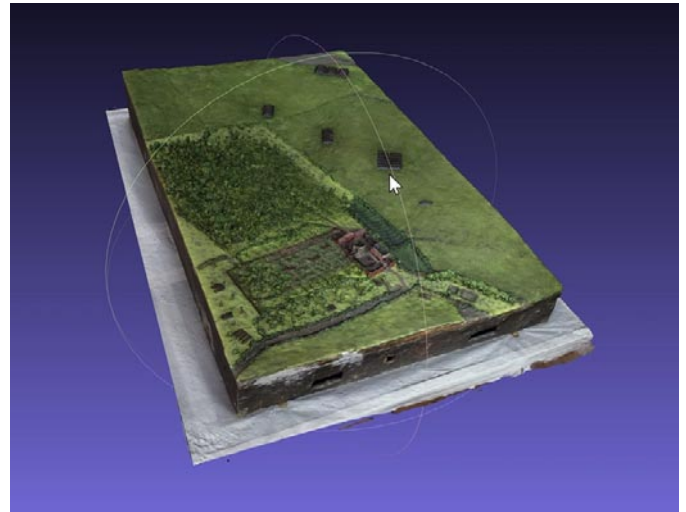


Fig. 2. Part of the model, showing the section with Hougoumont Farm

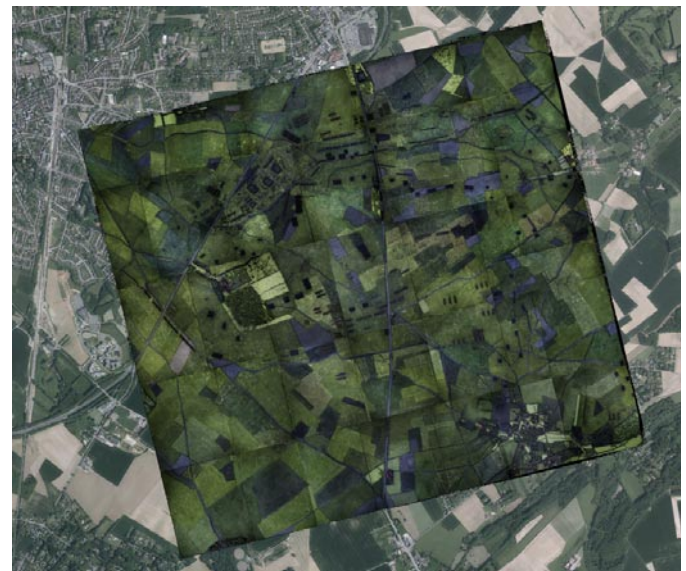


Fig. 3. The complete '3D' model overlain onto Google Earth satellite imagery – note how well the 1838 model slots into the modern map

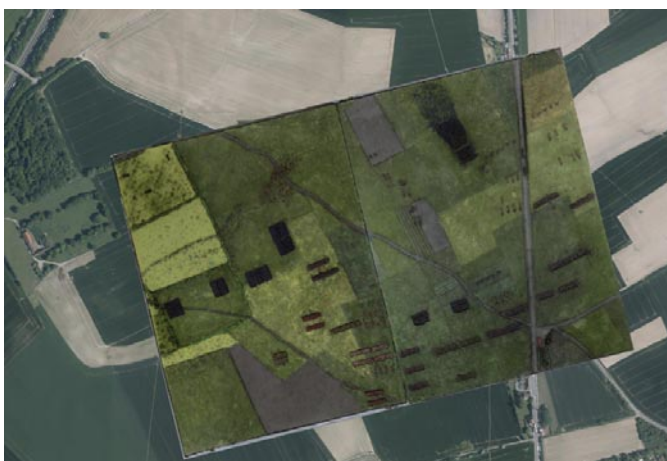


Fig. 4. A 'zoomed in' view of just Hougoumont section, again illustrating the accuracy of the 19th century surveyors

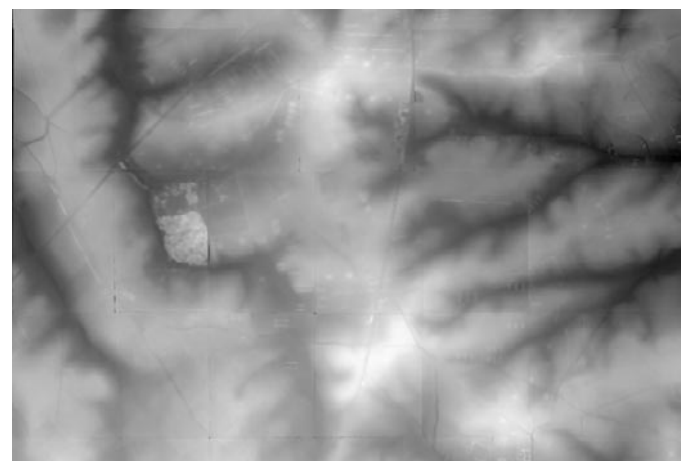


Fig. 5. This figure shows the topography of Siborne's model, with darker areas depicting low elevation (such as river valleys) and the brighter areas being higher in elevation

values every 0.5cm. As can be seen from Figure 6, the similarity between the two elevation models is striking, even more so considering one was created using a laser and an aeroplane and the other was created using a plane table and a surveying rod.

The similarities of the general trends of the landscape between the model and the LiDAR survey are obvious, however in order to properly compare them, further calculations are necessary. It needs to be remembered that when Siborne created his model, he was primarily constructing it to be looked at, and most of the people viewing it would be standing above it and looking down on it.

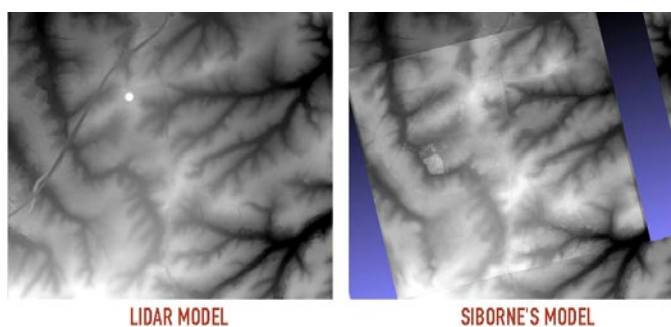


Fig. 6. A comparison of Siborne's topography modelled in 1838 (left), with modern data (right)

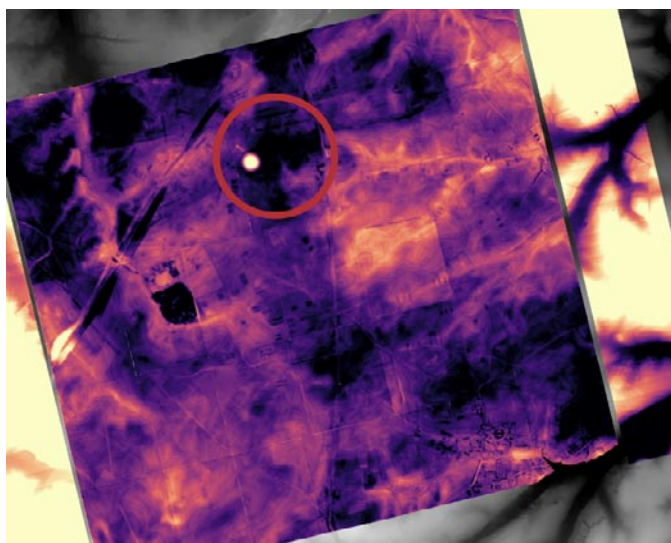


Fig. 7. Analysis showing the greatest areas of change in height between the 19th century and the modern day landscape

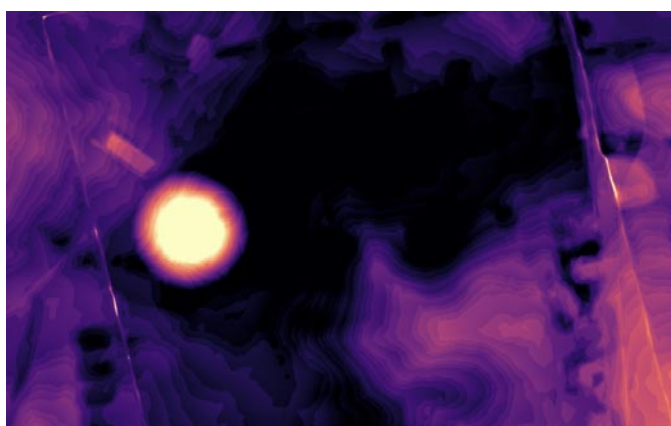


Fig. 8. The Lion Mound, an immense monument to the Prince of Orange made in the years following the battle, is the most pronounced area of change

"In topographical modelling, it is necessary to augment the scale of altitudes by a certain quantity beyond that of the horizontal distances, for, if the two scales were made equal, the model of a country, having only a gently undulating surface, would present the appearance of an almost undeviating plain, and that of a mountainous country would only strike us as the representation of hilly ground. The reason of this is obvious; it results from the great disparity between the view which we obtain of a country, when actually going over it, and that which is presented to us by its model." – Siborne's 'Practical Treatise on Topographical Surveying and Drawing' (1827).

In order for the observers to fully appreciate the topography, Siborne had to exaggerate the vertical scale in relation to the horizontal scale. As can be observed, for instance when looking out of the window of an aeroplane, hills and mountains seem much flatter when viewed from above. To counteract this, when building the model Siborne used a vertical scale of 1:180 opposed to his horizontal scale of 1:600. Therefore, to properly compare the modern elevation with Siborne's elevations we need to correct this, dividing the elevations of Siborne's model by a scale factor of 3.333 (or 600/180). We can then properly vertically align the two elevation models and gain heights above sea level for any point on the 3D model.

COMPARING 1815 WITH 2020

With the two DEMs horizontally and vertically aligned, it is possible to directly compare the heights and see exactly where the landscapes have changed. By calculating the relative standard deviation between the two height maps (Figure 7) we can now visualise the differences – with the darker areas showing parts of the landscape that were higher in 1815 and the lighter areas being those that were lower. As can be seen by the overview of the entire battlefield, areas in the valleys have clearly filled in over the last 200 years – presumably by a combination of ploughing and erosion. These areas are of interest, as beneath the hillwash the original battlefield levels are likely to be well preserved – having not been so subject to the plough damage seen across other areas of the site. This analysis is providing us with new targets for future fieldwork, particularly in the valleys, as various accounts of the battle tell of cavalry and infantry becoming bogged down in the wet ground and presumably losing kit and artefacts along the way.

Finally, the Lion Mound is a very obvious feature of the landscape that has changed and is clearly represented in the standard deviation comparison (Figure 8). It should be noted here, that Siborne surveyed this area relatively shortly after the Mound was built. Although he wouldn't have been able to directly survey the land underneath it, the area of excavation for it would have still been very visible both in the landscape, but also in people's minds, meaning he would have been able to reconstruct the original landscape in his model quite accurately. The area surrounding the mound (the dark colour) is an indication of a landscape that was much higher in 1815 than it is now – clearly defining the area excavated in the 1830s to construct the Lion Mound.

Thanks to some computing wizardry, the kind permission of the National Army Museum and the Royal United Services Institute, and finally the incredible surveying and modelling skill of William Siborne, we are able to view and analyse the landscape of Waterloo very much as it was in 1815 – a feat that is extremely rare. It turns out that the Lion Mound did indeed ruin Wellington's battlefield, but not really by very much.

BEN W. MEAD

VETERAN, DIG 2018

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers / Royal Signals

I got involved with Waterloo Uncovered in 2018 to keep faith with a friend, Scott Hawkes. Scott had been on two of the early excavations with Waterloo Uncovered. Sadly Scott passed away in August 2016, but he had wanted me to apply as he knew I had a great interest in archaeology and military history and he was convinced it would help me deal with my PTSD. I just wish I had been able to do the excavation with Scott himself, but it was not to be.

So, I applied in the beginning of 2018 for that year's expedition to Waterloo. Unfortunately, I couldn't make the whole duration of the trip, but I was able to come out on the Eurostar to take part in the second week. On arriving at the hotel, I was made to feel a part of the Waterloo Uncovered team straight away and felt so welcomed by everyone, making me feel less anxious and able to relax. I joined a team in a trench for couple of days and also helped make a clay model of Hougoumont Farm. I was surprised and pleased when it turned out that a member of my trench team was someone whom I haven't seen since I was posted to the British Army Training Unit of Suffield, Canada in 2001; and straight away our conversation picked up from where we left off in 2001 - just like Army mates do. That's one of the great things about Waterloo Uncovered - you feel like you're back among "family and friends".

Although a lot of the digging had been done before my arrival, there was still much to do, and a lot to learn about archaeology, given it was my first time on a dig. Over the course of the week I learnt a lot of things about the Battle of Waterloo itself. Unlike some of the veterans and serving personnel from other units, the regiments I served in weren't around at the time of the battle. In an odd way you rarely care about other units' regimental history as it is of no use to you! But to learn about the Coldstream Guards who fought at Hougoumont, who were completely surrounded and running out of ammunition, reminded me of modern tours of Former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq, even though the equipment has changed much since 1815.

All of the history was interesting about Waterloo, but the best part for me, is that no one judged you on rank or regiment, as everyone was there for the same reason. Whether they are military, ex-military, or even civvies - everybody bonded. We made good friends for life, and I still keep in regular contact with some of them to this day. For myself, I'm a great lover of the outdoors - regardless of the weather, day or night. Since leaving the Army I had struggled and had become lost in myself as I only knew one life - the Army. But Waterloo Uncovered was a complete game changer for me. It gave me enjoyment in something that I had great interest in and it is giving me a new life and outlook on things.



WE WALK AWAY UNCOVERED

Nick Rendall joined us on the 2018 dig to explore how the age-old medium of verse, can be used to express things that commonly go unsaid. Nick shares his experiences on site and plans for the future.



In 2018 a poetry activity was run over the course of three days during the dig. Its aims were broad - to introduce poetry as a means to understand feelings. A range of poems were read and discussed using William Sieghart's book: 'The Poetry Pharmacy: Tried-and-true Prescriptions for the Heart, Mind and Soul' (Particular Books, 2017) as a touchstone. Through a careful selection of poems useful discussion evolved, the veterans and serving personnel discovered how language and reading can offer a means to both express themselves, or even in part, process their own experiences.

The poetry workshop was held during the normal working day, located in the vicinity of the dig. 2018 saw us sit under the trees surrounded by trenches and activity and we discussed poetry in a way which was direct, focused and expansive. The key areas of discussion were the use of imagery and metaphor to describe feeling, to offer an alternative to straight description. The course of the discussion was flexible, relying on engagement from the group, with a good level of openness steered by questioning. In the second half of the

sessions veterans shared their own writing, performing their own works and discussing the background and messages of their pieces.

Looking forward, I believe there is scope to expand the remit of the poetry activity within the dig. There is an appetite for further discussion and creation of poetry by VSMP and this is something which is being carefully considered for the future. The combination of reading and discussing poetry has been beneficial, and to grow this further I will be seeking to initiate a writing workshop which can take place in the evenings alongside some of the other creative activities. Through a series of writing exercises I hope to inspire veterans and serving personnel to write their own poems or pieces of prose, which give them an additional means to express themselves. Writing, poetry or prose, is increasingly seen as a way to record and document thought as a means to benefiting mental well-being.

'Last Year Uncovered' is a poem I have written hoping to communicate some of the experience of being involved in Waterloo Uncovered.



About the author:

Nick Rendall is an English teacher and Housemaster at Benenden School. Prior to teaching Nick served in the Coldstream Guards, alongside Charlie Foinette and Mark Evans. He has an interest in poetry and the role it can play in mental health and general wellbeing.

LAST YEAR UNCOVERED

Sift (verb) to make a close examination of all the parts

And it was like this:
Sun up and July
The open fields smooth
In their gentle roll down
And here dug down
Trowel turned, sifted,
Sorted, recorded,
A busyness of discovery.

An untouched, now dusted down
Musket ball – position flagged,
Marked – charted up,
The change from clay to sand – the ash
The drama speculated on, slowly
Raised into light.

And we sat in the shade of trees,
With the digging all around
- in the view of a huge mound, lion topped,
Flicking through thin pages
Of others' sufferings,
Pacing through our own layers
Walking over our own change
With palms hot in discovery,
Eyes set above horizons,
With the slight wind
Catching the leaves to
Suther in applause.

And then back to
Late nights around the table,
Long after dark,
Another easing – another
Careful sift, a slow reminder, a connection, a walk through
- a hard day's labour freeing thoughts.

So in one past chaotic battle
The steady pace of thoughts goes through:
The hand to handles on shovels, the tilt of the trowel
- to uncover.
The past waits
In holes fresh dug
Now revealed
Secrets shown,
For now written down
Mapped
Connected
Shown
One to one.

Revealed, renewed, restored.
We walk away
Uncovered.

Nick Rendall



MORE THAN A DIG: THE MANY LENSES OF WATERLOO

We host activities all year to both support our veterans and serving military personnel and reach out to the public. Publication Officer **Florence Laino** takes us through some of these activities and the emerging approach behind them.

We define ourselves as the charity which combines world-class archaeology with veteran care and recovery. Equal service to these two halves has become an all-encompassing philosophy as we aim to draw in seemingly disparate ends of a spectrum; the academic world of archaeology and the functional military one. The project has become a testing ground of opportunities initially aimed at offering new ways to engage and inspire our beneficiaries throughout the whole year. A happy side-effect has been that recruiting the expertise for new events, pilots, and creative “side” projects has created a snow-ball reaction of partnerships, with incredibly kind and generous individuals and organisations who are only too eager to offer their time and services to the charity in whatever means they can, be it artistic, technological, or scientific. We have found that the Battle of Waterloo can be a source of inspiration through so many different lenses, to so many ends, providing us with untapped opportunities to bring people together, allowing them a means to try out each other’s tribes for the plain joy of it. Here we present just a few of these budding “mini” projects and activities from the 2017 - 2018 calendar.

GAME JAM

In 2018, we hosted our first “Game Jam” working together with and hosted at the University of Salford. Traditionally, a “jam” is a contest which brings people together from different specialisms (programmers, game designers, artists, writers and so on) to create



Process: testing out visualisations at the Game Jam

video games usually within a 24 - 72 hour period. The Battle of Waterloo has a legacy for inspiring games in many formats (board games, computer, and war gaming), which we had started to play as evening activities whilst out on the excavation. Inspired by this, we started to wonder about the use of gaming to think and learn about the battle. In January 2018, some of our project veterans, serving soldiers, archaeologists, and military historians, spent two days working alongside students studying Animation, Digital Media, Film Production, Computer and Video Games at the University’s MediaCityUK campus, to produce a series of interactive applications recreating what it would have been like to have been a soldier fighting in the campaign of 1815.

It was an exciting day with individuals sharing ideas, skills and their own experience, combining this with real excavation data from the project to create something totally original! The Game Jam is one way that the project is finding avenues to create partnerships and new opportunities to inspire learning and professional development, to use our scientific data to bring history to life.

READING TO REMEMBER

For the second (2017) and third (2018) *Reading to Remember* commemorative event, the WU team came together again to do relay readings of first-hand accounts of the battle for 11 hours in the chapel at Hougoumont, and reflect on the personal stories behind the archaeology. The event, which was started in July 2016, is now a well-established WU tradition. It is an opportunity for team members to remember those who fell at Waterloo, but also to raise funds towards the charity’s work, as they get sponsored to undertake what can be in some cases, quite harrowing readings.

One veteran participant said:

“It’s very poignant. It brings it home to you that although it was over 200 years ago, it was one battle in which something like 25,000



Students collaborating with veterans at the Game Jam



Team members relay-read over 11 hours (the duration of the battle) to raise money whilst on the dig

casualties were taken in the course of a day. It compares with the Somme. It must have been a pretty horrific and gruelling event to take part in, and my heart goes out to them. [During readings] you can actually put people to those positions, and when you find a chewed up musket ball, it may well be chewed up because it hit the walls of Hougomont, but it may well be chewed up because it passed through the broken body of a Frenchman or an Englishman, and it really hits it home..."

Three years of *Reading to Remember* has raised over £15,000 for our charity.

CHALKE VALLEY

Since the inception of Waterloo Uncovered in 2015, we have attended the Chalke Valley History Festival near Salisbury each year in June. Right from the early days of the charity we have sought to get the message "out there", both about our archaeological aims and our support for veterans and serving military personnel. Chalke Valley has offered us the forum for people interested in both, with punters drawn in to hear *Time Team's* Phil Harding sum up our latest findings, it also seems that (perhaps fairly obviously), those interested in military history frequently have military associations of their own. Some people we have met at the Festival have gone on to participate in the project, as beneficiaries and as partners. We are particularly grateful to the Coldstream Guards 1815 Re-enactment Group who have become dear friends of the project, offering their services for fundraisers and pop-up museums. They truly bring history to life and we owe them a great debt of thanks.



Phil Harding giving a talk at the Chalke Valley History Festival

Having a presence at Chalke Valley has given us the chance to work with students from UCL's Public Archaeology Masters programme. We have been delighted that every year since 2016, three to four students have been able to work on an original exhibit that has counted towards their degree programme, giving them a real-life practical experience to help them pursue their career ambitions, and us, wonderfully conceptualised displays.

CONFERENCE

We hope to use our project as a conduit to encourage research of all kinds, and in April 2017 we hosted a day conference focussing on the latest archaeological results from the dig, as well as the theory and practice behind our multidisciplinary project. The conference was held at the 1815 Memorial Museum on the battlefield, and attended by over 80 delegates, including archaeologists, historians, veterans and serving personnel, representing the UK, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Papers were given by our core project members, including an address from CEO Mark Evans, a review of excavation results from Dr Tony Pollard, an overview of our digital methods and innovations from Dr Stuart Eve, a description of our outreach approach from Dr Vicki Haverkate, an insight into the challenges of research on the Waterloo battlefield by Dominique Bosquet, and a glimpse of how we are using geophysics to overcome some of these challenges from Dr Philippe De Smedt.

The conference helped us reach out to the academic community and forge new partnerships, and will surely become a regular feature in the Waterloo Uncovered events programme in years to come.

BLACK CABS

In 2018, we came to know of a very special charity, through one of our project veterans. The Taxi Charity for Military Veterans supports veterans around London by organising trips for them to concerts, museums, fundraising events, battlefield visits and military reunions. They also provide vital support for individuals with injuries which make them less able to get around the capital.

One of the hardest things about running the WU project, is that naturally we can offer only a limited number of places. Each year we have grown the number of veterans and serving military personnel on the excavation; working with the Taxi charity gave us the perfect opportunity to increase our reach even more.

On the first Friday of the two-week dig, a convoy of six full cabs with veterans and officer cadets drove all the way from London.



The first Waterloo Uncovered conference, held at the 1815 Memorial Museum on the battlefield



Cabs arriving on convoy to Hougoumont, from London



Veterans, officer cadets and taxi drivers having just arrived

They were taken on a tour of the main museum on the Waterloo battlefield, Memorial 1815, visited Mont-Saint-Jean and Hougoumont, and were even able to try their hand at digging. The cab drivers, veterans, and cadets then spent the weekend with the rest of the team, joining in our weekend activities and getting some well-deserved R&R at our hotel.

We will continue this partnership. It is a really special way for us to expand by including individuals who aren't quite ready or able to spend two weeks away from home. The charity survives on donations and the kindness of the taxi drivers. To learn more about their work visit <https://www.taxicharity.org/>

WATERLOO WEEKEND

At the heart of our charity and our archaeological work is a mission to reach out and tell people about what we do. In 2018, we decided to forego our usual time off over the weekend, in order to host an *Archaeology Open Weekend* at Hougoumont Farm. Tourists visit the Farm all year round, however only for the two weeks of the year that our project is in town, do they so vividly get to see the underbelly of this historic site, revealed through its buried remains. We placed a call-out to the local community, and on the 14th - 15th of July we welcomed visitors to explore Hougoumont through our archaeological findings. Visitors were given tours around our trenches and the battlefield itself. Finds were on display to handle at our pop-up museum and parties of visitors were also treated to demonstrations of musket firing from re-enactors, who set up an encampment around the Pop-Up Museum and helped bring history to life by putting to use some of

the replica artefacts similar to those being dug up by the excavation. Veterans, students and volunteers alike opted to join in to guide visitors and explain artefacts and archaeology. We also played a recording of our *Reading to Remember* sponsored reading event which took place earlier in the week, meaning that visitors could listen in on moving first-hand accounts, read in French, Dutch and English.

One event which drew the crowds was a table top wargame, playing out the French attacks on Hougoumont with the help of model buildings and armies of miniature soldiers. This event had its origins in a popular evening activity where veterans, archaeologists, students and helpers got together to paint model soldiers from the different armies, paying careful attention to details of uniforms and equipment. From that arose the suggestion of a



1815 Reenactors set up camp all around our Pop Up Museum



The French appear to be winning! As seen from a tabletop wargame held at Hougoumont



Beth Collar leading a drawing session on site

wargame to be held on the very spot where the 1815 battle took place. Our Waterloo Weekend Wargame is not the end of the story: it led on to the staging of a truly world-beating war game in Glasgow – but that's a story for the next volume of our Review!

Amongst our visitors, we were honoured to receive the British ambassador to Belgium, Alison Rose, and General George Norton, contributing to the great success of the weekend.

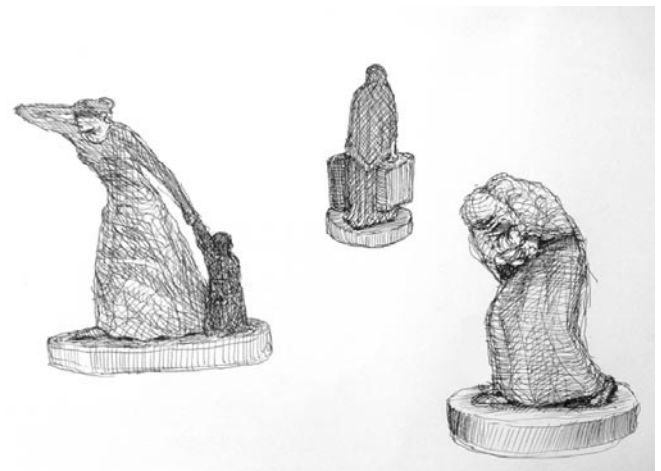
ART AND CREATIVE WRITING

Artist Beth Collar joined us for the 2018 dig. While she specialises in performance and sculpture art, it was back to basics as members of the team were invited each day to join in drawing sessions guided by her on site. This has not been the first time we have dabbled in the arts, as Katy Moran, a Carnegie-nominated author who joined the dig in 2015, led creative writing workshops for veterans. She conducted research that inspired her latest novel, *False Lights*, which features a strong female character set in Napoleonic times.

Inspired by the Chalke Valley UCL student exhibition on the women of Waterloo and the 2018 Game Jam, Beth and Katy along with Dr Juan Hiriart (University of Salford) and our own Dr Stuart Eve, have become the innovators of a multi-disciplinary project highlighting the role of women at the Battle of Waterloo and addressing gender imbalances in history. Recast, the *Women of Waterloo*, is a tabletop adventure and survival game which provides players with intense strategic and tactical decisions at every turn. Players collect cards of various types which they use to survive and accomplish missions in order to earn the most points, in the dramatic context of a Napoleonic campaign. The development and research into the game is on-going, and provides a means for veterans, serving military personnel and other team members to collaborate in a hands-on way, whether it be archival research, casting and painting of game figurines, character development and creative writing, or game design and production. The project will be hosting forthcoming workshops going into 2021 - 2022, and if you are interested in participating please email womenofwaterloo@waterloouncovered.com



Evenings out on the dig: painting Napoleonic figurines has become a popular group activity – slow work but satisfying!



We plan to cast and paint our own figurines for the Women of Waterloo game. Here are some of Beth Collar's sketches



About the author:

Florence Laino is an Associate Partner at L - P : Archaeology and is the Publication Officer for Waterloo Uncovered. In addition to this publication, she is responsible for producing the Technical Reports for the archaeological project, but also contributes her public archaeology expertise to the project.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



SPW - Service Public de Wallonie // AWaP - Agence Wallonne du Patrimoine

The Service Public de Wallonie (Walloon Public Service) is the Walloon region administration, which supports the Walloon government with its expertise, helping it in its missions and implementing its policies. Based in Namur, it is divided in 7 DGOs (operational directorates) represented in all Walloon provinces. The Heritage Department (including archaeology), is under DGO4, and also has a base in Wavre, the capital city of Brabant province. The archaeology department of Brabant regulates and oversees all archaeological works in the region. They collaborate with Waterloo Uncovered, and the project would not exist without them. Not only do they underwrite the necessary permits, but they are active participants in the project, providing valuable links to the local community and Belgian stakeholders.



L - P : Archaeology

L - P : Archaeology are a UK based commercial archaeological unit, founded in 1999. L - P has won awards for its archaeological practice, and it is a ClfA registered organisation. They bring with them a variety of expertise to the Waterloo Uncovered project, including field direction, data management, surveying, and publication production.



Orbit Team, Department of Soil Management, Ghent University

Ghent University have provided the services of their Department of Soil Management, specifically the research group of soil spatial inventory techniques: ORBit. They specialise in mobile non-invasive techniques for soil inventory, including detailed archaeological prospections over large areas. The team has prior experience at Waterloo where it successfully surveyed an area of 10 ha next to the farm of La Haye Sainte using an electromagnetic induction sensor in 2014. It provides Waterloo Uncovered with mapped information to direct the field excavations. The team is currently also surveying the WWI fields near Ypres in Flanders and participates in the Stonehenge Hidden Landscape project.



Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow

The Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow, is a pioneer and world leader in the fields of battlefield and conflict archaeology, and has carried out archaeological investigations on conflict sites ranging from the medieval to modern eras across the globe. The Centre provides Waterloo Uncovered with essential expertise, not least through the provision of its Director, Prof. Tony Pollard as one of our archaeological directors.



University College Roosevelt, Utrecht University

University College Roosevelt is the Liberal Arts and Sciences College of Utrecht University. They enable undergraduate archaeology students to take part in our July excavations. During the dig, and upon their return to the university, these students conduct outreach work, for example in local schools to tell more people in the Netherlands about the project and the role of Dutch troops in the battle. Students also conduct their own undergraduate research projects supported by Waterloo Uncovered and UCR.

MAIN AUTHORS

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From strength to strength: Two years of growth at Waterloo Uncovered — Mark Evans (Waterloo Uncovered)

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Archaeology round up: Excavation results 2017-2018 — Professor Tony Pollard (University of Glasgow) and Véronique Moulaert (Service Public de Wallonie)

The road to wellbeing — David Ulke

Waterloo and the Dutch — Gielt Algra

Utrecht University Summer School with Waterloo Uncovered — Vicki Haverkate (University College Roosevelt)

The night before the battle — Libbey Dineley

The finds of Waterloo Uncovered 2017 - 2018 — Euan Loarridge (University of Glasgow)

A spotlight on our Belgian colleagues — Dominique Bosquet (Service Public de Wallonie)

Modelling battlefields — Dr Stuart Eve (L - P : Archaeology)

We walk away uncovered — Nick Rendall (Benenden School)

More than a dig: The many lenses of Waterloo — Florence Laino (L - P : Archaeology)

Stories from dig participants kindly provided by the participants and edited by Florence Laino

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THIS REVIEW IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ANNA KELTON (1987-2018)

Anna transferred from the Royal Marines Band Service to become a logistician within the Royal Navy, becoming an Able Seaman Class 1. Anna sustained an injury whilst on a training exercise in 2011. She was later diagnosed with a conversion injury which caused her to lose the full use of her sight and legs. She participated in the Waterloo Uncovered excavations of July 2016 and July 2017, also joining us with her mother Dorothy in 2017 who was an invaluable member of the crew that year. She and Dorothy worked closely and became good friends with Emily Glass, one of our trench supervisors, who provides this tribute on behalf of all of the team.

Anna was a great solid northern lass. We were roomies during her first Waterloo Uncovered trip in 2016 and got on brilliantly, laughing loads over the endless brews she insisted on making me! That was Anna – she liked and was interested in everybody, loved cheeky banter and wanted to know about all aspects of the dig. Although she'd faced far bigger challenges in her life, Anna wasn't initially sure if Waterloo Uncovered was for her, but the people and camaraderie on the project put her at ease. This gave her the confidence to get involved in digging, context recording, finds work and sandwich making - which she particularly enjoyed as she saw the whole group during lunch and heard all the goings-on from other parts of the dig.

In 2017, Anna returned with her mother Dorothy and, rather than us sharing a room, we shared a trench in the courtyard of Hougoumont Farm. There was a real team spirit with everyone helping each other and Anna was key in assisting me to keep on top of paperwork by updating the trench notebook, listing the finds and doing sketches of the trench as it progressed. Anna had always been a 'bed after dinner' person but a couple of nights we shared a glass or two of red wine out on the terrace and I really treasure those chatty evenings as priceless.

Anna was a fighter who wouldn't let anything or anyone stop her and I remember saying that her knees must be made of steel because of the way she used them to move around the dig site, hopping out of her chair and ducking under fences to get to the trench. Through my role as an archaeological supervisor with Waterloo Uncovered I always hoped to have a positive effect on the military veterans, but with Anna it was the other way round. She really was one of the most kind, inspirational, optimistic and determined people I have ever met. Like so many, I was shocked and heartbroken when she passed away because she loved life, was cherished by so many and still had so much more to give.





THIS REVIEW IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF Cpl ROBERT BROGAN (1971-2018)

Bobby served in the Royal Logistics Corps between 1989 - 2004. He participated in the Waterloo Uncovered excavation of July 2016, working as part of the crack team who took on the mammoth task of hand excavating a trench of serious proportions along the Sunken Way that year. He regularly volunteered for WU at the WU Chalke Valley History Festival and Waterloo Weekend, where his good humour and infectious personality helped us tell the world about our work. Project Officer, Cornelius Barton speaks for all of us in this tribute.

Working with Bobby was a real pleasure. He had been through some tough stuff before I knew him, but at Waterloo he was one of the sunniest, most cheerful guys I ever met. He was funny too. He kept all his workmates in stitches in the trench, and while some guys can get a bit near to the knuckle with the old banter, I never heard Bobby say a mean word about anybody.

I remember when he left his team for an afternoon to try his hand at metal detecting with Gary (who normally refuses to work with Celtic supporters but made an exception this time). Bobby had a great time, and was on the detecting crew when they recovered one of the biggest finds of the year, a French eagle badge. His team mates in the trench were not impressed however. They worked with a noticeable lack of enthusiasm that afternoon, and when asked what the matter was the reply was "you've taken Bobby away from us!"

Well now I know how they felt. I know he wouldn't want any of us to be miserable, but the world lost a real ray of sunlight when he passed. I feel lucky to have the memories of the good times we had. He was a smashing bloke and a good friend, and we all miss him.





We've begun our work at Hougoumont Farm, but there's an entire battlefield still out there waiting to be excavated before it's too late and the archaeology is lost forever.

The more of the battlefield we explore, the more we will uncover;
and the longer the project runs, the more veterans and serving military personnel we will help.

To make the project work we rely on the support and generosity of trusts, foundations, charities, businesses and individuals. It costs around £8,000 to support a soldier or veteran on our year-long Support Programme which helps with their recovery, welfare and transition into civilian life. This includes the two-week WU summer excavation in Belgium, 12 months of regular and dedicated support from the WU Wellbeing and Support Team, follow-up support, and much more!

We're always happy to receive donations in kind. If you have a bit of kit (from a trowel to a JCB digger) you can lend or give us, we'd be only too happy to hear from you.

To donate, you can use Just Giving, PayPal, or fill out a donation form if you would like to donate in cash, cheque, or direct bank transfer. All methods are available through the link below.

Please donate to help us continue our work!

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

**TO DONATE TO WATERLOO UNCOVERED PLEASE VISIT
WWW.WATERLOOUNCOVERED.COM/DONATE**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

LOOK AHEAD TO VOLUME 3

This Review charts the period during which Waterloo Uncovered evolved from being the exploration of a possibility, to an organisation confident in its mission for years to come.

We've proved that there is a significant archaeological heritage on the battlefield still to be uncovered, understood and protected.

We've developed a comprehensive programme of professional support to help servicemen and women deal with some of the lasting impacts of their service.

We've engaged more people with the story of our work – helping to bring history and heritage to life; encouraging an empathy for the experiences of contemporary servicemen and women; encouraging an understanding of the impact of war on people.

As I write this, the world is in the grip of a Covid pandemic. Whilst this has disrupted all of our personal and professional lives – we were, for example, unable to excavate in Belgium in 2020 – we are determined to emerge as a resilient organisation focused on our objectives of heritage, wellbeing and education. Indeed, the dislocation of daily life and the isolation suffered by many has made us more than ever certain of the value of our work.

Please stay with us as we continue to evolve and grow. In the next edition of our Review for example:

- We'll share with you some of the astonishing archaeological stories of the 2019 dig, ranging from the "Battle of the Buttons" at Hougomont, to unexploded French heavy metal, to poignant evidence of the human cost of war on the site of the field hospital at Mont Saint Jean;
- We'll show how we helped our beneficiaries to deal with the social isolation of lockdown with our Virtual Programme of education, activities and wellbeing support. Undeterred by the postponement of our 2020 Waterloo Dig, some of our beneficiaries were even inspired to carry out test pit excavations in their back gardens!
- We'll highlight some of the ways we've been telling our story via websites, films and lectures. Our work even came to the attention of the UK Prime Minister who recognised us with a Points of Light award.

In the meantime, thank you again, on behalf of my colleagues and the veterans and serving military personnel we support, for helping us in so many ways, via donations (www.waterloouncovered.com/donate), by subscribing to our regular newsletter (<https://waterloouncovered.com/newsletter>) and by spreading the word of our work. We could not do this without you.

Mark Evans, CEO of Waterloo Uncovered



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