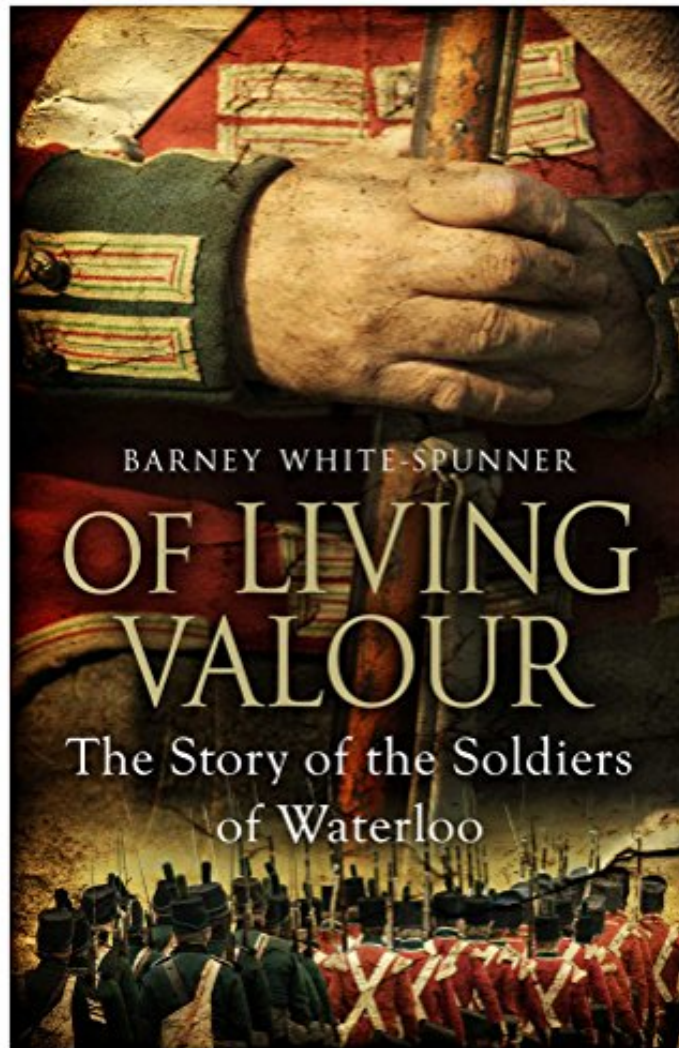


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Of Living Valour

Barney White-Spunner

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Barney White-Spunner : Of Living Valour before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Of Living Valour:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A history of the ordinary soldiers and officers who served during the Battle of Waterloo - a fantastic read!By waynefitzRarely has a history of the ordinary soldiers and officers who served during the Battle of Waterloo been written, and this author, a retired British officer with his own direct experience of the world's more modern battles, has compiled a stirring account of their experiences. Using excerpts from extensive primary sources, including poignant letters home from all ranks of soldier and various contemporary accounts, along with the numerous books written about the battle from both sides, he has succeeded in bringing the human side of

events to the fore. For those looking for all the military details of the build-up and the battle itself, they will not be disappointed either, as the author has created a clear picture of events as they happened, from Quatre Bras through such 'battles within battles' as those that took place at Hougomont and LaHaie Sainte, for example. Every little engagement is detailed and its significance in the overall ebb-and-flow is highlighted, leading to the reader being sucked in to the dramatic narrative before being enlightened as to the big picture at that point of the battle. It makes for breathtaking reading at points, while sometimes the extraordinary level of detail can lead the reader to have to re-read sections to be sure that they are 'up-to-speed' on which corps, brigade, battalion etc. was where. In fairness, this is to be expected considering that up to 200,000 men were fighting in an area only 2 miles wide by 1 mile deep. The quotes from the original letters and accounts adds the extra colour, emotion and humour needed to elevate this history of the Battle of Waterloo above other, drier accounts, making it a fantastic read for a wide audience. As reviewed by Hugh Beckett, in the July/August 2015 issue of *An Cosantóir* (The Defender) - the official magazine of the Irish Defence Forces - dfmagazine.ie

A gripping account of the Battle of Waterloo drawing on extensive unpublished letters and diaries of the ordinary soldiers who took part.

About the Author Educated at Eton College and the University of St Andrews, Barney White-Spunner was commissioned in 1979. He was appointed Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry in 1996 and became Chief of Joint Force Operations for the national contingent in the Middle East in 2003. He was made Commander of the British Field Army in 2009, which post he held until December 2011 when he retired. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2002 and Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath (KCB) in the 2011 Birthday Honours. He began his literary career writing for *The Field* in 1992 and became editor of *Baily's Hunting Directory* in 1994. He is also the author of a history of the Horse Guards.