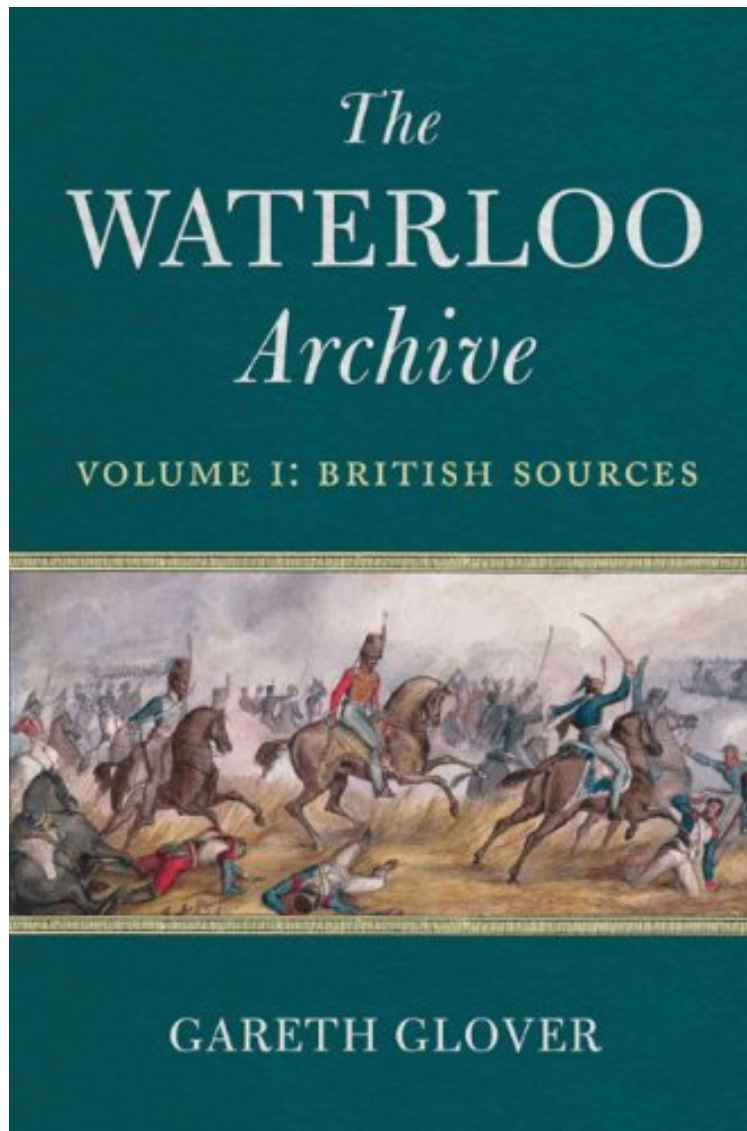


## The Waterloo Archive. Volume 1: British Sources

*Gareth Glover*

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**Gareth Glover : The Waterloo Archive. Volume 1: British Sources** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Waterloo Archive. Volume 1: British Sources:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book...By R. SmithI hadn't read more than forty pages of WATERLOO ARCHIVE: Volume I: British Sources before I knew I wanted WATERLOO ARCHIVE, THE: Volume II: The German Sources, as well. This is significant because my interest in the Napoleonic Wars is casual. Before reading this book, I knew nothing of the Waterloo Campaign, or even that it was a campaign and not a single, decisive

battle. This ignorance provided me with a unique experience as a reader, as the more first-hand accounts I read, the more I began to see through the fog of war. In a way, this was so much more enjoyable for me than simply reading a cut-and-dry history of the campaign. The bottom line is that it doesn't matter what you know about the Napoleonic Wars, if you enjoy a good war memoir you will love these letters. The letters, too, are very smartly arranged by Editor Gareth Glover. There is a healthy mix of officer's praising themselves and simple homesick grunts writing to mother. For all of the tragedy, there's quite a bit of humor, too. I will more than likely collect the entire Waterloo Archives. Now, for a couple of negatives... There are a few typos that are either lacking the appropriate [sic] or are actually the Editor's mistake. This isn't a big deal, as some of the letters are peppered with typos (as written by the author, preserved by the Editor). Don't let this nitpick bother you. One very irritating error, that I cannot believe went unnoticed, is with the Notes. Somewhere around Note 130, a passage isn't marked as having a note, but it does. This causes the next notated passage and its corresponding Note to be off by one. In other words, the passage marked [141] is actually Note 142. This error continues until [170], where the corresponding note (which should be Note 171) is missing. This causes [171] match Note 171 by accident. I hope I explained that well enough. This is where I deduct a star. That's all I've got in the negative department. I own several Frontline hardback books, now, and each of them is very well bound with bright, thick paper. The text is perfectly legible and all of the illustrations are crisp. These aren't cheap books, but I have yet to regret buying one because they aren't made cheap... when you flip through the pages it feels like one of those books that will last a very, very long time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A fine collection! By Wade KAs per my reviews of the other volumes, this is a "must have" for anyone interested in the 100 Days campaign and the life of soldiers in the field during the last gasp of the Napoleonic wars. A fine collection! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superb! By geegeewaterloo The Waterloo Archive Volume I: British Sources Glover, Gareth (editor). The Waterloo Archive Volume I: British Sources. Barnsley, UK: Frontline Books, 2010. 287 pages. ISBN# 9781848325401. '25. The Waterloo Archive is an ambitious project undertaken by Gareth Glover, to make available the wealth of primary source material that exists in family archives, regimental and local museums, and libraries, but has never been published or not published in the last 100 years. The first volume focuses on British sources and is organized like Siborne's The Waterloo Letters - by brigades and regiments. It includes letters and diaries from officers and soldiers who served on the staff, in eleven different cavalry regiments, thirteen different infantry regiments, plus the artillery, the medical corps, and even civilians. I have been collecting and reading British primary sources for almost thirty years and I was struck by how different the letters in The Waterloo Archive was from most of the other books in my collection. The first thing that caught my attention was the urgency of the writers to reassure their family that they were well and the fate of other family members and friends. Unlike the Peninsular War, where news of a battle took weeks to reach home, Waterloo's outcome was known in England within a few days. The second thing was the enormity of the casualties. It is one thing to read that a regiment took 50% casualties, but it is another to read a letter home by a junior officer listing the names of his friends and fellow officers who were killed or severely wounded; or the letter from a private telling his family that his brother had been killed. Something that also stands out in these letters is the rank of the writers. Only twenty percent of the letters were from senior officers, of which only one was by a general officer. The other eighty percent of the letters were from junior officers or enlisted soldiers. The junior officers generally wrote only about what the actions they fought in or observed or thought they knew as fact (which at times was wrong). Interestingly, one of the underlining themes in their letters was how they had to send their letters through civilian postal offices because the Duke of Wellington was censoring mail to ensure that only the official story was told. What I found fascinating was that 20% of the total letters were written by sergeants and privates. This definitely flies in the face of modern convention that the typical soldier was illiterate. Some of the best stories were provided by them. They described the battles in detail, but also life on campaign. In them you can the minutes of one soldier's court-martial and an account of the party that the sergeants and corporals threw to celebrate the numerous promotions. Other letters provide vivid descriptions of what it was like to be in a square that was under attack by French cavalry and or riding in the charge of the Scots Greys. One of the best stories was told by Private Thomas Hasker of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards. During a charge, his horse was killed and while he tried to free himself, Private Hasker was slashed in the head by a cuirassier, stabbed by a lancer and an infantryman, bayoneted by another, and had his fingers cut off by another. All the while this was going on various soldiers would stop and plunder him. To add insult to injury, he was under constant fire of the British artillery, and towards the evening was trampled by British cavalry who came charging through. By the time he was found late that night, he had been wounded a dozen times and been robbed of his watch, money, canteen, and even his trousers. It would be an understatement to say that he had better days! The Waterloo Archive is lavishly illustrated. Mr. Glover was able to obtain permission to publish twenty-two sketches done by Captain Mercer of the Royal Horse Artillery. These sketches were made during the campaign and have never been published before. The book also contains 8 color plates done by James Rouse. These paintings were based on drawings he made within days of the battle and were first published in 1817. Frontline Books should be thanked for publishing them, for it is rare to find color illustrations in books today. Five more volumes are planned for this magnificent series - a new one every year until 2015, the 200 anniversary of Waterloo. Volume Two will be on the Germans, including the King's German Legion, the Hanoverians,

Nassau, and Brunswick Troops. Volumes Three and Five will be more British material, while Volume Four will be the Prussians. A six volume is planned and was originally going to contain French and Dutch sources; however it will probably be more British letters. I cannot say enough about Volume One of The Waterloo Archive. It is an incredible collection of primary sources that provides the perspective of the junior officers and enlisted soldiers of the final campaign of the Napoleonic Wars. I strongly recommend that you do not wait to buy this book. It will quickly become a collector's item! Reviewed By Robert Burnham.

In the first groundbreaking volume of a new series, acclaimed Napoleonic scholar Gareth Glover brings together previously unpublished material relating to the Battle of Waterloo. The hitherto unseen British material contained in Volume I includes: a series of letters written by a senior officer on Wellington's Staff to Sir Thomas Graham immediately following the battle: The letters of a member of the Wedgewood family in the Guards at Waterloo: The journal of Sergeant Johnston of the Scots Greys, detailing all his experiences, including a very rare transcript of his own court martial!; letters from eminent surgeons including those of Hume, Davy and Haddy James, who served at Waterloo with their harrowing tales of the wounds suffered. In addition to these letters and journals, Vol I will include 21 original line drawings produced by Cavalie Mercer to accompany his famous book on his experiences at Waterloo but never previously published. Subsequent volumes will include French, German, Dutch and Belgian material which has never been translated into English before.

“A fine beginning to the series, this one belongs on every Waterloo bookshelf.” (past in review) “...an incredible collection of primary sources that provides the perspective of the junior and enlisted officers of the final campaign of the Napoleonic Wars. I strongly recommend that you do not wait to buy this book. It will quickly become a collector's item.” (Robert Burnham)