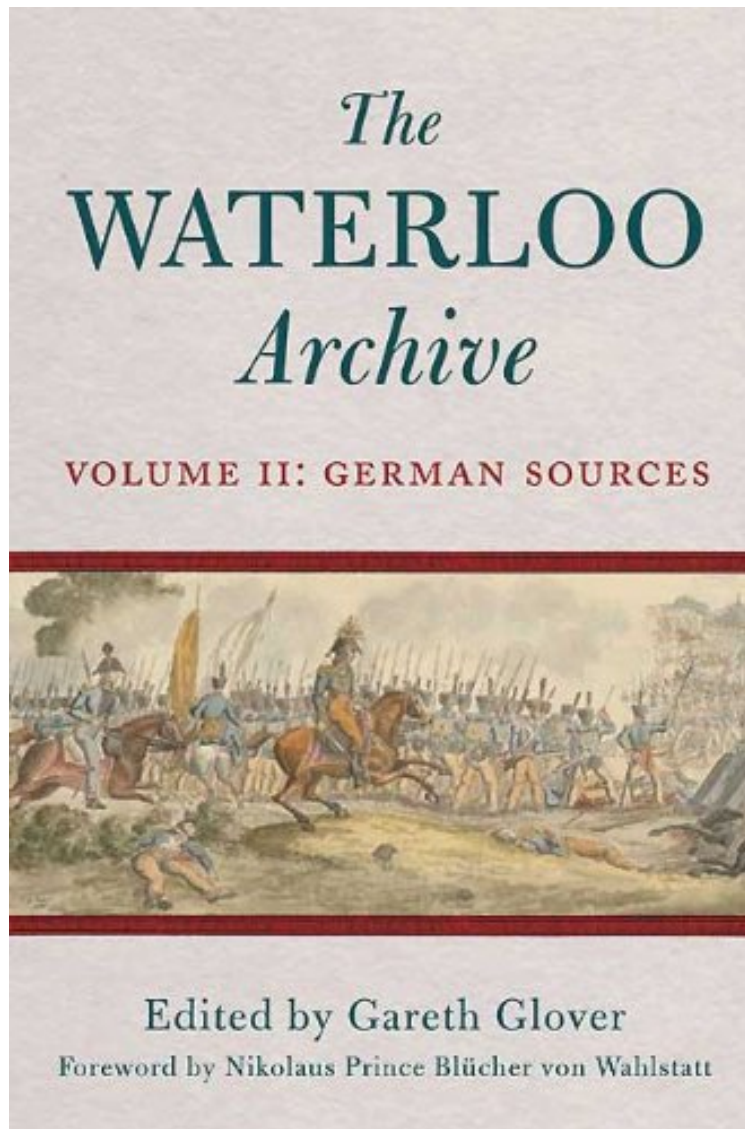


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## The Waterloo Archive. Volume 2: German Sources

*Gareth Glover*

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**Gareth Glover : The Waterloo Archive. Volume 2: German Sources** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Waterloo Archive. Volume 2: German Sources:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... concise layout has gathered the German accounts together nicely. These German accounts are often more honest and ...By Wade KGareth's clear concise layout has gathered the German accounts together nicely. These German accounts are often more honest and open in their weaknesses than British accounts, and so make for a more true account of action on the field during the 100 days campaign. A "must have" for

any Waterloo enthusiast as are the others in the series. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy geegeewaterlooArmchair General Review 2 Sep 2010 All in all a good collection of reminiscences especially on the accounts of the Artillery on occasion running out of ammunition and having to retire to replenish from the ammunition wagons that were placed to the rear, which might go some way to explain why Wellington thought that some of the artillery was fleeing the field. there is also scathing accounts of battalion musicians and doctors running away (seeing as they are the ones that look after the wounded post battle; I would say bugger off but don't go too far) Letter 28, 1st Hanoverian Brigade of Major General Kielmansegge (Bell-Alliance), mentions that a cuirassier Colonel, staff officer, and other officers were taken prisoner during the main cavalry attacks but does not give any more information on the name the Colonel, or which unit it was that captured him. Also within the same brigade was the plight of the 1st Nassau regiment, (960 strong) who were made up  $\frac{3}{4}$  of conscripts and had no formation drill training so were drawn up in close column throughout the day and thus were shot to pieces artillery and skirmisher fire. Of course they broke on more than one occasion but, as described by Captain C von Scriba; in his letter dated 4th December 1824, were brought back to their original position each time by the determination and bravery of their officers. Even though they were unsteady throughout the day I think that the whole regiment did a brave and dedicated job on that day. The Bremen and Verden battalions also yielded 300 paces but still managed to stay in its final position which was just in front of the cavalry lines. Most of the letters go into how (as reported by other correspondence from regiments of other nationalities) it was the French artillery, and here and there, the skirmishers, that in general caused the vast majority of the casualties, and that it was considered a rest period when the cavalry attacked as the artillery and skirmishers had to cease fire so as not to hit their own men. There is the intriguing account of the Hanoverian Peine and Hildesheim battalions of an incident which involved Major Count von Westphalia (No89, letter to Colonel von Vincke dated 1st July 1815?) In which he describes his reason for retiring to a position on the highway to Waterloo.... Well, I will leave that part for those who are about to buy the book, to read. All in all, well worth the money.

German troops formed the majority of Wellington's forces present at the Battle of Waterloo including those of Nassau, Brunswick, Hanover and the King's German Legion, and they have left a large number of first-hand accounts of their role in the battle. The actions of the King's German Legion – an integral part of the British Army and partly officered by British soldiers – has been published in English, but to a limited degree: Herbert Siborne published letters written to his father; Ompteda and Wheatley have had their memoirs published; and History of the King's German Legion included a small number of letters, including the oft-misquoted account of the defense of La Haye Sainte by Major Baring. This forms a tiny proportion of the German material available. Therefore it is not surprising that early British histories of the battle have largely sidelined the achievements of the German troops, and this has been regurgitated by most that have followed. This situation did not change until the 1990s when Peter Hofschroer published his two-volume version of the campaign from the German perspective, which included snippets of German documents published in English for the first time. But even this proved not totally satisfactory, as it did not provide the whole document to allow full interpretation. There is a great need to provide an English version of much of the original German source material to redress the imbalance; this volume is intended to remedy that situation by publishing sixty of these reports and letters fully translated into English for the first time, giving a clearer insight into the significant role these troops played.