Wellington’s Men Remembered: a Register of Memorials to Soldiers Who Fought in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo


Wellington’s Men Remembered is an amazing book that the authors must have spent a lifetime researching. It is not a series of short biographies but rather a survey of over 3500 memorials and tombstones of soldiers who fought in the Peninsular War and in the Waterloo Campaign. Volume 1 covers those individuals whose family name begins with the letter A to the letter L. Volume 2 covers the rest of the alphabet and also includes records of individuals who should have been in Volume 1, but were found after it was published. Volume 2 also includes battlefield memorials, Waterloo memorials in the U.K., regimental memorials, and a section for the King’s German Legion and the Royal Hanoverian Army. The number of individuals included in the two volumes is over 3,150.

Each volume has a Place Index where you can search by county in Great Britain to see who is buried there. For example in Mobberley, Cheshire you can find the resting place of Lieutenant Jacob Meek of the 14th Foot. The Place Index also lists memorials outside of the British Isles. Australia has 61 soldiers listed, including Private Moses Bendle Garlick of the 9th Foot who is buried in One Tree Hill, South Australia. In addition to the Place Index there is a regimental index, where you can look up listings by regiments. The Royal Artillery has the most listings with 166, followed by the 1st Foot Guards with 138 individuals, and the 95th Rifles with 104.

To keep the listings uniformed, the authors standardized each entry, which consists of:

- The Individual’s full name
- Rank and Regiment
- Location of memorial and indication if there is a photograph in the DVD
- The inscription on the memorial
- Ranks and dates of appointment
- Service in the Peninsula and at Waterloo
- Other service records before 1808 and after 1815
- Honours, medals, and awards
In addition to a written description of each memorial or tombstone, the authors have provided over 4000 photographs of the tombs and memorials. Unfortunately it is too expensive to print all 4000 of the photographs in the book. The two books have 95 color and 229 black and white photographs in them. For the other 3700 photographs the authors have included with each book a DVD with additional photographs. Both DVDs are indexed by name of the individuals in alphabetical order. The DVD with Volume II also has entries for the King’s German Legion, memorials for soldiers that should have been included in Volume 1 but were not known to the authors at the time Volume 1 was published, memorials for different cavalry and infantry regiments, memorials for the Royal Artillery, and memorials in Portugal, Spain, France, the U.K. and at Waterloo.

It would have been nice if there were photographs for the memorials of every individual, but the authors were not always able to obtain permission to take the photograph or to use those that were under copyright. However, there is a photograph for about 80% of those mentioned in the text. Most entry has only one photograph, but some have two or more. General Robert Anstruther has two. One is of where he is buried in Spain and the other is of a memorial in a church in Scotland. Colonel Alexander Gordon’s memorial at Waterloo has 13 images of it taken from various angles. While there are 105 images of memorials and monuments to the Duke of Wellington.

The photographs were taken over several decades. Many of the photographs are of high quality, however some were taken before the days of digital photography and are not. For those included on the DVDs, the reader is able to enlarge the photograph, making it easier to read the inscription. Some of the memorials have deteriorated so badly that even when the photograph is enlarged it is difficult to determine what the engraving on the tomb says. Fortunately the authors include the inscription in each entry.

My only complaint with the two volumes is the use of DVDs for so many of the photographs. I bought a new laptop computer in November 2014 and it did not have a built in DVD player. It was not an option for any of the laptops I looked at. To access the photographs on the DVDs, I had to use my wife’s computer. The publisher should consider placing the photographs online.

One of my personal goals for the Napoleon Series website is to bring to life as many of the men who fought in the Napoleonic Wars as possible. Too often it is only the generals who are remembered; yet for every general there 100 officers and a thousand soldiers who fought with them. The lower the rank the less they are remembered. In Wellington’s Men Remembered’s 1300 pages, the authors have ensured that over 3000 British soldiers will not be forgotten!

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1 Volume 1 has over 1600 images on its DVD, while Volume 2 has over 2100 images.
*Wellington’s Men Remembered* is a superb reference book that I have accessed many times in the past six months. In addition to those who research the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars, those doing genealogical studies will find it very helpful. *Wellington’s Men Remembered* is expensive but worth every penny!

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