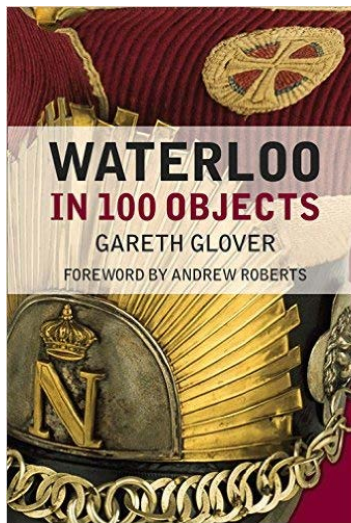


## The Napoleon Series Reviews

Glover, Gareth. *Waterloo in 100 Objects*. Stroud (UK): History Press, 2015. 216 pages. Hard Cover. ISBN# 9780750962896. \$45/£25



This book is a departure from Gareth Glover's normal publications. Instead of reviving long out-of-print or never published before memoirs, dairies, and letters, this is a study of the Waterloo Campaign. Unlike similar books that provide a pictorial history of the campaign, such as Henry Lachouque's *Waterloo*,<sup>1</sup> *Waterloo in 100 Objects* tells the story through photographs of surviving objects and buildings. It is part of the "100 Objects Series" published by the History Press.<sup>2</sup>

Although *Waterloo in 100 Objects* is theoretically only about 100 items, in fact it has information on many more. For example Object #33 is the British Belgic Shako, but it also contains photographs of an officer's shako of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Foot and a French grenadier's shako of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. Because of this expansion on a topic, the book has over 175 color photographs, many of which are full page. The author was able to obtain the images from a variety of sources, including the British National Army Museum, the French *Musée de l'Armée*, and from private collections throughout Europe. All the photographs are captioned and the lead image for each section also contains information on when the item was made and who owns the item or in the case of buildings and monuments, where it can be found.

The "100 Objects" discussed in the book is truly eclectic. There are stories of buildings, mausoleums, gravestones, memorials, medals, weapons (including a Congreve Rocket), uniforms (French, British, Brunswick, and even a Prussian Landwehr cap), horses, and maps. Gareth Glover presents the objects in chronological order and uses them to highlight a specific aspect of the campaign. For example the first item is a British Shilling and the narration covers how they recruited soldiers. The second is Napoleon's bicorn hat and grey overcoat and then gives a brief history of his escape from Elba and march on Paris. There are sections on the Palace Royale in Brussels, where the British and Dutch assembled their forces on the night of 15 June, one on the British Brown Bess Musket, and another on the type of dress a lady would have worn at the Duchess of

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<sup>1</sup> Published in 1975 by Arms & Armour Press,

<sup>2</sup> Other titles in the series include *The First World in 100 Objects*, *History of Crime in 100 Objects*, *The Tudors in 10 Objects*, and *A History of Norfolk in 100 Objects*.

Richmond's Ball on 15 June. Object #100 are photographs of Waterloo veterans, including one taken 65 years after the battle!

Many of the objects I have never seen them before, such as a photograph of what the Bois de Soignes looks like from ground level, the hussar uniform of Colonel Marbot, a Nassau Waterloo Medal, a French *livret*, and a soldier's camp kettle, and toiletry case. There are also numerous medical curiosities, including Waterloo teeth, an ossuary for the fallen, a surgeon's amputation saw and bloody glove, the Earl of Uxbridge's wooden leg, a case containing musket ball that killed Captain George Holmes 27<sup>th</sup> Foot plus one of his vertebrae, and the silver cast of the skull of Corporal John Shaw! For those interested in the British Foot Guards, there is a soldier's shako of the Light Company of the Coldstream Guards, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Gordon's magnifying glass and the bed where he died, the coat of Surgeon Samuel Good and that of Captain William Miller, who died at Quatre Bras.

*Waterloo in 100 Objects* provides a broad brush history of the 100 Days. Although it is a miniature coffee table book, unlike books of that type, it is packed with information about the pictures. There is nothing ground-breaking or controversial in the book that will stir heated debate among historians, however it has tidbits that will flesh out the lives of the men who were there. It will be an enjoyable read for those who already have extensive knowledge of the Waterloo Campaign and be informative for the casual reader. Recommended.

Reviewed by [Robert Burnham](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: January 2017