

The Official Newsletter of the Napoleonic Association .

Vol.2./2016

Alarming Intelligence has reached us.....



See inside for more news.....

www.napoleonicassociation.org

Editor's Page

Hello all,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Adjutant for 2016. I apologise for missing out the Spring edition this year, but at that time I was preoccupied with various events including Burgos, not to mention wedding plans for this coming Autumn.

Thank you to everyone who contributed reports and photos for this edition.

In this issue you will find news of forthcoming events not only for this year but also for our next season in 2017. Our next big event is at Fort Amherst in Chatham, Kent, and I hope to see as many of you as possible there. Adrian and I will be organising another "Bring and Buy" table at Amherst so if you have any items of re-enactment kit you want to pass on, please bring them with you.

We also have news of next year's AGM and Winter Party which will be in Devizes, Wiltshire.

Please keep sending your articles and news to me at kate.davis1.kd@gmail.com, as it is difficult to produce a newsletter without news to put into it.

Hope to see you at an event soon.



Kate

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Here is an updated list of the NA Committee

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Chairman | Martyn Monks |
| Treasurer | Jerry Sperring |
| Secretary | Toni Monks |
| Safety Officer | Adrian Lobb |
| Events Officer | Tony Wilks |
| Membership Secretary | Fran Read |
| Media Officer | Laura Short |

A Reminder

Bring and Buy Sale

At Fort Amherst, on Saturday 3rd September, we will be holding the final Bring and Buy sale of the season.

Please bring your unwanted re-enactment related stuff along , clothing, books, leatherwork, buttons etc., labelled with your name and a suggested price, and we will try and sell if for you. Remember, you don't want it lying around for another 6 months...

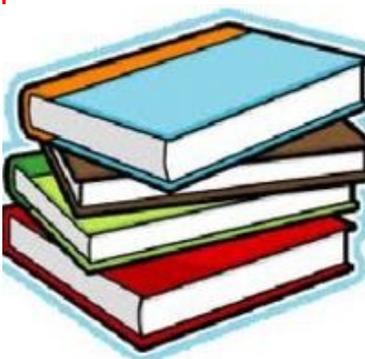
10% of the price will go to the Army Benevolent Fund, and the rest is yours. Let's make this a really good sale so we can send a generous donation off at the end of the year to the ABF (accumulated from the sales at Ickworth, Hole park and Amherst).

Date and Place

Saturday 3rd September

Lower Ward under the archway

4-5pm



Chairman's Report

Dear all

So far this year the Association has staged successful events at Ickworth, Jaywick, Hole Park and Winchester. The Battle Prom season is proving popular and successful once again and we also provided logistics support to the Burgos event in Spain. Planning is under way for our last major event this year at Fort Amherst on the 3rd and 4th of September.

Whilst these events are going on the Association is planning for the 2017 season. When the Battle of Nations was cancelled the Association moved speedily to find the replacement at Hole Park which was sponsored jointly by the Association and the site owner. This proved very successful and the site owner has asked the Association to repeat the event on 28th and 29th May 2017. The site owner has also made it clear that this date is non-negotiable and that he wishes to deal with the Association only in relation to the management of this event. That Bank Holiday is not reserved for any event and it would not be in the best interests of the Association or its members if we were to turn down this event.

This is especially so as the Association has had until recently no clear indication of whether a Battle of Nations is also planned for that late May Bank Holiday. The announcement that the Battle of Nations (UK) Association is negotiating with the Land Trust at Fort Burgoyne has simply come too late. The Association clearly cannot change venues now that agreement has been reached with Hole Park. It is unfortunate if events clashed on this weekend but the Association must and always will act in the best interest of its members. Invitations to attend the Hole Park event have been sent out within the UK and Europe and we aim to make this event a truly international one with both Association and non-Association units attending.

Association policy has and always will be to reach out to all Napoleonic re-enactors in UK and beyond for large events such as this. The Association has a record of managing and supporting this type of event such as those held at Fishguard, Battle Abbey, the Colchester Military Tattoos and the Battle of Nations in 2011, 2012, and 2013. The Association also financed and ran the 5th Battle of Nations event at Wollaton in 2015 (with the exception of unit registration).

Sorry to bring Brexit into my piece but I was informed that some of our friends in Europe are concerned that they may not be able to take part in events in UK as the UK has voted to leave the European Union. The Association issued a statement in June stating that the Association's position on our friends visiting from Europe is unchanged. Our friends are always welcome to attend the Association's events in UK and the Association will do everything in its power to ensure that the appropriate firearms licences and other documentation is in place to allow them to take part in each event. Please reassure your friends in Europe they will always be welcome as far as the Association is concerned. More specifically, please tell them about the Hole Park event in May next year and ask them to register their unit's interest in the event by emailing me at martyn.monks@btinternet.com.

I look forward to seeing you at Fort Amherst in September.

Martyn



Photo © Alan Balding

French Commander's Report

Summer nears its end, without seemingly ever getting here, and another season starts to come to a close. The catastrophes predicted about a post 2015 Waterloo re-enactment world do not seem to have materialised, in fact what was expected to be a quieter re-enactment year appears to have been busier than ever, with various units within the French Brigade taking part in events throughout the UK and across the channel most weekends since the end of March. At the time of writing the 45e have another 5 events to attend this year with the last being a trip to Jena in Germany. If the 2016 event is half as good as the bi-centennial in 2006, then everyone should have a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Once again the 45e will be working closely with our colleagues in the Genie and forming one of the peletons within the same bataillon that we had at Waterloo 2015. It will be good to meet up and work with our associates in the bataillon again.



The NA hosted a couple of great events at Hole Park and at the ATR Winchester, for the 95th Rifles anniversary. There is considerable likelihood that the MOD will sell off the land at ATR and as such will bring a curtain down on a couple of hundred years of there being a military presence in Winchester. With the potential threat of closure and the anniversary, this event attracted even greater numbers of Rifles veterans than in previous years. As always, Jim and Tony had worked hard at planning a great event and Mike Haynes said all the right things during the show's commentary to fire up the already very partisan crowd. John 'Napoleon' Horwood did a grand job in helping quell the massed hysteria amongst the Rifles' supporters. It was an interesting event and some great discussions took place after the show with the very appreciative veterans. What struck many of us was the strength of camaraderie and sense of family that existed throughout the huge gathering. Respect for each other and the almost referential way many of the veterans looked up to their officers, were ever present, even in the 8-10 deep queues at the bar. Although obviously re-enactment is not the real army, it too provides an opportunity for many of the same qualities and attributes to come to the fore. Great friendships are built up and mutual respect exists between many of the units and groups. I remember the impact that 'Napoleon' had on us at Jena in 2006. I have copied a short extract below, from an article that I wrote following that event, which I hope captures from a re-enactment perspective, the same sense of belonging and admiration seen amongst the Rifles veterans:

Although we were to re-fight the battle of Jena, the 85eme who formed the largest part of our combined unit, were initially bivouacked in the small village of Hassenhausen where they took part in the battle of Auerstadt 200 years ago. The locals made them all very welcome and quite a few of the unit were still nursing sore heads when they joined with the rest of us from 30e, 45e and 127e at Vierzehneiligen ready for the day of the battle.

Our Officers organised our various units together and we marched off, covering the four or five kilometres distance to the battlefield in quick time. From the looks on the local inhabitants' faces they were impressed not only by the spectacle of different uniforms and colours, but also by the sheer weight of numbers involved in the event. They appeared to enjoy the way various units broke into song as they whiled away the time taken on the march.

Once on the battlefield the French Army manoeuvred into position and whilst we were doing so the first of my two favourite moments took place. The Army was standing ready, there was an air of expectation and occasionally some chattering in the ranks. What would the next few hours hold for us? Was our Empereur's lucky star going to bring us good fortune? Then suddenly in the distance appeared a horseman on a white mount followed by a small retinue of brightly uniformed Officers. We instantly recognised the horseman as Napoleon, brilliantly played by Mark Sneider, a Canadian who has played the role successfully at a number of recent bi-centennial events. One of our Officers, Koen de Smedt, raised his bicorn and yelled 'Vive L'Empereur', immediately our whole unit joined in with 3 tremendous shouts. Napoleon stopped his horse, raised himself in his stirrups, looked in our direction and waved his hat in salute to us. Our hearts melted, tears welled up in our eyes and we were ready to follow our little Caporal to victory.

The battle was a splendid affair with the Prussian Army slowly being pushed back and with French casualties mounting at every moment. The large numbers of French troops on the field allowed us to take a number of casualties, something that is often missing from smaller scale re-enactment events, particularly those held in the UK. Mark Evans, our Officer shouted out numbers between one and ten every so often and those who had been allocated those numbers died once the numbers were called. This worked well and there was a trail of death and destruction showing the progress of the unit. Just before the French Army made its main push forward Napoleon again rode into sight. This led to the second highlight of the event for me. As he rode closer to our unit, we again raised a cheer for him. This time he stopped in front of us and began to talk to us about the forthcoming victory, spontaneously the unit burst into song, 'Le Chant du depart' was heard across the battlefield. One of Napoleon's favourite songs, he listened, smiled, raised his hat and rode off. An image that will stay with us for many years and one that filled us with a sense of pride. Re-enactment really doesn't get much better than that.

Vive L'Empereur
Salut et Fraternite
Duncan





Invasion Kent 2017



Registration Form

Unit Commanders, Soldiers, Ladies and Gentlemen

The Napoleonic Association is proud and pleased to announce that we have been offered the fantastic Hole Park venue again next year for your participation and enjoyment. We already have full funding available to turn this successful event into a multinational annual event that can only go from strength to strength. To that end we would like to offer you the early opportunity to register and secure your place for participation in next year. Invasion Kent will be held at Hole Park Kent on the weekend of 27th to 29th

May 2017

Looking forward to seeing you all there.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Unit | |
| Unit Leader/ Contact | |
| Contact Telephone | □ |
| Email | □ |
| Size and Number of Living History Tentage | |
| UK Firearms passes Required | Yes No |
| Special requirements needed? | |

Please return completed registration forms to our Chairman Mr Martyn Monks, who will be coordinating registration at

martyn.monks@btinternet.com

or call [07802 485390](tel:07802485390)

For further information or inquiries, contact our Events Organiser

Mr Tony Wilks at tonywilks1@googlemail.com

or call [07771 728667](tel:07771728667)



The Napoleonic Association – The British Division August 2016

By the time you all read this we are heading towards the last NA event of 2016 at Fort Amherst. Those of you who attended last year will remember what a good fun event this turned out to be, so I would encourage you all to come along.

Although I will save our review of 2016 until the year-end edition of the *Adjutant*, it is worth remembering, in this post Waterloo200 year, that much was made of the impending doom of Napoleonic Re-enactment as it was mooted that participants would be leaving the hobby in droves. Thankfully this has not proved to be the case. As the year has progressed, it is true that we have regrettably lost a few, but what I have also noticed is the determination of many of our units, not just to make up any lost numbers, but to recruit and stimulate growth. Well done.

Our programme of events this year have been varied and on the whole successful. The event team have to be congratulated in getting a programme together, in a year when Napoleonic Re-enactment was not exactly “flavour of the month” with venues or event organisers. Ickworth, Hole Park, Winchester stand out for me and of course Burgos was an NA supported overseas event that was immense.

Even the Battle Proms, I understand receiving their largest public attendance figures ever, proved to be as much fun as ever for the units who attended. And, although not an NA event, I enjoyed the company of many of you at the Worcester Re-enactors Spetchley event. My thanks to all of you for your support over the season. In particular those Brigade and Unit Commanders who helped us get together some great little battles and skirmishes. Whilst we are handing out a few plaudits I think it would be amiss not to congratulate Duncan and the French army on their efforts to bring to the field an effective and credible opposition on so many occasions.

We should give a special mention in despatches to the 23rd RWF, 2nd lieutenant Wagg Ellis Jones receiving and parading the Regiment's splendid new Colour in front of the assembled army at Spetchley.

See you at Chatham.

Major General Edwin (Ed) Parker
Officer Commanding the British
Division.



NA Event Programme for 2016

The final event of the NA season this year

3-4 Sept FORT AMHERST International event Chatham Kent

Following last year's successful event we will have the added interest of some of our Dutch colleagues coming over to join us and we will be using areas not used before and not open to the public. As well, by popular demand, a return visit from the lady singer who made our Tavern Night a great success last year.

NA Event Programme for 2017

The following events have been confirmed at the time of going to press.

21 January NA AGM and WINTER PARTY Devizes Wiltshire

This will be held at the historic Bear Hotel in the centre of Devizes, more details elsewhere in this edition.

27-29 May Invasion Kent Hole Park near Tenterden, Kent

Details of this event to be found elsewhere in this issue.

2-3 Sept Fishguard, Wales

Please see details below.

Plus our usual programme of events, such as Ickworth. Dates to be ratified later.

Tony Wilks has provided the following Outline Scenario for an exciting event at Fishguard, 2-3 September 2017. Note there is an important role for the ladies as well.

Saturday morning - British form up in camp and march to the beach at Goodwick sands.

British Gun crew to move the Fort with pyrotechnics equipment by vehicle. Other British cannons to move by vehicle to gun drop off point adjacent to Goodwick Sands beach (Vehicles to be parked in Scout hut compound).

French move to end of Breakwater and take concealed positions with two cannon.

Boat with Canon to be in place adjacent to breakwater. Safety boat to be in position as recommended by RNLI. 20 minutes before the battle Fort battery and French gun boat exchange 3 shots each to gain public attention..

Battle begins with French appearing at the end of the breakwater as if landed by boat. British forward picket engage French landing party who force the British picket back towards the beach. British Fort Battery open fire on the French attack. Fall of shot simulated by pyrotechnics placed in sea along the breakwater.

French force British onto the beach where main engagement begins. French guns deploy on Breakwater and open fire. French gun boat fires throughout at slow rate. - will be required to keep public clear of end of breakwater and beach until French are on the beach.

Battle continues with French ultimately pushing the British off of the beach. French pursue British skirmishing as far as the junction of Windy Hall and Heol Dewi. (Note: Safety office to move in line with combatant forces using green flag to indicate that it is clear to fire. A red flag will be used to indicate that firing should stop. Mobile Stewards are to move with the skirmish to temporarily close access to the combat area.)

On cessation of the skirmish withdraw to respective camps.

Saturday afternoon - French form up on Beach. British form up in camp area then march to Beach. French Guns in position on the breakwater. British guns concealed at the bottom of the costal path steps ready to join force as they enter the beach.

Battle on beach to be conducted until British fallback once again into town. French pursue British skirmishing as far as the junction of Windy Hall and Heol Dewi. (Note: Safety office to move in line with combatant forces using green flag to indicate that it is clear to fire. A red flag will be used to indicate that firing should stop. Mobile Stewards are to move with the skirmish to temporarily close access to the combat area.)

Once British break clean they march back to square in front of the Royal Oak.

French Officer delivers offer of surrender to British HQ at Royal Oak. After brief consultation British commander emerges from Royal Oak and declares that the offered terms of surrender are unacceptable.

Whilst the surrender offer is made a number of French troops move to the of the Junction of West Street and The Slade where they start to act boisterously, drinking and abusing the local population. Jemima Nicholas and her ladies appear from the Slade and round up the marauding French. They then heard them to the square where they hand over their prisoners to the troops who take them away to the British camp.

Saturday evening - community activities involving re-enactors.

Sunday - French form up on beach with skirmish party concealed near to town square.

British form up in the town square. French guns take place on breakwater. British Guns concealed at the bottom of the costal path steps ready to join force as they enter the beach.

Jemima Nicholas and her ladies take position along the coastal path above the beach (Note they should carry their red cloaks and black hats.

Skirmish begins with French Skirmishes begin battle by engaging British formed in the square. Skirmish then proceeds down the hill in bounds. (Note: Safety office to move in line with combatant forces using green flag to indicate that it is clear to fire. A red flag will be used to indicate that firing should stop. Mobile Stewards are to move with the skirmish to temporarily close access to the combat area.)

British move onto beach - battle continues until French have been forced to breakwater end of beach. Jemima Nicholas and her ladies put on their red cloaks and black hats on queue.

French commander points to Jemima Nicholas and her ladies and then surrenders to the Bites. Brief negotiations on the beach between French and British commanders agree terms of surrender. British escort French along the beach in the direction of the town and then forms to face the public. Jemima Nicholas and her ladies take their place on the beach with the troops. Salute the public ordered by the British commander. Troops return to camps.

Winter Party 2017

You are cordially invited to the
Napoleonic Association's Georgian Assembly
at the Historic Bear Hotel, Devizes,
in the County of Wiltshire,
on Saturday 21st January 2017.

2 course hot fork buffet
Followed by country dancing
With music by the celebrated
Austen Allegros

The Bear has an interesting history - amongst its famous residents was the Regency Portrait Painter Thomas Lawrence, whose father was the Landlord. The young Thomas helped to boost his father's income and popularity by taking "likenesses" of the customers.

It is also very probable that Jane Austen also stopped at the Bear, probably to dine on her way from Hampshire to Bath.

The NA Annual General Meeting will be taking place at the same venue earlier during the day.

Our evening will comprise a meal followed by country dances, to the music of the Austen Allegros who played so well for us in 2015 at Bury St Edmunds.

Tickets will be available from kate.davis1.kd@gmail.com at a cost of £28 Per person.

Payment by cheque, payable to "NA Duchess of Richmond's Ball 2015" or contact me if you want to pay by bank transfer. (I am using the account I opened for the NA Ball in 2015, hence the name.)

To save postal costs tickets will be emailed to you.

Rooms can be reserved at The Bear for special party rates for £85 (single) or £115 (double). Family rooms are also available. Please contact the hotel direct on events@thebearhotel.net, or telephone 01380 722444. Their postal address is The Bear Hotel, Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1HS.

There is alternative accommodation available in Devizes, including a Travelodge and B&B hotels. Please contact the Devizes Tourist Information for more details.

Fort Amherst Warning Order September 3th - 4th

Skirmish & Garrison Weekend at Fort Amherst Chatham 2016

Welcome to Fort Amherst for our last big event of 2016 This will be a Skirmish & Garrison weekend with Brigade General Ed Parker as Garrison Commander.

Event: Our aim for the weekend is to take over the fort for the 2 days and repel any attempted attacks, we will mount a front gate guard during the daytime only, and on the Saturday evening in the lower gun deck area inside the tunnels, we have engaged a professional singer who will sing period and present day songs for all to join in, we have had very successful tavern nights here before and have all been well received.

Skirmish: We plan to have one 30 minute skirmish on Saturday for the public and a late afternoon skirmish in the un-restored area of the fort with no public were we have a abandoned barracks which will offer us a unique challenge for our military skills

Sunday: We will be having 2 skirmish's for the public in the lower areas of the fort which will include the forts cannons as well as RHA cannons.

Timings: Arrive from 4.00 pm Friday

Logistics team: QM team Jim Paylor , Tony Wilks.

Garrison powder officer Jerry Sperring

Saturday :

8.00 am Reveille

9.00am Officers Meeting Garrison commander office in lower Guard house

9.30 am Powder issue lower Guard house car park

10.30 First full parade Brigade Drill/ Artillery drill with cannon firing

1.00 - 1.40 Lunch

2.00- 2.25 pm Public skirmish

2.30-3.0 pm kids drill

3.30-4.00pm Artillery drill with cannon firing

5.00 pm form up for Non public skirmish in unrestored area

6.30 pm Return for Sunset Parade, End of military day.

7.00 pm till midnight Tavern singer in lower gun deck

N.B. The Bring and Buy sale will be set up between around 4 and 5 pm in the lower ward.

Sunday :

8.00 am Reveille

9.00am Officers Meeting Garrison commander office in lower Guard house

9.30 am Powder issue lower Guard house car park

10.30 First full parade Brigade Drill/ Artillery drill with cannon firing

12.00 till 1.00 Lunch

1.30- 2.00 pm Public skirmish

2.15-2.30 pm kids drill living history

3.30-4.00pm Final skirmish

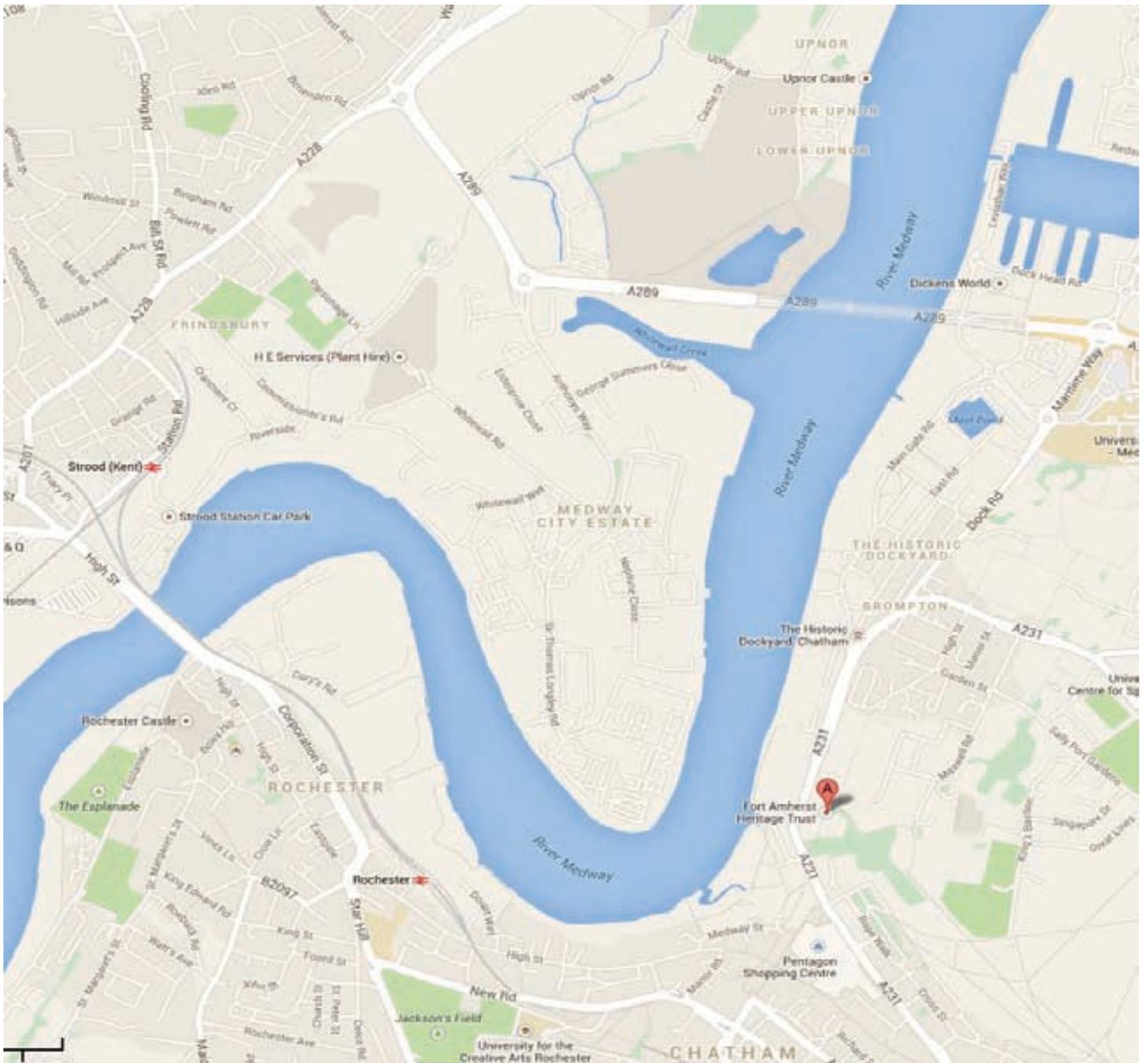
4.00-4.30 pm kids drill

4.35 pm Flag Down. End of military day.

Address: Fort Amherst Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4UB

Tel: 01634 847747

Tony wilks Site Manger:07771 728667



The Chestnut Trees at Hougoumont

Some of you will remember I am sure the two dead, and one partially still alive, trees standing near the South Gate at Hougoumont. These are the only remnant of the sweet chestnut wood that was there 200 years ago when the Battle of Waterloo took place, and through which the French troops came to try and take the chateau. The wood was largely felled sometime after the battle, probably because they were so badly decimated, and unable to produce a commercial crop anymore.

A few years ago, a member of Project Hougoumont was visiting the farm and noticed a branch that was setting seed on the last live tree. This seed was taken and cultivated, and more than a dozen seedling trees have been successfully propagated.

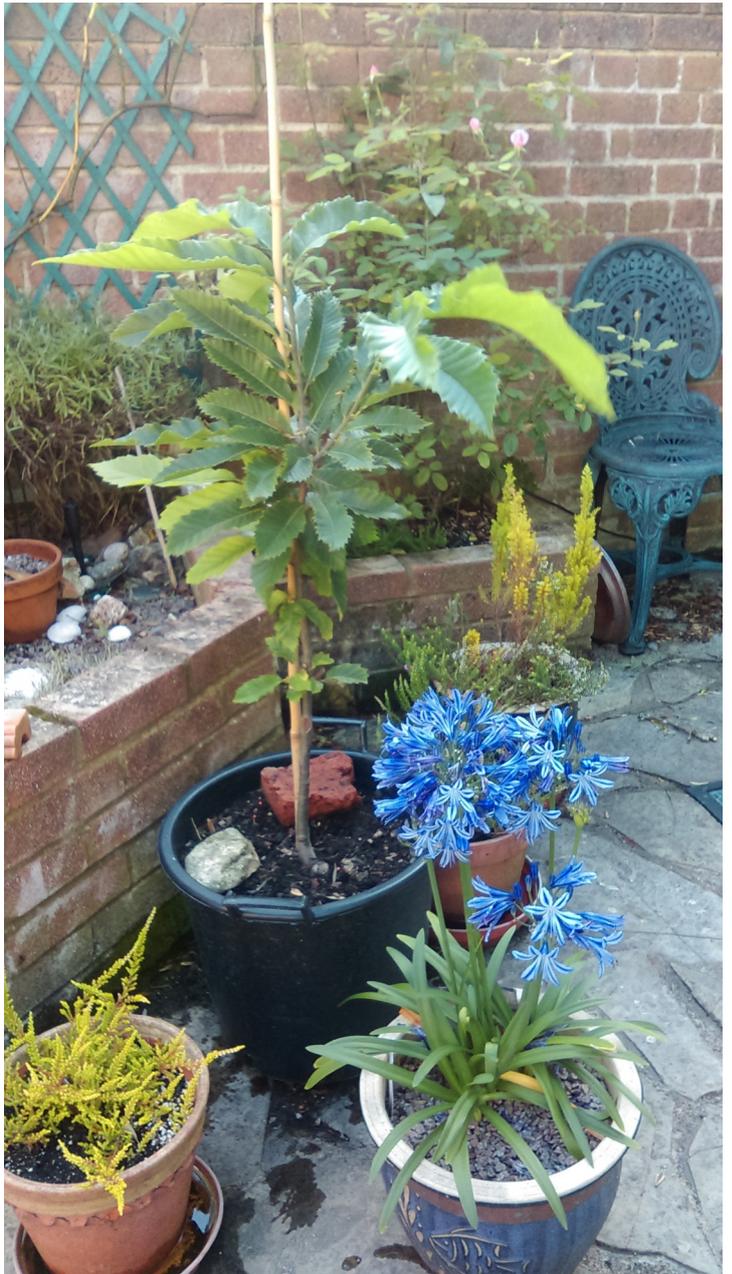
Last summer, Adrian and I were asked if we would go along to the Hampton Court Flower Show in kit where a stand had been sponsored by Project Hougoumont to promote the awareness and restoration of Hougoumont Farm. The stand had been designed and created by an RHS Gold Medal winner. His idea was a stylised adaptation of the battle within a kitchen garden framework, using mainly herbs which would have been found there at the time, and possibly used in the treatment of wounds. This stand was part of a fund-raising drive to re-create the old kitchen garden within the farmyard area at Hougoumont. Amongst the plants used were some of these chestnut seedlings. I should also point mention that it was 32°C on one of the days we were there.

After the show, we were told that some of the seedlings were being offered to Prince Charles, for his garden at Highgrove, and others to Petworth House, who designed and built the new North Gates.

Imagine our surprise when we were offered one of the seedlings as a wedding present. Truly a wonderful gift as Hougoumont and Waterloo are very special to us, and the tree will be a real connection with the past. Indeed, in March next year we will be staying for a few days in the Gardeners Cottage, thanks to the Landmark Trust. Each morning we will be able to look out of the south window and see the tree which our little tree was grown from.

For the time being, we will enjoy looking at our sweet chestnut seedling in its container in our back garden, which is very small, but for the future - hmmm...where best for it to be planted for posterity?

Kate Davis (looking forward soon to be Mrs Kate Lobb) and Adrian Lobb





Above: The Project Hougoumont Garden at Hampton Court Flower Show 2015

Left: Our new Sweet Chestnut seedling called "Hougoumont".

Below: Dighton's image of the South Gate, a few days after the battle. Possibly the three trees in the picture are the ones remaining today.



312. DENIS DIGTON: Château de Hougoumont, Field of Waterloo, 1815. (Cat. No. 398)

Somewhere in Kent
30th May 1815

To the Editor of the Times

Your humble correspondent was tasked to report to this illustrious organ's readers upon the events which were particularly upon the skirmish and battle which would ensue in the environs of Sole Park in Kent.

Upon my arrival I was received by one of the senior officers whose gracious lady also was kindness to self. I had stationed my carriage close by but found that I had to approach the camp of the forces of Britain and her allies by walking through that of the French. I thanked good providence that I was not accosted and shot as a spy since had been instructed to attend wearing civilian clothing and not Regimental. I had in confidence that my

presentation of being a non-combatant would be investigated by the French and would carry no little consequence for the fate of the

surrounding country and its inhabitants. A large crowd of observers had attended to view the events of the day. A large number of carriages of all kinds and degrees crowded the adjoining fields. The curiosity of these persons was unbounded since to my astonishment they made free to enter the encampment of the troops. It is a testament to the generosity of spirit of the ranks of both sides that they bore no malice to these

intended and were prepared to answer any inquiry made of them - with the proviso that a bold non-resistance to the military was being made on either side.

Our brave boys were ready for the fight, and it was not long before first contact was made with the French forces who had established a redoubt close to Sole Park House. They had

There is an apocryphal story that Wellington was asked on one occasion to receive some newspaper men and “a gentleman from The Times”. So here we have a descriptive account of the event at Hole Park in Kent, from our very own “Gentleman from The Times”, a recent 3rd Foot Guards recruit. Fortunately, he was kind enough to supply an un-crossed copy of his report as well, in Times New Roman script, of course.. See below.

Somewhere in Kent, 30th May 1815

To the Editor of the Times

Sir,

Your humble correspondent was tasked to report to this illustrious organ’s readers upon the events arising from the invasion of Glorious Albion by the perfidious Frenchman and more particularly upon the skirmishes and battles which would ensue in the environs of Hole Park in Kent.

Upon my arrival I was received by one of the senior officers A -L— whose gracious lady also was kindness itself. I had stationed my carriage close by but found that I had to approach the camp of the forces of Britain and her allies by walking through that of the French. I thanked good providence that I was not accosted and shot as a spy since had been instructed to attend wearing civilian clothing and not Regimentals. I had no confidence that my protestations of being a non-combatant would be believed were I to be interrogated by suspicious officers with no good command of English.

Since the outcome of the battles would carry no little consequence for the fate of the surrounding countryside and its inhabitants, a large crowd of observers had attended to view the events of the day. A large number of carriages of all kinds and degrees crowded the adjoining fields. The curiosity of these persons knew no bounds since to my astonishment they made free to wander through the encampments of the troops. It is a testament to the generosity of spirit of the common ranks on both sides that they bore no malice to these interlopers and were prepared - nay, willing - to answer any enquiry made of them - with the proviso that it bore no relevance to the military plans which were being made on either side.

Our brave boys were eager for the fight, and it was not long before first contact was made with the French forces who had established a redoubt close to Hole Park House They had chosen their position well since the terrain sloped away from them and any attack would have to come against them uphill. A small force was sent in the morning to test their strength but then withdrew to report upon the positions of the invader.

Regretfully, there were casualties from this action and perforce the surgeon was called upon to attend to the wounded. Myself and a number of other persons were witnefs to an amputation of the leg of one poor unfortunate. It is a testament to the wonders of modern surgery that he survived and would be able to persue his life albeit with the incumbrance of the lack of one leg. I was afsured that a non-combatant place would be found for him in the future.

Preparations continued in the camp for the confrontation which was to come - officers of the cavalry demonstrated their skill at arms to members of the local populace who were tremendously reassured and expressed great appreciation for the armed presence to protect them from the invading forces.

As the day wore on it became clear that the French could not be left without challenge - the cause of freedom demanded action, and action it was that our proud officers provided.

Upon being advised that action was afoot, I made my way to a safe and convenient place from which I could observe the battlefield. I could see that behind the French positions a large crowd of observers had gathered at a prudent distance. In the distance I heard the stirring sound of drums and pipes and then through the trees appeared the occasional flash of red. The British commanders had used the terrain of the battlefield to conceal their approach, well but then a proud line of red appeared over the rise of the land. Colours were raised and the battle began in earnest. I espied riflemen moving in under cover of the trees but so, too, had the French and a cavalry charge was sent to suppress them.

The intensity of the engagement grew. On the far side of the fight I could see a battery of cannon engaging the French but the main assault upon their position came from the centre. Musket and cannon fire created a pall of smoke over the field of battle. The advantage swayed back and forth between the opposing forces but this day went to the French. I am convinced, however, that this is only a minor reverse and that by tomorrow the British forces will have rallied and will take the day as the Little Corporal surely cannot be allowed to hold sway over John Bull and his brave allies.

Despite the reverses of the day, the efforts of our brave boys were much appreciated by the populace who raised huzzahs to show their appreciation and support.

I trust, sir, that this report will be of interest to your readers and in anticipation of your approval of my humble submission I enclose a separate note of my fee for this report for your kind attention. I remain, sir,

Your Humble Servant
Christopher Oswald



Did You Know?

The LAST Invasion of the British mainland

General William Tate, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wales. French Revolutionary Wars.

14:00 Friday February 1797

In 1797 the French revolutionary government devised a ludicrous plan to ferment revolution in Britain and make the people rally to the support of their French liberators. The invasion force of four ships and 1,400 troops set sail from Brest on 16 February 1797 under the command of Commodore Jean Castagnier and General William Tate, an Irish-American septuagenarian renegade who had been court-martialled in America for falsifying muster rolls to raise cash. His "army" was a rag-tag collection of irregulars including 800 convicts released on condition they enlist, and his orders were to destroy Bristol, then cross into Wales and march north to take Chester and Liverpool. Wind conditions made it impossible to land near Bristol, so instead, on 22 February, the ships sailed into Fishguard Bay where they were greeted by a single cannon shot. The cannon was merely an alarm for the townsfolk but, thinking he was under attack, Tate withdrew and sailed on until he reached a sandy beach near the village of Llanwnda where the invaders rowed ashore, scaled the cliffs near Carregwastad and camped around a farm house at Trehowel. The ships returned to France to report the successful landing but the invaders had little taste for fighting and instead spent 23 February enjoying themselves with poultry, port wine and brandy salvaged from a wrecked Portuguese ship. Fuelled by alcohol they set off on a looting spree, stealing the plate of Llanwnda Church and using an eight-day clock at Brestgarn Farm for target practice. Meanwhile, 2 miles away at Fishguard, 650-750 troops were mobilised under Lord Cawdor. But it wasn't Cawdor's troops who terrified the hung-over French into submission the next day - it was the appearance, on the hillside overlooking their encampment, of several hundred angry local women wearing traditional scarlet "whittles" (cloaks) and tall black felt hats, which made them look like the fiercest regiment of redcoats ever seen. The invasion collapsed, and Tate's force surrendered to Cawdor on Goodwick Sands at 14:00 on 24 February. Tate later reported that the British came at them "with troops of the line to the number of ten thousand".

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The hero of the invasion was 47-year old Fishguard cobbler Jemima Nicholas, the "General of the Red Army". At six feet two inches tall, the hard drinking, feisty widow decided to take on the Frenchies single-handed, and marched out to Llanwnda, pitchfork in hand, and rounded up twelve Frenchmen, taking them into town before promptly leaving again to search for more impudent foreigners.

*Extract taken from "Firsts, Lasts & Onlys MILITARY, compiled by Jeremy Beadle and Ian Harrison.*

Submitted by Adrian Lobb

**Editor's Note: Ladies, this proves that we can play an important part in a military re-enactment, so get yourself a scarlet cloak and tall hat in time for the beginning of September next year for this exciting event in Fishguard - see Tony Wilks' information on pages 9-10.**

# Photo Album

A few images from the NA 2016 Season, courtesy of Alan Balding



Jaywick Martello Tower,  
Essex.





Napoleon landed on the Essex coast with a small invasion force and took the tower.

The Allies successfully re-gained the fort by Sunday afternoon.



Hole Park, Kent, over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. More images from Alan Balding.





## 2016 Battle Prom Season

The weather has been very kind to us this year and these images show how much effort is put into the displays.

Right: Burghley Battle Prom

Below: A good turn-out by the 4th Foot for their first Battle prom as Lead Unit at Blenheim- including their own Tavern.

Photos Christine Smith



Above and left, 3rd Foot Guards at Blenheim.

Photos Kate Davis

Right: Another good turn-out from the 1st 95th Rifles and the 44th at Hatfield  
Photo Alan Baxter



A few of the superb photos from Highclere by William Bickers-Jones.



And finally...Mick Smith at Ragley Battle prom.  
Photo Christine Smith

Burgos June 2016

Here are some of Kevin Wolf's wonderful images of this memorable weekend in Northern Spain in June this year.



Top: Reception of Army commanders with Wellington and the Mayor of Burgos.  
Middle: The 2nd 95th on the steps of the cathedral.  
Marching down from the Allied Camp.  
Left: A nice study

Saturday evening, cavalry attack during the first stage of the battle on the field, which was followed by a rolling fight down the road back to the camp, watched by a large crowd of enthusiastic spectators.



Left: The 42nd attempted to take the fortress defended from above by the French





The battle continued on Sunday with the Allied assault on the Citadel and eventual surrender to the French Commander, General Sokolov.

The ground was a poppy strewn ploughed field which was on the site of the original battle 200 years ago.

Above: view of the old city of Burgos from the castle hill.

Right: General Sokolov reviews the French Army.

Below: Assault on Hornworks.



Right: A general view of the battlefield showing the difficult ground and the steepness of the hill.

Below:

Wellington and staff (top centre of picture)



Below: A close encounter With the Old Guard.... including a "sandbag" fight!





Waterloo 2016, the Allied Army had already committed to repel the French at Burgos but two intrepid souls from the UK + 3 from Europe represented the Allies at Waterloo,. One of them, from the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers, is shown here beside the memorial at Hougoumont.