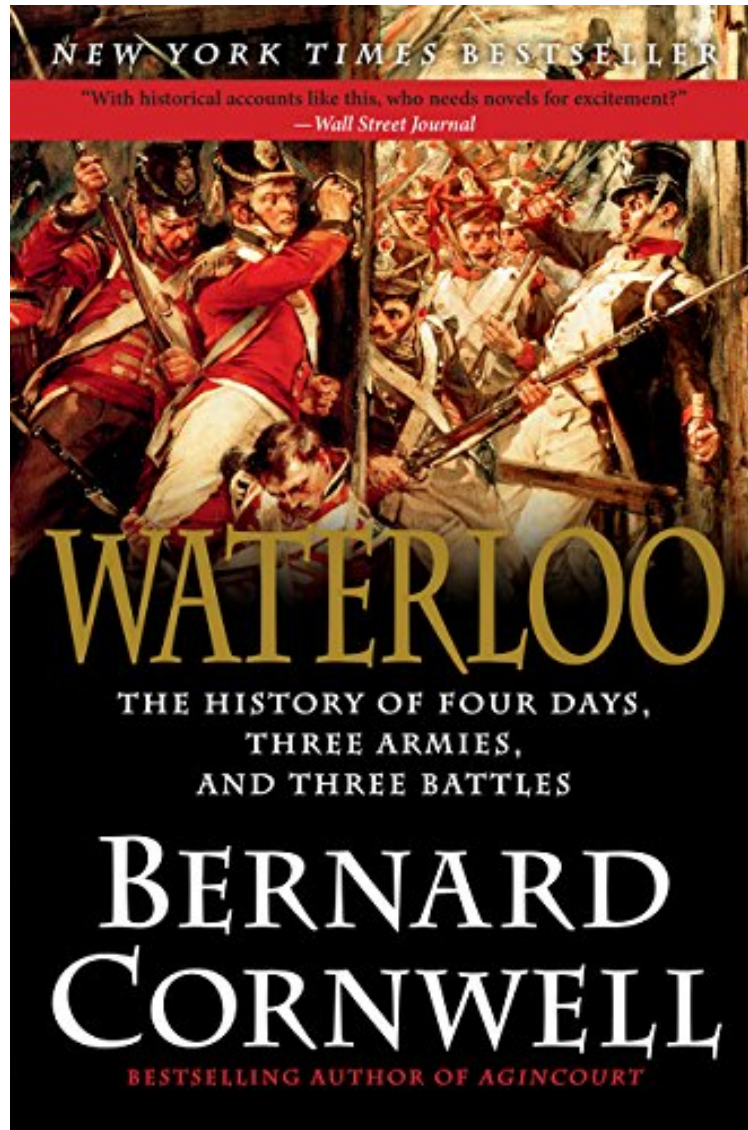


(Ebook pdf) Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles

Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles

Bernard Cornwell

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Bernard Cornwell : Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waterloo: The History of Four Days, Three Armies, and Three Battles:

83 of 85 people found the following review helpful. A Well-told story, leading to understanding By R. W. Levesque As

to be expected from such a successful fiction author, Waterloo is an easy-to-read book whose narrative helps make sense of a very confusing battlefield. Cornwell does a great job of not only setting the strategic and operational stage, helping us understand Wellington, Blucher, and Napoleon, but also weaving in personal anecdotes of the soldiers who fought and died on the battlefield. Waterloo, as can be imagined in a battle its size, was confusing. Many accounts contradict each other or, at least, can't agree on the timing and sequence of events. Cornwell addresses many of the key disconnects and lays out what he believed happened all while telling a story. When it's done you can begin to feel how the battle flowed, not in neat phases but as a series of often overlapping events played out over the battlefield. In this the storyteller comes to the fore because he's able to weave together a variety of multiple events, perspectives, and people in such a way that you see the whole and not the part. It's not just a story of the British or Prussian or French armies, or the common soldier, or the three great leaders. In the end it's a story about how that all came together. In this Cornwell was able to rely on the original work of historians - Cornwell's strength in this book is not original research, there's nothing new historically, but what makes his book worth reading is the way he painlessly tells the tale in a very understandable manner. If I had one complaint, and it's a relatively small one, it's that he switches between the past and present tenses in his writing, sometimes within the same paragraph. I think he periodically switched to the present tense to try to increase the immediacy of what he was describing, but, for me, it tended to interrupt the moment; rather than staying caught up in the story, it reminded me I was reading a book. If you're familiar with some of the post-war finger-pointing among the allies you'll understand, after reading the book, Cornwell's conclusion that, "The battle of Waterloo was an allied victory. That was how it was planned and that was how it turned out. Wellington would never have made his stand if he thought for one moment that the Prussians would not let him down. Blucher would never have marched if he thought Wellington would cut and run." This is one of those books that I still recommend even if you're familiar with Waterloo. Cornwell's ability to tell a story really pulls together the historical elements in a way that allows understanding.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Perfect mix of background, characterization and action! By Charlie This is an excellent description of one of the most significant battles in history. Bernard Cornwell provides a perfect mix of background information, character descriptions, terrain layout, troop formations and action. Briefly, Napoleon is attempting to conquer all of Europe and the European countries have allied together to resist him. Waterloo pits Napoleon and the French against the Duke of Wellington and the British combined with Blucher and the Prussians. These are three of the most colorful and exciting commanders you will read about. Cornwell does a flawless job of describing the troop movements and weapons used to provide a novice reader with a good understanding of what the battlefield looked like without going too far into the weeds. His expertise as a writer shines throughout. This book is action packed and even though we all know how it ends, Cornwell demonstrates just how close the battle was. The Duke of Wellington stated afterwards he was never involved in such a close match. The book uses first hand sources from combatants that provides the reader with a vivid picture of the brutality of the four days. Another amazing aspect of the book is the illumination of how complex battles were back then versus now. Generalship required great anticipation and forethought about the enemy's troop movements and battle formations. Time was critical and communication was slow. Highly recommend this book for anyone interested in significant historical events that shaped the world we live in today!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very readable and easy to follow account of a complex and important battle of the Napoleonic era. By kettleman very readable account of the battle (including key events before and after) Author gives one a very good understanding of the high level strategy of the battle as well as a good understanding of the experience of soldiers involved in the battle and the weapons and tactics of the Napoleonic era.. Great use of quotes from journals and other accounts of the battles written by participants in the conflict. What I thought was particularly notable is that the author did such a good job of describing the positions and movements of the three armies (British, Prussian, French) at different stages of the battle that I did not need to repeatedly look at the maps in the book to understand what was going on. That is no small feat given the complexity of the battle. My main knowledge of the battle of Waterloo prior to reading this book goes back 45+ years to when I saw the famous movie about the battle and regularly played an Avalon Hill war-game about the battle. It was nice to re-acquaint myself with the battle by reading this book.

#1 Bestseller in the U.K. From the New York Times bestselling author and master of martial fiction comes the definitive, illustrated history of one of the greatest battles ever fought a riveting nonfiction chronicle published to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Napoleons last stand. On June 18, 1815 the armies of France, Britain and Prussia descended upon a quiet valley south of Brussels. In the previous three days, the French army had beaten the Prussians at Ligny and fought the British to a standstill at Quatre-Bras. The Allies were in retreat. The little village north of where they turned to fight the French army was called Waterloo. The blood-soaked battle to which it gave its name would become a landmark in European history. In his first work of nonfiction, Bernard Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting chronicle of every dramatic moment, from Napoleons daring escape from Elba to the smoke and gore of the three battlefields and their aftermath. Through quotes from the letters and diaries of Emperor Napoleon, the Duke of Wellington, and the ordinary officers and soldiers, he

brings to life how it actually felt to fight those famous battles as well as the moments of amazing bravery on both sides that left the actual outcome hanging in the balance until the bitter end. Published to coincide with the bicentennial in 2015, *Waterloo* is a tense and gripping story of heroism and tragedy and of the final battle that determined the fate of nineteenth-century Europe.

At the end of *Waterloo*, readers will feel that they could command a battalion themselves. With historical accounts like this, who needs novels for excitement? (Wall Street Journal) *Waterloo* may be a well-mined topic, but this new presentation is bound to satisfy lovers of military history. [Cornwell] injects a human element into a thorough and entertaining account. (Publishers Weekly) No one, not even the great military historian John Keegan, describes or explains battle better than Cornwell. Cornwell illustrates so clearly and with such an assured sense of pacing that this messy and confusing set of battles is easier to follow, understand, and thus appreciate. (Library Journal, starred review) *Waterloo* is a fabulous story, superbly told. Cornwell cannot be bettered. (Max Hastings, Sunday Times (London)) Both vivid and scholarly. Readers new to the *Waterloo* campaign could hope for no better introduction and veterans will find fresh insights. (The Independent) A great and terrible story told with energy and clarity by a writer who has a deep understanding of men in combat and why they do what they do. (The Economist) The history of the Battle of *Waterloo* told by a master storyteller. (Shelf Awareness) In his first nonfiction book, acclaimed historical novelist Cornwell (*The Empty Throne*, 2015, etc.) employs his storytelling skills to bring military history out of the textbook. A fascinating, detailed, and generously illustrated description of the battle that changed the fate of 19th-century Europe. (Kirkus) Bernard Cornwell proceeds at a brisk canter and his descriptions of the fighting are as gripping as any in his splendid *Sharpe* novels. (The Times (London)) A lot of historians could learn from Cornwell's approach. He sets the scene, fleshes out the main characters and lets the story unfold to its dramatic conclusion. An excellent first foray into non-fiction. (Evening Standard (London)) Brings a shrewd military historians mind to his subject thrilling to read. Cornwell is from start to finish a gripping account, red in tooth and claw. Serve with a robust burgundy. (The Spectator) Bernard Cornwell's lively account of *Waterloo*... is a clear account... Cornwell is a storyteller... for those who want a... reliable guide to what happened at *Waterloo*, he has great appeal. His book is also superbly illustrated (New Statesman) As you would expect from a writer who is the acknowledged expert on the Napoleonic Wars he is superb on the tiny details as well as on the bigger picture. (Daily Express (London)) Cornwell has found deserved popularity with his *Sharpe* series of historically accurate novels set in the Napoleonic Wars. For the first time, he turns his gung-ho novelists skill to an actual account of the supreme battle of the conflict. Written with all the excitement of a popular novel. (Literary) A real page-turner in which Cornwell shows real insight into the *Waterloo* campaign. (BBC History Magazine) This master storyteller's take on events comes highly recommended to those new to the genre and *Waterloo* aficionados alike. (Soldier Magazine) From the Back Cover A great and terrible story told with energy and clarity by a writer who has a deep understanding of men in combat and why they do what they do. The Economist On June 18, 1815, the armies of France, Britain, and Prussia descended upon a quiet valley south of Brussels. In the previous three days, the French army had beaten the Prussians at Ligny and fought the British to a standstill at Quatre-Bras. The Allies were in retreat. The little village north of where they turned to fight the French army was called *Waterloo*. The blood-soaked battle to which the town gave its name would become a landmark in European history. In his first work of nonfiction, Bernard Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting chronicle of every dramatic moment from Napoleon's daring escape from Elba to the smoke and gore of the three battlefields and their aftermath. Cornwell brings to life how it actually felt to fight those famous battles as well as the moments of amazing bravery on both sides that left the outcome hanging in the balance until the bitter end. *Waterloo* is a fabulous story, superbly told. . . . Cornwell cannot be bettered. Max Hastings, Sunday Times (LONDON) About the Author BERNARD CORNWELL is the author of the acclaimed New York Times bestselling *Saxon Tales* series, which includes *The Last Kingdom*, *The Pale Horseman*, *Lords of the North*, *Sword Song*, *The Burning Land*, *Death of Kings*, *The Pagan Lord*, and, most recently, *The Empty Throne* and *Warriors of the Storm*, and which serves as the basis for the hit television series *The Last Kingdom*. He lives with his wife on Cape Cod and in Charleston, South Carolina.