



THE ADJUTANT

AUTUMN 2013



Editorial

Hello,

Thank you for your continuing support in what has been a busy and challenging year for the NA. I hope to see some of you at the Lord Mayor's Show in London and also at the AGM and Winter Party.

Thank you once again to those who have submitted articles and I am grateful for all of your support. Please keep the articles coming. Without the news/reviews there is no magazine. I would love to see some more Historical based researched pieces, some satirical cartoons, recipes, costume information, news on what is happening in your area/ in your group etc. Please send in anything you wish to see published to me and I will do my best to get it in the next issue.

I hope to publish the next edition of the Adjutant before the end of March. So my next deadline for the first edition of the Adjutant for 2014 will be 23 March 2014.

Tracey Hammond

**On the front Cover:
Members of the NA waiting to go on to the
Horse Guards Parade ground. Photo taken
by Jim Paylor.**

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The British Commander's Report



Dear All,

I can see The Lord Mayors Show, TORM and The Worcester Re-enactors party heading towards me. So it's probably time to wish you Merry Christmas. Another season over then!

I enjoyed Battle of Nations in Kent. It's about a million miles from home, but Stephen and his team seem dedicated to improving it year on year. Discussing world [re-enactment] politics with a Belgium and a German in a beer tent where the bar was half a dozen pallets piled one on top of another was a first. The battles looked great too.

Spetchley. I always have fun at. Three miles from home, what's not to like.

On the subject of the battles. Please don't try to capture Standards. It's naughty and you know that you're not supposed to do it. Do please try to be on parade on time. Your mates, [if you have any] will get grumpy if you keep them waiting. The Brunswick Corp's may now operate as an 'unparented' unit within its Division.

The Landwehr may also act as a grown up unit and no longer needs 'parenting'. This unit because it belongs to a Foreign Army may also choose which side it fights for on an event by event basis.
.....and Alan Larsen behaved himself at Waterloo, [Did I just write that ?] receiving congratulations from far to many people for his role as The Duke.

Cheers One and All.....Wagg

The French Commander's Report



Well the season is drawing to a close; in fact it might have already ended by the time you read this. It's been an interesting season with some highly memorable moments for individuals and the NA as a whole. Performing at Horse Guards during The Beating of the Retreat was a personal highlight and something that many others and I will be forever grateful to the NA for providing us with the opportunity to take part. It was a wonderful experience and with the build up to Waterloo 2015 there are many more exciting opportunities for people within the NA to look forward to.

Within The French Brigade I sense that there has been a unity of purpose and great support amongst and between the various units. We have worked well with our friends outside of the NA and there have been occasions this year where the French forces have looked extremely impressive in terms of numbers and appearance. This was particularly so at both Hunton and Spetchley. It was nice to have comments made by The British Staff saying that we looked impressive and that there appeared to be a real sense of camaraderie amongst all the participating non NA and NA units. Christine Pet-Sepers and Kevin Wolf took some lovely pictures of Brigade members outside the Manor House at Spetchley, which certainly capture the esprit de corp. I must make an apology to Mick and 3eme artillerie for missing out on the photo sessions.

I would like to thank all the individuals who have contributed within the Brigade in making the season such a success. Those contributions range from living history displays and talks; communal cooking; helping everyone pack

and unpack kit and tents; through to being prepared to muck in and join larger or smaller units that allowed us to provide a well balanced force and flexible on the battlefield. I appreciate that at times this has meant that some individuals have been required to perform roles slightly out of keeping with their preferences. So I thank all those involved.

It was a shame that Stanton had to be cancelled this year, especially after all the hard work by Tony and Kieran. It was looking as though we might have the largest French contingent yet taking part and I know many of you were well advanced into your preparations for the event. Hopefully none of the planning will have been wasted and can be utilised again next year. It's a measure of how far the Brigade has progressed that so many of you were willing to give Stanton a go this year.

Quite a few members of the Brigade will be making the trip to Leipzig in October. This promises to be an excellent event with our battalion alone consisting of nearly 500 soldiers. There should be 3 other similar sized line battalions, one light and one Guard battalion. In addition we'll have both cavalry and artillery (38 guns) support. I certainly can't remember an event on this scale, so it will be interesting to see how effectively all of the command and control works. What is guaranteed is that folk will have an enjoyable and memorable event to talk about for years to come. Well at least until 2015. Leipzig will provide us once again with the chance to work with all the units that we've brigaded with over the years and I'm sure many new friendships will be made and many more rekindled.

After Leipzig we have The Lord Mayor's Show to look forward to and then it will be time to start finalising plans for next season. As I write Ad Paylor has been putting some finishing touches to the new web site, which will also link both FB and twitter accounts so that communication across the NA and between members is enhanced. Thanks Ad. There are some great photographs already on the site and plenty of good ones of the Brigade. All of which will help to raise our profile in the coming months and years.

If any of you have ideas and suggestions for things that we can do to further enhance the Brigade let me know.

Salut et Fraternite

Lieutenant Duncan Miles

The Events Officer 's Report

Hello All,

Ickworth

Another great event and more filming which I thank all of you for all of your help in making this possible. A special mention to Rachel Coman who helped me move the sheep away from the filming area as they were driving me mad trying to get them to move , I even asked Rifleman Fewtrell to fire a few shots to get them going . This was very cold, and I have never know liquid gas to freeze in the heater, but when we came out in the morning it was truly a great sight to see everything covered in frost. We managed to up the numbers by 3500 visitors and the sponsor was really pleased with all your efforts.

Wollaton

Our second year and most successful one so far and the we had the biggest crowd to watch an NA event only of 10800 on the Sunday which went down well with the sponsor and I received great feedback from the public on all the different displays and the radical play which the 2nd 95th put on in the stable block.

Hunton

My first visit to this event and when I arrived on Friday morning to set the camp out it just kept pouring with rain. A big thanks to Mr Monks who helped me to lay out the camp .

I feel we put on a good battle and our pyro team managed to empty the lake with our new water bombs and even managed to soak half the British army as they passed by and if you weren't there have a look at the pictures of the lake exploding up a massive jet of water.

Horse Guards

This came in last minute and we had to say yes for this one, this event has really moved us up to the premier league , with such hi profile event we have secured Colchester 2015 of the back of this and all of you who took part deserve a pat on the back ,as the comments from Colonel Steven afterwards was great to hear how much the Queen enjoyed the performance.

My personal highlights which were many was the honour of marching down Birdcage walk with the mass bands playing and the public really enjoying what we did.

This event success owes so much to Jim Paylor who choreographed the Vitoria performance which originally when we had our first meeting at Wellington barracks was a case of just firing to the music and Jim increased our performance with the full backing of the colonel to include other units, and really showed off what we can do at such an iconic place such as horse guards in front of her Majesty.

Vitoria

Our fourth tour and my god what a cracker, the battle on the Saturday was the best I have been in, fighting over the bridge pushing the french back step at a time, led by Capt Paylor was so much fun and felt so real.

A big thank you to General Haynes who led the Allies to victory and led from the front and kept things going and with his French counterpart made the battles good for us and the public.

Again a big thank you to all who after a long journey and having to get changed in a petrol station fore-court in the rain , back on the coach again for the commemoration with Lord Duror and the Army. A great volley , all our guns fired.

Then back on the coach and off to find our hostel in the town.

Sheffield- I was unable to attend this event.

Battle Proms

These all went very well and the sponsor was very happy with the turn out at each venue, please contact me to book for next year

We are working on are our next big event The **Lord Mayor's Show** which will be a great spectacle and will again bring Napoleonic to main stream attention with 250, 000 spectators lining the route and 2 million watching on TV, we can't all be in the march , but we are having media teams along the route to help raise awareness for Waterloo 200 .

Tony Wilks

NA Events officer



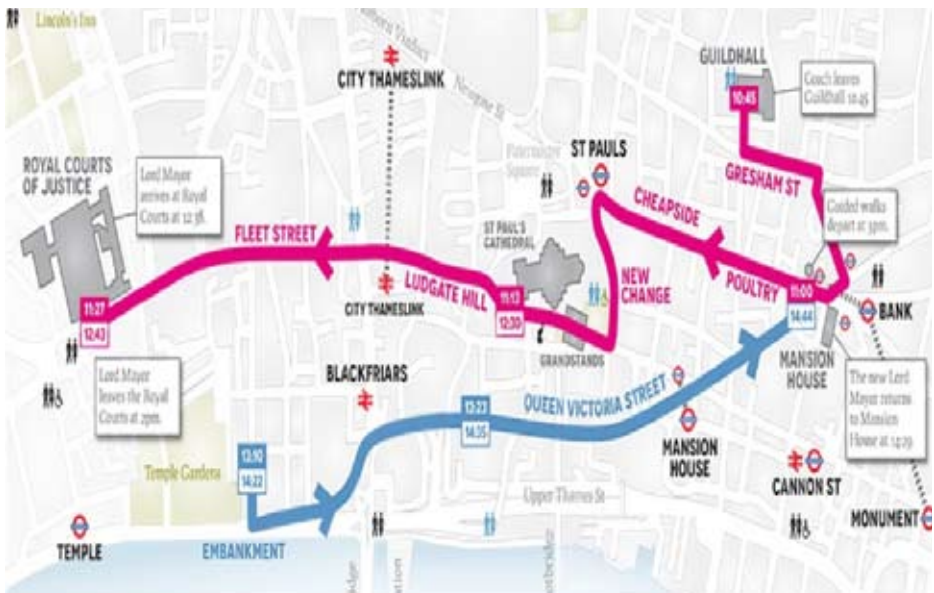
The Road To Waterloo 200

In April this year we had a pretty clear view of the way ahead and set off along the planned road with lots of support. The events in June at **Horse Guards** and in **Vitoria** were extremely high profile getting lots of good press as well as jolly good fun. As with all plans we expected some changes and we have not been disappointed. Firstly there seems to be no appetite for an event at **Waterloo** in 2014 from any of the main organisers. So that comes out of the calendar completely. The event at **Royal Hospital Chelsea** has been moved to 2015 as a post bicentenary celebration as it conflicts with the Chalk Valley event that a number of units have already signed up to. The **Colchester Military Tattoo** will now be run in July the week before **Blenheim** which will be a challenge, but we are confident that it is something that we can do. We will keep the number of events attributed to the Road to Waterloo Campaign down to a minimum but they will need the support of everyone if they are to be successful.



Drill Square at Wellington Barracks

Our next major event is the **Lord Mayors Show** in London on 9 November 13. We have 60+ marchers booked in for this high profile event which is sponsored by the Belgium Tourist Board. We already have contact with the BBC for their coverage so are hopeful of lots of good publicity. The Marchers are the main attraction of the event but the real work will be done by marketing/publicity teams along the route which is 1 1/2 miles out and then 1 1/2 miles back in the afternoon. As many of you know we are looking for volunteer teams of 4-5 people in full costume but without side arms to work the crowds (an estimated 30,000). The special idea is that we position ourselves along the route nice and early so that we can get good high profile positions and then talk to the public around us giving us the opportunity to explain what we are doing and why. Each team will be equipped with a briefing pack and cards/leaflets that we can give to interested members of the public. So our appeal for this year is please give this event as much support as you can. As the March passes teams in the morning we would then ask them to make their way to the afternoon route (via a cafe or pub) to positions on the afternoon route so that we can repeat the activity. We believe that this along with TV and Radio coverage will get exposure to several million people. Some teams will shadow the marchers along the route so that we always have a high profile presence.



We are expanding our horizons by a couple of years and starting to plan 2016 and 2017 as there are lots of sponsors who would like to continue events. So to those who are thinking that 2015 is it, we would ask you to join with us and help to ensure a future for our younger members and those who will undoubtedly come after us. We have all enjoyed the legacy of those who preceded us and now it's our turn to ensure that we leave something worth inheriting.

The events that we have got lined up at the moment are a basic structure. We are aware that there are a number of other events happening but do not want to presume that everyone wants to be involved with the Road campaign. If you are running an event that you would like to have included in the campaign please let us know so that we can publish it and get support from the other partners in whatever way is appropriate.

The remainder of the programme looks something like this at the moment but remember that there is nothing so constant as change so please be as flexible as you can

2013

November - Belgium Trade Show – Excelsior Centre London

9 November - Lord Mayors Show – London (70 marchers, sponsored by Belgium Tourist Office)

2014

12 -13 April – Ickworth House, Recruiting and Training Camp.

May - Wollaton Hall, Nottingham. 14 June Oxford Napoleonic March: To publicise Blenheim Palace: 12 July.

July – Aug Battle Prom concerts. NA marketing with displays and promotional film to 70,000 -90,000 spectators (Burghley House, Lincolnshire – Hatfield House, Hertfordshire – Highclere Castle, Berkshire – Althrop Park, Northamptonshire – Ragley Hall Warwickshire.)

12 July – Blenheim Battle Prom, NA major Quatre-Bras Re-enactment displays and promotional film.

November - Lord Mayors Show – London

Dec – British Military Tattoo Earls Court – Battle of Quatre-Bras

2015

March –Press event Wellington Arch – London

April – Ickworth House, Recruiting and Training Camp.

May - Wollaton Hall.

June - Battle Camp WATERLOO

June - BATTLE OF WATERLOO

28 - 29 June - Royal Chelsea Hospital.

July - Blenheim Waterloo Victory Battle Prom, NA major Waterloo Re-enactment displays and promotional film.

Celebration (Note: date may be brought forward)

Photographers Wanted!

Did you take the following pictures?









The NA has been contacted by author John Grehan. He is currently compiling a book on the Napoleonic Association and is hoping to have it published and on sale in your local WHSmith soon. I have taken the liberty of passing these along to him for possible inclusion in his book. If any of the above pictures are yours please can you email me at tracey_hammond@live.co.uk so I can pass your name on to him and ensure you receive the credit for your picture. If anyone has a suitable photograph that they would like to be considered for publication, please can you email it to me at the above email address. Thanks.

WITH NAPOLEON'S GUARD IN RUSSIA – The Memoirs of Major Vionnet 1812

By Jonathan North and Louis Joseph Vionnet

Published by Pen and Sword Books. Hardback 208 pages. £19.99 plus £4 Delivery charge. You can get it cheaper if you become a platinum member.

ISBN: 9781848846357

I have a confession to make. As much as I enjoy reading about the various campaigns of the Napoleonic Wars my favourite reads are the memoirs of those who actually took part in them. I have to accept that some, written many years after the events they describe took place, may be a bit exaggerated but then haven't we all been guilty of embroidering our own tales to make a better story?

However, Vionnet's memoirs based on his note-books, ably translated and edited by Jonathon North and supplemented by accounts of other Fusiliers-Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, strike me as being more honest and frank than some. Vionnet does not shy away from describing scenes of the utmost horror he experienced during the Russian campaign but by doing so in a somewhat matter of fact way leaves the reader appreciating the numbness of body and mind suffered by those taking part in a campaign fought in the most appalling conditions. Yet, at the same time, he is not immune to the acts of kindness he sees or the beauty that sometimes surrounds him and not only the sights of Moscow but also parts of the countryside he passes through during the campaigns of 1812 and 1813. Underlying it all is the camaraderie of troops facing a common ordeal but with the dawning realisation that everything that binds the army together is breaking down because of the lack of proper logistical planning and poor command decisions. Despite this the Imperial Guard continue to do their duty to the best of their ability with the dwindling resources available to them.

Did I enjoy this book? Yes I did and I can only hope that more such memoirs become available to the English reader.

Barry Draper

Review of "In search of Josephine"

A DVD documentary by Eric Ellena.

French Connection Films recently contacted me regarding a new documentary they have just released, called "In Search of Josephine". As it is the 250th anniversary of her birth (23rd June 1763) this is the perfect time to consider the impact of such a key, yet often overlooked figure of the period. The film is made in partnership with the International Napoleonic Society, the Napoleonic Society in Northern Italy and the City of Rueil-Malmaison in France. The film is also recommended by Historia, a French television channel specializing in history.

After watching I can say that this is a memorable 2 episode DVD set. A biography of the fascinating woman who captured Napoleon's heart. There are descriptions of events in her life, of her influence upon Napoleon, of his lasting adoration of her, and of his family's rejection of her. Words from her correspondence feature throughout the film, along with stunning filming and a wonderful ease of pace; it is a real pleasure to watch.

One of the real achievements of this film is that it opens up the Napoleonic period to a much wider audience than those who would often be drawn to this period. The film reminds us of the wider influence that the events in Revolutionary France had on the whole world, and the importance of appreciating the period through other perspectives. From her birth in Martinique to her marriage to Napoleon, to her divorce and finally her death from a cold caught on a walk, Josephine lived a remarkable life. The film reveals her extraordinarily strong personality until the viewer is left with an impression of a unique woman finding her way in revolutionary times. The very fact of seeing a woman's perspective in Napoleonic times is fascinating in itself.

The DVDs come with an informative booklet giving the director's statement, a timeline of Josephine's life and background information on the locations to do with her life. Everything is beautifully produced, from the musical background to the historic

pictures and the re-enacted scenes. I expected it to be a good watch, but more than that it is a film that stays in the mind and brings Josephine to life and I recommend it highly.

Finally, thanks to French Connection Films for bringing this documentary to my attention, copies can be purchased at www.frenchcx.com

William Fletcher (NA Research Officer)



The Napoleonic Association Winter Party Celebrates

Burns Night

at the Harpenden House Hotel
Harpenden, Hertfordshire. AL5 1PE

Saturday 25 January 2014

7pm til Midnight

Two course meal with Coffee

Dancing to Green Man Rising

Georgian/Regency Dress Burns Night Theme

Tickets £29.50 each

Rooms: Single with Breakfast £60

Double (two people) £85

Apply for tickets to Lisa Stanhope
via email at nasecretary@hotmail.com

Welcome to Harpenden House Hotel in Harpenden

Certificate of Excellence

2013 WINNER



Harpenden House Hotel is a beautiful Grade II listed Georgian town house hotel with a rich history, set in the country Market Town of Harpenden which is centrally located for access to Luton, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead. At the beginning of the 19th Century it was used as a school for young ladies and subsequently it has been a private house and a convent for the Dominican Sisters.

Harpenden House Hotel has been operating as a hotel since 1970 and many of the original period features remain, including a large 18th Century fireplace in the Welcombe lounge. The majority of bedrooms and meeting rooms are adjacent to the main house in the Garden and Hertfordshire Wing. Harpenden House Hotel has undergone a transformation with an investment in 2007/08 of over £2 million. The Hotel now offers the most luxurious rooms, from standard to feature all have high specification and are extremely comfortable. Our Georgian Restaurant, Welcombe Lounge and bar areas have all been transformed, which has enhanced their original charm and character, while offering a more modern setting.

Bedrooms at Harpenden House Hotel

Harpenden House Hotel offers 76 bedrooms with modern comforts to suit your needs and ensure you have a consistently comfortable stay in Harpenden.



The hotel bedrooms have undergone extensive renovation in recent years to provide every modern comfort of a four star hotel, whilst retaining the charm and character of the Grade II listed building. All main house rooms are fully air conditioned and offer luxury furnishings, toiletries and décor to make your stay as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.

Facilities

- Private bath or shower
- TV
- Hairdryer
- Trouser press
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Free WiFi

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