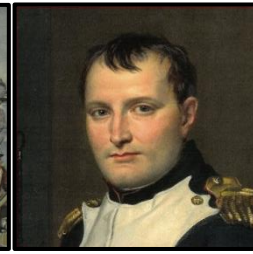




Duke of Wellington



The classic square formation of the British Army



Napoleon

The Waterloo Medal – Richard Farrington

This campaign medal for the British Army was the first to be given out to ordinary soldiers. On display in the case is the medal awarded to Richard Farrington of Middlewich (1785-1867). He enlisted on 11th April 1810 at Plymouth Dock aged 23 years, described as 5ft 8in dark brown hair, blue eyes, fair complexion. He served his full term of seven years.

What caused the Battle of Waterloo?

Napoleon rose through the ranks during the French Revolution, becoming emperor in 1804. He expanded the French Empire across western and central Europe, launching a series of wars that temporarily ended in 1814 when he was forced to abdicate and sent into exile. However, Napoleon escaped and was able to regain power for one hundred days.

He was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815 by the combined armies of Britain, Germany, Holland, and Belgium commanded by the Duke of Wellington and Gebhard von Blucher.

After his defeat, he was exiled to St Helena, where he died six years later.

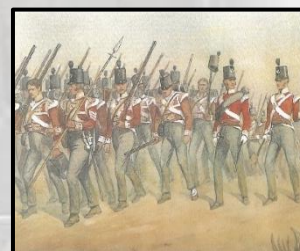
Unsung hero

Richard joined the 3rd Battalion Grenadiers Guards, then transferred to the 1st Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Lambert's Company. Whilst in the 3rd Battalion he was wounded at the Battle of Quatre Bras, fought south of Brussels, (modern Belgium), 18th June 1815. He quickly recovered to re-join Lt Col Lord Saltoun's Company at the defence of Hougoment Farm, in Braine-l'Alleud.



The battle at Hougoment Farm, was considered the last stand at Waterloo

Richard Farrington was a 'Cordwainer,' (shoemaker), a craftsman permitted to create shoes from new leather working from High Town, then Wheelock Street. In retirement he continued to make shoes from his home in Pepper Street. Unfortunately, Richard died a pauper and so his final resting place in Middlewich is unknown.



The uniform and armoury of the British soldiers

His service and sacrifice for his country was lost in time, much like other unsung heroes of this town. Thanks to collector Ken Ray we are finally able to pay our respects to a brave soldier of Middlewich.

