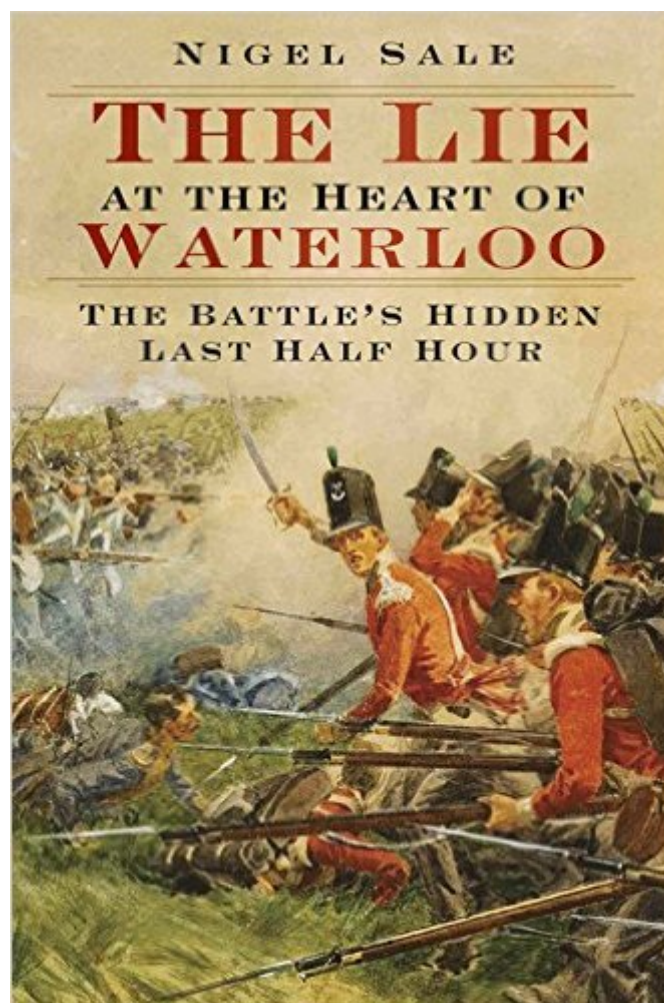


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The Lie At The Heart Of Waterloo: The Battle's Hidden Last Half Hour



Synopsis

Wellington's explanation of how Waterloo was won is shown to be a lie, as the author uses his experience as a serving soldier to explore the battlefield anew and "dismantle" the accepted history. All descriptions of the end of the Battle of Waterloo are incorrect, confused by the myth which Wellington promulgated, giving himself the credit for ordering the winning blow. At long last the truth has been teased out of the maze of evidence, revealing a tale, which "without the compelling evidence" would be nearly unbelievable. By analyzing eyewitness accounts the author has discovered the action was far more intricate and interesting than either Wellington described or has been concocted subsequently. This revolutionary account of the "Crisis" conjures fresh insights from long-established evidence as well as newly-published material, and demolishes many long-held theories. The author investigates how the myth was established and the maneuvers to which Wellington was forced to resort in order to keep the secret, including a suicide and blackmail. The 52nd Light Infantry can now firmly be credited with routing Napoleon's left wing while the Prussians routed the right.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Perhaps you've read a few first-person accounts and participants' reports on Waterloo, as I have. They may not jive in every respect, but you might expect this of people who had or found reason to account for their parts in such a decisive battle. Being human, we put a positive spin on reports of our activities, especially when they're made public. But history should be different, we hope; history should leave out ego or excuses and stand on fact. The difficulty is being completely objective, not

an easy state for mere humans to reach. Nigel Sale has made a valiant effort to achieve objectivity, bringing together primary-source research and reexamining reams of writings through a military man's view. He follows logical steps, clearly stated for even the non-military or non-academic mind, to arrive at many fresh conclusions to what must have taken place near battle's end. In addition, Sale gives rational reasons for many of the traditional views. Have you wondered if the Prussian arrival on Napoleon's flank saved the day, if the emperor's Old Guard fell apart due to rumors passed to them on the field, or if Wellington led his First Foot Guards to snatch victory at the end? Sale's intensive research and military interpretations will lead you toward a new appreciation of that fateful finale. Illustrations, maps and an excellent appendix of military terms and troop movements of the era helped me to interpret other accounts of the battle that I had read, not just this one. While I've found many diagrams of the initial positions of personnel on the field, movements over the ground as the battle progressed are often described more than detailed in drawings. Color maps at this book's center helped me find several regiments and companies I had read about near the battle's end.

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