NAPOLEON'S LAST ARMY

The Art of
KEITH ROCCO

Research and Text by
PAUL L. DAWSON

WATERLOO



Keith Rocco's dramatic painting shows the final moments of the French defense of the cemetery of St. Catherine's Church in the village of Plancenoit during the Battle of Waterloo. In the foreground a remnant of the 3rd Regiment of Young Guard Tirailleurs waits to deliver a volley into the advancing Prussians. Waves of Prussians fought hand-to-hand with Napoleon's Young and Old Guard to seize this crucial position on the French right rear. Despite the Imperial Guard's bravery and dedication, they were eventually overwhelmed and the fate of Napoleon's *Armée du Nord* was sealed.



CAPTAIN JEAN FRANÇOIS REGNAULT, officer of the 3rd Tirailleurs of the Imperial Young Guard is shown here with several men of his regiment. His likeness is taken from a portrait painted during the Hundred Days campaign. He received numerous wounds from 1809 to 1814 and was awarded the Legion of Honor on 28 November 1813. Regnault and his young volunteers in the 3rd Tirailleurs, along with the other Imperial Guard regiments, were the soldiers whose bravery inscribed their heroic but futile role in the final chapter of Napoleon's infantry.



CAPTAIN OF FUSILIERS HARENT, officer of the 51st Infantry Regiment of the Line. In 1815, the 51st was committed to the attack against La Haye-Sainte (also spelled La Haie-Sainte depending on period sources used). In the painting Captain Harent, with curled moustache, sideburns, and *mouche* below his bottom lip (today called a soul-patch), stands in front of his men. He was killed at the head of his company in the fighting for the farm complex. In 1815 Harent was 28.



After Napoleon's first abdication in 1814 a new regiment of cuirassiers was formed from Royalist volunteers. Renamed the 1st Cuirassiers for the 1815 campaign, a well-documented event occurred. Early in the afternoon at Waterloo the 1st Cuirassiers charged the Hanoverian Lüneberg Battalion as the Hanoverians moved up to La Haye-Sainte to support the 2nd Light Battalion of the King's German Legion. Caught in the flank, the Hanoverians were dispersed and destroyed, causing the KGL troops to flee. Late in the day the regiment charged again, dispersing the 8th Line Battalion of the KGL, and ensuring the capture of La Haye-Sainte.



EQUIPMENT TRAIN SOLDIER In 1807 Napoleon created the *Train des Equipages*—literally equipment train, but also meaning carriages with horses and attendants. Before then military transport was provided by civilian contractors. There were no specific physical requirements, they only needed to know how to drive the vehicles and care for the horses. No archive paperwork for the 1815 losses sustained by the Equipment Train can be found in France. Archive records housed in London, England, show in the spring of 1816 that 3 men of the regiment returned to France from Dartmoor prison.

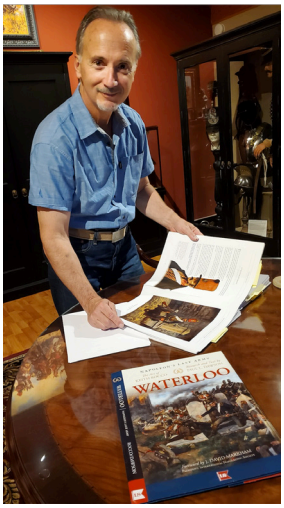
This free downloadable "micro-book" is a complimentary sampling drawn from the books published by Lombardy Studios. It showcases the high-quality art and detailed historical narrative that are hallmarks of the studio's products.

Lombardy Studios was founded by Dana Lombardy, who in 2022 was inducted into the Charles S. Roberts Wargame Hall of Fame. Since 1972, Dana has worked as a researcher, editor, author, and designer on hundreds of historical magazines, books, games, and other projects. He is best known for award-winning designs such as *Streets of Stalingrad.*

This micro-book features abridged excerpts from the Keith Rocco art book *Waterloo: Napoleon's Last Army.*

Visit the shop for exclusive deals: https://lombardystudios.com/lombardyshop/

KEITH ROCCO



Dana Lombardy and Keith Rocco have worked together on numerous books and other publications since 1994. Keith is one of the most important historical artists working today. His career and paintings have been likened by curators and historians to those of the great genre artists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries—from Meissonier, De Neuville, and Detaille to Frederic Remington and Howard Pyle.

Artist Keith Rocco has created paintings for the Pentagon, museums in both the U.S. and Europe, the U.S. Army War College, and numerous National Park Service sites. He has been painting professionally for over 35 years specializing in military subjects. Visit Keith Rocco's online gallery here: https://keithrocco.com/

GREAT GIFTS FOR ANY OCCASION



Dana Lombardy and Daniel Zillion have collaborated on books and games since 2017. Recently, Dan started an Etsy store that offers unique, quality gifts for history buffs. Visit Dan's Voodoo Buddha Studio here: https://www.etsy.com/shop/VoodooBuddhaStudio/

Thank you!