

**NOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF A  
STAFF OFFICER: CHIEFLY RELATING  
TO THE WATERLOO CAMPAIGN AND  
TO ST. HELENA MATTERS DURING THE  
CAPTIVITY OF NAPOLEON**

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Notes and Reminiscences of a Staff Officer: Chiefly Relating to the Waterloo Campaign and to St. Helena Matters during the Captivity of Napoleon by Basil Jackson & R. C. Seaton

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**BASIL JACKSON & R. C. SEATON**

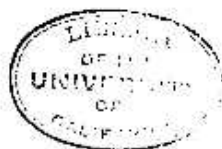
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# NOTES AND REMINISCENCES OF A STAFF OFFICER

CHIEFLY RELATING TO THE WATERLOO  
CAMPAIGN AND TO ST HELENA MATTERS  
DURING THE CAPTIVITY OF NAPOLEON

BY LIEUT.-COL. BASIL JACKSON  
EDITED BY R. C. SEATON, M.A.



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~~READING ROOM~~

## INTRODUCTION

THESE *Notes and Reminiscences* were printed for private circulation in 1877, the author not thinking that they were of sufficient interest to justify publication. The reader will probably be of a different opinion. They are now published by the kind permission of Mrs Simcoe, of Wulford, Devon, the author's daughter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Jackson died in October 1889, at the advanced age of ninety-four. His death was noticed in the *Times* and other papers of the day, the former referring to him as "one of the four surviving heroes of Waterloo." The other three at that time were the Earl of Albemarle, General Whichcote, and Lieutenant-Colonel Hewitt.

It is certain that Colonel Jackson rendered essential service in the Waterloo Campaign. For instance, he mentions (pp. 5, 97) having made, on

the instructions of Sir Hudson Lowe, a special report of the route by which the Prussians retired after Ligny. This report was transmitted to General Gneisenau, and undoubtedly helped to form his speedy decision to retreat northward by a by-road to Wavre immediately after the defeat.

It has been stated—apparently with a view to detract from the weight of Colonel Jackson's testimony in favour of Sir Hudson Lowe—that the latter's younger son, Major-General Edward William De Lancy Lowe, married a daughter of Colonel Jackson, and in the notice of Major-General Lowe in the *Dictionary of National Biography* this statement is repeated. It is, however, a pure fabrication. I have the authority both of Mrs Simcoe and of Miss Lowe for saying that Major-General Lowe never even met the lady in question.

I have added in square brackets a few foot-notes where they seemed desirable, by way of giving additional information. In the preparation of these notes I have to thank my friend Dr J. H. Rose—the author of the well-known *Life of Napoleon I.*—for much valuable assistance. I also acknowledge the courtesy of Dr J. F. W. Silk in allowing me to reproduce



## INTRODUCTION

vii

the sketch of Napoleon and views of St Helena from his admirable collection. The portrait of Colonel Jackson is from a photograph, taken a year before his death, by Messrs Busten of Ross,

R. C. S.



## PREFACE

I VENTURE to inscribe this little volume to a fair friend, who, after perusing it in manuscript, not only gave it commendation, but was induced to transfer to canvas one of the Waterloo scenes therein described.

Before dawn of the morn after the battle, when on my way to the army with the Duke's order for it to march, I paused for a few minutes at the little farm of La Haye Sainte (around which there had been fierce struggles), to survey the scene before me.

This was the time chosen for the picture, which is painted, I presume to think, very skilfully and correctly, as to the run of the ground, and the touching—nay, appalling—appearance of its *still* occupants, which, but a few hours before, were valiant men and noble horses!

Several friends who have read my manuscript have urged me to publish; but "there is a time for all things;" and possibly, had it been in