



Wellington s Hidden Heroes: The Dutch and the Belgians at Waterloo (Hardback)

By Veronica Baker-Smith

Casemate Books, United States, 2015. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Duke of Wellington described the Battle of Waterloo as the most desperate business I ever was in. I was never so near being beat . The courage of British troops that day has been rightly praised ever since, but the fact that one-third of the forces which gave him his narrow victory were subjects, not of George III, but of the King of the Netherlands, has been almost completely ignored. This book seeks to correct a grave injustice through the study of Dutch sources - both primary and secondary - the majority of which have never been used by English-speaking historians. The Dutch-Belgians have been variously described as inexperienced, incompetent and cowardly, a rogue element in the otherwise disciplined Allied Army. It is only now being tentatively acknowledged that they alone saved Wellington from disaster at Quatre Bras. He had committed a strategic error in that, as Napoleon advanced, his own troops were scattered over a hundred kilometres of southern Belgium. Outnumbered three to one, the Netherlanders gave him time to concentrate his forces, and save Brussels from French occupation. At Waterloo itself, on at...

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