

**Volume 9**

**Number 058**

**Napoleon at Waterloo – III**

**Lead: In March 1815 Napoleon Bonaparte, deposed Emperor of the French, banished to the Mediterranean island of Elba, escaped, landed in southern France and attempted to reclaim his greatness. His daring quest ended at Waterloo.**

**Intro: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts**

**Content: The 100 days of Napoleon's last campaign sent shivers of panic throughout a Europe which had thought itself rid of Le Petit Caporal. He landed at Cannes with**

**his guard, won over the regiment sent to capture him, and was in Paris by March 20<sup>th</sup>. While the French people were weary of Napoleon and had acquiesced in his exile after his abdication in the Treaty of Fontainebleau, they were committed to the essential elements of the Revolution and resented the attempt by restored King Louis XVIII to set back the clock. Napoleon's welcome was at best tentative as he also wished to turn back the clock to the Empire, something many of his former Republican allies were loathe to do. Also, he faced a daunting array of allied armies converging on France to stamp out permanently the menace he represented. Once again, he would have to fight for his place in the sun.**

**He quickly assembled an army though it was a pale reflection of the heady days of the Grand Armée, marched into Belgium, defeated the Prussians at Ligny, wheeled and on June 18, 1815 met and almost defeated the British under Wellington near the tiny village of Waterloo. At the last minute his victory was snatched with the timely arrival of Prussian re-enforcements under Gebhard Blücher. Despite heroic sacrifice by his Old Guard the army was cut to shreds, and Napoleon's last adventure was over. He was sent in final exile to the island of St. Helena in the South Atlantic and died there in 1821. Next time: the Napoleonic legend.**

**At the University of Richmond,  
this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

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