

1815 – 2015
AT WINDSOR
WATERLOO

BATTLE OF WATERLOO

TIMELINE

September 1814

Congress of Vienna formed to establish peace in Europe in the wake of Napoleon's exile to the island of Elba

1815

26 February

Napoleon escapes from exile and heads for Paris, gathering support along the way

20 March

Napoleon arrives in Paris and retakes control of the Tuileries Palace

25 March

The United Kingdom, Russia, Austria and Prussia and others join forces. Wellington is appointed Commander of the Anglo-Allied army, the Prussians are led by Field Marshal Blücher

15 June

Napoleon and his forces enter the United Netherlands (in modern-day Belgium)

16 June

Battle of Ligny – French victory over Prussian forces
Battle of Quatre Bras – Wellington engages with Marshal Ney of France but no clear victor emerges

18 June

Battle of Waterloo – the combined allied armies defeat Napoleon, who retreats towards Paris

22 June

Napoleon abdicates

13 July

Napoleon writes a letter of surrender to the Prince Regent (later George IV)

15 July

Napoleon hands himself to Captain Maitland of HMS *Bellerophon*. He is first taken to Britain, then exiled to St Helena, where he arrives in October

20 November

Peace declared

1820

The Prince Regent succeeds his father, becoming George IV

1821

Napoleon dies on St Helena

1830s

Creation of the Waterloo Chamber at Windsor Castle, bringing together Sir Thomas Lawrence's portraits to celebrate peace in Europe

FIRST-FLOOR PLAN

Grand Vestibule

The two great military leaders face one other, as they did for the only time on the battlefield at Waterloo. Wellington is represented by a **marble bust** by Sir Francis Chantrey; Napoleon by the distinctive red **cloak** taken from his carriage after the battle.

Waterloo Chamber

This space was created to display the full-length portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence painted in celebration of peace. Highlights include **Arthur, Duke of Wellington, Field Marshal Blücher** and **Pope Pius VII** which Lawrence considered to be the most successful portrait of the series. Further paintings were added by George IV's successors.

Ante-Throne Room

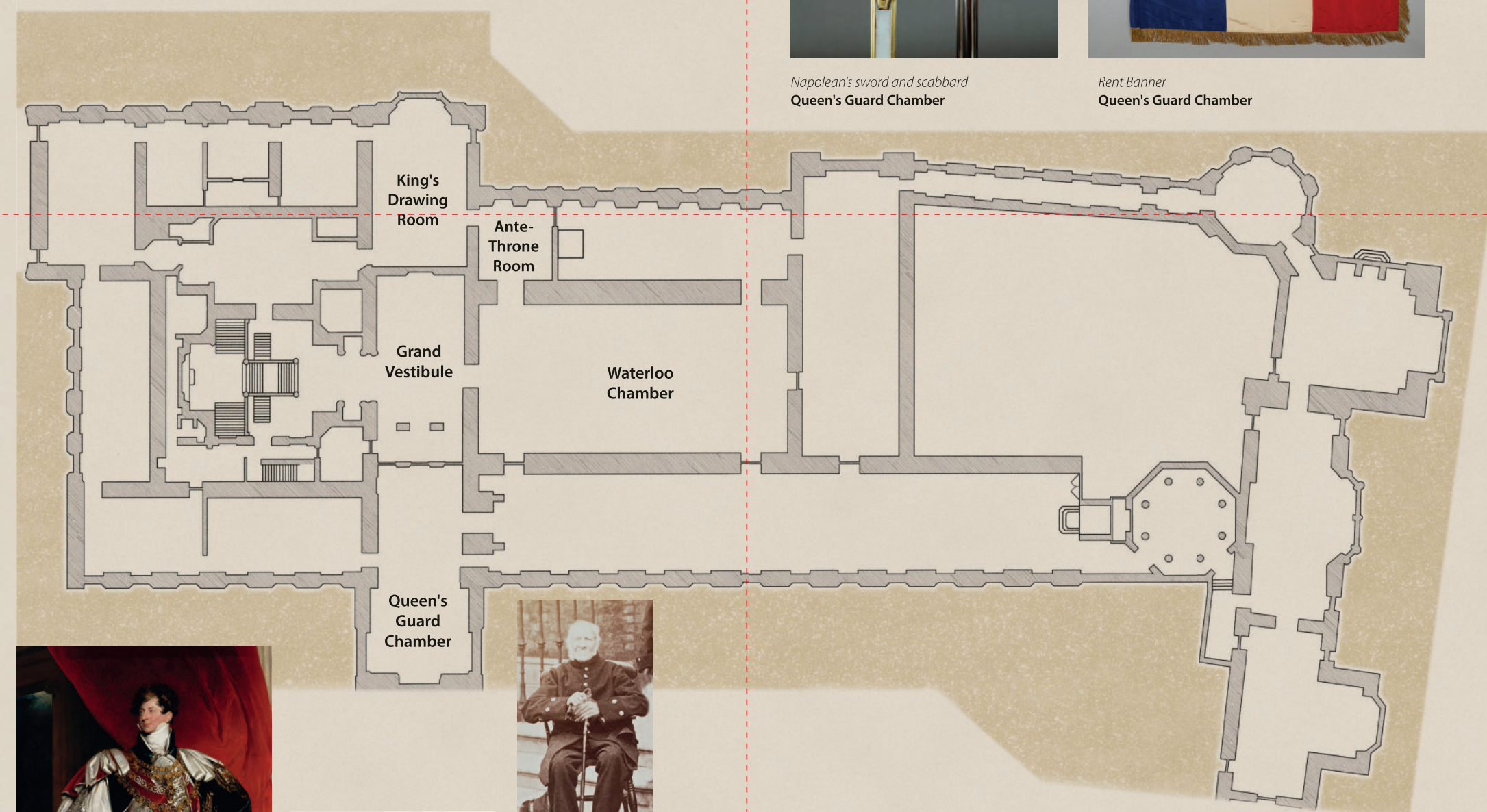
Displayed here are two paintings by Paul Delaroche: **Napoleon Crossing the Alps** showing the determined figure of Bonaparte at the height of his military powers and **Napoleon in Exile**, an oil sketch of the Emperor as a shadowy figure, lost among the rocks of St Helena. Both works date from the 1850s and were purchased by Queen Victoria.

King's Drawing Room

Among the significant pieces of furniture displayed in this room is **The Table of the Great Commanders**, entirely made from Sèvres porcelain and created for Napoleon. It is painted in the centre with an image of Alexander the Great, surrounded by twelve further classical heroes. The table was later presented to the Prince Regent by the restored French king, Louis XVIII. The **Waterloo Chair** by Thomas Chippendale the Younger is carved from the timber of the elm tree under which Wellington held command during the battle, and was presented to George IV as the 'Liberator of Europe'.

Queen's Guard Chamber

In this room is hung one of the **rent banners** presented each year to The Queen by the Duke of Wellington in lieu of rent on his home, Stratfield Saye. In the case are items associated with Napoleon including his **porringer** (or eating basin, cover and stand) and the magnificent **sword** worn by Napoleon as First Consul of France, as well as the baton used by the French general Field Marshal Jourdan, and the Prussian sword belonging to Field Marshal Blücher, which was a gift to the Prince Regent.



Sir Francis Chantrey, *Arthur, Duke of Wellington*
Grand Vestibule



Paul Delaroche, *Napoleon Crossing the Alps*
Ante-Throne Room



Napoleon's sword and scabbard
Queen's Guard Chamber



Rent Banner
Queen's Guard Chamber



Sir Thomas Lawrence, *George IV*
Waterloo Chamber



The Table of the Great Commanders
King's Drawing Room



Naish Hanney (b. 1792), one of the last survivors of the battle
Drawings Gallery



Sir Thomas Lawrence, *Pope Pius VII*
Waterloo Chamber

GROUND FLOOR

(not illustrated on plan above)

Drawings Gallery

The Drawings Gallery tells the story of the Battle of Waterloo and its aftermath through works of art and archival documents of the period. The display includes two of Denis Dighton's evocative watercolours of the field, made shortly after the battle, Napoleon's letter of surrender, sent to the Prince Regent (later George IV) on 13 July 1815, and a **photograph of the last survivors of the battle at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea**, taken in 1880.

China Museum

On display in this area are two cases of silver gilt associated with Napoleon's family and a set of plates decorated with scenes from the battlefield, which were commissioned by the Prince Regent.

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Above: Photograph of the last survivors of the Battle of Waterloo at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, June 1880
Drawings Gallery

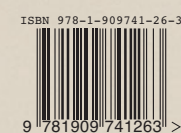
Front cover: Sir Thomas Lawrence, *Arthur, Duke of Wellington*
Waterloo Chamber

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Design: VERNILLION



Waterloo Chamber

A

The Duke of Wellington, leading the Anglo-Allied army, chose the battleground at Waterloo, recognising that the uneven nature of the terrain would hinder the French artillery.



Drawings Gallery

B

Napoleon Bonaparte positioned his Army of the North opposite Wellington's lines, and took up initial headquarters near the farm of Rossomme.



Drawings Gallery

C

The inn of **La Belle Alliance** was part of the French line. During the course of the battle, Napoleon moved here to be closer to the fighting.



Drawings Gallery

D

The chateau of **Hougoumont** and its outbuildings were protected by an orchard and a high wall and proved to be key in holding the allied right flank. British, Hanoverian and Nassau troops held the buildings against repeated French attack.



Drawings Gallery

E

Wellington stationed the King's German Legion at **La Haye Sainte**. At the centre of the allied lines, the farm was a crucial location. It was held by the Legion until about 6.30pm, when it was abandoned due to lack of ammunition.

Plan and View
BATTLE OF WATERLOO,
with the Positions of the Troops, nearly at the moment the Victory was gained,
Drawn under the direction of a General Officer of Distinction on the Staff,
Fought the 16th of June 1815.



British Belgians & Dutch Prussians Brunswickers French Cavalry

This printed map by Samuel John Neele was published shortly after the battle. It shows the ground over which the battle was fought and the progress of the fighting. The French are shown in blue, while the Anglo-Allied army is shown in red, yellow and grey. The advance of the Prussians, depicted in green, can be seen to the far left. Unlike modern maps, north is at the bottom and south is at the top.

F

Field Marshal Gebhard von Blücher, leading Prussian troops, reached the battlefield at around 5.30pm, providing welcome reinforcement for Wellington's tired men.



Waterloo Chamber

G

William, Prince of Orange commanded many of the Dutch and Belgian troops who made up a significant part of Wellington's allied army. He was shot in the chest and wounded shortly before the end of the battle.



Waterloo Chamber

H

At the close of the battle **Wellington and Blücher met at La Belle Alliance**. It was agreed that Blücher would pursue the retreating French.



Drawings Gallery

I

The elm tree where Wellington established his command post was a focus for souvenir hunters. The tree was sketched before it was cut down and converted into the **Waterloo Chair**.



King's Drawing Room

J

In the aftermath of the battle, Napoleon's carriage was pursued to the village of Genappe. Among the items captured were the Emperor's **burnous** (cloak) and silver-gilt **porringer** (basin).



Grand Vestibule and Queen's Guard Chamber