

SUNDAY SPORT: IN HISTORY

How we marked the BIGGEST news events in world history. Today, The battle of Waterloo . . .

June 20, 1815

THE SUNDAY SPORT WEEKLY MESSENGER

1d No856

My, my, at Waterloo Napoleon did surrender

HELLFIRE and damnation prevailed just two days after the Duke of Wellington and his forces defeated the French near Waterloo when it was revealed that the Emperor Napoleon would have it easy in exile as he is in the British holiday island of St Helena.

Parliament erupted in fury at the news, brought swiftly on foot from the field of battle by a member of the 15th Light Dragoons.

The message from the victorious Duke, who has been hailed the Grand Conqueror of Frogs by his people, was read out by the Prime Minister Lord Liverpool.

It said: "Sorry I can't make it chaps. Stopped off in Paris to buy some new boots. The ones I wore for the battle look a bit tatty. Perhaps I'll use them for gardening. I'll be back on Wednesday. Oh, forgot to say, sent Napoleon off to St Helena."

The message was greeted with such incredulity that some Tories stormed out and a Whig actually lost his wig.

The 5th Earl of Strathmore told Parliament: "For the love of God is this man ever going to be punished?"

"First he is sent off by the French to a health farm on Elba on an intensive detox programme, which I might add turned into the longest vacation in history. Then he comes back and has clearly lost none of his thirst for power in trying to destroy Britain and its Empire.

"And what do we do? We send him to St Helena. I'm sure he'll have a wonderful time strolling along the seafront pier, which is longer than Southend's, eating ice cream and admiring the ladies' ankles.

"He'll be swimming with dolphins next."

The battle itself was swift and conclusive and took place on the afternoon of June 18. An insert in Napoleon's captured war diary records him writing: "Tomorrow we attack."

"I see Wellington is wearing his brown scuffed leather boots today with a worn-in look. I suspect he only bought them recently.

"Personally I prefer his black patent leather ones with the nice buckle to the side. I suspect he will wear these for the battle."

The attack came the following day at 11am. Napoleon recorded in his diary: "The Duke has taken position on the Brussels road where it emerges from the woods of Sopoignies south of the village of Waterloo.

"The road crosses a low ridge and descends into a valley before rising on the other side to a further ridge. We shall take him head-on. Marshall Ney will attack with cavalry.

"Hold on, I have just spotted Wellington. I can't believe what he is wearing on his feet. He has on some kind of plastic boot which is a funny shade of green.

"There is no style to this boot. The sole seems to be made of moulded plastic. He looks like a farmer. Surely there is no stopping the Grand Armee now."

The battle lasted over seven hours during which time Wellington appeared on the front line in four different styles of boot.

Following the attack on Hougoumont Farm on the extreme right of the Allied line, Wellington appeared to his men in casual walking boots with a trim of flowers down the side. This seemed to visibly relax his troops who launched a furious cannonade on the advancing munchers of garlic.

At 1.30pm Marshall Ney brought forward 74 French guns over the ridge opposite La Haye Sante followed by 17,000 infantry of D'Erlon's corps to begin the attack on the Duke of Wellington's centre and left.

The furious assault almost succeeded until Wellington produced his masterstroke, appearing to his troops in a pair of Luchiny "Monster" boots made in Spain from high quality black suede leather and featuring a leather lace-up front panel, front platform and flared heel.

These boots inspired his troops to charge down the ridge towards the advancing French with Cavalry close behind and quell the attack.

There then followed a lull with only intermittent fighting at Hougoumont. During this period Wellington took the opportunity to change into black scout boots with nylon covered polyurethane which made the boots oil and slip-resistant. It also had a removable sole which greatly impressed both the Royal Horse Guards and 18th Light Dragoons.

On the appearance of the Prussians under Marshal Blucher late in the afternoon, the Duke made his last change, appearing in a pair of Manolo Blahnik black patent alligator boots, famous for their excruciatingly high heels and similar painful price.

They form part of Rene Vuitton's autumn winter collection for 1815/1816. Upon seeing them, Blucher told his second-in-command: "Where did Wellington get those boots from? They are not even in the shops yet."

The closing stages of the battle took place at 8pm, by which time the French were broken and kept raising



Napoleon



Duke of Wellington

their hands in surrender at the sound of any loud bang, which kept happening during their unsuccessful assault on Russia in 1812.

The British, Belgians, Dutch and Germans lost 15,000 casualties, the Prussians lost 7,000 and the French Army saw 25,000 dead and wounded with a further 8,000 taken prisoner to be used in mime theatre.

By far the biggest disaster for the British was a small scuff caused by a stone kicked from the foot of a member of the Royal Scots Greys which appeared on Wellington's Manolo Blahnik boots and which he was unable to remove.

The offending soldier was flogged to within an inch of his life.

TWO THOUSAND CANARIES LAID OFF AFTER HUMPHRY DAVY INVENTS THE SAFETY PARROT

Humphry Davy, the self-styled Miners' Friend, has invented a safety device which should greatly cut down on the number of workers killed in subterranean explosions, otherwise known as explosions underground.

The Humphry Davy Safety Parrot has been patented for immediate use and is an ingenious structure in which a parrot is encased in a cage made of tight gauze. This is so tight that air can get in but any firedamp present in the deep coal seam will not ignite upon contact with the parrot.

This new structure renders redundant 2,000 canaries, many of whom had been exploding on contact with the firedamp.

There is some controversy as George Stephenson, who works in a colliery near Newcastle, also produced a safety parrot which has been in use for the past seven months.

Missionary who discovers lost cannibal tribe of Ticonderoga eaten

A **MISSIONARY** has become the 19th person in the past year to be eaten after discovering the lost cannibal tribe of Ticonderoga in darkest Africa.

Major Benjamin Williamson-Anstruther had been pursuing his lone quest for the past seventeen months, unaware that 18 others had been there before him, including original discoverer Henry James Small, who survived the encounter because he didn't taste very nice.

James Wilfred-Rhodes, of the Royal Geographical Society, said: "Will missionaries stop trying to discover this tribe. They are no longer lost, they've been discovered and they are starting to put on weight."

PRIME MINISTER LORD LIVERPOOL'S CARRIAGE WHEEL'S STOLEN

PRIME Minister Lord Liverpool has had the wheels of his carriage stolen outside his weekend retreat in Toxteth.

The leader is now forwarding a Bill which will make it illegal for street urchins to procure money from travellers as a form of protection for their vehicles



England lose first ever cricket match by innings and 317 runs

England have lost their first-ever cricket match to a team of crooks from the prison island colony of Australia.

Australia made 689 for seven declared in their first innings and England, following on, could only manage three runs.

The England captain, Major Gordon Lennox Brown Emma, said: "There has not been a precedent set here. This was a one-off."

LUDDITES DESTROY 'NEW FANGLED' SHOVEL

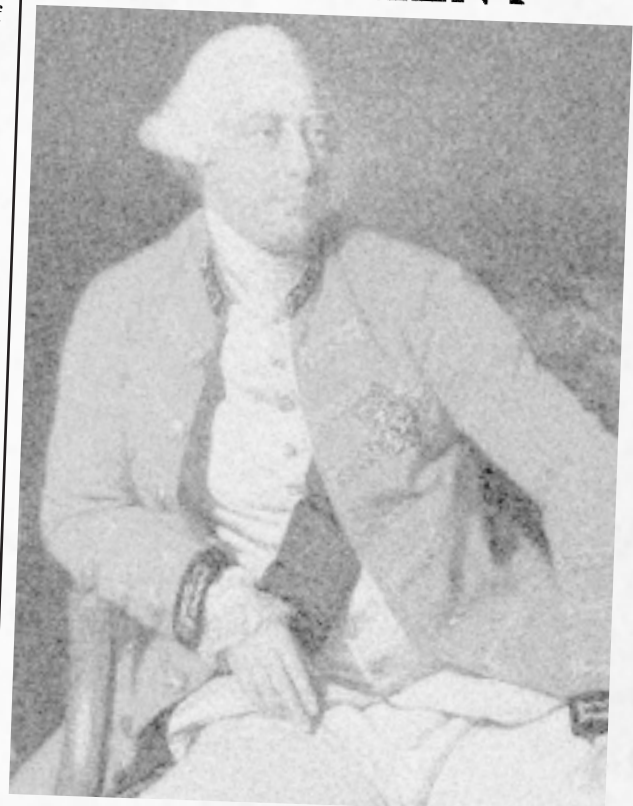
A **GROUP** of Luddites have extended their reign of destruction to include not just new textile machines but also the new shovels that are starting to appear in people's gardens.

Their latest victim is yarn-spinner Wilfred Cook, who was tending his garden with the new shovel he bought in exchange for a bale of wool when the Luddites struck.

He said: "They ripped the shovel out of my hand and smashed it. They said digging the garden was the work of two men not one and should be done by hand only.

"They're still living in the eighteenth century these buggers."

GEORGE III DOES IMPRESSION OF A CAT AT STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT



KING George III broke off from tradition during the annual State Opening of Parliament yesterday to do an impression of a cat.

The monarch, known by his people as Mad King George, was partway through his speech on imposing even tighter corn tariffs when he suddenly leapt up from the House of Lords throne, got down on all fours and began miaowing.

At one stage he even buried his head in a nearby member's lap and began purring.

His equerry James Smythe said: "At first I thought he was an oat. But then I thought, how do you do an impression of an oat?"

"Then I realised he was a cat. He often does impressions. At a meeting of the consort to the King of Denmark last week he stood in the corner of the room and pretended to be a gas lamp.

"We had to coax him back to the centre of the room using a Bath Oliver biscuit."