THE LAST DANCE

"As the dawn broke the soldiers were seen assembling from all parts of town, in marching order, with their knapsacks on their backs..."

Miss Charlotte Waldie, visiting Brussels on the eve of Waterloo

On 15 June, the Duke of Wellington and most of his officers were enjoying the Duchess of Richmond's ball in Brussels. When news came of Napoleon's advance from Paris, Wellington rushed to the strategically important crossroads of Quatre-Bras.

WHY WATERLOO?

Napoleon marched his army north from Paris on 14 June 1815, aiming to defeat the British-Dutch troops and their Prussian allies.

The French and the British-Dutch armies first clashed at Quatre-Bras on 16 June. Wellington withdrew his army the next day in search of better ground on which to fight. He halted near the village of Waterloo, where he could conceal his forces behind a ridge and await Napoleon's attack.

