

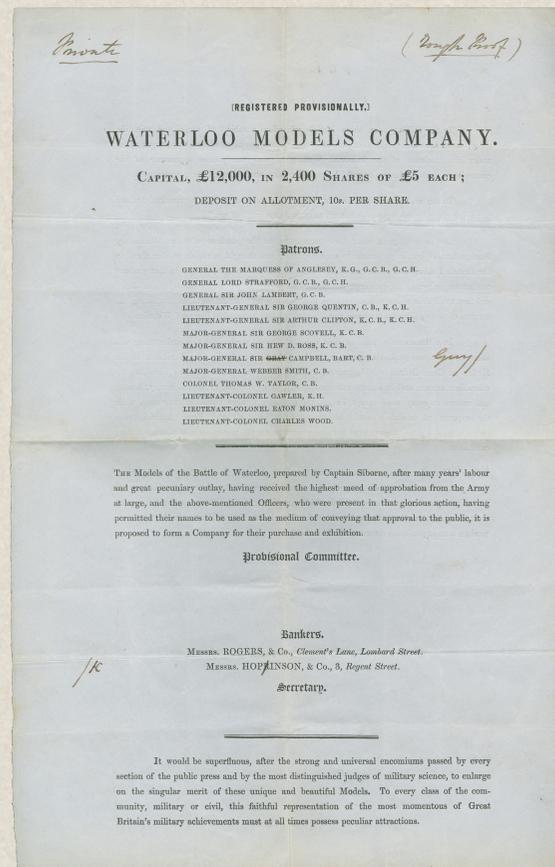
# WATERLOO: A MODEL VICTORY

Waterloo became a renewed site of conflict during the 1830s and 1840s, but this time it was on a miniature scale.

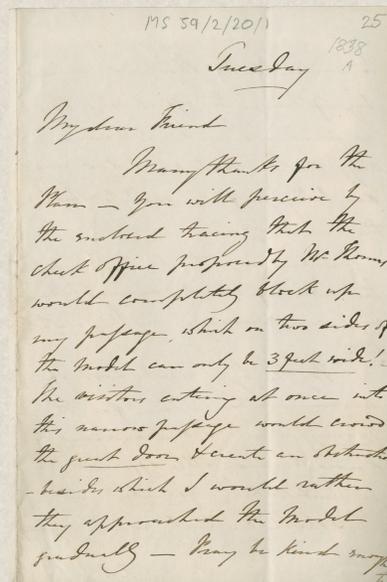
In 1830 Lieutenant William Siborne began work on a 'Large Model' of the battlefield. By the time that it was exhibited in 1838, it was 420ft<sup>2</sup> and contained 75,000 tin-lead soldiers. Siborne issued precise instructions for the model's display at the Egyptian Hall in London. The model represented the closing stages of the battle but the prominence given to the Prussians raised objections. When the model was re-exhibited in 1845, the number of Prussian soldiers had been reduced considerably.

Siborne started work on a 'New Model' in 1840, which he exhibited four years later. This was much smaller (approximately 18ft by 7ft) and more focused than the Large Model. The New Model represented the charge by the British heavy cavalry under Anglesey and the British infantry under Picton during the early afternoon of 18 June 1815.

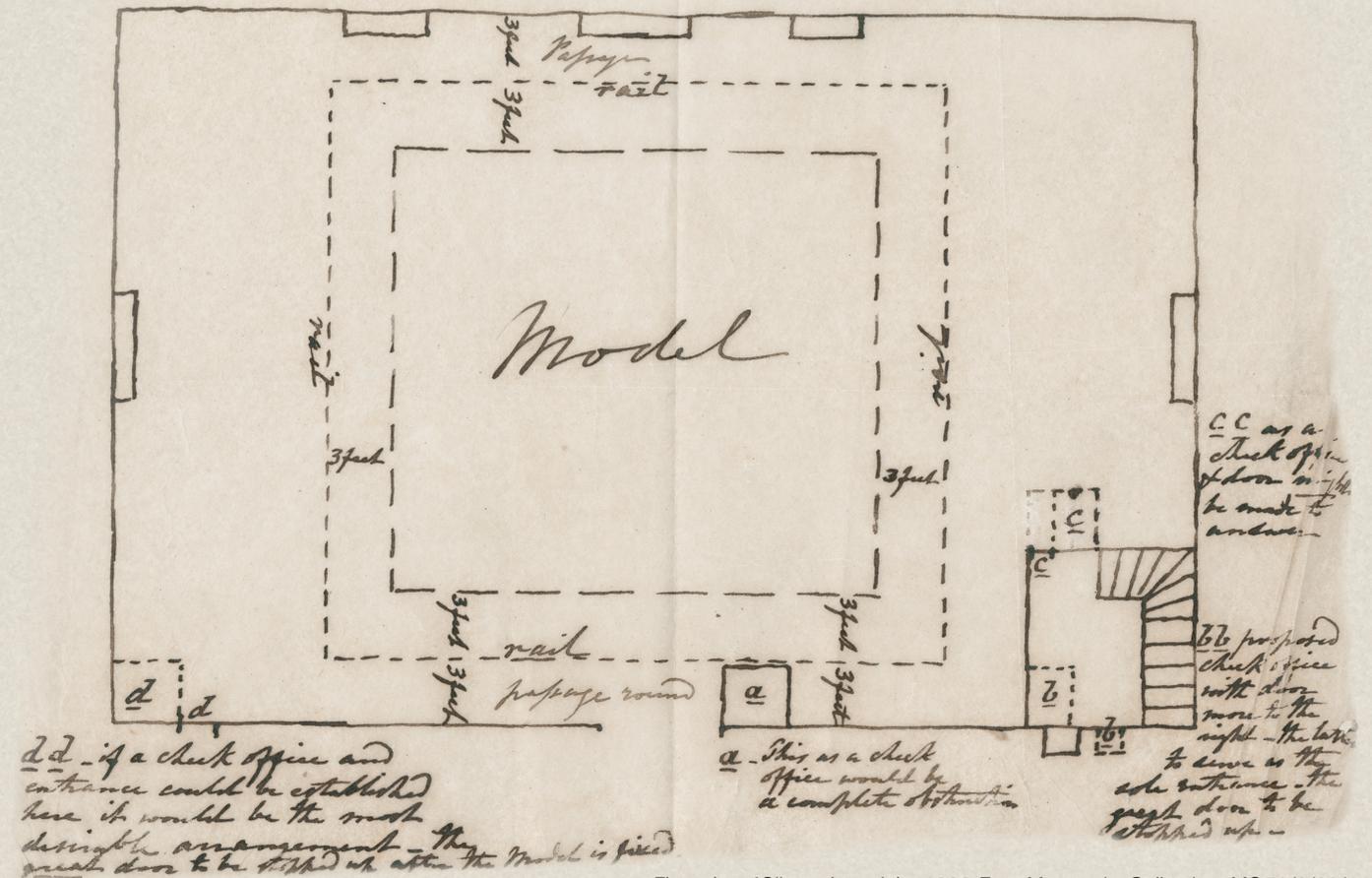
Plans to sell the models through a Waterloo Models Company attracted some high-profile support but Wellington was conspicuously absent from the list of patrons. The models remained unsold at Siborne's death in 1849. Today the Large Model is stored at the National Army Museum in London and the New Model is on display at The Royal Armouries in Leeds.



Prospectus for the Waterloo Models Company, c.1845. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/49/2



Letter from Captain William Siborne to Sir John Philippart, c.1838. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/20/1



Floor plan of Siborne's model, c.1838. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/20/1

THE ORIGINAL LARGE MODEL  
OF THE  
**BATTLE OF WATERLOO,**  
IS NOW ON VIEW AT THE  
**EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY.**

"In this beautiful work of art the illusion is perfect; the spectator actually stands upon the place of skulls, the grave of France, the deadly Waterloo!"

**THE NEW MODEL**  
UPON A VERY LARGE SCALE, REPRESENTING  
**THE SPLENDID CHARGE,**  
IN THE EARLIER PART OF THE DAY, BY THE  
**BRITISH HEAVY CAVALRY** under the **MARQUESS OF ANGLESEY**  
AND OF THE  
**BRITISH INFANTRY** under **SIR THOMAS PICTON,**  
IN THE IMMEDIATE PRESENCE OF THE IMMORTAL WELLINGTON.

"The particular action selected for exhibition in the present model, which is the first of a series, is the grand attack made by Napoleon on the centre and left wing of the Duke of Wellington's line, which was repulsed most gallantly by a greatly inferior number of men. Only so much of the field of battle is comprised as is necessary to show the principal scene it represents is the repulse of the attack."

Advertisements for the exhibition of Siborne's models at the Egyptian Hall, London, 1845. From Manuscript Collections MS 59/2/37/2



Photograph of the 'New Model'. A battalion of the 92nd Highlanders drawn up in line to defend against the volley fire of attacking infantry. By permission of The Board of Trustees of The Royal Armouries