

EMOTIVE AND RARE WATERLOO MEDAL TO OFFICER SERIOUSLY WOUNDED DURING THE DEFENCE OF LA HAYE SAINTE

WATERLOO 1815 'LIEUT. & ADJ. W. D. TIMMANN, 2ND LIGHT BATT. K.G.L.' fitted with original steel clip and an attractive contemporary silver bar suspension inscribed 'Waterloo'

Low on ammunition and suffering severe casualties, the legendary defence of La Haye Sainte against overwhelming odds by green jacketed, rifle armed companies of the Light Battalions of the King's German Legion, was crowning point of this distinguished corps service. Although the defence of Hougoumont tends to gain the limelight in Britain, possession of La Haye Sainte that was far more important due to its position on the battlefield. Initially defended by 400 men of the 2nd Light Battalion, they were later joined by 170 men of the 1st Light and 85 men of the 5th Line and later still about 150 Nassau troops but due to mounting casualties they never totalled more than 550 men. Being Adjutant, Lieutenant Timmann was most probably acting as a Staff Officer to Major Baring, indeed during the action, Baring mentions taking Timmann's horse after his own was wounded.



Out of the 400 men from the 2nd Light Battalion who started the action, only 42 remained after! 23 KGL Officers of the Light Battalions present, 4 were killed, 4 were seriously wounded (including Timmann), 4 wounded and 2 prisoner, or 69% casualties

Lieutenant William Diedrich Timmann was one of the original members of the King's German Legion, joining at the meeting point at Lymington from Hannover in late 1803. Originally rated Corporal (probably his rank from service in Hannover), his rank was reduced to Private on arriving at Porchester barracks in December 1803. Promoted Paymaster Sergeant in December 1804, he would serve in every Theatre of operations the 2nd Light Battalion did throughout its service; Hannover 1805; in one of 5 companies to take part in the expedition to the Baltic 1807-08; in the Peninsula 1808-13; in the expedition to the Scheldt 1809. The musters note him in General Hospital after disembarking from Corunna so he may well have been wounded. Timmann was commissioned Ensign in September 1813 and Lieutenant in April 1815. As an officer he served in Southern France 1813-14; in the Netherlands 1814; the campaign of 1815 and the battle of Waterloo. As Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 2nd Light Battalion, he was severely wounded at Waterloo during the defence of the farm of La Haye Sainte on 18 June 1815. He died in Hamburg in 1818.

Note; As is common with other Commissioned NCO's, Challis only notes the battles/service he served as an Officer not an NCO; October 1813 – April 1814; Nivelle, Nive, St Etienne, Bayonne.

A thorough search of musters confirm above, Timmans pages 1804-15 are copied and supplied on CD and dates and places he was 1803-14 have been transcribed. Common with German names in British musters, his name is variously spelt Timmann, Tiemann etc and in July 1804 his forenames are given as Peter Diedrich!

Condition NEF, beautiful looking and rare medal. Sold with much research

Ex Gaskell Collection 1908, last sold DNW 2nd April 2003



BATAILLONS LÉGERS, KGL

1 : Sergent, Scharfschützen/Buchsenschützen, 2^e bataillon léger, KGL, 1815

2 : Officier, 2^e bataillon léger, KGL, 1815

3 : Simple soldat, 1^{er} bataillon léger, KGL, 1815

