

Intro 1



Soldier of Napoleon
Clockmaker of Wincanton

Alberto Bioletti

1778-1869 Wincanton's
Forgotten Hero

For 22 years

Intro2

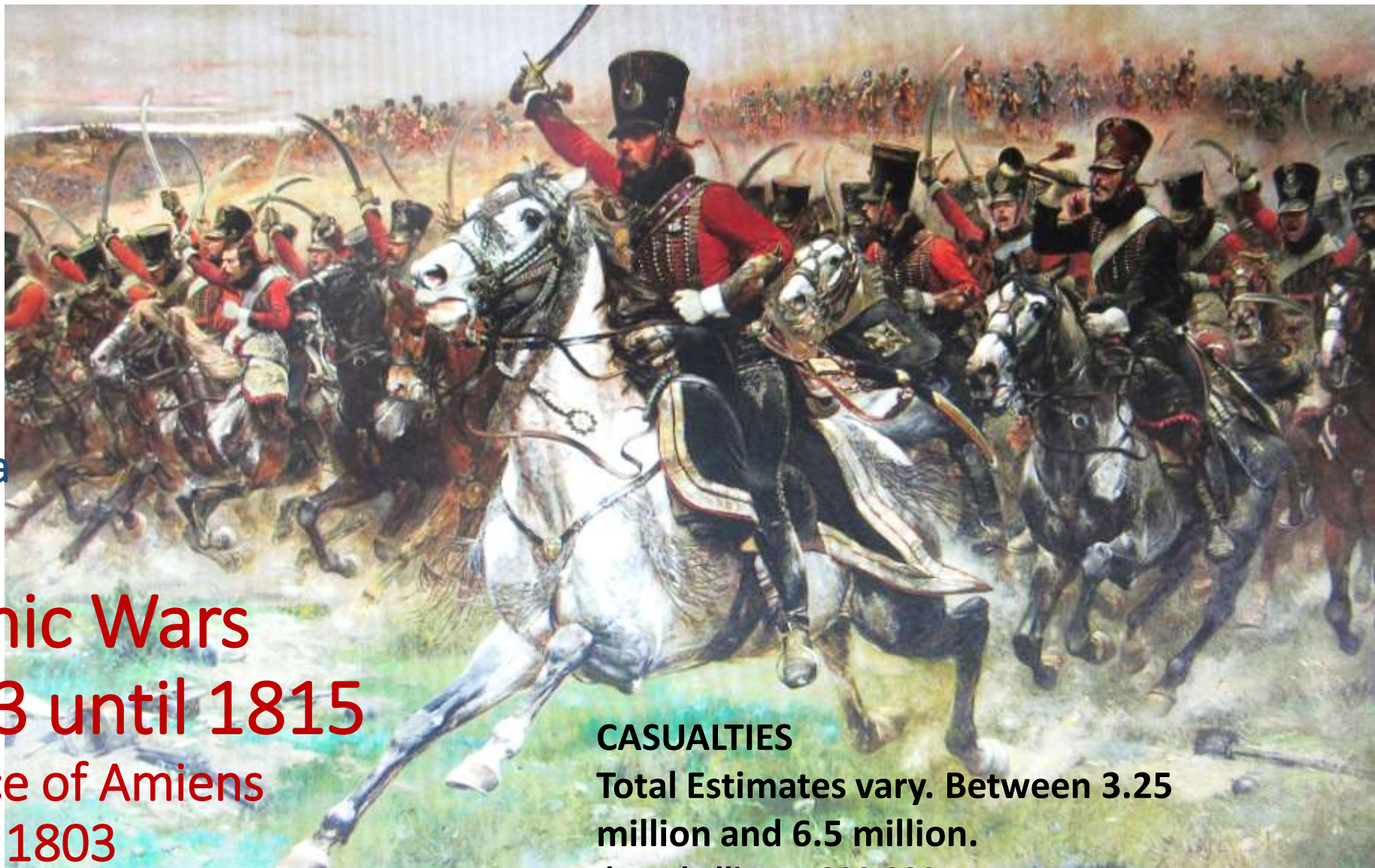
The Real First World War

Fought right across
Europe, Egypt, Syria
West Indies and Russia

The Napoleonic Wars ran from 1793 until 1815

except for the Peace of Amiens
March 1802 – May 1803

During 4 Campaigns and twice POW
Bioletti was there.



CASUALTIES

Total Estimates vary. Between 3.25 million and 6.5 million.

French and allies 1,800,000

Britain and allies 2,015,000

Royal Navy 92,386

British Army 219,420



Tom Paine

1780 - 1830

Quaker background. Free thinker.

**DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
AN END TO SLAVERY**

"a corsetmaker by trade, a journalist by profession, and a propagandist by inclination".^[4] Actually a minor civil servant and failed businessman

1774 Edited a paper for Benjamin Franklin and wrote

***Common Sense* 500,000** copies was so influential that John Adams said: "Without the pen of the author of *Common Sense*, the sword of Washington would have been raised in vain".^[7]

In 1791 after time in France he returned to England and wrote **The Rights of Man. 1,000,000 copies circulated.** Pro French revolution. Accused of seditious libel and fled to France. Against the execution of Louis, Robespier and the Terror,

Saw Napoleon. Napoleon claimed he slept with a copy of *Rights of Man* under his pillow and went so far as to say to Paine that "a statue of gold should be erected to you in every city in the universe". upon noting Napoleon's progress towards dictatorship, he condemned him as "the completest charlatan that ever existed".^[73] Paine remained in France until 1802, returning to the United States at President Jefferson's invitation.

Intro 4

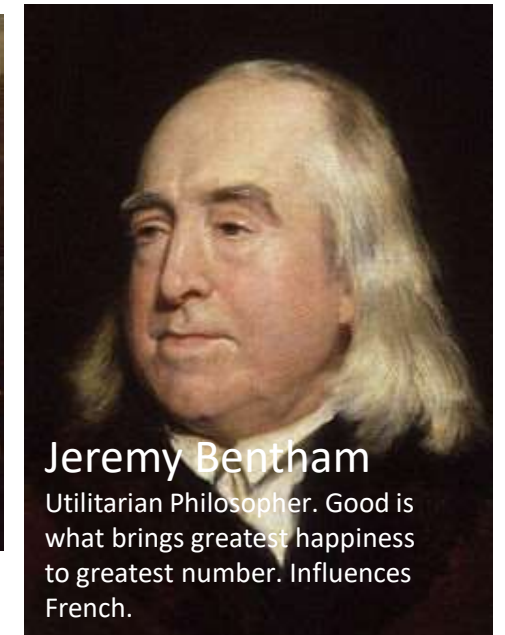
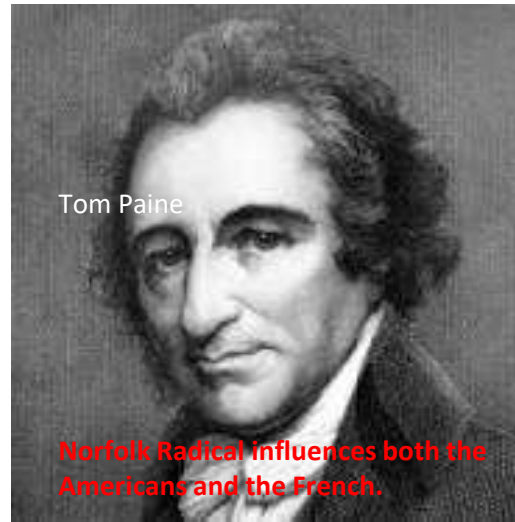
English Political Background 1780-1830

1792 Paine elected to French National Assembly.

Bentham given Hon French Citizenship

Thomas Paine. The Rights of Man.

- (1) **Men are born**, and always continue, **free and equal in respect of their rights**. Civil distinctions, therefore, can be founded only on public utility*;
- (2) (2) The end of all political associations is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man; and **these rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance of oppression**; and
- (3) (3) **The nation** is essentially **the source of all sovereignty**; neither can any individual, nor any body of men, be entitled to any authority, which is not expressly derived from it.



*Utility. The well-being of sentient entities-

Italy 1. **Alberto Bioletti's Background.** The Boy from Turin.

Born 1778 in Turin. His family Waldensians from Pinerola. Likely his father a Clockmaker.

Kingdom of Savoy Piedmont ruled by Victor Amadeus 3

1791 University Students revolt including [Collegio delle Province](#) (Halls of Residence for the Provinces), which housed one hundred young people of low social extraction to aid them in completing their studies at the State's expense.

Bioletti may have been one of them.

1792 Turin overrun by French revolutionary forces. Collegio closed.

93-94 Reign of Terror in France. Civil disruption in Piedmont.

1796 Napoleon takes command of Army of Italy

The Ideology of the Revolution

Liberte, Egalite, **Fraternite**.

Down with aristocratic hereditary privilege.

Down with monarchy.

Down with the Church. Confiscate its property and grip on Education

The Reign of Terror and the guillotining of Louis XVI in 1793 turns all ruling houses against France.



Italy 2

Joining the Grande Armée.

With Napoleon in Italy

1796 Alberto joins the Grande Armée.

Training in Nice.

Takes part in Napoleon's string of victories
Lodi, Siege of Mantua, Castiglione, Rovereto
and the Venetian Republic,
Austria defeated.

Napoleon the master of tactics and planning
and of self-serving self-promoting
propaganda.

Florence, Rome, Venice etc. looted for Art
for the Louvre. Italians charged huge fees
for being "liberated."

Napoleon returns in triumph to Paris AFTER
Treaty of Campo Formio 1797. He is 28.

**Bioletti a victorious soldier of 19 sent to
Toulon.**

Alberto Bioletti in Italy 1778 – 1798



Italy 3. Paintings for Paris and Engravings for the Newspapers depict Glory and Gallantry.



Bioletti engaged in “2 years of fierce fighting”. Literate and a shooter, He was possibly a skirmisher.

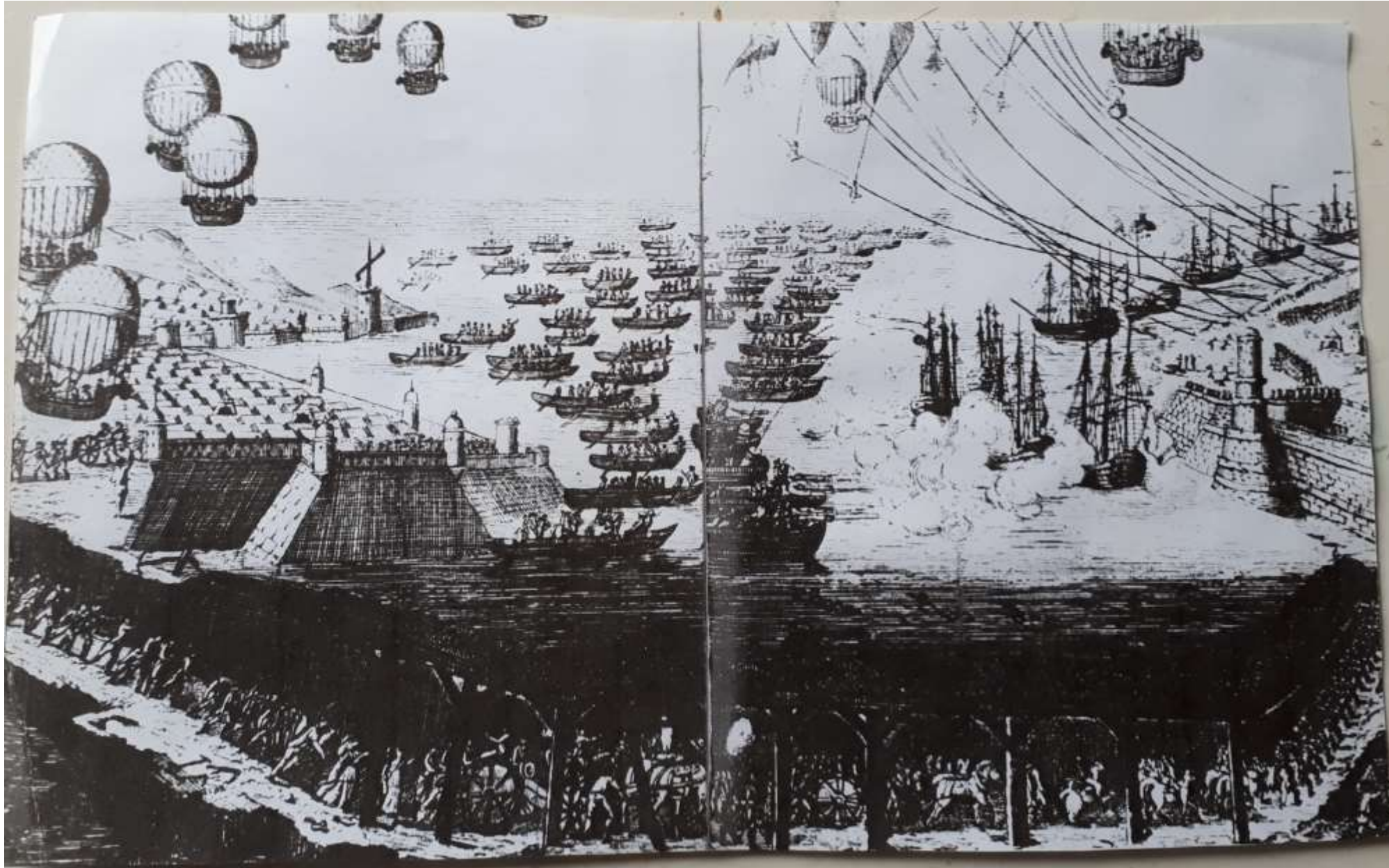
Reality. High death rate. No uniforms for 18 months



England Under Threat!

**1797 Napoleon appointed Commander of the
Armee de Angleterre**

Huge conscript invasion force assembled. Barges, balloons expected. England plans for French invasion. Messiter in Wincanton trains Yeomen. Problem. **The French Navy**. The Royal Navy Blockade. Nelson and Collingwood.
After two months Napoleon decides invasion impossible.



Balloon
Boat and
Tunnel

England
Under
Threat!

- Instead of England Napoleon plans to invade

Egypt! Why? INDIA!!!

- Bioletti embarks with the French fleet from Toulon. Destination secret. THE ORIENT.
- 7 day Mistral. 40,000 troops, 10,000 navy.

Egypt 2 Malta Invaded on the Way

Bioletti sees more
"liberation."



Overthrows the Knights of St John
- Hospitallers
Leaves 4,000 troops
Replenishes his supplies.
Maltese revolt against "liberation"
as soon as he is gone.

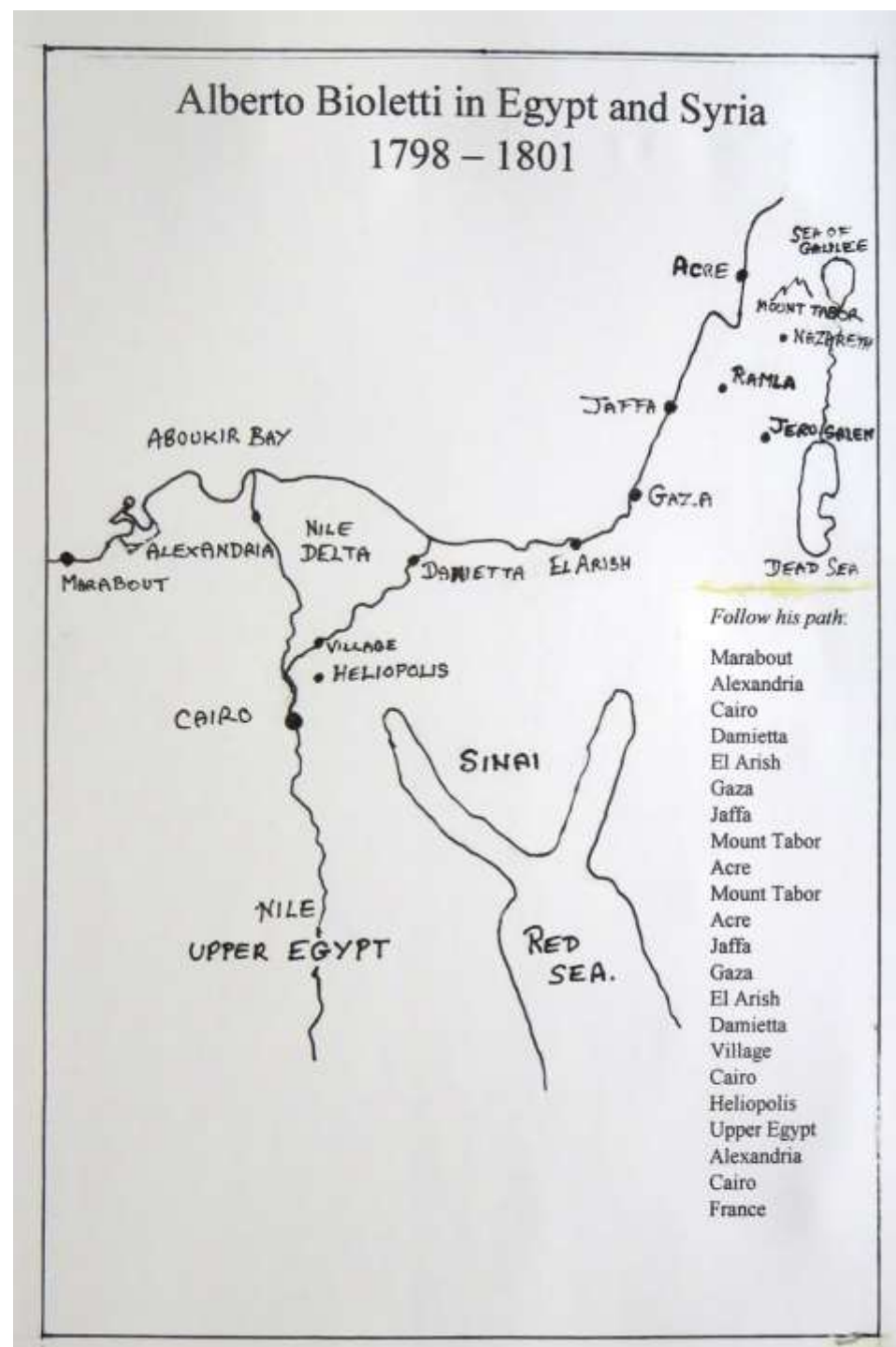


Treasure Trove Collected

Egypt 3

Main battle sites,
Egypt and Syria (includes
Palestine).

Alexandria
Battle of the Nile
Battle of Pyramids
Cairo
El Arish
Gaza
Jaffa
Acre



The “Liberation” of Egypt

Part of the Turkish Caliphate under
the Sultan in Constantinople.

Ruled on his behalf by Mameluk
slave warriors.

The Battle of the Nile August 1st 1798.

Napoleon now land locked.



Horatio Nelson

French now
trapped in
Egypt under
British Navy
blockade.

Explosion of the *Orient* (French) and the disabling of *HMS Bellerephon*. French Navy 17 ships destroyed.
Only 3 escape.



Mameluk Bodyguard
-Ordonnance to
Napoleon

Roustam Raza

Does Bioletti
become an
Ordonnance to a
senior officer here
or earlier? French
mortality very
high.

Mameluk Cavalry
Charge

Napoleon brings 167 Savant
scholars to study ancient Egypt.

Claims to be a Muslim but the
Muslims are not fooled.



Egypt 6

Bioletti. Likely skirmisher in Italy, then Ordonnance



• Ordonnance

- A general would have chosen a tough proven soldier from the ranks to be his ordonnance. One who showed intelligence, reliability, discretion and trustworthiness under campaign conditions.

After serving as an ordonnance a soldier could expect promotion as an NCO to corporal or sergeant.

The responsibilities.

- acting as a "runner" to convey orders from the officer to subordinates
- maintaining the officer's [uniform](#) and personal equipment as a [valet](#)
- Seeing to the officer's horses and transport, sometimes under combat conditions
- acting as the officer's [bodyguard](#) in combat
- other miscellaneous tasks the officer does not have time or inclination to do



Voltiguer
Skirmisher

Egypt 7



General Kleber with his Ordonnance

Here depicted at the
Battle of Heliopolis
where he defeated the
Turkish Marmeluke
cavalry.

*An ordonnance is aware
of just what is going on*

Egypt 8

Main battle sites,
Egypt and Syria (includes
Palestine).

Alexandria

Battle of the Nile

Battle of Pyramids

Cairo

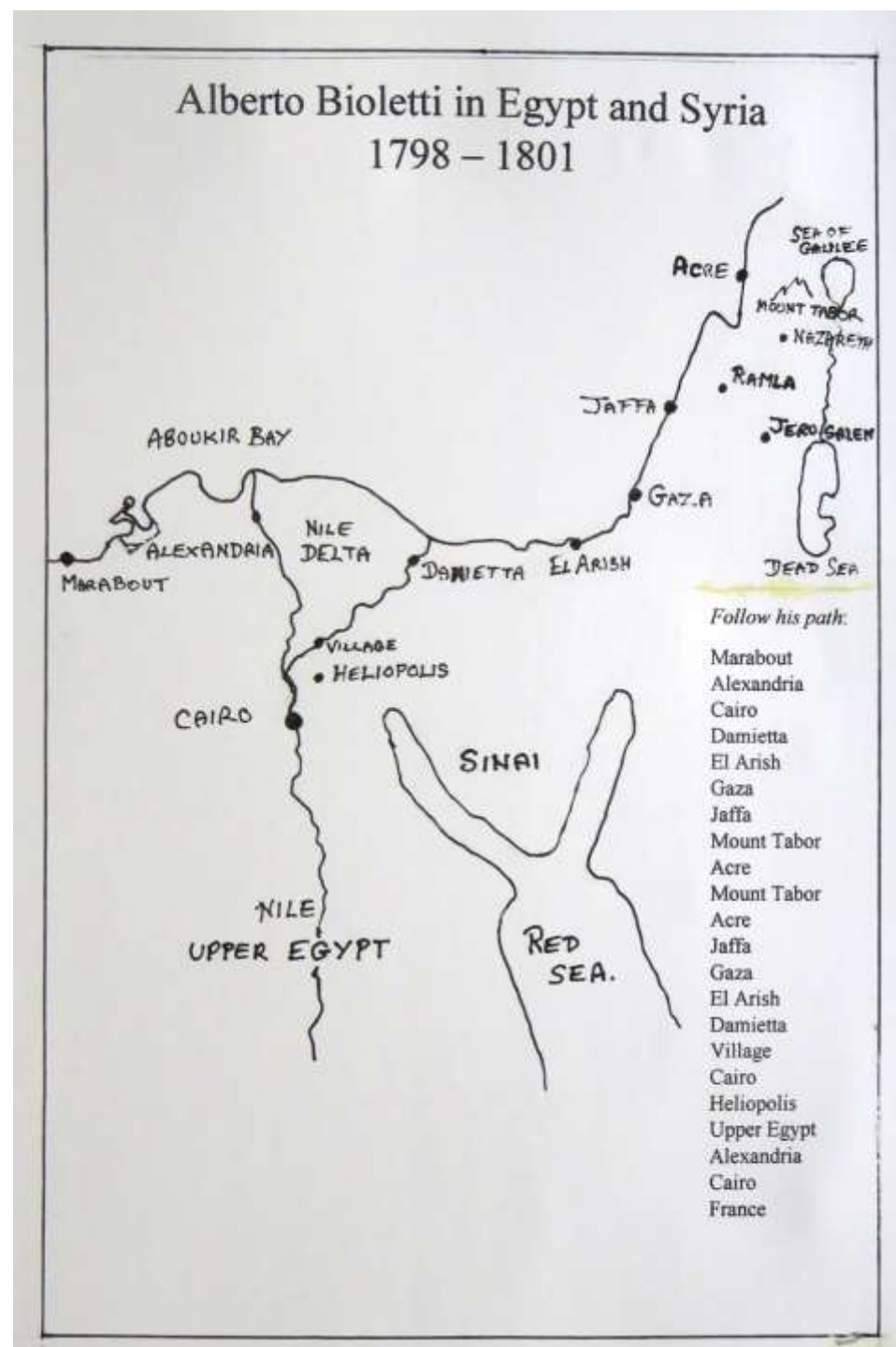
To face Sultan's army

El Arish

Gaza

Jaffa

Acre



The “Liberation” of Egypt

The Sultan appoints

Pasha Ahmed Jezzar, Turkish
Governor of Damascus to lead an
army to get rid of the French.



Jaffa Castle

Now on edge of Tel Aviv

Shows outer wall and inner keep and tower.

Beauharnais and Crozier

4,000 prisoners
8,9,10 March

Bioletti?

Egypt 10 Napoleon visits the Plague Victims at Jaffa



Print for the troops
Also a fine Oil Painting for the
Louvre

Defeat at ACRE. Sir Sidney Smith and Ahmed Djezzar, Pasha.



Egypt 11 Under siege 62 days. 1200 killed, 1000 die of disease 2,300 wounded. "That man made me miss my destiny."

1799 Driven back by the British and the Turks at Acre Napoleon retreats to Cairo, pretends he has had a victory and flees to France in a frigate with 3 generals leaving his army behind.

August 1799.

**Launches a coup and becomes First Consul
In fact Dictator of France.**

Bioletti has taken part in a cruel and pointless campaign and seen Napoleon defeated at Acre and the massacre of 4,000 prisoners who had surrendered at Jaffa.



Left behind by Napoleon, Bioletti experiences defeat.



DEFEAT FOR NAPOLEON Egypt and Syria

1801 General Sir Ralph Abercromby and his Highland regiments defeat the French at the Battle of Alexandria. Abercromby fatally wounded.

Of the 40,000 French soldiers and sailors, only 10,000 survive. They surrender and are repatriated to France in British ships in 1801 including Alberto Bioletti.

All the French Egyptian Antiquity collection, arms and ships taken by the British, including the Rosetta Stone.

Egypt 14



1801 Bioletti 22 and what is left of the French Army and Navy (26,200) are taken back to France (Morlaix) after their surrender by RN. Sees RN high morale and high level of training.

October 1801 Brest. Bioletti sets sail for **St Domingue**
as part of a 30,000 troop 10,000 sailor expedition commanded by



General Charles, Victoire
Emmanuel **Leclerc**.



The Leclerc campaign was as large as the Egyptian campaign, yet is under reported or ignored. Why?

The jewel in France's mercantile crown the colony produced 40% of European sugar, 60% coffee, also indigo and cotton.

In 1787 it was importing 40,000 slaves from Africa each year.

Total 500,000 slaves very badly treated.

32,000 whites (island born called creoles) rule, 28,000 mulattoes, (mixed race and freed have restricted rights.)

**Bioletti appointed
Ordonnance to General
Jacques Boye.**

Haiti 2. Bioletti is 22 and has been on active service for 3 years in Italy, Malta, Egypt and Syria.

Saint Domingue (Haiti).



1789 with Revolution slaves revolt and are lead in the end by **Toussaint Louverture** “President for Life” His aim to keep the island “free and French”. Napoleon says no.



Haitian General Dessaline leads successful fight back with British help against first Leclerc and then Rochambeau.

General Charles, Victoire Emmanuel **Leclerc.**

Secret brief is to re-introduce slavery. He offers “rebels” army ranks and tricks Louverture who is arrested and sent to France. 1802 dies in a French dungeon 1803



Bioletti appointed Ordonnance to General Jacques Boye.

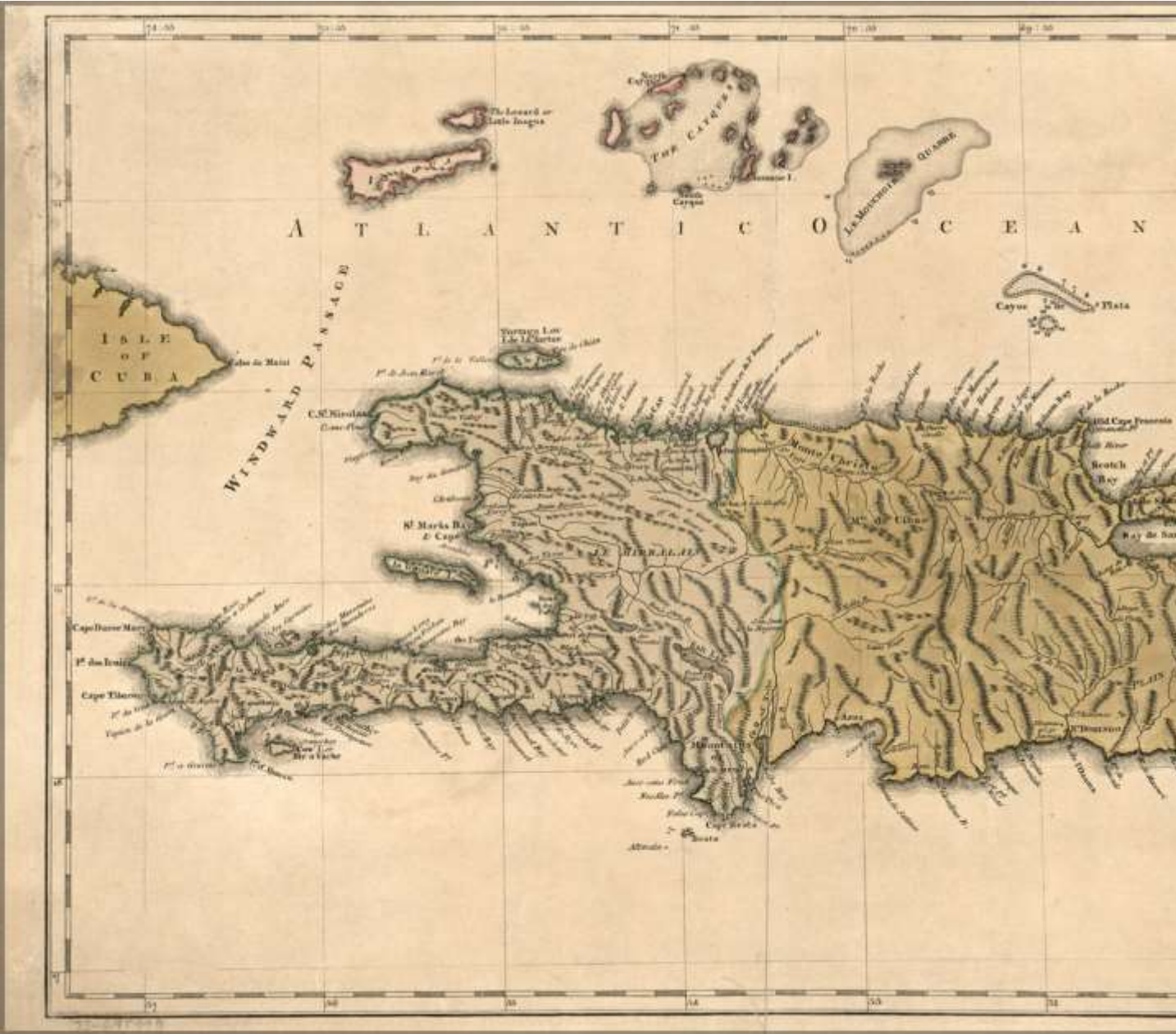
He is 22 and has been on active service for 3 years in Italy, Malta, Egypt Syria

Jacques Boye' 1766-1838 From 1791 served in Saint Domingue with Sonthonax and Louverture. Fights British attempt to invade the island successfully. Supports freedom for slaves. (a liberal)

He is NOT part of Leclerc's invasion party but on the death of Leclerc and the departure of PFJ Boyer, he takes over his job as adjutant general to Rochambeau.

Sees and frees Jean-Pierre Boyer. Signs surrender to John Loring on Bellerephon. Prisoner in England with Bioletti and Rochambeau, Ashbourne, Normal Cross, Wincanton and Crediton. (1811 Returns to France with Bioletti promoted to Brigade General and awarded Legion of Honour. Fights in Russian campaign where taken prisoner with Bioletti at Berezina. To Kazan, marries Anna Tolstoy, Represents J-P Boyer to Tsar. Becomes Russian as Yakov Yakovitch Boyko.)





Alberto Bioletti in
Haiti or San Domingo
1801 – 1803



Le Cap
Port-au-Prince
Ennery
Tortue
Fort Liberte
Vertieres

Haiti 5



Leclerc dies and Boye and Bioletti find themselves under the command of **General de Rochambeau**

Former Governor and aide to his father at Yorktown 1781



San Domingo (Sp) or Saint Domingue (Fr)

Toussaint Louverture caricatured



Haiti 6.

Joséphine de Beauharnais. Wife of Napoleon

Born in Martinique to a wealthy, slave owning Creole (white settler) family that owned a sugar plantation. Residents there still believe Napoleon's wish to bring back slavery was to help her family.

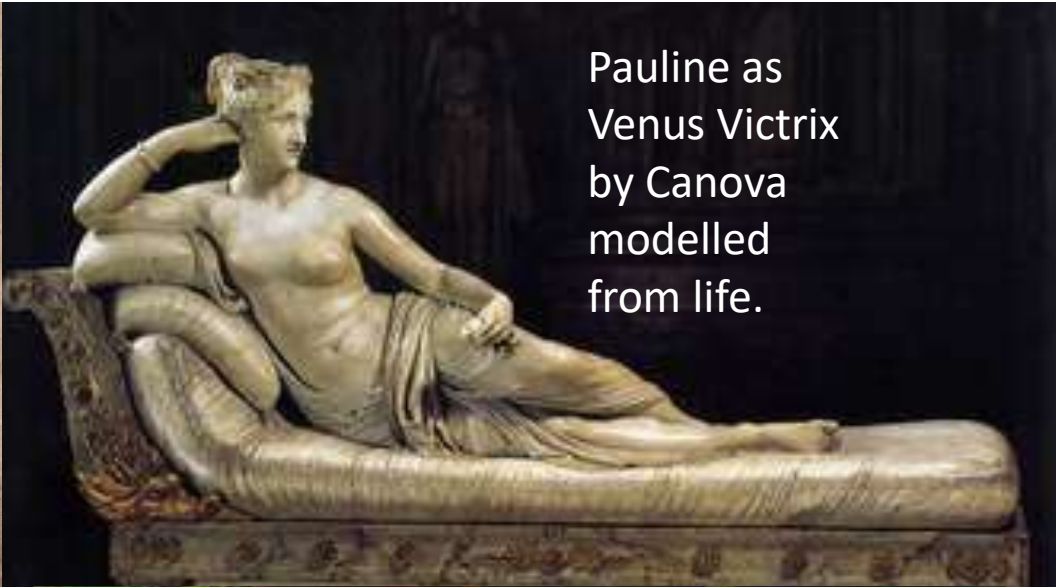


Pauline Bonaparte, wife of Leclerc,

20. Undereducated, sister of Napoleon, dressed here in classical fashion. Admirer of officers and soldiers – Boye and PFJ Boyer. Bioletti? Spoke Corsican Italian.



Pauline Faures
“the General” in Egypt



Pauline as
Venus Victrix
by Canova
modelled
from life.



Olympia by Manet.
Echoes account that
Pauline was carried by
her black servant to be
bathed in milk following
example of Cleopatra



Pauline back in Paris and Italy
marries Duke of Borghese

Haiti 8

Besides General Jaques Boye two others had similar names. Yes confusing.



Pierre Francois Joseph Boyer. 1772-1851.(PFJ Boyer)

Brigade General and first Adjutant General under Leclerc. Like Bioletti fought in Italy and in Egypt was adjutant general to General Kleber. After Kleber's assassination he was accused of corruption and sent to France for Court Martial but was vindicated before being appointed to be Adjutant General with Leclerc in 1801. Barbaric behavior against slaves reported. Rumour he pleased Pauline.

Left Saint Domingue to report to Napoleon on death of Leclerc. Then out of our picture he goes to Spain where he was known for cruelty. Politically very reactionary (racist)

Jean-Pierre Boyer 1776-1850

French educated mulatto, friend and “cousin” of Jacque Boye rises to become **President of Haiti 1818-1843** and much later asks Boye to represent him to get Haiti recognised by Russia.



As Ordonnance to Adjutant General Boyer Bioletti sees **Rochambeau in action.**

Leclerc died of Yellow Fever and was replaced by [Donatien Rochambeau](#) who wrote to Napoleon that, to reclaim Saint-Domingue, France must 'declare the negroes slaves, and destroy at least 30,000 negroes and negresses.'¹

In his desperation, he turned to increasingly wanton acts of brutality; the French burned alive, hanged, drowned, and tortured black prisoners, reviving such practices as burying blacks in piles of insects and boiling them in cauldrons of molasses. He also imported as Leclerc had ordered, 100 special **slave hunting dogs** from Cuba. Ineffective in combat they were used in executions.

One night, at Port-Républican, he held a ball to which he invited the most prominent mulatto ladies and, at midnight, announced the death of their husbands. However, each act of brutality was repaid by the Haitian rebels.

After one battle, Rochambeau buried 500 prisoners alive; Dessalines responded by hanging 500 French prisoners.^[19] Rochambeau's brutal tactics helped unite all blacks and mulattos against the French.

Claude Ribbe in his book *Le Crime de Napoleon* 2005 asserts that Napoleon ordered the execution of more than 100,000 rebellious black slaves in Saint Domingue and Guadelope and sanctioned the use of metal gas chambers in prison hulks where sulphur dioxide from local volcanic sulphur was used. Roberts in *Napoleon the Great* 2014 puts the total at 330,000. No doubt these things happened. Overall responsibility points to Napoleon.



This attempt at ethnic cleansing, to kill all slaves tainted by rebellion and replace them with new compliant slaves from Africa is something those who would praise Napoleon should never forget.



Haiti 11

Bioletti experiences war at sea and comes to England.

Facing massacre by General Dessaline's troops Rochambeau surrenders to Loring. He owes his life to his British captors.

Hands over ships and guns and remaining troops

The Clorinde runs aground. Saved by Acting Lt Nesbit Willoughby from HMS Hercule.

Bioletti aboard the Surveillante sunk by the Bellerophon his most terrifying experience.

To Jamaica, Of 40,000 French only 8,000 men and 300 officers including Rochambeau, Courpon, Boyer and Bioletti survive to surrender.

On the captured Revolutionnaire 27 Dec-3rd 18⁰³ Feb 5 1804. 5 and a half weeks of RN hospitality. He is 26 on arrival in England.

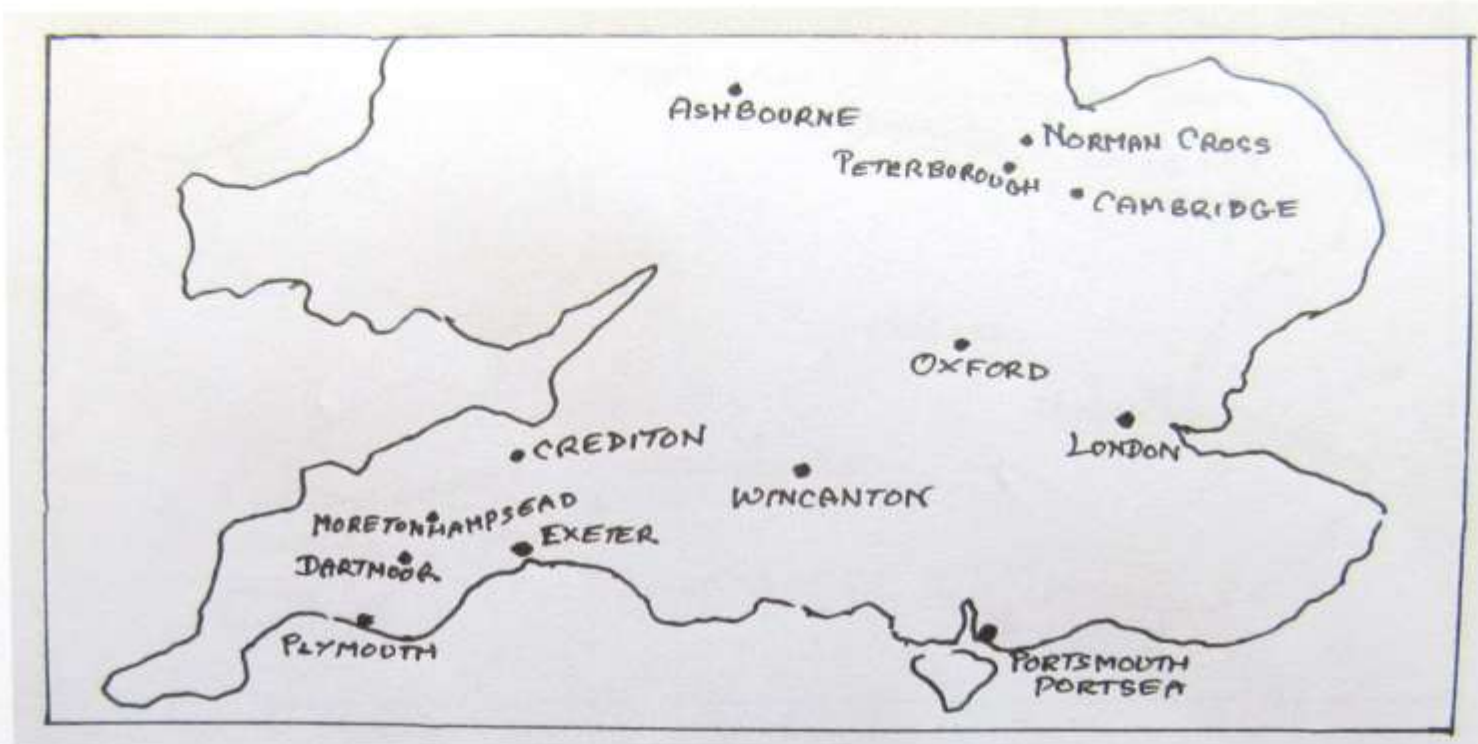
(Roberts) 350,000 Haitians had died.



HMS Bellerophon. Capt John Loring

GB1

Alberto Bioletti in England



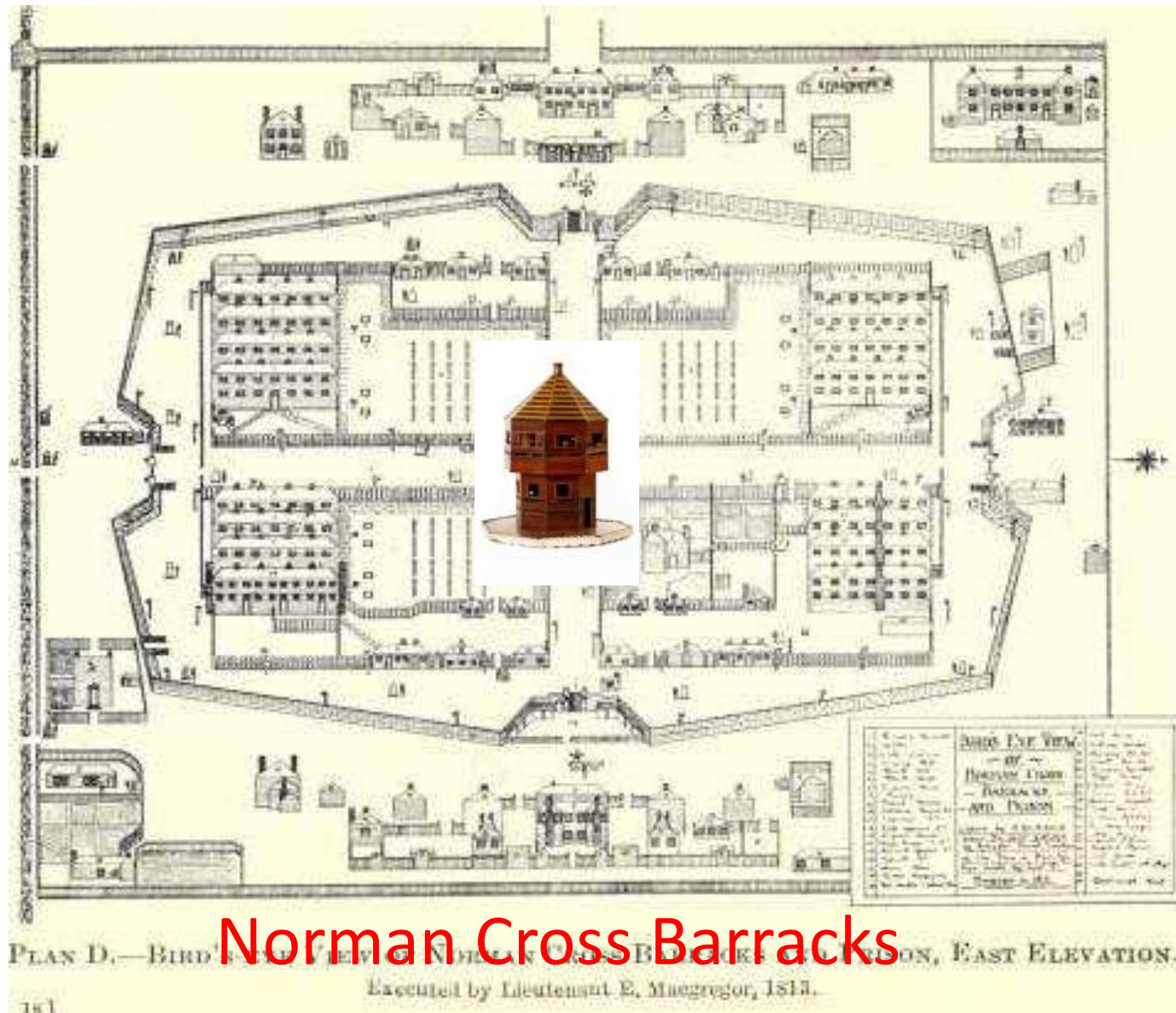
As a Parole Prisoner with
General Jacques Boye 1804-1811

Portsmouth
Oxford
Ashbourne
Norman Cross
Oxford
Wincanton
Crediton
Moreton Hampstead
Dartmoor
Plymouth

Settled in England
1816 - 1869

Dover?
London?
Wincanton
Portsea-Portsmouth

Life on Parole for Bioletti before Wincanton with Boye, Rochambeau and Courpon.



Norman Cross Barracks

Arrived Portsmouth 3-2-1804

7-15-Feb. Marched or by coach to Ashbourne in Derbyshire. 200 miles.

As senior officers they are set up in comfortable style. House fitted out for them. Rochambeau and Boye are consistently – disruptive, rude and badly behaved.

October 1804 sent to Norman Cross nr Peterborough. The four confined to a special interior prison. Six months (at least) under tight control.

The Norman Cross Barracks were built in record time to house POWs in a humane manner.

Around 5,000 there on average ¼ officers

March 1806 (after 1yr 5 mnth)

Rochambeau and Boyer sign new parole papers and are sent to WINCANTON.

Bentham keen on prison design. Panopticon. Central tower.



NORMAN CROSS

World's First
Purpose Built
Prisoner of
War

Depot
Camp
Prison



Automata clock with 11 moving figures. Bone



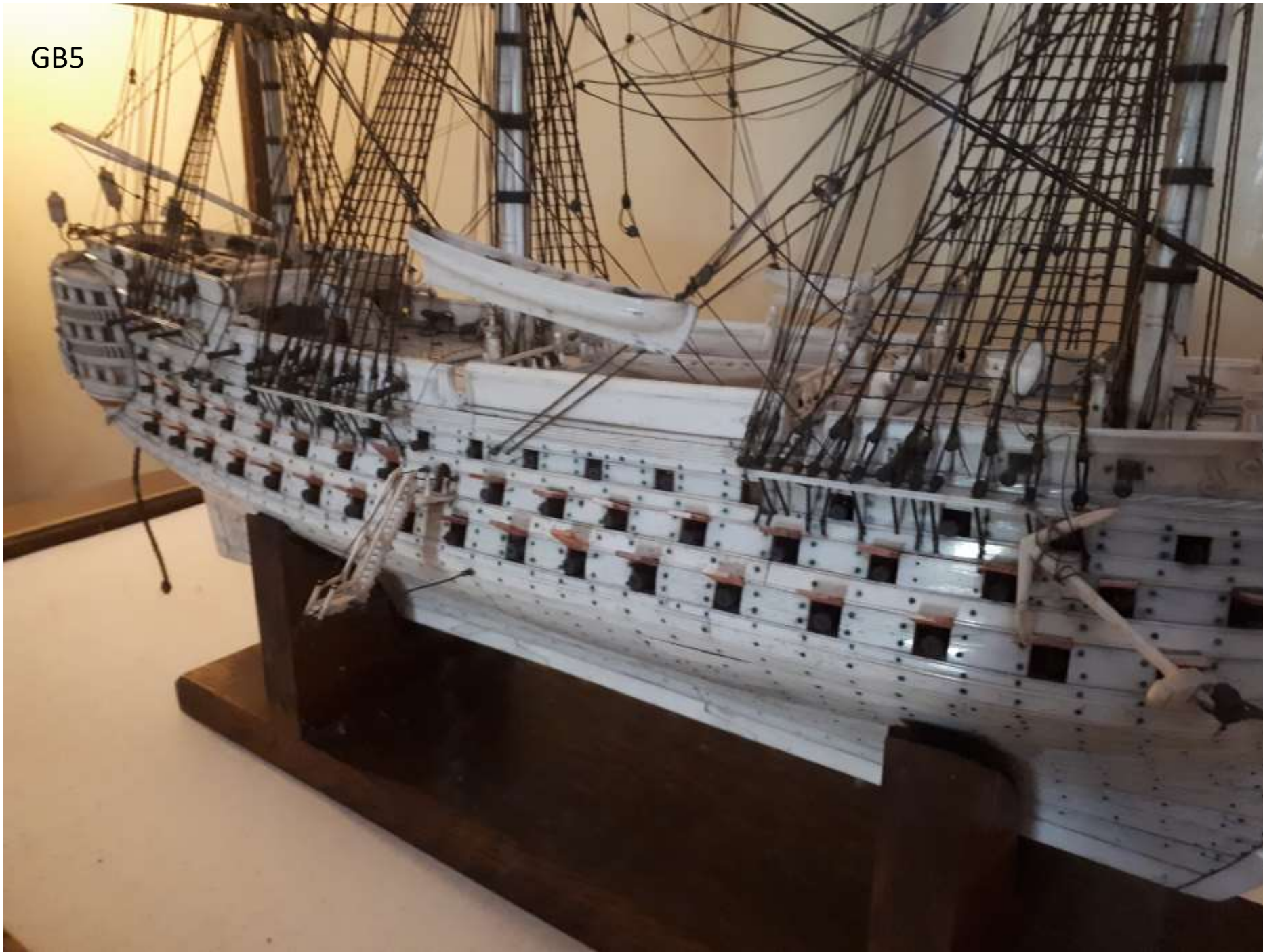
Boredom
Lack of Women
Gambling
Carving, crafts, business etc encouraged
Weekly Markets
Smuggling info
Disease. Typhus.
Reading, English
Military and political discussion
Catholic chaplain



Norman Cross. What was life like?

Guarded by soldiers frequently rotated. Overall control by a RN Captain.
Under Navy Transport Office.

GB5



The exceptional quality of
the model ships they made
Attracted wealthy customers

GB6

21st March 1806 Four arrive from Norman Cross via Peterborough by coach..

General Donatien Marie Joseph de Vimeur, vicomte de
Rochambeau 1755 -1813. 51yrs.

Ordonnance(Orderly) Pierre Courpon
(black Creole)

General Jacques Boye 40yrs
1766-1838

Ordonnance
Alberto Bioletti
Italian



Ordonnance
delivering orders



General Rochambeau as a young man

Agent Messiter warned. Accomodation prepared. Coach via
Oxford 200 miles? Under guard. Accumulated possessions.
Uniforms. Comfortable accommodation provided.
Contact with France by cartel ships.

GB7

Wincanton 1793 – 1815

Population 1,800,
600 in Agriculture 1100 in trade and manufacture
140 not described.

Flax and ticking. Handlooms. A poor living.
Undercut by Cotton Mills of North.

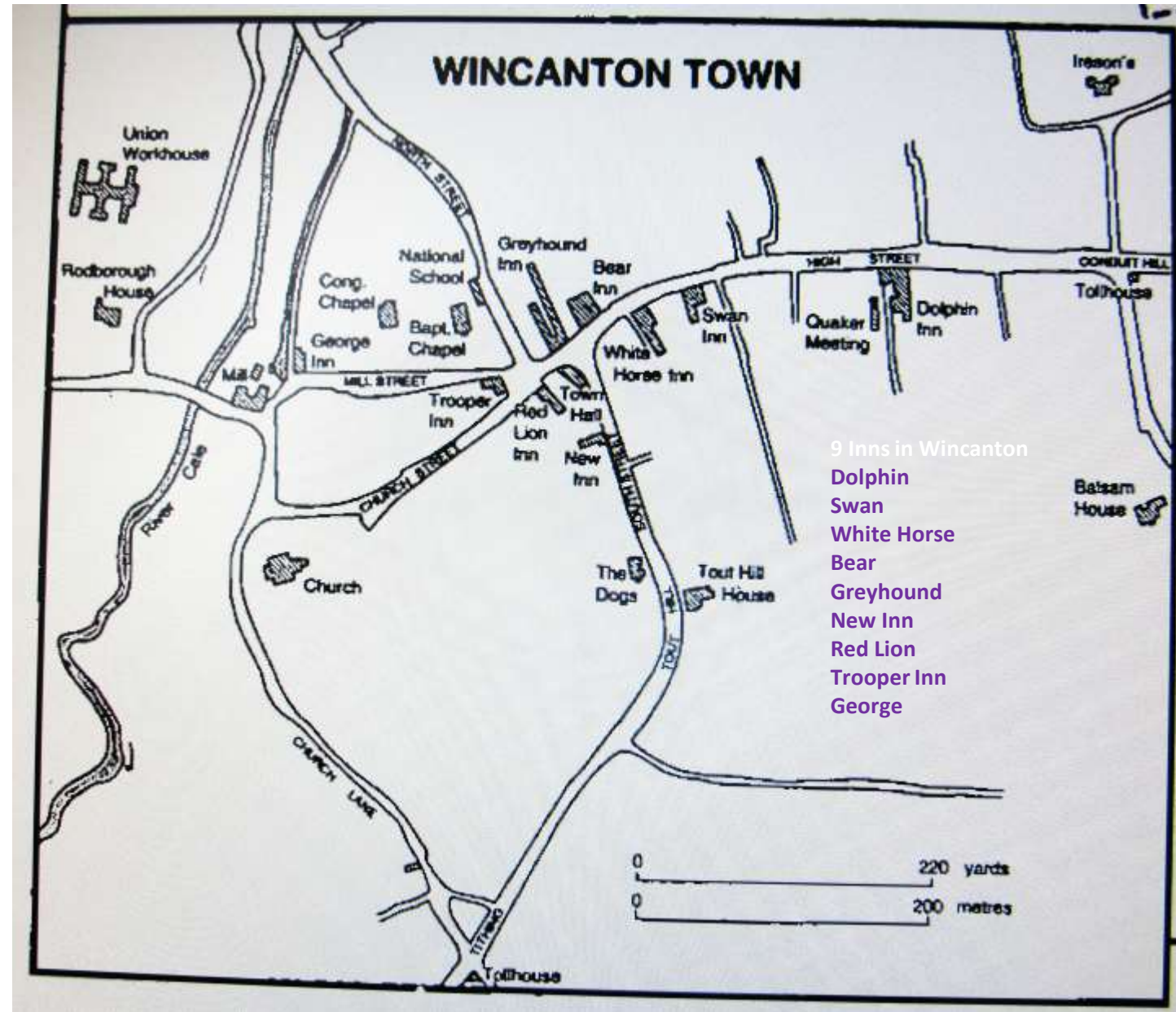
Food riots in 1800. Rice handouts. Paupers.
Workhouse filled.

Coach trade large. Inns, butchers, bakers markets.

Fear of French Invasion.

Anglicans, Catholics, Methodists,
Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers

Napoleonic Parole Prisoners in Wincanton from
1804 – 1812. Boost economy.



GB8

Wincanton c. 1800



A bright example of God's noblest work

b.1776—d.1834

GEORGE MESSITER.

Solicitor, Banker, Agent
Commissary, CO of three
companies of Volunteers,
Horwood Well spa owner.



From George Sweetman's *The French in Wincanton 1904*

GB9

With 17 coaches coming and going 6 days a week, Hay to feed, Manure to use, butchers, bakers, hostelries, chambermaids, cooks, grooms, coachmen and riders, the coaches were central to the economy of the town.



The Social Order.
Gentry – landed, professional, officers.
Tradesmen
Labourers. Common People.
Restricted vote but common law
Huge social differences
Great poverty and wealth.

Churchcyeys,
The Dogs Manor House,
Tout Hill House,
Balsam House,
Dial House,
Rectory,
Ireson House.

10 public houses

GB 10

Two Years before Bioletti arrived in 1806, 350 Officers on Parole settled in Wincanton and Bayford in 1804. 150 more after Trafalgar 1805. **Up to around 500.** Other ranks sent to the hulks. Welcomed for what they brought to the local economy. Rich, sexy and over here.



Note The lovely French uniforms. Keeping smart took much time and effort. Seen as key to morale



1805 also saw huge French victory at Austerlitz.

GB11

Life On Parole in Wincanton.

Restrictions on movement
Roll call morning, 5 pm,
evening curfew.

Housing

Food

Socialising

Ladies and Women

Theatre and Entertainment

Sport. Fives, Athletics.

Musicians

Relations with the locals

Free Masons.

Alberto invited to join the
French Lodge

Meets Mary Feltham

Horwell Well Spa.

Napoleons's dashing swagger cavalry
and army uniforms.
Life expectancy for all combatants
Was low.



Monsieur,

Wincanton, Somerset.
le 29 Aout, 1806

C'est avec plaisir que je certifie, que me suis trouve
soulage des maux d'entrailles qui me tourmentoient, apres avoir
bu pendant un mois consecutif les eaux de Horwood Well, prises
a Wincanton dans le compte de Somerset.

Recevez, Monsieur, les assurances de la consideration
avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'etre.

D. ROCHAMBEAU.

Le General Francois Boye avoit depuis quelque tems le genre nerveux attaque, avec un defect d'appetit, il ne trouvoit aucunes aueur aux mets les plus delicats, avoit des digestions difficiles et laborieuses, des spasmes violents et frequents, des insomnies, et un sommeil tout-a-coup interrompu par des soubresants dans les membres, il trouva aussi, dans l'usage de cinq semaines des Eaux Minerales de Horwood Well, un specifique contre sa maladie.

E. BOYE.

Second Case.

The French General Boye had for some time the nervous system attacked, with a loss of appetite, did not find any relish from the most delicate meats, had difficult and laborious indigestions, frequent and violent spasms, want of rest and a sleep suddenly interrupted by the Subultus Tendinum in the limbs: he found also by the use of the Mineral Waters (for five weeks) a sure specific against the disease.

GB12

Recommendations from generals Boye and Rochambeau of the healing properties of Horwood Well - owned by George Messiter

Monsieur,

Wincaunton, Somerset.
le 29 Aout, 1806

C'est avec plaisir que je certifie, que me suis trouve soulage des maux d'entrailles qui me tourmentoient, apres avoir bu pendant un mois consecutif les eaux de Horwood Well, prises a Wincaunton dans le comte de Somerset.

Recevez, Monsieur, les assurances de la consideration avec laquelle j'ai l'honneur d'etre.

D. ROCHAMBEAU.

First Case.

General Rochambeau was afflicted for three years by a frequent Tenesmus, with bowel complaints at the end of different fits of a Remittant Bilious Fever, occasioned by the fatigues of an active war in the colonies. This afflicting malady had till then resisted the most methodical treatment. I recommended to him the use of the Mineral Waters of Horwood Well, of which he took a small quantity the first fifteen days; he then increased the dose, and after having drank them during a month, observing a mild regimen and eating viands of easy digestion, he has received very great benefit from them.

GB13

Rochambeau spoils the party.

After 4 months Rochambeau is again revolting. "Hunting party" incident. Takes Boye, orderlies, horses and dogs. Beats up local farmer. Violent incident in the town. Messiter and Yeomen called out.

16th July 1807 Bioletti 29 marries Mary Feltham 21 daughter of David and Sarah Feltham of Crediton.

Boye is moved to Crediton immediately with Bioletti and Mary by Messiter. She is pregnant.

Rochambeau sent to Moreton Hampstead. Struts his stuff there and Pierre Courpon marries Susanna Parker there.

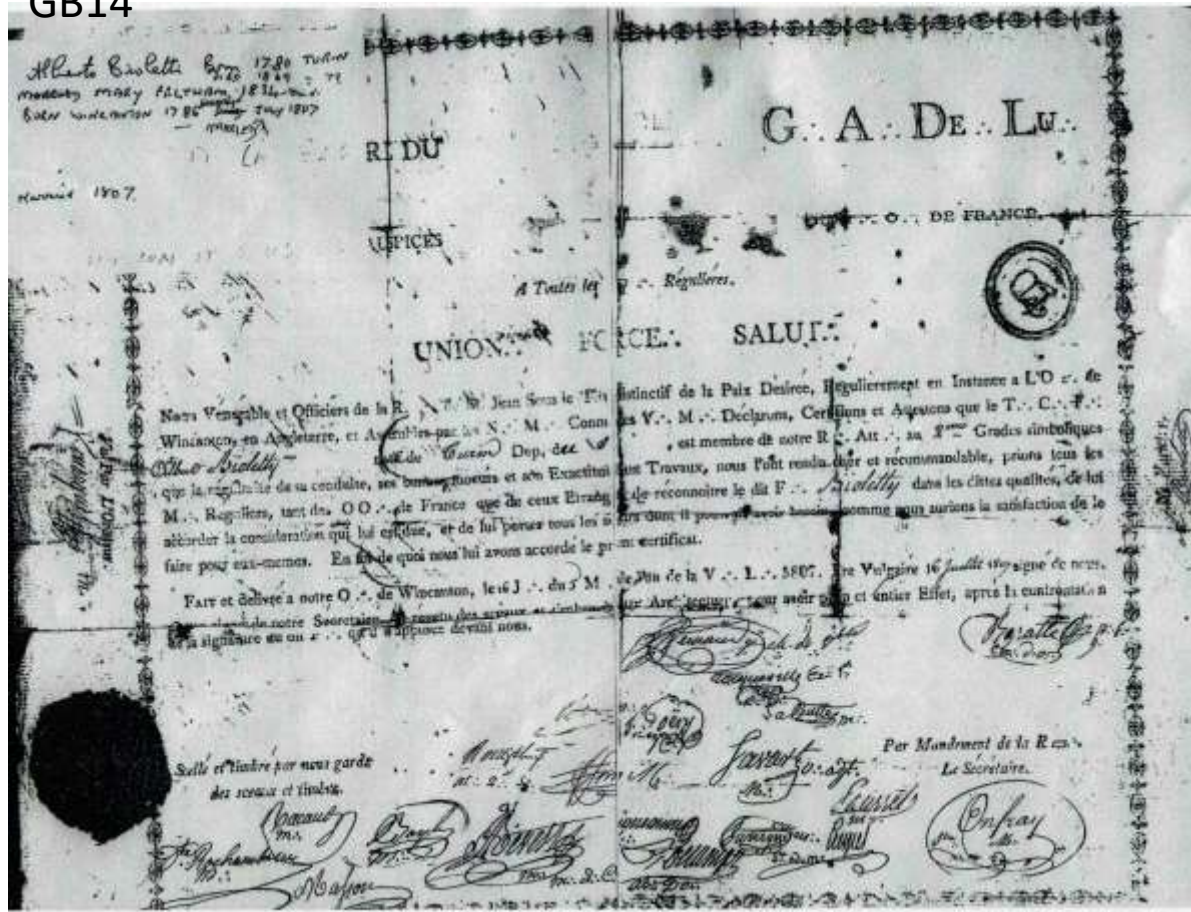
Bioletti able to live in Crediton with his family and General Boye from July 1807 – March 1811 (3yrs 8mnths)



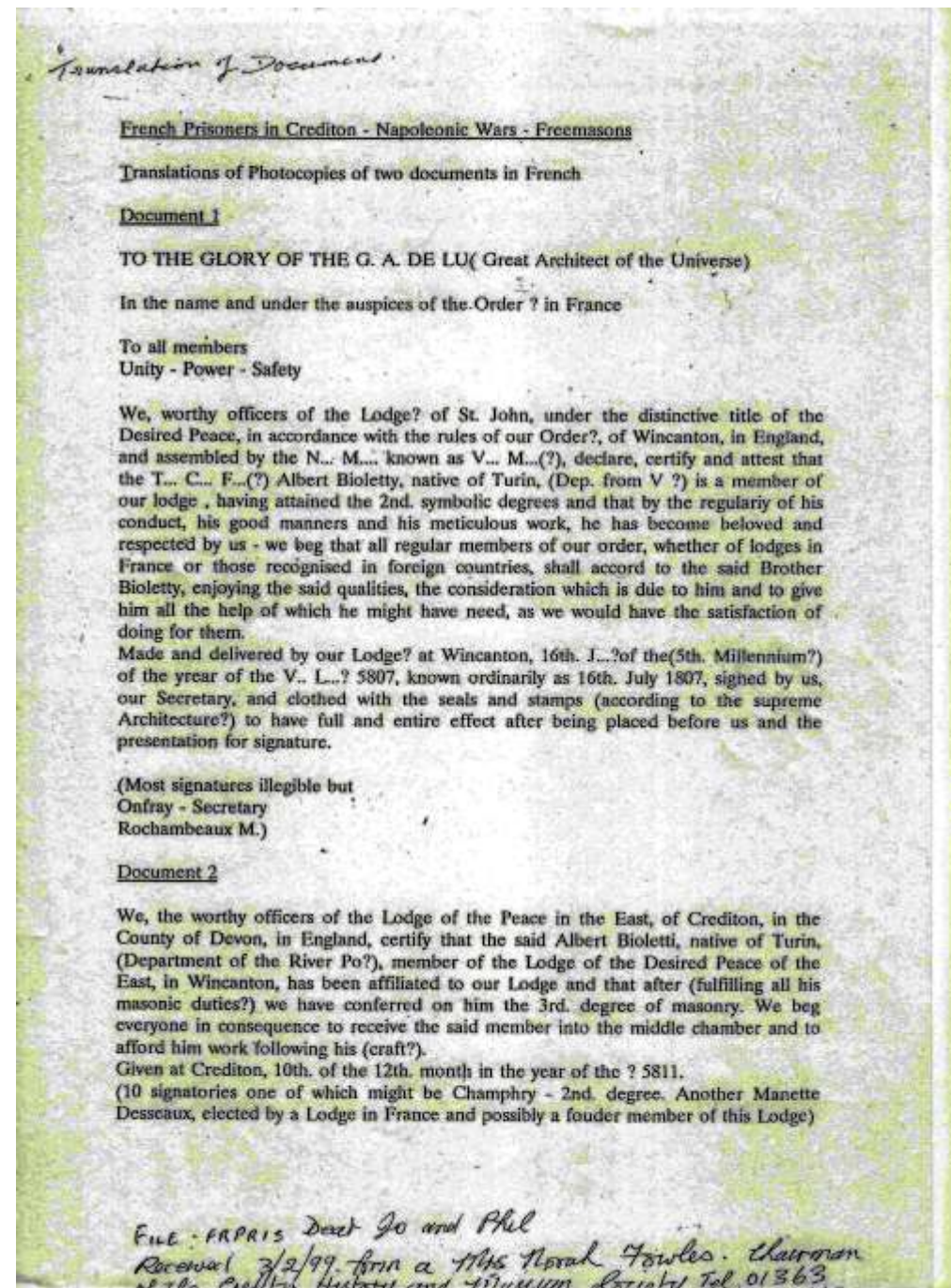
Parish church pre 1883 and clergy.
John Radford incumbent

1798	John Radford, A.B.
1829	William Carpendale
1838	Henry Collins, M.A.
1872	Matthew Shackleton, M.A.
1884	Richard A. ...

GB14



Certificate and translations showing Bioletti, backed by Rochambeau and Boye (presumably) admitted into the French lodge Degree 2 and of the English Lodge in Crediton to Degree 3.



Bioletti on parole in Crediton

masons, work.

In Crediton his first son Jacques born Feb 1808 and daughter Cecillia Feb 1810.



Cecillia. Only
Surviving photo

Sampler owned by Jo Stevens



A decent living. Family, friends, free

Supports his family as a bagatelle table maker.
Attends Boye. Every pub had one.



Prisoner exchange arranged and March 1811 is
returned with family and 115 others to France.

Fr1

Feb 1811 Bioletti and Boye returned to France. He takes Mary and children Jacques and Cecilia to Paris.

Napoleon has just become Emperor of the French and after divorcing Josephine has married Princess Marie Louise of Austria. Europe lies at his feet.

Rochambeau returns to his chateau and wife to work on his father's American maps. **Brigadier General Boye appointed chief of staff to Marshall Victor, Duke of Belluno of the 12th Division of the 9th Corps. Bioletti prepares for war service as Boye's ordonnance.**



Napoleon's second wedding to Marie Louise of Austria 1811,



• Paris 1811.

After 7.5 yrs a parole prisoner Bioletti, Mary and family are in France, now a centralised military dictatorship.

- After a string of victories Napoleon crowned himself Emperor on December 2, 1804, He then began a series of projects to make Paris into an imperial capital to rival ancient Rome.
- He built monuments to French military **glory**, the Arc de Triomphe do Carrousel, the column in Place Vendome, and the future church of the Madeleine, intended as a temple to military heroes; and began the Arc de Triomphe.
- To improve the circulation of traffic in central Paris, he built a wide new street, Rue de Rivoli, from the Place de la Concorde to the Place des Pyramides. He made important improvements to the city's sewers and water supply, including a canal from the Ourcq River, and the construction of a dozen new fountains and three new bridges; including the Pont des Arts (1804), the first iron bridge in Paris.
- **The Louvre became the Napoleon Museum**, in a wing of the former palace, displaying many works of art he brought back from his military campaigns in Italy, Austria, Holland and Spain; and he militarized and re-organized the Grande ecoles, to train engineers and administrators.
- Between 1801 and 1811, the population of Paris grew from 546,856 to 622,636, nearly the population before the French Revolution, and by 1817 it reached 713,966.
- During his reign Paris suffered from war and blockade, but retained its position as a European capital of **fashion, art, science, education, and commerce**

With Biolettiti Ordonnance to Boye Mary may have been installed to keep house for Boye as in Crediton only now in Paris. Self employed as dress-maker and seamstress when they went on active duty.



Cardboard model of the [Arc de Triomphe](#)



The New Paris
with the New
Aristocracy – the
Meritocracy, a new middle class
in army, navy, professions based
on ability not birth flourish
under Napoleon. Market for
Mary?



Painter David



Court painter
Jacques Louis David

A portly emperor



Marie Louise



Bioletti takes Mary to the Louvre to see the new Art?



Classical
ladies
fashion



Classical
fantasy
slim figures with
good legs

A woman of the People



**The Tasteful Bling
of the New
Empire.**

Napoleon Crowns
Himself in the
presence of the Pope.

“revolution”
forgotten



Fr5



David's image of Napoleon Crossing the Alps 1804.
Turner's version of Hannibal crossing the Alps. c. 1812.



Fr 6. Napoleon uses **Conscription** to build another Grande Armee. April 1811 Bioletti Leaves Mary and two children and sets off as ordonnance to Brigadier General Boye.

1812 Napoleon hoped to compel Tsar Alexander 1 of Russia to accept his “continental System” and cease trading with British merchants in an effort to impose an economic blockade to pressure the United Kingdom to sue for peace. The official aim was to liberate Poland from the threat of Russia. Without supplies the French devastate the counties they pass through so return on a different path.

The 1798 Jourdan Act stated: "Any Frenchman is a soldier and owes himself to the defence of the nation".

680.000 troops Smolensk
Borodino, Moscow, Berezina





The coach used to take British Foreign Secretary to the Council of Vienna.

THE NEEDS OF A BRIGADE GENERAL like Boye for the Russian Campaign.

To be organised by Ordonnance Bioletti.

A coach , uniforms, books, personal effects.

A coachman.

Four carriage horses

Four saddle horses

Several pack-horses or mules

Napoleon's Grande Armée crosses the Niemen

Fr 8



Bioletti and Boye in Russia 1812-14



Boye answers to Marshal VICTOR who commands the REAR GUARD RESERVE CORPS

From Borisov/Berezina
To Kazan is 900 miles

Nieman, Vilna, Smolensk. The Russians retreat.

Borodino a major battle. Huge losses.

Moscow burns. No deal.
No winter equipment.

Disastrous defeat.

Disaster in Russia

Retreat from Moscow



After a wasted time in Moscow a winter retreat begins



With the wrong kit and no food the retreating army freezes and are harried by Russian troops.



Rearguard based at Smolensk where Bioletti serves Boye. After Moscow Napoleon joins them. No food for anyone.



Fr 11. Battle of Berezina. Bioletti and Boye captured



As prisoners they are marched through the snow back past Borodino and on to near burnt out Moscow. Then marched under guard to Kazan. 900 miles.

Fr12 Bioletti and Boye in Russia 1812-14



From Borisov/Berezina
To Kazan is 900 miles.

There Boye is saved
by a Tolstoy count,
uncle to Lev? and
Marries his daughter
Anna.

He finally moves to
St Petersburg.

389,000
dead
100,000
captured

The End for Napoleon *(while Alberto is struggling back or is in St Petersburg)*

October 1813. Napoleon defeated at the battle of Leipzig. The bloodiest in the history of the Napoleonic Wars. Casualties “astoundingly high.” Estimates range from 80,000 to 110,000 total killed, wounded or missing. Napoleon lost about 45,000 killed and wounded. **Rochambeau killed aged 58. His name inscribed on the Arc de Triumph.**
March 1814 Paris falls. Napoleon abdicates and is sent to Elba.

Dec 1814 Bioletti returns to Paris, Mary and two children alone for more than 2 years. Boye settles in St Petersburg.

18th June 1815 **Battle of Waterloo** Waterloo cost Wellington around 15,000 dead or wounded and Blücher some 7,000 . Napoleon's losses were 24,000 to 26,000 killed or wounded and included 6,000 to 7,000 captured.

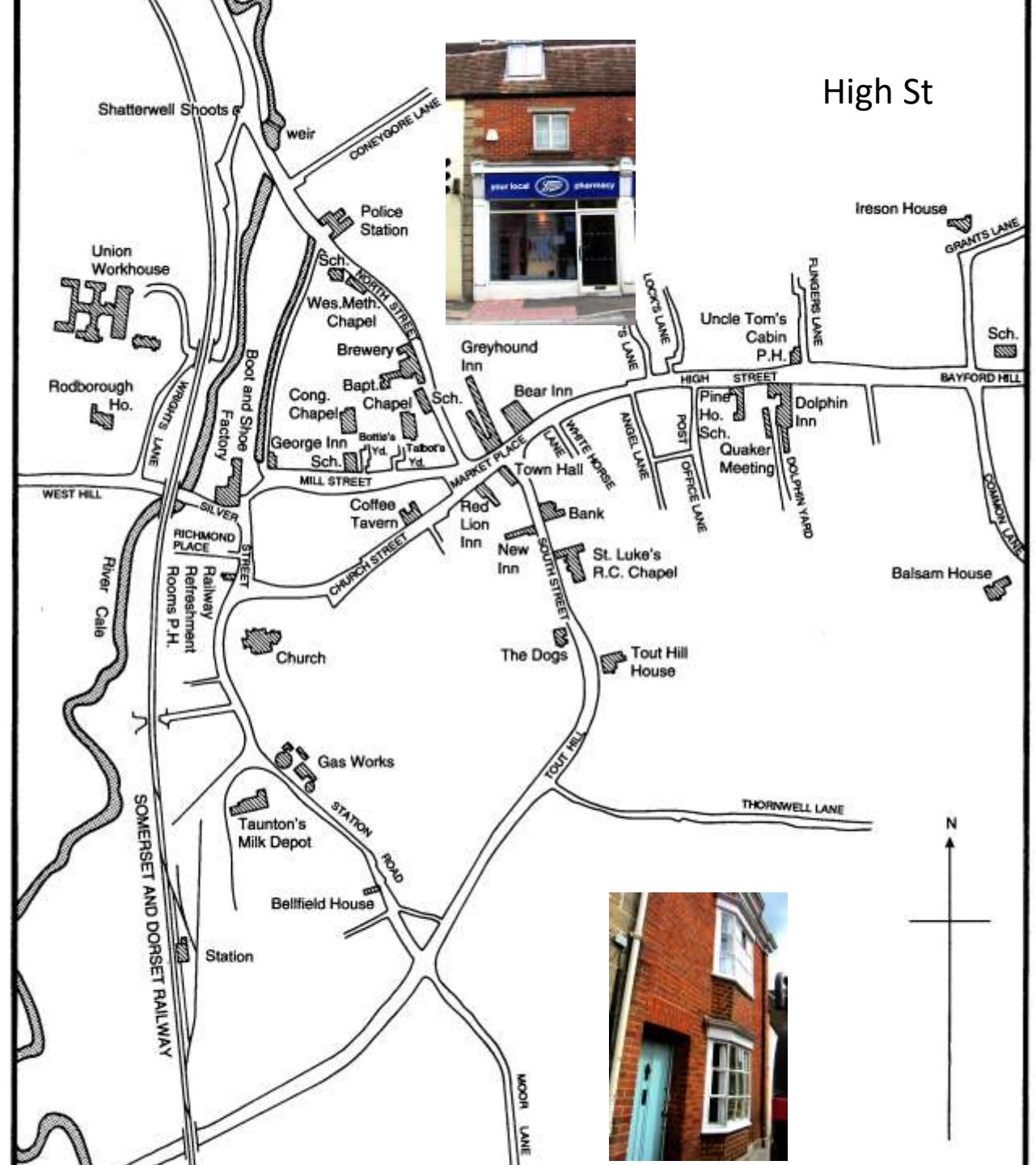
August 1815 Bioletti is still in Paris. Albert born. Bourbon Louis 18 in power. The Bioletti's leave for England and choose Wincanton. (John and Jane Feltham)

30th June 1816 Albert baptised Wincanton Parish Church, Alberto is 38, Mary is 30.

July Napoleon is held on the **Bellerephon** before being taken to St Helena.

• Life in Wincanton.

- 1812. Feb French removed.
- **Late 1815 Alberto, Mary, Jacques, Cecillia and Albert arrive.**
- 1816 Charles Henry born. (Now 3 sons and 1 daughter)
- 1817 Joseph Theodore born. Clock and barometer maker and barber in South St.
- 1832 1st Reform Act. 652,000 men can vote.
- 1833 Slavery abolished throughout the Empire.
- **1834 Mary dies aged 48.** George Messiter dies aged 58.
- **1836 July marries Martha Ewens 33 he is 58.** Moves to 31 High St.
- 1837 Victoria on throne.
- By 1851 they are at 71 High St. They have two sons, Edwin Charles and Albin George.
- 1861 Somerset and Dorset Railway in Wincanton.
- His daughter Cecillia married a Hayward. Moved to Portsmouth.
- Alberto moved to Portsmouth by rail April 1861. Died 14th March 1869 aged 91.
- **He had lived in Wincanton for 45 years.**



H2 The Wincanton clockmakers were a group of highly skilled craftsmen at the cutting edge of the technology of their day. They made and sold clocks – very costly - to the carriage trade and gentry.



Alberto Bioletti is in the register *B Looms. Clockmakers of the World* as a Wincanton Clockmaker. He was also a watch repairer, barometer maker, bagatelle table maker and barber – dentist.

Charles James who runs Ottery Antiques 17 Horsington, Templecombe, Somerset BA8 OEG Gave me a list of other

Wincanton Clockmakers. They all took on the duty of maintaining the Town Hall Clock before the 1878 clock of William M Weir that is there today was installed.

These are: Martin Cross 1811, Osmand Cross 1746-60, William Doney 1801, Richard Lewis 1760, William Loyes 1820, Harry Mogs 1820, John Olding 1801, Nathaniel Olding 1813, William Towers 1790, George Way 1805-37, Thomas Wey 1837, Joseph Weir 1813-86, Josiah Weir 1813-86, Josiah Weir 1837 and William Weir 1878 New Clock

No doubt Bioletti learnt hairdressing skills in the service of General Boye. Napoleonic fashion was to dispense with wigs and go in for cuts which still look modern. Barbers of course shaved and handled a razor and had been close to surgeons. In his time they still were extracting teeth – the only treatment for tooth decay.



Albert Bioletti Wincanton. Day of the month, Hour, minute, second.
This is a very sophisticated clock, the work of a master clockmaker.
Now owned by Susie Bioletti who lives in Dublin.

George 4 fashionable hair.

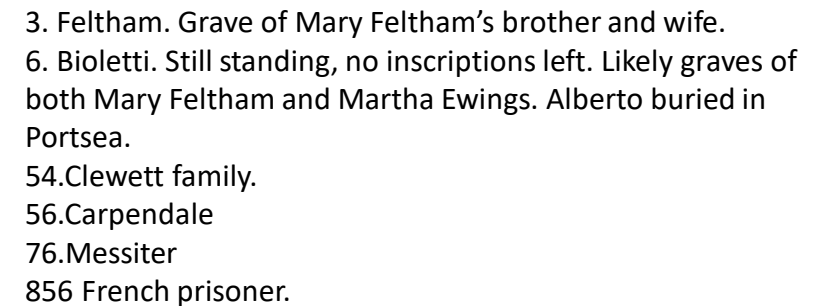
THE PARISH GRAVEYARD
UNTIL 1896* FOR
WINCANTON

CHURCH

GRAVES NOT LISTED HAVE DISAPPEARED. (AFTER 1791 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHYARD WAS ALSO USED)

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL.

WEARE CHASE
MELMAN HOBBS
PITMAN & HARRIS
BERRY BODLEY & BISHOP
THORP & ADAM RAYMOND
CONCE INCE & BARNARD
FRASER BAKER & JARVIS
WILTSHIRE MCKEY GORLE LINTON
HIX HUTCHINGS LAPHAM BINGLETON
SHEPHERD SHAW & BINGE GUEST
QUYER BRITTON HENDERSON BISHOP DEW
DRAKE WHITE WHIGHAM HUTCHINGS
BAXTON DOWDING MORRIS RICHARDS
PURCHASE DELWYN CLARKE DAVIS
PERRETT HUNT CARPES TILLARD
COOPER CARDELL THOMAS HAYMAN
BASTER CLEWETT CARPENTALE RUSSELL PHILIPS
MATTREWS COLLINS WAY GUNER SHAW
EDEN STACEY PARKER DRAKELEY GREEN
DEAKFOOT BARKFOOT WILLS SAINT DEARSLY
STWELL ANDREWS DRESDON BAUGHTON MEISTER
PENSON ENGLISH DYER STEVENS DOWDING DAVIS
LACKFORD JACOB & BONE BURGESS JONES JONES
SMALL TRENCHARD DEER NEWMAN WHITLOCK
DYE TUCKER GIBBS BARNFIELD BARNFIELD
STARR BARNES CANNON CORDELOW JEANES
SWEETMAN TREV KNIGHTON OSWIND DENNIS
PITMAN HUTCHINGS HOATH & DENT DYE LYDFORD
VED & LYDFORD FIGHTER GUEST FEND
DRIBDEN CHAMBER





Susie Bioletti

great – great – great – great grand daughter is Keeper of Preservation and Conservation at The Library of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin Dublin 2, Ireland.

Susie Bioletti, I am a New Zealand Bioletti living in Dublin and the proud owner of one of Alberto's clocks. The clock expert who unpacked and set-up our clock said Alberto will have bought both the case and the face, which was normal practise. The expertise lies in the mechanics which are still all original and in excellent condition. The face of the clock has the name Albert Bioletti Wincanton on it



Susie writes : My Dad Peter Bioletti tracked down the Turin Bioletti's in the 60's and he went out to meet them when he retired. I met some of them a couple of years ago and my cousin is now fairly regularly in touch with them. None of us are too sure how we relate but that doesn't really matter. The Turin Bioletti's had never heard of Alberto before Dad contacted them.

Susie writes:

Connie Linacre took most of her information from conversations with her grandfather James Albert B who knew Alberto well. She mentions Alberto having left scraps of notes in French which were given to her mother. I am not sure who would have these. – . James Albert also left an account of his memories of stories from Alberto from which Connie quotes – Connie was interviewed by Radio 4UK in the late 70's or early 80's I wonder if a transcript still exists.

H 5

Sam Bartlett,
Wincanton born,
with his Bioletti clock
Inherited from his
father.



H6

Simon Bioletti. Lives in New Zealand and owns a very beautiful Barometer made by Alberto.



- Malcolm Yeates, descended from Cecillia Hayward as she became, is part of a circle of Bioletti descendants in Brighton.

H 7



71 High Street,
Alberto's final
property, now
redecorated, is
little changed.

