

Title: The Horrible Peace: British Veterans and the End of Napoleonic Wars
Speaker: Dr. Evan Wilson
Date: 15 May 2023
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POC: Dr. Evan Wilson, Hattendorf Historical Center

SYNOPSIS:

The Horrible Peace: British Veterans and the End of the Napoleonic Wars surveys Britain's experience in the years around 1815 from two perspectives. First, it analyzes the strategies that (eventually) brought the Napoleonic Wars to an end. In doing so, it reveals the challenges of war termination, the high costs of fighting a global war, and the ways in which both of those problems eroded British power in the decade after Waterloo. Second, it examines the experience of veteran soldiers and sailors. When did they come home? What were their expectations for peace, and how did they respond when those expectations were not met? This lecture focuses on the first perspective, and in doing so, it questions our existing conception of British power in the early nineteenth century.

BIOs:

Evan Wilson is an associate professor in the Hattendorf Historical Center. A recipient of the Sir Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History, he specializes in the naval history of Britain and other countries from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. He is the author or editor of five books, most recently *Navies in Multipolar Worlds*, which he edited with Paul Kennedy. His work has appeared in several journals, including the *English Historical Review* and the *Journal of Military History*. His next book, *The Horrible Peace: British Veterans and the End of the Napoleonic Wars*, will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in June 2023. Before coming to Newport, he was the Caird Senior Research Fellow at the National Maritime Museum (UK) and the Associate Director of International Security Studies at Yale University. He holds degrees from Yale, Cambridge and Oxford.