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Scott Bowden

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Scott Bowden : Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813 (Armies of the Napoleonic Wars Research Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813 (Armies of the Napoleonic Wars Research Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Every Napoleonic LibraryBy Aussie ReaderI was pleasantly surprised with Scott Bowden's book; "Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813". At first glance it seemed full of charts, diagrams and figures and nearly half the book is made up of Appendices (narrative runs to page 207, appendices and notes from page 211 to 373).However what I enjoyed about the book was that it gave you an insight into Napoleon's Grande Armée of 1813, the make up of the army itself which gave me a better understanding of what its capabilities and limitations were to fight the 1813 campaign.For example, we have all read of the horrendous losses of Napoleon's Grande Armée that marched into Russia in 1812 but I was still amazed when I read the statistics:"Only 1,608 French infantry of I Corps, 1,1910 of II Corps, 1,007 of III Corps, and 1,911 of IV Corps - only 6,436 fantassins present and under arms - were all that remained of the 36 regiments, of the 156 battalions, of the 107,097 wholly French line and light infantry which had once proudly stood in ranks on the eve of the Russian campaign. Instead of an average company strength of 115 officers and other ranks present and under arms, there were, on February 1, 1813, less than 7 officers and other ranks present per company!"Besides the shortfall of experienced combat proven soldiers

for the new Grande Armée of 1813 as well as horses, this was the other major issue confronting Napoleon as he prepared for the 1813 campaign: "From all quarters came the hue and cry for more and better officers. From corps commanders, from Imperial aides de camp, from elderly but still tough-minded Marshal Kellermann, they pleaded with Clarke and Napoleon for qualified officers to lead the new troops. It was to little avail. The officer corps of France had perished in Russia. Napoleon could call on the young men of the country to fill the ranks of the new army, but officers could not be easily replaced. Thus, even with every possible source in central Europe turned upside down in search for officers, no matter what promotions were made including those above what regulations allowed, there remained serious gaps in the officer corps for both the infantry and cavalry of the line." This is what Napoleon had to left to which he had to build a complete new army to defend France and fight the allied coalition invading Germany in 1813. The author also provides nice little biographies on quite a few of the French commanders, like Charles Antoine Louis Morand, who the author states; " ... One of the most capable divisional infantry officers in uniform, Morand distinguished himself at Auerstadt, Eylau, Eckmühl, Wagram, and Borodino. In 1813, Morand led his division at Wartenburg on 3 October 1813, and at Leipzig. At Leipzig, he spearheaded the attack of Bertrand's IV Corps which smashed Gyulai's Austrians on the Lindenau front. He continued his distinguished service record in 1814 and again during the Hundred Days. "I came away with a much deeper appreciation for the young soldiers of Napoleon's army and what they achieved against superior odds and other elements that had a bearing on the ability of Napoleon and his men to fight the battles of 1813. If you are looking for a detailed combat analysis of the 1813 campaign you will be disappointed in this book, it offers only a concise account of the battles and skirmishes fought by the opposing forces but if you looking for a reason why and how the campaign proceeded and ended like it did then this would be a good book to start before moving onto some of the campaign histories. This is a book that should be in every Napoleonic library and I enjoyed it so much I have ordered a copy of his account of the 1809 campaign: "Armies on the Danube 1809" by Scott Bowden. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Studios Napoleonic study By Robert Ruman 1990, hard bound in dust jacket, 6 x 9, over 370 pp. with dozens of illus maps. In 1813, Napoleon faced the greatest challenge of his military career. The 1812 army which invaded Russia had perished. Virtually all that remained was the prestige of a glorious name that the Emperor would use to create his new Grande Armee of 1813. This volume represents the first ever English language study of Napoleon's 1813 war machine. From its makeshift creation to its ad-hoc formation... from its many victories to its final cataclysmic defeat at Leipzig... here is the true, complete story of this epic army and its leaders. Written by Scott Bowden, author of *Armies at Waterloo* and *Armies on the Danube 1809*, this book was researched almost exclusively from original source documents at the French army archives. As such, Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813 is brought to life by hundreds of first-hand accounts and returns by French military and civil officials. These accounts and returns, which include new battlefield insights as to troop strengths, capabilities, and combat effectiveness, are unprecedented in their detail and presentation. In addition, Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813 provides exhaustively detailed orders of battle, researched from the French army archives, including information on the battles of Lutzen, Bautzen, Dresden, Katzbach, Dennewitz, Leipzig, and more. These orders of battle provide exact troop strengths, artillery material, and much, much more for all the various corps of the Grande Armee throughout the year 1813. The 1813 campaign for Germany is difficult to fully grasp without a complete understanding of its central character, Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813. This story, which tells of the painstaking reconstruction of Napoleon's army, its composition, its strengths and weaknesses, and its fighting power, is an absolute must for any Napoleonic enthusiast, historian or war gamer. Napoleon's Grande Armee of 1813 is a gold mine of information, insights, and the key for understanding the crucial campaign of 1813. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable insight into Napoleon's 1813 campaign By A Customer After finishing this book, I realized that for the first time, I feel as though I understand WHY the 1813 campaign unfolded in the manner that it did... what forces were in play that affected Napoleon and his army... reasons that have never before been explained. Everything about the French army and its unbelievable weaknesses are revealed in detail, along with Napoleon's momentous mistakes that kept feeding immature youths that were improperly officered into an already failing organizational structure because the recruits could not be properly trained OR properly fed. If you are interested in the 1813 campaigns, don't miss this one.

Armies of the Napoleonic Wars Research Series is a factual in-depth study of the armies, battles, and leaders of the Age of Napoleon. The principal purpose of the volume is to bring together the most information practical on the raising and formation of Napoleon's war machine, its level of training, combat effectiveness and the opinions of strengths and weaknesses made by the people closest to the army - the officers and ministers themselves. This volume includes extensive, detailed parade states of the army throughout 1813 and is purposely written in a succinct manner which relates to the subject matter. A detailed history of Napoleon's Grand Armee of 1813, this volume is an absolute must for any Napoleonic enthusiast, historian or wargamer; a gold mine of information, insights, and the key for

understanding the crucial campaign of 1813.