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August Ludolf Friedrich Schaumann

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August Ludolf Friedrich Schaumann : On The Road With Wellington: The Diary Of A War Commissary In The Peninsular Campaigns: On The Road With Wellington: The Diary Of A War Commissary In The Peninsular Campaigns before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all

praised On The Road With Wellington: The Diary Of A War Commissary In The Peninsular Campaigns: On The Road With Wellington: The Diary Of A War Commissary In The Peninsular Campaigns:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Baron Munchausen the Iron DukeBy Jan JeffGreenhill Books has done students of the Peninsular War a great favor with this addition to their Napoleonic Library. August Schaumann, a 30-year old Hanoverian served as a commissary for the King's German Legion, paints an incredible picture of Britain's war in Iberia while maintaining a running travelog with wry humor and succinct observations. Whether describing the horrendous retreat to Corunna, his cook (the Witch of Endor), the small kissable feet of a young lady, or the peculiarities of the English, French, Spanish and Portuguese his insightful pen entertains and educates without stopping. His small book will make you roar with laughter and sigh sadly at man's inhumanity to man.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Adventures in Portugal and SpainBy HMS WarspiteA.L.F. Schaumann's "On the Road with Wellington" is a delightful memoir of his service as a deputy assistant commissary officer during the Peninsular War. Schaumann's duties as a civilian supply officer for various units took him everywhere the Anglo-Portuguese Army went on campaign during the period 1808-1812. As a non-combatant, Schaumann's story focuses on the mundane tasks required to keep an army quartered and fed, but his eye for detail captures vignettes of the soldiers and civilians with whom he dealt. His gift for narrative provides the reader with a strong sense of what it was like to be on campaign in that era. His account of the retreat of the British Army under Sir John Moore to Corunna under horrendous conditions in the winter of 1808-1809 is particularly vivid (and heartbreaking).This is not a battlefield account, although Schaumann was close enough to the fighting to pass on some accounts of battles. Nor is this in any sense a history of the Peninsular War. Strategy and politics are played out well above Schaumann's head, and even Wellington is glimpsed only in passing. The average reader will sometimes be dependent on the footnotes to understand what is happening in the larger war. What Schaumann does provide is the human level detail that makes such a distant conflict real for the modern reader. It is no wonder that writers such as Bernard Cornwell of the Sharps series happily mined Schaumann's memoir for material. Cornwell provides an introduction to complement the translator's preface and the author's own introduction, all well worth reading for the context of Schaumann's story.This book is highly recommended to students of the Peninsular War. It may also be of interest to the casual reader with some background in the Napoleonic Wars.

August Schaumann was a natural born storyteller. He describes his Peninsular adventures so vividly that you get the feeling that you are there, riding next to him dodging French cavalry patrols and conquering the hearts and bodies of Spanish and Portuguese ladies. But who was August Schaumann? He was born in Hanover in 1778. At the age of 16 he was compelled to join the army against his will, but he eventually rose through the ranks to the rank of junior-subaltern. In 1799 his father, a severe and harsh man, removed his son from the army and procured him a position at the postal service. In 1803 he left his home in Hanover and proceeded to England where he was employed as a clerk at a Newcastle firm. In 1807 he decided to move to Russia. He never made it there because heavy storms forced him to take refuge in Goteborg, Sweden. Here too he found a brief employment as a clerk. When the English fleet sailed back to England after its Swedish expedition in 1808 August boarded one of its ships and was taken to England to start a new career as war commissary in the King's German Legion.'On the 28th August 1808 August Schaumann set foot on the shores of Maceira Bay in Portugal. From here on he tells us in great detail and in a style that captivates the reader about his Peninsular adventures. As a war commissary Schaumann saw, did, and lived it all. Not only does he tell us about his perilous and difficult duties as a commissary, but he also tells us about his numerous romantic adventures and about life in Spanish and Portuguese billets. Because he was a keen observer and a great storyteller he was able to describe some of the great battles of the Peninsular War and the invasion of France in 1814. He also describes the gruesome retreat from Coruna, the endless marches and counter marches, and the hardships that the common soldiers had to endure in a way that puts you, the reader, right in the middle of it. August ended his military career in 1816 and returned to his native town of Hanover where he obtained a post as civil servant. He died in 1840.I have enjoyed these memoirs very much. Not only because they give a very precise and clear picture of the military operations that Schaumann was involved in, but also --and foremost-- because they give an insight into aspects of the Napoleonic Wars that don't get much attention in other memoirs. I am referring to the logistic problems that all Napoleonic and in particular the British army faced in those days and how the civilian population of Spain and Portugal lived and coped during this dark period of their history.

Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: GermanAbout the AuthorSCHAUMANN was born in Hanover and at the age of 16 he was compelled to join the army against his will, but he eventually rose through the ranks to the rank of junior-subaltern, though he left the Hanoverian Army in 1799. When France invaded Hanover in 1803 Schaumann went to England where he was employed as a clerk at a Newcastle firm. In 1807 he decided to move to Russia. He never made it there because heavy storms forced him to take refuge in Goteborg, Sweden. Here too he found a brief employment as a clerk. When the English fleet sailed back to England after its Swedish expedition in

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