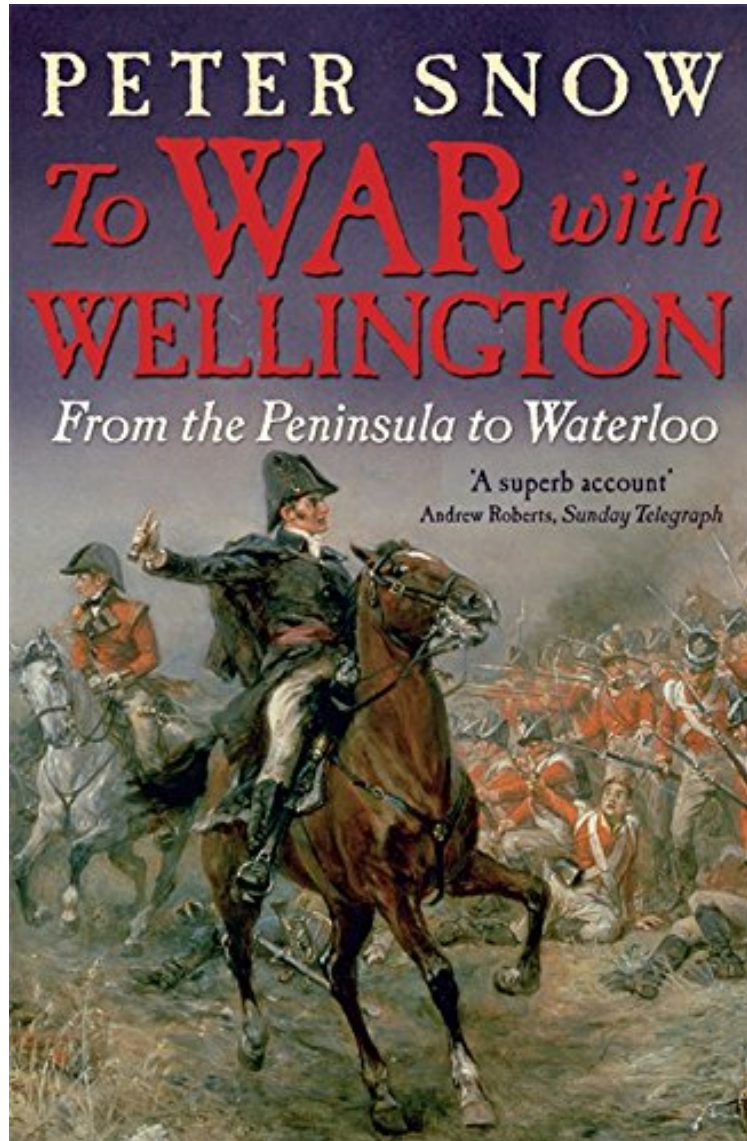


(Download free ebook) To War with Wellington: From the Peninsula to Waterloo

To War with Wellington: From the Peninsula to Waterloo

Peter Snow

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Peter Snow : To War with Wellington: From the Peninsula to Waterloo before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To War with Wellington: From the Peninsula to Waterloo:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wellington...warts and all.By Chris MartinJohn Snow comes to author this vivid description of the battles of the Wellington's Peninsular campaign and beyond with much experience behind him as a commentator for the British ITN network on military strategy and military history. Snow reveals that this was one of the first campaigns where large numbers of soldiers were literate and wrote their own accounts of their

commanders, the tactics used and first-hand accounts of front line action, and he uses them well in this account. The narrative traces the career on Wellington from his first landing in Portugal and first successful skirmish against Napoleon's generals until the great battle of Waterloo. The battle dispositions of the opposing armies are clear with the use of maps, the tactical moves by opposing leaders are documented and final results outlined. Yet it is in the historical narrative that Snow excels in describing the peculiarities of 19th century workings of the British army, and, Wellington's relationships with the British Prime Minister. Snow also brings out the strategic geo-political issues by selected comments from the English foreign Secretary with whom he had to work. Snow vividly captures the internal divisions of Wellington's army over strong commanders like Picton, "Daddy" Hill and Crauford. The various opposing armies are depicted in different glimpses from the buffoon Spanish generals, the barely competent but improving Portuguese and the more disciplined French forces. He even brings the reader into seeing first hand how the densely packed French battle force formations led to their demise against an extended English line of fire. And one by one he describes the downfall of the French generals that opposed Wellington in Portugal and Spain. While Snow is an obvious admirer of Wellington, he is not uncritical, pointing out his subject's ingrained aristocratic snobbery that affected some of his decisions, particularly in regards to promotion from the ranks and his disdain for confiding in his subordinate generals. The tone of the book is lively with clusters of photographs of the leading protagonists. Each battle is discussed and some maps are provided yet the book needs an additional single map page to give the reader a clear idea of the geography of the Spanish Peninsula. There is a good reference list. As an introduction to Wellington's battles this is excellent vivid work. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. How did they ever recruit an army? By John Averett This book really opens your eyes to warfare in the time of Napoleon. Brutal. Well worth a read to understand something about the society. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Military Biography By Aussie Reader This new biography on the Duke of Wellington by Peter Snow is an excellent addition to the many books on this British General. The book mainly covers Wellington's time in the Peninsular with fourteen of twenty chapters devoted to that campaign. The final four chapters obviously cover the lead up to, and the conclusion of, the Battle of Waterloo. In just over 316 pages the author provides an excellent account of this period and Wellington's role in defeating Napoleonic France. Although I may not agree with all of the author's assertions I still thoroughly enjoyed this book. The narrative is full of first-hand accounts, some well known and some never before seen, and great stories. The book just moved along at a cracking pace and if not in-depth certainly detailed enough for most military enthusiasts. There were 20 maps supplied and numerous colour illustrations which added to the story. Overall this is book well worth reading and I am sure most readers, both first-timers and those well read about the 'Iron Duke', will have a great time following the career of Wellington from the Peninsular to Waterloo.

The seven-year campaign that saved Europe from Napoleon told by those who were there. What made Arthur Duke of Wellington the military genius who was never defeated in battle? In the vivid narrative style that is his trademark, Peter Snow recalls how Wellington evolved from a backward, sensitive schoolboy into the aloof but brilliant commander. He tracks the development of Wellington's leadership and his relationship with the extraordinary band of men he led from Portugal in 1808 to their final destruction of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo seven years. Having described his soldiers as the 'scum of the earth' Wellington transformed them into the finest fighting force of their time. Digging deep into the rich treasure house of diaries and journals that make this war the first in history to be so well recorded, Snow examines how Wellington won the devotion of generals such as the irascible Thomas Picton and the starry but reckless 'Black Bob' Crauford and soldiers like Rifleman Benjamin Harris and Irishman Ned Costello. Through many first-hand accounts, Snow brings to life the horrors and all of the humanity of life in and out of battle, as well as shows the way that Wellington mastered the battlefield to outsmart the French and change the future of Europe. To War with Wellington is the gripping account of a very human story about a remarkable leader and his men.

'Snow writes with tremendous elan and his appraisal of Wellington is scrupulously fair' * Mail on Sunday * A must-read * Heritage Today * A refreshingly accessible portrait of one of Britain's greatest generals, it will take some beating * Yorkshire Evening Post * Snow's descriptions of battles . . . are unrivalled * Oxford Times * The bloodcurdling (and surprisingly steamy) soldiers' diaries that reveal how Britain trounced Napoleon in battle * Daily Mail * Dramatic, often moving, sometimes shocking . . . Snow's story is far more powerful than fiction * Herald * Fascinating. History written as it should be: entertaining and informative * Independent on Sunday * A superb account of what it must have been like serving under Britain's greatest - but also most exacting - soldier * Andrew Roberts, Sunday Telegraph, Books of the Year * About the Author Peter Snow is a highly respected journalist, author and broadcaster. He was ITN's Diplomatic and Defence Correspondent from 1966 to 1979, and presented Newsnight from 1980 to 1997. An indispensable part of election nights, he has also covered military matters on and off the world's battlefields for forty years. Peter is married and has six children.