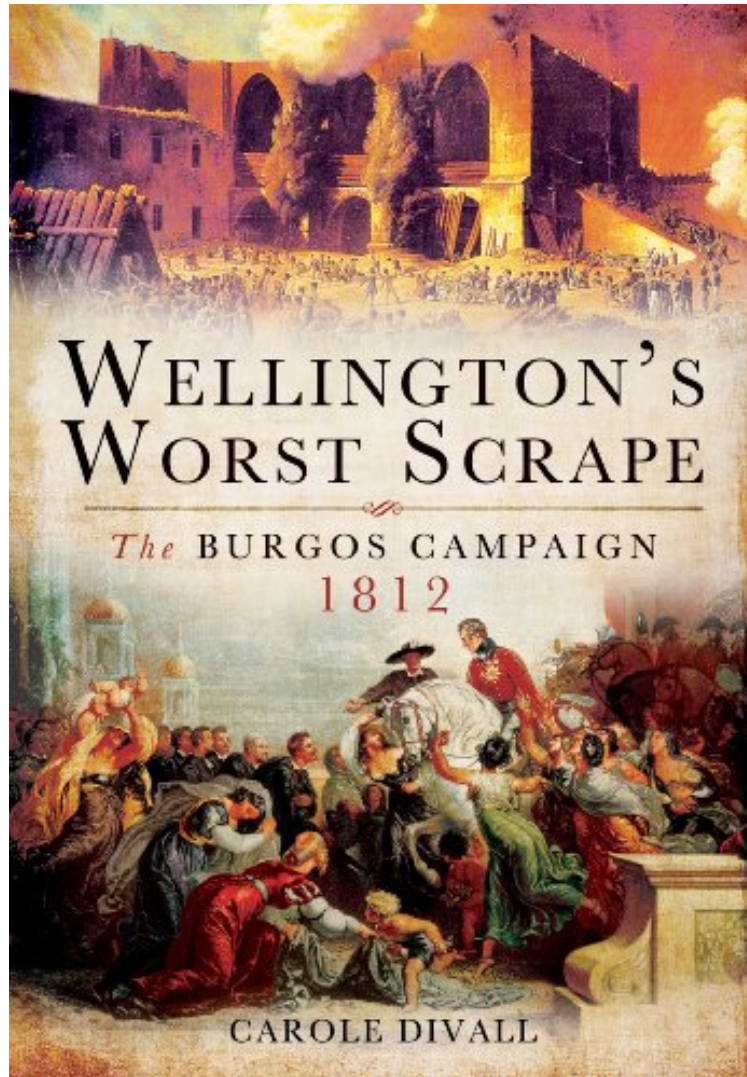


[Download ebook] Wellington's Worst Scrape: The Burgos Campaign 1812

Wellington's Worst Scrape: The Burgos Campaign 1812

Carole Divall

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Carole Divall : Wellington's Worst Scrape: The Burgos Campaign 1812 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wellington's Worst Scrape: The Burgos Campaign 1812:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Burgos Campaign of 1812...By HMS WarspiteCarole Divall's "Wellington's Worst Scrape" is a detailed look at the Burgos Campaign of 1812, as British General Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese Army and its Spanish allies followed up their tremendous victory over a French Army at Salamanca in Spain. Following the successful sieges of the border fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz on the Spanish frontier, and the success of Salamanca, Wellington found himself in the unusual position of being able to take the offensive against Imperial French forces in the interior of Spain. Wellington would liberate Madrid before dividing his

forces to pursue his scattered opponents. The siege of the Castle of Burgos in northern Spain was almost an afterthought, a desire not to leave an unreduced fortress in his rear. But Burgos was garrisoned by stubborn French troops led by a clever commandant, and what was meant to be a lightning siege turned into an extended battle of wills, as French armies gathered in alarming numbers...Divall's narrative is nicely constructed from an interesting mixture of primary and secondary sources that provide both an overview and a strong flavor of the campaign. The text is enhanced by a handful of maps and a nice selection of illustrations, along with some interesting appendices. "Wellington's Worst Scrape" is a very worthwhile read, even for the experienced student of the Peninsular War. The author has a sure grasp of her material. This reviewer's only regret is that the author is perhaps a little too willing to let the story tell itself; she never quite comes to grips with Wellington's strategic dilemma after Salamanca or why he overreached at Burgos. "Wellington's Worst Scrape" is very highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent contribution to understanding Wellington's 1812 campaign and the allied loss of Madrid. By Ian D. Bella A very readable book about one of Wellington's least known campaigns. It starts with Wellington's capture of Madrid and then the advance to Burgos. The siege is covered fairly quickly: it progressed badly with inadequate resources and very aggressive French resistance and is abandoned. As the French armies finally concentrated Wellington retreats with the loss of Madrid and considerable damage to his army and his reputation.

The disastrous retreat and near disintegration of Sir John Moore's army on the road to Corunna in 1809 is traditionally regarded as the low point in the history of the British intervention in the Peninsular War. Yet under the Duke of Wellington, the British and their allies suffered defeats and retreats that tend to be overshadowed by the series of victories that eventually drove the French from Portugal and Spain. None of these setbacks was graver than the retreat that followed the disastrous failure of the siege of Burgos in 1812. It is this, less than glorious, phase of the Peninsular campaign that is the subject of Carole Divall's latest study of the British army of the Napoleonic Wars. By reconstructing events in close detail, and by bringing together [many] primary sources, she gives a vivid account of what happened and why. Wellington himself recognized the mistakes and miscalculations that led to the potentially catastrophic situation in which he placed his men. He described it as his 'worst scrape'. Yet most of the letters, journals and memoirs that have survived praise the skill with which he saved Britain's only army from disaster. Carole Divall weaves together Wellington's dispatches with the eyewitness testimony left by British and Portuguese officers and men, by civilians, and by the French. A fascinating, multi-layered impression emerges of the siege of Burgos itself and the sequence of maneuvers that preceded it. She describes in authentic detail the tense decision-making and the misjudgments that were made on the allied side and the headlong retreat that followed as the British fled from two French armies that threatened to trap and destroy them. Carole Divall's in-depth study of a pivotal – and neglected – episode in the Peninsular War gives a fascinating insight into the character of the fighting, at every level, and into the strengths and weaknesses of Wellington's command.

This is Carole Divall's third book, the first two having dealt in detail with the 30th Regiment, and this time she concentrates on the latter stages of Wellington's campaign of 1812, from his advance from Madrid on Burgos and his subsequent retreat. Using letters and memoirs from participants on both the British and French sides Carole paints a vivid picture of this pivotal campaign, one where Wellington showed what the British forces could do, but also showed it at its worst during the retreat. It led ultimately to the successful campaign of 1813 and the French being pushed out of Spain. Carole has presented in this book part of a campaign which has been largely overshadowed by Wellington's victories at Salamanca and Vittoria. This is an excellent book that fills a gap in the usual telling of the war in Spain and Portugal and one worth having for anyone interested in the war in Spain. - Crown and Empire It is about time what such a well researched, modern book on the Burgos campaign was published - especially as most of the 200th anniversaries in 2012 concentrated on allied victories. Wellington may have been over-confident following his successes at Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca and Madrid. Carole Divall brings the subsequent story to life brilliantly with a very wide range of personal accounts and a logical analysis of events. Highly recommended. - Soldier Magazine About the Author Carole Divall has a special interest in military history, in particular the history of the British army during the Napoleonic Wars. She has published articles on regimental history, on the workings of the army of Wellington's time and on aspects of the key campaigns. Her most recent publications are *Redcoats Against Napoleon* and *Inside the Regiment*, two studies of the officers and men of the 30th Regiment during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.