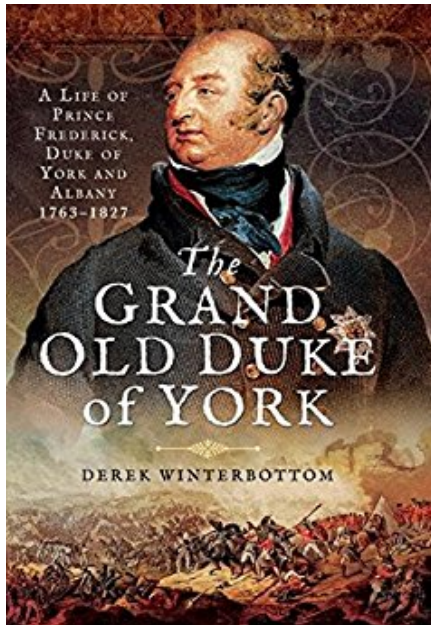


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Winterbottom, Derek. *The Grand Old Duke of York: A Life of Frederick, Duke of York and Albany 1763-1827*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2016. Illus. 209 pages. ISBN# 9781473845770. \$40/£20



Derek Winterbottom is an accomplished author of some twenty publications in history, biography and education. See his website at: derekwinterbottom.com. His latest work is a modern look at HRH the Duke of York. The Duke is long disregarded both as a Field Commander and for his involvement with the Mary Anne Clarke Scandal of 1809. He is chiefly remembered only for his reforms of the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars which enabled it to fight on successfully.

The book is divided into a List of Illustrations, Preface, twelve chapters, Appendix, References, Sources and Index. It has twenty-one illustrations and two maps. The book is written in a straight forward manner. It is not unsympathetic to the Duke. It looks at the details of the Duke's personal and family life, "often turbulent." He was the second son of King George III and for many years second in line to the throne. The author states that "I have attempted to present the duke 'in the round' and to set his life story against the eventful times, military, political and social, in which he lived."

It discusses the Duke's military life, including his campaigns on the continent in 1793-1794 and 1799 and his reforms during his tenure as Commander-in-Chief. There is not an in-depth discussion of the campaigns and reforms, given the length of the book, but a nice overview is presented. The Mary Anne Clarke scandal and the Duke's association with the Duke of Wellington are also discussed.

We are also treated to an investigation of the source of the famous nursery rhyme 'Grand Old Duke of York.' The Appendix looks at eight aspects of the Duke's life, for example, whether he had illegitimate children and his creation of the Royal Military School for children. The book includes eight pages of references and three pages of sources.

Whether or not the book will change/confirm your opinion of the Duke of York, all in all, a nice addition to Napoleonic Era history.

Reviewed by [Ron McGuigan](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: October 2016