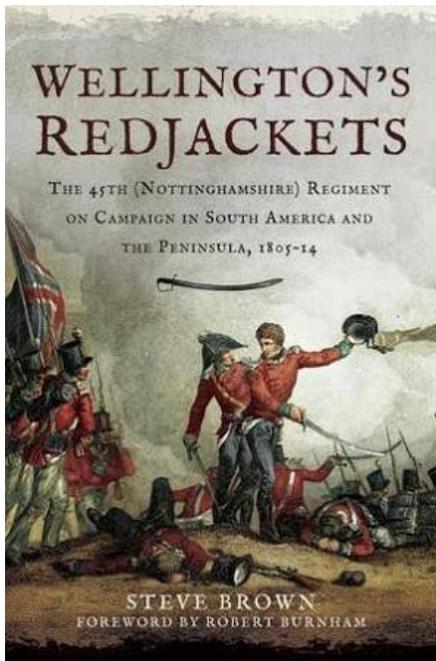


## The Napoleon Series Reviews

Brown, Steve. *Wellington's Redjackets: The 45<sup>th</sup> (Nottinghamshire) Regiment on Campaign in South America and the Peninsula, 1805-1814*. Barnsley (UK): Frontline Books, 2015. Illustrated. 290 pages. ISBN# 9781473851757.



The focus of the book is clearly set out in its title. This is a regimental history of an unfashionable county regiment during the Napoleonic Wars. It served in the Peninsula from August 1808 until its return home in July 1814, with most of its Peninsular career in Lieutenant General Thomas Picton's 3<sup>rd</sup> Division—*The Fighting Division*.

This is Steve Brown's first book. However, Brown is a well-known and respected contributor to the Napoleon Series website on British Army subjects. His current work is divided into a Foreword, Introduction, List of Maps, Eight Parts, Bibliography and Index. It has eighteen black and white illustrations and nineteen maps which complement the text. The book has a nice Foreword written by Robert Burnham, author and editor of the Napoleon Series website. Each part has from

two up to five chapters detailing its early years, the first landing in the Peninsula and each year thereafter. Each chapter includes end-notes.

What sets this history apart from most others is the integration of facts on both officers and the rank and file as applicable. This makes it both interesting and enjoyable. The author states, 'I felt that, unlike Victorian or early twentieth century histories which only talk in terms of officers and 'other ranks,' the men of the 45<sup>th</sup>, from serjeant-major down to drummer should have at least an equal voice.' The narrative is lucid and nicely flowing.

Although concerned primarily with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the regiment, we are also treated to details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion which remained in Britain during the wars. The book clearly shows the working of the regimental seniority of its officers as they are promoted and transferred between the battalions; a system which was meant to ensure that its seniors in each rank served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and its juniors in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. (With so many comings and goings, providing a copy of the seniority lists for each year from the Army Lists would have proven beneficial. Space limitations may have precluded doing so. This does not detract from the book.)

The book does not gloss over misconduct in the regiment and we read of it -warts and all- covering both its officers and men. There are a few minor errors in the book dealing with the officers. Jasper Nicolls served on his Uncle Oliver's staff in Bombay and not his father who did not command there. Nathaniel Peacocke of the 71<sup>st</sup> Foot is mixed up with Warren Marmaduke Peacocke of the Coldstream Foot Guards serving as Commandant of Lisbon. These do not detract from the book.

All in all, the book is a nice addition to British regimental histories. Recommended.

Reviewed by [Ron McGuigan](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: February 2016