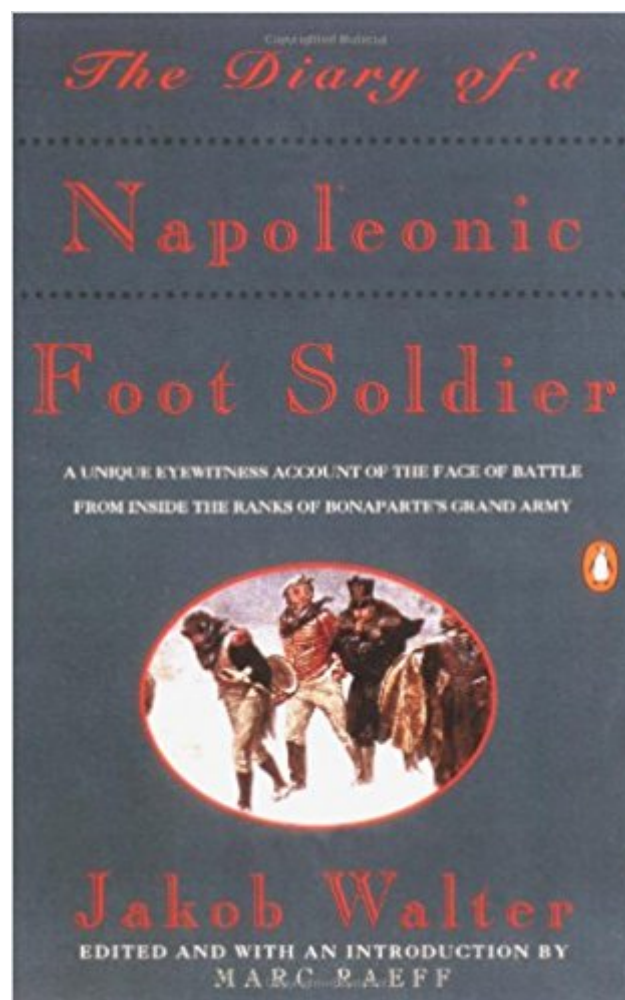




The book was found

The Diary Of A Napoleonic Foot Soldier: A Unique Eyewitness Account Of The Face Of Battle From Inside The Ranks Of Bonaparte's Grand Army





Synopsis

Eighteen-year-old German stonemason Jakob Walter served in the Grand Army of Napoleon between 1806 and 1813. His diary intimately records his trials: the long, grueling marches in Prussia and Poland, the disastrous Russian campaign, and the demoralizing defeat in a war few supported or understood. It is at once a compelling chronicle of a young soldier's loss of innocence and an eloquent and moving portrait of the profound effects of all wars on the men who fight them. Also included are letters home from the Russian front, previously unpublished in English, as well as period engravings and maps from the Russian/Soviet and East European collections of the New York Public Library. "Vivid and gruesome … but also a story of human fortitude. … It reminds us that the troops Napoleon drove so mercilessly were actually more victims than victors—a side of Napoleon that should not be forgotten." —Chicago Tribune

Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (February 1, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140165592

ISBN-13: 978-0140165593

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #57,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ Books > History > Military > Life & Institutions #6 inÂ Books > History > Military > Napoleonic Wars #38 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Russia

Customer Reviews

Of the half - million men who invaded Russia in Napoleon's army in June 1812, barely 25,000 survived. One who did was the author of this diary, Jakob Walter (1788-1864), a German private soldier from Westphalia. First conscripted in 1806, he was recalled to duty in 1809 and again in 1812. Walter's writing is unemotional and non-interpretive; he describes straightforwardly what he experienced. The account of the 1812 campaign--Napoleon's march on Moscow and inglorious retreat--takes up three-quarters of this short volume and constitutes its most interesting portion. In a chronicle of progressive demoralization, Walter observes how the instinct for self-preservation, under the pressure of Cossack attacks and treachery by erstwhile allies, leads to savagery among

Napoleon's troops. The common-soldier perspective is rare among the mass of material left by veterans of the 1812 campaign and the book will be of interest to the general reader as well as the scholar. This edition includes six short letters home by other German soldiers in the Grand Army, all less interesting than Walter's diary. Raeff is professor of Russian studies at Columbia University. Illustrated. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

More memoir than diary, this slim volume contains the reminiscences of a young German conscript into the army of Napoleon in the campaigns of 1806, 1807, 1809, and 1812-13. As such, it represents one of the few historical documents that portray the life and death of common soldiers of the period. As the army fought its way back and forth across Eastern Europe, young Walter encountered Poles, Russians, Jews, and other groups, and his descriptions of his interactions with these "others" illuminates attitudes and prejudices of German troops of the period. The firsthand description of the retreat of a starving army from Moscow and the attendant breakdown of discipline and morale will interest military historians as well. Walter's book is reminiscent of Guy Sajer's World War II memoir *The Forgotten Soldier* (LJ 12/15/70) and should be popular with a similar audience; it belongs in libraries with Napoleonic history or fiction collections.-- Stanley Planton, Ohio Univ.Chillicothe Lib.Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

To be honest, I'm away in England at the moment and sent it back home for when I return. . . however, my dad said the book looked very interesting. So based on that, it's as good as can be.

I am so glad I was not there and did not share his experiences. I read it twice. The parts where he describes how they "foraged" AKA stole from the population is interesting and what a bad time it was to be a small farmer.He describes the retreat from Russia too . . . I probably would have died.

Excellent account of the invasion of Moscow - one of the most readable and interesting ones I've found. Perhaps that's because it was written by a common soldier not long after the war. Informative introduction, too.

I found this book really interesting and would recommend it to others with an interest in the Napoleonic period. I thought the author's analysis of the soldiers writing's was very helpful and I

appreciate his point of view.

class

Good read and very interesting.

Although it is from one mans perspective it also is probably a good representation of what many of these men experienced. Truly a tragic event for the common foot soldier.

Product delivered as described.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Diary of a Napoleonic Foot Soldier: A Unique Eyewitness Account of the Face of Battle from Inside the Ranks of Bonaparte's Grand Army
Foot Pain: Ingrown Toenail: How To Become Stress Free And Easily Cure This Nasty Nail Disease Today From The Comfort Of Your Own Home (Foot Pain, Foot Problems, Foot Pain Relief, Foot Reflexology)
Face to Face with Wolves (Face to Face with Animals)
Face to Face: Praying the Scriptures for Spiritual Growth: 2 (Face to Face / Spiritual Growth)
Face to Face with Polar Bears (Face to Face with Animals)
Artillery of the Napoleonic Wars: Field Artillery, 1792-1815 (The Napoleonic Library)
Inside the Wire : A Military Intelligence Soldier's Eyewitness Account of Life at Guantanamo
Inside the Wire: A Military Intelligence Soldier's Eyewitness Account of Life at Guantanamo
World War 1: Soldier Stories: The Untold Soldier Stories on the Battlefields of WWI (World War I, WWI, World War One, Great War, First World War, Soldier Stories)
Face Painting: The Ultimate Guide to Face Painting Supplies and Face Painting Kits
Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians: A Brief History with Documents (Bedford Series in History & Culture)
The Passing of the Armies: An Account of the Final Campaign of the Army of the Potomac, Based upon Personal Reminiscences of the Fifth Army Corps
ARMY BRATS: LOVE IN THE HOUSE OF WAR - THE HAWKINS: ARMY OF ONE - MILLENNIAL GIRL (ARMY BRAT 3-BOOK SET 1)
Drone Warrior: An Elite Soldier's Inside Account of the Hunt for America's Most Dangerous Enemies
Helga's Diary: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp: A Young Girl's Account of Life in a Concentration Camp
Bonaparte Falls Apart
Ambition and Desire: The Dangerous Life of Josephine Bonaparte
The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte
DIARY OF A NAPOLEONIC FOOTSOLDIER
How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks About Being Sick in America

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help