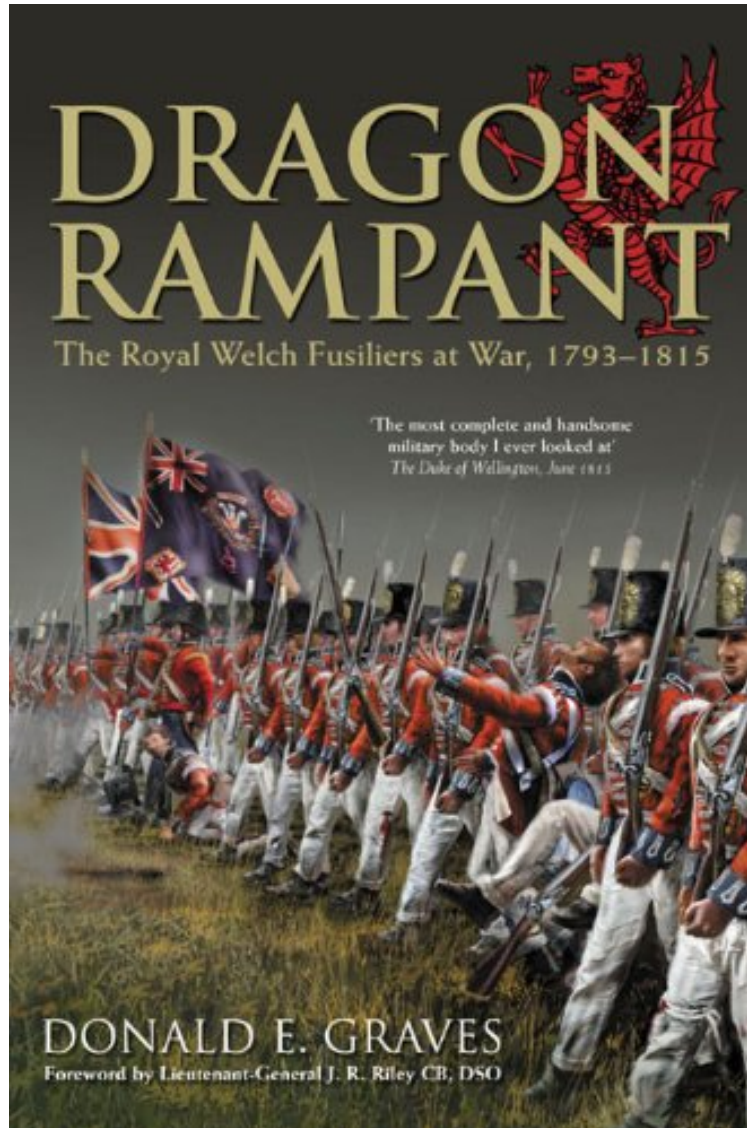


(Download free pdf) Dragon Rampant: The Royal Welch Fusiliers at War, 1793-1815

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Donald E. Graves

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Donald E. Graves : Dragon Rampant: The Royal Welch Fusiliers at War, 1793-1815 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dragon Rampant: The Royal Welch Fusiliers at War, 1793-1815:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Dragon Rampant - The Royal Welch Fusiliers at War, 1793-1815 By C. Goldstein No doubt, the world is filled with books on the battles of the Napoleonic Wars, Donald Graves' latest really stands out. Focusing on the history of the famous 23rd Regiment of foot, Royal Welch Fusiliers, Graves

introduces you to the officers and men of the unit and invites you to accompany them aboard ship, in garrison, through unimaginable hardship and as they attain astonishing victories over a 22 year period. Based firmly on diaries and period documents, it is written in such an easy-to-read and entertaining style that one has a hard time putting the book down. Thus, it is a must have for not only the armchair warrior, but the reenactor and historian alike.

Erik Goldstein
Curator of Mechanical Arts Numismatics
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Dragon Rampant - The Royal Welch Fusiliers at War, 1793-1815
By S. Shea
Here in the United States, we are commemorating the War of 1812. That war was of great importance to the Americans, who would view it as a victory in a sort of second war of independence. The Canadians also would view the war as a victory and a key step on their road to nationhood. For the British, though, the war was a peripheral action; her attention was squarely on the larger threat on the continent posed by Napoleon. Don Graves presents a wonderful and easily-read history of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, tracing them across three continents and finally into the fray during the Napoleonic Wars. The difficulties endured by the common soldier are made real and Graves' penchant for bringing personalities to life is evident in this book. The book was helpful in bringing to light the varied fronts on which the Napoleonic Wars were fought and the tremendous valour shown by this regiment.

Don Graves, a former historian for the Canadian Department of National Defence, is well known for his well-researched works. He has applied his craft in the history of the South Alberta Regiment and the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment as well as in numerous books focusing on the War of 1812. He has published numerous books bringing to light Canada's military history in a fashion that is easy to read and enlightening. As an American, I have learned much from his books and congratulate him on the excellent work he has done with Dragon Rampant. It will be an excellent addition to the libraries of the armchair warrior with a passing knowledge of the Napoleon War as well as the expert historian in that field of study.

Five stars.
Steven W. Shea
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
Minnieville, Virginia
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Engaging and Exciting History
By Bobsyouruncle
I have read a number of this author's books because the author reconstructs people, place and events from primary sources, and then breathes life into them with a reporter-like writing style. This is the sweet spot. I have read a number of history books recently that have been written by journalists and free-lance writers that flow well, but simply come up short when it comes to providing new evidence to what is already known, or they have not done some good old "eye-straining" research in an archives. Mr Graves does both and he has a military "nose" for HOW events unfolded. So Dragon Rampant is not another dry regimental history, but comes off like the author is seizing an opportunity to tell engaging stories about people and their accomplishments. Battles like Albuera are told with authority, and with an insight into military tactics of the time period that other authors are often painfully lacking.

'I never saw any regiment in such order,' remarked Wellington shortly before the battle of Waterloo, 'it was the most complete and handsome military body I ever looked at.' The object of the duke's admiration was the 23rd Regiment of Foot, the Royal Welch Fusiliers. 'Dragon Rampant' is the story of this famous fighting unit during the tumultuous and bloody period of the wars with France. Based on rare and untouched personal memoirs and correspondence as well as new research, this compelling new history offers new insights into the evolution of the British army. Largely scorned by even its own countrymen in 1793, by 1815 it had become a professional force service capable of triumphing over the greatest general and army of the time. The men of the Royal Welch Fusiliers come alive again as Graves tracks them across three continents. We join them in major battles and countless minor actions, and empathize with them as they endure short rations, shipwreck and disease. We come to know such hard-bitten fighting men as the intrepid Drummer Richard Bentinck; the love-sick Lt George Booker; the eccentric Major Jack Hill; the naive Private Thomas Jeremiah; and, above all, their beloved commander, Lt-Col. Harvey Ellis, who led his Fusiliers in some of the most famous actions of the time only to fall at Waterloo, the last and greatest of them all. We also meet many of the men fought alongside the Fusiliers, as well as the women who faithfully accompanied them on their travels. This is a book that will appeal to all those interested in the Napoleonic wars, musket period tactics and the meaning and the cost of courage.