

PRESS RELEASE

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Albuera Eyewitness

Contemporary Accounts of the Battle of Albuera, 16 May 1811

Author: Guy Dempsey

Highlights

- **This is the story of the Peninsular War Battle of Albuera as told exclusively by its combatants**
- **The author, an acknowledged expert on the battle, has collected more than 100 first-hand accounts from all the contending armies**
- **These accounts give readers unfiltered access to all important primary sources of information about the battle identified by the author during over thirty years of researching Albuera**
- **This material allows readers to draw their own conclusions about how the events of the battle unfolded**
- **Complete relevant texts, not just excerpts, are provided for all accounts**
- **Expert commentary by the author provides context for each account**
- **Narratives have been drawn from letters, diaries, official correspondence, army records, newspaper reports and memoirs**
- **Illustrated with contemporary maps**
- **An important addition to the history of the Peninsular War**

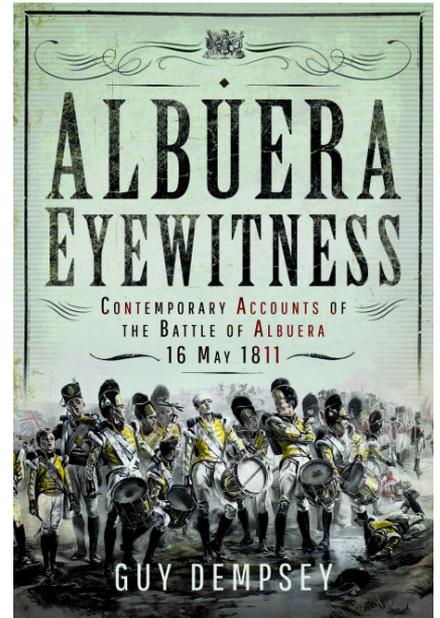
On 16 May 1811, the small town of Albuera was the setting for one of the Peninsular War's most bloody and desperate battles. A combined Spanish, British and Portuguese force of more than 30,000 men, under the command of Lord Beresford, stubbornly blocked the march of a smaller French force under Marshal Soult, who was trying to reach the fortress of Badajoz, twelve miles to the north. The Allies declared themselves the victors of the struggle but, given the extraordinary losses they suffered during the fighting, Wellington later declared that, 'Another such battle will ruin us'. Several British regiments, including the 3rd, 48th and 57th regiments, suffered casualties of more than 50 per cent. The French similarly fought with enormous tenacity, and sustained even more casualties.

The purpose of this book is to tell the story of the battle exclusively by way of the recollections of those who fought in the battle on both sides, which make for both chilling and inspiring reading. The book contains more than 100 first-hand accounts drawn from letters, diaries, official correspondence, army records, newspaper reports and memoirs. They range from the comprehensive after-action reports of the British, Portuguese, Spanish and French commanders to casualty and prisoner lists and to recollections of individual soldiers from all the combatant armies. Each account is accompanied by a commentary identifying the source and its context. Foreign language accounts have been translated into English but citations to the original text are always provided.

These first-hand accounts providing astonishing details of the intense fighting including the heroism of the Spanish troops, the massacre of Colborne's brigade by Polish lancers, Beresford's near-fatal indecisiveness, and the heroic charge of the Fusilier brigade.

About the Author

GUY DEMPSEY has had a life-long interest in Napoleonic military history, with an emphasis on working with primary sources. He is the author of a number of authoritative works including *Albuera 1811: The Bloodiest Battle of the Peninsular War*.



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Author photographs can be made available upon request.