

#7273365 in Books 2014-02-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x .70 x 6.10l, 1.01 #File Name:

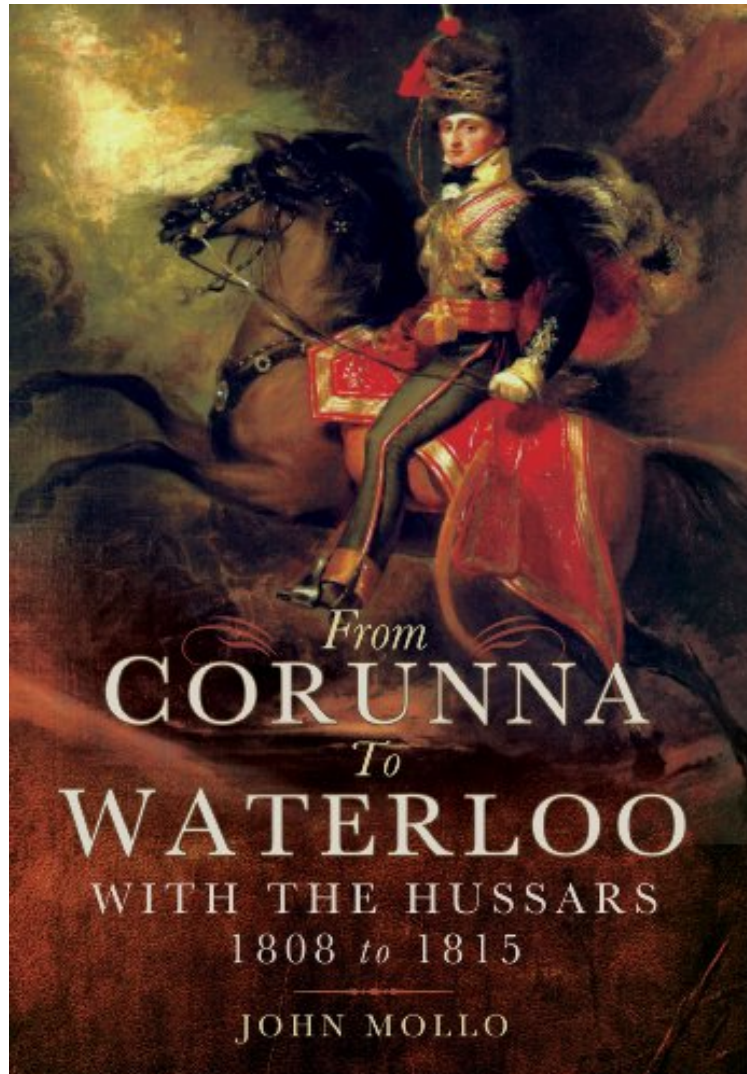
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[Free] From Corunna to Waterloo: With the Hussars 1808 to 1815

## **From Corunna to Waterloo: With the Hussars 1808 to 1815**

**John Mollo : From Corunna to Waterloo: With the Hussars 1808 to 1815** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Corunna to Waterloo: With the Hussars 1808 to 1815:

Living as we do in the midst of a technological revolution, during which the nature of war has changed more rapidly than in any other period in history, the stirring, colorful days of the Regency and The Peninsular War seem now so remote that they are effectively removed into mythology. Inspired in his boyhood by the kindly and unfailing help of a distinguished Edwardian historian - C.C.P. Lawson, to whom this fascinating book is dedicated - John Mollo has devoted many years to the study of the British Army in the Napoleonic era, its campaigns, triumphs and disasters. In

so doing he has not only become a master of the most kaleidoscope range of uniforms worn in the period - a subject on which he has published widely - but also the whole social and political background against which the army achieved some of its most historic successes. Here he describes the conception, gestation, birth and adolescence of the first British Regiments of Hussars - the byproducts of the Prince Regents passion for military finery and dandyism - leading on to their full maturity in the grim realities of war in the Iberian Peninsula between 1808 and 1814, first under Moore and then under Wellington, in two widely different campaigns. Basing his story on contemporary letters, diaries and reports and a comprehensive bibliography, John Mollo takes the reader into the heart of the Hussar Brigade in peace and war, depicting its many colorful characters with a sure hand and describing every facet of day-to-day life, in barracks and on the battlefield. In so doing he highlights the extraordinary contrast between the foppish dandyism so beloved by the Prince Regent and the dashing courage and fortitude of all ranks as they fought under the most severe conditions of climate and terrain, often against considerable odds and lacking many of the bare necessities of military life. This is a story based on the harsh realities of war in the early years of the nineteenth century and both sides of the coin have to be examined. On the obverse we find the brutal imposition of discipline by the excessive use of the lash, the devastating effect upon the Peninsular Army of easy access to almost limitless supplies of alcohol, leading to situations which have had no military parallel in our own time, and human suffering almost beggaring belief. Mollo's description of the Hussars part in Moores retreat to Corunna is unforgettable. Written with great elegance, the touch of a natural story teller and the imprint of a true lover and student of military history, this is a book to treasure.

About the Author John Mollo was born in London in 1939. He was educated at Charterhouse, and did his National Service with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. He developed a strong interest in the study of military history and costume, and in 1965, was asked to work for the director Tony Richardson as historical adviser on the film *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. Since then his film credits as costume designer/military advisor have included *The Adventures of Brigadier Gerard*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, *Barry Lyndon*, *Star Wars* (for which he received an Academy Award), *Alien*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Outland*, *Gandhi* (for which he received a second Academy Award), *Greystoke*, *King David*, *Revolution*, *Cry Freedom*, *Chaplin*, and more recently, *Sharpe's Rifles*, *The Three Musketeers* and *Jungle Book*.