

Wellington Against Junot: The First Invasion of Portugal, 1807-1808

In the annals of military history, the Peninsular War stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the British army and the brilliance of its commander, Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington. The war began in 1807 when Napoleon Bonaparte, the Emperor of France, invaded Portugal, a country that had long been allied with Great Britain. The French army, under the command of General Junot, quickly overran the Portuguese forces and occupied Lisbon, the capital.

The British government, alarmed by the French invasion, dispatched Wellington to Portugal with a force of 12,000 men. Wellington landed at Figueira da Foz in August 1808 and immediately began to advance on Lisbon. Junot, outnumbered and outmaneuvered, was forced to retreat. Wellington pursued the French army relentlessly, finally cornering them at the Battle of Vimeiro on 21 August 1808. The British victory at Vimeiro forced Junot to surrender and evacuate Portugal.



Wellington Against Junot: The First Invasion of Portugal, 1807–1808 by David Buttery

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Wellington's victory in Portugal was a major turning point in the Peninsular War. It marked the beginning of the end of French dominance in the Iberian Peninsula and paved the way for the eventual defeat of Napoleon. Wellington's campaign against Junot is a classic example of military strategy and leadership, and it remains a must-read for anyone interested in the Napoleonic Wars.

The Invasion of Portugal

The French invasion of Portugal was a direct result of Napoleon's Continental System, which aimed to isolate Great Britain from the rest of Europe. In 1807, Napoleon signed the Treaty of Fontainebleau with Spain, which allowed French troops to cross Spanish territory in Free Download to invade Portugal. On 19 November 1807, a French army of 25,000 men under the command of General Junot crossed the bFree Download into Portugal.

The Portuguese army, commanded by General Freire, was no match for the French. The Portuguese were outnumbered, outgunned, and demoralized. They offered little resistance to the French advance, and Lisbon fell to Junot on 30 November 1807.

Wellington's Arrival in Portugal

When news of the French invasion reached London, the British government was alarmed. They immediately dispatched Wellington to Portugal with a force of 12,000 men. Wellington arrived at Figueira da Foz on 1 August 1808 and immediately began to advance on Lisbon.

Junot, outnumbered and outmaneuvered, was forced to retreat. He abandoned Lisbon and fell back to the north. Wellington pursued the French army relentlessly, finally cornering them at the Battle of Vimeiro on 21 August 1808.

The Battle of Vimeiro

The Battle of Vimeiro was a decisive victory for the British. Wellington's army was superior to the French in both numbers and quality. The British infantry was particularly impressive, and they routed the French cavalry and infantry in a series of bayonet charges.

The French army was forced to retreat, and they evacuated Portugal on 30 September 1808. Wellington's victory was a major turning point in the Peninsular War, and it marked the beginning of the end of French dominance in the Iberian Peninsula.

Wellington's Legacy

Wellington's victory in Portugal was a major turning point in the Peninsular War, and it paved the way for the eventual defeat of Napoleon. Wellington's campaign against Junot is a classic example of military strategy and leadership, and it remains a must-read for anyone interested in the Napoleonic Wars.

Wellington's victory in Portugal also had a profound impact on British history. It marked the beginning of a new era of British military dominance, and it helped to establish Britain as a global superpower.

Wellington Against Junot is a thrilling account of the first invasion of Portugal by the French army under Junot, and the subsequent campaign

by the British army under Wellington to drive them out. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the Napoleonic Wars, and it is a valuable addition to any military history collection.



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