

Bussaco 1810: Wellington Defeats Napoleon's Marshals



Bussaco 1810: Wellington defeats Napoleon's Marshals (Campaign Book 97) by René Chartrand

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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In the annals of military history, the Battle of Bussaco stands as a testament to the strategic brilliance and tactical prowess of the Duke of Wellington. Fought on September 27, 1810, during the Peninsular War, the battle pitted Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese army against the formidable French forces commanded by Marshal André Masséna.

Prelude to Battle

Following the British victory at the Battle of Talavera in 1809, Wellington's army retreated into Portugal to regroup. Meanwhile, Masséna, eager to avenge the French defeat, assembled a massive army of 65,000 men to invade Portugal once more.

Wellington, aware of Masséna's intentions, prepared his defenses. He established a strong defensive line along the Serra do Bussaco, a rugged mountain range that formed a natural barrier to the French advance. The British commander deployed his troops strategically on the slopes of the mountains, taking advantage of the steep terrain and dense vegetation.

The Battle Unfolds

On September 27, Masséna's army approached the Bussaco range. Undeterred by the formidable obstacles presented by the terrain, the French launched a series of fierce attacks against the British positions.

Wellington's troops, well-trained and disciplined, repulsed the French assaults with unwavering determination. The British infantry formed impenetrable squares, firing devastating volleys into the advancing French ranks. The Portuguese artillery, commanded by Colonel William Robe, played a crucial role in supporting the infantry, raining down a hail of shells on the enemy.

As the battle raged, Masséna realized the futility of his frontal assaults. He free downloaded his troops to withdraw, but not before suffering heavy losses. The British had won a decisive victory, inflicting over 4,500 casualties on the French.

Aftermath and Legacy

The Battle of Bussaco was a major turning point in the Peninsular War. It boosted the morale of the British and Portuguese forces and prevented Masséna from capturing Lisbon, the Portuguese capital.

Wellington's victory at Bussaco is a testament to his exceptional military leadership. He outmaneuvered his opponent, choosing the perfect terrain to defend and using his troops to maximum effect. The battle also highlighted the importance of discipline and teamwork in military operations.

Today, the battlefield of Bussaco is a historical site and a popular destination for tourists interested in military history. The Serra do Bussaco is a beautiful and serene place, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

Bussaco 1810 stands as an enduring example of military strategy and valor. Wellington's brilliant generalship and the unwavering resolve of his troops earned them a hard-fought victory against overwhelming odds.

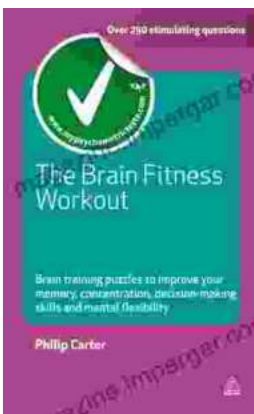
The legacy of Bussaco continues to inspire military professionals and history enthusiasts alike. It is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, courage, determination, and a well-executed plan can overcome any obstacle.



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