



Sharpe's Battle: Richard Sharpe and the Battle of Fuentes de Onoro, May 1811

By *Bernard Cornwell*

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Richard Sharpe

Soldier, hero, rogue—the man you always want on your side. Born in poverty, he joined the army to escape jail and climbed the ranks by sheer brutal courage. He knows no other family than the regiment of the 95th Rifles, whose green jacket he proudly wears.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

From a previous book in Cornwell's acclaimed Sharpe series, *Sharpe's Devil*, we know that Richard Sharpe, up-from-the-ranks captain in the Duke of Wellington's army, lived at least until 1821. So this tale, which finds the English soldier pitted against the vicious General Guy Loup in 1811, during the Napoleonic Wars, lacks some suspense. Still, there's the tantalizing question of how Sharpe gets out of some very dangerous scrapes, both on and off the battlefield. Once again, the captain faces lethal enemies (Loup; a French spymaster), dangerous "allies" (an arrogant Spanish general; a nasty Irish peer) and tricky political situations (opposition among the Allies-Britain, Ireland, Portugal-to making Wellington supreme Allied leader). Some loyal friends show up as well, notably Sergeant Patrick Harper, with his seven-shot gun, giant frame and even larger spirit. In this 13th volume in the series, Cornwell's superb storytelling and skill at historical re-creation are in top form as he masterfully presents the carnage, clamor, stink and "sublime joy" of battle. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Cornwell's latest adventure starring Richard Sharpe in the Napoleonic Wars was created to coincide with the Masterpiece Theatre production of three titles in the Sharpe series. But regardless of the motive, Cornwell's fans will be elated to see their hero back in battle again, fighting the French and the hierarchy of Wellington's army. The encounter takes place in 1811, shortly after the destruction of Almeida (recounted in *Sharpe's Gold*, 1983). It is still Almeida that is under contention, for the French have mounted a massive campaign to supply the scant forces that still hold the fort. On another front, Sharpe is waging a private battle (which nearly gets him court-martialed) against the ferocious French Wolf Brigade. Vintage Cornwell. *Denise Perry Donavin*

Review

"Combines those strengths that have come to characterize Bernard Cornwell's fiction'immaculate historical reconstruction and the ability to tell a ripping yarn."-- "Washington Post""Cornwell writes more gripping battle scenes than any other contemporary author."-- "Kirkus Reviews"

Users Review

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