

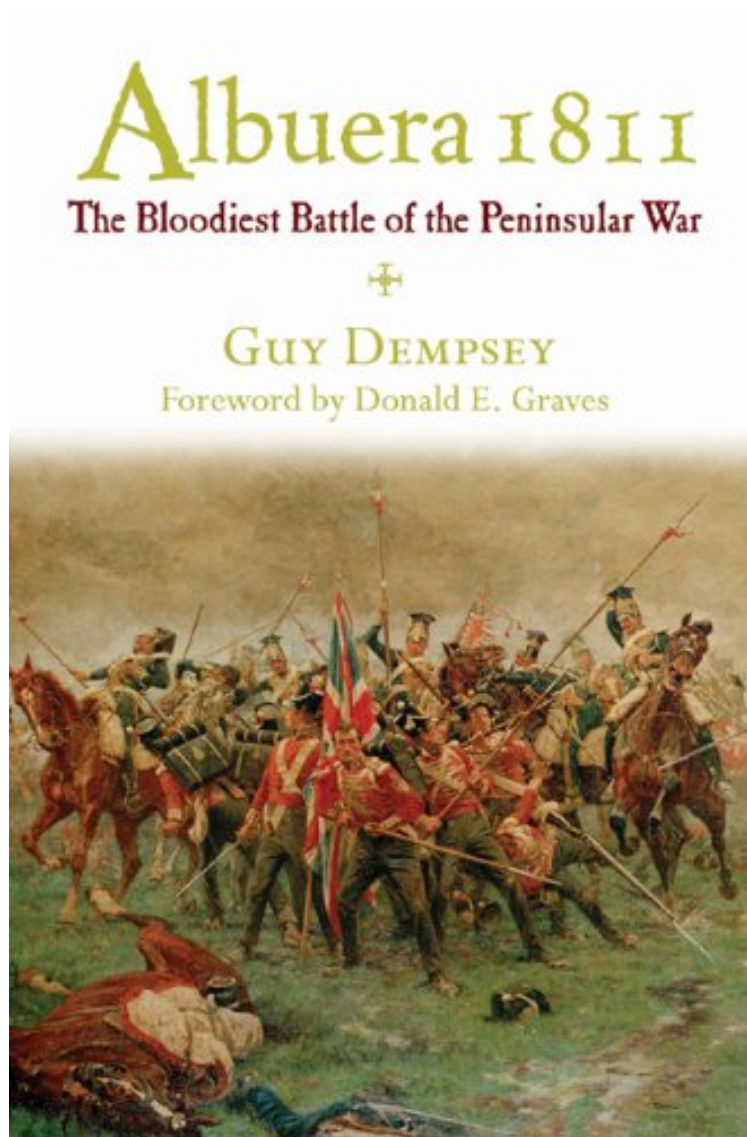
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Guy Dempsey

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Albuera 1811: The Bloodiest Battle of the Peninsular War

Guy Dempsey : Albuera 1811: The Bloodiest Battle of the Peninsular War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised [Albuera 1811: The Bloodiest Battle of the Peninsular War](#):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Primary Sources Are Alive And WellBy Dr. James J. GoodA very good read and as is apparent from my title, I think it is marvelous to see an author dig deep and utilize primary sources rather than rely on those historians who went before him as seems to be current practice.I found the tactical maps to be quite adequate and since publishers don't like maps, I believe we are fortunate to have what was given.I also liked the footnotes as opposed to end notes; again not a publisher's favorite.The one question I had was: what was the

approximate distance separating the Fusiliers from the French, when the Fusilier attack began? I have seen estimates ranging from 1.5 to 0.5 miles. My own thought is that the distance must have been around 0.5 miles. I say this because Donald Graves in his book *Dragon Rampant* states that the marching pace of the attack, at least in the beginning, was the standard 108 paces per minute. For a 5'6" man the distance covered would be no more than 2' per stride. Therefore, it would take 12 minutes for the Fusiliers to cover 0.5 miles. From the text it does not appear that the approach was a long one and therefore 12 minutes is a reasonable number. Additional evidence comes from one of the participants when he states that the Brigade came under artillery fire shortly after the attack began. Since a half mile = 880 yds. and the maximum effective range of the French 6 pounders was 700 yds., the Brigade would have come under artillery fire after marching less than 200 yds. If anyone has additional information, please feel free to chime in. Best regards, James

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Napoleonic wars read. By Reginald N. Buchanan
Good read about a little known Napoleonic battle between British/Spanish forces vs the French where neither Napoleon or Wellington was there.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Elegant Work
By Capt. of Duck Soup
Extraordinary detail and handsomely made, this book is a treasure and belongs on the bookshelf of any military historian, let alone a scholar of the Napoleonic wars.

On 16 May 1811, the small town of Albuera was the setting for one of the Peninsular Wars 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 the French field marshal Soult, who was trying to reach the fortress of Badajoz, 12 miles north. Beresford, who defended himself with his bare hands against a Polish lancer, was victorious, but at the cost of 6,000 Allied deaths and 7,000 French in just four hours. The battle is best known for the Fusilier Brigades charge, made famous by Sir William Napier's melodramatic description, and because of the tenacity of the 57th Foot that earned them the *Die Hards* nickname. The battle has not been seriously studied since Sir Charles Oman and Sir John Fortescue's histories early in the 20th century accounts which are incomplete and sometimes simply incorrect. This compelling new book fills this gap by using authentic primary sources to tell the story of the battle as completely as possible and dispels long-standing myths. The book also brings to life the human dimension of the story by using first-person recollections to describe experiences on and off the battlefield. The battle's drama is intensified by the circumstances of the fighting, which led to extremes of behavior ranging from incomprehensible valor to rank cowardice. The book balances the traditional Anglocentric bias by paying equal attention to Spanish, Portuguese, French, Polish and German soldiers who fought there.

About the Author
Guy Dempsey is an author and historian.