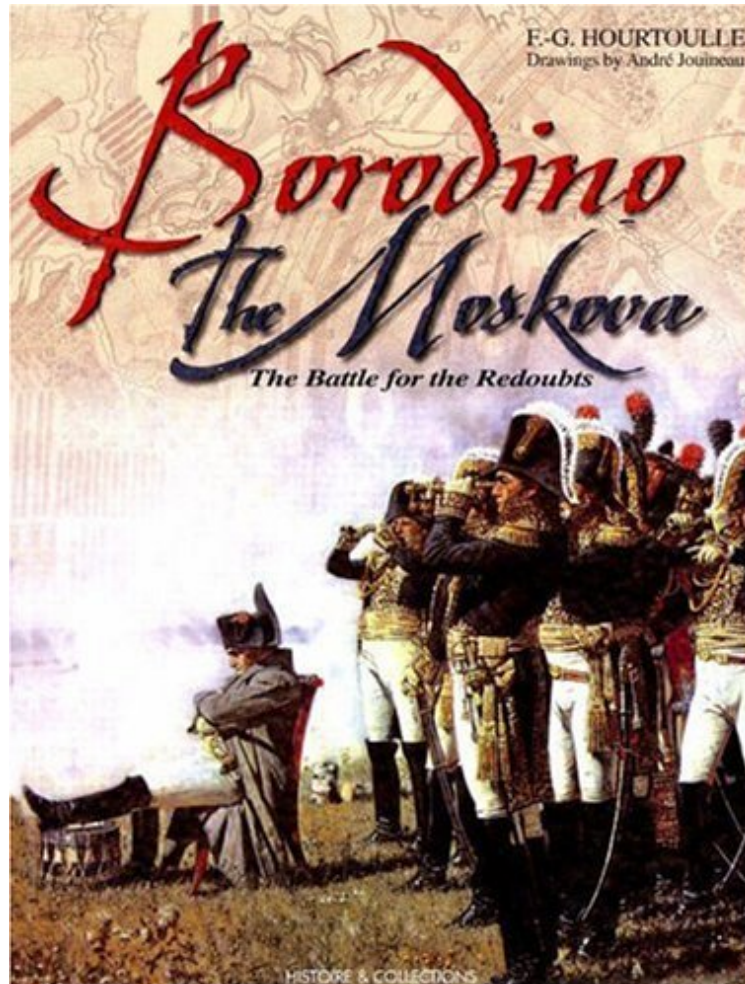


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Borodino, The Moscova: The Battle for the Redoubts

F. G. Hourtoulle

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F. G. Hourtoulle : Borodino, The Moscova: The Battle for the Redoubts before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Borodino, The Moscova: The Battle for the Redoubts:

13 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Battles,Generals,Uniforms,MapsBy Eduardo J. Tellez AI always like to respect the ideas of all the people that share their ideas with the public but this time I think I disagreed with one of the writers, I do not see this book as a introduction to the battle of Borodino if you are looking for a book that gave you a good introduction may be the one of Digy Smith would help(Is not that good but it would gave you the idea) This book is more for the people that are interesting in Uniformology of the Grande Armee, the confederation of the Rhine and the Russian Army,it also gave you names of who was in command at time of the battles. There is a good introduction that tell you why this nations confront on this date but is really small,maps are really hard to follow but they gave you the idea of what was happening. This Translation from the original french version have alot of mistakes in Uniforms,the plates which are made by Andre Jouineau show you everything the equipment,weapons, calvary items

etc..The great thing about this book is that is fully illustrated with russian and french paintings this is not that common on books of the Napoleonic wars and specially the ones on uniforms.Mr Hourtoulle made a great work with the Jena Auerstaedt Book but in this new book about the Moskova the uniforms plates are made much more better(remember there is some mistakes on the plates) I was looking for a book that show me the uniforms of the Russian army, there is plates from the Pavlovski Grenadier to the Platov Cossacks and from the french side almost all the allied and La Garde Imperiale and I can tell you that I find it, you would enjoy reading this book but if you are looking for a great work I recommend The books from the late John Elting Napoleonic Uniforms.Vol III IV0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Became a pacifist after reading the history of this brutal battle.By Bruce ThomanVery good detailed analysis of battle. The analysis of the different Generals capabilities, decisions, or lack of decisions was insightful. Great emphasis on the sheer bravery of both the common French and Russian soldier. Especially useful coverage of Napoleon's allied troops and major role they played in the battle. A good blend of primary observer's and participants and thoughtful analysis.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Same great presentation, with limitations and a few surprisesBy Avon Napoleonic FellowshipI'll begin with a confession; to me the books of this series are the best value for money, most useful and beautifully produced uniform books on the market. I much prefer them to the Osprey titles, which, to me, are so often a disappointment. It begins with the look, feel and handle of the books, the hardcover format, the quality of the glossy paper stock and continues, as one turns each page, with the all important content. They are not perfect, and I will point out the limitations from my perspective, but you know the temper of the review you are about to read!The books of this series from Histoire et Collections are predominantly uniform books. The uniforms are presented in detail, with nearly every unit from every division in both armies shown, in colour, and in an array of uniforms from full dress to greatcoats. This means that you get, for example, not one but ten representations of Russian cuirassiers from various guard and line regiments. Examples from the ranks, officers, trumpeters, fifers and drummers are represented for many of the units and/or troop-types, along with the flags or guidon's for many of them. The standard representation, and limitation no. 1, is profile for cavalry units and front-on for the infantry. There are exceptions to provide guidance on other details of the uniforms, but this is not true for all types. This leads us to limitation no. 2, and the more important one. As with all of the books of the series, there is little description of the uniforms beyond a simple one-line caption. This means that, while they are beautiful books and a great resource, they are not capable of answering your questions about some of the finer details of uniforms. I tend to use them in conjunction with other books and internet resources, such as the wonderful Histofig website.As it's predominantly a book of uniforms, limitation no. 3 is that you'll not get a detailed description and analysis of the battle. That said, the text is interesting, if a little quirky. Hourtoulle (through Alan McKay's translation) describes the background to the 1812 campaign, the lead-up to Borodino, gives a reasonably detailed description of the Battle of Shervardino and of course of the epic battle itself. This latter includes specific exploits and events which are described in some detail; and not just all the 'famous' ones. Finally, there is an assessment of losses, of the outcome of the battle and its place in the campaign.The orders of battle (OBs) are well above average and more than one has come to expect in a 'uniform book'. This is particularly the case for the French-allied army, which is superbly detailed. Hourtoulle used the Vincennes archives to produce OBs that list, for Napoleon's household and every corps, division, brigade and unit of the Grande Armée present at Borodino, the names of generals, staff officers and unit commanders, with a one-line to one-paragraph brief history for each person. In addition, to the information about the commanders for all of the units in every brigade, there are estimates of the number of men present at the battle and/or key stages of the campaign. While still useful, less information is provided for the Russian army. Hourtoulle used the history of the campaign by the Russian historian Buturlin, published in 1824. Kutuzov's staff along with that of each of the two Western Armies are listed, along with corps and divisional commanders. The units in every division are listed, with an indication of the number of battalions of infantry, squadrons of cavalry or companies of artillery.Once again, as with all of the books in the series, all of the above is accompanied by luscious illustrations and reproductions of paintings, maps and other pictures--the majority in full colour. A feature of this volume for me are the detailed diagrams of the grand redoubt in aerial and side-on view, including a representation of the fox-holes and the layout of the Russian grand battery within. These are supported by large-scale reproductions of sections of the wonderful Borodino panorama by Roubaud and of paintings by other artists depicting scenes from the battle.Limitations aside, these books are hard to beat as a single volume that provides so much. When combined with other books from a personal or public library and the vast content available on the internet for free, you have all that you require to research the battle, paint the figures, organise the troops, design a wargames scenario and stage a great, historically-based game for part of the Battle of Borodino, or perhaps even the battle in its entirety.

Readers of F.-G. Hourtoulle's acclaimed Jena-Auerstaedt will find the same extraordinary detail in this study of Napoleon's 1812 campaign. Over 300 uniforms and over 120 flags are featured in the color plates as well as paintings of the battle. The evolution of the battle is described with the aid of numerous new color maps.By the same author and

available from CasemateJena-Auerstaedt: The Triumph of the EagleWagram: At the Heyday of the Empire