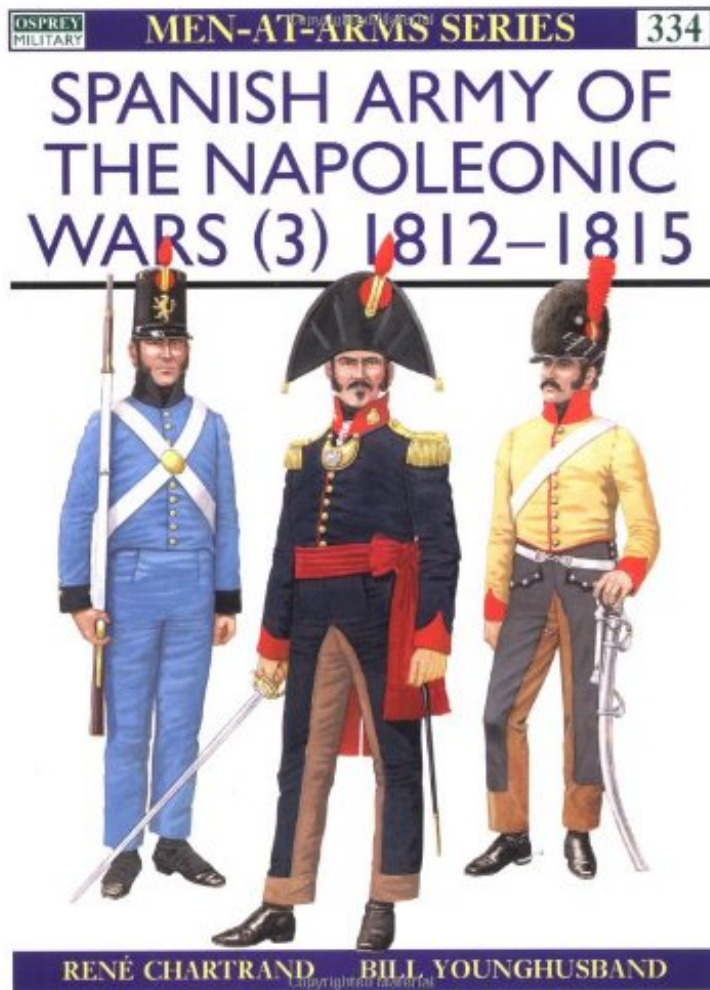


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helpful. Buy it for the plates, but ignore the text. By Peter Stines. René Chartrand has a habit of not revealing useful sources to readers. Most of his information comes from such obscure sources that it's almost impossible to cross check a reference. This really detracts from the Osprey Books. Chartrand seems to be more interested in cranking out books in quantity rather than quality, which is too bad. The color plates by Younghusband are worthwhile though. The major critique here is that the figures look too neat for soldiers that have been in the field for any length of time. More often than not, soldiers "lost" gear or simply threw it away and the charges be damned. Clothing supplied by crooked contractors wore out or even fell apart, forcing the soldier to use home made or civilian items. The weapons shown don't have any wear and the accoutrements look too well cared for. Remember, this was an army on the move! The BEST plates are done by Mike Chappell, whose figures LOOK like soldiers. Still, for students of the "Spanish Ulcer" this would be a handy source

This volume – covering the final years of the Peninsular War (1808-1814) and the long trek over the Pyrenees into France – concludes the author's remarkable in-depth study of the army that fought alongside Wellington's redcoats throughout the Peninsular War. Prior to 1813 it was the Spanish armies that bore the brunt of the fighting and this text – based on primary research in Spanish and British archives which will be new to most readers – fills a large and long-standing gap in our knowledge of those Napoleonic campaigns which have always fascinated English-speaking students of the period.

From the Publisher Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present. About the Author René Chartrand was born in Montreal and educated in Canada, the United States and the Bahamas. A senior curator with Canada's National Historic Sites for nearly three decades, he is now a freelance writer and historical consultant for cinema and historic sites restorations. He has written numerous articles and books including almost 20 Osprey titles and the first two volumes of Canadian Military Heritage. Also a student of wines, he currently lives in Hull, Quebec, with his wife and two sons.