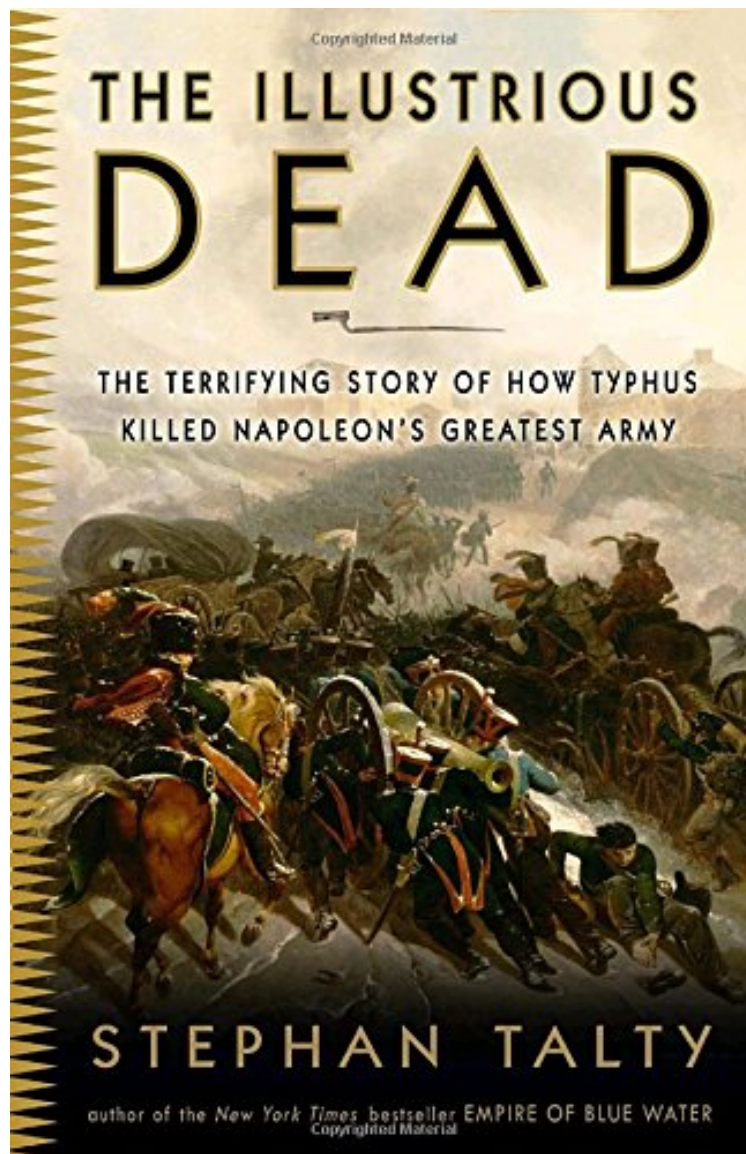


(Download ebook) The Illustrious Dead: The Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon's Greatest Army

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Stephan Talty

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#1435035 in Books Stephan Talty 2010-06-01 2010-06-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.99 x .70 x 5.191, 8.60 #File Name: 0307394050336 pages The Illustrious Dead The Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon s Greatest Army | File size: 20.Mb

Stephan Talty : The Illustrious Dead: The Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon's Greatest Army before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrious Dead: The Terrifying Story of How Typhus Killed Napoleon's Greatest Army:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining account of the Napoleonic invasion of Russia
By Nicholas Roberts
Talty does a good job writing an interesting and entertaining account of the Napoleonic invasion of Russia. His thesis, that the invasion failed due to a typhus epidemic is supported well throughout the book. In addition to the military aspects which he covers he looks at medicine at the time of the invasion and how different doctors viewed and handled the outbreak. The book is not particularly detailed which makes it an easy read. However it gets the job it sent out to do done. A real serious Napoleonic enthusiast will not find much information to add to their knowledge (although I did regarding medical procedures) but they would find it entertaining. If you are someone with no exposure to Napoleon this is a great book as it gives you the whole story of the invasion without getting bogged down in military details. I was generally pleased with the book.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not your average read
By howardh
I have often thought about getting one of those ereaders, but you just can't find unusual titles like this one on the websites that have ebooks.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. New information on Napoleon's Russian campaign
By ABH
I've read several books on Napoleon's Russian campaign, and not one of them has blamed typhus for the near total destruction of his army. It was extremely well written and absolutely fascinating with many references to primary sources. Medical science knew enough to know that typhus was what was killing so many men, but they had no idea of the cause of it. I'm passing this one on to my friends who enjoy history/military history

“Gripping . . . a compelling story of personal hubris and humbling defeat.”—Jack Weatherford, author of the New York Times bestseller *Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World*
In a masterful dual narrative that pits the heights of human ambition and achievement against the supremacy of nature, New York Times bestselling author Stephan Talty tells the story of a mighty ruler and a tiny microbe, antagonists whose struggle would shape the modern world. In the spring of 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte was at the height of his powers. Forty-five million called him emperor, and he commanded a nation that was the richest, most cultured, and advanced on earth. No army could stand against his impeccably trained, brilliantly led forces, and his continued sweep across Europe seemed inevitable. Early that year, bolstered by his successes, Napoleon turned his attentions toward Moscow, helming the largest invasion in human history. Surely, Tsar Alexander's outnumbered troops would crumble against this mighty force. But another powerful and ancient enemy awaited Napoleon's men in the Russian steppes. Virulent and swift, this microscopic foe would bring the emperor to his knees. Even as the Russians retreated before him in disarray, Napoleon found his army disappearing, his frantic doctors powerless to explain what had struck down a hundred thousand soldiers. The emperor's vaunted military brilliance suddenly seemed useless, and when the Russians put their own occupied capital to the torch, the campaign became a desperate race through the frozen landscape as troops continued to die by the thousands. Through it all, with tragic heroism, Napoleon's disease-ravaged, freezing, starving men somehow rallied, again and again, to cries of “Vive l'Empereur!” Yet Talty's sweeping tale takes us far beyond the doomed heroics and bloody clashes of the battlefield. *The Illustrious Dead* delves deep into the origins of the pathogen that finally ended the mighty emperor's dreams of world conquest and exposes this “war plague's” hidden role throughout history. A tale of two unstoppable forces meeting on the road to Moscow in an epic clash of killer microbe and peerless army, *The Illustrious Dead* is a historical whodunit in which a million lives hang in the balance. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly
When Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812, typhus ravaged his army, killing hundreds of thousands and ensuring his defeat, according to this breathless combination of military and medical history. After summarizing the havoc this disease wreaked on earlier armies and sketching Napoleon's career, the book describes his invasion of Russia with more than 600,000 men. Almost immediately typhus struck. Infected lice excrete the microbe in their feces, and victims acquire the disease by scratching the itchy bite. Talty (Mulatto America) describes the effects in graphic detail: severe headache, high fever, delirium, generalized pain and a spotty rash. Death may take weeks, and fatalities approached 100% among Napoleon's increasingly debilitated, filthy, half-starved soldiers. Talty makes a good case that it was typhus, not General Winter, that crushed Napoleon. Readers should look elsewhere for authoritative histories of Napoleon's wars and of infectious diseases, but Talty delivers a breezy, popular account of a gruesome campaign, emphasizing the equally gruesome epidemic that accompanied it. 12 maps. (June) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. “An eloquent and vivid portrait that includes a view through the telescopes of rear-echelon commanders, the rifle sights of front-line skirmishers, and the clouded spectacles of field surgeons laboring in candlelit abattoirs . . . the finest kind of popular history.”—William Rosen, author of *Justinian's Flea: The First Great Plague and the End of the Roman Empire*
Praise for *Empire of Blue Water* “A swashbuckling adventure . . . [the] characters leap to life.” —The New York Times Book “Reeking of authentic blood and thunder, and as richly detailed as a work of fiction . . . dramatically evokes the rough and tumble age when pirates owned the seas. A thrilling and fascinating adventure.”—Caroline Alexander, author of *The Endurance* “Stephan Talty's vigorous history of seventeenth-century pirates of the Caribbean will sate even fickle Jack Sparrow fans. A pleasure to read from bow to stern.”—Entertainment Weekly “Serves up swashbuckling history at its briny, blood-soaked best, with enough violence and passion to keep the pages flying by.”—Tom Reiss, author of *The*

Orientalist“Talty’s delicious new book succeeds where other volumes of history fail. . . .A ripping yarn, worthy of its gaudy subject.”—Dallas Morning NewsFrom the Hardcover edition.About the AuthorSTEPHAN TALTY is a widely published journalist who has contributed to The New York Times Magazine, GQ, Men’s Journal, Time Out New York, Details, and many other publications. He is the New York Times bestselling author of Empire of Blue Water and Mulatto America: At the Crossroads of Black and White Culture.From the Hardcover edition.