

The Eighty Fifth in France and Flanders: A Comprehensive Historical Account



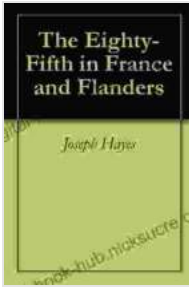
The Eighty-Fifth in France and Flanders by Alberto Pian

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot, later known as the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was a renowned British infantry regiment that served with distinction in numerous campaigns throughout its history. Raised in 1793, the regiment played a pivotal role in the British military during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, particularly in the Peninsular War and the Napoleonic Wars. This article aims to provide a comprehensive account of the Eighty Fifth's history, its involvement in major battles, and its legacy as one of the most respected infantry units in the British Army.

Formation and Early History

The Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot was raised in 1793 at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, as part of the British Army's expansion during the French Revolutionary Wars. The regiment was initially recruited from the county of Shropshire and was known as the "Shropshire Regiment of Foot." In 1794, it was renamed the "Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot" and became part of the British Army's regular infantry.

Peninsular War

The Eighty Fifth Regiment first saw active service in the Peninsular War, which was fought between 1808 and 1814. The regiment arrived in

Portugal in 1809 and participated in the Battle of Talavera, where it distinguished itself in the defense of the British lines. The Eighty Fifth also fought at the Battle of Albuera in 1811, where it sustained heavy casualties but played a crucial role in repelling the French attack.

Throughout the Peninsular War, the Eighty Fifth earned a reputation for its bravery and discipline. The regiment participated in numerous battles and skirmishes, including the Battle of Salamanca, the Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, and the Battle of Badajoz. By the end of the war, the Eighty Fifth had become one of the most experienced and respected infantry regiments in the British Army.

Napoleonic Wars

After the Peninsular War, the Eighty Fifth Regiment was deployed to the Netherlands to participate in the Hundred Days campaign against Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815. The regiment fought at the Battle of Quatre Bras and the Battle of Waterloo, where it played a key role in the British victory.

At Waterloo, the Eighty Fifth was part of the Duke of Wellington's reserve and was ordered into action at the critical moment when the French cavalry was attempting to break through the British lines. The regiment's steady volleys of musket fire helped to repel the French attack and secured the British victory.

Later History

After the Napoleonic Wars, the Eighty Fifth Regiment continued to serve with distinction in various campaigns around the world. The regiment fought in the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, and the Boer War. In 1908, the

regiment was renamed the "King's Shropshire Light Infantry" in recognition of its long and distinguished service.

During the First World War, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry fought in France and Flanders, where it sustained heavy casualties. The regiment also fought in the Second World War, where it participated in the Normandy landings and the Battle of the Bulge.

In 1992, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry was amalgamated with the Staffordshire Regiment to form the Mercian Regiment. The Mercian Regiment continues to carry on the traditions and legacy of the Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot.

Legacy

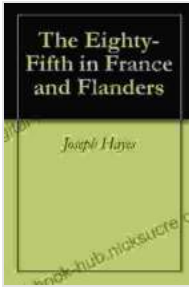
The Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot was one of the most distinguished infantry regiments in the British Army. The regiment's bravery, discipline, and professionalism earned it a reputation for excellence that is still remembered today.

The Eighty Fifth's legacy is preserved in the Mercian Regiment, which carries forward the traditions and heritage of the regiment. The regiment's battle honors and awards are proudly displayed in the regimental museum in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

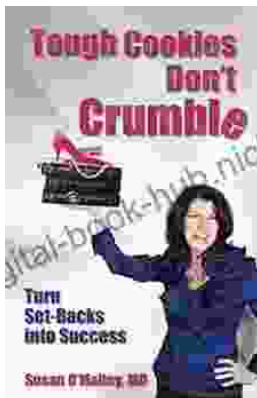
The Eighty Fifth Regiment of Foot remains an inspiration to soldiers and military enthusiasts alike. The regiment's history is a testament to the courage, determination, and sacrifice of the men who served in its ranks.

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