

Abstract

The main purpose of this thesis is to present the particular account of the military career of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (1769–1852), victor of the battle of Waterloo. This thesis is especially focused on the Peninsular War and Waterloo campaign (1808–1815). However, for presenting broader picture of Wellington and better understanding of all the consequences, it also analyses the Duke's former military career. It shows Duke of Wellington as a passionate reader, a brilliant organizer and military theorist, an excellent horse rider and finally as a person and commander full of unbelievable amount of energy, who – on the other hand – was refusing to delegate even the minor orders to his subordinates. Furthermore, it introduces Arthur Wellesley as a surprisingly sensitive man, who was often sickened by the horrors of war. The thesis also offers a hypothesis trying to contribute to the international discussion about the Lines of Torres Vedras. It stands into consequences the Duke of Wellington's defence of Portugal with the defence of Portugal, which was executed by William, Count of Schaumburg-Lippe (or just Count La Lippe, 1724–1777) during the Seven Years 'War, whereas it says, that Duke of Wellington could find inspiration for his own defence of Portugal in the memoirs of Count La Lippe. Due to comparative technique this thesis tries to find the same points in both campaigns and compare them with the help of the eyewitness accounts.