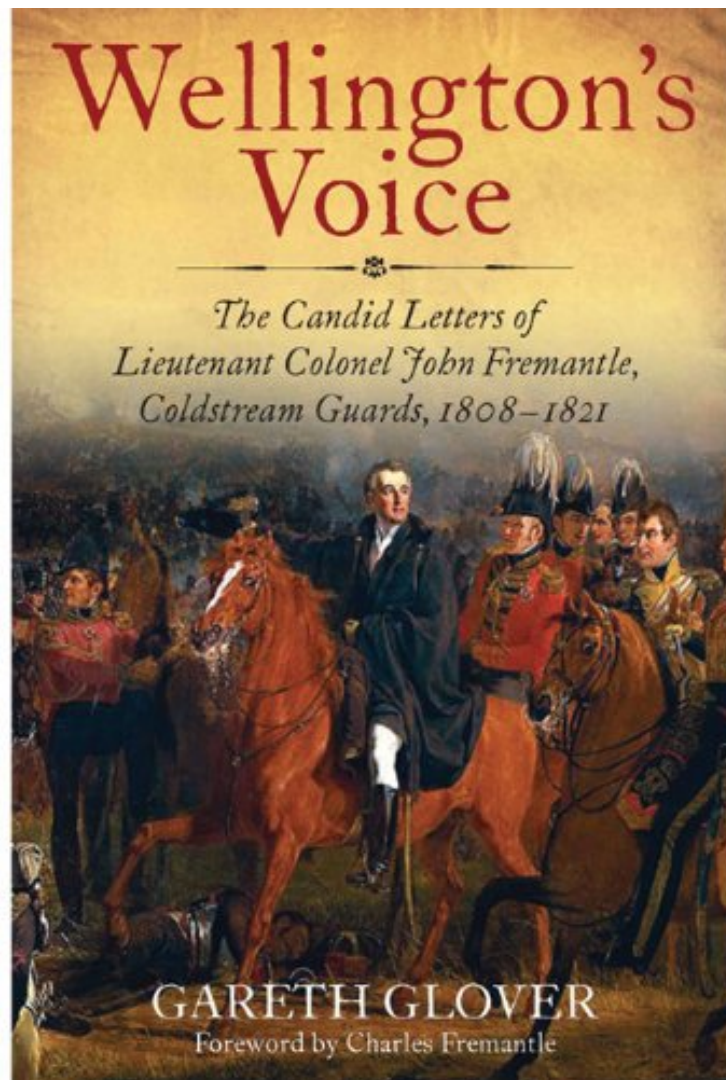


(Online library) Wellington's Voice: The Candid Letters of Lieutenant Colonel John Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, 1808–1821

Wellington's Voice: The Candid Letters of Lieutenant Colonel John Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, 1808–1821

Gareth Glover

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Gareth Glover : Wellington's Voice: The Candid Letters of Lieutenant Colonel John Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, 1808–1821 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wellington's Voice: The Candid Letters of Lieutenant Colonel John Fremantle, Coldstream Guards, 1808–1821:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wellington's aide...By HMS WarspiteLieutenant, later Lieutenant Colonel John Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards wrote some 300 letters to his Uncle John Fremantle, his guardian

and an influential member of Parliament, during 1808-1837. What makes this collection of letters noteworthy is young Fremantle's status as an aide-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington during the later years of the Peninsular War and the Waterloo Campaign. Fremantle was a diligent correspondent. His letters are generally well written and filled with details of headquarters gossip and campaign updates. His shocking lack of concern about operational security is the historian's gain. The Duke himself is frequently mentioned. If there appear to be no grand revelations about Wellington here, there is much revealing detail about his strong personality. There are also insights into the operation of the British Army with respect to promotions and awards. Gareth Glover has done a terrific job as editor, providing context, continuity, and a score card to keep track of the various personalities who appear in the letters. The text is supplemented with a collection of Fremantle family portraits, but there are no maps. "Wellington's Voice" is likely to be tough sledding for the general reader. It is recommended to students of the Napoleonic Wars and in particular of the First Duke of Wellington, who can appreciate how Fremantle's letters fit into the larger story.

John Fremantle was on Wellington's personal staff through the later years of the Peninsular War and Waterloo campaigns. He had a uniquely privileged view of the general and tells of his exploits – good and bad. The letters were written to his uncle, who was effectively his guardian, an army man and no shrinking violet. Fremantle deals with military matters in detail and gives a great insight into Wellington's honest views of matters – not the sanitized diplomatic versions Wellington allowed to be published in later life. He also talks a great deal about the personalities in 'Wellington's family' and the 'Great Man', giving very honest, forthright views of their strengths and failings and brings many little-known incidents to light. An exposé of what life was like working with Wellington and an honest portrait of the man warts and all – this is a truly remarkable find and will certainly cause debate in the Napoleonic community.

About the Author Gareth Glover a former Royal Navy Officer who lives in Cardiff. He has studied the Napoleonic wars for 30 years and gained a reputation as the foremost authority on British archive material. He has brought more than 20 previously unpublished Napoleonic memoirs into the public domain.