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## Chapter 1 : Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke Of Wellington Biography - Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline

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Beginning in , Wellesley served at Dublin Castle pictured as aide-de-camp to two successive Lords Lieutenant of Ireland. Despite his new promise, he had yet to find a job and his family was still short of money, so upon the advice of his mother, his brother Richard asked his friend the Duke of Rutland then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to consider Arthur for a commission in the Army. While in Ireland, he overextended himself in borrowing due to his occasional gambling, but in his defence stated that "I have often known what it was to be in want of money, but I have never got helplessly into debt". He became a captain on 30 January , and was transferred to the 58th Regiment of Foot. Flanders Campaign Wellesley as Lieutenant Colonel, aged c. Portrait by John Hoppner In , the Duke of York was sent to Flanders in command of the British contingent of an allied force destined for the invasion of France. In June , Wellesley with the 33rd regiment set sail from Cork bound for Ostend as part of an expedition bringing reinforcements for the army in Flanders. They arrived too late and joined the Duke of York as he was pulling back towards the Netherlands. On 15 September , at the Battle of Boxtel , [34] east of Breda , Wellington, in temporary command of his brigade, had his first experience of battle. During the extremely harsh winter that followed, Wellesley and his regiment formed part of an allied force holding the defence line along the Waal River. The 33rd, along with the rest of the army, suffered heavy losses from sickness and exposure. After seven weeks at sea, a storm forced the fleet back to Poole. Wellesley was promoted full colonel by seniority on 3 May [38] and a few weeks later set sail for Calcutta with his regiment. Portrait by Robert Home , Under the command of General Harris , some 24, troops were dispatched to Madras to join an equal force being sent from Bombay in the west. During the battle, Wellesley led his men, in a line of battle of two ranks, against the enemy to a gentle ridge and gave the order to fire. Wellesley suffered a minor injury to his knee from a spent musket-ball. He resolved "never to attack an enemy who is preparing and strongly posted, and whose posts have not been reconnoitered by daylight". One of these groves, called the Sultanpet Tope, was intersected by deep ditches, watered from a channel running in an easterly direction about a mile from the fort. General Baird was directed to scour this grove and dislodge the enemy, but on his advancing with this object on the night of the 5th, he found the tope unoccupied. The next day, however, the Mysore troops again took possession of the ground, and as it was absolutely necessary to expel them, two columns were detached at sunset for the purpose. The first of these, under Colonel Shawe, got possession of a ruined village, which it successfully held. The second column, under Colonel Wellesley, on advancing into the tope, was at once attacked in the darkness of night by a tremendous fire of musketry and rockets. The men, floundering about amidst the trees and the water-courses, at last broke, and fell back in disorder, some being killed and a few taken prisoners. In the confusion Colonel Wellesley was himself struck on the knee by a spent ball, and narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the enemy. Wellesley secured the rear of the advance, posting guards at the breach and then stationed his regiment at the main palace. To restore order, several soldiers were flogged and four hanged. While in India, Wellesley was ill for a considerable time, first with severe diarrhoea from the water and then with fever, followed by a serious skin infection caused by trichophyton. However, on the eve of its departure, orders arrived from England that it was to be sent to Egypt to co-operate with Sir Ralph Abercromby in the expulsion of the French from Egypt. Wellesley had been appointed second in command to Baird, but owing to ill-health did not accompany the expedition on 9 April. This turned out fortunately for Wellesley, since the very vessel on which he was to have sailed foundered with all hands in the Red Sea. Despite initial setbacks, the East India Company having pursued and destroyed his forces once already, forcing him into retreat in August , he raised a sizeable force composed of disbanded Mysore soldiers, captured small outposts and forts in Mysore, and was receiving the support of several

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Maratha killedars opposed to British occupation. Second Anglo-Maratha War When he determined that a long defensive war would ruin his army, Wellesley decided to act boldly to defeat the numerically larger force of the Maratha Empire. With the fort now in British control Wellesley was able to extend control southwards to the river Godavari. Wellesley later remarked that it was his greatest victory. Wellesley ordered his cavalry to exploit the flank of the Maratha army just near the village. I never saw a man so cool and collected as he was British casualties were heavy: He also established a high regard for the acquisition of intelligence through scouts and spies. Arthur, coincidentally, stopped on his voyage at the little island of Saint Helena and stayed in the same building to which Napoleon I would later be exiled. He reported to the office of the Secretary for War to request a new assignment. In the waiting room he met Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson , already a legendary figure after his victories at the Nile and Copenhagen, who was briefly in England after months chasing the French Toulon fleet to the West Indies and back. Some 30 years later, Wellington recalled a conversation that Nelson began with him which Wellesley found "almost all on his side in a style so vain and silly as to surprise and almost disgust me". At the same time, he was made a privy counsellor. He decided to go, stepping down from his political appointments and was appointed to command an infantry brigade in the Second Battle of Copenhagen which took place in August. Preparing to sail for an attack on the Spanish colonies in South America to assist the Latin American patriot Francisco de Miranda his force was instead ordered to sail for Portugal , to take part in the Peninsular Campaign and rendezvous with 5, troops from Gibraltar.

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Clausewitz, Wellington, and the Campaign of On 30 December , he signed the Convention of Taurrogen with the Russians, making his force neutral and paving the way for Prussia to change sides and enter the war on the side of the Allies. John Gurwood served as a captain in the 10th Hussars at Waterloo, where he was severely wounded. A translation in MS. The Duke had some doubt of the competence of the translator, and would not look at it till I had gone over it and certified its accuracy, which I did. He then read it, and made on it comments, some of which appear verbatim in the article in question. XV Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons, The final volume covered the events of Charles Arbuthnot was a civil servant who was best known for being the husband of Harriet Fane Arbuthnot, a close friend and confidant of the Duke of Wellington. Letters of the First Duke of Wellington to the Rt. Macmillan, ; DNB 2: There is no indication in the surviving correspondence that the Duke saw any more of the manuscript before September From onward he lived in Britain, where he was active in many schemes against Napoleon and received a substantial pension from the British government. Holland Rose and A. An expert surveyor, he was commissioned by the Army in to build an accurate scale model of the battlefield of Waterloo, and he lived at La Haye Sainte for eight months while carrying out his measurements. He also contacted a number of officers who participated in the battle in order to gather information about the positioning of their units on the battlefield. Siborne subsequently published a very detailed history of the campaign: Many of the letters he received in the course of his research were subsequently published by his son, Major General H. Siborne, as Waterloo Letters London: Cassell, 18; reprinted London, , and additional ones have been published more recently in Gareth Glover, ed. For more information on Siborne see DNB The illness proved fatal. Wellesley died on 26 September

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