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978-1-107-42588-0 - Campaigners Grave and Gay: Studies of Four Soldiers of
the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

L. H. Thornton

Frontmatter

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GRAVE
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STUDIES OF FOUR SOLDIERS
OF THE EIGHTEENTH AND
NINETEENTH CENTURIES

by

Lieut.-Col.

L. H. THORNTON

C.M.G., D.S.O.

LATE RIFLE BRIGADE

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P R E F A C E

FOR the facts contained in this book the writer is indebted to the researches of others whose names will be found at the head of each chapter. In particular is he beholden to Mr John Fortescue, not only for the wealth of information contained in his *History of the British Army* but also for his most helpful lists of references, which are of the utmost value to anyone who is so fortunate as to have access to a great library.

When the writer held at Cambridge the appointment of Director of Military Studies in the University, he delivered a series of biographical lectures in which he endeavoured by sketching the careers of distinguished soldiers to interest his audience in the study of Military History. These lectures were given in the evening after dinner, an hour very suitable to the purpose, provided always that the lecturer bears in mind that his audience have had a long and busy day, and that in consequence a wholly serious lecture unrelieved by the light touch at frequent intervals is out of place. Should the speaker overlook this point, it is highly probable that by coughs, by the shuffling of feet, and by sounds peculiar to slumber it will be brought home to him that he has lost, or is in danger of losing, the attention of his audience. Warned by one or

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two painful experiences of this nature and profiting by the example of his more skilful colleagues, the writer changed his methods and thenceforward took care, before embarking on an evening lecture, to arm himself with some light ammunition, so to speak, in the shape of anecdotes, etc., which might serve to keep the somnolent awake. Out of the lectures so delivered a number have been selected for publication in the hope that possibly they may prove to be not altogether without interest to the general reader, and may perhaps—and this would be a source of real gratification to the writer—be the means of inducing a few young officers to read for themselves the glorious story of their own Army as set out in Mr Fortescue's fascinating volumes.

To an old brother officer, Major Gordon Carey, the writer desires to express his gratitude for his kindness in correcting the many errors of a most unliterary person and for checking the proof-sheets. To Major-General Mahon and Mr John Murray the writer desires to tender his acknowledgments of their courtesy in permitting the reproduction of the maps of the St Lawrence from the *Life of General The Hon. James Murray*. Finally to Mr J. M. Lewis are due the writer's grateful thanks for the preparation of several maps.

L. H. T.

July, 1925.

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