

## Storm and Sack

During the Peninsular War, Wellington's army stormed and sacked three French-held Spanish towns: Ciudad Rodrigo (1812), Badajoz (1812) and San Sebastian (1813). *Storm and Sack* is the first major study of British soldiers' violence and restraint towards enemy combatants and civilians in the siege warfare of the Napoleonic era. Using soldiers' letters, diaries and memoirs, Gavin Daly compares and contrasts military practices and attitudes across British sieges spanning three continents, from the Peninsular War in Spain to India and South America. He focuses on siege rituals and laws of war, and uncovering the cultural and emotional history of the storm and sack of towns. This book challenges conventional understandings of the place and nature of sieges in the Napoleonic Wars. It encourages a rethinking of the notorious reputations of the British sacks of this period and their place within the long-term history of customary laws of war and siege violence. Daly reveals a multifaceted story not only of rage, enmity, plunder and atrocity but also of mercy, honour, humanity and moral outrage.

Gavin Daly is Senior Lecturer in Modern European History at the University of Tasmania. He has published widely on Britain and France during the Napoleonic Wars. He is the author of *The British Soldier in the Peninsular War: Encounters with Spain and Portugal, 1808–1814* (2013).

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# Storm and Sack

*British Sieges, Violence and the Laws of War  
in the Napoleonic Era, 1799–1815*

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Gavin Daly

*University of Tasmania*



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To my brothers, Stuart and Warren

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page viii</i>
Introduction	1
1 Sieges in the Long Eighteenth Century	16
2 Surrender	55
3 Storm	81
4 Garrisons: The Fate of Enemy Soldiers	122
5 On Wellington’s Watch	165
6 Plunder	199
7 Atrocities against Civilians	227
Conclusion	269
<i>Bibliography</i>	278
<i>Index</i>	298

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ix

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