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| Nota di contenuto | Intro -- PREFACE. -- PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION. -- CONTENTS. -- CHAPTER I.-INTRODUCTORY. -- The war spirit engendered-become a volunteer-enter the Militia-Portsea dock yard-enter the 7th foot-sail to Ireland-ejectment and revenge-sturdy farmer-Brennan the robber-sail to Portugal-land -- CHAPTER II.-CAMPAIGN OF 1809. -- Up the Tagus-brigade of Guards-General Sir A. Wellesley-Coimbra-Popish doings-entry into Oporto-pursuit-scene in a church-Braga and street dinner-savage bullock-Captain Percy-counter-march to Abrantes-Portuguese thief-two soldiers wound themselves-Spanish Olivenza and sickness -- CHAPTER III.-CAMPAIGN OF 1810. -- Left sick-Villa Viciosa-Elvas-hearing lost-the arsenal-ordered to join the army-Guarda-kits examined-wine-seller flogged-fever again-Celorico-relapse-strange hospital-Captain Percy taken prisoner-saints badly used-sharp needle-Battle of Almeida-a blow up-we advance -- CHAPTER IV.-CAMPAIGN OF 1811. -- Avarias-de-Cema-a great prize-Wellington reviews the division-straw sentries-the French retreat-skirmish at Redinha-a heroine-burning towns-a counter-march-surprise the French at Campo Mayor-a duel-Elvas-Jerumenha-13th Dragoons-siege of Olivenza-David Wilsa tap on the shoulder -- CHAPTER V.-CAMPAIGN OF 1812. -- Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo-volunteer for the trenches-soldier shoots himself-visit the sap-the storming-seventeen deserters shot-third |

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Sommario/riassunto

A much sought-after volume of reminiscences from the British Army, taken by a sergeant in the 7th Regiment of Foot, or the Royal Fusiliers. Sergeant Cooper was an educated man and, inspired by the spectre of the Napoleonic invasion fleet sitting in the famous Boulogne camps, he volunteered to serve his country. He chose to transfer to a regular army regiment which would allow him to fight the French overseas, as the threat of invasion had been removed as Napoleon concentrated on further continental conquests. His account of the campaigns in which he fought, from Talavera until Toulouse (Talavera, Busaco, Albuera, Vittoria, Orthez, Toulouse, as well as the sieges of Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo and the abortive campaign to New Orleans), are tightly edited by the Author to omit details and accounts to which he was not an eye-witness. He wrote his notes at the time and, except for one volume going missing whilst he was in hospital, they offered a contemporaneous source of insight into the daily lives of the rank and file. His descriptions of the actions and battles he engaged in are intelligent, vivid and full of interesting details. An excellent memoir, warmly recommended.
