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Nota di contenuto	<p>Intro -- CHAPTER I. -- Introduction of myself to the reader-To the service-Who would not be a Soldier?-A recruit-Wilkie-Cupid's Row-dow-The service endangered by another-Arrival at Liverpool-I am made prisoner, but not by the French-Recaptured by our sergeant-Lichfield round-hoGreat numbers of rank and file burnt alive. --</p> <p>CHAPTER II. -- I join Captain O'Hare's company-He falls in a passion-The "fair" and "unfair" appointment-Disappointment-Things of a private nature-Tom Crawley-An example-The Hem-How to catch "flats" in "squads"-New way to tap a barrel-A Rifleman's plan for sweeping chimThe regiment embark for Portugal. -- CHAPTER III -- Tom Plunket's Military Career. -- CHAPTER IV. -- Arrival in Portugal-Crawford's forced marches-Teetotalism with a vengeance-The effect of the opposite extreme-Spanish mode of keeping a man from stealing wine-False reports-Talavera-We arrive the day after the fight-A battle scene-Sir Arthur Wellesley-GenGerman discipline. -- CHAPTER V. -- Old Trowsers-Sleeping and waking-O'Hare again-Colonel Beckwith-Two upon one-Meagher-Barba del Puerco-General Crauford taken by surprise-The Portuguese incorporation with the light division-Roderigo-Gallegos-The Beacon night scenes on picquet-Lord WellingtonWe retreat to Fort Conception. -- CHAPTER VI. -- Villa de Mula-Night expedition to Villa de Puerto-Both parties retire,-Death of</p>

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Sommario/riassunto

Edward Costello enlisted into his local militia regiment in Ireland in 1806, and transferred, not without having a few adventures in his native Ireland, to the 95th Rifles. Not quite well drilled enough to join in Sir John Moore's 1808-1809 campaign, he narrates some stories of his comrades who did, including Tom Plunket, famous for shooting the French General Colbert. His service in the Peninsular campaign, started almost immediately with the epic forced march to Talavera under General "Black Bob" Crauford, a fierce disciplinarian, but liked by his men as Costello points out. Numerous skirmishes, affairs of outposts and combats punctuate Costello's narrative, along with amusing asides of his comrades and their japes, drinking and occasionally their punishment by the lash. Present at the battles of Fuentes d'Onoro, El Bodon, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nivelle and the storming of Ciudad Roderigo and bloody Badajoz, he captures the mood of the men and the hellish atmosphere of a battle, and the sorrow of lost friends. After a brief break in his active service Costello once more engages during the Waterloo campaign, and is heavily engaged at Waterloo and Quatre Bras. After the fall of Napoleon Costello's career turns to the British Legion, which is no sinecure despite his elevation to Lieutenant as he is posted to join the expedition to Spain and sees the vicious civil war at first hand, with scenes that remind him of the savagery of his experiences between the Guerillas and the French many years before. A gem in the sparkling vein of memoirs written by the men and officers of the famed Rifle brigade during their adventures in the Peninsular war. Costello writes with a verve and wit, and some idiosyncratic spelling, often only found in the works of the officers of his regiment such as Kincaid. A justly acclaimed classic.
