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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- PREFACE -- CHAPTER I. -- FROM ALMEIDA TO MOSCOW. -- CHAPTER II. -- THE FIRE AT MOSCOW. -- CHAPTER III. -- THE RETREAT-REVIEW OF MY KNAPSACK-THE EMPEROR IN DANGER-FROM MOJAISK TO SLAWKOWO -- CHAPTER IV. -- DOROGOBOUI-VERMIN-A CANTINIERE-HUNGER. -- CHAPTER V. -- A DISASTER-A FAMILY DRAMA-MARSHAL MORTIER-TWENTY-SEVEN DEGREES OF FROST-WE REACH SMOLENSK-A DEN OF THIEVES. -- CHAPTER VI. -- A DISTURBED NIGHT-I FIND MY FRIENDS AGAIN-WE LEAVE SMOLENSK-A NECESSARY CORRECTION-THE BATTLE OF KRASNOE-MELLE THE DRAGOON. -- CHAPTER VII. -- THE RETREAT GOES ON-I TAKE A WIFE-DISCOURAGEMENT-I LOSE SIGHT OF MY COMRADES-DRAMATIC SCENE-MEETING WITH PICARD. -- CHAPTER VIII. -- I TRAVEL WITH PICART-THE COSSACKS-PICART IS WOUNDED-A CONVOY OF FRENCH PRISONERS-A HALT IN A FOREST-POLISH HOSPITALITY-AN ATTACK OF INSANITY-WE REJOIN THE ARMY-THE EMPEROR AND THE SACRED BATTALION-THE CROSSING OF THE BEREZINA. -- CHAPTER IX. -- FROM THE BEREZINA TO WILNA-THE JEWS. -- CHAPTER X. -- FROM WILNA TO KOWNO-THE REGIMENTAL DOG-MARSHAL NEY - THE TREASURY OF THE ARMY - I AM POISONED -THE THIEVES' DRIPPING-THE OLD GRENADIER, FALOPPA-GENERAL ROGUET-FROM KOWNO TO ELBING-TWO CANTINIERES-THE ADVENTURES OF A SERGEANT-I FIND PICART AGAIN-THE SLEDGE AND THE JEWS-A SHREW-EYLAU-ARRIVAL AT

ELBING. -- CHAPTER XI. -- OUR STAY AT ELBING-MADAME GENTIL-AN
UNCLE'S HEIR-JANUARY 1ST, 1813-PICART AND THE PRUSSIANS-FATHER
ELLIOT-MY WITNESSES.

Sommario/riassunto

Considered by the majority of commentators to be the quintessential personal narrative of Napoleon's disastrous 1812 campaign in Russia. The book charts the progress of the Grande Armée toward its apogee at the occupation of Moscow, followed by the great fire of Moscow and the looting of the city to the terrible retreat. During the retreat the full horror of the hunger, privation are vividly depicted, not only in Bourgoingne's own sufferings, but also those of his friends and countrymen. He stumbles through trials that proved too much for most those around him, whilst maintaining a haunting ability to describe the torments that try him. This account written partly in captivity in 1813, after capture at the battle of Dessau in 1813 and partly from letters he sent to his family during 1812, its historical significance and value cannot be over stated.
