



## Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810

By Bernard Cornwell

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### Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810 By Bernard Cornwell

It is 1810, and in Napoleon's determination to conquer Portugal—and push the British back to the sea—he sends his largest army yet across the Spanish frontier. But between the Portuguese border and Napoleon's seemingly certain victory are two obstacles—a wasted land, stripped of food by Wellington's orders, and Captain Richard Sharpe.

But Sharpe is in trouble. The captain of the Light Company is threatened from inside and out: First by an incompetent British officer, who by virtue of family connections is temporarily given Sharpe's command. An even greater danger is posed by two corrupt Portuguese brothers—Major Ferreira, a high-ranking officer in the army of Portugal, and his brother, nicknamed "Ferragus" (after a legendary Portuguese giant), who makes no claims to respectability, preferring instead to rule by crude physical strength and pure intimidation. Together the brothers have developed a devious plot to ingratiate themselves with the French invaders who are threatening to become Portugal's new rulers.

Sharpe's interference in the first stage of their plan earns the undying enmity of the brothers. Ferragus vows revenge and plots a merciless trap that seems certain to kill Sharpe and his intimates—battle-tested ally Sergeant Harper, the Portuguese officer Jorge Vicente, and a prickly but lovely English governess. As the city of Coimbra is burned and pillaged, Sharpe and his companions plot a daring escape, ensuring that Ferragus will follow on toward Lisbon, into the jaws of a snare laid by Wellington—the massive lines of Torres Vedras, a daring and ingenious last stand against the invaders. There, beneath the British guns, Sharpe is reunited with his shattered but grateful company, and meets his enemies in a thrilling and decisive fight.

Sharpe's Escape emphatically reaffirms Bernard Cornwell's status as "perhaps the greatest writer of historical adventure novels today" (*Washington Post*); its climactic battle scenes and evocative re-creation of history sweep the reader off the page and into the action and drama of nineteenth-century warfare.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"So Sharpe and Harper will march again." Thus ended *Sharpe's Havoc*, the previous (19th) volume in Cornwell's series, and Sharpe aficionados will rejoice that the prophecy has been fulfilled. In September of 1810, just before repulsing the French army on the bare slopes of Bussaco ridge in central Portugal, Captain Sharpe is forced to take Lieutenant Slingsby, Colonel Lawford's arrogant, heavy-drinking brother-in-law, under his wing. Sharpe then stumbles into a confrontation with Ferragus, the malevolent brother of their treacherous Portuguese ally, Major Ferreira, whom he catches illegally hoarding flour to sell to the enemy. Sharpe is soon ambushed by the cowardly Ferragus and barely escapes with his life. The much abused captain is further humiliated when, despite Slingsby's poor performance at Bussaco, Lawford puts him in charge of the troops, then has the effrontery to reprimand Sharpe for refusing to apologize for insulting the fool. When the French find a way to flank them, the British retreat through Coimbra, where Sharpe and Harper, Sharpe's right-hand man, find themselves lured into a trap. Sharpe's old friend, Portuguese captain Vicente, and a young English governess come to Sharpe's rescue just in time for Sharpe to save his battalion, exacting retribution on his enemies in a resoundingly satisfactory denouement. With fully fleshed-out characters and keen human insight, Cornwell just keeps getting better. His faithful will be left hoping Sharpe goes on forever.

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From [Booklist](#)

Captain Richard Sharpe, the inveterate self-made British soldier, returns in another thrilling adventure set during the Napoleonic Wars. As usual, Sharpe, a former private, is less than prudent when he thumbs his nose at authority to protect his beloved company from the unskilled officer he is assigned to train. Stationed in Portugal during the French invasion of 1810, Sharpe and his men fight valiantly to prevent further incursions by the despised "Frogs." In addition to repelling the enemy, Richard must also do battle with the dangerously underqualified Lieutenant Cornelius Slingsby, a newly minted officer protected by a convoluted kinship to Sharpe's commanding officer, Colonel Lawson. After gallantly prevailing on the treacherous ridge of Bussaco, Sharpe is busted down to quartermaster for refusing to apologize for insulting the incompetent Slingsby during the height of the conflict. But eventually the wily Sharpe saves his troops from certain annihilation under the command of the incompetent and inebriated Slingsby. The boffo battle scenes will appeal to an audience primed for epic military history by the success of the film version of Patrick O'Brian's *Master and Commander* (1969). *Margaret Flanagan*

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### Review

"Prepare to have your buckles swashed." (People)

"An altogether rousing tale of revenge and derring-do....Cornwell's cinematically detailed battle pieces [are] literal tours de force." (Michael Dirda in The Washington Post)

"Sharpe aficionados will rejoice....With fully fleshed-out characters and keen human insight, Cornwell just keeps getting better." (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

"Highly recommended ... A worthy entry in the Sharpe series, this book will be eagerly anticipated by

Cornwell's many readers." (Library Journal)

"Presents to the contemporary reader an important part of history that Americans know little about." (Los Angeles Times)

"Perhaps the greatest writer of historical adventure novels today." (Washington Post)

"Richard Sharpe has the most astounding knack for finding himself where the action is...and adding considerably to it." (Wall Street Journal)

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#### **Charline Fendley:**

Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not require people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specifically this Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810 book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

#### **Rodolfo Rodgers:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the ocean world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout people. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

#### **Terry Pullen:**

Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810 can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Sharpe's Escape: The Bussaco Campaign, 1810 however doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into new stage of crucial thinking.

**Benjamin Deloatch:**

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