



The Generals

Simon Scarrow

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Generals

Simon Scarrow

The Generals Simon Scarrow

The second in this epic quartet of novels focusing on two giants of European history, Wellington and Napoleon

It's 1796 as THE GENERALS opens, and both Arthur Wellesly (later Wellington) and Napoleon Bonaparte are making their mark as men of military genius. Wellesley, as commander of the 33rd Regiment of Foot, is sent to India, where his skill and bravery make a remarkable impression on his superiors. Napoleon's role as commander of the Army of Italy leads to success in battle and rapid political progress. By 1804, Napoleon has established himself as Emperor, and has his sights set on conquering all of Europe. The time has come for Wellesly to stand against Napoleon in the confrontation that lies ahead.

The Generals Details

Date : Published May 31st 2007 by Headline Review

ISBN : 9780755333127

Author : Simon Scarrow

Format : Paperback

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, War

 [Download The Generals ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Generals ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Generals Simon Scarrow

From Reader Review The Generals for online ebook

Rebecca says

Part 2 of the series begins with Napoleon trying to wrestle Italy from the Austrians and the future Wellington, for now just plain Arthur Wesley/Wellesley, trying to find *any* kind of respectable job that might give him a chance at winning Kitty's hand. In both cases, we see the flaws in the social systems both men had to live under - politicians and aristocrats more concerned with their own finances and reputation than the wellbeing of either country. Some things really do never change...

And the individual men are interesting - when sent to India, Wellesley takes the time to learn Hindi and tries to ensure better treatment of the local peoples, much to the astonishment of his colleagues who don't see the point. Napoleon is dictatorial, insisting on taking credit for everything and being the centre of everything even as he tries to unite a divided France and tackle corruption.

Again, it is a very detailed novel, clearly writing this series seems to have been a labour of love for Scarrow to bring these two men to life in such fashion - and to help the reader understand more about them. I would have given the book 5 stars, but this edition has a few typos which hopefully have been corrected in subsequent editions.

I look forward to finding the third part.

Simon says

I was long overdue in returning to this series but well . . . too many books too little time! It's excellent and this second helping of The Generals is possibly even better than the first. I love the way that the two storylines are interspersed and at how thoroughly different the two characters are.

Of course what's just as fascinating given the different cloths these two were cut from is the similarities between them and Scarrow brings this to life in fine detail without ever bogging his story down. They were both great innovators and in an age where custom and tradition often over-ruled common sense they were both capable of thinking a long way out of the box. They saw crucial details that others didn't even realise were there and worked through them. Neither of them allowed petty obstacles to deny them or their men what they needed though in dealing with harsh terrain perhaps Arthur's considered invention scores him an early point against Napoleon's bluff refusal to consider it a problem!

Jonathan Keeble. He is an invaluable aide to the imagination. One of my favourite narrators of all-time and this is just the kind of magnificent performance I have come to expect of him.

So, halfway through and I can only commend this heartily as a particularly fine and well-thought out example of the genre.

Michael Ho?da (Holda) says

Sequel to four books of Napoleonic period in good detail with fluent plot. Narrates times from Napoleon being Captain, then General and later as First Consul for Life.

Battle of Arcole, field on which Napoleon lost way to many men and by quirk of fate bullet destined to kill him, didn't touch him. It's reminding me of Charles XII of Sweden and his several dodges of bullets. However Napoleon did not stop after that grievous battle and invaded Egypt since he couldn't spoil England. And also he thought that since Paris is such a dynamic, horizon-changing state, then perhaps it's better to stay away from it for now.

So when French attacked Acre, Turkish and British forces stopped them on the walls. That have forced Napoleon to live for France.

Then armed forces of republic crossed the Alps in May 1800th, covered still in snow. Yet his army defeated Austrians in battle of Marengo, losing his friend and reason of winning, General Louis Desaix.

On the other hand, Arthur Wellesley was engaged in winning Siege of Seringapatam in India, year before Napoleon faced the Alps. But he became ill with "Malabar Itch", painful skin infection and was spending time reading and writing letters to Kitty, each and every day of recovery. Napoleon was soldier of vast impact effect, fighting through all Europe for revolutionary democracy of new French order. While Arthur Wellesley was on duty with 33th regiment, who has been reasonable warrior.

Both of these men had to live their ladies of heart away from fight and away from themselves, however Napoleon's love had more subjects.

Tony says

The Generals: Wellington and Napoleon Quartet Book 2 3.25 Stars

In the second installment of this quartet, we see Napoleon rise in power and reputation in France, as well as Arthur Wellesley become a General himself and rise in his reputation in Britain. Napoleon works on bringing Egypt and Italy under French rule, before fighting to establish peace in France again. Wellesley does the same in India, rising to power, before he returns to Britain.

I still find it tough going back and forth between these 2 story lines. I know at some point they will meet, but just when you get into a story, it moves back to the other character. I am really loving the history and obvious research that went into creating this series. I also love how deep the characters are. They jump off every page and ping little bits of memory from things I already know. The plot is great, although he can't really deviate too far, as history has set out his plot for him already. Overall I will finish this series, but for me it is in the one time read category, not a keeper, but good enough to read once.

Sarah Foxley says

This is the second book in Scarrow's series documenting the lives of Napoleon and Wellington side by side. This deals with them as young men, after their first tastes of battle as they struggle to climb their way up the ranks. Although not as enthralling as the first book it is still an excellent read. I would definitely recommend

this to anyone with an interest in this period of history.

Scott Gardner says

Second installment has more battles , as the two Generals learn their trade.

This story covers Napoleon's rise as the ruler of France through his campaigns in Italy and Egypt , and Wellington in his campaign's in India , where he finally is recognised as a General in his own right.

My biggest bug about the book is the constant referral to all things as England , it was the British empire , it was the 74th regiment which took Assaye (a scottish regiment)

Shouldn't be surprised , it still happens today , but it galls you all the same

Redfox5 says

This book follows on where 'Young Bloods' left off. Wellington has much more action and excitement than in the last book but unfortunately still falls short of what's happening in Napoleon's life and I enjoyed the latter's chapters much more. This book was also lacking in the more personal touch, there are lots of battles. I know this happened and there were lots of battles but there are only so many times the same thing happening can keep my interest. I found most of the battle scenes dull. I was also disappointed we didn't get to see Pauline's reaction when she learned Napoleon had left her and returned to France. I'm also surprised at how much of a walkover Napoleon is when it comes to his wife! I don't have the other two books in the Quartet and I'm not going to make any effort to acquire them but I would read them if they happened to come my way.

Heather says

I'm glad I read it, only because of what I learned about Napoleon and Wellington - but I did find myself skimming over many pages at a time because the author is obviously far more interested in the details of 18/19th century warfare than I am (the battle scenes, of which there were many, were described in minute detail).

Steve Smy says

First of all, this is *not* a book review. Since childhood, I've been fascinated by the Napoleonic Era. It seemed logical, therefore, for me to read this series of books by Scarrow, Simon, which is about two of the most important figures of that time - Napoleon and Sir Arthur Wellesley (later the Duke of Wellington). It was with some surprise, then, that I found myself being drawn more into Wellesley's history in India.

I confess that my knowledge of Wellesley's early years is sadly lacking. I was amazed to discover that this conservative, naturally arrogant, man had a conscience unlike most of his class. He deplored the abuse of the native Indian population by British officers and soldiers, and was forever looking for ways in which the lot of the people could be improved. Of course, this was partly because he recognised the danger of a general

uprising - uncounted millions of Indians against a handful of British. It is clear, however, that he also had a moral conscience which drove him to genuinely try to make life better for the common people of India. He believed in Justice, above all else. When he was finally in a position to do so, he introduced new laws and procedures, whereby the beatings and killings of Indians by their British overlords would no longer go unpunished.

A blend of fact and fiction, superbly crafted so that it becomes impossible to tell which is which, these books are worth reading!

Peter Reeves says

Excellent second in series

Paul Servini says

After really liking the first book in this series I found the second volume less interesting, probably because of the military subject matter. I also had my difficulties with some of the viewpoints expressed, in particular the exploitation of the colonies and the glorification of war. But, of course, these are not faults as to the writing of the book. They just made it less interesting for me personally.

Richard West says

Volume 2 of 4.

This covers the years 1795 -1803 for Napoleon and Arthur Wellesley (formerly Wesley).

In brief: Both men perfect their skills on the battlefield....Wellesley in India, Napoleon in Italy and Egypt. Eventually, Napoleon's star eclipses Wellesley as he becomes in effect, the dictator for life in France. Meanwhile, Napoleon meets Josephine. He falls in love. They marry. He goes off to war. She goes to bed with every man in Paris. He has a mistress in Egypt. He comes home, forgives her, and becomes dictator. Wellesley has no love life - the woman he wants is back in the British Isles. He works hard at his craft and is a Major General headed back to England at the end of the book - a triumphant leader. Will his lady friend's brother allow them to marry? Hopefully, we'll find out in Volume 3.

In it's 626 pages, there's a lot more, obviously. As with Volume 1 - well-written in typical Scarrow style - and it reads fast.

Now its on to Fire and Sword, Volume 3.

Samuel Tyler says

Anyone who like reading historical fiction would most likely have read some books set during the

Napoleonic Wars. This was a well-documented conflict that swung from one side to the other and had some epic battles. Plus you have probably read Bernard Cornwell's excellent 'Sharpe' series of books. Although a seminal series of books, 'Sharpe' was told from the British point of view and one from a foot soldier, no matter how far he climbed. There is a lot more to explore about The Napoleonic Wars, before, during and after they were fought. Simon Scarrow decided to take on this task in his 'Wellington and Napoleon' Series that explored these two great men from their early years, until their end.

Book 2 in the series is 'The Generals' and sees both men rise; one to become an Emperor, the other a great General. After the success of the revolution Napoleon sees a chance to build upon his reputation by quashing the various Royalist uprisings, his quick thinking sets him on the road to politics and glory. Meanwhile, Wellington is still a younger son in a dynasty that is moving away from him. He is forced to prove himself in the more backwater countries of the Empire, but his role in India will mark him as a rising star. Two different Generals advancing at different paces, but both on a collision course.

Following two men from adolescent into being experienced Generals is a great idea and Scarrow attacks it with aplomb. I know a little about the Wars between France and Britain, but have to admit to not knowing what happened before. Both Generals had a lot of interesting adventures before Waterloo was even imagined. Most of 'The Generals' is set during a period of peace between the two countries and war was fought via proxy. Therefore, there are no direct conflicts between the two, but the battles in Italy, Egypt and India resonate across the continents.

As a piece of history, 'The Generals' is very interesting, I learned a lot about a period of history that was new to me. The issue was that there was too much to learn. Scarrow's series of books are written over 4 novels of impressive size, but I still felt that this book was rushed. To really appreciate how Napoleon and Wellington learned their trade, a longer series of books was needed. This book is packed with battles, sieges, victories and defeats – too many. Sometimes it feels like a whistle-stop tour of destruction. When the battles do occur they are very well written, it is just that you can never settle into a conflict before you move on again.

It is as if you are being dragged through history by the hand of the Ghost of General's Past, whisking you overhead. If the speed had been chosen to improve the narrative, it could have been forgiven, but there is little story. Both men are ambitious and the story is mostly about how they inevitably rose to power. I did not get the sense that there was any other story apart from this; a little token fictional elements could have made it a slightly more entertaining read. It also felt that the book was a little White Hat/Black Hat. Napoleon the ambition and cruel leader, whilst Wellington refuses to allow his men to indulge their base interests. This may have been true, but it is painted a little cleanly here.

'The Generals' is an odd book as it is a flawed piece of fiction, but still an entertaining read. It is not a story as you would normally see, but more of a narrification of history. Scarrow has taken the real battles that the two men fought in and built a story around them. This story is the weakest element of the book, but the history and battles means that it is still worth reading, especially for those that lean on the side of history over fiction in the historic fiction genre.

Jean says

Since I was a child I have read everything I could find about Lord Wellington and Napoleon. I must admit

that when I was younger it was Napoleon I read the most about. I was so happy when I came across Simon Scarrow's series called Wellington and Napoleon. This is the second book in his historical fiction series.

The book begins in 1796. Arthur Wellesley (Lord Wellington) has been sent to India as Commander of the 33rd Regiment of Foot. Wellesley displays his skill and bravery that launches his movement up the ranks. Another excellent historical fiction series about Wellesley in India and fighting Napoleon in Europe is "Sharp" by Bernard Cornwell.

Scarrow opens the first section on Napoleon with his saving the seat of government from rebelling Royalist. Then they appoint Napoleon as Commander of the Army in Italy and then the Army of Egypt. He then returns to France to begin his rise to power. The sections alternate between the two men.

The book is well written and meticulously researched. Scarrow blends and weaves his story into the history of the two men and brings history to life. Scarrow writes excellent a battle scene that makes me feel as if I am right in the middle of the battle. There is so much written about both men but it is a delight to read this historical novel. If you are interested in either or both men and the Napoleonic War, this is a book for you. This is a fairly long book at about 21 hours.

Jonathan Keeble does a good job narrating the book. Keeble is a voice-over artist and audiobook narrator. Keeble narrating this first book in the series.

John M. Vittone says

Sharpe & Aubrey-Maturin Series fans will enjoy

A great companion to the the Sharpe and Aubrey-Maturin series. More historical and focused on the 2 principal combatants in the napoleonic wars.
