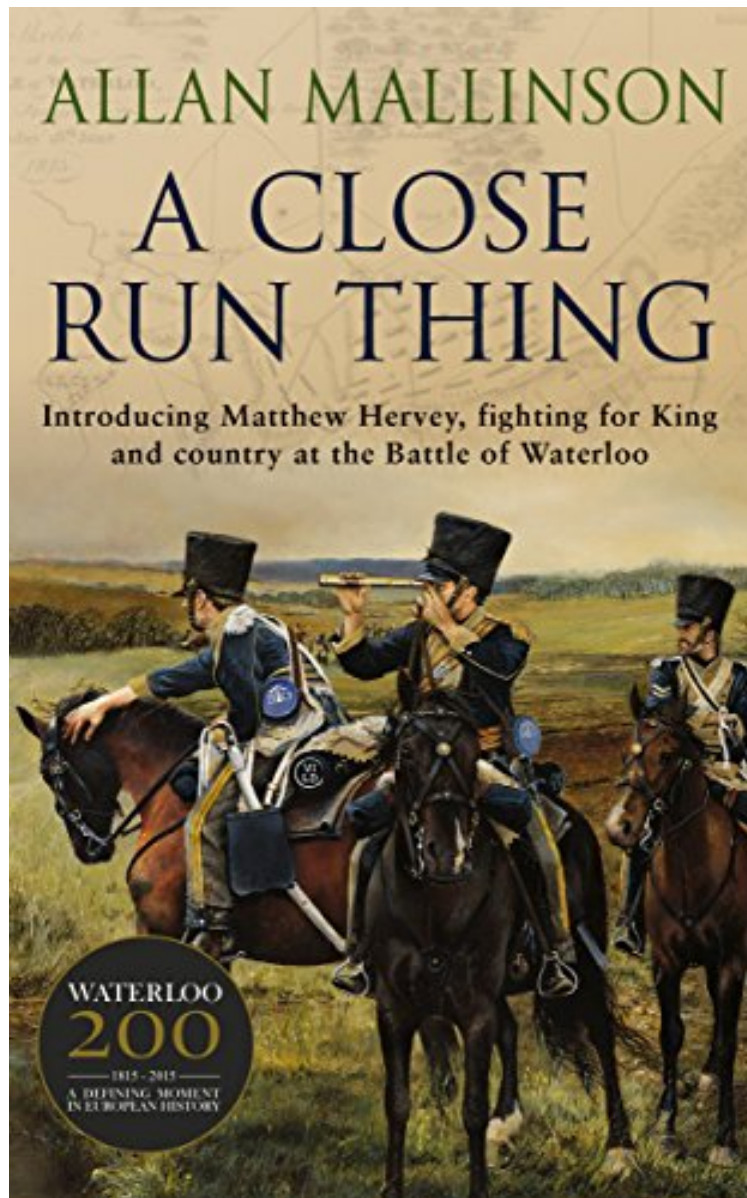


(Free read ebook) A Close Run Thing: (Matthew Hervey 1)

A Close Run Thing: (Matthew Hervey 1)

Von Allan Mallinson

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Von Allan Mallinson : A Close Run Thing: (Matthew Hervey 1) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Close Run Thing: (Matthew Hervey 1):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good historical fiction that falls short on military issues.Von Ein KundeThis is a well written piece of historical fiction. It

focusses on a British dragoon officer in the period between the end of the Peninsula Wars (1814) and the Battle of Waterloo (1815). It is the first of what will apparently become a series of novels. This is not Richard Sharpe on horseback. Mallinson lacks Cornwell's style and narrative power and fails to provide the battle details that bring the Sharpe novels to life. Instead Mallinson focusses more on the social aspects of the times and the world of officers and gentleman. He apparently knows horses very well and this adds to the telling of his story. Lets hope our young hero goes to India after this or someplace else where the battlefield context can be explored to the depth it requires.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein Cocktail aus romantischer Novelle und militrischen Roman Von NMKEs ist das Jahr 1815. Europa steht in Flammen. Bonaparte steht einem geeinten Heer der Allianz gegenber. Mittendrin befindet sich, unter dem Kommando von Wellington, die 6th Light Dragoons (einer Erfindung des Autors), bei denen auch Fhnrich Hervey, der Protagonist, dient. Der zeitliche Fokus des Romans liegt kurz vor dem ersten Exil Bonapartes auf Elba, und erstreckt sich kurz nach dessen Niederlage bei Waterloo. Der Autor stellt dem Leser ein sehr genaues Bild der Gesellschaft, und des Militrs dieser Epoche dar. Auch sein Wissen ber die Kavallerie, und die Pferde ist wirklich beeindruckend. Leider erschlgt Mallinson den Leser mit der gestelzten Ausdrucksweise, die wohl passend zur Epoche, aber sehr ermndend bzw. anstrengend ist. Auch handelt es sich hier nicht unbedingt um einen reinen militrischen Roman, sondern es drngt sich viel mehr der Eindruck auf, dass bei "A Close Run Thing" eher um eine Verquickung eines romantischen Stoffes mit den Rahmenbedingungen der napoleonischen Kriege und des britischen Militrs dieser Zeit handelt. Dies lsst sich sehr daran erkennen, dass es nur am Anfang und am Ende um Schlachten gegen Napolon geht. Eines muss man dem Autor aber lassen: Er zeichnet ein sehr genaues Bild dieser Zeit, dass ich bis zur Lektre dieses Romanes nicht hatte! Das Englisch ist recht anspruchsvoll. Fazit: schner historischer Roman, der (leider) nicht den Fokus auf Military Fiction legt...sehr schn gezeichnetes Bild dieser Epoche...aber definitiv anders als die Sharpe Romane von Cornwell...3 Sterne Der Nachfolgeband ist: Nizam's Daughters (Matthew Hervey 02)1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A social history hidden behind a military history! Von Leserrate Although I can give only three stars to Mr. Mallinson, I somehow liked the book. Indeed the author knows a lot about horses and I learned quite a deal about those fearless chargers: I did not realize before that in 1815 the 'kissing-spine' syndrom of today's overworked sports animals was already known to soldier and veterinarian! What I liked best in this book is the description of this average society between two centuries - Enlightenment and Modern Days.....average people not the 'scum of the earth' of a Richard Sharpe or the high and the mighty of so many others. I missed a little bit the action of battle scenes and the soldierly glory of times so long gone by, that bloodshed and terror become supportable to today's readers. I also missed a bit of understanding for commanders like Wellington, who probably could not care about the justice done to each junior officers in their ranks, when their army became to big, their job to stressful to see after individuals. Nevertheless, our hero Harvey gets along fairly well and by the end I may say, that I am looking forward to his next adventure, perhaps in some exotic place at the other side of the globe. Pray, Mr. Mallinson - although some readers may sigh - do not let us down with your knowledge about horses in your next novel!

Kurzbeschreibung Waterloo, 1815 As the war against Bonaparte rages to its bloody end upon the field of Waterloo, a young officer goes about his duty in the ranks of Wellington's army. He is Cornet Matthew Hervey of the 6th Light Dragoons - a soldier, gentleman and man of honour, who suddenly finds himself allotted a hero's role ... Momentous times call for momentous acts: as the Napoleonic Wars escalate, Cornet Hervey faces decisions, both military and romantic, which will change the course of his life, and possibly the outcome of Waterloo.... de Allan Mallinson wastes no time getting the reader into the thick of things: by page 2 of this novel, set during the Napoleonic wars, protagonist Coronet Matthew Hervey of the 6th Light Dragoons is up to his neck in battle and blood. By page 8, he's on his way to a court martial, the result of his own hasty temper and the politics of the military. Though the young soldier's career is never in serious danger, Mallinson uses the episode effectively to make a point about 19th-century military life: Anyone who thought that survival in this war depended merely on fighting the enemy was naive in the extreme. Jealousy, snobbery, intrigue, and patronage were the preoccupations of men of ambition in the Marquess of Wellington's army; and Hervey and others like him, decent officers with little but the ability to recommend them, were increasingly resentful of Wellington's indifference to it all. Indeed, many believed he actively connived at it. Politics and infighting within the ranks are, indeed, important elements in A Close Run Thing, which follows the fortunes of young Matthew Hervey, his regiment, and Wellington's army through the last year of the Napoleonic wars. What makes the novel so fascinating is that the most dangerous enemies are seldom the ones being fought on the battlefield. There are the villains--General "Black Jack" Slade, for example, "as incompetent an officer as was ever placed in command of a brigade of cavalry"; and to a lesser degree, Wellington himself, who seems indifferent to the system of patronage that kept people like Slade in positions of power. And there are the heroes--Hervey and his commanding officer, Major Joseph Edmonds, among others. As war's fortunes take them from France to Ireland and back again to the continent and an insignificant Belgian village called Waterloo, Mallinson paints a vivid portrait not only of

military life but of the European political milieu. In his note at the beginning of *A Close Run Thing*, Mallinson writes that he's long been a fan of Patrick O'Brian's naval fictions set during the Napoleonic wars and that he "began to fret for anything remotely comparable for the cavalry of that period." Though one might wish Matthew Hervey had been more fully developed as a character, la O'Brian's Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin, Mallinson writes a battlefield scene with the same brio and encyclopedic knowledge that O'Brian brings to his engagements at sea. From the details of charging a French battery of guns to the peculiar ailments of a cavalry horse, Mallinson, himself a serving officer in a British cavalry regiment, knows his subject inside and out. This is a book sure to appeal to military-history buffs and readers looking for a ripping good adventure tale alike. --Alix Wilber

Pressestimmen "Of recent years many eminent hands have undertaken to lead the reader deep into the Royal Navy of Nelson's time, describing the life of the service, the men who sailed those 'far-distant, storm-beaten ships, upon which the Grand Army never looked' but which 'stood between it and the dominion of the world.'" Hitherto nobody that I know of has done anything like the same for the army, which did after all have a not inconsiderable share in winning the war; but now at last a highly literate, deeply read cavalry officer of high rank shows one the nature of horse-borne warfare in those times; and Colonel Mallinson's *A Close Run Thing* is very much to be welcomed." --Patrick O'Brian, author of the Aubrey-Maturin series

"Mallinson's *A Close Run Thing* is an astonishingly impressive debut in the field of Napoleonic fiction. Convincingly drawn, perfectly paced and expertly written, this cavalryman's tale is a joy to read. I hope it will be the first of many." --Antony Beevor, author of *Stalingrad: The Fateful Siege*