



## Sharpe's Triumph: Richard Sharpe and the Battle of Assaye, September 1803 (Richard Sharpe's Adventure Series #2)

By Bernard Cornwell

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Cornwell Bernard, now available in paperback—in this second installment of the Sharpe's Rifles series—now available in chronological order with gorgeous packaging for a new generation of readers—bestselling historical novelist Bernard Cornwell chronicles Richard Sharpe's battle against a British traitor and a native mercenary army.

"The greatest writer of historical adventures today."

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Critically acclaimed, perennial *New York Times* bestselling author Bernard Cornwell (*Agincourt*, *The Fort*, the Saxon Tales) makes real history come alive in his breathtaking historical fiction. Praised as "the direct heir to Patrick O'Brian" (*Agincourt*, *The Fort*), Cornwell has brilliantly captured the fury, chaos, and excitement of battle as few writers have ever done—perhaps most vividly in his phenomenally popular novels following the illustrious military career of British Army officer Richard Sharpe during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In *Sharpe's Triumph*, Sharpe's hunt for a traitorous renegade British officer leads the courageous young sergeant straight into the fires and madness of India's Battle of Assaye in September 1803. Perhaps the *San Francisco Chronicle* said it best: "If only all history lessons could be as vibrant."

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## **Editorial Review**

### **From Publishers Weekly**

Followers of Cornwell's series featuring the exploits of British infantry officer Richard Sharpe (Sharpe's Rifles, et al.) in the Napoleonic wars (adapted for Masterpiece Theater) and in his earlier career in colonial India will relish this look at Sergeant Sharpe on the subcontinent in 1803. A fluke makes our hero unofficial aide to General Sir Arthur Wellesley (the future Duke of Wellington, though it's never mentioned in the novel) at the time of the siege of Ahmednuggur and Wellesley's brilliant victory at Assaye against the Indian Mahratta Confederation and the turncoat forces of ex-English officer William Dodd. This was the beginning of the end of the Mahratta rebellion against the British and a turning point in the Raj's growing power. Among the book's rich cast of characters are Hakeswill, a murderous British sergeant determined to kill Sharpe; Simone Joubert, the needy wife of a French officer; and the colorful Hanoverian mercenary, Colonel Pohlmann, who leads the Mahratta forces from atop an elephant. Most roundly dimensional and representing the extremes of British society are Wellesley, the coldly brilliant and fearless son of an earl, and Sharpe himself, the tortured, unlettered bastard from London's slums, who is determined to rise. Cornwell contributes vivid details in descriptions of life in an army camp, the dual military regimes of the East India Company and the regular army, and Indian politics. Best are the battle scenes, laid out clearly with a handy map with all the heat, stink and blood of war and "the joys of slaughter." The reader's pleasure in all this gore may be a guilty one, but Cornwell, a master of battlefield writing, makes it too exhilarating to forgo. 15-city NPR feature; 3-city author tour.

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### **From Library Journal**

William Gaminara does an excellent job in his presentation of this 14th volume of Cornwell's Sharpe series. *Triumph* covers Sergeant Sharpe's service with the British Army in India, before the Peninsular War and Waterloo. The story begins with a treacherous attack by Maj. William Dodd, a British officer who has defected from the East India Company. Surviving the massacre, Sharpe vows to take revenge, a vow that leads him to serve with Gen. Arthur Wellesley and to take the field when Wellesley leads an impossibly small force of 5000 men against the 50,000 of the Maratha Army quartered at Assaye. Cornwell's (*The Winter King*, Audio Reviews, LJ 8/97) depiction of the events that occurred before and during the 1803 battle at Assaye is vivid and historically accurate. Sure to be popular with Sharpe fans and a good read for people interested in British or military history; highly recommended. Theresa Connors, Arkansas Tech. Univ., Russellville

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### **From Booklist**

Cornwell continues to luxuriate in the details of battle in his continuing series of novels following the exploits of British soldier-adventurer Sergeant Richard Sharpe. In this latest Sharpe novel, Cornwell leaves aside the Napoleonic wars in Europe to concentrate on the rich terrain of colonial India. The story starts with a tense situation. The time is 1803, and a league of native Indian princes called the Mahratta Confederation is determined to resist British encroachment into its territories. A large quantity of ammunition has been stolen from the East India Company, and the Mahrattas are poised to pay top price for the stolen goods for use in their British resistance. The ammo has been recaptured, and it is Sharpe's job to see that it is safely returned to where it belongs. A renegade British major allied to the Mahratta princes attacks the fort where the ammo has been taken, massacres everyone (except for Sharpe, who fakes death), and runs off with the highly negotiable commodity. Now Sharpe is ordered to hunt down this rogue, and the road ultimately leads to

involvement in a major battle, authentically, even gracefully, reconstructed here with the electric prose Cornwell is known for. Eminently successful historical fiction. *Brad Hooper*

## Users Review

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#### **Ethel Davidson:**

The actual book Sharpe's Triumph: Richard Sharpe and the Battle of Assaye, September 1803 (Richard Sharpe's Adventure Series #2) has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research just before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you can find the point easily after scanning this book.

#### **Frank Johnson:**

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#### **Elida Allman:**

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