

www.e-rara.ch

An universal military dictionary in English and French

James, Charles

London, 1816

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich

Shelf Mark: Rar 36205

Persistent Link: <https://doi.org/10.3931/e-rara-79572>

Advertisement.

www.e-rara.ch

Die Plattform e-rara.ch macht die in Schweizer Bibliotheken vorhandenen Drucke online verfügbar. Das Spektrum reicht von Büchern über Karten bis zu illustrierten Materialien – von den Anfängen des Buchdrucks bis ins 20. Jahrhundert.

e-rara.ch provides online access to rare books available in Swiss libraries. The holdings extend from books and maps to illustrated material – from the beginnings of printing to the 20th century.

e-rara.ch met en ligne des reproductions numériques d'imprimés conservés dans les bibliothèques de Suisse. L'éventail va des livres aux documents iconographiques en passant par les cartes – des débuts de l'imprimerie jusqu'au 20e siècle.

e-rara.ch mette a disposizione in rete le edizioni antiche conservate nelle biblioteche svizzere. La collezione comprende libri, carte geografiche e materiale illustrato che risalgono agli inizi della tipografia fino ad arrivare al XX secolo.

Nutzungsbedingungen Dieses Digitalisat kann kostenfrei heruntergeladen werden. Die Lizenzierungsart und die Nutzungsbedingungen sind individuell zu jedem Dokument in den Titelinformationen angegeben. Für weitere Informationen siehe auch [Link]

Terms of Use This digital copy can be downloaded free of charge. The type of licensing and the terms of use are indicated in the title information for each document individually. For further information please refer to the terms of use on [Link]

Conditions d'utilisation Ce document numérique peut être téléchargé gratuitement. Son statut juridique et ses conditions d'utilisation sont précisés dans sa notice détaillée. Pour de plus amples informations, voir [Link]

Condizioni di utilizzo Questo documento può essere scaricato gratuitamente. Il tipo di licenza e le condizioni di utilizzo sono indicate nella notizia bibliografica del singolo documento. Per ulteriori informazioni vedi anche [Link]

ADVERTISEMENT.

ALTHOUGH this Edition has considerably exceeded the proposed limits of the Author's plan, and contains more technical terms than are to be found in the original undertaking, it is nevertheless so far reduced as to be rendered more portable, and so far abridged as to be less elaborate in its explanation, and more copious in its terms.

Many words have been added in this impression which are not to be found in any work extant; and it is no small gratification to the Author to see the utility of his original introduction of foreign phrases sanctioned by events, in continental warfare, that have raised the character of the British army to the highest pinnacle of glory. More than fourteen years have elapsed, since he first ventured to give the explanation of military terms in general, with the admixture of French words. The propriety of this introduction is now unquestionable.

Without pretending to know more than his neighbours, or to be endowed with deeper sagacity than others, the Author was well aware, from an early view of the French Revolution, and a mature consideration of its course, that the military spirit of France would either over-run Europe, and lodge some of her moveable legions in Great Britain and Ireland, or be forced back by the awakened energies of the Continent upon her own distracted bosom; in either of which unavoidable consequences, a knowledge of the French language must be useful, and indeed necessary, to the British officer. One of these consequences has taken place: and Great Britain possesses the exclusive glory of seeing that power by which her very existence, as an independent nation, had been repeatedly menaced, placed under the guardian wing of a British Chief, whose skill, courage, and good fortune are unexampled in history.*

Of the execution of the Work itself, either in its original state, subsequent augmentation, or present abridgement, the Author can only say, that far from being satisfied himself, he has done his best to satisfy others. He has endeavoured to reduce the subject matter of two volumes into a more portable impression, without losing the smallest portion of its military cast and tenour; and by discharging a redundancy of explanation, he has obtained room for several fresh words. Some entire new matter has also been admitted; particularly that connected with the most important sieges which have occurred since the invention of gunpowder; and likewise the consequences that have ensued from those operations. The list of battles, which has appeared in former editions, is now given with additional matter, and fresh illustration. The Author is free to confess, that after having discovered many contradictory dates in recent publications, he has been enabled to correct them by a reference to that well executed and invaluable collection of mint-medals in which the principal events of the reign of Bonaparte, or Napoleon the Ist, are minutely described; and in imitation of which a series is in progress here to preserve the memory of the several contests in which the Duke of Wellington has proved victorious. Not that any metal, or com-

* To shew that the Author's opinion of the energy and stability of Great Britain has been uniformly the same, see the Dedication to the 4th edition of his Poems, originally written in 1792.

position, can be sufficiently lasting to vie with the living record of his transactions, which must pass down from the lips of one generation to those of another; for *he* may indeed exclaim, in the words of the Roman Poet, *Exegi monumentum ære perennius!*

Although in the prosecution of this volume, the Author has been left to his own labour and researches, and that too during a period of extraneous occupation, he is, nevertheless, called upon by his own feelings to say, that were he permitted to indulge his sense of the prompt and friendly manner in which he has been assisted through the list of Sieges, by an intelligent officer of Engineers, an unreserved acknowledgement would be truly gratifying. This tribute must, therefore, remain with no other direction to its object than may be found in the following French inscription: *A celui qui s'y reconnoitra!*

The Author can only repeat here what he has said in the last edition, that to render this work (what it ought to be) a national Military Encyclopædia, the Professors at Woolwich and Sandhurst should not only afford their theoretical contribution, but officers of known ability and experience, who are provided for in the several departments, should add their practical observations.

An office, or circumscribed department, at a moderate expense to the public, might, indeed, be established for the purpose of receiving communications, of translating foreign military works, and of digesting the different Acts of Parliament which relate to the army. This Office, or Literary Board, would be subordinate to the Commander in Chief and to the Secretary at War; under whose immediate sanction and direction works of a military tendency, as well as official rules and regulations, could be arranged in a short and conspicuous manner. Long subsequent to the publication of the Regimental Companion, a collection of Official Rules and Regulations was given by authority; but this collection contains no more than the bare existing rule without suggestion or illustration; and it is published so seldom,* that innumerable alterations occur between the appearance of one edition and the promulgation of another; so that the officer is frequently at a loss through the want of official reference. I shall not, I trust, be accused of egotism, when I have the presumption to arrogate to myself some slight merit in having struggled through many difficulties to bring the Companion and the present work into notice. The former, for a fair and candid reason,† was not sanctioned by the Commander in Chief, but it had, and still has, the distinguished countenance of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

To those persons whose chief study, and perhaps whose chief delight, consists in a malignant pursuit after errors only, the Author must observe, that "*It cannot be expected that he should please others, since he has not been able to please himself.*"

Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti: si non, his utere mecum.

London, 29th November, 1816.

* For the correctness of this remark, I appeal to the Comptrollers of Army Accounts.

† When the Author first requested permission to dedicate the Regimental Companion to His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, Colonel (now Lieut. General) Brownrigg, who was then Military Secretary, told him, that as the work would contain desultory observations which might be misconstrued into Rules and Regulations, the sanction of Head-Quarters could not be given. This objection, however, was waved with respect to the Military Dictionary.