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# THE MAN WHO BROKE NAPOLEON'S CODES: The Story of George Scovell

*Mark Urban*

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**Mark Urban : THE MAN WHO BROKE NAPOLEON'S CODES: The Story of George Scovell** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised THE MAN WHO BROKE NAPOLEON'S CODES: The Story of George Scovell:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on the Napoleonic campaigns in SpainBy M. AlmWritten in a narrative style, this book chronicles the secret war behind the Napoleonic campaigns in Spain from the time of the evacuation from Corunna through the final victories which sent Wellington's armies over the Pyrenees, chasing Napoleon I's supposedly invincible forces home. That Wellington was a superior general there is no doubt, but he did have his flaws -- a disdain for the common man which cost him on more than one occasion. Scovell, the man of the title, is a commoner, but without his breaking first the simpler cyphers initially used, and finally, the extraordinarily complex cypher which handed the British orders and plans, disclosed the internecine arguments between Napoleon's generals, as well as the incompetence of Bonaparte's brother Joseph, nominally the King of Spain, Britain could not have succeeded. Reading this book explained why some of the sites of specific battles were as important as they were. This is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in the Napoleonic campaigns, in espionage, or in cyphering. Just one note -- the maps are VERY hard to see on a Kindle! I had to pull them up on my computer to figure out what they said -- clearly, the graphics were not optimized for smaller screens!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding read!By JimSkinYou don't have to be a military person to understand the import of Scovall. This is a great read in that it gives the flavor of what it must have been like to campaign in the

early 1800's. Rising through the ranks is never easy and Scovall certainly proved that! I was totally engaged by the book because of Scovall's efforts, the description of the battles and its brutality to the troops. That we never have to face this in our day would be a welcome blessing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book started with a horrible awful scene of killing horses during a retreat that ...By ARGNot near as much code breaking as I anticipated, in fact I would say none in first third of book. However, it does say it is about the man who did it and I suppose it was and needed to start as early as it did. The book started with a horrible awful scene of killing horses during a retreat that seemed a good way to get folk to stop reading, just brutal. The rest went on with a nice casual style that was very easy to read. Engaging, but not as code driven as I expected

This work gives a compelling account of the officer who waged the intelligence battle against Napoleon's army, a forerunner to the great code-breakers of the 20th century. The French army, during the Peninsular War, used a code of unrivalled complexity - the 'Great Paris Cipher'. Major George Scovell used a network of Spani