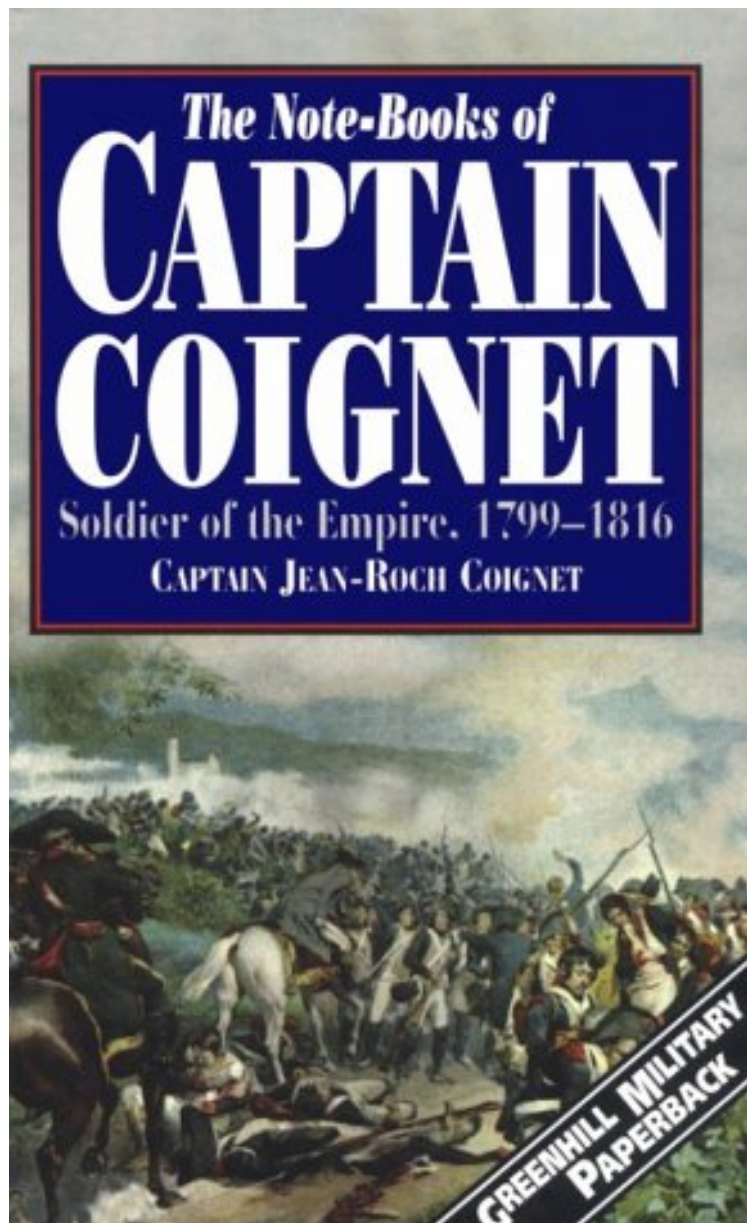


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The Notebooks of Captain Coignet: Soldier of the Empire, 1799-1816 (Greenhill Military Paperback)

Jean-Roch Coignet

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Jean-Roch Coignet : The Notebooks of Captain Coignet: Soldier of the Empire, 1799-1816 (Greenhill Military Paperback) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The

Notebooks of Captain Coignet: Soldier of the Empire, 1799-1816 (Greenhill Military Paperback):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Recaredo CastilloVery interesting first hand testimony of a Napoleonic grumbler.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Personne LenteOutstanding picture of the time.13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. An 'Old Sweat' Tells His TaleBy Kevin F. KileyThis is one of the top three Napoleonic memoirs that I would recommend, the other two being Parquins Souvenirs, and In the Legions of Napoleon by Brandt. Jean-Roche Coignet started as an illiterate private, and worked his way up to Captain in the Imperial Guard, one of those loyal, ever-present, tough as nails Grumblers that marched and fought the length and breadth of Europe.Coignet distinguishes himself in his first fight at Montebello in northern Italy in 1800 and is rewarded with a loaf of bread by Berthier, Napoleon's chief of staff. He is almost killed a few days later at Marengo, one of the few who survived in his company, and getting whacked over the shoulder by an Austrian cavalryman, which does effectively cut off his queue, which saves his life.He is one of the first recipients of the Legion of Honor in 1804, serves throughout the wars all the way to Waterloo, and kills a Prussian officer in a one-on-one contest between the lines outside of Paris. The Prussian was yelling insults and made him angry.This is a great tale, well told by a loyal, hardworking, very good soldier who did more than his assigned duty. I have a picture of Jean-Roche Coignet, a photograph taken in old age-he still looks as if he could eat nails for breakfast, and wouldn't take too kindly of insults against his Emperor. Just seeing the picture made me believe the book.

These memoirs, regarded as among the best of the Napoleonic period, create an abiding impression of life in Napoleon's armies. First time in paperback.