



**Major Thomas Pearson, 23rd Regiment of Foot,
Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1810**

Thomas Pearson sat for this miniature (signed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1811 by the artist Robert Field) shortly before he sailed for Portugal in October 1810. Aged 29, Pearson had recently married Ann Eliza Coffin of New Brunswick and this portrait was probably done because he was leaving his bride for an active theatre of war. Compared with the 1805 portrait on page xxii, Pearson appears to have softened somewhat in the intervening years but this may be a temporary aberration attributable to his recent marriage. He would shortly be back at work doing what he did best – killing Frenchmen – and about six months after sitting for this portrait would win promotion for his part in the battle of Albuera, the bloodiest engagement of the Peninsular War. (Courtesy, Royal Ontario Museum (980.277), Toronto, Canada)

Donald E. Graves

Fix Bayonets!

A ROYAL WELCH FUSILIER AT WAR,
1796–1815

Being the Life and Times of
Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Pearson, CB, KCH
1781–1847

Foreword by
Major-General J. P. Riley, DSO

Maps and diagrams by
Christopher Johnson

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