



CONTENTS

Map xi

1. Who tells the news? 1

I: STIRRING, 1789–1792

2. Down with Tom Paine! 13

II: ARMING, 1793–1796

3. The universal pant for glory 27

4. Flanders and Toulon 39

5. Scarlet, shoes and guns 46

6. British tars 56

7. Trials and tribulations 67

8. Warp and weft 78

9. Money, city and country 88

10. 'Are we forgotten?' 101

11. High life 109

12. Four farmers 120

13. Portsmouth deliveries 130

14. Bread 139

15. East and west 151

III : WATCHING, 1797–1801

- 16. Invasions, spies and poets 163
- 17. Mutinies and militia 172
- 18. Cash in hand 182
- 19. At sea and on land 191
- 20. The powerhouse 200
- 21. 'Check proud invasion's boast' 210
- 22. Ireland 224
- 23. The Nile and beyond 233
- 24. 'The distressedness of the times' 243
- 25. God on our side 254
- 26. 'Good men should now close ranks' 268
- 27. Denmark, Egypt, Boulogne – peace 276

IV : PAUSING, 1801–1803

- 28. France 289
- 29. New voices 297
- 30. 'Always capable of doing mischief' 309
- 31. Albion 318

V : SAILING, 1803–1808

- 32. Into war again 335
- 33. 'Fine strapping fellows' 346
- 34. Press gangs and fencibles 355
- 35. Panic and propaganda 365
- 36. 'Every farthing I can get' 378
- 37. The business of defence 384
- 38. Trafalgar 395
- 39. All the talents 407
- 40. Private lives 420
- 41. Abolition and after 430
- 42. Danes and Turks 438

43. Orders in council 444

44. Land 455

VI : FIGHTING, 1809–1815

45. 'Caesar is everywhere' 469

46. Scandals, Flanders and fevers 481

47. Going to the show 490

48. Burdett and press freedom 499

49. 'Brookes's and Buonaparte', Cintra and Troy 505

50. Storms of trade 513

51. The coming of the sheep 524

52. Sieges and prisoners 535

53. Luddites and protests 545

54. Prince, Perceval, Portland 554

55. Three fronts 566

56. Sailors 575

57. Swagger and civilisation 582

58. 'We are to have our rejoicings' 595

VII : ENDINGS, 1815 and beyond

59. To Waterloo and St Helena 615

60. Afterwards 624

Principal events of the wars 643

Acknowledgements 653

Sources and abbreviations 655

Select Bibliography 657

Notes 665

List of illustrations 709

Index 713