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Dutch Armies Of The 80 Years' War 1568–1648 (1): Infantry (Men-at-Arms)



Synopsis

The 80 Years' War (also known as the Dutch War of Independence) was the foundation of Dutch nationhood, and during the course of the conflict one of its main leaders--Maurice of Orange-Nassau--created an army and a tactical system that became a model throughout Europe. This study, the first of a two-part series, focuses on the Dutch infantry. It examines how Maurice of Orange-Nassau attracted volunteers and students from across Europe, introduced innovative new training methods such as common drill movements, and standardized the organization and payment system of the army to make it more than a match for the occupying Spanish. His successes inspired officers and generals across the continent to copy his methods, including many English officers who went on to fight in the English Civil Wars. Featuring full-color artwork and rare period illustrations, this book examines how the Dutch infantry was transformed into a fighting force able to defeat the might of Imperial Spain.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I went back to the primary sources - the diaries, notes and histories penned down by the military men who've shaped and experienced the war. That has resulted in some interesting discoveries (skirmisher corps, infantry guns, cavalry tactics, etc), the rediscovery of many forgotten battles, and the proper definition of Maurice's military revolution: the introduction of drill (with two-part commands and in-step manoeuvring). The two volumes combined are the most comprehensive and historically correct description to date of the men, equipment, organisation and

tactics of the Dutch army of the 80 Years' War (1568-1648). Volume 1 includes: a detailed description of infantry combat drill, 4 new and several period diagrams showing how battalions, regiments and brigades deployed, 8 colour plates (showing 18 infantry men and 18 banners), around 40 contemporary B&W illustrations, a chronology of the 120+ battles with a map showing the location of most, and a regimental genealogy. Volume 2 includes: a detailed description of cavalry combat drill, 4 new period diagrams showing how squadrons, regiments and armies deployed, 8 colour plates (showing 12 cavalry men (4 mounted), 2 guns with crew and a limber, and 13 banners & pennons), around 40 contemporary B&W illustrations, a chronology of the 150+ sieges with a map showing the location of most (same map as vol 1), and a table with artillery specs.

Bouko de Groot has a B.A. in art history and an M.A. in Egyptology. He currently lives in Germany. He has served in the army and has published academic, popular scientific, and business journalistic articles. Gerry Embleton is an illustrator, researcher, and internationally respected authority on 15th- and 18th-century costumes. He lives in Switzerland, where since 1988 he has also been well known for designing and creating life-size historical figures for museums.

Normal Osprey book

Good book with few it he

The Osprey books have a fine reputation, and well deserved. Bouko de Groot has written a particularly fine example. His prose flows from his pen in a way that is more like a story than stilted, academic styling. As usual, we get a lot of information packed into a few pages. As an introduction to the subject it gives history buffs like me a solid foundation for further explorations. The period portraits of soldiers and their equipment by Gerry and Sam Embleton also meet the high Osprey standards. Viewing them we have a good grasp on what the gear and clothing of the period looked like.

Osprey's books are always excellent, but I was disappointed that there were no central color plates. I hope volume 2 (cavalry) will be out soon.

The historical information here is obsolete and biased, as typical for most Dutch historians regarding the Revolt (all Rebels are angels in white, all Spanish are evil child-eaters and such stuff). The list of

battles is useless without details and does not differentiate between battles and skirmishes. The information on the Dutch armies is much better in Nimwegen's work and the Excercise of Arms collection. The book copy-pastes from these works but fails to capture the essence and only lists exterior changes without the reasons, pros and cons. The book falls far behind such Osprey titles as on the Gustavus's armies.

Good foundational book on Dutch war for independence and the tactical innovations of humanist-inspired Dutch military leaders.

An excellent book, that clears up and adds to the information concerning the Dutch armies during this period.

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