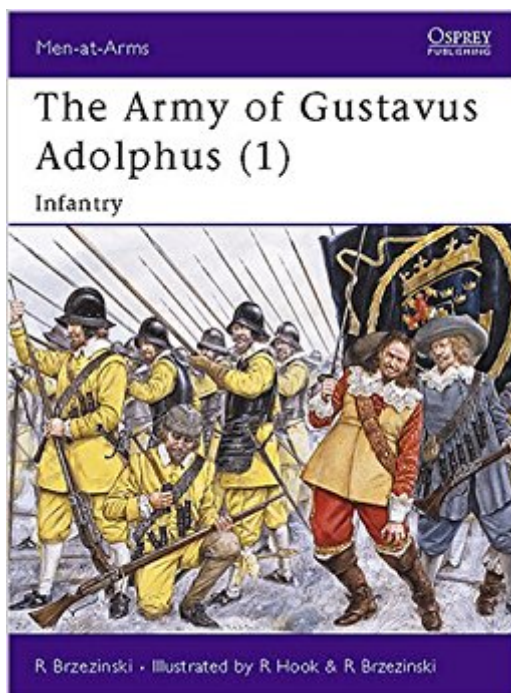


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The Army Of Gustavus Adolphus (1): Infantry (Men-at-Arms)



Synopsis

The 'Lion of the North', King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, was one of the major players in the Thirty Years War of 1618-48. In 1630 Gustavus - the last champion of the Protestants - crushed the Catholics at Breitenfeld in a victory widely viewed as the fulfillment of a prophecy foretelling the defeat of the eagle (the German Emperor's emblem) by a golden lion. Killed in battle at Lützen only two years later, Gustavus nevertheless won fame for his technical and tactical innovations. The first of two volumes, this book examines the equipment, uniforms and organization of the infantry that comprised Gustavus's army.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Packed with specially commissioned artwork, maps and diagrams, the Men-at-Arms series is an unrivalled illustrated reference on the history, organisation, uniforms and equipment of the world's military forces, past and present.

Richard Brzezinski is a leading expert on the military history of Central and Eastern Europe. A fluent Polish speaker, he has researched the Polish Hussars for many years and acted as a historical consultant for film and television on this subject. He lives in Warsaw, Poland.

The Army of Gustavus Adolphus 1 Infantry by Richard Brzezinski Illustrated by R. Brzezinski and Richard Hook This first of a two volume set on Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus covers both

Swedish national army troops and units and mercenary units. In Swedish usage the hired troops are listed as 'enlisted' soldiers to differentiate them from the Swedish national troops who were conscripted. Brzezinski give us a wealth of information on King Gustavus' army. He tells us about how the army was recruited and organized. He covers uniforms, their history, kinds of cloth and colors, which will be useful for modelers. He even has organizational tables for Swedish regiments, both national and 'enlisted'. He lists regimental colonels and in some cases gives brief biographical information for them. Brzezinski also tells us about the weapons used by the Swedes and also their armor, if any. The drawings by the author and Richard Hook, his collaborator, brightly and clearly show the weapons, equipment and uniforms for a number of Swedish units. We should consider this slender Osprey Men-At-Arms volume as among the better in the huge body of Osprey work. A lot of useful information is packed into 49 pages. The writing is direct and the organization thought through. Brzezinski gives us a lot of data but not too much, not too spread out and all of it to the point. Part 2 will cover artillery, cavalry and the tactics used by the Swedish army under its famous king.

A good addition to the collection.

The artist of this book is outstanding

Often referred to as the "Lion of the North," Gustavus Adolphus, who was the Protestant king of Sweden, was a leading contributor and tactical genius during the Thirty Years War of 1618-48. Adolphus was King of Sweden from 1611 to 1632, and was a tremendous force behind the creation of Sweden as a force to be reckoned with in 17th century Europe. Adolphus led Sweden's military to ultimate supremacy during the latter part of the Thirty Years War, reaching its apex in 1631, at the Battle of Breitenfeld. He was also instrumental in determining the future of political and religious balances of power in Europe until his death in 1632. The first of two volumes of Osprey books on this topic of the Thirty Years War deals primarily with Gustavus Adolphus Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery. In particular, this short overview examines the military equipment, styles and differences in uniforms, and the overall military infrastructure of the infantry that comprised Gustavus's army during its height and power. The book is typical of Osprey books: it has 48 pages in length, several color drawings of the Swedish military, and detailed maps and accompaniments to better help illustrate the overall outlook of the war. If you're looking for something in depth and extremely detailed, then you better look elsewhere. This, like all Osprey books, is simply an initiation to the

Thirty Years War, not a detailed account. For what the book is, it's pretty good. It gives beginners a look at this often overlooked and bypassed part of European history. It is great to get you interested piqued and leave you wanting more, and I guess in some respects, that is what it is supposed to do.

This is one of the better Ospreys that I have read, and the author should be congratulated for presenting a concise and entertaining narrative on a neglected topic (30 Years War). The modern photographs and contemporary line drawings are excellent, and they blend in well with the text. Brzezinski should also be commended for presenting a more balanced view of Gustavus Adolphus, who was certainly one of history's great leaders, but he didn't do everything. Several popular myths surrounding the Swedish king are challenged in a logical and non-confrontational fashion. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and now you can too - Osprey just issued a special edition to bring this title back into print. Whether you're a novice or expert on this fascinating period of history, this is a very worthwhile purchase.

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