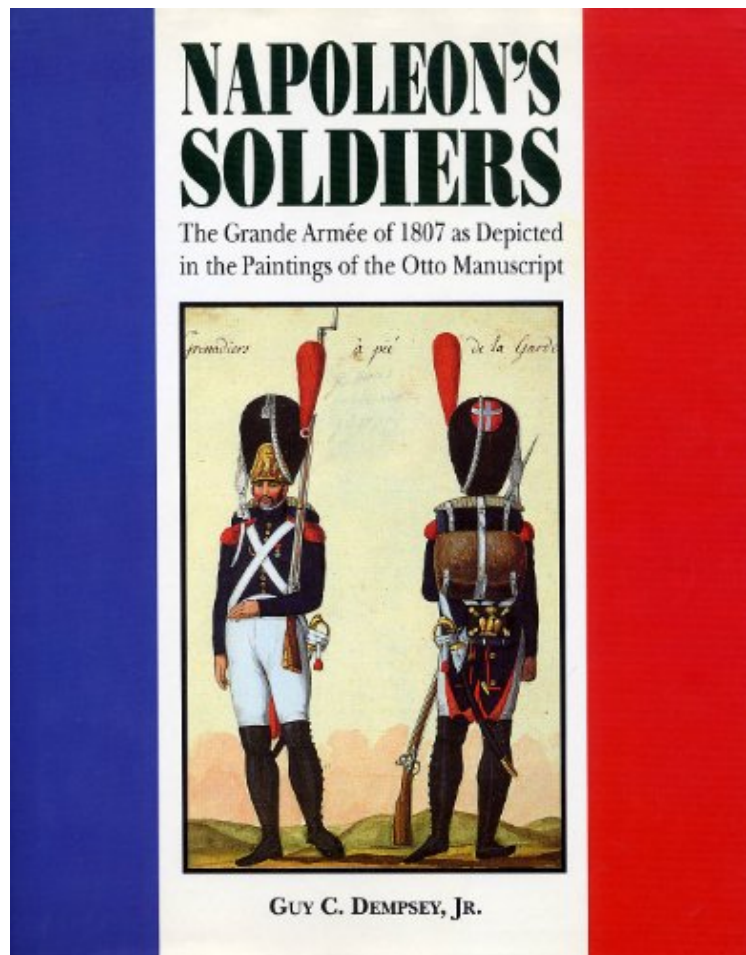


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## Napoleon's Soldiers: The Grande Armee of 1807 As Depicted in the Paintings of the Otto Manuscript

Guy C., Jr. Dempsey

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**Guy C., Jr. Dempsey : Napoleon's Soldiers: The Grande Armee of 1807 As Depicted in the Paintings of the Otto Manuscript** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Napoleon's Soldiers: The Grande Armee of 1807 As Depicted in the Paintings of the Otto Manuscript:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An essential sourceBy Fred HockerThe Otto Manuscript, containing a number of paintings of the soldiers of Napoleon's Grande Armee in the year of Friedland, was apparently painted from life by an amateur with an eye for detail. As a primary source, it is invaluable for its evidence of the actual appearance of the French army at the height of its greatness under Napoleon, and during a period when uniform regulations were altering the basic appearance of the soldier. This volume presents, for the first time, color reproductions of all of the plates, at a useful size, with commentary by the author. The reproduction is of excellent

quality, and places this book on the "must have" list for anyone interested in Napoleonic uniforms. The commentary is perhaps less consistently helpful. The author is apparently an amateur scholar and unfamiliar with the conventions of referencing sources. He also does not have a very good eye for detail, as in several places he makes observations concerning the paintings that are belied by a careful examination of the illustration. His views on the fading/discolouration of watercolor pigments do not reflect much familiarity with the chemistry and behaviour of those pigments, and so the comments regarding each figure must be treated cautiously. On the other hand, his introduction provides an excellent exposition of the history of the document and a cogent analysis of its reliability. Despite these minor failings, Mr. Dempsey is to be commended for bringing these paintings to publication in a work of such a high standard. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding. By A Customer Little needs to be said. If this book were only a reproduction of these illustrations, it would be a bargain, but Dempsey's commentary provides a great deal of insight placing the illustrations in context and identifying anomalies and commonalities.

This text contains colour plates of paintings from the Otto Manuscript along with captions and commentary, providing an idea of what uniforms, equipment and battlefields of the Napoleonic era looked like. This book is intended to be of use to re-enactment groups, wargamers and modellers.