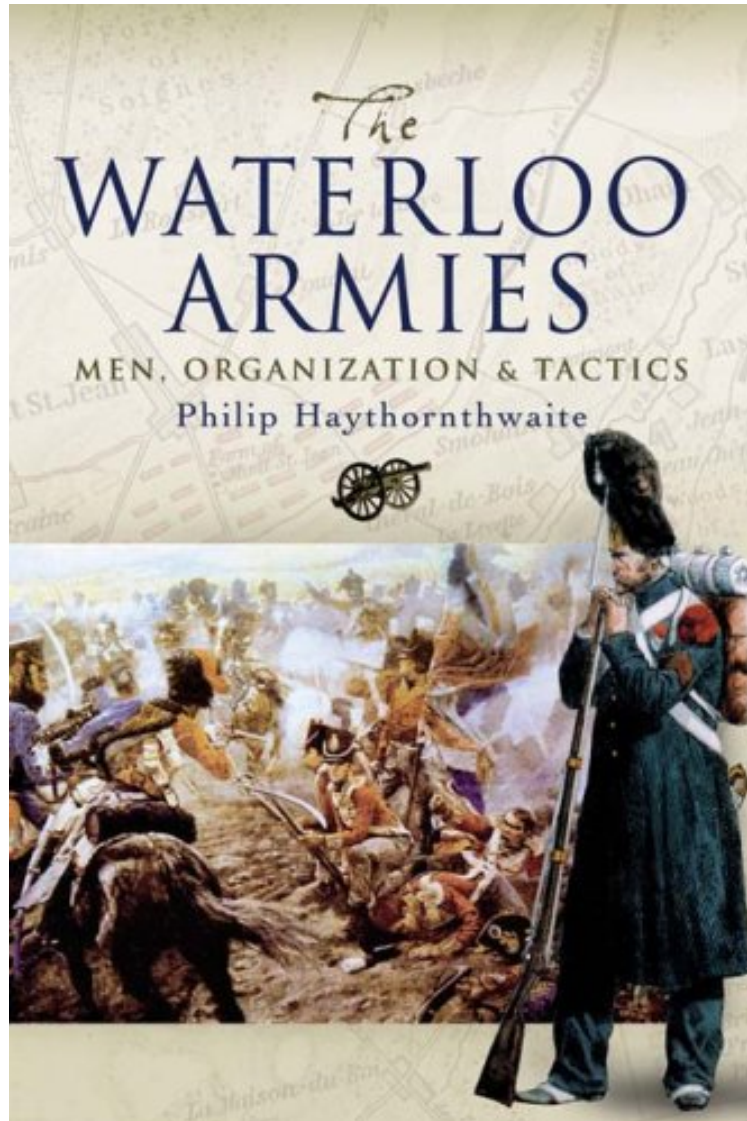


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The Waterloo Armies: Men, Organization and Tactics

Philip Haythornthwaite

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Philip Haythornthwaite : The Waterloo Armies: Men, Organization and Tactics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Waterloo Armies: Men, Organization and Tactics:

18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. UnderwhelmingBy Bruce TrinqueI am sorry to say that I do not like Philip Haythornthwaite's "The Waterloo Armies: Men, Organization Tactics" more than I do. It is not that it is a poorly written or inaccurate work, but its scope is more limited than what I had hoped, and it lacks the nitty-gritty kind of details that I prefer. Although each corps and division (and its commander) is described, this same information is

already available (and more colorfully presented) in Mark Adkin's "The Waterloo Companion". (I would say that if you are interested in Waterloo and do not have Adkin's excellent book, then Haythornthwaite's "The Waterloo Armies" is probably worth reading.) Like I said, not a bad book, but somewhat underwhelming. 9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. specifics of formations, weaponry, casualties, etc., of the crucial battle. By Henry Berry. For anyone looking for a wealth of details on the fateful three-day battle of Waterloo in 1815, this is the book. The big story of Waterloo is well-known and occasionally reexamined--namely, the decisive defeat of Napoleon with the consequence of more or less making for modern Europe as it continues into the present. The military historian Haythornthwaite concentrating on the Napoleonic era relates the countless details behind this big story. What Haythornthwaite does in this book is relate countless specifics about uniforms, maneuvers, combat formations, weaponry, and tactics of the armies involved in Waterloo. This adds dimension to other accounts of the battle; which in most cases are straightforward, linear accounts of the battle as it unfolded. No matter how well one knows the battle of Waterloo or nineteenth-century European warfare, one will learn something from this work to enhance this knowledge. Knowing such details as what guard duty was like for French soldiers, what options officers had for deploying their units depending on the terrain, the formations and strengths of the units whose maneuverings had a role in the battle's outcome, the organization of the armies, how different kinds of forces such as cavalry and foot soldiers fought against each other, and battlefield communication cannot but add to a grasp of the nature of and appreciation of the battle. Even knowing the statistics such as numbers of officers and enlisted men in each unit, number of artillery pieces in these units, and casualties grouped in the appendices adds to the drama and human toll of the crucial battle. "One of the most characteristic features of French infantry attacks was that they were usually preceded by large numbers of skirmishers, who could harass the enemy line with sharpshooting while concealing the extent of the following troops from the enemy's view." This tactic, however, put to use only the first two rows of a column of troops. Thus the author reasons that unit commanders would break the column formation to spread the troops out in a line to "maximize their firepower" where there was space to do this. In the Netherlands Army taking part in Waterloo, "Infantry battalions each comprised six companies, of which two were flank companies (sometimes styled 'heavy' and 'light') corresponding to the grenadiers and voltigeurs in French battalions." The book is filled with such specified, interrelated details about early 19th-century armies and warfare giving shape to Waterloo. This makes this distinctive work required prefatory reading for reading any other account or analysis of the battle. For Haythornthwaite's "Waterloo Armies" adds depth to understanding of it. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Suggestion... By Flavio A. Martins. This is an excellent reading book with a lot of interesting details about troops and it's commanders during the Waterloo's Campaign. My only suggestion, if I can do some is to print the plates in color like the others books from this author and not in black withe. However I liked it very much.

Waterloo is one of the most famous battles in history and it has given rise to a vast and varied literature. The strategy and tactics of the battle and the entire Waterloo campaign have been analysed at length. The commanders, manoeuvres and critical episodes, and the intense experiences of the men who took part, have all been recorded in minute detail. But the organization, structure and fighting strength of the armies that fought in the battle have received less attention, and this is the subject of Philip Haythornthwaite's detailed, authoritative and engaging study. Through a close description of the structure and personnel of each of the armies he builds up a fascinating picture of their makeup, their methods and their capabilities. The insight he offers into the contrasting styles and national characteristics of the forces that came together on the Waterloo battlefield gives a fresh perspective on the extraordinary clash of arms that ended the Napoleonic era.

"...distinctive work... required prefatory reading for reading any other account or analysis of the battle." (Midwest Book) "For anyone looking for a wealth of details on the fateful three-day battle of Waterloo in 1815, this is the book... required prefatory reading for reading any other account or analysis of the battle." (Midwest Book) About the Author Philip Haythornthwaite is one of the most distinguished and prolific writers on the military history of the Napoleonic era. He has long been established as an authority on the major battles of the time, in particular those fought in the Iberian peninsula, and he has made a special study of the armies and the soldiers who confronted each other across Europe during 15 years of almost continuous warfare. His many previous books include: *The Peninsular War: The Complete Companion to the Iberian Campaigns 1807-14*; *The Armies of Wellington*; *Waterloo Men: The Experience of Battle, 16-18 June 1815*; *Die Hard! Famous Napoleonic Battles*; *The Napoleonic Source Book*; *Who Was Who in the Napoleonic Wars*; *Wellington's Army: The Uniforms of the British Soldier 1812-1815* and *Waterloo Armies*.