The Normans

Osprey Elite series No. 9 (1987) Text by David Nicolle; color plates by Angus McBride

Contents:

The Norman Legacy
Arms, Armour and Tactics
The Normans in Normandy
The Normans in Britain and Ireland
The Normans in Italy and Sicily
The Normans in the East

Early Normans 1025-50 ó bishop, miles, serjeant

Colour Plates:

Hastings 1066 ó Duke William, Bishop Odo, archer, Breton knight, infantryman, Saxon huscarl
Norman England 1100-1140 ó noblewoman, squire, knight
The Fall of Normandy 1160-1200 ó knight, serjeant, welsh auxiliary
Ireland and Scotland ó knight, Gaelic warrior, Hebridean warrior
Italy and Sicily ó knight, Neapolitan infantry, Sicilian archer, nobleman, guardsman, levy
The East ó crusader, ex-Byzantine mercenary, Oshin the Hethoumian
Antioch ó knight, crusader, turcopole
Castles and fortifications
Ships

Comments:

The focus is on campaign histories in various parts of the world but with interesting general history interleaved. The discussion on arms and tactics is short but good. The striking thing is the extent of the Normansøactivities and the breadth of time covered ó one thinks of 1066 without always realising that Norman influence was wide and long-lasting -- many of the crusaders as late as the late 13th century were distinctively Norman, as opposed to generically medieval. An excellent history lesson with costume covered in the plates.

--Paul Le Long

