

The Armies of Bolivar and San Martin
Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 232 (1991)
By Terry Hooker and Ron Poulter; colour plates by Ron Poulter

Contents:

Introduction
Chronology
Bolivar's First Campaigns
The British Legion
Bolivar's Campaigns 1817-21
Alto Peru and Northern Argentina 1810-21
The Army of the Andes
The Peruvian Campaign 1820-22
Bolivar's Western Campaigns 1821-24
Units and Uniforms
Orders of Battle

Colour Plates:

Cazadores De Vanguardia
Jose Antonia Paez and his guard of honour
Simon Bolivar and guard
British infantry, artillery and rifles
Venezuelan infantry
Hussars
Argentinian militia cavalry
General Miguel Martin de Guemes
Horse grenadier and gaucho cavalry
General San Martin
Cazadores
Peruvian and Colombian hussars
Peruvian and Colombian grenadiers

Comments:

The bulk of the book is taken up with campaign histories ranging over most of the South American continent. There is a section on uniforms ó the thing to note here is the similarity of many uniforms with òtraditionalö Napoleonic uniforms that many wargamers will already own. Detailed orders of battle (for both sides) are listed for the following battles: Chacabuc 1817, Maipu 1818, Boyaca 1819, Carabobo 1821, Ayacucho 1824.

There is no information on the enemies of Bolivar and San Martin and the coverage of British forces is a little out of proportion (too much) but on the whole this is the book you must read when starting out in this wargaming backwater.

For gamers with Napoleonic armies already in their collection, these conflicts are well worth investigating as there is a lot of cross-over with troops and uniforms, tactics are the same so existing rules will work nicely and the armies are generally much smaller.

--Paul Le Long

