

**The Algerian War 1954-62**  
Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 312 (1997)  
Text by Martin Windrow; colour plates by Mike Chappell

**Contents:**

Background  
The Army of National Liberation (ANL)  
The French Army in Algeria

**Colour Plates:**

A: Algerian Troops (1959)  
B: Les Paras  
C: French Paratrooper & Conscripts (Winter & Summer Dress)  
D: French Infantry (4 examples)  
E: French Infantry Officers (3) & Marine  
F: ALN ó mixed dress  
G: ALN - Uniformed  
H: French Administrative units (including shotgun armed nurse)

**Comments:**

The long conflict in Algeria is a somewhat neglected subject, but was at the time as important to France as Vietnam would be a decade later to the USA. Starting from a very good, if necessarily concise, background to the conflict, this MAA title continues in almost the style of the Campaign series. There is, naturally, no lack of information on the uniforms of both sides -- although early on this term is hardly appropriate to the mainly civilian dress of the ALN. The excellent colour plates are drawn from period photographs -- on occasion a figure is presented as an amalgam of two or three photographic references in order to give a better idea of potential dress variations adopted by both sides. The opposing sides are also described in terms of command structure and morale -- very useful information for the wargamer.

An especially useful feature of the book is the "Representative Actions" used to illustrate the type of activities different ALN units and French regiments were typically involved in. These become one-page mini-scenarios which could be played in total or used as an inspiration for realistic scenarios. These are a very good idea.

The profusion of very well-chosen photographs give good examples of the wide variety of dress and weaponry available to the two armies. A typical example might show later ALN troops in a fairly regular uniform, but with 1886 Lebel rifles, apart from an NCO with an MP40! The French similarly have a wide variety of weaponry available to them as they move from being rearmed with WWII, mostly American, equipment to more modern weaponry. So there are M1 carbines, M3 SMGs, BARs and 57mm recoilless rifles, there is transport from the horse through M3 halftracks, jeep and Dodge trucks all the way to helicopters -- Sud Alouette IIs and Vertol H-21s.

In all, this is an exemplary MAA title for the wargamer -- plenty of background, good uniform and equipment information, examples of combat situations. It offers a concise introduction to a less well known conflict -- and is highly recommended.

**--Jonathan Aird**

Men-at-Arms

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PUBLISHING

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Martin Windrow • Illustrated by Mike Chappell