Armies of the Adowa Campaign 1896: The Italian Disaster in Ethiopia

Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 471 (2011) Text by Sean McLachlan; color plates by Raffaele Ruggeri

Contents:

Italyøs East African Ambitions Chronology The Mahdist Challenge 1890-94 Confrontation with Ethiopia 1895 Adowa: The Italian Advance The Battle The Ethiopian Army The Italian Army

Colour Plates:

Ethiopian leaders
Ethiopian warriors (5 foot, 1 mounted)
Italian Infantry (3 figures)
Ethiopian cavalry
Ascari cavalry
Italian officers (6)
Ethiopian guide
Ascari infantry (3)

Comments:

This is an excellent campaign guide. Background to the campaign is presented, along with a narrative of the campaign and the battle. There is also a discussion about both armies ó training, logistics, tactics, motivation and so on. There is nothing on uniforms aside from the plates. A fascinating book, well-constructed, which provides everything you need to refight the campaign and battle ó it is also a nice change from the more traditional British versus natives type of colonial game. One interesting point to note: the Italian army largely consisted of Ascari (allied native troops) and these were of better quality than Italian troops.

--Paul Le Long

