The Portuguese in the Age of Discovery

Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 484 (2012) Text by David Nicolle; color plates by Gerry and Sam Embleton

Contents:

Introduction
Chronology
Portuguese Armies before the 100 YearsøWar
Organization & Recruitment c.1400-1560
Mercenaries & Colonial Forces
Motivation, Training & Morale
Strategy & Tactics
Warships, Equipment & Weapons

Color Plates:

Sergeant & Knights mid-14th century
Canary Islands early 15th century ó knight, handgunner & scribe
Slave raiders 15th century ó commander, crossbowman, sailor
Morocco 16th century ó man-at-arms, cavalrymen
Ethiopia 16th century ó infantrymen, Ethiopian noble cavalry
Brazil 16th century ó chief, nobleman, retainer
Indian Ocean 16th-17th century (3 soldiers)
Southern Africa 17th century ó soldier & officer, African warrior

Comments:

A mix of history, uniforms, weapons and tactics. Everything you could want to know about the organisation of Portuguese colonial forces in the period. The history focuses on Portugal itself rather than the history of its colonies. The discussion of colonial strategy is interesting.

--Paul Le Long

