

The English Civil War Armies

Osprey Men-At-Arms series No. 14 (1973)
Text by Peter Young; colour plates by Michael Roffe

Review by Jonathan Aird

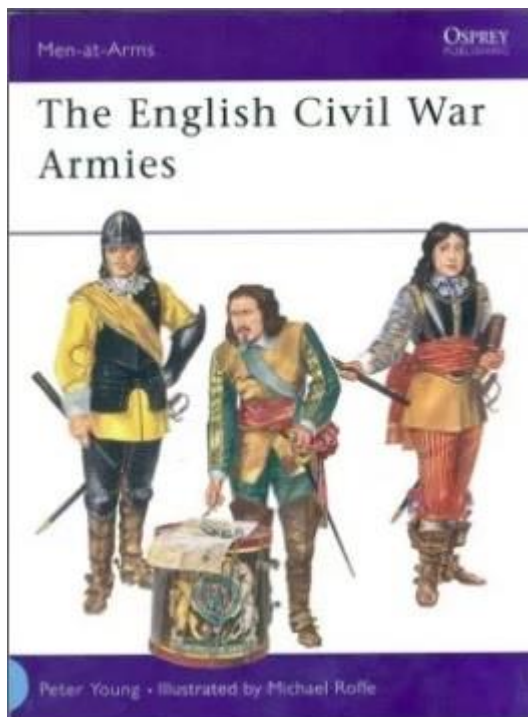
Contents:

Introduction / Chronology
The Fighting
The Horse
Discipline
The Foot
The Train of Artillery

Colour Plates:

A: King Charles I, Sir Edward Walker, Prince Charles
B: Sir Charles Lucas
C: Trumpeter, Captain Sir Richard Astley's Troop of Horse
D: Officer of Horse or Dragoons
E: Pikeman (Lord Brooke's Regiment), Roundhead Commander, Musketeer
F: Lieutenant of a Bluecoats Regt., Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes, Colonel Sir Richard Willys
G: Ensign (Lamplugh's Regiment of foot), Drummer of a redcoat regiment, Royalist Sergeant of a greencoat regiment
H: Colours - 9 flags and a trumpet banner

That the numbering is so low - MAA 14 - is an indicator of the age of this volume and it is indeed an Osprey of a very different feather. It reflects a less academical bent than is found in many modern Ospreys and is far more a primer for the period, aiming to give a good guide to the armies and their uniforms and also a fine taster for the period. This last is achieved



through the regular interjection of period detail from letters and journals of the time - which makes the section entitled The Fighting a spirited read in particular.

The colour plates are all excellent and show what a colourful array can be fielded. As well as these, there are a large number of black and white illustrations -- contemporary woodcuts, photographs of surviving fortifications as well as arms and armour. Peter Young was the founder of the English Civil War re-enactment society The Sealed Knot, so is unsurprisingly an engaging author on his subject and his genuine enthusiasm shines through. The book certainly provides enough information to get started in painting up and organising an army - although Osprey latterly realised that there was room for many more titles to cover this fascinating period of British history. The contemporary descriptions of battles certainly

offer a challenge to any wargame rules to recreate them - chaos and luck (good or ill) being common themes.

This may be an old one - but it's still got merit.