

Queen Victoria's Enemies (2): Northern Africa

Osprey Men-at-Arms series no. 215 (1989)

Text by Ian Knight. Colour plates by Richard Scollins.

ISBN 0-85045-937-0

Osprey Publishing Ltd.

Reviewed by Martin Smith

Contents:

Introduction

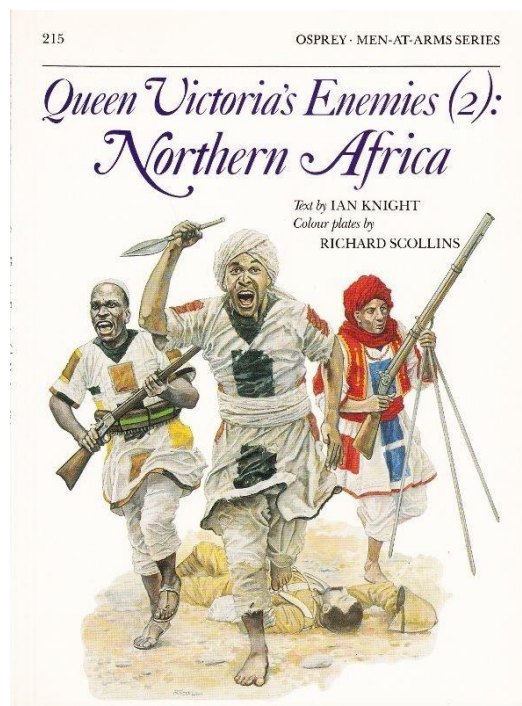
Abyssinia 1868

Asante

Egypt 1882

The Sudan

Kenya, Northern Nigeria, Somaliland



Colour Plates:

A: Abyssinian warriors c1868

B: Abyssinian warriors c1868

C: Asante warriors, 1873-1900

D: Egyptian troops, c1882

E: Early Mahdists, Sudan 1882-85

F: Mahdists, 1885-98

G: Mahdists, c1898

H: Miscellaneous warriors, 1890s

Ian Knight is perhaps better known for his many publications relating to southern Africa in the colonial period, but here he addresses the northern part of the continent, and specifically those major African nations (and a couple of arguably minor ones) which found themselves on the receiving end of the attention of Her Majesty's Government during Queen Victoria's long reign*.

Each of the four main sections gives a description of the campaigns involved, and also some details of the dress, arms and equipment of the nation in question, while the last section on three lesser campaigns is by necessity somewhat brief.

Rick Scollins' colour plates back up the text extremely well, and the author's plate descriptions ensure the reader comes away with a very good impression of what the British regulars might find themselves facing, whether fighting the Asante (sometimes called Ashanti) in the hot and sweaty dense bush of West Africa (modern Ghana) or the Mahdists under the merciless sun in the dusty wastelands of the Sudan. Well-chosen black and white contemporary newspaper illustrations as well as photos of warriors and surviving equipment now in museums all add well to the reader's appreciation of the subject. A good primer for any wargamer interested in Britain's colonial wars in northern Africa in the later C19th.

*(N.B. for British uniforms for the period, an Author's Note redirects the reader to MAAs 193, 196, 198 and 201)