

# Scots Armies of the English Civil Wars

Osprey Men-at-Arms series no. 331 (1999)

Text by Stuart Reid. Colour plates by Graham Turner.

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Review by Martin Smith

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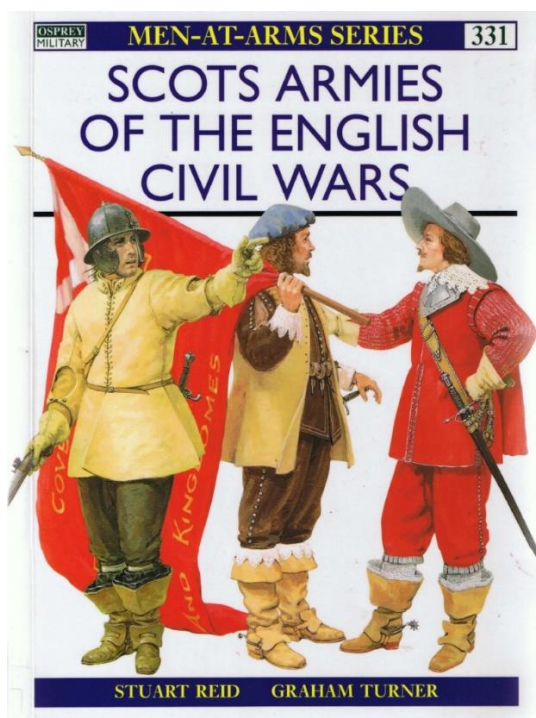
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As regular reviewer Jonathan Aird mentioned in his look at a MAA 14, Osprey's earlier 'The English Civil War Armies' left plenty of scope for further titles to delve deeper into the period, and the book now under review specifically addresses armed forces from Scotland in the mid-17th Century. This later MAA provides a wealth of information relating to all aspects of Scottish armies from around 1638 to 1650, including the Bishops Wars of 1639-40, overseas service in

Ulster, 1642, Covenanter and 'Royalist' (i.e. Montrose) forces and the Preston and Dunbar campaigns, and as usual includes information on dress, equipment and organisation.

The Chronology section provides a well-constructed assessment of the key events of the period being examined and sets the scene for the chapters which follow. The discussions of specific troop types - infantry, cavalry, dragoons, and artillery - as well as information on organisation, is conveyed in a clear and informative way, with useful historical references mixed in to back up the author's comments. While there are only a couple of pages dedicated to flags in the text, an infantry colour or cavalry cornet appears in each of the colour plates, and additionally there are twenty black and white depictions of these, all with useful descriptions, while the 'Army at Dunbar' section also mentions known standards in its list of regiments involved.

The author, Stuart Reid, is well known in his field, with extensive knowledge of his subject backed up by thorough research as well as involvement in re-enactment, while Graham Turner, the illustrator, has produced some excellent colour plates, which capture the feel of the period and setting.

Readable and insightful, the book passes on a wealth of information without becoming bogged down in excessive detail. Before reading this Osprey my knowledge of matters 'north of the border' was minimal, but I came away feeling enlightened and far better informed.

In summary, if you're a wargamer looking for a well-presented guide to armies from Scotland during the 'Wars of the Three Kingdoms' (another possibly more appropriate name for the 'English' Civil Wars) then I think you'll find this a very useful starting point indeed.

(NB - Highlanders, as mentioned in an author's note, are not covered, the prospective reader being redirected to Osprey's Warrior 21 title).