



‘Famous By My Sword’, The Army of Montrose and the Military Revolution.

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Maps by George Anderson.
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Chronology of the First Civil War in Scotland

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This 18 x 24.5 cm, 72 page softback (approximately 'Osprey size') is #1 in "Helion's Century of the Soldier 1618-1721" series, the first of publisher Helion's now extensive range of books dedicated to the era of Pike and Shot warfare. Its subject matter is the Scots Royalist Army raised by James Graham, Marquess of Montrose, after his split with the Scots Government of the day (often referred to as the Covenanters) and its battles in 1644-1645.

The book's first chapter begins with a brief summary of Scots forces early in the 17th Century and their constituent parts - Infantry, Cavalry and Ordnance - and then notes the prevalence of Scots taking employment and gaining experience with the militaries of various European powers. The following chapter comments on the perception of military change in that century (the 'Military Revolution' of the title), and how this relates to Montrose's force.

Chapters 3, 4 and 5 cover the forces at Montrose's disposal, with a revealing and revisionary analysis of the effectiveness of Highland troops and discussion on the source and level of training of his regulars, including the famous 'Irish Brigade'.

Illustrations throughout this book are of very good quality, while clear, well-presented maps of each clash enhance the Battlefield Performance section, which lists and comments upon the battles of Montrose's small army.

The colour plates, a mix of photos and coloured illustrations, give the reader a fine appreciation of the look of the soldiers who fought for the Marquess, both having been based upon and well informed by archaeological and textual references.

This short book dispels a few wargamer myths, is crammed with useful information, all of it well sourced, and would be hard to beat for any gamer seeking an introduction to the forces available to the Scots Royalist cause. This was my first purchase from publisher Helion and Company, and I was impressed, so much so that I subsequently ordered five more titles. Their catalogue has expanded rapidly, and covers many, many subjects of interest to the wargaming and military history fraternity.

Thoroughly recommended.