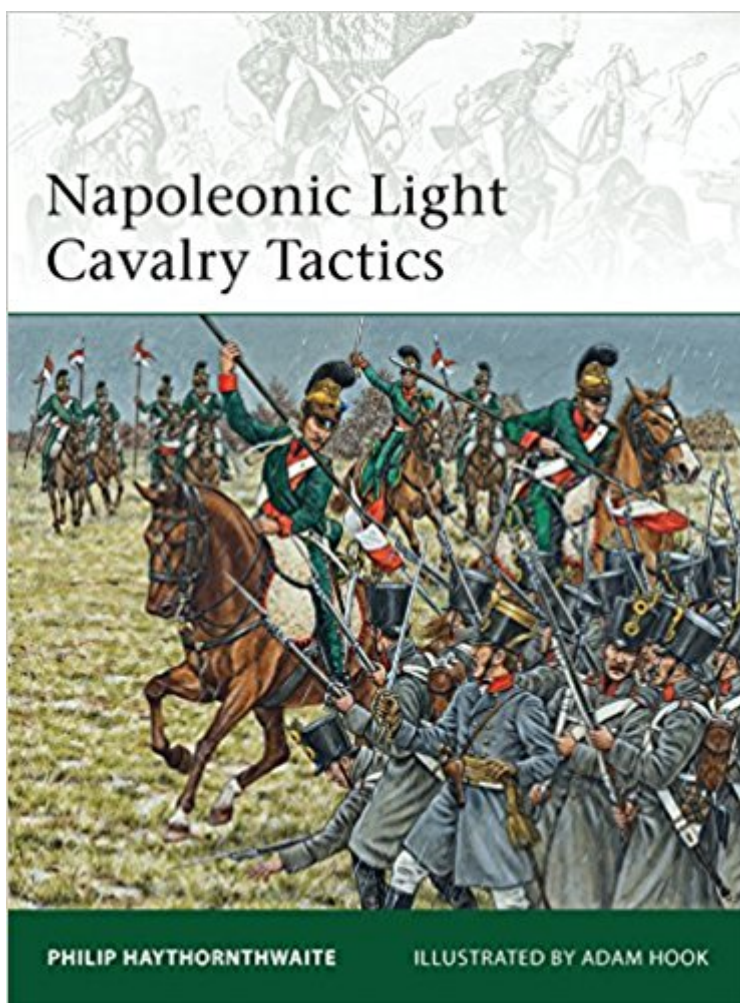


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Napoleonic Light Cavalry Tactics (Elite)



Synopsis

During the Napoleonic Wars, all the major combatants fielded large numbers of light cavalry as Hussars, Dragoons, Chasseurs, Lancers, or even Cossacks. Ridley Scott's 1977 feature film debut *The Duelists* portrayed French Hussars. Light cavalry provided nimble, fast-moving regiments that performed a variety of vital roles, from reconnaissance and keeping contact with the enemy during the movement of armies, to raiding, skirmishing, and the pursuit to destruction of beaten enemies. In practice, light cavalry were often also employed for battlefield charges alongside the heavy cavalry. The light cavalryman typically carried a curved sabre, one or two pistols and sometimes a carbine, and rode a smaller horse than his counterpart in the heavy cavalry. As the Napoleonic Wars progressed, the dashing Chasseurs and Light Dragoons and glamorous Hussars were joined by growing numbers of Lancers, while the Russians employed vast numbers of Cossacks. Often the first to engage the enemy, these colourful regiments saw combat on a host of bloody battlefields across Europe. Featuring period illustrations and specially commissioned colour artwork, this is the second volume of a two-part study of the cavalry tactics of the armies of Napoleon and those of his allies and opponents. Written by a leading authority on the period, it draws upon drill manuals and later writings to offer a vivid assessment of how light cavalry actually fought on the Napoleonic battlefield.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Philip Haythornthwaite is an internationally respected author and historical consultant specializing in

the military history, uniforms and equipment of the 18th and 19th centuries. His main area of research covers the Napoleonic Wars. He has written some 40 books, including more than 20 Osprey titles, and numerous articles and papers on military history - but still finds time to indulge in his other great passion, cricket. The author lives in Lancs, UK.

Veteran Napoleonic historian Philip Haythornwaite explains to a modern audience just how the light cavalry of the Napoleonic era did their business. This Osprey Elite Series book is consciously a companion volume to the author's earlier volume "Napoleonic Heavy Cavalry & Dragoons Tactics" in explaining the many roles and tactics of the light cavalry. "Napoleonic Light Cavalry Tactics" begins with a discussion of the origins of light cavalry and their formations and tactics. The illustrations by Adam Hook helpfully explain just how formations were supposed to look on the battlefield. Successive chapters detail some specialty ethnic light cavalry units such as Polish Lancers, Russian Cossacks, and Egyptian Mamelukes. The various light cavalry missions are explained, with examples and some very nice period art. The book closes with a detailed examination of two cavalry actions in 1814. This reviewer found especially interesting the discussion about the uses by light cavalry of swords and carbines. "Napoleonic Light Cavalry Tactics" is highly recommended as a clear and readable introduction to the topic for the general reader and for the student of Napoleonic warfare.

Another classic from osprey publishers, it's amazing how much detail can be crammed into so few pages. Definitely worth buying.

Excellent

A good reference book. Well Written with clear examples. Covers the subject well. I wish it were longer.

Excellent

This book was very interesting. It give good insight of the use of light cavalry. The art is great, a lot of diagrams showing formations. It was a very good read.

As a fan of Mr. Hawthornthwait's work, I was somewhat disappointed in this volume. It relies heavily

on the previously published "Napoleonic Heavy Cavalry and Dragoon Tactics" that he wrote, referring you to it in numerous locations. Whereas the Heavy Cavalry volume is stand alone, this one is not, and it would be nice if there was some indication in the title. I understand why that was done, there wouldn't be room for all of the discussions in this volume if the additional info had to be included. The book also seems to be fragmented. He starts by discussing some history of light cavalry, and starts defining different types of lights, goes on to tactics and development and returns to defining cavalry types. Another concept that seemed to cross me the wrong way is in some of the artwork. There are a number of pages, due to their landscape format, that are presented sideways. Not a problem, normally, but in this volume they face the binding, which seems wrong. Now what confounds this further, is that in the heavily referred to Heavy Cavalry companion volume, those landscape format pages face the other way, towards the open edge. Negatives out of the way, this is the companion to his previous book. It is not for uniform studies or unit histories, but deals in how these light cavalry units moved, trained and fought. This volume also discusses the increase in light cavalry units. I wish I could say it is well presented. If you have the first volume, it fits well with it.

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