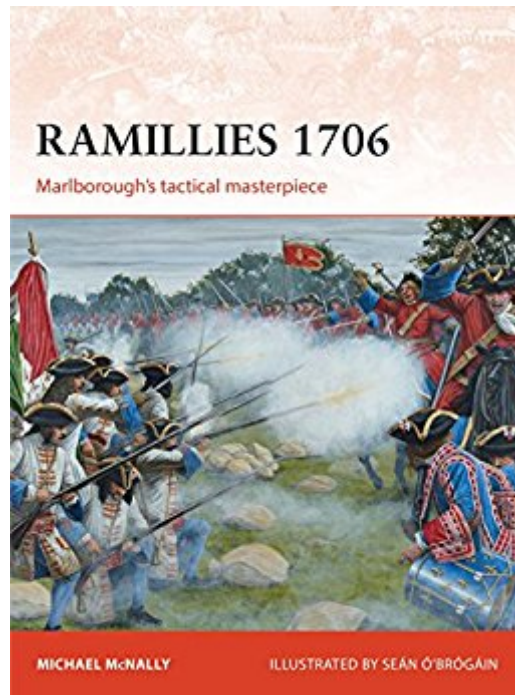




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Ramillies 1706: Marlborough's Tactical Masterpiece (Campaign)



Synopsis

This is the story of one of the great battles which forged the reputation of the Duke of Marlborough as one of history's greatest captains. His tactical intuition on the field of Ramillies led to perhaps his finest battlefield performance and paved the way for a campaign that would see much of Flanders, including vital cities such as Bruges, Brussels, Antwerp and Louvain, come under Allied control. This title, with vivid illustrations and detailed consideration of the disposition, strength and plans of the opposing forces, examines the context and consequences of the battle. It also illuminates the intense fighting at the height of the engagement, including two enormous cavalry melees in which Marlborough was unhorsed and very nearly killed.

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Customer Reviews

The War of the Spanish Succession usually doesn't ring a bell for most readers, but Louis XIV is still pretty well known. In Ramillies 1706, Michael McNally gives us a succinct overview of one of the major French defeats in that war, where the English Duke of Marlborough led a Dutch-British-German coalition army to defeat an equally mixed French-Bavarian army in southeastern Belgium. Marlborough had already racked up a reputation at Blenheim two years

earlier, and Ramillies further cemented him in the annals of great generals. Overall, Ramillies 1706 is a fine addition to the series â “ well-written and colorful, although not always full of military insight or pertinent facts. For example, although French casualties are detailed, there is no mention of Anglo-Dutch casualties, though they must have been substantial. Nor could I really get a feel for the musket and pike tactics being employed. The battle narrative is essentially presented as:

Marlborough conceives a fine operational plan, Marlboroughâ™s plans undermined by allies, Marlborough pushes on anyway and the French oblige by offering battle when they neednâ™t have, Marlborough plans a tactical masterpiece and then â “ with a few hiccups â “ executes it and routs the French. I do find this method a bit too accepting of â œMarlborough the military geniusâ • and not enough dissection of his command decisions or methods. Marlborough wanted to fix the French left and center at Ramillies, then flank them on the right with his cavalry. When the French also put their cavalry on their right, the result was a large, protracted cavalry battle that only slowly swung toward Marlboroughâ™s favor. Frankly, I canâ™t see anything terribly brilliant in a flanking movement and the result was in doubt for some time.

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