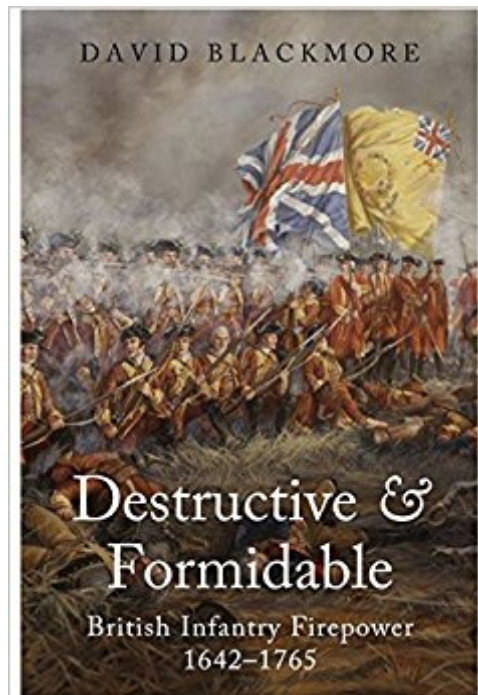




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Destructive And Formidable: British Infantry Firepower 1642 - 1765



Synopsis

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the British Army's victories over the French at battles such as Blenheim in 1704, Minden and Quebec in 1759, and over the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746, were largely credited to its infantry's particularly effective and deadly firepower. For the first time, David Blackmore has gone back to original drill manuals and other contemporary sources to discover the reasons behind this. This book employs an approach that starts by considering the procedures and practices of soldiers in a given period and analyses those in order to understand how things were done and, in turn, why events unfolded as they did. In doing so, he has discovered a specifically British set of tactics, which created this effectiveness and allowed it to be maintained over such a long period, correcting many of the misconceptions about British infantry firepower in the age of the musket and linear warfare in a major new contribution to our understanding of an important period of British military history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Blackmore has brought several important new topics to light and has added stress to older ones. (Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research 94 (2016), 74-81)

Dr David Blackmore is a former curator at the Royal Armouries and the author of *Arms and Armour of the English Civil Wars*, *British Cavalry of the Mid-18th Century* and many other articles and contributions to books.

A valuable discussion of the philosophy and theory behind the firepower of the "Thin Red Line". It sits on my bookshelf amid a collection of original 18th & 19th Century British infantry drill manuals.

Do you know what was required from a good redcoat soldier? To fire four bullets a minute. Do you know what terrified his enemies more than these sharp bursts? The sight of the British infantry presenting loaded muskets but holding their fire until the very last moment. This is one of the best books on military history. No beating around the bush, no politics, no moralizing - only pure war. The whole book is devoted to methods of directing infantry fire. One can't help being enchanted by sophistication of the lethal choreography and mathematics behind musket volleys. It was truly interesting to see how the British infantry excelled in sustaining the enemy fire while advancing to the range of 30 yards, how their point-blank volleys devastated opposing ranks, how they charged home with bayonets. Few military eras were as terrific as the age of line tactics. Note that the author used almost no second-hand accounts. The book is based upon archival research of manuals, treatises, letters, memoirs and other contemporary documents on theory and practice of the 17-18th century warfare.

An incredible read, traces the development of British infantry tactics through the whole time period.

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