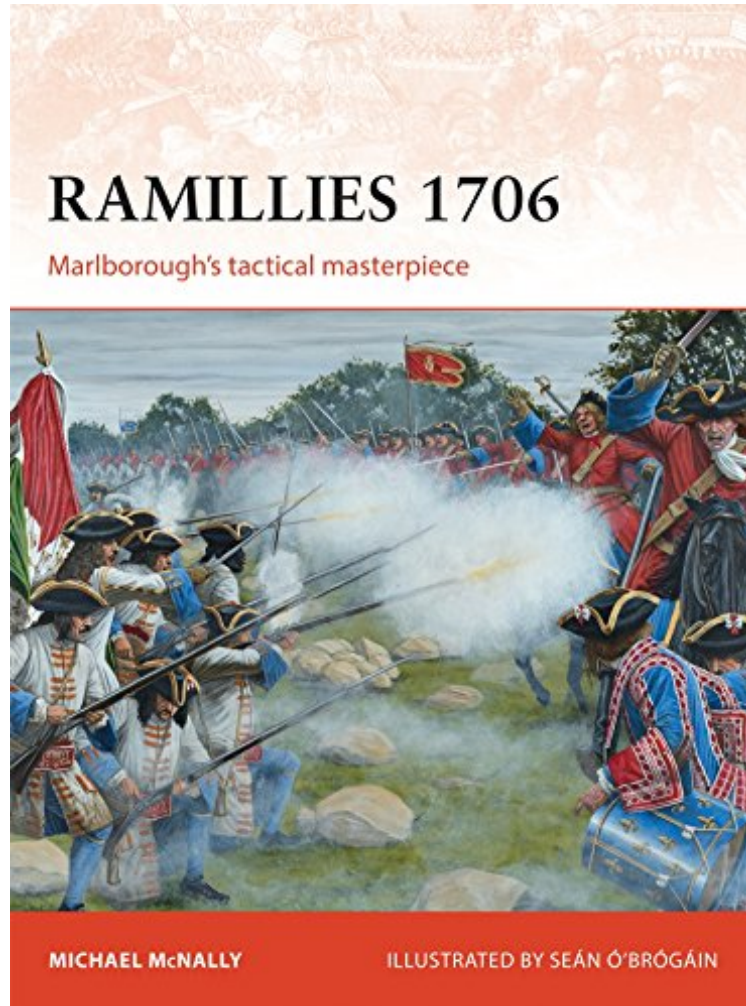


[Free download] Ramillies 1706: Marlborough's tactical masterpiece (Campaign)

Ramillies 1706: Marlborough's tactical masterpiece (Campaign)

Michael McNally

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Michael McNally : Ramillies 1706: Marlborough's tactical masterpiece (Campaign) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ramillies 1706: Marlborough's tactical masterpiece (Campaign):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Tactical masterpiece...By HMS Warspite John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough, is generally counted as one of Britain's great captains of warfare, along with the Duke of Wellington. Marlborough is perhaps best known for his victory at Blenheim in 1704. This Osprey Campaign Series entry highlights another of his victories, Ramillies in 1706. At Ramillies, Marlborough's allied army defeated a significant French army of Louis XIV, thanks to the Duke's superb tactical sense and a little luck. Authored by Michael McNally with illustrations by Sean OBrogain, "Ramillies 1706" provides a brief introduction to the War of the Spanish Succession and to the challenges of campaigning on the European Continent in the 18th Century. The format

includes the standard set-up of opposing commanders, forces, and plans. The narrative of the battle itself is a little challenging to follow but very worthwhile, not least for how it highlights Marlborough's ability to adjust his battle plan as the fighting progressed. The text is nicely supported by a good selection of maps, diagrams of the battleground, photographs, and illustrations. Recommended as an introduction to one of the Duke of Marlborough's great victories.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very pleased.By DAVID E WILLARDReceived promptly. Very pleased.1 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Arthur L HarshmanExcellent

Ramillies 1706 details one of the most important clashes in the War of the Spanish Succession, a battle that secured the Duke of Marlborough's place in history and helped determine the future of Europe. In 1706, as the War of Spanish Succession dragged on, France's Louis XIV was eager for peace, but he wanted it on his terms. Therefore, rather than standing on the defensive, French armies on all fronts swung over to the offensive. Marlborough decided to counter by launching a pre-emptive strike. The two sides met at Ramillies on May 23rd. Enjoying an almost parity in numbers the French took up position along a river line, anchoring each of their flanks on a marshy area, thereby surrendering the initiative to Marlborough, who proceeded to probe against both flanks. Using a series of deceptions and feints, Marlborough took advantage of a concealed re-entrant to reinforce his center which, at that time, was cannonading the French positions. Unaware of this, the French general Villeroi drastically weakened his center in order to reinforce the threatened sector. Seizing the opportunity, Marlborough launched an overwhelming attack on his own terms. In the wake of two massive cavalry mêlées, during one of which Marlborough was unhorsed and almost killed, the allied troops shattered the French, inflicting over 20,000 casualties--almost one third of the Franco-Hispano-Bavarian army--at a cost of less than 4,000 men, thus paving the way for allied forces to overturn the French position in Flanders, and in the process capturing several strategically important towns and cities including Brussels, Bruges, Louvain and Antwerp. In short, whilst Blenheim in 1704 had been a masterpiece of strategic maneuver that had wrong-footed the Franco-Bavarian armies and removed the threat to Vienna, it was Marlborough's tactical intuition on the field of Ramillies that had led to perhaps his finest battlefield performance and paved the way for a campaign that would see much of Flanders come under Allied control.

About the Author Mike McNally is an acknowledged expert on the Williamite War in Ireland and acted as a consultant in a recent study of President Barack Obama's Irish roots. Married, with three children, he is the author of best-selling studies of the pivotal battles of the Boyne and Aughrim and is currently studying the role of the Irish Brigade in French service from the Boyne to Fontenoy. The author of several books for Osprey, with his varied areas of interest he continues to research such diverse subjects as Irish military history, the campaigns of Marlborough and the German colonial campaigns during World War I. The author lives in Eitorf, Germany.