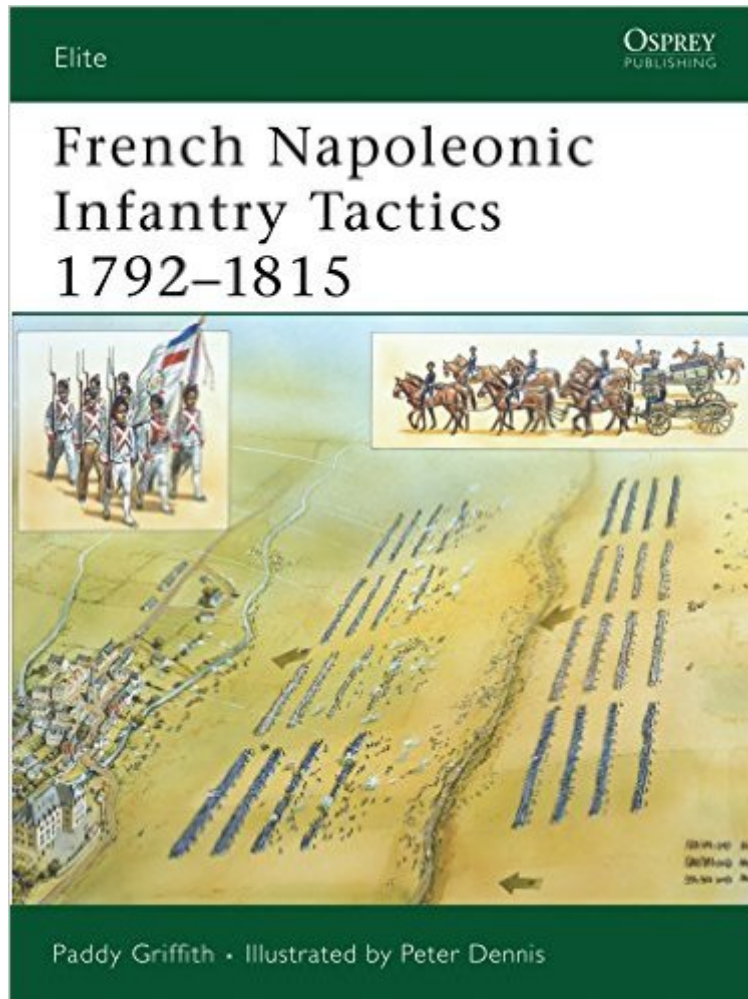


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# French Napoleonic Infantry Tactics 1792-1815 (Elite)



## Synopsis

Osprey's examination of French infantry tactics during the Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815). For over 20 years France was the dominating, controlling and conquering power of the western world, a result not only of Napoleon's inspired leadership, but of the efforts of almost an entire generation of Frenchmen under arms. The French Revolution heralded both social change and a seismic shift in how armies were organized, trained and deployed. This book provides an analysis of the preparation of French troops from manual regulations to the training ground, studying the changing quality of command and control within the army, which initially ensured that the French infantry were virtually unstoppable. Paddy Griffith not only explores the role of the French infantry at the apex of their powers and their actions in key battles, but also provides a detailed explanation of their eventual decline leading to defeat at Waterloo, providing a critical overview of French Napoleonic infantry tactics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'French Napoleonic Infantry Tactics 1792-1815' is an examination of infantry formations and fighting styles used from when France declared war on England in 1792 to Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815. But I guess you figured that much already...This title contains numerous interesting, and sometimes poorly-known details on the Napoleonic and in general French fighting styles of the era. The debates amongst the military experts of the time (such as, what should that man in the third rank do-try to fire past his comrades, run ahead or to the side and skirmish, or just hold a pike and

'hang around'?) are dealt with, although history, rather than the opinions of the author, are allowed to answer them. The first 28 pages of the book deal with a variety of subjects concisely yet also with detail. These include the roles and changing tactics of the skirmishers and 'light infantry', the tactics (or lack thereof) of the democratic/Revolutionary armies, rectangular defensive formations designed to ward off cavalry, and some bold offensive column formations. Some of the conflicting literary works of the contemporary military thinkers are also examined. The next major section of the book, well-titled *La Grande Armee*, examines the battle tactics employed by Napoleon himself, particularly between 1805 and 1808. Two particular topics addressed here are those of firepower and the tactical flexibility of Napoleon's Army. The next section, titled 'The Peninsular War' is for the most part an examination of the tactics used against the Brits and Spanish 1808-14. The final section, 'Corrupt Gigantism' looks at the reforms of 1808 and the unusual dilemma of the 'overcrowded battlefield'.

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