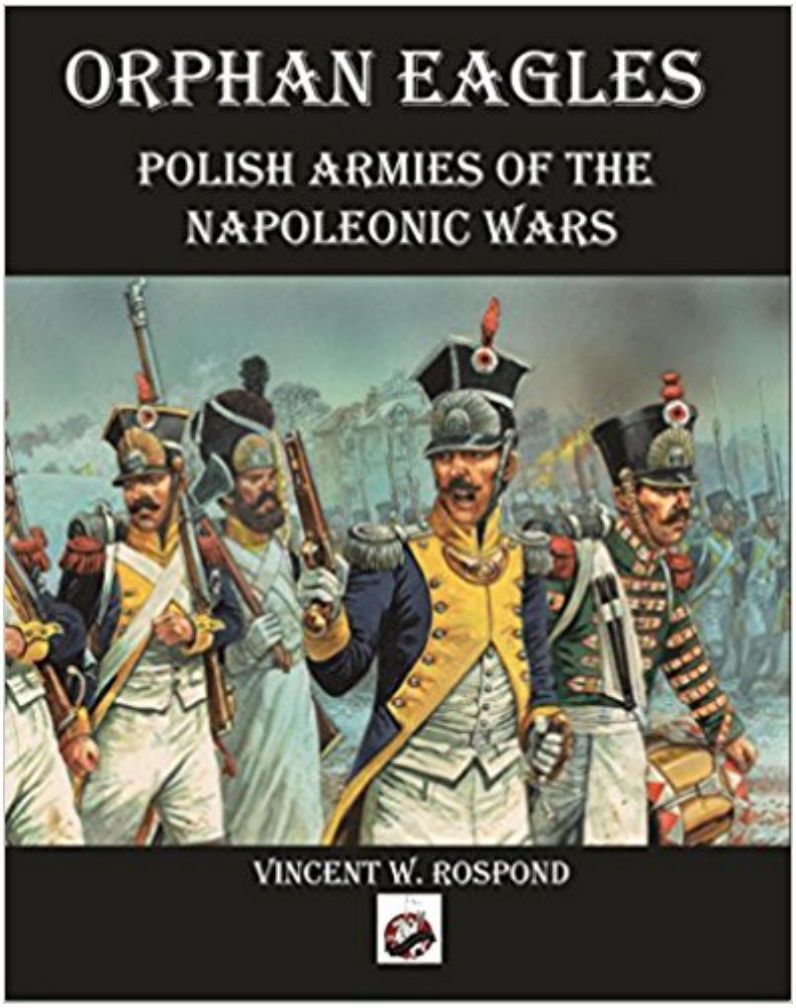
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Orphan Eagles: Polish Armies Of The Napoleonic Wars



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Synopsis

Orphan Eagles is the history of the Polish Legion and the Grand Duchy of Warsaw during the Napoleonic Wars. The history draws on Polish sources to give a history, organization and uniforms of the Polish-Lithuanian Armies from 1797 to 1815 from the plains of Italy, to the Caribbean, to Moscow and France.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Vincent W. Rospond received his Master's in Eastern European History from the University of Illinois as well as studying at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the MBA program at Seton Hall University. He has spent almost 20 years as an executive in the publishing and gaming industry. He started Winged Hussar Publishing, LLC (WHP) as a venture for historians to publish books and articles on lesser known periods of history and give readers access to translated historical documents. His first book for WHP is a new edition of Caesar's Commentaries of the Gallic Wars. In addition to his work at WHP, he is editor of the Journal of America's Military Past, a peered reviewed journal focusing on the people, places and things related to America's military. He currently lives at the sunny New Jersey shore with his wife, kids and dog.

This work adds to the small but growing body of literature developing that examines and explores the various Polish armies of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. These armies were by this time not dominant forces in the European force mix but they did fight bravely and well and independently in significant operations during the period. In more than one case these armies played critical

battlefield roles in a decision. My interest rests more in the composition of the armies--the units, the unit histories, where the units recruited from, who they recruited, who the formation and unit commanders were and how these armies equipped were equipped and garrisoned. "Orphan Eagles" adds a worthwhile store of information in these directions. The author has done superb work in pulling together such information from the 1795 period with the Polish Legions in Italy through the formation of Polish manned units in the Imperial French Army and the formation of the Army of the Duchy of Warsaw through to the end of the Napoleonic Period. Additionally, the author has pulled together one of the better graphic collections illustrating the Polish soldiers of this period and their uniforms. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Polish armies organized over this almost two decade period.

The text consists mostly of lists of which regiments were in which battles with a paragraph or two about most of the battles and several lists of uniform colors for different regiments of infantry, grenadiers, hussars, lancers etc. and is OK as far as that goes but the real downfall of this book for me is the extremely small size of the illustrations (most are the equivalent of a 400 x 300 computer image) and the fact that for the most part they seem to be blurry scans with poor color rendition. You can find much larger versions of most of the plates in this book on line by searching for Polish Army Uniforms Napoleonic Wars or by searching for the artists. There is a complete list of illustrations at the end of the book with the source to aid in a search.

Great value on Polish history! Lots of information.

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