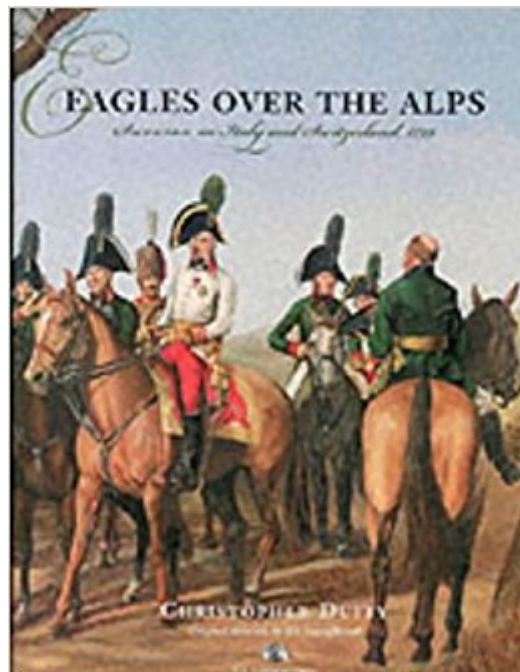




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Eagles Over The Alps: Suvorov In Italy And Switzerland, 1799



Synopsis

1799--Russia's greatest soldier was at war in Italy and Switzerland. Led by Suvorov, believed by many to be the equal of Napoleon, the Russian and Austrian troops claimed one victory after another against the French. Much more than strategy and tactics, this is a story of adventure as a Russian army fights desperate rearguard actions, and tries to escape through cruel mountain passes in the night. Suvorov's memory is still treasured in the Russian armed forces today. The last and greatest campaign of this legendary soldier has found a fitting narrator in Christopher Duffy. Suvorov's marches and battles can be traced on the many maps, photographs, and original artwork recreates the appearance of the troops.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Notwithstanding the editorial lapses mentioned by other reviewers, this is an important book on Marshal Suvorov's Italian and Swiss campaigns. Late September 2008 I had the opportunity to follow in his footsteps over all of the Swiss passes he crossed with his army. Despite its weight, I carried "Eagles over the Alps" with me in my packsack and did not regret it. The superb maps, the text with detailed descriptions of the military operations and troop strengths on both sides...superb! It brought history truly alive for me during my encounter with the rugged geography Suvorov's army had to deal with. As an aside, following Suvorov's army through the Alps is an adventure in itself and takes about 8 days from Taverne, weather permitting. I highly recommend both the book and the trip to any Suvorovian.

First the bad news - the typos in this book were atrocious. For the price you are asked to pay the publishers should have been able to pay a proofreader to go through the book and correct the glaring errors. An excellent work was given the appearance of something rushed into print to make a buck. Having said that, *Eagles Over The Alps* is still worth having, both for the military historian, and for the wargamer. The fascinating history of the Italian and Swiss campaigns of one of the period's premier generals is well treated. Napoleon deservedly overshadows all other military men of his time, but Suvorov is arguably the better of the two generals in 1799, and this book helps to bring his career out of the shadows. Especially helpful for the wargamer are the line maps and orders of battle with detailed unit strengths. This book contains information that will be difficult to find anywhere else, and presents it in a lively style that is constantly engaging. Even with its flaws, this is still a good book.

Very few books cover the Swiss campaign in the War of the Second Coalition but this one did it. All the information that you want to know about the campaign will be in this book. Commanders, armies, terrain, leaders etc are all examined to figure out how and why the campaign went as it did. If you want to learn more about the Swiss campaign then this book is for you. For the negatives, I personally am not a fan of Christopher Duffy's writing style so I found the book difficult to get sucked into, however this is a personal preference. I also was not a fan of the size and structure of the book. The book is tall and thin rather than short and fat. In addition there are pictures located all over the book. This made the book difficult in my opinion to read because it is as big as a picture book. The text is in columns that are often interrupted by pictures. This caused me to miss a small block of text and lose the flow of my reading. Finally the book is very praiseful of Suvorov without going into his detractors. So I did not get the idea of why he was great but rather that he won a lot of battles. Some of Suvorov's greatest victories were against the Turks, but the French armies in Egypt had one's as good if not better than his against the Turks but the explanation of why Suvorov's victories were different was left out. The book is definitely worth it however!

I have been interested in Field-Marshal Suvorov for years. The writing is wonderful and insightful but the publisher Emperor's Press should review their policies. This is not the first title that seems to have been rushed to press without basic editing. My background on the topic is not as extensive as Mr. Nafziger, but I would suggest he read *Art of victory; the life and achievements of Field-Marshal Suvorov, 1729-1800* By Philip Longworth, published 1965.

Some of the binding and the cover was in rough shape but other wise the rest of the book looked good.

Nicely written very detailed account of this important campaign Shows that the austrian and russian armies of this period could fight and win against the french if given the right leadership An antidote to all those pro-french tomes - a great read

Duffy obviously knows his subject well (5 stars), but his efforts are substantially compromised by what can only be described as poor editorial efforts at the publisher, which results in numerous typos that diminishes the value of Duffy's work. The dust jacket even contains typographical errors, including a misspelling of another title offered by the publisher. Readers should not be made to suffer this way.

Two years ago I had the pleasure of walking the battlefields of Novi, Devil's Bridge, Moutatal, and Trebbia with Mr. Duffy and now that I've read his book it is almost as good as being there again. The book may have all the scholarly trappings, but it is highly readable and weaves an incredible story of battle against man and the elements. It is well illustrated with original art work, numerous photographs of battlefields, mountain passes, and other points of significance, plus it contains a large number of excellent maps. It is, to my knowledge (which is significant in this area) the only book on Suvorov written in English in the last 100 years. It covers an obscure period of the French Revolutionary wars and the battle of one of Russia's greatest Generals. If you are interested in warfare in the late 18th Century this is the work for you. George F. Nafziger

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