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978-0-521-72237-7 - Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe

John A. Lynn II

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## Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe

*Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe* examines the important roles of women who campaigned with armies from 1500 to 1815. This included those notable female individuals who assumed male identities to serve in the ranks, but far more numerous and essential were the formidable women who, as women, marched in the train of armies. While some worked as full-time or part-time prostitutes, they more generally performed a variety of necessary gendered tasks, including laundering, sewing, cooking, and nursing. Early modern armies were always accompanied by women and regarded them as essential to the well-being of the troops. John A. Lynn II argues that, before 1650, women were also fundamental to armies because they were integral to the pillage economy that maintained troops in the field.

John A. Lynn II earned his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles. He is the author of *Bayonets of the Republic: Tactics and Motivation in the Army of Revolutionary France, 1791–94* (1984); *Giant of the Grand Siècle: The French Army, 1610–1715* (1997); *The Wars of Louis XIV, 1667–1714* (1999); *The French Wars 1667–1714: The Sun King at War* (2002); and *Battle: A History of Combat and Culture* (2003 and 2004). He has edited *Tools of War: Ideas, Instruments, and Institutions of Warfare, 1445–1871* (1990), and *Feeding Mars: Logistics in Western Warfare from the Middle Ages to the Present* (1993). He has also published eighty chapters, articles, and papers. He has served as president of the United States Commission on Military History and as vice-president of the Society for Military History. In addition, he has been awarded the Palmes Academiques at the rank of chevalier from the French government and the Wissam al Alaoui at the rank of commander from his Majesty, King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

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*This book about women of strength, endurance,  
and courage is dedicated to my granddaughter  
Helena Grace Lynn*

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## Acknowledgments

Writing *Women, Armies, and Warfare in Early Modern Europe* has been a great ride. Begun simply as a chapter in another manuscript, it grew to such proportions that it clearly demanded to be a book of its own. The subject matter took charge, and I followed where it led me. At first I wanted to stay in my comfort zone, restricting the tale to a military history focused on women with early modern armies, but well into the project it became clear that it also needed to be a work of women's history *per se*, or at least as much as I could make it.

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Illustrations play a substantial role in this volume; they are not simply amusing pictures. Assembling them required help from a number of libraries, museums, and collections. These include: Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lilly Library, Indiana University;



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