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## MEDIEVAL WARFARE

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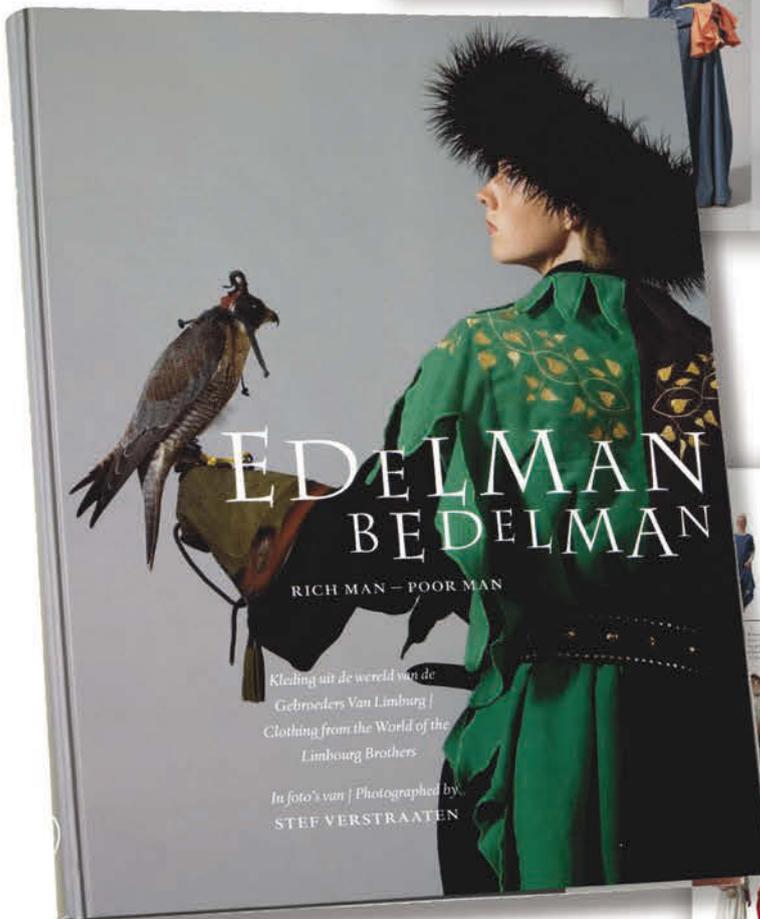
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# News & Letters

## Note from the editor

This issue of *Medieval Warfare* is one that I have anticipated for quite some time. The powerful image of the brilliant warrior king who brought peace and culture (and Christianity, for some) back to Europe after the collapse of the Western Roman Empire is one that few can ignore. No matter the truth behind this picture, there is no denying the success of his military campaigns, and so we are pleased to offer you a whole issue on 'military mastermind' Charles the Great.

The issue's structure is hardly groundbreaking, but it is the most suitable way to cover a theme that discusses several campaigns and related developments during several decades. After an introduction by regular Owen Rees, who walks us through Frankish and Carolingian history and Charlemagne's family background, we slowly work our way through a number of his campaigns. First comes Filippo Donvito with his article on the Italian campaigns, which neatly takes up the story where the theme of recent issue IV-6 (the Lombard invasions) left off. Sidney Dean covers the next great campaign, the Saxon Wars, while Jean-Claude Brunner discusses how the Franks came into contact with, and finally defeated, the dreaded Avar horsemen from the East. This article also includes a dramatic centerfold by Mike Perry that captures the essence of the Avars' fast-paced tactics.

Naturally, an issue on the military Charlemagne is not complete without a thorough piece on the army behind his success, a project taken up by Robert Holmes. Contrary to popular belief, it seems that victory came not just from the Franks' fancy equipment and heavy cavalry. Moreover, of equal importance were

those military engineers who enabled the army to travel large distances quickly, and to rest well defended, a topic discussed by Patrick Baker.

Several non-theme articles supplement the articles concerning Charlemagne. The first of these – another blacksmithing article from the pen of armorer Jeffrey Hildebrandt – focuses on a tiny, but elaborate detail of the Sutton Hoo shield: the ornamental bird design often used in Germanic tradition. Furthermore, Arnold Blumberg provides an article which did not make it into issue V-1, but which we could not withhold from our readers. His background as an attorney surely helped when writing about the laws of treason in medieval England, including the gruesome executions that went with it. However, for me the real eye-opener in this issue was Alexander Querengasser's fascinating piece on the Battle of Aussig, covering an episode that has all the elements for a great story: how the stubborn resistance and novel tactics of 'lowly' peasant rebels crushed the arrogant nobles and knights in their splendid armour. Moreover, it also shows how such a defeat could actually work out quite well for the loser.

And there it is, a new issue of *Medieval Warfare*. If you are just as interested in the reign of Charlemagne as I am, you are in for a treat; and if not, the Querengasser article alone is worth it. As always, make sure to check out our website and Facebook page for news and updates. Comments or questions, both of which are always welcome, can be sent to: [editor@medieval-warfare.com](mailto:editor@medieval-warfare.com).

— Dirk van Gorp  
Editor, *Medieval Warfare* magazine

## Erratum

For a writer it is very rewarding to have readers with real expertise and the willingness to contribute to making *Medieval Warfare* even better. Roel Renmans, amongst others, has proven to be such a reader, catching a few errors that had escaped my attention. At issue is the centerfold illustration for issue V-1. That illustration de-

picts the 1322 Battle of Boroughbridge, a major engagement in the Despenser Wars in England.

The scene depicts a massed group of Lancastrian knights and men-at-arms charging an entrenched Royalist position on a bridge. Our artist attempted to show the diversity of arms and armour used by men-at-arms of the pe-