



Warrior of God: Jan Zizka and the Hussite Revolution

By Victor Verney

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Jan Zizka (1370–1424) was a formidable figure whose life and military career was set amidst the whirlwind of monumental revolutions – military, religious, political and social – that engulfed medieval Europe in the 14th and 15th centuries. The leader of Bohemia's Hussite Revolution – the first of the religious wars during the Protestant Reformation – he was a forward-thinking military genius whose record is virtually unmatched.

He fielded a peasant militia, initially untrained and unequipped, and faced down the Holy Roman Empire's huge professional army of armored knights known as 'The Men of Iron'. Among his numerous innovations was the armored wagon fitted with small cannons and muskets, presaging the modern tank. All this, despite the fact that for much of his later career he went completely blind.

Yet remarkably, beyond central Europe, very little is known about him. In this original and engrossing study, historian Victor Verney combines an authoritative analysis with colorful anecdotes to reveal the incredible exploits of this forgotten military genius and the fascinating cast of characters who surrounded him.

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