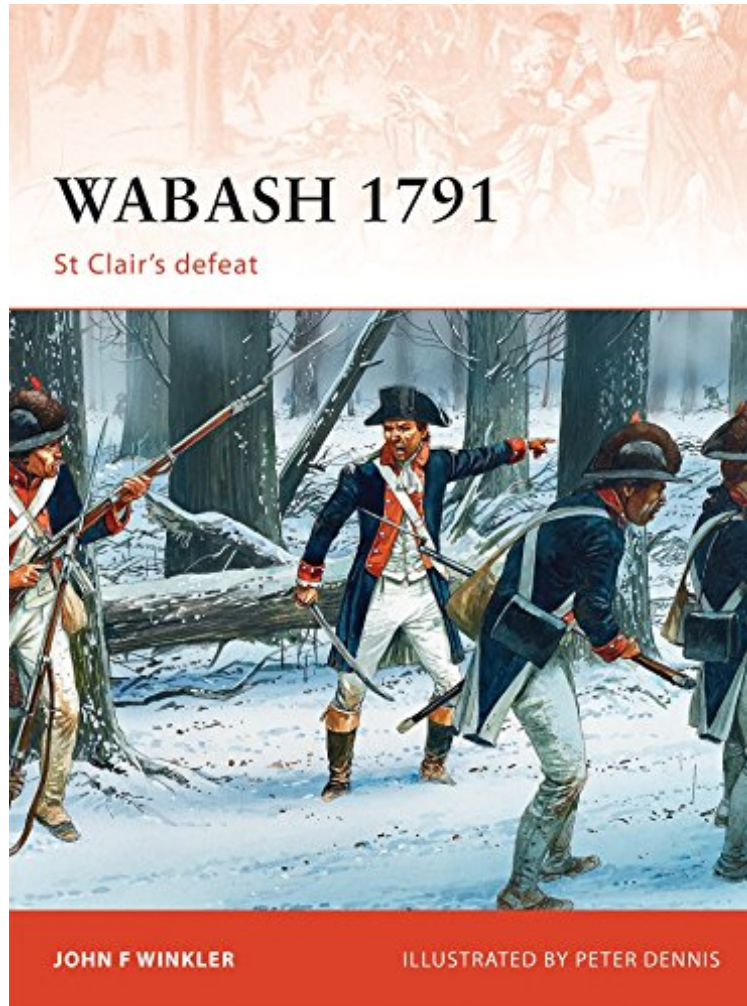


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## Wabash 1791: St Clairs defeat (Campaign)

*John F. Winkler*

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**John F. Winkler : Wabash 1791: St Clairs defeat (Campaign)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wabash 1791: St Clairs defeat (Campaign):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Very, very Good Read !By 5/0Wabash 1791 St. Clair's Defeat" by John F. Winkler (originally published in the UK). At 91 pages with plenty of good photos and drawings, it is a "brass tacks" account of the battle and context within which the (imho) vastly overrated Arthur St. Clair (Gov. of the Ohio Territory and former Revolution officer, at least present at the battle/surrender at Yorktown) proceeded to accomplish the worst military defeat by Indians in the history of the United States. It is well organized, well illustrated, and mostly devoid of "fluff and feathers". The portrait of St. Clair that emerges is of a fellow whom has notably less sense than courage. His defeat occasioned the first-ever "full Congressional investigation" and he was - not too surprisingly - exonerated. His exoneration, however, is due in large part to Congress and Henry Knox (Sec. of War) and Washington

himself realizing that they and their imprudence, deserved a major share of the blame and their fear that such a scandal might wreck the new national government. In a nutshell, St. Clair took an untrained, poorly organized, very poorly armed and virtually unsupplied mob on a trek through unknown country to face a foe of unknown strength whose tactics he didn't understand in terrain that was almost as foreign to him as the back side of the moon at a location that he wasn't even sure of... on the eve of winter... accompanied by a few hundred women and children. Except for that, he did everything right. In fairness to St. Clair, who did, in fact, demonstrate substantial courage, the "untrained, disorganized, poorly armed and unsupplied" problems were due entirely to the incompetence and negligence of Knox and Congress and their bureaucrat minions. Mr. Geo. Washington is guilty of the pressure to fight based on the (apparent) assumption that the logistics were being handled correctly. St. Clair should have, and could have, aborted the project immediately, but he didn't. Heeeeere's Yer sign ! In fairness to everyone else, Washington, Knox and St. Clair very well should have known at the very beginning of their planning that the timetable they were talking about for recruiting, transporting, training and equipping the "army" was little short of preposterous. They have no excuse - zero - whatsoever for that blunder. It was that specific idiocy that lost the battle and lost those lives months before St. Clair ever arrived in Ohio. So of course St. Clair was "exonerated". St. Clair had been a trusted "favorite" of Mr. Washington and, from a few steps back one can see a similarity. Both were courageous and very determined to the point, sometimes of impetuosity- an impetuosity that caused suffering and loss of life that probably could have been avoided, although St. Clair was probably a little "more so" in these respects. It may be a telling point that the man who would clean up the messes left by Crawford, Harmar and St. Clair would be Mad Anthony Wayne, a man whom Washington selected in spite of his personal reservations about Wayne's character and reliability. St. Clair's defeat, or the Battle of the Wabash, besides being an interesting albeit gruesome tale of Frontier conflict, is fascinating for the detail it reveals of the lifeways and character of Americans and Ohioans-to-be circa 1791 - a crucial chapter in the biography of our struggling new nation. It is a very good read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent StorytellingBy Carl RobinsonOne of President George Washington's greatest and simultaneously under-reported dilemmas was the disastrous defeat of General St. Clair and the US Army at the Wabash in the Ohio Country. This book explains the situation quite well with easy to read prose and excellent images.Essentially, the Army was defeated in that it attempted to do the impossible-build forts, build roads, and defeat the Indians under a very tight schedule.I read this book quite quickly and was impressed with its tight, storytelling craftsmanship.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It gave me a good insight on what my 5th great grandfather a corporal ...By tom bowmanI found this to be well researched and coupled with back ground on the complexity of moving a military force in 1791 through the Ohio. It gave me a good insight on what my 5th great grandfather a corporal in the 2nd regiment and was amongst the 350 or so soldiers who received wounds and survived this historic miss adventure.

Osprey's Campaign title for the battle that marked Major General Arthur St. Clair's downfall in the Northwest Indian War (1785-1795). In 1791, the US Army conducted its first important operation. St. Clair led an American army of about 2,000 into what now is Ohio. On 4 November 1791, the campaign ended in what was, in proportion to the size of the US Army at the time, by far the greatest disaster in American military history. At the battle of the Wabash, also known as St. Clair's Defeat, more Americans died than in any prior battle, more than would fall on any field prior to the Civil War. In the tactical masterpiece of their military history, an Indian army destroyed a force that was larger, encamped on high ground, supported by artillery, and led by many of the best American officers of the Revolutionary War. This highly illustrated and detailed title illuminates all aspects of this historic campaign.

Author John F. Winkler expertly examines the Army's controversial calamity, analyzing what went wrong and how the Indians scored such a complete victory. Superb color plates by Peter Dennis depicting woodlands combat are complemented by period illustrations, maps and photos showing everything from artifacts and re-enactors to the present-day site of the clash. This concise, 96-page book is a fascinating look at a relatively little-known battle, especially considering how the Army suffered triple the number of casualties at the Wabash than were much more famously slaughtered by the Sioux and their allies at Custer's Last Stand in 1876. Toy Soldier Model Figure (April 2013)About the AuthorJohn F. Winkler lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife of more than 40 years. They have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. He has written many works on the history of Roman, English and American law. He also explores forgotten historical sites in Ohio and neighboring states.