German Army At Ypres 1914, The
Synopsis

This book will be the first complete account of the operations of the German army in the battles north of Lille in the late autumn of 1914. The main emphasis will be placed on the battles around Ypres against the Old Contemptibles of the BEF, but the fighting against the French and Belgian armies will also be featured, thus providing fresh and broader insights into a campaign. There are those who believe the BEF was all that saved world civilization as the first year of the Great War drew to its end. The book uses the comprehensive histories of the participating German regiments found in the Kriegsarchiv in Munich and the Hauptstaatsarchiv in Stuttgart. Their use adds authority and authenticity to the book. The narrative adopts a chronological approach. The book focuses on some of the most bitterly disputed battles of the first three months of the war, when the Germans strained to achieve a breakthrough and the BEF resisted heroically, at the price of its own destruction. The book employs a similar format to the author’s previous works; the greater part of the text uses the words of the German participants themselves and the primary focus of the book covers the experiences of the fighting troops at regimental level and below. Linking paragraphs provide historical context and commentary and evidence from senior commanders will be introduced as necessary.

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This book is nothing short of amazing,...I have read hundreds of allied first hand accounts of the various battles of the 1st Great War but except for Ernst Junger I had no idea what is was like for the average German asked to go off and conquer the world for the fatherland,...now I know and my understanding of the Great War and why people did what they did has greatly expanded. German lives in 1914 were very cheap and German front line battle strategy was cheaper. Go over there, attack, and then do it again tomorrow and the next day and the next day....In this age that we live in we are used to grumbling over a few lives lost here and there, for the Germans they got used to 50%-80% casualties with little chance of a safe return from the attack. Brutal, but VERY informative and perspective enhancing. I look forward to more Sheldon books as he is a valuable treasure to history buffs.

I have positively reviewed the same author’s book about the German experience at Beaumont Hamel. Like that one this edition about the fighting around Ypres is the best true "battlefield guide" I could find - and I looked at a lot of them. If your orientation is toward the Allied side don’t be put off by the title, it really is about the battle in general and the interchangeable experiences of all the soldiers that fought there. Because the battles at Ypres were much larger, longer and complex the descriptions of the fighting in general is, of necessity, less in depth than other books by Sheldon but this is still, by far, the best battlefield guide book on this subject.

Once again another great read and debunking of way so many myths I realize to parphrase John Ford in the Man Who Shot Liberty Vallance: "When faced with the truth or a legend always print the legend." The author debunked so much the 'kindermortenschlag', British riflery, the all powerful German generalship and much more it is about soldiers caught up in the last fateful throw of the dice should be read in conjunction with the new book Hitler’s First Battle.

History is usually written about the winners and how bad the other side was. It was therefore refreshing to read about “The other side of the Hill” They say the the BEF were Lions led by donkeys, well after reading this I’m afraid that the German's really gave no thought for the lives of their men and threw them away like so much garbage. For anyone with an interest in WW1 I can really recommend this book.

Currently reading this volume. Very detailed and personal reports put the action in perspective from
the angle of the officers and men in action. Jack Sheldon is very easy to read without getting tried of the subject.

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