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Canadian Corps Soldier Vs Royal Bavarian Soldier: Vimy Ridge To Passchendaele 1917 (Combat)



Synopsis

In 1917 the soldiers of the Canadian Corps would prove themselves the equal of any fighting on the Western Front, while on the other side of the wire, the men of the Royal Bavarian Army won a distinguished reputation in combat. Employing the latest weapons and pioneering tactics, the two elite units would clash in three notable encounters: the Canadian storming of Vimy Ridge, the back-and-forth engagement at Fresnoy, and at the sodden, bloody battle of Passchendaele. Featuring carefully chosen archive photographs and specially commissioned artwork, this study assesses these three hard-fought battles in 1917 that involved two of the elite fighting forces of the Western Front, and offers a new take on the evolving nature of infantry combat in World War I.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr Stephen Bull is Curator of Military History and Archaeology for Lancashire Museums, with particular responsibility for local regimental collections, and is a consultant for the University of Oxford on World War I projects. He has previously worked at the National Army Museum and the BBC in London. Adam Hook studied graphic design, and began his work as an illustrator in 1983. He specializes in detailed historical reconstructions, and has illustrated Osprey titles on subjects as diverse as the Aztecs, the Ancient Greeks, Roman battle tactics, several 19th-century American subjects, the modern Chinese Army, and a number of books in the Fortress series.

In one sense, this account of the Battles of Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele in 1917 marks the

coming of age of the Canadian Army, whose troops figured prominently in both battles. In another sense, this Osprey Combat Series book provides a detailed, and harrowing, look at combat on the Western Front. This is indeed "eye-deep in hell" trench warfare. Author Steven Bull has selected three battles as the framework for this account: The attack on Vimy Ridge itself in April 1917, the follow-on battle of Fresnoy in May 1917, and Bellevue Spur in October 1917, a part of the battles of Passchendaele. The Canadians and their Royal Bavarian opponents are quickly introduced, along with an overview of the Western Front. The heart of the narrative is the description of the actual fighting, including detailed descriptions of the offensive and defensive tactics in use at the time. The narrative is nicely supported by period photographs, maps, battle diagrams, and modern illustrations. For its concise length, this book is an extraordinary introduction to trench warfare on the Western Front. Highly recommended to students of the conflict and fans of the Canadian contribution.

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