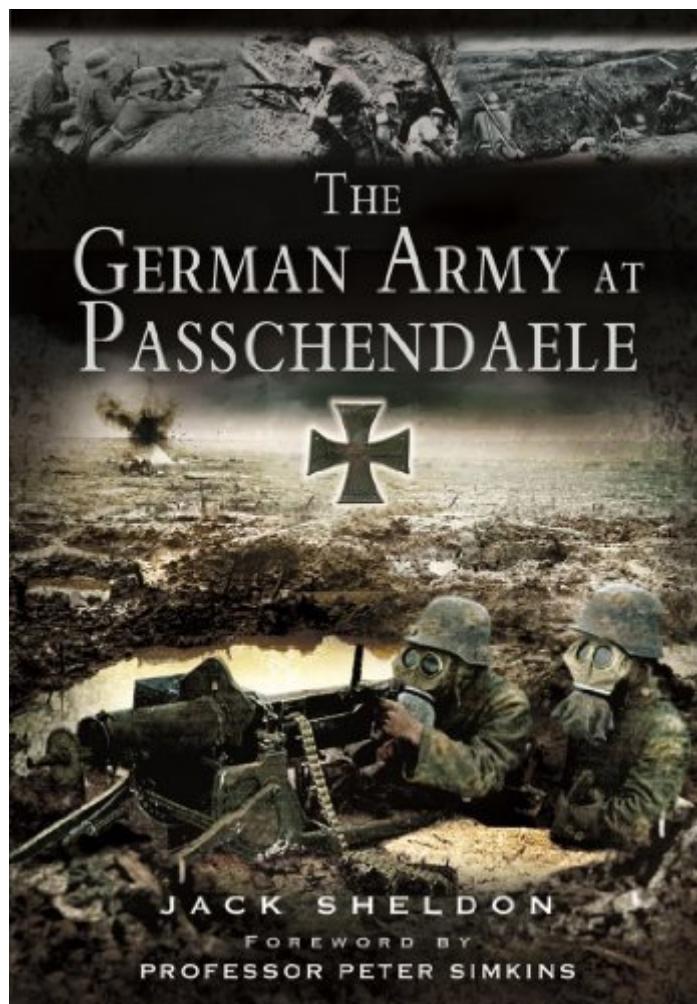


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German Army At Passchendaele



Synopsis

Even after the passage of almost a century, the name Passchendaele has lost none of its power to shock and dismay. Reeling from the huge losses in earlier battles, the German army was in no shape to absorb the impact of the Battle of Messines and the subsequent bitter attritional struggle. Throughout the fighting on the Somme the German army had always felt that it had the ability to counter Allied thrusts, but following the shock reverses of April and May 1917, much heart searching had led to the urgent introduction of new tactics of flexible defense. When these in turn were found to be wanting, the psychological damage shook the German defenders badly. But, as this book demonstrates, at trench level the individual soldier of the German Army was still capable of fighting extraordinarily hard, despite being outnumbered, outgunned and subjected to relentless, morale-sapping shelling and gas attacks. The German army drew comfort from the realization that, although it had had to yield ground and had paid a huge price in casualties, its morale was essentially intact and the British were no closer to a breakthrough in Flanders at the end of the battle than they had been many weeks earlier.

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Customer Reviews

I have read all of Sheldon's "The German Army On...." Books. It is almost the Only way for an English speaking reader to get the German perspective on the major battles of the war. As such, in a sense, they are invaluable. Having said this, the books, including this one, are not scholarly narrative histories. Sheldon essentially adds brief historical commentaries on the battle in order to tie together memoirs of the German combatants. These books are designed to reproduce innumerable German reflections as experienced by the soldiers themselves. I enjoy them very much. But they are not true histories. Those wishing to read about these conflicts from the perspective of the military and political leaders who planned them and on a strategic and tactical level will be disappointed.

If you are looking for a book that tells you what Passchendaele was like for the individual German soldiers that fought it this is the book. Here you will find what war was like in the trenches from the side of those that fought it.

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