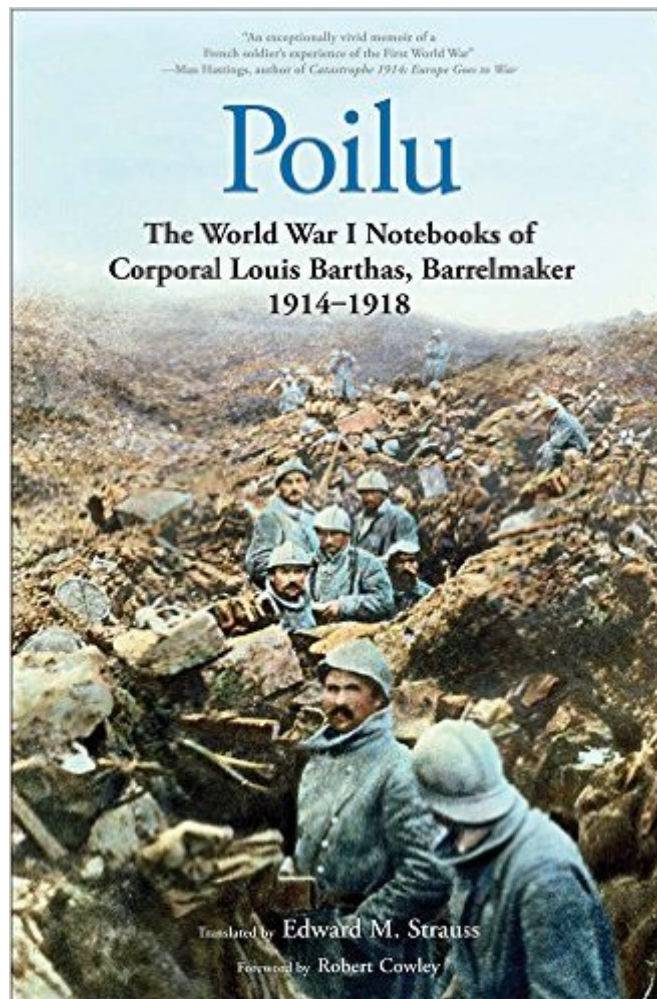


The book was found

Poilu: The World War I Notebooks Of Corporal Louis Barthas, Barrelmaker, 1914-1918



Synopsis

The harrowing first-person account of a French foot soldier who survived four years in the trenches of the First World War. Along with millions of other Frenchmen, Louis Barthas, a thirty-five-year-old barrelmaker from a small wine-growing town, was conscripted to fight the Germans in the opening days of World War I. Corporal Barthas spent the next four years in near-ceaseless combat, wherever the French army fought its fiercest battles: Artois, Flanders, Champagne, Verdun, the Somme, the Argonne. Barthas's riveting wartime narrative, first published in France in 1978, presents the vivid, immediate experiences of a frontline soldier. This excellent new translation brings Barthas's wartime writings to English-language readers for the first time. His notebooks and letters represent the quintessential memoir of a poilu, or as the untidy, unshaven French infantryman of the fighting trenches was familiarly known. Upon Barthas's return home in 1919, he painstakingly transcribed his day-to-day writings into nineteen notebooks, preserving not only his own story but also the larger story of the unnumbered soldiers who never returned. Recounting bloody battles and endless exhaustion, the deaths of comrades, the infuriating incompetence and tyranny of his own officers, Barthas also describes spontaneous acts of camaraderie between French poilus and their German foes in trenches just a few paces apart. An eloquent witness and keen observer, Barthas takes his readers directly into the heart of the Great War.

Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press (March 31, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0300212488

ISBN-13: 978-0300212488

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (110 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #93,225 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military > World War I #74 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > France #119 in Books > History > Military > World War I

Customer Reviews

The republication in a new edition from Yale University Press in 2014 of the trench notebooks of

Corporal Louis Barthas provides a strong counter to the extant interpretation of the meaning of WWI as opposed to the view of those who fought the war. The centennial of the start of the war has already resulted in studies by major historians of the how the conflict began, such as "The Sleepwalkers" by Christopher Clark, "July 1914 Countdown to War" by Sean McMeekin, and "The War that Ended Peace" by Margaret MacMillan. Over the next four years no doubt accounts of the various battles of the war will also be published. For approximately four decades after the end of the war, the western historical impression was that it was a futile, pointless, bloody slaughter, a war in Churchill's phrase of "lions led by donkeys", worst among whom was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the BEF at the Somme, Passchendaele, etc. Historiography began to change in the late 50's and early 60's, with the principal provocateur the late John Terraine, a non academic but prolific historian. His study of Haig, "The Educated Soldier", shifted at least the opinion of conservative historians away from viewing Haig as the butcher of the Somme, and a callous uncaring man, to thinking of him as brilliant and tenacious enough to keep trying to pry open the German lines until at last in September 1918 he succeeded and shortly thereafter ended the war with Germany by an Armistice.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Poilu: The World War I Notebooks of Corporal Louis Barthas, Barrelnmaker, 1914-1918 A World Undone: The Story of the Great War, 1914 to 1918 World War One: 1914-1918 (Campfire Graphic Novels) A Shipyard at War: Unseen Photographs from John Brown's Clydebank, 1914-1918 Notebooks, 1914-1916 Learn to Draw Angry Birds: Bad Piggies: Featuring all your favorite crafty, crazy pigs, including King Pig, Foreman Pig, Corporal Pig, and more! (Licensed Learn to Draw) A History of US: War, Peace, and All That Jazz: 1918-1945 A History of US Book Nine Wings of War: Airborne Warfare 1918-1945 The War That Ended Peace: The Road to 1914 The Grand Old Man of Maine: Selected Letters of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, 1865-1914 (Civil War America) The Great War at Sea: A Naval Atlas, 1914-1919 Propaganda for War: The Campaign Against American Neutrality, 1914-1917 The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914 Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War Everything You Need to Ace World History in One Big Fat Notebook: The Complete Middle School Study Guide (Big Fat Notebooks) Classic Military Aircraft: The World's Fighting Aircraft 1914-1945 The Assassination of the Archduke: Sarajevo 1914 and the Romance That Changed the World O Sisters Ain't You Happy?: Gender, Family, and Community Among the Harvard and Shirley Shakers, 1781-1918 (Women and Gender in Religion) Making Modernism Soviet: The Russian Avant-Garde in the Early Soviet Era, 1918-1928 The Long Weekend: Life in the English Country House, 1918-1939

