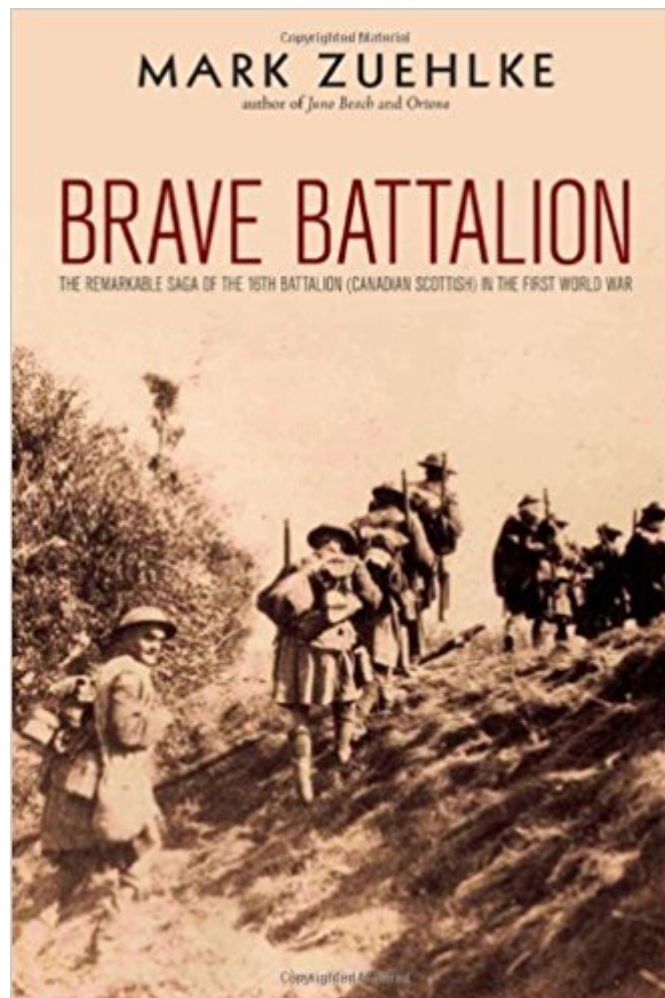




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Brave Battalion: The Remarkable Saga Of The 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) In The First World War



Synopsis

An Excerpt From Brave Battalion. The company was completely bunched in front of the wire. Some men threw bombs toward the German trench while others tried to beat down the wooden stakes supporting the wire with their rifle butts and then trample it into the mud. The German grenades generally fell short as they were throwing uphill, but their rifle fire was "deadly accurate." Casualties mounted. Unless something were to be done quickly, Mackie realized that No. 4 Company would be wiped out. Suddenly Richardson turned to the sergeant. "Will I gie them wund?" he asked calmly. "Aye mon, gie 'em wind, " Mackie barked back. Coolly, the young smooth-faced soldier marched back and forth in front of the wire, playing the pipes while a storm of fire swirled past him on either side. "The effect was instantaneous," reads his Victoria Cross commendation. "Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the positions captured."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans," Chancellor Otto von Bismarck had predicted toward the end of the nineteenth century. That foolish thing happened on June 28, 1914 in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo when Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated. The bullets that killed them, unravelled the web of treaties between European nations, sending them heading for a military showdown that set the world on fire from 1914 until 1918 in what at first became known as the Great War, the first truly global conflict. Because we're close to the 100th anniversary of World War I, a host of tomes on

this subject are being published these days. Canadian Mark Zuehlke, author of many fine histories on Canadian military exploits, enters the fray with *Brave Battalion*. What makes this one different? Most other works provide a general overview of the course of the war or chronicle one specific landmark battle. In this outstanding history, he focuses on a single Canadian battalion, following the war's course from beginning to conclusion through their eyes, as the 16th Battalion was present from outbreak to end of hostilities at virtually every major battle Canada fought during the war. The 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish) was a unit of the First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force and composed of recruits from the 91st Canadian Highlanders (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), the 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, and the 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders). The color of their kilt: the yellow stripe of the Gordons, the white of the Seaforths, the red of the Camerons and the dark green of the Argylls.

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