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Challenge of Battle: The Real Story of the British Army in 1914

By Gilbert, Adrian.

Osprey. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Winston Churchill described the opening campaign of World War I as "a drama never surpassed." In the titanic clash of Europe's armies in 1914, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) played a notable part, leading to an unshakable belief in their exceptional performance. Military historian Adrian Gilbert here offers a more layered assessment, explaining how the British infantry's famed marksmanship has to be set against the inexperience and tactical shortcomings of the BEF as a whole. He describes the problems faced by commanders, grappling with the brutal realities of 20th-century warfare, as well as the rapid progress made by the British during 1914, concluding with the successful defense of Ypres against superior enemy forces. "Gilbert's measured, balanced analysis of the British Expeditionary Force's performance in the first months of World War I presents the Old Contemptibles as they were." Dennis Showalter 304.



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