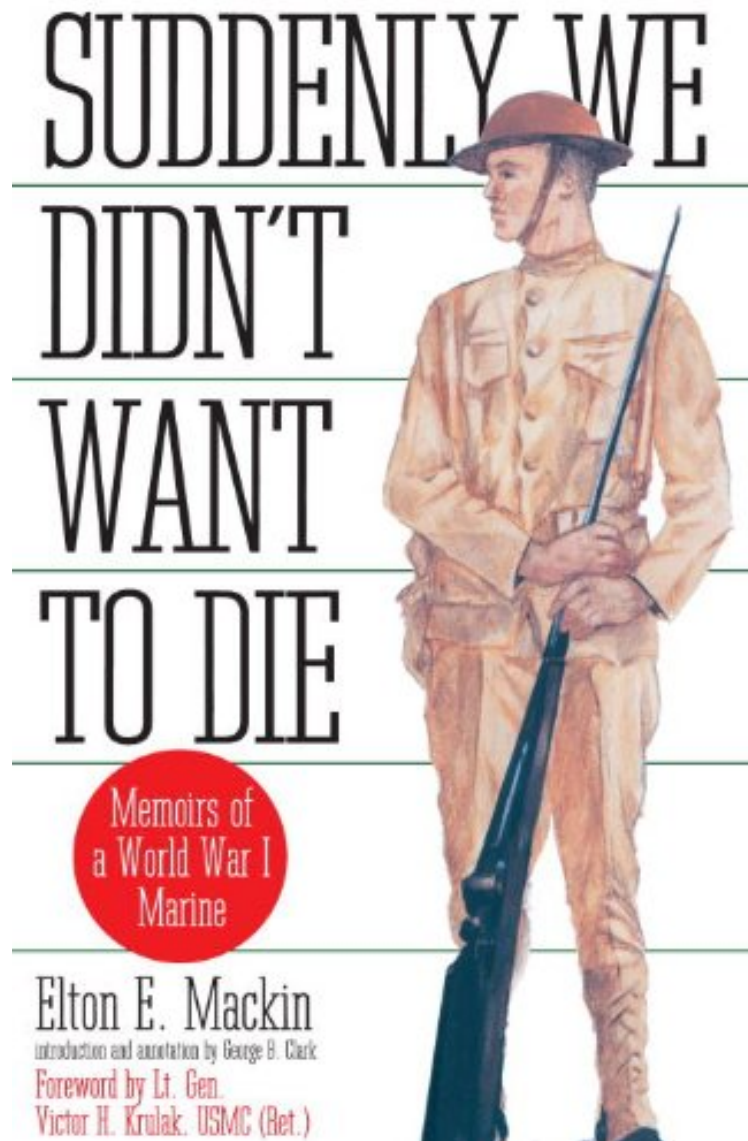


[Free] Suddenly We Didn't Want to Die: Memoirs of a World War I Marine

Suddenly We Didn't Want to Die: Memoirs of a World War I Marine

Von Elton Mackin

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Von Elton Mackin : Suddenly We Didn't Want to Die: Memoirs of a World War I Marine before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Suddenly We Didn't Want to Die: Memoirs of a World War I Marine:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A vivid

and eloquent book Von Ein Kunde Elton E. Mackin only had a high-school education but he wrote with a natural ability. Here is war. He doesn't glamorize it, he doesn't attempt to glorify it and he doesn't use his memoir as a soapbox. He doesn't judge or condemn those who were in command. This is an account of a rifleman. He served at the very bottom and experienced war at its most basic and cruel. Next to the fear and horror of combat Mackin gives equal time to the everyday existence of a soldier or Marine. The lack of sleep, the poor food which there was never enough of, the boredom, all the physical discomforts of serving in the field during a war. A superb book. Of interest to both WWI buffs and the general reader.

Kurzbeschreibung Mackin's memoirs are a haunting portrayal of war in the tradition of *All Quiet on the Western Front*. From Booklist Edited from a combination of written records and tape recordings, this is the plain but powerful tale of a World War I marine. Beginning as a raw recruit who joined his regiment during the battle of Belleau Wood in June, 1918, Mackin volunteered for the highly dangerous duty of runner. He survived all the subsequent major marine actions of the war right up to the armistice and received several decorations for his service. In unadorned but vivid prose loaded with details that bring the horrors of World War I battlefields to life, he tells an exceptional new version of the old story of battle transforming a boy into a veteran. The relative universality of this theme ought to gain his book an audience of more than just Great War buffs. Roland Green From Kirkus s A real curiosity: a highly mannered WW I diary, published nearly 80 years after being written and 20 years after its author's death. Mackin (1898-1974) entered WW I in June 1918 as a 19-year-old Marine infantryman. He was immediately thrust into the front lines. The "Boche" crouched a thousand feet away, on Hill 142 in the Belleau Wood of France; it was the job of Mackin and other raw boys "full of restlessness and spice" to win the hill and then the war. They did--although not, as this stylish diary makes clear, without exposing themselves to unspeakable horrors. Mackin, who refers to himself in the third-person as "Slim," plunged into the action by volunteering for the "suicide squad" as a "runner," a man who steered soldiers into the front lines. Within days of arrival, he'd killed his first German, recounted in a passage that reveals the art, sometimes strained, that marks the diary: "He reached for the tool of his trade. It came up, fitting in snug comfort like the arm of a pal. Its smooth stock caressed him from shoulder to cheekbone. Habit? Training! Target--the half-drawn breath--a finger pressure--recoil." Sometimes a young man's lyricism takes over: "We lay close-hugged to the earth, breathing the reek of mother soil and the mystery of night." Bright snapshots abound, like the one of Skipper: When shot in the neck muscles, he unbuttons his collar, cleans the wound with his finger, buttons up again, and returns to work. The horror of war never departs: rain of bullets, threat of mustard gas, corpses sprawled in trees. Mackin didn't fulfill his literary potential; after the war, he worked as a laborer, bus driver, appliance-store owner, and custodian. What a shame: the diary has the faults one expects, and the promise one prays for. A fine addition to WW I literature. -- Copyright 1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.