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## Review of A Storm in Flanders: the Ypres Salient, 1914-1918: Tragedy and Triumph on the Western Front

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Title of the book: *A Storm in Flanders: The Ypres Salient, 1914-1918: Tragedy and Triumph on the Western Front*

Author or editor of the book: Winston Groom

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### Review

Author: Winston Groom

Title: *A Storm in Flanders: The Ypres Salient, 1914-1918: Tragedy and Triumph on the Western Front*

Publisher: Atlantic Monthly Press

Release date: June 2002

Number of pages: 288 pages.

Features: 16 pages of black-and-white inserts, battlefield maps, index

Format: Cloth

ISBN: 0-87113-842-5

Price: \$26.00

*A Storm in Flanders* paints a vividly sickening picture of war at the beginning of the modern era. During World War I, the Ypres Salient absorbed blood the way a dry sponge absorbs water. In this place, which author Winston Groom compares to a “meat grinder,” hundreds of thousands of human beings were chewed up—some were spit out, some swallowed. The absolute misery of the place—the mud, the incessant rain, the stench and fear of death—is palpable through Groom’s clear prose and that of the soldiers from whose diaries and letters he quotes. In a relatively few pages, Groom has captured the epic blundering, mismanagement, and waste of life that characterized the war on the Western Front.

Though written primarily from the British perspective, Groom nevertheless provides clarifying insights into the actions of the French and Germans as well. Perhaps of greatest use to students of history is the author’s findings of inconsistency and bias in the official record of both the British and Germans.

Recommended for both public library and undergraduate academic library collections.

Michael F. Russo

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