This book is an unprecedented view of the Western Front in World War I from the perspective of German amateur photographers. While fighting in the trenches tens of thousands of German soldiers had their cameras with them in their field packs and took shots of the surrounding reality of war. Largely forgotten since the 1920s, German amateur photographs show the trench war at the Western Front as the infantry man or the company officer captured it spontaneously with his camera. In this way an intimate, moving and authentic view of the Western Front evolved that allows the tragedy of trench war to be viewed from a very different angle than that of professional press and propaganda photographers. The rediscovery of German WWI amateur photography is a long overdue step towards the revival of a piece of mens visualized war memory that has been neglected for decades.

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My Personal Review:
German Amateur Photographers in the First World War is an excellent book. Not only does it contain a myriad of original photographs it also has a wonderful, detailed text. The book contains 18 chapters each describing a different facet of life-and death-on the front. Each chapter is written with authority and contains an excellent description of its subject, such as Trenches and Dugouts, or Weapons and Equipment, and other diverse subjects. Each chapter seems to capture the atmosphere of the period, and the character of its particular subject, but also contains much historically accurate and interesting information explained in detail. Each chapter is stand alone and therefore
the book does not have to be read in order of the chapters, but can be read as the readers interest dictates.

The photographs of this book are all original and are reproduced on excellent quality paper. They have been meticulously collected over a long period of time by the author, Sebastian Remus. All are of excellent quality and are very well detailed. They faithfully complement the written text, and the captions provide a wealth of extra details.

This book fills a hitherto gap in titles written in English and I would highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in the Imperial Armee.

Gary.

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