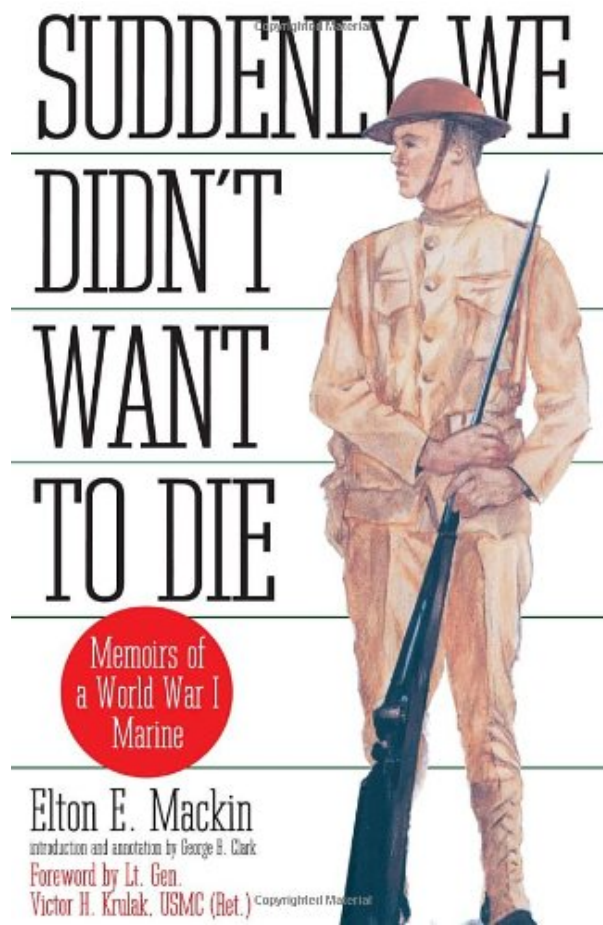


**SUDDENLY WE DIDN'T WANT TO DIE:
MEMOIRS OF A WORLD WAR I MARINE BY
ELTON MACKIN**



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SUDDENLY WE DIDN'T WANT TO DIE



Memoirs of
a World War I
Marine

Elton E. Mackin

introduction and annotation by George B. Clark

Foreword by Lt. Gen.

Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret.)

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From Publishers Weekly

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Mackin's memoirs are a haunting portrayal of war in the tradition of *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

- Sales Rank: #549680 in Books
- Published on: 1996-11-01
- Released on: 1993-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.49" h x .57" w x 5.51" l, .76 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 264 pages

Features

- ISBN13: 9780891415930
- Condition: New
- Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold!

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Excellent Read

By Edward L. Semler

The writing style threw me at first. The book is written in short one to four or five page "thoughts" or remembrances. And written in third person. But once I got into the flow of the writing style I didn't want to put it down. The short stories follow this Marines day to day fighting from Belleau Wood to the last day of the war. The book starts in the trenches and ends in the trenches. This hero tells it like it was.....

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Vietnam was nothing new

By Eric T. Dean

Mackin's book is a spare, at times profound and almost poetic evocation of the life of a Marine Corps grunt on the Western Front in World War I. The dominant theme is of how men accommodate themselves to the appalling realization that they are in a hopeless situation in which they will be killed, and there is nothing they can do to prevent it, and that no one other than their comrades will ever fully appreciate this predicament: "The folks at home will never know the truth."

Mackin writes of the thrill and terror of battle, the feelings of fear and elation, and the awe at seeing other men die: "It is always a show, no matter how terrifying."

To deal with this world of fear and death, men developed a sarcasm for weakness: "They make a bitter joke of things to cover feelings"; "We learned to close our minds to the memory of men who fell. We took the way of living day to day . . . We learned to laugh at everything in time. It carried us." Men lost their youth, and in some ways matured, and in other ways were permanently scarred: "There was no singing now . . . The faces had changed. . . his scars would be deep, and never, never leave his eyes."

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