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Stephen McGreal

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Stephen McGreal : Boesinghe (Battleground Europe) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boesinghe (Battleground Europe):

In the aftermath of the War, the war-ravaged countryside was restored and the trenches of the Western Front were filled in. 75 years after the War a group of Belgians, known as the Diggers, excavated a classic trench system at Boesinghe, discovering many artifacts as well as remains of the Fallen. One section has been preserved. Boesinghe is a

canal village and the opposing sides continually bombarded each other across the wide Yser canal. In the opening phases of the Second battle of Ypres, the Germans used gas ; despite this, the British flank held. Late in the summer of 1917 the Allies launched the Third battle of Ypres and the Guards Division spearheaded the crossing of the canal. They attained their planned objectives but at great cost. The many military cemeteries in the area are poignant reminders of the cost of war even in what some regarded as a 'quiet' sector.

Stephen McGreal has done a fine job of compilation of the stories, maps and images that make the 'Battleground Europe' series what they are, and 'Boesinghe' would be a fine buy for anyone wishing to understand more about and visit this part of the Western Front. (The Long, Long Trail)About the AuthorStephen McGreal is an author and historian.