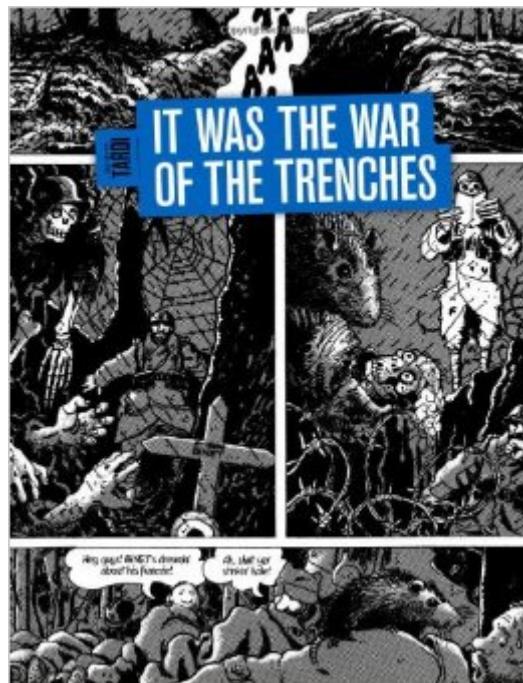


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# It Was The War Of The Trenches



## Synopsis

Tardiâ™s World War I masterpiece finally in English! World War I, that awful, gaping wound in the history of Europe, has long been an obsession of Jacques Tardiâ™s. (His very firstâ•rejectedâ• comics story dealt with the subject, as does his most recent work, the two-volume *Putain de Guerre*.) But *It Was the War of the Trenches* is Tardiâ™s defining, masterful statement on the subject, a graphic novel that can stand shoulder to shoulder with Erich Maria Remarqueâ™s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and Ernest Hemingwayâ™s *A Farewell to Arms*. Tardi is not interested in the national politics, the strategies, or the battles. Like Remarque, he focuses on the day to day of the grunts in the trenches, and, with icy, controlled fury and disgust, with sardonic yet deeply sympathetic narration, he brings that existence alive as no one has before or since. Yet he also delves deeply into the underlying causes of the war, the madness, the cynical political exploitation of patriotism. And in a final, heartbreaking coda, Tardi grimly itemizes the ghastly human cost of the war, and lays out the future 20th century conflicts, all of which seem to spring from this global burst of insanity. *Trenches* features some of Tardiâ™s most stunning artwork. Rendered in an inhabitually lush illustrative style, inspired both by abundant photographic documentation and classic American war comics, augmented by a sophisticated, gorgeous use of Craftint tones, *Trenches* is somehow simultaneously atypical and a perfect encapsulation of Tardiâ™s mature style. It is the indisputable centerpiece of Tardiâ™s oeuvre. *It Was the War of the Trenches* has been an object of fascination for North American publishers: RAW published a chapter in the early 1980s, and Drawn and Quarterly magazine serialized a few more in the 1990s. But only a small fraction of *Trenches* has ever been made available to the English speaking public (in now out of print publications); the Fantagraphics edition, the third in an ongoing collection of the works of this great master, finally remedies this situation. 120 pages of black-and-white comics

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

seriously, this might be one of the best comics I've ever read. One of the most complete experiences on why war is hell and how ethics are mistreated and twisted for the sake of some misguided nationalism I've ever read in this medium. This is up there with *Maus*, folks. This is up there with *Paths of Glory* and *Grave of the Fireflies*. You're doing yourself a misservice by NOT reading it. EASILY a five out five.

A graphic novel masterpiece, "It Was the War of the Trenches" is the archetypal "anti-war" cartoon, retaining its emotional power. Many of the battle and trench sequences are impressive, even by graphic novel standards. This graphic novel hit the nail on the head in that the only ones that want war are the elite leaders, and political and war manufacturers.

This graphic (quite graphic) novel about the 'War of the Trenches' brings the horror and misery of ground war to the printed page. What humor exists is the black humor of men facing fear and death. My maternal grandfather served in WWI and told me stories about the trenches. This graphic novel made those stories more real, and more affecting. You can't look away from this strong anti-war statement. It's the fascination of watching a great disaster unfold.

Enjoyed the drawings and the story lines. I wish there was more to it because it really gave you a feel of the hardships soldiers went through in the trenches. It truly didn't blame anyone and pointed out the horrors of the war for the soldiers.

A graphic novel masterpiece, "It Was the War of the Trenches" is the archetypal "anti-war" cartoon, retaining all its emotional power. Many of the battle and trench sequences are impressive, even by graphic novel standards. This graphic novel hit the nail on the head in that the only ones that want war are the elite leaders, and political and war manufacturers. Makes a great companion piece along with "Journey to the End of the Night" by Louis-Ferdinand Celine, which Jacques Tardi illustrated, in "Voyage au bout de la nuit" (Futuropolis, 1988).

In case you missed the memo, World War I was a nightmare of pointless suffering for millions upon millions of people. This beautifully produced (and translated) reprint of a 1993 French graphic collection takes you there via a loose collection of personal stories from the French trenches. There's no protagonist, no plot, no narrative, just, as the author writes in his foreword: "Nothing but a gigantic, anonymous scream of agony." Each of these "screams of agony" is the story of a French soldier and the madness he encounters at the front lines. There are about 8-10 stories, ranging from 2-15 pages each, and they march across the mind with relentless horror. Tardi drew heavily upon archival photos and research in drafting these stories, and it certainly shows both in the detail and emotional truth of the images. In another part of the preface the author wrote, "The only thing that interests me is man and his suffering, and it fills me with rage." and that rage comes across very directly. This is not a book to be read for fun, but to be studied in conjunction with other seminal works on World War I such as Good-Bye to All That, Paths of Glory, and many many more books and films (which are listed in the excellent bibliography in the rear of the book). The book occupies the uneasy but vital space between pure documentary footage, memoir, and fiction, and could be an excellent teaching tool for the classroom.

Amazing book despite the bland title. A truly horrific account of WWI from the French perspective. Nasty and brutish. Half a horse rotting in a tree is used as signpost/landmark: "the scarecrow". French cops shoot bayonet-only soldiers who hesitate during suicidal charge without ammo: later some of these cops get lynched by French troops. Grim, honest, gritty. Two enemies meet in church, strike deal: "You're my prisoner or I'm yours, depending on which army arrives first": German gets shot right away, Frenchman gets shot soon after for fraternizing with enemy. The weird variety of nationalities is displayed: Sikhs, Vietnamese gravediggers, Senegalese troops, etc. Many horrific vignettes. Just as powerful as "Johnny Got His Gun" or any number of other WWI books. Tardi is truly underappreciated in the US. Highly recommended.

If you like war book and graphic novels, well you in luck this book includes both of these. This book was great to read it showed how the French and Germans tried to gain ground in World War, if you are a person that likes books that talk about world war and in graphic novel form, then this book would be great for you. *It's the War of the Trenches* • takes place in the year of 1915-1918 it's against the French and the German and, what the war was like and how Brutal the condition were, and what the men had to face. The author described the book in good detail, it told how then

men suffered and the obstacleâ™s they had to face. You could easy walk around and see and smell the rotting bodies of the men who had fought to either hold their ground or push there enemy back. Both sides didnâ™t really gain that much ground but many people died trying. I would recommend this book to read, it was an amazing graphic novel, Iâ™m not much of a reader and I donâ™t really like reading book too often but when I do read, I love reading graphic novel books and if it has a lot of action in it, then that makes it all the better.

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