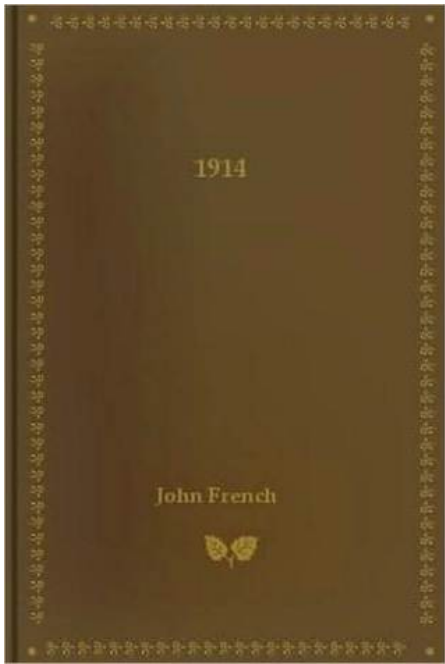




1914

John French

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I remember spending a week in June of that year in Paris, and when passing through Dover on my return, my old friend, Jimmie Watson (Colonel Watson, late of the 60th Rifles, A.D.C. to the Khedive of Egypt), looked into my carriage window and told me of the murder of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his Consort. I cannot say that I actually regarded this tragedy as being the prelude which should lead ultimately to a great European convulsion, but in my own mind, and in view of my past experience, it created a feeling of unrest within me and an instinctive foreboding of evil. Then came a few weeks of the calm which heralded the storm--a calm under cover of which Germany was vigorously preparing for "the day."

1914 Details

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From Reader Review 1914 for online ebook

Christopher says

This book is a fascinating read, The book follows the thoughts and notes from the Diary of the Field Marshal of England Or Viscount of Ypres.

First

This book is part of the Gutenberg project, the ebook is free for anyone to read and can be found at www.gutenberg.org, locations on the website are inside the book that give you access to the maps of the area's mentioned in the book.

This was my first experiences with a book like this that is reading someones diary entries and it is good, you have to keep in mind though that although the entries maybe biased on true events, however what goes into the diary is up to interpretation what one person sees is not always what the person next to him saw.

1914 follows at the start of World war one the last civilized war, the Gentleman's war. Things such as honor still played it's part, through the book I learn many new things about what went on behind closed doors, for me it was interesting to learn there were people planning and preparing battle plans for war in Europe as early as 1908/9 that they had the forth-sight to anticipate the war in 1914.

I know some people in America like to read and know about a certain Mr Winston Churchill who eventually became Prime Minister, in this book you find out some interesting tid-bits of his time as a much younger Cabinet minister.

The orders of which the Lord Kitchener (who was at the time Secretary of state)which was issued to Field Marshal at the time. It was really interesting to read the negotiations between the different countries most notably the Belgian King.

The book can be a bit of a hard read with all the army rank abbreviation and the French names and such you can lose track but you soon regain the plot.

the narrative did a good job except for keep stopping to put some more random information he remembered to put in.

the book isn't heavy in British words so anyone could understand it well.

It is well worth the read the book is just 269 pages long on the ebook version, I discovered yesterday how to get an arrange of books on my nook including this one, It peeked my curiosity and I was impressed with it.

If you like to learn new stuff about the 1st year and things of World war one this book delivers it gives a fresh perspective to and old bit of history I'd thought I knew all there was, I learned that isn't true with this book.

I hope you enjoy this read too.

Mick Maye says

Read this as an eBook. Covers Sir John French's viewpoint of the first year of the war. He appears to not want to denigrate any commander or officer and thus appears to be a fair amount of spin. With that said he also had a very small force in comparison to his allies and enemy. he glosses over the conflict he had with Kitchener and the War cabinet as well. From other sources there appeared to be considerable conflict with Joffre and to a lesser extent Foch, however from this book there were minor tiffs.

I found this book reasonable in the fact it shows the role of the commander s probably as much a politician as commander of the army.
