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particular approach. Nevertheless, this is a reliable and readable survey that should prove particularly useful to those beginning on a path through air power studies.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25602/GOLD.bjmh.v5i1.826>

Nigel Atter, *In the Shadow of Bois Hugo: The 8th Lincolns at the Battle of Loos*. Helion & Co., 2017. 144pp. ISBN: 9781911512776 (paperback). Price £16.95.

In the Shadow of Bois Hugo is a short volume that deals with the experience of 8th (Service) Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, during the ill-fated Battle of Loos in September 1915. Atter, an independent scholar, has written an attractive and well-illustrated account that deals with one of the New Army battalions that went into action on the second day of the battle (26 September 1915). During the action the Lincolns suffered a terrible baptism of fire, sustaining heavy losses around a small copse known as Bois Hugo. Atter is at pains to argue that far from ‘bolting’ from the action without good cause (as has sometimes been claimed), the battalion fought with courage and determination and, as such, ‘deserves much better from contemporary historians’.

Over the course of nine chapters, Atter discusses the formation of the battalion and then goes through the development of British offensive operations on the Western Front during 1915, which led up to the Battle of Loos. The text then moves on to the first and second days of the fighting, before looking at the lessons of the battle. Seven appendices then complete the volume, including a roll of honour, selections of letters, a list of those who became prisoners-of-war, and the known graves of those who fell. Indeed, there are so many chapters, sub-chapters, headings and sub-headings, that it sometimes feels more like a series of lists and gobbets than a work of considered historical analysis. For example in the chapter on the first day, Atter provides a cursory description of the events of 25 September, with short sections on the involvement of each division, most of which are only incidental to the fate of the Lincolns. Chapter 7 is entitled ‘Analysis’ and is followed by chapter 8, ‘The Lessons of Loos’ (composed of only three or four short paragraphs), before we get to the final conclusion. This surely would have been improved by combining them all together in a more considered concluding section. As a result, the book often feels broken up and fragmentary.

In the Shadow of Bois Hugo does well at examining a New Army battalion that has escaped previous attention from historians, albeit for perfectly understandable reasons

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(it being one minor part of a battle that has, itself, been overlooked). Atter does, however, claim a greater significance for the volume than it perhaps warrants. He argues that the book challenges the historiography of the battle, which has been critical of the New Army divisions generally (including 8/Lincolns), claiming that they were routed or 'bolted' from the battlefield. Atter believes that this is incorrect and defends the battalion from such a calumny. While some historians have made broad comments to this effect, it must be stated that my work on Loos (*Loos 1915*, published in 2006), which examines the experience of the reserve divisions in detail, does not come to this conclusion. It defended the performance of these units and argued that the idea of a 'wild panic' from the battlefield was 'unlikely'. But Atter does not cite this, which is surprising.

In the Shadow of Bois Hugo is an interesting account, written by someone with a deep attachment to the subject, but ultimately it will be of interest only to specialists in the field or those with a specific connection to the Lincolns.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25602/GOLD.bjmh.v5i1.829>

Peter Sikora, *The Polish 'Few': Polish Airmen in the Battle of Britain*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military, 2018. xvii + pp. 574. ISBN: 978-1526-714855. Price £30.00.

Peter Sikora's study of the Polish 'few' begins not in 1940 but with a more contemporary story. He says that 'A few years ago' (it was actually 2009), a British political party (which Sikora did not name) had used a picture of a Spitfire on a leaflet which was critical of immigration. Sentiment in Britain against immigration was at that time focused on people coming from eastern Europe, perhaps especially Poland. The un-named political party (it was the British National Party) had not done their homework, for the Spitfire pictured was very obviously flown by a Polish pilot, displaying as it did the distinctive red and white checkerboard. The error was repeated by the right-wing group Britain First in 2014.

The ignorance shown by these groups can hardly be because the role of Poles in the Royal Air Force in 1939-45 has been completely 'forgotten' in the UK. There are visible signs on both the Battle of Britain memorial near Folkestone unveiled in 1993,