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# Battle Cries and Lullabies: Women in War from Prehistory to the Present

*Linda Grant De Pauw, Linda Grant De Pauw*  
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**Linda Grant De Pauw, Linda Grant De Pauw : Battle Cries and Lullabies: Women in War from Prehistory to the Present** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Battle Cries and Lullabies: Women in War from Prehistory to the Present:

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which will certainly appeal to military women and to those who appreciate the distaff side of women's history. But ultimately its all too fleeting glances into each of its subjects leave the reader dissatisfied and enticed to know more.

Covering thousands of years and spanning the globe, Linda Grant De Pauw explores the varied roles women have played in war, as warriors, nurses, spies, sex workers, wives, mothers of soldiers, sex workers, leaders of armies into battle and as baggage carriers marching in the rear. 24 illustrations.

From Publishers Weekly "If there is anything fine and ennobling in war, women share the glory. If war is atrocity, women share the guilt," writes historian De Pauw (*Founding Mothers*) by way of argument in her encyclopedic survey. Insofar as this book's plentiful anecdotes add up to a central point, it is that the search for an essential female pacifism is fruitless and ahistorical: "every nation has a history of women in war" despite an equally long tradition of sniggering and abuse. (Once it was said that "all military women are whores," the author observes; today's amended version is "All military women are either whores or dykes.") True, scorn for female "camp followers" performing both logistical and sexual services for male troops dates to the Crusades, but the range of stories here makes clear how varied women's roles have been. The Greeks considered victory over the invading s "their greatest triumph", while women across the globe have disguised themselves and gone to fight (probably more than 600 during the American Civil War alone), saved lives as nurses or worked secretly as spies, partisans and guerrillas. Though the book never directly states its larger claims, the wealth of evidence it provides renders the controversy over women in combat almost quaint?their presence on and near the battlefield is ancient, inescapable and irreversible. (Oct.) FYI: *Women War Heroines* by George and Anne Forty will be published in September (Arms Armour [Sterling, dist.], \$27.95 208p ISBN 1-85409-397-5-, \$27.95 208p ISBN 1-85409-397-5) Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In a work infused with meticulous citations and presented in a logical chronology, De Pauw (*history, George Washington Univ.; Seafaring Women, 1982*) covers thousands of years and spans the globe to reveal the role of women in the military?a subject hardly covered by military history and contemporary women's studies. De Pauw elucidates such details as dress, hygiene, and social conduct, explaining that women soldiers even took "wives" to "help maintain their disguise." The 100 Years' War, the 30 Years' War, the American Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, and the American Civil War are but a few of the human clashes De Pauw examines, and she introduces us to colorful figures like Hannah Duston, a hostage, escapee, and finally hatchet-brandishing avenger during the French and Indian Wars. Also appearing are African warrior queens who led armies of men and women and were "not merely strong but also tactically clever." An important work for women's studies and military studies collections.?Kay Meredith Dusheck, Univ. of Iowa, Anamosa Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The founder of the Minerva Institute, which promotes the study of women in the military, offers a very reasonable overview of that subject, from prehistory to the Persian Gulf War and Tailhook. Inevitably, covering 6,000 years in 380 pages enjoins breadth rather than depth coverage, but the analytical framework on which De Pauw hangs the narrative and anecdotes is quite adequate. It allows De Pauw to cover not just women in combat, disguised and not, but also women as spies, nurses, and camp followers (the last two were not clearly distinguished until the nineteenth century). Comparatively little here will be new to assiduous students of the subject, but those concentrated on some other area of military history, newly come to this topic, or acquainted only with general media coverage of things military will find the book well worth close reading. Roland Green