



## The French Foreign Legion

By Douglas Boyd

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**The French Foreign Legion** By Douglas Boyd

**What attracts men from 136 different nations to embrace the harsh military code of an army that requires them to lay down their lives for a country not their own, if ordered to do so by politicians whose language many of them hardly speak?**

Douglas Boyd's history of the Legion answers that question, with fifteen historic photographs and eleven battle/campaign maps.

Founded in 1831 to fight France's colonial wars without spilling French blood, this mysterious army is today a world-class fighting force. Training is so tough that five recruits out of six are rejected, never to wear the coveted white kepi.

This is a world where fact exceeds the wildest fiction: men fighting literally to the last bullet at Camarón in Mexico in 1863; cooks and clerks with no parachute training volunteering to be dropped into beleaguered Dien Bien Phu in 1954 with the intention of dying beside their comrades; the paras who mutinied in Algeria to bring down the government of France; the heroes who dropped on Kolwezi to rescue thousands of European hostages.

## Praise for Douglas Boyd

**'A tight and fascinating history of the nearly two centuries of the Legion's activities.'** - Brig Anthony Hunter-Carat, the UK's senior ex-legionnaire

**Perhaps the greatest praise of the book is the fact that legionnaires liked this history of their incredible army so much that they elected author Douglas Boyd an honorary ex-legionnaire.**

RAF Russian linguist, international businessman, music impresario, BBC Television Producer/Director, **Douglas Boyd** has been writing full-time since setting up home in a medieval farmhouse in south-west France thirty-five years ago. His published fiction and non-fiction, translated into many languages, includes three novels set against a Legion background: *The Eagle and the Snake*,

*The Truth and the Lies, The Honour and the Glory.*

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## The French Foreign Legion By Douglas Boyd Bibliography

- Rank: #242483 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-11-23
- Released on: 2015-11-23
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Douglas Boyd has been a full-time writer since moving to France three decades ago, and previously worked as a producer for BBC TV. He has published numerous titles on historical subjects, including the hardback edition of *The French Foreign Legion* with Sutton in 2006. He is currently writing books on the Cold War and Russian imperialism and occupied Normandy in World War 2 for Ian Allan Publishing. He is an honorary member of the French Foreign Legion.

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