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# Tommy At Gommecourt

**Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson's Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919 was first published by the Department of National Defence in 1962 as the official**

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**history of the Canadian Army's involvement in the First World War. Immediately after the war ended Colonel A. Fortescue Duguid made a first attempt to write an official history of the war, but the ill-fated project produced only the first of an anticipated eight volumes. Decades**

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**later, G.W.L. Nicholson - already the author of an official history of the Second World War - was commissioned to write a new official history of the First. Illustrated with numerous photographs and full-colour maps, Nicholson's text offers an authoritative account of the war effort, while also**

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**discussing politics on the home front, including debates around conscription in 1917. With a new critical introduction by Mark Osborne Humphries that traces the development of Nicholson's text and analyzes its legacy, Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-1919 is an essential resource for**

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**both professional historians and military history enthusiasts.**

**The last untold story of the First World War: the fortunes and fates of 170,000 British soldiers captured by the enemy. On capture, British officers and men were routinely told by the Germans 'For you the war is over'. Nothing could be**

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**further from the truth. British Prisoners of War merely exchanged one barbed-wire battleground for another. In the camps the war was eternal. There was the war against the German military, fought with everything from taunting humour to outright sabotage, with a literal spanner put in the works**

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**of the factories and salt mines prisoners were forced to slave in. British PoWs also fought a valiant war against the conditions in which they were mired. They battled starvation, disease, Prussian cruelties, boredom, and their own inner demons. And, of course, they escaped. Then escaped again. No less**

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**than 29 officers at Holzminden camp in 1918 burrowed their way out via a tunnel (dug with a chisel and trowel) in the Great Escape of the Great War. It was war with heart-breaking consequences: more than 12,000 PoWs died, many of them murdered, to be buried in shallow unmarked graves.**



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**Using contemporary records - from prisoners' diaries to letters home to poetry - John Lewis-Stempel reveals the death, life and, above all, the glory of Britain's warriors behind the wire. For it was in the PoW camps, far from the blasted trenches, that the true spirit of the Tommy was exemplified.**

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**'A Lack of Offensive Spirit?' is a companion volume to Alan MacDonald's recently revised book 'Pro Patria Mori - the 56th (1st London) Division at Gommecourt, 1st July 1916'. The attack of the 46th (North Midland) Division at Gommecourt on the first day of the Battle of the Somme is one of**

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**the most controversial incidents of the Great War. The men were effectively accused of cowardice ("A lack of offensive spirit") and of being drunk and the Division was the only one subject to a Court of Inquiry into its conduct. Their commander, Maj. Gen. Eddie Stuart Wortley, was the only**

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**General sacked as a result of the catastrophe of the 1st July 1916, a day when the British Army suffered its worst casualties in a single day in its entire history. A Lack of Offensive Spirit?' tells the story of Stuart Wortley and the 46th Division from the opening of the war, through the tragedy of the**

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**Hohenzollern Redoubt and then, day by day, through the preparations for the attack on Gommecourt. The attack itself is described using the dozens of eyewitness reports collected after the battle as well as official documents and post-war recollections and memoirs. The German perspective on the battle is**

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**also extensively covered with information drawn from numerous German unit histories. The conduct of the Court of Inquiry and of Stuart Wortley's desperate efforts to clear his name are covered in detail as well as the tragic fate of the hundreds of officers and men missing, dead and wounded. A**

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**Lack of Offensive Spirit?' is fully indexed, contains over 20 maps and plans, 45 photographs and contains extensive appendices (including a Roll of Honour of both British and German dead).**

**I am glad that this very personal little book is to be re-published, if only for**

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**private circulation, for it rings as true to-day as it did yesterday. It tells the story of one young man in the Great War, but, in fact, it reveals no less the personality of the writer who knit the young man's story together.**

**6th Battalion, the Manchester Regiment  
in the Great War**



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**Official History of the Canadian Army  
in the First World War**

**The Life, Death and Glory of British  
Prisoners of War, 1914-18**

**Now it Can be Told**

**Sustaining Tommy 1914-1918**

**Gommecourt to Maricourt, 1 July 1916**

**Barnsley Pals**

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For soldiers in the Great War, going over the top was a comparatively rare event; much more frequently, they were bored and lonely and missing their families at home. Needing an outlet for their affection,

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many found it in the animal kingdom. Tommy's Ark looks at the war through the eyes of the soldiers who were there, and examines their relationship with a strange and unexpected range of animal life, from horses, dogs

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and cats to monkeys and birds - even in one case a golden eagle. Animals became mascots - some Welsh battalions had goats as mascots, some of the Scots had donkeys. And then there were the animals and

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insects that excited curiosity amongst men drawn into the army from the industrial heartlands of Britain, men who had little knowledge of, let alone daily contact with, wildlife. Civilians turned soldiers

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observed the natural world around them, from the smallest woodlouse to voles, mice and larger animals such as deer and rabbit. Richard van Emden explores his subject far more radically than previous

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attempts, revealing how, for example, a lemur was taken on combat missions in the air, a lion was allowed to pad down the front line trenches and how a monkey lost its leg during the fighting at Delville Wood on the

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Somme. Illustrated with more than sixty previously unseen or rarely published photographs, drawn mainly from the author's own extraordinary collection. In *Psychedelia and Other Colours*, acclaimed author Rob



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Chapman explores in crystalline detail the history, precedents and cultural impact of LSD, from the earliest experiments in painting with light and immersive environments to the thriving avant-garde scene that

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existed in San Francisco even before the Grateful Dead and the Fillmore Auditorium. In the UK, he documents an entirely different history, and one that has never been told before. It has its roots in fairy tales and

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fairgrounds, the music hall and the dead of Flanders fields, in the Festival of Britain and that peculiarly British strand of surrealism that culminated in the Magical Mystery Tour. Sitars and Sergeant Pepper,

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surfadelica and the Soft Machine, light shows and love-ins - the mind-expanding effects of acid were to redefine popular culture as we know it.

Psychedelia and Other Colours documents these utopian

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reverberations - and the dark side of their moon - in a perfect portrait.

Many guidebooks cover the Somme offensive in 1916, the five-month struggle that has come to be seen as one of the

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defining episodes in the history of the fighting on the Western Front during the First World War. But no previous guide has concentrated on t  
What did home mean to British soldiers and how did it help

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them to cope with the psychological strains of the Great War? Family relationships lie at the heart of this book. It explores the contribution letters and parcels from home played in maintaining the morale of this

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largely young, amateur army. And it shows how soldiers, in their turn, sought to adapt domestic habits to the trenches. Pursuing the unconscious clues within a rich collection of letters and memoirs with the help of



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psychoanalytical ideas, including those formulated by the veteran tank commander Wilfred Bion, this study asks fundamental questions about the psychological resources of this generation of young men. It

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reveals how the extremities of battle exposed the deepest emotional ties of childhood, and went on marking the post-war domestic lives of those who returned.

"A Lack of Offensive Spirit?"

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Success and Failure on the first day of the Battle of the Somme  
The First of July  
The War History of the 4th Battalion, the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), 1914-1919  
Canadian Expeditionary Force,

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1914-1919

The Fifth Leicestershire

Tea, Rum and Fags

The papers of General Sir Thomas D'Oyly Snow provide a remarkable insight into the mindset of the Great War commanders. Despite being

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severely injured during the first Battle of the Marne when his horse fell and rolled over him, cracking his pelvis, Snow served at some of the most important battles of the Western Front.

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Offers the story behind the building of the First World War cemeteries, and follows Red Cross worker Fabian Ware, who, horrified by the burials of the war dead, recorded the identity and position of the graves.

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important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

The 6th Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, was a prewar Territorial unit. Many of its members held "white collar" positions

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employed by the City's legal, financial and stockbroking practices or worked for the major commercial organizations trading and manufacturing cotton goods. It went overseas in September 1914,

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taking with it many new recruits who would undertake their basic training whilst the Battalion formed part of the British garrison in Egypt. It saw action at Gallipoli from May 1915 until the evacuation at the

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end of the year and fascinating campaign is dealt with in considerable detail. The Battalion returned to Egypt until the spring of 1917 when it moved to France. The Manchesters saw regular action for most

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of 1918, coming under attack in the German offensive in March. Throughout the summer and autumn, the Battalion took part in the Advance to Victory and was still advancing when the Armistice was signed in November. The



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book also recounts the history of the second line battalion, the 2/6th Manchesters, from its inception in 1914 until it was all but destroyed in March 1918. The author draws on official records and

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personal accounts to tell the story of these fine battalions.

The 13th and 14th Battalions  
York and Lancaster Regiment  
The Measure Of Days  
A Guide to the Design,  
Construction and Use of

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Concrete Pill Boxes,  
1914-1918

The 46th (North Midland)  
Division at Gommecourt 1st  
July 1916

Landscapes and Voices of the  
Great War

"Over the Top"

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On 1 July 1916, after a five-day bombardment, 11 British and 5 French divisions launched their long-awaited 'Big Push' on German positions on high ground above the

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Rivers Ancre and Somme on the Western Front. Some ground was gained, but at a terrible cost. In killing-grounds whose names are indelibly imprinted on 20th-

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century memory, German machine-guns – manned by troops who had sat out the storm of shellfire in deep dugouts – inflicted terrible losses on the British

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infantry. The British Fourth Army lost 57,470 casualties, the French Sixth Army suffered 1,590 casualties and the German 2nd Army 10,000. And this was but the

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prelude to 141 days of slaughter that would witness the deaths of between 750,000 and 1 million troops. Andrew Roberts evokes the pity and the horror of the



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blackest day in the history of the British army – a summer's day-turned-hell-on-earth by modern military technology – in the words of casualties,

*Page 57/141*

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survivors, and the bereaved.

The Walking the Western Front series started in 2012 with the release of two films on the Ypres Salient. Directed by

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acclaimed film maker Ed Skelding with guest historian Nigel Cave, the series of films offered a detailed tour of the battlefields, exploring

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Originally published in 1964, this is a critically acclaimed classic history of the military engagements of the Somme that raged from July to November

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1916. It tells of bloody battles interspersed with trench actions of dreadful intensity. In addition to the key confrontations, Farrar-Hockley provides a

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detailed background to the Somme planning and why it failed with dreadful casualties. In its entirety, the conflict along the Somme scarred the minds of a

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whole generation, becoming recorded by historians as the graveyard of the 'flower of British manhood'. With a new introduction by Charles Messenger,

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and a touching foreword by the author's son, Dair Farrar-Hockley, this new edition of The Somme is a testament to those who gave their lives on this famous



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battlefield.

The first day of the Somme has had more of a widespread emotional impact on the psyche of the British public than any other battle in

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history. Now, 100 years later, Robert Kershaw attempts to understand the carnage, using the voices of the British and German soldiers who lived through that awful

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day. In the early hours of 1 July 1916, the British General staff placed its faith in patriotism and guts, believing that one 'Big Push' would bring on the

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end of the Great War. By sunset, there were 57,470 men – more than half the size of the present-day British Army – who lay dead, missing or wounded. On that day

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hope died. Juxtaposing the British trench view against that from the German parapet, Kershaw draws on eyewitness accounts, memories and letters to expose the

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true horror of that day. Amongst the mud, gore and stench of death, there are also stories of humanity and resilience, of all-embracing comradeship

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and gritty patriotic British spirit. However it was this very emotion which ultimately caused thousands of young men to sacrifice themselves on the Somme.

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A Record of the 1/5th  
Battalion, the  
Leicestershire Regiment,  
T.F., During the War,  
1914-1919

The Story of the 2/4th  
Oxfordshire and



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Buckinghamshire Light  
Infantry

The War Service of the  
1/4 Royal Berkshire  
Regiment (T.F.)

A Tommy Gunn Adventure  
Brother Tommy

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The Somme  
Pill Boxes on the  
Western Front

**It is said that 'an army marches on its stomach', but histories of the First World War usually concentrate on its political and**

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**military aspects. The gargantuan task of keeping the British Expeditionary Force fed and watered is often overlooked, yet without adequate provision the soldiers would never have been able to fight. Tommy couldn't get enough tea, rum or fags, yet his**

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**commanders sent him bully beef and dog biscuits. But it was amazing how 2 million men did not usually go short of nourishment, although parcels from home, canteens and estaminets had a lot to do with that. Incredibly, Tommy could be**

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**in a civilised town supping beer, wine, egg and chps, and a few hours later making do with bully beef in a water-filled trench. Alan Weeks examines how the army got its food and drink and what it was like.**

**Much controversy has**

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**surrounded the Somme offensive relating to its justification and its impact upon the course of the war. General Sir Douglas Haig's policies have been the subject of considerable debate about whether the heavy losses sustained were worth the small**

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**gains that were achieved which appeared to have little strategic value. That was certainly the case on many sectors on 1 July 1916, where British soldiers were unable to cross No Man's Land and failed to reach, or penetrate into, the German trenches. In**

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**other sectors, however, breaches were made in the German lines culminating in the capture that day of Leipzig Redoubt, Mametz and Montauban. This book aims to highlight the failures and successes on that day and for the first time evaluate those factors**



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**that caused some divisions to succeed in capturing their objectives whilst others failed. An important new study, this book is certain to answer these questions as well as challenging the many myths and misconceptions surrounding the**

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**battle that have been propagated for the last 100 years.**

**The 'Pals' battalions were a phenomenon of the Great War, never repeated since. Under Lord Derby's scheme, and in response to Kitchener's famous call for a million volunteers, local**

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**communities raised (and initially often paid for) entire battalions for service on the Western Front. After an immense but useless bombardment, at 7.30 am. On 1 July 1916 the British Army went over the top and attacked the German trenches. It was the first**

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**day of the battle of the Somme, and on that day the British suffered nearly 60,000 casualties, two for every yard of their front. With more than fifty times the daily losses at El Alamein and fifteen times the British casualties on D-day, 1 July**

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**1916 was the blackest day in the history of the British Army. But, more than that, as Lloyd George recognised, it was a watershed in the history of the First World War. The Army that attacked on that day was the volunteer Army that had answered Kitchener's**

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**call. It had gone into action confident of a decisive victory. But by sunset on the first day on the Somme, no one could any longer think of a war that might be won. Martin Middlebrook's research has covered not just official and regimental histories**

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**and tours of the battlefields, but interviews with hundreds of survivors, both British and German. As to the action itself, he conveys the overall strategic view and the terrifying reality that it was for front-line soldiers. Lionel Morris and the Red Baron**

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**Psychedelia and Other Colours**

**24 Hours at the Somme**

**The First Day on the Somme**

**Walking the Somme**

**Tommy at Gommecourt**

**The 56th Division (1st London**

**Territorial Division)**

*Nineteen-year-old Lionel Morris left the*



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*infantry for the wood and wires of the Royal Flying Corps on the Western Front in 1916, joining one of the world's first fighter units alongside the great ace Albert Ball. Learning on the job, in dangerously unpredictable machines, Morris came of age as a combat pilot on the first day of the Battle of the Somme,*

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*as the R.F.C. was winning a bloody struggle for admiralty of the air. As summer faded to autumn, and the skies over Bapaume filled with increasing numbers of enemy aircraft, the tide turned. On 17 September 1916, Morris's squadron was attacked by a lethally efficient German unit, including an*

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*unknown pilot called Manfred von Richthofen. As the shock waves spread from the empty hangars of No.11 Squadron all the way to the very top of the British Army, the circumstances surrounding Morris's death marked a pivotal shift in the aerial war, and the birth of its greatest legend. Told through*

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*previously unpublished archive material, the words of contemporaries and official records, Lionel Morris and the Red Baron traces a short but extraordinary life; and reveals how Morris's role in history was rediscovered one hundred years after his death.*

*Tommy at GommecourtChumet Valley*

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*Books Walking the Somme Casemate Publishers*

*On the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, this is a story that so far has never been told. The 18th Battalion Middlesex Regiment were not infantry men whose primary job was to go 'over the top' at the start or during*

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*battle. Nor were they deployed behind the lines away from the action with the generals and base camp workers. They had a different job – to build the infrastructure necessary to prosecute the war. These 'miners pals' played a vital role in the war. They dug and drained trenches, wired No Man's Land, mined*

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*under enemy lines, made and repaired roads, filled in craters, constructed dug-outs, stock piled ammunition, built and improved billets, fetched and carried, kept open communications with the front, made and repaired railways, built and demolished bridges, gased the enemy, picqueted rods and held the front line. If*

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*a job needed doing, they did it – no matter where, when or how dangerous. At times they fought back the Germans with only their picks and shovels, and in High Wood, at the height of the Battle of the Somme, they were deployed to fight the enemy at bayonet point. By this, amongst other events, the 18th Battalion*



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*earned the right to use the Middlesex Regiment nickname 'die-hards'. A Miners Pals Battalion at War is written in diary form, based on the 18th Middlesex Battalion War Diary and the 33rd Division War Diary. Volume 1 covers August 1914 – June 1917, with Volume 2 continuing the entries from*

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*July 1917 to January 1919. There are many accounts of the bravery of members of the battalion, recording biographical details of each soldier, including the cemetery where they are buried or memorial where they are honoured. The book is a goldmine of information, laden with incidents from the war and facts that*

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*have been cross-checked and verified. It is a fascinating read for anyone looking for an untold aspect of WWI.*

*1916. England is at war, and the Morland family is in the thick of it, with two men already in France and three more soon to go. Tragedy strikes Morland Place when Jessie's husband*

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*Ned is reported missing on the Western Front. His father launches a desperate bid to find him, but the family fear the worst. Jessie, in mourning and frustrated by her job as an auxiliary nurse, goes to London to work in a military hospital. There she is reunited with her old friend Oliver, posted to the capital under the*

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*RAMC. Also in London is Violet, whose affair with the brilliant artist Octavian Laidislaw is about to erupt in scandal . . . The Measure of Days paints a portrait of a family, and a nation, at war, at a pivotal point in history. With the onset of conscription, no one is left unaffected. Every man must hold himself in*

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*readiness; and every woman knows that when she says goodbye, it might be for the last time.*

*Tommy Goes to War*

*One Young Man*

*Empires of the Dead*

*Volume 1*

*The British Offensives on the Western*

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*Front, January to June, 1917*

*Four Years on the Western Front*

*1916 - The Big Push*

**"The War History of the  
4th Battalion, the London  
Regiment (Royal  
Fusiliers), 1914-1919" by**

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***This new edition of Paul  
Reed's classic book  
Walking the Somme is an  
essential traveling  
companion for anyone***

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***visiting the Somme  
battlefields of 1916. His  
book, first published over  
ten years ago, is the  
result of a lifetime's  
research into the battle  
and the landscape over***

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***which it was fought. From Gommecourt, Serre, Beaumont-Hamel and Thiepval to Montauban, High Wood, Delville Wood and Flers, he guides the walker across the major***

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***sites associated with the fighting. These are now features of the peaceful Somme countryside. In total there are 16 walks, including a new one tracing the operations***

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***around Mametz Wood,  
and all the original walks  
have been fully revised  
and brought up to date.  
Walking the Somme  
brings the visitor not only  
to the places where the***

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***armies clashed but to the landscape of monuments, cemeteries and villages that make the Somme battlefield so moving to explore.***

***This volume aims to***



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***provide a wider view of  
First World War  
experience through  
focusing on landscapes  
less commonly  
considered in  
historiography, and on***

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***voices that have remained on the margins of popular understanding of the war. The landscape of the western front was captured during the conflict in many different***

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***ways: in photographs, paintings and print. The most commonly replicated voicing of contemporary attitudes towards the war is that of initial enthusiasm giving***

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***way to disillusionment and a sense of overwhelming futility. Investigations of the many components of war experience drawn from social and cultural history***

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***have looked to landscapes and voices beyond the frontline as a means of foregrounding different perspectives on the war. Not all of the voices presented here***

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***opposed the war, and not all of the landscapes were comprised of trenches or flanked by barbed wire. Collectively, they combine to offer further fresh insights into***

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***the multiplicity of war experience, an alternate space to the familiar tropes of mud and mayhem.***

***When the First World War froze into a static line of***

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***trenches stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss border, the most obvious means of protection against the murderous machine-gun fire which both sides***



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***inflicted upon each other was some form of shell-proof shelter which from which fire could be returned in safety, hence the development of the pill box. The idea was***

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***certainly not new but the technology required to build them under the prevailing circumstances presented problems hitherto undreamed of. In this remarkably***

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***absorbing study of what  
at first seems a  
somewhat arcane study  
of what at first seems a  
somewhat arcane  
subject, Peter Oldham,  
himself a concrete***

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***technologist, examines the problems of the design and construction of the pill boxes of the Western Front. He describes how the innumerable difficulties***

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***involved in what might to the untrained eye seem to be a fairly simple structure, were gradually overcome. Containing as it does, a gazetteer of the remaining pill boxes and***

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***bunkers still to be found in Flanders and Picardy, this book will prove an invaluable guide to the members of many clubs and societies which annually make***

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***pilgrimages to the  
battlefields of the First  
World War and certainly  
add a new dimension and  
interest to their visits to  
the Western Front.  
How One Man's Vision***

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***Led to the Creation of  
WW1's War Graves  
Air War on the Somme  
Soldiers and Their  
Animals in the Great War  
The Somme 1916  
The War Memoirs of***

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***Lieutenant General Sir  
Thomas D'Oyly Snow,  
1914-1915***

***The Secret Battle***

***The War Behind the Wire***

"Fragments from France" by Bruce  
Bairnsfather. Published by Good Press.

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readers and devices. Our goal is to produce eBooks that are user-friendly and accessible to everyone in a high-quality digital format. For two centuries the officers and men of the London Scottish have faithfully served their country, never more so than during the terrible years of the Great War. Initially with the 1st Guards Brigade, and later with the

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56th (London) Division, the 1st Battalion was so committed to the prosecution of its cause that by November 1918 its numbers included only three survivors of the original Battle of Messines. The 2nd Battalion saw action in campaigns as diverse as France and Flanders, Ireland, the Balkans and Palestine where it won two Victoria Crosses. The

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London Scottish in the Great War does not set out to recite the oft-told famous battles fought and won. Rather it employs a wealth of previously unpublished war journals, diaries and photographs to provide a unique insight into this most auspicious Regiment. It demonstrates as no history of the London Scottish has before the hopes sufferings and

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aspirations of the volunteers who filled its ranks, so many of who made the supreme sacrifice.

Meet T.O.M. Gunn at the start of World War 1, a young infantry lieutenant in the Sherwood Foresters, just back on leave from India as Europe catches ablaze in the chaotic summer of 1914. The British Expeditionary

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Force is off to France and Gunn is determined to join the war before it ' s over. He joins a hastily formed mixed battalion of reservists, regular and territorial soldiers to find themselves pitchforked into the mayhem of the Battles of the Marne, the Aisne and then the drawn- out agony of Ypres as the high hopes of summer sink into

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the frozen trenches of the winter of 1914. But by the time of the Christmas Truce with the Germans, Thaddeus Gunn and his men begin to realise that this is going to be a long war? and they will be lucky to survive? The image of the innocent British soldier (or Tommy) setting off with a spring in his step in 1914 to fight the Great War would not last



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long. Indeed that initial euphoria would soon give way to a deep-seated bitterness as these young men endured the horror of the First World War. In a new edition of this extraordinary book, the uncensored letters, diaries, documents and many photographs tell the story of the British soldier (nicknamed Tommy) in their own

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words. While there are flashes of their wit and humour, the overwhelming feeling is that of a generation who felt let down by their superiors and left to perish. There are visceral, terrifying insights into life in the trenches and agonising descriptions of the squalor and privations of war. This haunting account also looks at the aggressive drive to

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recruit more soldiers through the Pals Battalion or Chums Battalion. Friends from the same town or village; professional bodies, or work colleagues among others were encouraged to enlist en masse. They would fight together alongside their friends or colleagues. Many of them would sadly die together and leave communities wild with

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grief for a lost generation, robbed of a future having barely had a past. With a concise analysis of the British Army in the First World War, we are reminded of the terror of war, the fury, the fear and the frustration of what has been described by some as a war typified by the devastating assessment: lions led by donkeys.

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A Miners Pals Battalion at War  
Emotional Survival in the Great War  
The Confusion of Command  
The First Day of the Somme  
Elegy  
Not a Rotter in the Lot  
Volume 2