

# LETTERS FROM THE SOMME

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Somewhere in France HarperCollins

The letters that are collected in this book tell a love story: that of Eric Appleby and Phyllis Ryan, during World War I. Eric Appleby was from Liverpool. An engineering student at the start of the War, he had been in his school Officer Training Corps, and in the Royal Engineers Territorials. He enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in 1914 and was sent to Athlone for training. At a dance there he met Phyllis Kelly, who was brought up in Athlone, where her father was a solicitor. The collections consist of some 200 letters, field service postcards and telegrams. Eric's 1916 diary has been used to verify locations and events. The letters cover Eric's experiences from the time he left Athlone in March 1915 until he was killed in October 1916 at the tail-end of the Somme offensive. They show how much he depends on Phyllis's love and her letters to him to help him deal with the horrors of war.

descriptions of his four leaves home, to Liverpool, Dublin and Athlone, because Phyllis asked him to write about their love days together. Although there is only one, unposted letter from Phyllis, the story that develops testifies to their mutual regard and throws light also on Phyllis's personality, because

Eric comments at length on her views and news and, as requested, writes about their time together.

**Letters from France** Casemate Publishers

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 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 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 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 hope died. Juxtaposing the British trench view against that from the German parapet, Kershaw draws on eyewitness accounts, memories and letters to expose the 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 and gritty patriotic British spirit. However it was this very emotion which ultimately caused thousands of young men to sacrifice themselves on the Somme.

**Dear Jelly: Family Letters from the First World War**  
Yale University Press

"These letters are in no sense a history-except that they contain the truth. They were written at the time and within

close range of the events they describe. Half of the fighting, including the brave attack before Fromelles, is left untouched on, for these pages do not attempt to narrate the full story of the Australian Imperial Force in France. They were written to depict the surroundings in which, and the spirit with which, that history has been made; first in the quiet green Flemish lowlands, then with a swift, sudden plunge into the grim, reeking, naked desolation of the Somme." This book is part of the World War One Centenary series; creating, collating and reprinting new and old works of poetry, fiction, autobiography and analysis. The series forms a commemorative tribute to mark the passing of one of the world's bloodiest wars, offering new perspectives on this tragic yet fascinating period of human history. Each publication also includes brand new introductory essays and a timeline to help the reader place the work in its historical context.

From Bedford to the Somme Pickle Partners Publishing

Captain Crouch had served in the Territorial Army for some years before the cataclysmic struggle in Europe began in 1914. Unlike all the other belligerent parties, Britain did not, and still does not, have standing military conscription; the Regular Army of full-time highly trained volunteers provide the first line soldiers. Bolstering the first line soldiers were the part-time volunteers of the Territorial Army, providing additional manpower and more limited service. However, during both World Wars the men of the Territorial Army were in dire necessity of the time pressed forward into the line as fighting divisions, the men eager to bring the fight to the enemy. Our Author's war time service in the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry started the moment that war broke out, from August 1914 to March 1915; he and his men trained to reach a peak of efficiency. This moment could not come too soon: the first seven divisions of the Regular Army that had formed the initial expeditionary forces had ceased to exist in the face of overwhelming number of the enemy. The Territorials and other Reserve forces from all over the British empire rushed to France and were plunged into the thick of the fighting amongst the trenches. Captain Crouch's letters form an unbroken stream between the mobilization, and are in equal part illuminating and evocative of the life of a

young man who fell in service to his country. Although place-names were omitted from his letters due to censorship of the time, he was interred at Pozières British Cemetery, Ovillers-La Boisselle, meaning that he probably fell in this area during the battle of the Somme. An engaging read. Author — Captain Lionel William Crouch (1886-1916) Text taken, whole and complete, from the edition published for private circulation 1917. Original Page Count — 158 pages.

#### **Letters from the Trenches** Pan Macmillan

Neil Weir died in 1967, but it was not until 2009 that his grandson, Mike Burns, discovered his diary among some boxes he had been left, and learnt that his grandfather had served as an officer in the 10th Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlander throughout the First World War, seeing action at Loos, the Somme and Vimy Ridge, as well as in staff and training posts. It ends with his work at the War Office during the Russian Civil War of 1919-20. In the diary, and the accompanying letters which have been collected from various members of the Weir family, we hear the authentic voice of a First World War soldier and get an insight into his experiences on the Western Front and elsewhere. Edited and with introductory text by Saul David, this book is one of the most fascinating accounts ever published of the First World War as experienced by the men who fought it.

#### *Letters from France* Bloomsbury Publishing

The amazing story of a French American teacher who left his life at Stanford college to volunteer for the French Army, in the elite chasseurs-à-pied, during the First World War. Although born in France Robert Pellissier in 1882, he moved to America in 1882 to live with his sister. A gifted scholar of ardent professionalism, he studied at Harvard and taught at Williston College and Stanford. However when war broke out in Europe his morals would not allow him to sit idly by whilst France was invaded and European civilisation was under assault. He wrote home obsessively, to his parents, his fiancée and his colleagues describing with great passion the fight for justice that he had embarked on. Filled with wry humour, contemporary political commentary, and most often a sense of the insanity of war. For example, with bitter irony, he quotes the idiocy of an outdated war manual he had been given in one of his letters—'Any disengaged body of troops should right away march to the firing line'—a death sentence in the trenches! In late 1914 he was posted to the inhospitable mountainous region in the north of France the Vosges, after an abortive offensive earlier the year the French only held the rocky outcrops out of all of the Alsace region. But Pellissier and his comrades would cling on to their foothold tenaciously for national honour; he was wounded and invalided out of the frontline in 1915. He was promoted to become a sergeant in 1916, he returned to the front in time to be engaged in the brutal

fighting during the battle of Hartmannweilerskopf where he and his men fought on for 53 days without relief, which could not be effected due to the heavy German bombardment. It was during the battle of the Somme in 1916 that Sergeant Pellissier eventually met his end, at least on the soil of his beloved France.

#### **Billie** Random House

The war letters of a British pilot and of an officer of the Rifle Brigade The letters of servicemen writing from fields of conflict to their families are always poignant, irrespective of the cause for which they were fighting. This special Leonaur edition contains two books, published together for good value, which offer insights into the way British men, with different perspectives and experiences of the Great War, wrote to their wives. Both reveal their most private thoughts, hopes and aspirations and provide valuable eyewitness testimony of the First World War. Despite their commitment to their duties, these men ultimately wanted nothing more than to return to their loved ones. One, a young man, newly married and a serving pilot, fought his war high above the trenches and reveals himself to be full of passion and desire. The other, a man over forty years of age serving as a second-lieutenant, was a soldier in the third battalion of the Rifle Brigade who fought in the trenches and was present at the Battle of the Somme and other engagements, speaks to a cherished and loved companion. This 'war to end wars' was, as all know, a great harvester of lives and tragically neither man was to return to his 'Dear Wife'—something that makes these letters even more important in every way. Leonaur editions are newly typeset and are not facsimiles; each title is available in softcover and hardback with dustjacket; our hardbacks are cloth bound and feature gold foil lettering on their spines and fabric head and tail bands.

#### *The Imperial War Museum Book of the Somme* Mercier Press

This is a tale of a small group of people dissatisfied with life on earth and determined to start a different way of life. To ensure that no-one can escape the intolerable New World Order imposed on the Earth, even space travel has been forbidden - or, indeed, any venture into space. In reaction to this, the small band of adventurous people, mainly scientists, have come together to plan and work together to elude the throttlehold of a world dictatorship - in an isolated place, a desert no less, surprisingly, in a remote area of China! Secrecy, of course, is of the utmost importance. Will they succeed in building a spacecraft that will take them outside the earth's atmosphere - and propel them to a new life of freedom and adventure, to a new world that they can seed to form a new earth where there are new heavens and new untethered ideologies? The book is a page-turner, not just on account of the impetus of the story, but because of the fascinating, yet believable technological innovations that emerge as a result of the

lateral and collaborative thinking of the individuals concerned.

#### The Void of War Read Books Ltd

"This book ... offers a ... fresh perspective on that bitterly fought 1916 [Somme] campaign. Using hitherto unpublished evidence from the archives of the Imperial War Museum, it tells its ... story through the letters and diaries of those who were there"--Jacket.

*Letters from France (WWI Centenary Series)* Pen and Sword  
Liddell Hart's Impressions has not previously been published and is offered here complete and unabridged, with an introduction by Professor Brian Bond and occasional footnotes and commentary by Professor Bond and the publisher.

Following the Impressions we reproduce Liddell Hart's letters written home to his parents from the Western Front in 1915 and 1916, together with extracts from intermittent diaries. Liddell Hart occasionally decided to record events in diary form but did not keep a regular diary during this period. Impressions and the war letters together form the fullest record of Liddell Hart's Western Front experience hitherto available. They provide an insight into the great military historian's formative years and demonstrate an early predilection for the self-promotion which was to emerge strongly in succeeding years. Both parts of the book stand as a record of the great events in which their author participated and contribute to our understanding of how it felt to be part of the greatest volunteer army fielded by the British, and the atmosphere of optimism and trust in the professionalism of the British Army that then prevailed. (Tom Donovan Editions website)

#### Duty And Service: Letters From The Front. Read Books Ltd

This publication is a collection of letters written by a soldier serving in Mesopotamia during the great war. The author writes to his mother, father, and friends, recounting his experiences of the war in the Middle-East. This book is part of the World War One Centenary series; creating, collating and reprinting new and old works of poetry, fiction, autobiography and analysis. The series forms a commemorative tribute to mark the passing of one of the world's bloodiest wars, offering new perspectives on this tragic yet fascinating period of human history. Each publication also includes brand new introductory essays and a timeline to help the reader place the work in its historical context.

#### **Dear Alice** Casemate Publishers

Letters of Lieutenant Jack Moncrieff to his family, covering the period from his enlistment until his death in action on the Somme in 1916 (ie. 10 December 1914 to 25 April 1915; 3 September 1915 to 18 August 1916.) Includes handwritten chronological index to letters.

## **A Good Idea of Hell** Leo Cooper Books

A legacy of an empire and a nation at war, *Letters from the Front* is a collection of correspondence sent by British and Commonwealth troops from the front line of war to their loved ones at home. Poignant expressions of love, hope and fear sit alongside amusing anecdotes, grumbles about rations and thoughtful reflections, eloquently revealing how, despite the passage of time, the experiences of the fighting man are shared in countless wars and battles across history. From the muddy trenches of the Somme through the frozen ground of the Falklands to the heat and dust of Afghanistan today, these letters are the ordinary soldier's testament to life on the front line.

### *War Letters to a Wife* Forgotten Books

Kenneth Hague was one of the many who went 'over the top' in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. He had previously served his country in the Boer War before joining up again for a different war in 1915. These are his letters, written to his beloved wife, Alice, from both wars. His writings from World War I are not as detailed as those from the Boer War, as the censor's pen was at work. However, they show signs of discomfort, hunger and cold, which kept his spirits low. His letters are often poignant, sometimes humorous, but always written with love. He asks for bits of family gossip, 'ciggies' and food, anything to make life as normal as possible. During his time in South Africa, he seemed to treat life as a soldier as an adventure, but in 1916, just two days before he was killed, he wrote, 'I wish I was at home from this damn place. I have had enough of it.' Ken left his beloved Alice and their four daughters to make their way in life as best they could without him. His letters and other documents form an intriguing insight into what life was like for a soldier serving his country a century ago.

**FROM NEWPORT TO THE SOMME.** Pickle Partners Publishing  
Louis Stokes was a pupil at Rugby School between 1911 and 1915 before he met his death on the Somme in November 1916. His letters, published in this volume, offer an insight into this typical transition from cloistered public school to the horrors of trench warfare on the Western Front.

**Love Letters of the Great War** Pickle Partners Publishing  
Echoing from the mountainous Vosges front of World War I come the rare accounts of an elite French foot soldier—a *chasseur à pied*. Robert Pellissier, born in France in 1882, had grown up in the United States and was teaching at Stanford when the Great War broke out in his homeland. Returning as a volunteer, he saw uninterrupted months of trench warfare in the Vosges mountains of Alsace, the only region where French troops actually captured German territory, a sector largely neglected in World War I literature. Pellissier's diary and his

letters to relatives in America show a panorama of this ghastly war: from the horror of being under fire with three thousand German shells falling on the French troops every day to the monotony of long quiet hours spent in cold, wet trenches. He writes of the grinding and indecisive character of the fighting in the Vosges and of the almost ritualistic shelling and limited tactical offensives, such as the attack at Steinbach in December 1914. His later letters were written from the hospital, from officer training school, and from the front at the Somme. He relays news of all the major battlefields—Flanders, Verdun, Russia, Austria, Gallipoli, Italy, Serbia, and the Suez. He also comments on the new technology that changed the nature of war: the machine gun, new airplanes, Uboats, improved artillery, barbed wire, and poison gases. Drama and a sympathetic human voice combine to make this account of a little-reported French front a valuable addition to the literature on World War I. Whether visiting the battlefields of Europe, researching the history of the war, or sitting in an armchair at home, readers will find Pellissier a reliable and personable guide. The greatnephew of Robert Pellissier and a minister by profession,

### **Liddell Hart's Western Front** Lulu.com

The Feilding family has close associations with the Coldstream Guards and Rowland Feilding, who was a captain in the City of London Yeomanry when war broke out, transferred to them and was appointed to the 3rd Battalion (4th Guards Brigade) which he joined in May 1915; ten days later he was transferred to the 1st Battalion. Following an accident in November he spent four months back home, returning to France in April 1916 to the Guards Entrenching Battalion near Bray-sur-Somme. On 7th September he took command of the Connaught Rangers (16th Irish Division) which he held for the next 18 months before again being incapacitated in an accident and invalided. In August 1918 he returned to France and was given command of the 1/15th London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles), a post he retained until demobilization in 1919. This is a brilliant book, one of the finest personal accounts of war on the Western Front I have yet read. Feilding was a front line soldier, a natural leader, and these letters, written so closely after the events they describe, give a vivid picture of the sights and scenes on and off the battlefield and lucidly express his own thoughts and feelings. Visiting Mametz three days after its capture on 1st July 1916 he writes: Scarcely a wall stands, and of the trees nothing

remains but mangled twisted stumps. The ruins present an appalling and most gruesome picture of the havoc of war, seen fresh, which no pen or picture can describe. You must see it, and smell it, and hear the sounds to understand. It brings a sort of sickening feeling to me even now, though I consider myself hardened to such sights.

### **--And Then Somme** Texas A&M University Press

Excerpt from *Letters From France* These letters are in no sense a history - except that they contain the truth. They were written at the time and within close range of the events they describe. Half of the fighting, including the brave attack before Fromelles, is left untouched on, for these pages do not attempt to narrate the full story of the Australian Imperial Force in France. They were written to depict the surroundings in which, and the spirit with which, that history has been made; first in the quiet green Flemish lowlands, then with a swift, sudden plunge into the grim, reeking, naked desolation of the Somme. The record of the A.I.F., and its now historical units in their full action, will be painted upon that background some day. If these letters convey some reflection of the spirit which fought at Pozieres, their object is well fulfilled. The author's profits are devoted to the fund for nursing back to useful citizenship Australians blinded or maimed in the war. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at [www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com) This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

### **24 Hours at the Somme** University of Notre Dame Press

"The letters that follow are those of a young painter who was at the front from September [1914] till the beginning of April [1915]; at the latter date he was missing in one of the battles of the Argonne. Are we to speak of him in the present tense or in the past? We know not: since the day when the last mud-stained paper reached them, announcing the attack in which he was to vanish, what a close weight of silence for those who during eight months lived upon these almost daily letters! But for how many women, how many mothers, is a grief like this to-day a common lot!" This book is part of the World War One Centenary series; creating, collating and reprinting new and old works of poetry, fiction, autobiography and analysis. The series forms a commemorative tribute to mark the passing of one of the

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world's bloodiest wars, offering new perspectives on this tragic yet fascinating period of human history. Each publication also includes brand new introductory essays and a timeline to help the reader place the work in its historical context.

*Mud and Bodies* Memoirs Publishing

In 1916 Lewis Nott wrote over 130 letters to his beloved wife, Doris, from the trenches on the Somme. Somewhere in France is an astonishing collection of one man's experience of the Great War in all its cruelty, confusion and ironic beauty. Lewis Nott's letters are about the tedium of war, the fear, the weariness and the fatigue - they are also the letters of a great and intimate love affair. Through his father's letters, maps and photographs, David Nott has crafted an intimate portrait of his father's year on the front, somewhere in France.