

## Letters From The Somme

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.

For many people the word 'Somme' sums up the carnage and futility of the First World War. The failure of Allied forces to achieve their objectives at such a huge cost in human lives has resonated in military circles for the past 100 years. This book tells the story of the battle and its wider repercussions, and analyses its importance to the overall outcome of the First World War. The Somme investigates the build-up to the battle, why leaders thought the action was necessary and what they thought it would achieve. It looks at the forces involved, including the 'Pals' battalions - patriotic friends who fought, and more often than not died, together. Although not a straightforward timeline, the book outlines the actual course of the battle beginning on 1 July 1916 and the impact of the continuing slaughter on both sides. Quotes from those who took part offer a glimpse of what it must have been like to be there, and maps show how little was actually achieved in terms of a breakthrough. Poetry, art and music inspired by the Somme campaign bring the soldiers' harrowing experiences to life. Suitable for readers aged 11 and up.

Limited by the Imperial War Graves Commission to 66 letters - and that included counting the space between each word as one letter - this first in a short series of books highlights what The Times called, 'the heart of the bereaved'; the thousands of silent voices that 'speak' from the war cemeteries. Voices which stand at the opposite end of the commemorative spectrum to the Cenotaph; an austere 'silent' tribute to the Empire's dead, the other a clamour of individual/voices', each one a personal tribute to an individual and cultural reference from the world which these soldiers and their families lived in.In this book, the selected epitaphs look at a variety of themes, tones and locations from both ordinary and famous backgrounds, the privileged and the poor- the officers and men who all lie in some corner of a foreign field. Second in the series publishing in 2017 will feature epitaphs from the Battle of Passchendaele (1917). A complete study of these epitaphs will be published to coincide with the centenary of the Armistice in 2018.

The letters that are collected in this book tell a love story: that of Eric Appleybe and Phyllis Ryan, during World War I. Ken Appleybe 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, unposed 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.

The Letters of a British Airman and Soldier Written During the First World War-My Airman Over There by Almee Bond and Letters to His Wife

Letters from Three Fronts

Last Man Standing

Letters

War Time Letters from a Soldier to His Wife

Epitaphs of the Great War

Thank You Mister Bosh, That's Close Enough

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 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 weigh 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 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.

A legacy of an empire and a nation at war, Love Tommy, is a collection of letters housed at the Imperial War Museum sent by British and Commonwealth troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa 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, many experiences of the fighting man are shared in countless wars and battles. From the muddy trenches of the Somme to frozen ground of the Falklands to the heat and dust of Iraq, these letters are the ordinary soldier's testament to life on the front line.

It is the oft-told tale of the First World War that there was a "Missing Generation" of men that gave their lives from Galipolli to the Somme, that never fulfilled their hopes and their dreams have fallen beneath the horrors of the battlefield. Lieutenant Stephen Hewett is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial in Flanders, silent and obedient to the duty to his country. His memorial is also to be found in his letters home that he wrote to his family and friends from the training ground, France and Belgium; surprisingly upbeat and even jolly in tone given the hardships and dangers he faced they make for a fascinating read. Author — Stephen H. Hewett. D. 1916. Introduction — F. F. Urquhart. Text taken, whole and complete, from the edition published in London, Longmans, Green and Co. 1918. Original Page Count - 114 pages.

A Scholar's Letters From The Front

Letters from a Chasseur à Pied

Love Letters from the Front

24 Hours at the Somme

Letters from the Western Front

The Great War Correspondence of Lieutenant Brian Lawrence, 1916-17

The Irish Guards in the Great War (Vol. 1&2)

These volumes try to give as fully and as objectively as possible, the experiences of both battalions of the Irish Guards from 1914 to 1918. The point of view is the battalions', and the facts mainly follow the Regimental Diaries, supplemented by the few private letters and documents which such a war made possible, and by some tales that have gathered round men and their actions. Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was an English short-story writer, poet, and novelist. He wrote tales and poems of British soldiers in India and stories for children. He is regarded as a major innovator in the art of the short story; his children's books are classics of children's literature; and one critic described his work as exhibiting "a versatile and luminous narrative gift". Contents: Mons to La Basse Le Basse to Laventie The Salient to The Somme The Somme to Gouzeaucourt Arras to The Amistice Loos and The First Autumn Salient and the Somme Rancourt to Bourlon Wood Arras to the End

Of all the stories arising from that disastrous day, July 1 1916, on the Somme, none is more poignant than that of Lt Wilfred Billie Nevill, an officer of the 8th East Surrey Regiment, who issued his men with footballs to kick into No Man's Land when the whistle went for the advance - as though the Somme was to be a Wembley Cup Final writ large. Nevill and most of his men were dead within the first few minutes of the battle, but their story remains as an icon of the British sporting spirit set against the mechanical realities of modern war. Based on over 200 letters to his family from the front, this volume tells Nevill's story. The text is accompanied by 30 b/w photos and three sketch maps. This correspondence forms one of the best collections of First World War letters held by the IWM.

From the private papers of Winston Churchill to the tender notes of an unknown Tommy in the trenches, Love Letters of the Great War brings together some of the most romantic correspondence ever written. Many of the letters collected here are eloquent declarations of love and longing; others contain wrenching accounts of fear, jealousy and betrayal; and a number share sweet dreams of home. But in all the correspondence - whether from British, American, French, German, Russian, Australian and Canadian troops in the height of battle, or from the hearaboutin wives and sweethearts left behind - there lies a truly human portrait of love and war. A century on from the First World War, these letters offer an intimate glimpse into the hearts of men and women separated by conflict, and show how love can transcend even the bleakest and most devastating of realities. Edited and introduced by Mandy Kirby, with a foreword from Orange Prize-winner Helen Dunmore.

A first-hand glimpse into daily life on the Western Front that is riveting, informative and poignant. Hector Jackson left his family's British Columbia farm in 1915 to fight in World War I. Recounted through 130 descriptive letters, Jackson's idealistic adventure descended into the gritty reality of trench warfare when, as a newly-commissioned officer, he was catapulted into the Battle of the Somme. Against the odds, Jackson survived many of the great battles of the Western Front, to be awarded the Military Cross for gallantry under fire at Passchendaele and rise to the rank of captain. Gassed just ten days before the war ended, he joined the river of wounded flowing from the battlefield. Photographs illustrate the unique story told in these letters. From Jackson's farm life, through military training, to the grim existence of the Western Front. Andrew Jackson's introduction and historical narrative, along with helpful notes, weave these letters into a dramatic chronicle.

The Western Front Through the Eyes of the Soldiers – Edited from their Diaries and Private Letters

The First World War by Those Who Were There

Billie

Letters from the Front

Letters of a Soldier, 1914-1915 (WWI Centenary Series)

The Wartime Letters of Ben Webster, R.A.N. Bridging Train & 23rd Battalion, A.I.F.

Liddell Hart's Western Front

"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 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.

The moving story of two brothers who fought in the First World War through the real letters, complete with hand-drawn cartoons, they sent to their sisters. Like so many families across the world, the Semple family were split apart by the First World War. While William and Robert were fighting the Germans in France, their younger sisters, Mabel and Jelly (Eileen), carry on with school back in England. To keep in touch, they wrote letters. The sisters treasured these letters, which gave snapshots of their brothers' lives as soldiers. Many of the letters included cartoon illustrations to amuse the sisters. The book presents these letters with their illustrations. After each letter the author has written a short commentary, drawing facts about the war that can be taken from it. Altogether the book is a powerful and moving record of one family's experience of the First World War and a moving read for readers aged nine and up. A powerful, moving record of one family's first-hand experience of the First World War. - Education Today

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 ce 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.

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 'war to end wars', 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 lettering on their spines and fabric head and tail bands.

Mud and Bodies

--And Then Somme

Road to St. Julien

Extracts From Letters Home from The Somme 1915-16

Letters Home, from the Great War to the Present Day

The Somme

Words of War

After witnessing the infamous German naval bombardment at Hartlepouck which resulted in 700 deaths and injuries, Norman Collins joined the Seaforth Highlanders in 51st Highland Division while under age. He fought at Beaumont Hamel, was wounded soon after and returned for the Battle of Arras. At Passchendaele he was severely wounded and suffered battle fatigue. Norman had an unusually good recovery and returned to the front in 1917. The book is a collection of letters, diaries and photographs which the author has drawn on extensively and the result is a marvelously moving biography of a very special veteran who lived to be 100.

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. He was captured by German 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 his ghastly war: from the horror of being under fire with three thousand German shells falling on the French troops every day in cold, wet trenches. He writes of the grinding and icy Vosges and of the almost ritualistic shelling and limited tactical offensives, such as the attack at Steinhacht 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 of machine guns, 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 perceptive chronicler of the war.

Robert Pellissier and a minister by profession. From the worst horrors of modern trench warfare a small handful of soldiers and nurses created a body of poetry that is so vivid and intense that one hundred years later it has engraved itself on our national consciousness. This anthology focuses on those poets who were on the front line, from the famous Sassoon, Owens and Graves, to nurses like Vera Brittain. The poems are accompanied by illustrations that which sets the context for a reader new to the poems, as well as short biographical profiles of the poets.

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, he would not allow himself to be led by whitist 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. Filling with wry humour, contemporary political commentary, and most often an sense of the insanity of war. For example, with bitter outbursts and a sense of the futility of his efforts, he wrote to his parents: '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 in the year the French only held the rocky outcrops out of all of the Alsace region. But Pellissier was not deterred, he returned to his family in the Vosges mountains and was present at the Battle of the Somme and other engagements, speaks to a cherished and loved companion 'war to end wars', 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 lettering on their spines and fabric head and tail bands.

A Good Idea of Hell

The Neville Letters: 1914-1916

The Pegasus Adventure

Suits to the Somme

The Void of War

FROM NEWPORT TO THE SOMME.

The Collected Letters of Lewis Windermerer Nott, January-December 1916

*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.*

*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.*

*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 history of the First World War told through the letters exchanged by ordinary British soldiers and their families. ??Letters from the Trenches reveals how people really thought and felt during the conflict and covers all social classes and groups D from officers to conscripts and women at home to conscientious objectors. ??Voices within the book include Sergeant John Adams, 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers, who wrote in May 1917: 'For the day we get our letter from home is a red letter day in the history of the soldier out here. It is the only way we can hear what is going on. The slender thread between us and the homeland.' ??Private Stanley Goodhead, who served with one of the Manchester Pals battalion, wrote home in 1916: 'I came out of the trenches last night after being in 4 days. You have no idea what 4 days in the trenches means. .The whole time I was in I had only about 2 hours sleep and that was in snatches on the firing step. What dugouts there are, are flooded with mud and water up to the knees and the rats hold swimming galas in them...We are literally caked with brown mud and it is in all'our food, tea etc.' ??Jacqueline Wadsworth skilfully uses these letters to tell the human story of the First World War D what mattered to Britain's servicemen and their feelings about the war; how the conflict changed people; and how life continued on the Home Front.*

Love Letters of the Great War

The Letters of a Stretcher-Bearer of the Great War

Dear Alice

Letters from France

Impressions of the Battle of the Somme with War Letters, Diary and Occasional Notes Written on Active Service in France and Flanders 1915 and 1916

Life at the Battle of the Somme

First World War Poems from the Front

William St Clair is perhaps the only soldier to have left a continuous account of his experiences day by day from the moment of joining up in 1914, through the years of horror in the trenches, to the march into Germany in 1919 and the long aftermath of trying to make sense of what had happened. A private in the medical corps, St Clair wrote daily letters, sometimes more, to his future wife Jane. Often scribbled under fire, and sent in the green envelopes that were exempt from censorship, they tell of the famous battles of Loos, the Somme, and Passchendaele, as they happened, with excruciating vividness. They speak too of aspirations, of conversations, of literature, and of love.Published for the first time, these raw, truthful, and deeply moving, letters give us what we have not properly had before, the voice of an ordinary soldier who is also a wonderful writer. The book takes its title from the village of St Julien in Flanders, where, in a captured German pill box, the mind of young soldier was transformed, an event that he later turned into an award-winning play.

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 honors of trench warfare on the Western Front.

Charles Bean's poetic writing style that paints a clear picture of the nightmare World War I trenches from the point of view of the soldier in the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The author gives a true journalistic account of life during the battles of the Somme in World War I. Excerpt from Letters from France."And what if some of us do pass over before this struggle is ended-what is there in that? If it were not for the dear ones whom he leaves behind him, mightn't a man almost pray for a death like that? The newspapers too often call us heroes, but we know we are not heroes for having come, and we do not want to be called heroes. We should have been less than men if we hadn't."

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 prediction 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)

A Dear and Noble Boy

The story of the Second World War revealed in eye-witness letters, speeches and diaries

Wartime Letters from a Soldier to His Wife

The War Diaries & Letters of Captain N A C Weir, 1914–1920

A Subaltern's Letters from the Somme

Among the Guns

The Memoirs, Letters & Photographs of a Teenage Officer

*In 1914 Herbert Hoskins joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to fight in the First World War. As a captain, he soon found himself serving in the muddy, disease-ridden trenches of the Somme. Captain Hoskins' letters, carefully compiled by his grandson, reveal the horrific experiences Captain Hoskins and his men endured and the extraordinary courage and stoicism they displayed as they faced illness, treacherous weather and an indefatigable enemy during the most grueling years of the conflict. The letters reveal not only the hardship they suffered but the indomitable spirit that helped Hoskins and his men - some of them - survive. A remarkable blend of tragedy and stiff upper lip British humour, Thank You Mister Bosh, That's Close Enough! is a moving account of the war that killed nine million men.*

*During the Second World War, across the frontline as well as on the Home Front, millions of people recorded their thoughts of their experiences - whether in letters, their personal diaries or those prosecuting the war giving speeches. Much as Letters of Note celebrated the great letters written through history, so Words of War allows the Imperial War Museum to showcase its incredible array of first-hand material to shine a light on how people journeyed through the 1939-45 conflict. Ten chapters take the reader chronologically through the key moments of the war: from the retreat to Dunkirk to the battle of the Atlantic; the savage fighting in the jungles of the far East to the RAF Bomber Command's campaign in Europe; the discovery of the Nazi's concentration camp system to the war's ultimate conclusion at the Nuremberg trials. One hundred documents are researched and selected by the Imperial War Museum's expert archivists, with commentary from their head Antony Richards explaining the significance of each and placing it in context to the war's progression. Readers will be able to engage and empathise with the writers in a thought-provoking and immediate way.*

*There's a commonly held view that Douglas Haig was a bone-headed, callous butcher, who through his incompetence as commander of the British Army in WWI, killed a generation of young men on the Somme and at Passchendaele. On the other hand, there are those who view Haig as a man who successfully struggled with appalling difficulties to produce an army which took the lead in defeating Germany in 1918. Haig's diaries, hitherto only previously available in bowdlerised form, give the C-in-C's view of Asquith and his successor Lloyd George, of whom he was highly critical. The diaries show him intriguing with the King vs. Lloyd George. Additional are his day-by-day accounts of the key battles of the war, not least the Somme campaign of 1916.*

*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.*

Letters from France (WWI Centenary Series)

Somewhere in France

Love, Tommy

Letters from the Trenches

Dear Jelly: Family Letters from the First World War

A Fine View of the Show

The Life and Letters of Louis Stokes, 1897-1916