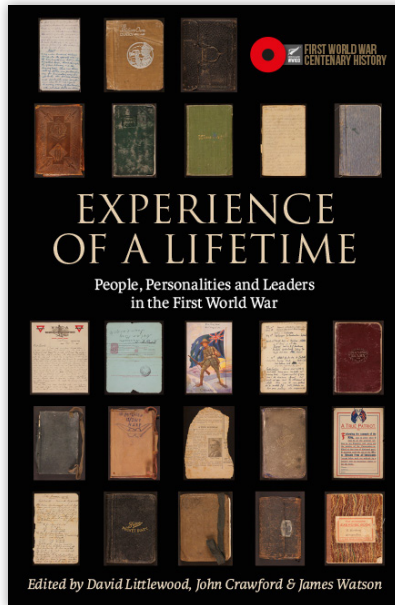


Experience of a Lifetime

People, Personalities and Leaders in the First World War

JOHN CRAWFORD, DAVID LITTLEWOOD AND JAMES WATSON (EDS)



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A FRESH LOOK AT THE WORLD WAR ONE EXPERIENCE

The First World War is widely conceived as a pointless conflict that destroyed a generation. Petty squabbles between emperors pushed naïve young men into a nightmare of mud and blood that killed millions and left scarred and embittered survivors. However, the ongoing reinterpretation of the First World War reveals that matters were rather more nuanced and complex. Hardship and death were all too common, but there were positive experiences, too. Vast numbers of people, for example, travelled to new parts of the world and encountered new cultures, which inspired a sense of wonder and respect. Military tactics were improved, and great military commanders of the inter-war and Second World War periods came to prominence during the First World War. The conflict also had a formative influence on politicians, writers, artists, union leaders, businessmen and some ethnic minorities, who used their participation to press for equal rights and full citizenship. This book's 16 chapters, written by a range of leading New Zealand and international historians, explain how.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

John Crawford is the New Zealand Defence Force Historian. He is a member of the Governance Group of the First World War Centennial History Programme, and has written on many aspects of the history of the New Zealand Armed Forces and defence policy.

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SALES POINTS

- Part of the high-profile and well-regarded Centenary History Programme publishing series
- Lively, engaging pieces by a range of expert historians
- Sheds light on little-known individuals and groups of soldiers
- Fully illustrated throughout
- Takes a holistic attitude to the experience of the First World War while not shying away from its horrors

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