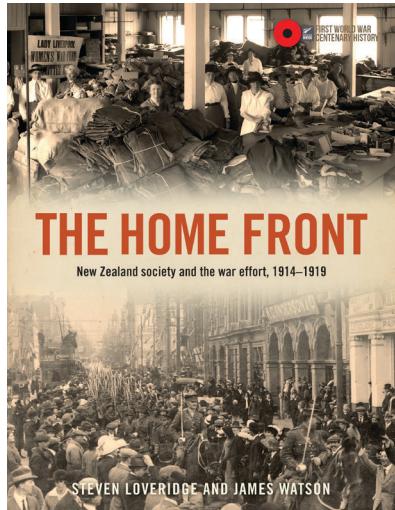




The Home Front

New Zealand Society and the War Effort 1914–19

STEVEN LOVERIDGE AND JAMES WATSON



\$59.99

CATEGORY: Military History

ISBN: 978-0-9951001-8-3

THEMA: NHWR5, NHM, 1MBN

BIC: HBWN; HBJM, 1MBN

BISAC: HIS027000; HIS 027090

PUBLISHER: Massey University Press

IMPRINT: Massey University Press

PUBLISHED: November 2019

PAGE EXTENT: 520

FORMAT: Hardback

SIZE: 250mm x 190mm

RIGHTS: World

AUTHORS' RESIDENCE: Wellington,
New Zealand

A FRESH NEW LOOK AT A YOUNG NATION AT WAR

The Great War is now typically regarded as senseless and futile, but most New Zealanders at the time considered it to be a war to preserve security and freedoms, to punish an aggressive enemy and to win a better world.

Yet the war years proved a tumultuous time, and bitterness and animosities ran alongside idealism and sacrifice. Families were broken up as soldiers departed. Civil liberties were curtailed as the government wielded unprecedented powers. Divisive issues, economic volatility and a rising death toll all threatened resolve. Finally, in the last weeks of the war, a devastating influenza pandemic arrived in New Zealand and extracted a deadly toll.

In *The Home Front* Steven Loveridge and James Watson offer a compelling account of how a small and developing country confronted the complex questions and brutal realities of a world war.

*'The Home Front' uses relatively few illustrations but they are superbly reproduced. But it is the clarity and orderliness of the text which makes the book a ready reference to what is an extremely broad subject. The footnotes will direct you to more detailed information and the basically chronological structure takes you easily through five traumatic years. Our first experience of total war was a mixed one and *The Home Front* depiction of it all is a fine addition to the WW1 library.'* — Jim Sullivan, *Otago Daily Times*

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Steven Loveridge holds a PhD from Victoria University of Wellington and works from the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies. His research focuses on the First World War and he has written and lectured on numerous aspects of the subject. His work has been published in various scholarly journals and anthology works, and in the international encyclopaedia *1914–1918 Online*. His first book, *Calls to Arms: New Zealand Society and Commitment to the Great War*, examines the social and cultural dynamics behind New Zealand's wartime commitment.

James Watson is a former Associate-Professor in History at Massey University. His research interests are largely focused on the relationship between New Zealand and the United Kingdom, particularly in the twentieth century, but also include rural history and the history of technology. He co-edited, with David Littlewood and John Crawford, *Experience of a Lifetime: People, personalities and leaders in the First World War* (Massey University Press, 2015).

SALES POINTS

- Written in a lively, accessible style aimed at the interested general reader, the book also has an analytical rigour that makes it of value to those with a more academic interest in the subject.
- The text is complemented by a wide range of illustrations.
- Another in Massey University Press's well-regarded First World War history volumes published for the Centenary History Programme and which include *Fearless* (longlisted for the 2018 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards), *With Them Through Hell* (shortlisted for the 2019 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards) and *For King and Other Countries*.

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AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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