



Peter Doyle

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(Ebook pdf) Tommy's War: British Military Memorabilia, 1914-1918

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Peter Doyle : Tommy's War: British Military Memorabilia, 1914-1918 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tommy's War: British Military Memorabilia, 1914-1918:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Highly informativeBy Joseph T. WilliamsonFull of good information.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent survey and interpretationBy BookcasePeter Doyle's book Tommy's War carries a wealth of detailed knowledge of the material culture of the war, the material produced for and by soldiers, at home and at the front, and for and by those affected by the conflict. The breadth and diversity of the material surprises at first, but given the length of the conflict, and the amount of production and activity both personal and public that grew to support it, this material culture of war begins to make sense. The designs on Tommy's insignia were recreated as sweetheart badges, while the shells that failed to kill him became paper-knives brought home, maybe were even used to open later letters from the front. In a sense what the book presents is the way

that the material culture of the First World War became self-generating, creating the context for its continuing and growing production. And as the horror and boredom of the experience of fighting largely failed to be communicated, the culture of war, material, musical, verbal and sentimental, became the communicable experience of those both at home and at the front. The detail presented in this book is excellent, not just of the specifics of badge and uniform identity and the developments in equipment. A useful section at the beginning of the book explains how the army was organised from 1881, how the various new armies fitted into the structure of regiment, battalion and division. While some photographed documents could do with being reproduced larger, the image resolution allows close examination of text. The photographs of objects are clear and informative, well lit and give a sense of the whole object rather than just details: an advantage of using natural rather than studio lighting. The supporting illustrations drawn from posters, cigarette cards, postcards, documents and personal photographs bring out the degree to which so much activity was focussed on the role of the troops in general and the kit and the moral support for the individual serviceman in particular. Doyle shows how objects created a need for their own support objects, not just the obvious ones such as breech-guards for machine-guns, but those that support and intensify army life, such as the small metal sleeves to protect cloth while buttons were being polished. This is a book I would recommend for bringing together material for the collector, the social historian, the general reader; and a thought-provoking book too, for at a time when armed forces are fighting what is for many an unpopular military campaign it shows how a previous generation managed its experience of conflict.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A must have !!

By Charlotte F'Peter Doyle's book *Tommy's War* contains a wealth of detail that will delight collector and historian alike. Illustrated with high-quality photographs (I have no idea what one of the other reviewers of this book is talking about here!), Doyle illustrates artifacts that explain the life of the average British 'Tommy' on the Western Front in 1914-1918. Each of the chapters takes the reader through a stage in the life of the soldier in WW1, from recruitment and training through to life in the trenches. The beautifully lit and sharp photographs illustrate, amongst many things, the uniform and personal equipment of the British soldier - his steel helmet, his gas masks, the boots he wore, the weapons he carried, his personal effects. Letters home, mementos of service, battle souvenirs, good luck charms, etc, etc are illustrated, as are the poignant memories of dead soldiers and those wounded'. Each image is accompanied by informative and well-written text. This book is a delight; a must for any WW1 buff!

The First World War has left an almost indelible mark on history, with battles such as the Somme and Passchendaele becoming watchwords for suffering unsurpassed. The dreadful fighting on the Western Front, and elsewhere in the world, remains vivid in the public imagination. Over the years dozens of books have been published dealing with the soldier's experience, the military history and the weapons and vehicles of the war, but there has been little devoted to the objects associated with those hard years in the trenches. This book readdresses that balance.