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LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE: DIARIES, NEWS, AND
LETTERS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914–1919

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Experience the First World War...

During the First World War (1914–1918) the British Army required combatants to keep diaries that could later be used for training and administrative purposes. Soldiers detailed their unit's operations, but also their personal experiences. The numerous war diaries in this collection capture the thoughts and feelings of those who experienced one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.



Over five million men served in the British forces during the war. More than 880,000 died.

Life on the Front Line contains diaries and letters penned by those who served during the Great War. These personal accounts offer profound reflections on the morality of warfare, life in the trenches, and the disturbing effects that the conflict had upon mental health.



Westminster College students and staff were stationed on the Western Front and across the globe.

The collection illuminates the experiences of a range of British military personnel, from Privates to General-Brigadiers, as well as those of non-combatants, such as a military chaplain and a French civilian. It also includes the diaries of British combatants who were captured by the Central Powers. These sources provide detailed insights into the experiences of those who were held as Prisoners of War (POWs) in Germany, France, Turkey, and in East Africa.

Life on the Front Line also boasts a complete run of the *Westminster Training College Monthly War Bulletin*, published between November 1914 and June 1919. A Methodist institution, Westminster College was established in 1851. Its *War Bulletin* printed letters from former pupils and staff who served, as well as letters written by parents.

This collection is a key resource for students and researchers interested in the Great War, as well as associated themes and topics.

...through the eyes of those who fought.



Consisting of nearly 15,000 images, this collection supplies firsthand experiences of many of the most important battles during the conflict, including the Somme (1916), Passchendaele (1917), and Lys (1918).



The collection gives glimpses of life on the home front. The diary of a French civilian describes the local devastation wrought by new military technologies.



The diaries of Prisoners of War offer insights into the experiences of the thousands of British servicemen who were captured and held in prison camps.

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Sources include: Imperial War Museums, Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History (Oxford Brookes University).