



Trench Talk: Words of the First World War

By Peter Doyle, Julian Walker

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The First World War largely directed the course of the 20th century. Fought on three continents, the war saw 14 million killed and 34 million wounded. Its impact shaped the world we live in today, and the language of the trenches continues to live in the modern consciousness. One of the enduring myths of World War I is that the experience of the trenches was not talked about. Yet dozens of words entered or became familiar in the English language as a direct result of the soldiers' experiences. This book looks at how the experience of World War I changed the English language, adding words that were both in slang and standard military use, and modifying the usage and connotations of existing words and phrases. Illustrated with material from the authors' collections and photographs of the objects of the war, the book will look at how the words emerged into everyday language.

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Editorial Review

Review

"I think any word-lover would enjoy this book. If you're a history buff too, it's a must have. It expertly balances context and trivia, history and lexicon, gravitas and humor." — Visual Thesaurus.com

About the Author

Peter Doyle is a military historian specializing in the role of terrain in warfare. He is a visiting professor at University College London, and is cosecretary of the All Party Parliamentary War Heritage Group. **Julian Walker** is an artist and writer. He works with the Learning Department at the British Library, where he leads workshops on language, literature, art, history, and printing. He is the author of *Discovering Words* and *Evolving English Explored*.

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