

In a newspaper career spanning more than 40 years I have interviewed countless war veterans, from an old soldier who survived the trenches of World War One to a courageous casualty of Afghanistan.

Without a single exception, the stories they told me were both awe-inspiring and humbling. They are the words of ordinary individuals called upon to carry out extraordinary acts of bravery and commitment.

Individuals who were removed from the comfort of their everyday lives and thrust into situations where death was an ever-present companion, fear a constant intrusion.

Not all the stories have been about survivors. So many young men failed to return from the greatest adventure of their young lives and it has been left to family members to keep their memory and history alive.

The majority of stories in my new book come from the ranks of The Sherwood Foresters because they were my county's infantry regiment. But not exclusively. There are many other regiments represented in this collection, together with the Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps and RAF.

In every instance, I have felt privileged to be allowed to share tales of glories long past, proud that I have been able to record their actions, and honoured to have been granted permission to reveal their exploits to the readers of my newspaper, the Nottingham Evening Post.

But there is an old adage about newspapers ... they are tomorrow's fish and chip wrapping. Once the next edition is on the streets, they become yellowing fragments of history, tossed aside, stuffed in old boxes, or used to line the bottom of a drawer.

And with them go the stories of those brave souls who fought, and in many cases, died for our freedom. Here today, forgotten tomorrow. It has never seemed entirely satisfactory to me.

This 224 page book with photographs is based on articles which have appeared in the *Nottingham Evening Post* and its *Bygones* supplement over the past ten years or so.

Its purpose is to give some of these forgotten heroes a more permanent, recorded place in history.

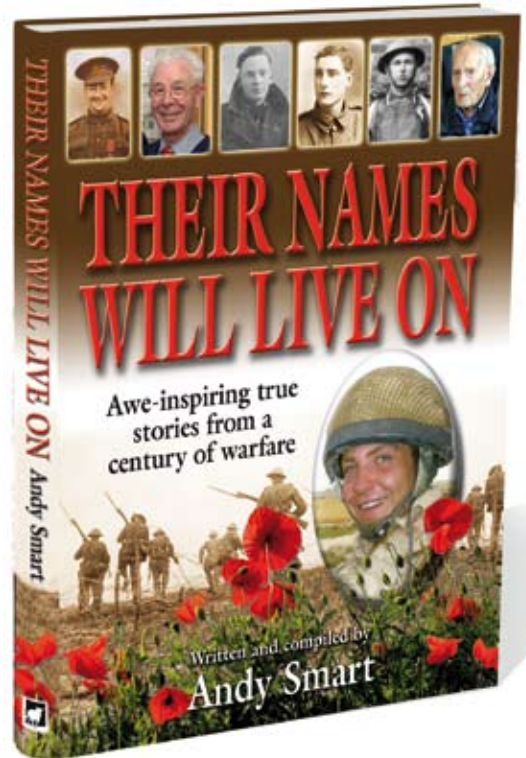
You will not find long passages about the planning, strategy and execution of battles. I prefer to leave that to experts far more qualified to make such analyses.



This is a book about real people, real experiences, and the reality of waging war.

Covering all major conflicts over the past century, a donation of £2.00 per copy will go to the Royal British Legion which continues to provide help and comfort to so many veterans from so many wars.

Andy Smart



"a collection of fascinating accounts"
Major J.O.M. Hackett
(Retd), Worcestershire
and Sherwood Foresters
Regiment

THEIR NAMES WILL LIVE ON is on sale now for £16.95 at most good bookshops but Bygones readers can order a signed copy direct from Andy Smart for the special price of £15.95 (with free post and packing). Send a cheque for £15.95 made payable to Bygone Books, addressed to Bygone Books, PO Box ??, Nottingham, England.