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authoritative, *The Great War* gives us all an understanding of how and why we lost a generation of Australians between 1916 and 1918.

Carlyon wanders the battlefields of France and Belgium and re-creates the hellish landscapes of ninety years ago. He again demonstrates a unique ability to present history as mesmerising narrative. *The Great War* is a superb sequel to the number-one bestseller *Gallipoli*. It will stand as the most brilliant account of what is still the major event in Australia's military history.

Les Carlyon was born in northern Victoria in 1942. He has been editor of the *Age*, Melbourne, and editor-in-chief of the *Herald & Weekly Times* group. He has twice won the Walkley Award. His *Gallipoli* was published in 2001 to enormous critical and commercial success in Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain, and is now widely regarded as the definitive history of that campaign. *Gallipoli* won the Queensland Premier's Literary Award for Best History Book and the Australian Publishers' Association Readers' Choice Award.

Cover photograph: The grave of Captain Ivor Margetta, from Tasmania, amid the devastation of Pozieres village in 1916. The grave was obliterated in later fighting. No-one now knows where Margetta lies.  
Australian War Memorial No. E00532.  
Cover design: Bland Design

#### Praise for *Gallipoli*

'A new historical tour de force . . . Les Carlyon's massive new book on this emotional subject is a deeply felt, compassionate work, beautifully written.' JOHN HAMILTON, *HERALD SUN*

'... essential reading . . . a passionate, enthusiastic and accurate account written by a first-rate storyteller. Whether you think you know the Gallipoli story, read this.' JOHN WILLIAMS, *AGE*

'His writing is so vivid that you almost imagine yourself present. A stunning achievement.' SAUL DAVID, *SUNDAY TELEGRAPH*, LONDON

'Carlyon's towering accomplishment is to have combined meticulously thorough research with a superbly readable style . . . richly rewarding and instantly accessible.' *YORKSHIRE EVENING POST*

'Beautifully written . . . definitive.'  
STEPHEN MATCHETT, *SYDNEY MORNING HERALD*



FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE NUMBER-ONE BESTSELLER *GALLIPOLI*

# THE GREAT WAR

## LES CARLYON

'An Australian soldier wandered about near the German lines after the battle of Fromelles. He had been hit in the forehead and skin hung over his eyes. He was blinded and out of his mind. He would blunder around in circles, hands outstretched, then fall down. Then he would get up and stumble around again. This went on for days. The Germans eventually killed him. It is unclear whether they did this out of cussedness or kindness. This was the Great War and men did terrible things and did not always understand why they did them.'

Australians in the 1920s could explain the loss of a husband or a son with one word. They simply said Pozieres or Passchendaele and everyone understood. The men who fell at these and other places on the western front were part of the largest tragedy in Australian history – 179,000 dead and wounded, 'one long national funeral' that lasted into the 1930s.

Now, in *The Great War*, Les Carlyon tells the story of these men. The narrative shifts effortlessly from the huge to the human, from the political salons of London and St Petersburg to trenches that smell of mildew on sandbags and old blood. Carlyon describes the grand strategies, but never loses sight of ordinary soldiers caught up in the first big war of the industrial age, a war that turned out to be nothing like they thought it would be. With a novelist's eye for detail and anecdote, he takes us back to their world and their war. Meticulously researched and

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