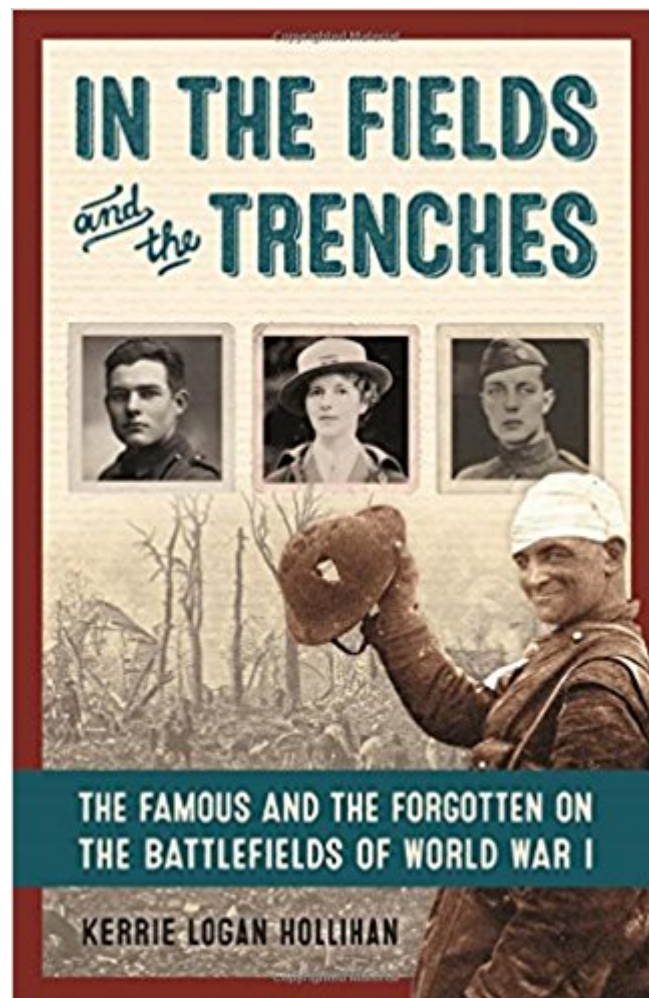




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# In The Fields And The Trenches: The Famous And The Forgotten On The Battlefields Of World War I



## Synopsis

A Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2017 When it started, many thought the Great War would be a great adventure. Yet, as those who saw it up close learned, it was anything but. *In the Fields and the Trenches* traces the stories of eighteen young idealists swept into the brutal conflict, many of whom would go on to become well-known 20th-century figures in film, science, politics, literature, and business. Writer J. R. R. Tolkien was a signals officer with the British Expeditionary Force and fought at the Battle of the Somme. Scientist Irène Curie helped her mother, Marie, run twenty X-ray units for French field hospitals. Actor Buster Keaton left Hollywood after being drafted into the army's 40th Infantry Division. And all four of Theodore Roosevelt's sons—Kermit, Archibald, Quentin, and Theodore III—and his daughter Ethel served in Europe, though one did not return. *In the Fields and the Trenches* chronicles the lives of heroes, cowards, comics, and villains—some famous, some not—who participated in this life-changing event. Extensive original material, from letters sent from the front to personal journals, brings these men and women back to life. And though their stories are a century old, they convey modern, universal themes of love, death, power, greed, courage, hate, fear, family, friendship, and sacrifice.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

“As they meet some of the remarkable individuals who took part in the war, readers young and old will find a lucid explanation of the conflict in Kerrie Logan Hollihan’s *In the Fields and the Trenches*.” •The Huffington Post “[T]he book will hold reader interest and will be valuable for classroom use.” •Booklist “[A] solid addition to medium to large collections.” •School Library Journal “I highly recommend it to anyone interested in reading a fresh perspective on World War One.” •Come Step Back in Time “Very highly recommended for young readers ages 12 and up...” •The Midwest Book Review “An ideal introductory work about the war, and even adults well read in the subject may find this of interest.” •NYMAS Review “A worthwhile addition to every library collection and a natural for military-history enthusiasts.” •Kirkus Reviews

Kerrie Logan Hollihan is the author of *Reporting Under Fire*, a Children’s Book Council/National Council for the Social Studies Notable Trade Book for Young People. Among her other books are *Rightfully Ours*, *Theodore Roosevelt for Kids*, and *Isaac Newton and Physics for Kids*.

This is an interesting view of various Americans, male and female, in Europe during WWI, some very well known, others less so, at times speaking in their own words. The book combines elements of history with biography and memoir with excerpts of letters written home by the soldiers, nurses, entertainers, aviators. Some traveled to the war zone well before the United States’ entry into the conflict either in non-combatant roles or by joining the forces of other nations. Among the famous are the sons of Teddy Roosevelt, Hemingway, Buster Keaton, and two of the best baseball players of the time. Along with the details of these lives, the author provides a very good amount of information on the start of the war, what it was like on the ground, the political landscape in the U.S. that impeded entry into the war and then forced it, and details of many battles. One of the portraits concerns a German soldier who documented his time at the front with photographs, some of which are included in this book. Now I have a much better idea of what the German trenches actually looked like--a far cry from those of their opposition. I do recommend this book to anyone looking for another view into World War One---this one on a very human level. Although I have read other very learned and excellent books on the war’s causes and progress, this book did give me a new, very personal insight into what life on the battlefield was like for many. A copy of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in return for an honest review.

A summary of the review on [StrategyPage.Com](http://StrategyPage.Com) 'Hollihan, author of "Theodore Roosevelt for Kids" and other histories for younger readers, uses short profiles of nearly a score of people who saw some sort of service in the Great War to tell the reader something about the conflict. While she favors English-speaking men, there are some women, and some French and German people as well. Several of these people were already on the margins of fame, most notably Theodore Roosevelt's offspring, and some later became famous, such as Harry Truman, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Ernest Hemingway. But most of those covered were quite ordinary, and are now largely forgotten, such as the Canadian cowboy who became a fighter pilot or America's most notable "Colored Hero" of the war, Henry Johnson. For each person she gives us a brief biographical sketch, and follows with their war time experiences, discussed, whether front line combat or air service or medical duties, and each entry ends with a short follow-up on the person's life. Hollihan doesn't pull punches, so we get the horrors of war, often overlooked in works for young readers. An ideal introductory work about the war, and even adults well read in the subject may find this of interest." For the full review, see [StrategyPage.Com](http://StrategyPage.Com)

The significance of the First World War in shaping--indeed in birthing--the modern world is a worthy topic of study for high school seniors and college students. For younger teens, individual stories of the men and women who served in various ways provide a more meaningful entry into the topic. This is what *In the Fields and the Trenches* does so well. As its author, Kerrie Logan Hollihan, wrote in her preface, "Wars are fought by young people, and young people fighting wars make history--in ways great and small." Well said. In fact, not all her chapters focus on young people. Two were in their thirties, but the rest were under twenty-five. To Hollihan's credit, not all were Americans. One was British, one French, and one German. (I wish she had included one more British subject, Vera Brittain, whose story is as powerful in its youthful loss-of-innocence as any available.) A little more than half her subjects served in combat, but only a small handful lived in the trenches or ventured into No Man's Land--more credit to Hollihan for this. By telling the stories of well-developed historical personalities, Hollihan introduces her readers to many of the defining elements of World War I: early aviation (Fred Libby, Katherine Stinson, Quentin Roosevelt), primitive radiology (Irene Curie), British socio-military hierarchy (J. R. R. Tolkien), artillery (Harry Truman), No Man's Land combat (Henry Lincoln Johnson), gas warfare (Christy Mathewson), ambulance driving (Ernest Hemingway), and troop entertainment (Elsie Janis, Buster Keaton). Many of the book's subjects would go on to become famous for non-military deeds. A few are worthy of being better known. Together their

stories provide the best possible entry for teenage and middle grade readers into the multifaceted experiences of World War I.

A lot of people, male and female, were caught up in the tragedy that was World War One. In this book, author Kerrie Logan Hollihan presents the stories twelve people who served in the War, in one position or another. There's Fred Libby (a cowboy whose story was not told at the time), Irene Curie (the daughter of the famous Marie Curie), J.R.R. Tolkien, Henry Lincoln Johnson (a New York City redcap who fought the Germans, and racism in his own country), Buster Keaton, and so much more. Yeah, I found this to be a wonderfully interesting book. The author did a great job of selecting an interesting range of people, and she did a great job of telling their stories in a concise and yet fascinating manner. This is a really good look at the Great War, one that I highly recommend!

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