



PEN & SWORD

In this pioneering and original book, Anthony Seldon and David Walsh study the impact that the public schools had on the conduct of the Great War, and vice versa. Drawing on fresh evidence from 150 leading public schools and other archives, they challenge the conventional wisdom that it was the public school ethos that caused needless suffering on the Western front and elsewhere. They distinguish between the younger frontline officers with recent school experience and the older 'top brass' whose mental outlook was shaped more by military background than by memories of school.

This poignant and thought-provoking work covers not just those who made the final sacrifice, but also those who returned, and whose lives were shattered as a result of their physical and psychological wounds. It contains a wealth of unpublished detail about public school life before and during the War, and how these establishments and the country at large coped with the devastating loss of so many of the brightest and best. Seldon and Walsh conclude that, 100 years on, public school values and character training, far from being something to be jeered at, remain hugely relevant and that the present generation would benefit from studying them. Those who read *Public Schools and the Great War* will have their prevailing conceptions about the role of public schools, as popularised in *Blackadder* and elsewhere, challenged and perhaps changed.



PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE GREAT WAR THE GENERATION LOST

ANTHONY SELDON & DAVID WALSH
FOREWORD BY PROFESSOR SIR MICHAEL HOWARD

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Dr Anthony Seldon is Master of Wellington College, having previously been Headmaster of Brighton College. He has written or edited over 30 books, including the standard works on Prime Ministers John Major, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. He is the authorised historian of 10 Downing Street, and has written extensively on it. Moreover, he is co-founder of the Institute of Contemporary British History and Action for Happiness. His future books include the authorised history of the Washington Embassy, a study of David Cameron, a new book on Number 10, and one on happiness and spirituality.

David Walsh was educated at Marlborough College and Oxford University, where he read history and was a cricket blue. He taught first at Melbourne Grammar School in Australia and then at Tonbridge School where he collaborated in the writing of Stuart Hills' acclaimed war memoir, *By Tank Into Normandy* (2002). He has also written *A Duty to Serve: Tonbridge School and the 1939-45 War* [2011]. He has led many school and private visits to the battlefields of both World Wars. He lives in Limpsfield, Surrey.

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