

Crawford has also selected some stimulating photographs to illustrate Hart's life. Most are of Hart in uniform posing with fellow officers, but the context of some invite closer inspection. These include images of a funeral at a location somewhere on the Western Front in 1917, of Hart shaving outside his dugout near Biefvillers in 1918, and of Hart with the Prince of Wales outside Mielenforst Chateau in 1919. There are also photos of Hart at home in New Zealand. One shows him with his wife, Minnie, shortly before he embarked for overseas service in October 1914. But the most stimulating photo of all is that of a crowd of hundreds of people gathered in Carterton on Anzac Day in 1919 to welcome Hart home. The setting is a railway station on a windy Wairarapa day with macrocapa trees as a backdrop, and the photo depicts the transport, communications and fashions of early twentieth-century New Zealand.

The value of this book lies in the easy accessibility it provides readers to the contents of a New Zealand officer's Great War diary. Its importance lies in the two-fold contribution it makes to New Zealand's growing First World War historiography: first, by providing a semi-biographical account of a key military figure based on a primary source; and secondly, by enabling corroborations and connections to be made with the contents of Lt. Col. Malone's letters and diaries in *No Better Death* for the period August 1914 to August 1915. While 23 years separated Hart and Malone in age, both came from small-town New Zealand: Hart from Carterton; Malone from Stratford. They knew each other while serving together at Gallipoli, and both recorded their wartime experiences. For historians who have ever wondered about what Malone's life might have been like had he survived Gallipoli, some speculative answers might be found in Hart's diary and from his life in the post-war world.

GRAHAM HUCKER

Massey University – Palmerston North

New Zealand's Great War: New Zealand, the Allies & the First World War. Edited by John Crawford and Ian McGibbon. Exisle Publishing, Auckland, 2007. 675pp. NZ price: \$79.00. ISBN 978-0-908988-85-3.

'ZEALANDIA'S GREAT WAR' was a great conference, so I am told. Held in November 2003, the idea was to help kick-start Great War studies in New Zealand since, as the editors of this book tell us, 'New Zealand's historiography of the First World War is very limited'. Conferences can do that. History was almost moribund at the Australian War Memorial in the early 1980s, but an annual military history conference and some judicious publishing opportunities attracted academic historians and others to the much-underworked field. Military history is now as lively an area in Australian historiography as any other major sub-discipline. Perhaps this book will work in the same sort of way. It deserves to.

The editors attracted the very best speakers to the conference and have produced a distinguished collection that is comprehensive, thoughtful and authoritative. Divided into four major sections, *New Zealand's Great War* explores context, operational matters, impacts and effects at home and on the soldiers themselves. It is rare for a single volume to cover such territory. There are 32 authors included in this collection, among them the stalwarts of New Zealand military history: Chris Pugsley, Ian McGibbon and Glyn Harper. There are some well-credentialed 'outsiders' too: Peter Dennis, Jeffrey Grey and Peter Stanley. But this will not be a 'ticks and crosses' review attempting to look at each contribution. Almost every chapter is too dense for a single-line summary and too important for a flippant remark.

Gary Sheffield, Professor of War Studies at Birmingham, sets the book's tone in the

first chapter. He surveys the field and is clear about the directions of First World War studies across time, rejects the tired tags and moves beyond ideology, and has a sensible and clear message to deliver. The First World War was not a disaster without meaning, he tells us; it was about learning to fight a war of trenches and numbers; it took a long time to learn to fight that way but finally the allies twigged. The war was also a matter for empire and a vitally important matter for New Zealand and Australia. 'The war waged by Britain and the empire was tragic, destructive and wasteful, but it was not futile.'

This book would not have made an important contribution if it had examined the New Zealand effort in the war without context. Though tightly focussed on the New Zealand story, almost every writer has read widely in the voluminous British, Canadian and Australian war literature and is alert to differences and commonalities. More might have been made of this. Perhaps the strongest difference between the New Zealand and Australian experience centres on conscription: its acceptance in New Zealand and its rejection across the Tasman. In this regard I expected more on conscientious objectors and the anti-war movement in either one or both of the two fine chapters on the churches. I was disappointed. This leads to a larger criticism. Writers might have more directly explained where the New Zealand experience differs from, or strongly agrees with, the experience in other parts of the empire.

Peter Stanley perhaps comes closest to this in his fine exposition of the Anzacs at Quinn's Post. He shows the overwhelming importance of the Post in the defence of Anzac and shows too that it was left to the New Zealanders to secure and create the Post after the Australians were withdrawn. Stanley notes that Australians had left Quinn's as a shambles and that Malone's New Zealand troops were essential to its defence. Yet Stanley is shy of making bigger claims. Better troops, better-led troops, better national characteristics? Is that why the New Zealanders were better at Quinn's? Stanley's story demands some resolution, some explanation along these or other lines. So do the accounts of action on the Somme, or the final battles of 1918. Andrew McDonald shows that he, too, is aware of the need to say why New Zealand was different, or better. 'If there is such a thing as a distinctive New Zealand style of command', he writes, 'elements of it were on display on the battlefield on 15 September'. And he goes on to analyse this, but shyly. Bigger points might have been made.

Yet this entertaining and useful book is an important beginning. Conference and publication should stimulate others and possibly embolden them. A striking feature of *New Zealand's Great War* is the inclusion of many younger scholars who will take the story further. They have been given a very impressive first opportunity.

MICHAEL MCKERNAN

Farrer, ACT

The Face of War: New Zealand's Great War Photography. By Sandy Callister. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2008. 160pp. NZ Price: \$49.99. ISBN 978-1-86940-407-9.

SANDY CALLISTER'S BOOK on New Zealand's Great War photography is a highly stimulating literary essay about an important subject; but it is frustrating and inadequate as a history of that subject. There is no question that there is a need for an in-depth study of photography and New Zealand's Great War. Both are subjects which have recently seen a considerable flowering in New Zealand historiography. The work of Judith Binney, Bronwyn Dalley and Chris Brickell has shown how much historians can learn from a close reading of photographs; while the last decade has seen a flood of local publications on the Great War which have very largely been based either on oral history or on documentary sources, both official and personal. It is opportune to bring these two historiographical