

EDMUND BLUNDEN: ASSIGNED AND OPTIONAL READINGS

Assigned

Edmund Blunden, Undertones of War. U Chicago 2017. First pub. 1928. Available new and used from many third sellers. Also, 5 copies in Mainecat. All editions acceptable.

Recommended

Keith Douglas, Alamein to Zem Zem. First pub. 1946. Several copies available in Mainecat. Many used copies available from third sellers.

Optional

For students who want to go deeper during the course or later.

Tim Kendall ed., Poetry of the First World War. (Oxford UP 2013). The best anthology of the subject. Short, thoughtful essays on each poet.

Barry Webb. Edmund Blunden. Yale. 1990. The leading biography. Excellent.

Helen McPhail and Philip Guest. Edmund Blunden. Leo Cooper. 1999. One in the series of short but very good books "On the Trail of the Poets of the Great War." Tells the story of Edmund Blunden's war.

John Keegan, The First World War. Knopf, 1999. The best one-volume history of the war.

John Keegan, The Face of Battle. Military Heritage Press, 1976. Profound essays on Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme. The chapter on the Somme is the most perceptive short essay on that series of battles, 1 July to 20 November 1916, that we call "the Somme."

Ian Beckett, Timothy Bowman, and Mark Connelly. The British Army and the First World War (Cambridge UP 2017). 421pp. state of the art. Massive notes and bibliography.

Peter Hart, The Great War: A Combat History of the First World War. Oxford, 2013. Hart is Oral Historian at the Imperial War Museum. His book includes first-hand testimonials from soldier's and sailor's letters, diaries, and recorded interviews at the IWM.

Captain J.C. Dunn. The War the Infantry Knew, 1914-1919. Abacus. 1994. Excellent, fair, comprehensive and detailed. Called "a superb mosaic of war."

Robin Prior and Trevor Wilson. The Somme. Yale. 2005. A thoughtful analysis by 2 outstanding historians.

Paddy Griffith. Battle Tactics of the Western Front: The British Army's Art of Attack, 1916-18. Yale. 1994.

