



## BOOK REVIEW



### A NOBLE BAND OF HEROES

by John Dixon assisted by Malcolm Waldron  
Published by Tewkesbury Historical Society

Over the past two years many books have been written about the First World War as its Centenary is marked. Some have been written from the national viewpoint, some from a local viewpoint. Among these is a remarkable one published last November, *A Noble Band of Heroes* - remarkable in that it combines both the national and the local (in this case Tewkesbury) in a fusion which ably links the two.

I have to declare an interest. My son wrote the foreword, and two of my Moore cousins are among Tewkesbury's Fallen. But as an historian I hope I can distance myself from these elements.

The book falls neatly into two main parts. The first part takes the War and its campaigns and battles in an overview. But because in almost every battle one of Tewkesbury's men fought, fell and is named, the links between the individual soldier and the wider war-scene become closer, more real and more emotive. We can see OUR man in his last battle.

The second part views each one individually –

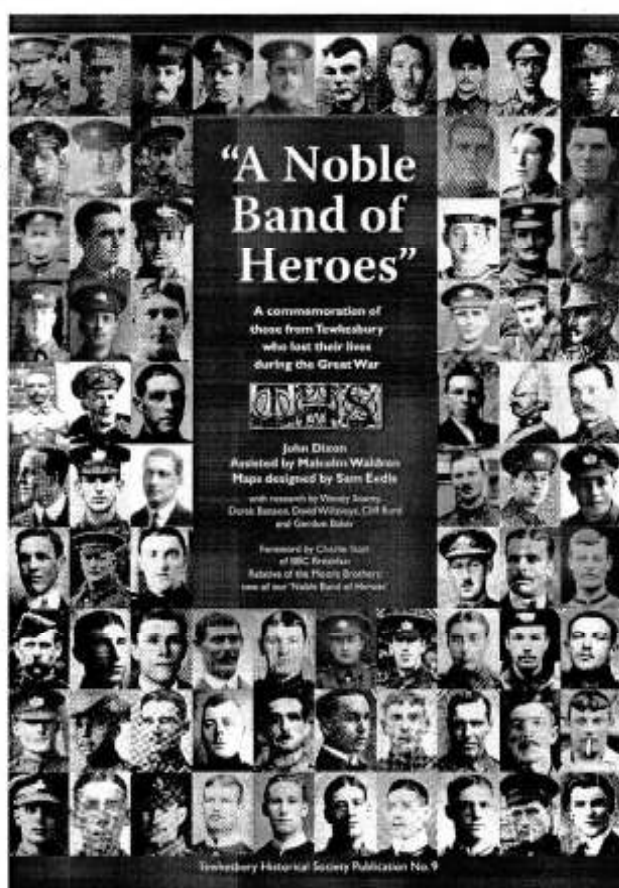
192 men and one woman! All of them have their own biography, many with their photographs. Reading about their lives is also to read about the life and work of the community of this small market town: the hairdresser, the apprentice, the student, the labourer, the auctioneer—and the affluent and the needy. They were a mixed

bunch, with widely different backgrounds and ambitions, but all bound together with one objective. This comes through strongly in the book.

The research involved – over a seven year period – has been prodigious and exhaustive. It's always useful to see the sources, and both footnotes and appendices show how every source has been tracked down, whether from archive-centres or from a family's personal papers. John Dixon, with the assistance of Malcolm Waldron and Sam Eedle and support from a wider team, has master-minded the project

and edited the book. He has done a great service to Tewkesbury, but has also made a significant contribution to our understanding of world war I on local and national level.

*Robin Stayt*



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It is also available at normal price from **Alison's Bookshop, High Street, Tewkesbury**,