

The Road to the Somme

Men of the Ulster Division Tell Their Story

Philip Orr

PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION

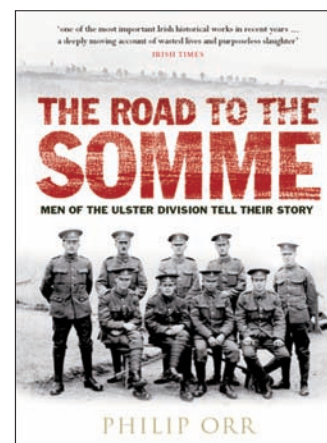
'The Road to the Somme is one of the most important Irish historical works in recent years. It is also a deeply moving account of wasted lives and purposeless slaughter.'

IRISH TIMES

When the Ulster Division left Picardy after the Battle of the Somme in July 1911, they had lost over two thousand men, and more than three thousand had suffered injuries. Their tragic story, and great bravery, has since become iconic in Ulster Protestant tradition and mythology.

This new updated edition of Philip Orr's definitive book traces the events that led up to the Somme – from the birth of the Ulster Volunteer Force in 1912 to the division's formation, training and journey to France – to the battle itself, and its aftermath, when local newspapers were filled with the long lists of victims and the Twelfth parades were replaced by a five-minute silence across Ulster at noon.

Based on Philip Orr's interviews with Somme veterans, this is the soldiers' story, told in their eloquent voices, exposing the reality of that bloody summer and its devastating and far-reaching impact on a close-knit community.



KEY SELLING POINTS

- Updated, new edition of definitive book
- First edition was published to critical acclaim and sold over 8,000 copies
- Interest in the Somme is increasing all the time, with more people visiting the battlefields and museums every year
 - Includes over 75 black and white images
- In the bestselling tradition of the Forgotten Voices series

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CLASSIFICATION
History

PHILIP ORR is the author of a number of successful books, including *Field of Bones: An Irish Division at Gallipoli* and *Tom's Story: Sentry Hill and the Great War*. He is currently working on a study of the relationship between the Loyalist working class and the church, *New Loyalties*, which will be published in 2008 by the Centre for Contemporary Christianity in Ireland.