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50 things you should know about the First World War **by Jim Eldridge**

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This well-researched publication is a helpful introduction to a range of topics associated with the First World War. It provides background information about events leading up to the 1914-1918 war and the escalating tensions that led to countries around the world being drawn into the conflict.

The main battles of Tannenberg, Marne, Ypres, Gallipoli, Verdun, Somme, and several others are highlighted. Weapons and equipment, communications, the use of horses and camels, tanks and land transport, ships, aircraft, food (or the lack of it), the conditions and deprivations of war are all explored. Also included is how the war affected families, food shortages, fund raising and care packages for soldiers, plus caring for the thousands of wounded casualties.

The contents page lists 50 key factors that show the chronological progress of the conflict. Topics listed are developed in an explanatory format suitable for students. Historic photos, illustrations, side bars, graphs and maps give visual impact to the wide-reaching effects of the First World War. The concise glossary and index are valuable tools at the end of the book.

The author delivers an overview of the First World War that clearly shows the devastating outcome it had on people around the world. Around 9 million servicemen and women died during the war and they are sometimes called 'the lost generation'. We will remember them.

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

Author's website:

<http://www.jimeldridge.com/>

