

# **LETTERS FROM THE TRENCHES**

**Bourne soldiers write home to their  
loved ones during the Great War  
of 1914-18**

**by REX NEEDLE**

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## INTRODUCTION

**T**he Great War produced a mass of correspondence between the troops at home and abroad and their families and friends but only a fraction of these letters have survived, often in dusty archives and attics, and some will never be read.

Yet it is from this huge volume of writing that we are able to judge for ourselves the horrors they faced, the risks they took, the arduous conditions under which they lived and the friendships forged.

This small selection was collected mainly by Joseph Davies, headmaster of the Bourne Boys' School which the soldiers had attended and who took the trouble to keep in touch after they had left for the front. Yet from these few letters we are able to gauge the strength of feeling for home and country and, more importantly, a deep anger and bitterness against those responsible for the war.

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January 2012**

## CONTENTS

	Page
The outbreak of war	3
Recruiting in Bourne	5

NOTE: The colour images in this article are taken from picture postcards published during the Great War by Bamforth & Co Ltd of Holmfirth, England, and are from the author's own collection.