

*Walking* THE WESTERN FRONT

# YPRES

SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS  
1914 - 1915



PRESENTED BY  
ED SKELDING  
WITH GUEST HISTORIAN  
NIGEL CAVE

X PEN & SWORD  
DIGITAL



Battleground



## ***Australia's Silent Film Festival***

### ***Walking the Western Front***

October 4 and 11

Sundays at 2 pm

**Metcalfe Auditorium State Library NSW Macquarie St Sydney**

*Tickets through festival website and call t 0419 267318*

*Tickets \$15/ \$10 Friend of the Library and concession*

*Pass to both sessions \$25/ \$15*

**Credit card bookings through website**

*Ypres: Slaughter of the Innocents 1914-1915 (70 minutes)*

*Ypres: The Immortal Salient 1917-1918 (75 minutes)*

*Documentary Films*

*October 4 and 11 Sundays at 2 pm*



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The Festival is proud to present with the State Library NSW these magnificent documentaries about such crucial battles of World War 1. These superb films are produced by Ed Skelding Productions and published by Pen & Sword Books Ltd. The Festival acknowledges the generous assistance by Lori Jones, Manager and Production Executive with Pen and Sword Books Limited, in the presentation of these films.



**Lori Jones.**

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Pen and Sword are one of the UK's leading military history publishers.

Over recent years the company has continued to grow and has added new imprints to its core area of military history. Pen & Sword now specialise in all areas of military history, naval and maritime history, aviation, local history, family history, transport, discovery and exploration, collectables and antiques, nostalgia and true crime.

**About Ed Skelding Productions**

Pen and Sword Digital has teamed up with Ed Skelding Productions to create a small selection of high quality films on the First World War. Presented by well-known historian and acclaimed filmmaker Ed Skelding and with key guests such as Nigel Cave, an experienced historian and series editor for the hugely popular Battleground series of books, these highly knowledgeable films put the viewers in the key locations of battles and make you feel part of the tragic events. Starting with two films on the history of Ypres, three further films will be released in 2012 and 2013 describing the main battles on the Somme. Further films in the series shall be released in 2015.

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DVD

“Ypres – Slaughter OF THE INNOCENTS 1914-1915 is the first in a compelling new series to explore the battlefields of the Western Front during the First World War. For the first time, the whole story of the 'strip of murdered nature' will be told – almost 500 miles from the North Sea to Switzerland.

Pen & Sword Books “The aim of this series is to tell the story of the many battles that took place along the Front during more than four years of bitter fighting. This series will take the viewer to the places which have become synonymous with the war – Ypres, Arras, the Somme and Verdun. It will also visit many of the less well known battlefields, telling their story for the first time on film.

Produced and presented by acclaimed film maker Ed Skelding, he is joined by Nigel Cave, the series editor for the Battleground series, to explain the often complex nature of the fighting with extracts from his books.

This film deals with the first and second battles of Ypres, including the opening encounters at Messines Ridge, Gheluvelt and Langemark. It also tells the story of the 1914 Christmas truce and the nearby locations where the artist Bruce Bairnsfather drew the cartoons that were to establish the character of Old Bill.

The second part of this film then switches to the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915. This became notorious for the first real gas attack of the war and was to change the attitude of the British soldiers towards the Germans. Gone forever was any notion of chivalry. Nigel is interviewed at Vancouver Corner – where an impressive memorial to the Canadians, who died defending the line despite suffering many casualties from the gas, now stands. He also takes us to the nearby Totemuhle or 'Death Windmill' to explain where the gas attack came from and the resulting lost opportunity for the Germans.

The film concludes by paying a visit to Talbot House in Poperinge. Now a living history museum, curator Annelies Vermeulen explains the story behind this fascinating place, where thousands of British soldiers found respite during the war.”

### *Reviews*

*“Most military enthusiasts will recognise the name of Ypres and the epic battles of WW1, and this new 70 minute long DVD from Pen and Sword looks at the actions in some detail, returning to the battlefields to recount those dark days of WW1. It’s a well produced film with modern colour footage intertwined with black and white imagery from the time and*

offers a fascinating insight into the battles of Ypres. The DVD retails of £16.99 and is available through Pen and Sword.”

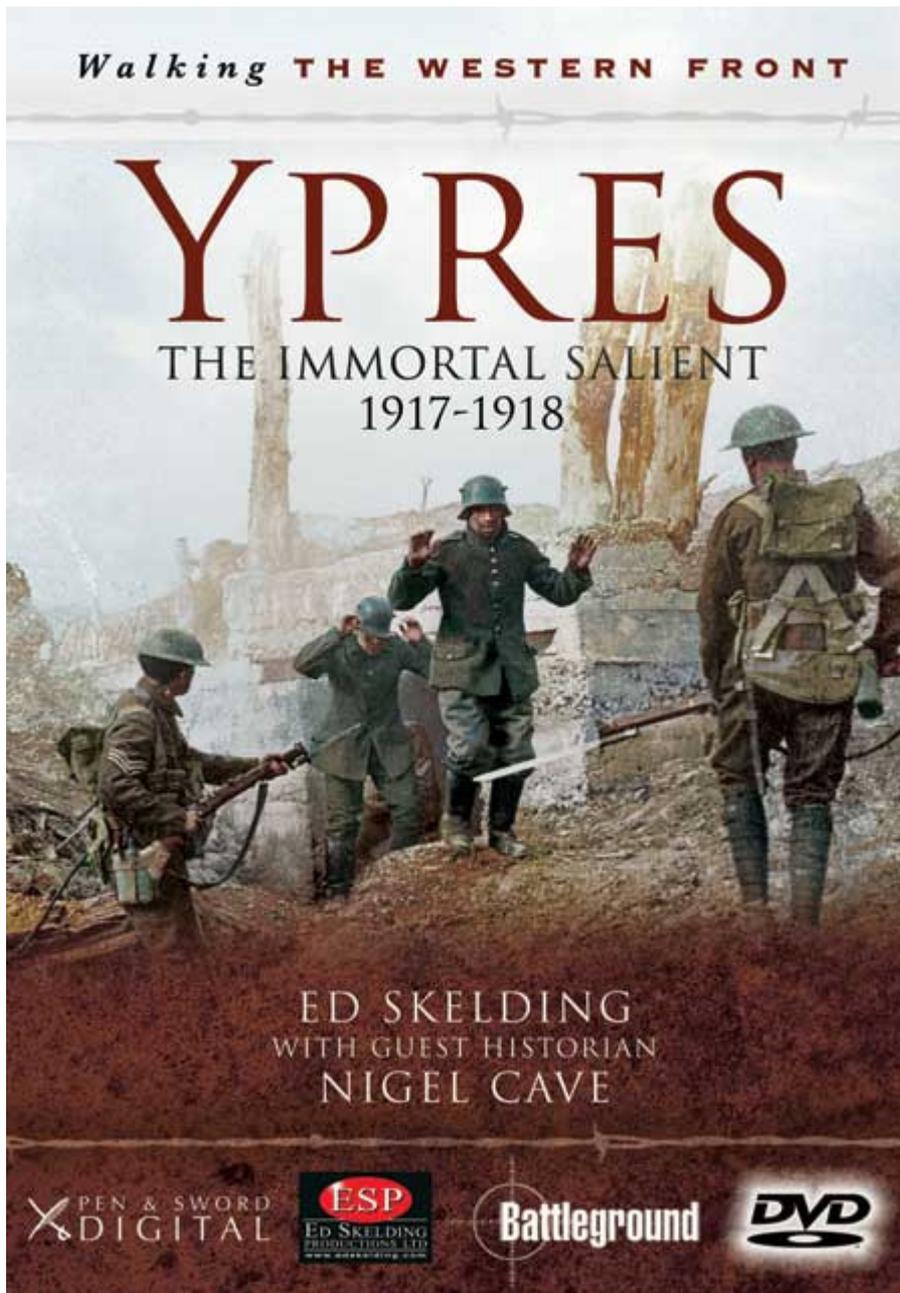
Military Machines international, June 2012

“If you are looking for a taster and can see yourself heading on the pilgrimage everyone should make, then this film along with other essential resources, could set you in the right direction.”

War History Online

“The focus of the film is key locations associated with the first two battles of Ypres including Hooze Chateau, Langemark and Gheluvelt. The tone throughout is relaxed and informal and devoid of excessively dramatic music and reconstructions...very useful guide to the novice and would reward simultaneous use with the appropriate guidebooks from the Battleground Europe series which this disc supplements.”

SOFNAM Newsletter



## Ypres The Immortal Salient 1917-1918

Pen & Sword Books “This film starts with the story of the successful attack on Messines and the taking of the ridge and the village. This includes interviews with Nigel at Factory Farm and Spanbroekmolen where two of the nineteen mines were detonated to herald the start the attack early on the morning of the 7th. Nigel will also explain how four of the mines were left undetonated when the line of attack was changed. One of those mines suddenly exploded as the result of a thunderstorm in 1956 while no one is quite sure where the other three are! We also visit

Prowse Point and Lone Tree Cemeteries with Nigel where he explains the nature of the different types of cemetery – battlefield, collection etc.

This film will also feature an interview with Annelies Vermeulen, Chief Executive at Talbot House in Poperinge. She explains what a source of refuge and comfort the place was for soldiers looking for respite from the fighting. While in Poperinge, we also visit the jail and execution post behind the Town Hall where several British soldiers were executed or – shot at dawn. We also explain the thinking behind this, with a possible interview with the late Earl Haig.

In this film the team visit the Ploegsteert memorial to Churchill with Nigel and later visit the trenches once used by Adolf Hitler at Croenaert Wood. Ed then starts his presentation of the Battle for Passendaele and related how it was actually a succession of battles fought from 31st July to mid November. As part of this explanation, Ed is joined by Nigel at ANZAC memorials in Polygon Wood where he explains the bitter nature of the relentless fighting.

This film is completed by an extended and powerful interview with Nigel held on top of the Cross of Sacrifice memorial at Tyne Cot, when Nigel explains the power behind The Immortal Salient.”

### *Reviews*

*“This DVD is another of the excellent 'walking the western front 'series that Pen & Sword do so well, and it really doesn't need a lot of promoting. The presenter, Ed Skelding is a war historian and is joined by the eminent historian Nigel Cave for the film. Together they take us on a journey, from the opening scenes at the Menin Gate, with its thousand upon thousands of names, via Tynecot - the largest British war cemetery in the world - through the retelling of the battles, the places and the people that fought there.*

*It is educational, informative and of great interest, as most - if not all - of the series from Pen & Sword are and is very worth having, for those who study history, for those who study war, or for those who just want to know a bit more about those terrible days.”*

*Army Rumour Service Website, John Corr*

*“The tragic events of Ypres, the immortal salient are discussed in depth in this documentary style film. Combining archive imagery with contemporary footage taken at key sites around the Western Front, presenters Ed Skelding and Nigel Cave discuss the intricacies of the offensive, recounting the harrowing experiences of the soldiers fighting on the ground.”*

*Military Machines international*



## **AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL**

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We acknowledge the invaluable and generous support from the renowned Lori Nelson, Pen & Sword Books Limited, Ed Skelding Productions, David Shepard, Film Preservation and Associates and Blackhawk Films, Lobster Films, Jeff Masino, Flicker Alley, Umbrella Entertainment, Samantha Hagan, Marcelo Flaksbard, Leslie Eric May, Bob Gamlen, Hilton Prideaux, Ken Stevenson and the sublime flair and talents of Stephanie Khoo.

Please visit and read about your favourite silent film with the superb reviews at Amazon by the Festival's tireless supporter, Barbara Underwood, whose notes grace many of the website pages.

