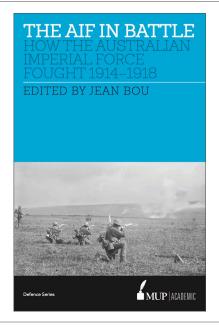
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Jean Bou will be available for interview from June.

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THE AIF IN BATTLE

Edited by Jean Bou

By the end of the First World War the combat formations of the Australian Imperial Force in both France and the Middle East were considered among the British Empire's most effective troops.

While sometimes a source of pride and not a little boasting, how the force came to be so was not due to any inherent national prowess or trait. Instead it was the culmination of years of training, organisational change, battlefield experimentation and hard-won experience—a process that included not just the Australians, but the wider British imperial armies as well.

This book brings together some of Australia's foremost military historians to outline how the military neophytes that left Australia's shores in 1914 became the battle winning troops of 1918. It traces the evolution of several of the key arms of the AIF, including the infantry, the light horse, the artillery, and the flying corps, and also considers how the various arms worked together alongside other troops of the British Empire to achieve a remarkably high level of battlefield effectiveness.

About the editor:

Dr Jean Bou is a historian and lecturer at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, the Australian National University, where his teaching responsibilities include lecturing at the Australian Command and Staff College. A historian of war with an interest in operations in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, he is the author and co-editor of several books on Australian military history, including Light Horse: A History of Australia's Mounted Arm and Duty First: the Royal Australian Regiment, 1946-2006. He is also the lead author for the forthcoming fourth volume of the Official History of Australian Peacekeeping, Humanitarian and Post-Cold War Operations.