

David Hutchison MA

I first developed an interest in the First World War when I inherited a collection of letters written by my grandfather from the Western Front from August 1914 to November 1918. He was a young officer with the Royal Field Artillery, and the letters were written up in *The Young Gunner: The Royal Field Artillery in the Great War*, (Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire, Matador Press 2016). In 2020, this book was on the Christmas list of books recommended by the Master Gunner (Whitehall). Spurred on by the apparent sparsity of books dealing with the history of the Royal Field Artillery, I delved more academically, first writing an article: The Effectiveness of German Field Artillery at Mons and during the Retreat in August 1914, *Journal for the Society of Army Historical Research* 95 (2017), and then a book: *Mons, an Artillery Battle*, (Helion Press, Warwick, 2018). Researching the latter, I found it impossible to reconcile Haig's actions during the Mons Campaign with the general assumption, that he had formulated and implemented the rules of warfare which the majority of the British army were following. Encouraged by Spencer Jones and others at the University of Wolverhampton Department of War Studies, I started to research that very niche topic, *Field Service Regulations*. The chapters of the book I wrote are presented on this web-site.

David Hutchison, December 2020.

I offer thanks to the following for their helpful and supportive advice over several years.

Dr Spencer Jones, Senior Lecturer in Armed Forces and War Studies, University of Wolverhampton.

Dr John Bourne, Lecturer in Armed Forces and War Studies, University of Wolverhampton.

Dr Tony Vines, currently living in Australia, without whom any updates would not have seen the light of day.

The views expressed in these chapters are my own; and any errors, my responsibility.

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Updated March 2022

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