

David Hutchison MA, now publishing under the name David Keable-Elliott

I first developed an interest in the First World War when I inherited a collection of letters written by Colin Hutchison, 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*, published by Troubador, 2016, under the byline David Hutchison. Subsequent to this publication, 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), both credited to David Hutchison. 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. My latest book, described on Page 1, Introduction, is *The Doctrine of the British Army: The Conception & Implementation of Field Service Regulations 1900 – 1918* published by Helion, July 2025.

David Keable-Elliott, August 2025.

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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, without whose help, I could not have satisfied the peer reviewers of my foundation paper.

They have remained an inspiration to me to the present day.

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

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David Hutchison, March 2022.