

British Prisoners of War in First World War Germany

Over 185,000 British military servicemen were captured by the Germans during the First World War and incarcerated as prisoners of war (POWs). In this original investigation into their experiences of captivity, Wilkinson uses official and private British source material to explore how these servicemen were challenged by, and responded to, their wartime fate. Examining the psychological anguish associated with captivity, and physical trials, such as the controlling camp spaces; harsh routines and regimes; the lack of material necessities; and, for many, forced labour demands, he asks if, how and with what effects British POWs were able to respond to such challenges. The culmination of this research reveals a range of coping strategies embracing resistance; leadership and organisation; networks of support; and links with 'home worlds'. *British Prisoners of War* offers an original insight into First World War captivity, the German POW camps, and the mentalities and perceptions of the British servicemen held within.

Oliver Wilkinson is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in History, Politics and War Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, having researched British captivity experiences in the First World War for a decade. His previous works include contributions to the edited collections *War and Displacement in the Twentieth Century: Global Conflicts* (2014) and *Cultural Heritage and Prisoners of War: Creativity behind Barbed Wire* (2012), and to the *Journal of War and Culture Studies*.

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To ‘Willie Wilk’

Private William Wilkinson (1883–1982)

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Abbreviations

AIF	Australian Imperial Force
AWM	Australian War Memorial
BEF	British Expeditionary Force
BPP	British Parliamentary Paper
CQMS	Company Quartermaster Sergeant
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
FCS	Future Career Society
FO	Foreign Office
HC	House of Commons
HL	House of Lords
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IWM	Imperial War Museum
IWMSA	Imperial War Museum Sound Archive
KOYLI	King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Liddle	Liddle Collection, Leeds
MO	Medical Officer
NCO(s)	Non-Commissioned Officer(s)
OBE	Order of the British Empire
OR(s)	Other Rank(s)
POW(s)	Prisoner(s) of War
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps
RFC	Royal Flying Corps
RNAS	Royal Naval Air Service
RND	Royal Naval Division
RNVR	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
RSM	Regimental Sergeant Major
SBNCO	Senior British Non-Commissioned Officer
SBO	Senior British Officer

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S.S.	Sailing Ship
TNA	The National Archives (formally the Public Record Office), Kew
WO	War Office
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association