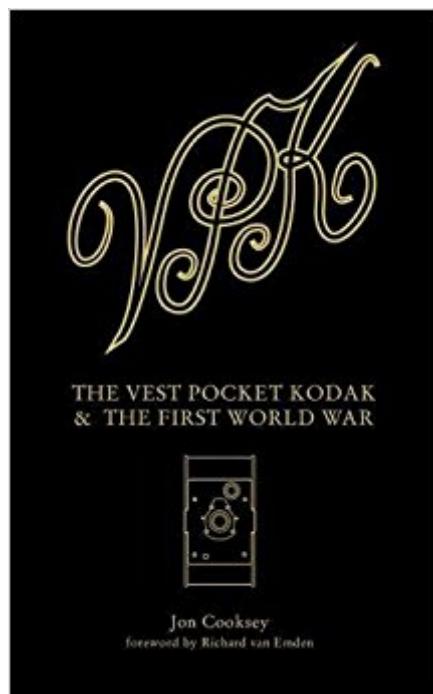


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The Vest Pocket Kodak & The First World War (Camera & Conflict)



Synopsis

When one thinks about World War I, one doesn't immediately imagine the soldiers recording the horrors of trench warfare by taking snaps with their pocket cameras. But that is exactly what happened. Launched in April 1912, the Vest Pocket Kodak was one of the world's first compact cameras. About the height and width of today's iPhone, it was small enough to fit into the pocket of a vest and became something of a craze on the eve of the war. It was advertised as the "Soldier's Kodak" and troops were encouraged to "Make your own picture record of the War." With the military banning journalists from reporting early setbacks in the war, newspaper editors offered soldiers a prize for their VPK photographs of £1,000—over ten times a lieutenant's salary. The images they preserved offer a remarkably personal viewpoint, and create a fascinating link between the camera and the conflict. The first half of the book sets the technology and timeline of the camera against those of the war. It looks at how the Vest Pocket Kodak was developed and advertised, and tells the story of its significance in creating a unique visual account of the Great War. The second half presents a commemorative album of images taken with the camera, a remarkable record of a lost generation, and a tragic reflection of the manufacturer's advertising by-line: "Kodak pictures never let you forget."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jon Cooksey is a leading military historian, editor of Stand To! magazine and author of over 20 titles. His work has appeared in military magazines and he's appeared on the BBC as a military historian. As an experienced battlefield guide, he leads tours for both world wars as well as the Falkland Islands. His books include Pebble Island: The Falklands War 1982 and Calais: A Fight to the Finish.

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