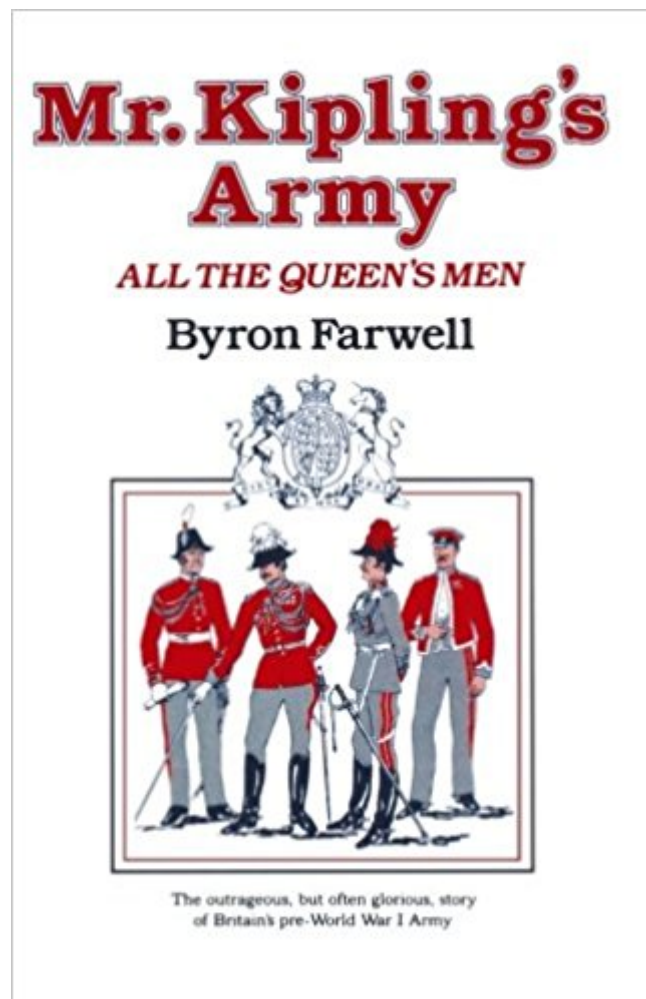




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Mr. Kipling's Army: All The Queen's Men



Synopsis

The outrageous, but often glorious, story of Britain's pre-World War I Army. This is an upstairs-downstairs view of the Victorian-Edwardian army, one of the world's most peculiar fighting forces. The battles it fought are household words, but the idiosyncracies and eccentricities of its soldiers and the often appalling conditions under which they lived have gone largely unrecorded. Byron Farwell explores here the lives of officers and men, their foibles, gallantry, and diversions, their discipline and their rewards.

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Customer Reviews

• Highly readable . . . witty and entertaining. • - Business Week
• A thumping good read. • - Houston Post
• Eye-opening . . . extravagant . . . lively. • - Kirkus Reviews
• A delightful and extraordinarily well-informed book. • - Washington Post
• An extraordinarily useful reference for those who wish to understand the British Empire at flood tide. I cannot recommend it highly enough. • - William Manchester

During the Second World War, Byron Farwell (1921-1999) served as a captain of engineers attached to the Mediterranean Allied Air Force in the British Eighth Army area.

Mr. Farwell is my premier author I use for anything British during the Victorian Era. There is a very good look into what was good and what was bad in the regimental system of the British army, why it was stopped, and what replaced it. One "deduction" from your meager pay at the time was ribbons

for the SgtMaj's wife's hair.

As a military officer in the present, reading this book was very interesting. Many of our traditions stem from this era, and while we may look at it as a quaint time, these things always had a deadly serious undercurrent. The authors writing is fantastic, and he paints a picture that is both informative yet extremely entertaining. If you have any interest in the lives of military officers and soldiers during the highest point of the British Empire, this book is for you!

This book outlines the history of the British regimental system in an outstanding and, at times, belly laughing humor of that eccentric but splendid army of the Victorian and Edwardian era. A must have reference book for your private library. My first copy was a present from my father and I've read it so much that it is coming apart. So I bought a second one.

If you want to understand British military culture as it was before WWI as well as the class system before the industrial age, then this is the book for you. It's very enlightening-and a good read.

A superb book. I had a rather vacant weekend recently and fortunately this book arrived a day before. Superb, highly entertaining stories on the pre-World War I British Army covering subjects as diverse as discipline, officers, enlisted men, religion, women (there were few of them-wives, sweethearts, prostitutes), drink (there was way too much of that), the importance of regimental loyalty,-see chapter titles for a full list. This does for the British army of the later 19th century what Don Rickey's FORTY MILES A DAY ON BEANS AND HAY accomplished for the American frontier army but is far more readable and enjoyable, even though the Indian Wars period is my main area of interest and research. One drawback to the book--there are no footnotes or bibliography so we are left guessing where Mr. Farwell culled all these wonderful stories, tidbits and insights from. The book is so readable though and I am not a tracking down sources to write something myself, so this is easily forgiven. Enjoy!

This book gives an excellent overview of almost everything that made the British army work. This is a convenient way to understand all of the inner workings of the military organization and is a must read for someone just starting to get familiar with nineteenth century military events in the British empire.

A good book; my husband is enjoying it. He says that author has a good writing style.

A very enjoyable book, highly recommended.

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