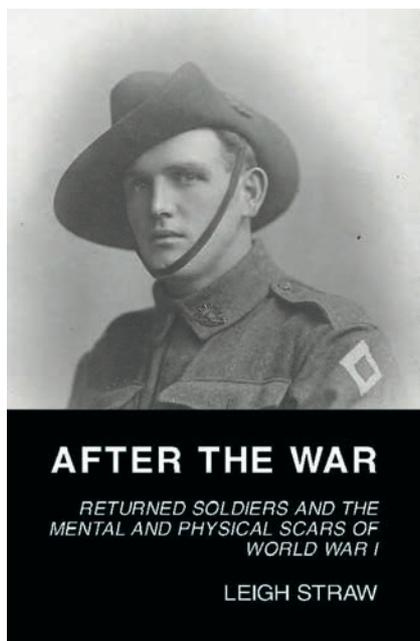

AFTER THE WAR

Returned Soldiers and the Mental and Physical Scars of World War I

Leigh Straw

\$39.99 RRP



In Collie in 1929, a murder-suicide took place. The killer was identified as Andrew Straw. Dressed in war uniform and a slouch hat, a hauntingly familiar face stared out at me from the front page of Truth. Andrew Straw bore a striking resemblance to my husband. I had unearthed an unexpected family story.

Of the 330,000 Australian men who enlisted and served in World War I, close to 60,000 never returned home. As much as it is important to commemorate the war dead, it is also imperative that we remember the survivors as they moved into peacetime. Of the 32,000 West Australian men who enlisted, 23,700 returned from the war. These men tried to create a semblance of a civilian life following on from the traumas of war.

In this deeply personal account, historian and writer Leigh Straw seeks a better understanding of what soldiers experienced once the fighting stopped. *After the War* uses the personal struggles of soldiers and their families to increase public understanding of the legacies of World War I in Western Australia and across the nation. The scars of war – mental and physical – can be lifelong for soldiers who serve their country.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Leigh Straw is an academic, historian and author. Her books include fictional crime novels set in Fremantle and Sydney (*Limestone* and *Sophia Lane*), a history of criminal women in Perth and Fremantle (*Drunks, Pests and Harlots*) and her most recent publication, *The Worst Woman in Sydney: The Life and Crimes of Kate Leigh* (NewSouth Books, 2016).

Leigh has been researching and teaching Australian history for over 20 years and lectures at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle.



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