AUTHORS’ NOTE

Throughout the pages of this book we have retained the convention of using the French spelling of towns, villages and geographical features; these are now more properly signposted in Flemish, but to most of the armies fighting in Flanders Ypres – ‘Y’, ‘Yegree’ or ‘Wipers’ to the British – would be more easily recognisable than its more correct modern equivalent of Ieper. Punctuation in diary and letter extracts is as seen in the original documents.

We have used metric measurements in our own descriptions and discussions; imperial measurements, the standard of the day in 1914, are retained without translation in original quotes. For reference, one yard is equivalent to 0.91 metres and one inch, 2.54 centimetres. British tunnels and dugouts were built to standard imperial measurements; where given in our own text the appropriate metric equivalent is provided.

ABBREVIATIONS

AEMMBC – Australian Electrical, Mechanical, Mining and Boring Company
Bde – Brigade
BEF – British Expeditionary Force
Bn – Battalion
Cpl – Corporal
CO – Commanding Officer
Coy – Company
CRE – Commander, Royal Engineers
CQMS – Company Quartermaster Sergeant
CSM – Company Sergeant Major
CRE – Commander, Royal Engineers
CQMS – Company Quartermaster Sergeant
CSM – Company Sergeant Major
DCM – Distinguished Conduct Medal
DSO – Distinguished Service Order
E in C – Engineer in Chief
GHQ – General Headquarters
HQ – Headquarters
HLI – Highland Light Infantry
Lt – Lieutenant
2 Lt – Second Lieutenant
MC – Military Cross

MEBU – Mannschafts Eisenbeton Unterstände
MG – Machine gun
MM – Military Medal
MO – Medical Officer
NCO – Non Commissioned Officer
OC – Officer Commanding
OP – Observation Post
Pte – Private
QM – Quartermaster
RA – Royal Artillery
RAMC – Royal Army Medical Corps
RE – Royal Engineers
RFC – Royal Flying Corps
SAA – Small arms ammunition
Sgt – Sergeant
SME – School of Military Engineering
TC – Tunnelling Company
TM – Trench mortar
VC – Victoria Cross