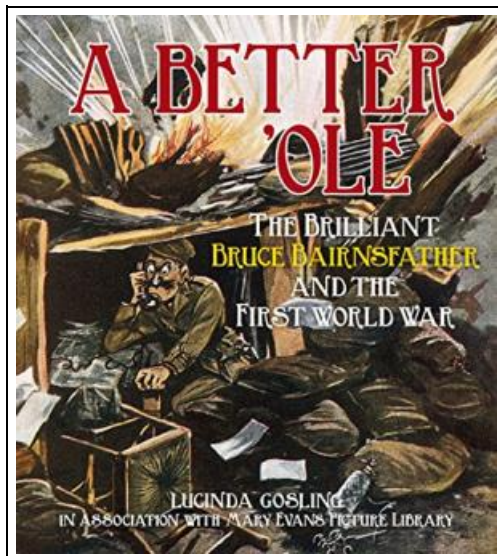


A Better 'Ole: The Brilliant Bruce Bairnsfather and the First World War



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A BETTER 'OLE: THE BRILLIANT BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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The History Press Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, A Better 'Ole: The Brilliant Bruce Bairnsfather and the First World War, Lucinda Gosling, Mary Evans Picture Library, The much-loved Captain Bruce Bairnsfather was the most popular cartoonist of the First World War, who captured the spirit and stoicism of the typical British Tommy in his cartoons for The Bystander magazine. Portraying a series of 'types' ranging from nervous raw recruits to his famous creation - the wise-cracking, walrus-moustached grump 'Old Bill' - Bairnsfather's trench humour was a morale-boosting tonic during the darkest of times. The wit and wisdom of his characters found an instant fan base among the magazine's readership, both at the front and among civilians at home, and soon his pictures were being published as portfolios known as 'Fragments from France', later reproduced on a vast range of merchandise. Old Bill became a star of the stage and the silver screen, while Bairnsfather was created Officer Cartoonist by the War Office and invited to work his magic for the French, Italian and American armies. A Better 'Ole brings together more than 100 of Bairnsfather's Great War cartoons from The Bystander, which forms part of The Illustrated London News archive, and examines the remarkable career of a man who General Sir Ian Hamilton declared had 'relieved the strain of war' and 'drawn a smile from sadness itself by his skill in poking fun at tragedy'.

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