

# **I SHALL NOT BE AWAY LONG**

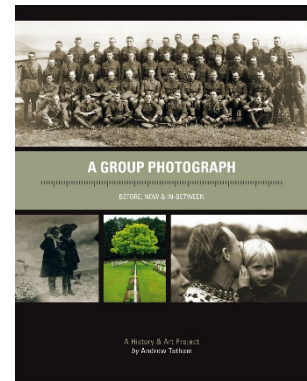
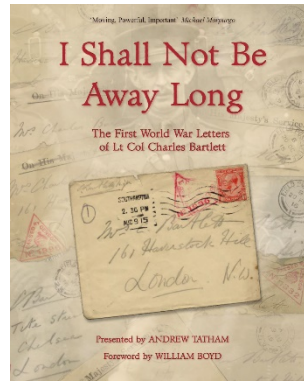
*The First World War Letters of Lt Col Charles Bartlett*

Curated and designed by Andrew Tatham  
with a foreword by William Boyd

Published on November 11th 2020

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#AGroupPhotograph

*“Moving, powerful, important...”*

**MICHAEL MORPURGO**

*“This is not only a beautiful-looking book, generously and wonderfully illustrated, it is also a remarkable human document, as rich in detail and commentary on the human condition as a long novel... it fully earns its place in the Pantheon of literature about the Great War. We come away from it amused, moved, informed, baffled, shocked, saddened and, with a bit of luck, wiser... a classic of its kind.”*

**WILLIAM BOYD**

*“The achievement of it, the depth, breadth, humanity, suspense, the 300 strong cast, the meticulousness, brilliant structure and design... It is more than a worthy sequel to ‘A Group Photograph’ and the two fit beautifully, seamlessly, together.”*

**PATRICK MILES** (author of ‘George Calderon – Edwardian Genius’)

In 1994 Andrew Tatham came across a formal photograph taken in 1915 of the officers of one battalion, 46 men in uniform, one of whom was his great-grandfather. Intrigued, he embarked on a project that involved two decades of research. Initially conceived as an art project, the final result was a beautifully designed book ***A Group Photograph – Before, Now & In-Between*** and an exhibition at the **In Flanders Field Museum, Ypres (2015 – 16)**. The book tells the stories of all the men in the photograph, not just their shared history in the First World War but the bigger picture of their families before the war and through to the present day. Chillingly, of the 46 men, 25 were killed in the war and even some of those who survived suffered terrible injuries, mentally and physically. What Andrew Tatham shows through this unique project, is the long-term legacy of war, sometimes through generations, how we choose to deal with the things that life chooses for us, and about how we are remembered.

The book had an amazing reception when published (see reviews on the next page) and was chosen by Jeremy Vine on BBC Radio 2 and William Boyd as one of their Books of the Year. ***I Shall Not Be Away Long*** is the sequel to ***A Group Photograph***. Lt Col Charles Bartlett is one of the 46 men in the original photo. He was a larger-than-life character and typical of his class and time and yet these letters, completely uncensored, are compelling and revelatory. Written almost daily to his wife Peggy, they provide, cumulatively, the most extraordinary portrait of a man, a marriage but also an astonishingly detailed insight into the life of an officer in the British Army during the First World War.

As William Boyd says in his foreword: *“Of course, these letters were never intended for posterity – and thereby lies their appeal. The voice, the attitudes, the feelings, the anecdotes, the remorseless toll of warfare reverberate in them [the letters] with an absolute authenticity. But they only achieve their full resonance as a result of Andrew Tatham’s extraordinary research into the background and context and his copious and fascinating annotation to the throwaway remarks and references.”*

## Praise for A Group Photograph Before, Now and In-Between

*"Endlessly fascinating and profoundly moving. It brings the past to life with matchless vividness."*

JOHN CAREY

*"Honestly I can't recommend it enough- the whole year we've done different books on this show but this is the one that is just so powerful... it's the most amazing book."*

JEREMY VINE (on BBC Radio 2)

*"It's a magnificent book."*

MELVYN BRAGG

*"Its contents will certainly remain with me, as they must with whoever has the luck to study it."*

DIANA ATHILL

*"One of the most moving books I think I've ever held in my hands... I can only think of half a dozen books that have actually reduced me to tears and this book is one of them."*

PAUL ROSS

*"A really intriguing act of remembrance."*

TOM SUTCLIFFE

*"The book really is a glorious achievement and completely fascinating."*

GYLES BRANDRETH



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Andrew Tatham is an artist and historian who, after degrees in Chemistry and Computer Science and time as a T.A. infantry officer, a hop chemist in the brewing industry and an I.T. lecturer in a College of Nursing, succumbed to indulging his fascination with human beings and how they live their lives, and with finding ways of depicting those lives from new angles.

- ENDS -

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### Notes to editors

- *I Shall Not be Away Long* will be on sale 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020; cost £29.50 (inc p&p) from [www.ishallnotbeawaylong.co.uk](http://www.ishallnotbeawaylong.co.uk).
- 'A Group Photograph – Before, Now & In-Between' by Andrew Tatham; cost £21.80 (inc p&p) from [www.groupphoto.co.uk](http://www.groupphoto.co.uk) or from [www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0993530206](http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0993530206)