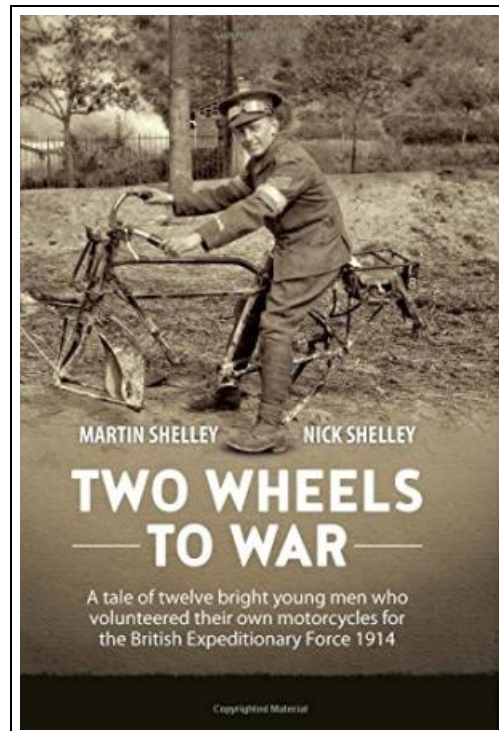


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Helion Company, United Kingdom, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Two Wheels To War is a scholarly but entertaining look at the largely forgotten world of the motorcycle despatch rider in the early months of the First World War, then a new phenomenon in the field of conflict. At the heart of the book is an illustrated and annotated edition of the underrated - and initially uncensored - classic first published in 1915, *Adventures of a Despatch Rider*, written by Captain WHL Watson, one of the well-educated young men who volunteered for the Signal service. He and over 400 other motorcyclists were sent to France, some mounted on their own machines, direct from the recruiting office. Sometimes uncomfortably close to the fast evolving action, Watson and his colleagues played a little known but key part in the early campaigns at Mons, Le Cateau, on the Retreat and on the Aisne. They accompanied the BEF returning to the north in October 1914 when the Western Front extended to Flanders, enduring the harsh winter that followed. His book, which initially escaped scrutiny by the censor, was a graphic and particularly well written account of the reality of war from the Retreat from Mons to the First Battle of Ypres. To illustrate his classic prose, we have unearthed a treasure trove of contemporary photographs, mainly taken by three of his fellow despatch riders in the 5th Signal company, Pollers, Sadders and Cecil Burney, using the soldier's camera, the VPK, as the iconic Vest Pocket Kodak camera became known. As well as Watson's book itself, we continue his story until April 1915, when he was wounded and repatriated to England. His book was based on his letters home which were serialised in *Blackwood's Magazine* (the famous Maga...

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