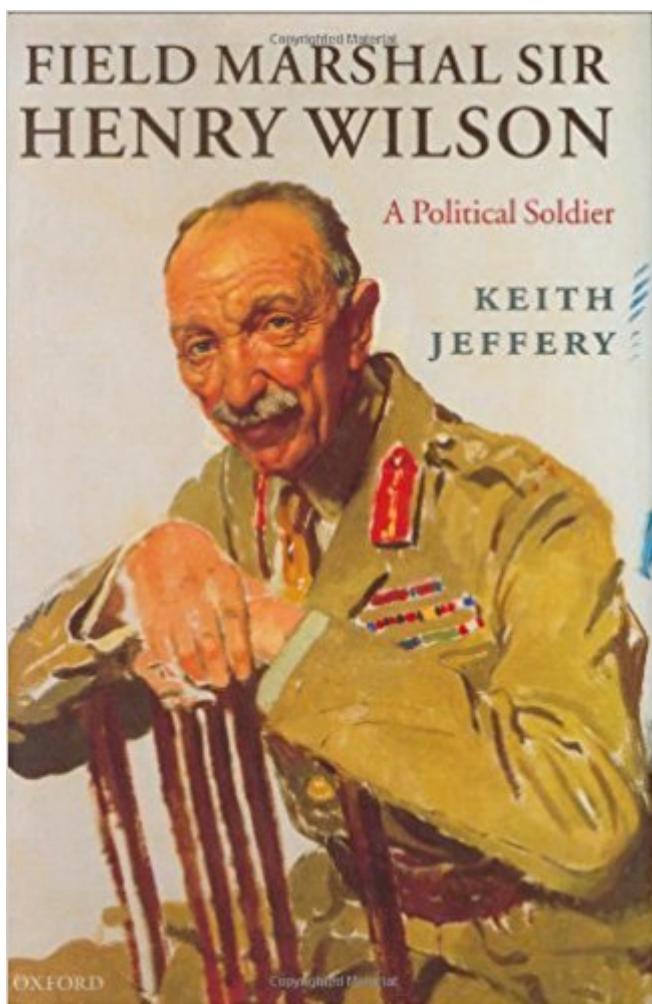


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Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson: A Political Soldier



Synopsis

Henry Wilson was the only British field marshal ever to die in action, killed on his own doorstep in 1922 by two IRA men (one of whom had a wooden leg). Wilson was a flamboyant, maverick Irishman, at the centre of affairs during the First World War years and after, recording everything in his wildly indiscreet diary. Using a wide range of official and private sources, this is the first modern biography of this controversial and misunderstood figure.

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Customer Reviews

In my seemingly endless quest over the years to unravel the cause of WW1 the name of Henry Wilson kept coming up. This guy kept appearing. Seemingly committing the UK to war in talks with the French army without government approval. A key figure in the Curragh Mutiny of senior Army officers against UK Government policy on Irish home rule. Appears on French's staff in the 1914 British Expeditionary Force. Ends up a Field Marshall, apart from a mediocre performance as a Corps Commander having never commanded troops. He was on the British delegation at Versailles.

I wondered if anything was written about Wilson so I consulted my favourite search engine and came up with Jeffery's 2006 biography. The book is a fine piece of historical scholarship. Well written, well referenced and very readable. It takes one on a depressing journey of ordinary people deciding the fate of millions and fashioning the world we know today. The endless petty jealousy and squabbles that makes humans so endearing. Wilson was a man of his times, with attitudes and prejudices that was a product of the society he lived in. Another piece of the WW1 jigsaw and, for the umpteenth time, I change my mind about Douglas Haig. Bumbling unintelligent butcher or architect of victory? I opt for the latter, for the moment at least. The book is a must read for anyone interested in this maddeningly elusive part of history.

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