The battle was one of the most traumatic events in a war that introduced a new level of horror to the world, with advancements in modern warfare and an unrelenting death toll. Many of the men who survived the Battle of the Somme tried to capture the experience in memoirs after the war. Other authors have presented researched volumes on the battle, and still others have fictionalized the terror of the fight. Here are seven books that have memorialized the Somme in one way or another in the 100 years since the battle began.

The Battle of the Somme occurred during World War I. It was one of the largest and indeed the bloodiest battle of the First World War. J.R.R. Tolkien participated in the battle and witnessed firsthand the carnage, suffering, and terrible losses of life. The result was that it was to have a profound effect on Tolkien's works, most notably The Lord of the Rings. Tolkien's good friends Robert Gilson and Geoffrey Bache Smith were killed in the battle. Survey of the First Battle of the Somme, a bloody and largely inconclusive battle on the Western Front during World War I. From that point a methodical but costly advance continued, although little ground was gained. In one respect, the Somme shed a significant light on the future, for on September 15, 1916, the first tanks appeared. Their early employment before large numbers were ready was a mistake: it forfeited the chance of a great strategic surprise, and, because of tactical mishandling and minor technical defects, they had only a limited success. Though the higher military authorities lost faith in them (with some going so far as to urge their abandonment), more-discerning eyes realized that here was a key The Battle of the Somme was planned as a joint French and British operation. The idea originally came from the French Commander-in-Chief, Joseph Joffre and was accepted by General Douglas Haig, the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) commander, despite his preference for a large attack in Flanders. Although Joffre was concerned with territorial gain, it was also an attempt to destroy German manpower. The Battle of the Somme began in early hours of the 1st July 1916, when nearly a quarter of a million shells were fired at the German positions in just over an hour, an average of 3,500 a minute. So intense was the barrage that it was heard in London. At 7.28 a.m. ten mines were exploded under the German trenches.