Title information

Foot Soldiers

By Nick Collins

Key features

- *The Damned United* set in Victorian England – this is an extraordinary story of a team who dared to be different
- The Royal Engineers from Kent set about changing the face of 1870s football, by introducing a revolutionary new style of play allied with an unshakeable team spirit
- Contains vivid descriptions of just what it was like to play football in those far-off days: mud baths for pitches, tapes for crossbars and physical assaults deemed fair by officials
- The soldiers' goal is to win the sport's greatest prize – the FA Cup. Along the way they face tragedy and heartbreak, as well as meeting W.G. Grace, William Gladstone, Florence Nightingale and Queen Victoria herself
- For 25 years Nick Collins was chief football reporter at Sky Sports and Sky Sports News
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites, podcasts and magazines

Description

Victorian England in the 1870s and the early years of the FA Cup. Pitches are little better than mud baths. Crossbars and referees' whistles don't exist, while the players all charge around in a rough-and-tumble manner more suited to rugby. But one side dares to be different. Combining silky skills with military muscle, they pass the ball in a spectacular new style of play. And they have a team spirit like no other. They are a 'band of brothers' who fight for Queen and Country – and for each other. They are the Royal Engineers from Chatham in Kent and *Foot Soldiers* is their extraordinary story. Among their ranks are 'Renny', one of the game's first superstars, and 'The Major', the mastermind behind their astonishing rise. In a four-year quest to land football's greatest prize both men must confront a disastrous fire, monstrous bad luck, the elements at their fiercest and the shocking death of one of the team's favourite players on FA Cup Final day itself.

Details

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