

# THE FACE OF BATTLE JOHN KEEGAN

Read by Robert Whitfield

In this major and wholly original contribution to military history, John Keegan reverses the usual convention of writing about war in terms of generals and nations in conflict, which tends to leave the common soldier as cipher. Instead he focuses on what a set battle is like for the man in the thick of it—his fears, his wounds and his treatment, the mechanics of being taken prisoner, the nature of leadership at the most junior level, the role of compulsion in getting men to stand their ground, the intrusions of cruelty and compassion, the very din and blood.

Set battles, with their unities of time and place, may be a thing of the past, but this anatomy of what they were for the men who fought them is an unforgettable mirror held up to human nature.

“Mr. Keegan attempts something much more difficult than narration and description and something more profound and moving than analysis. He has, in fact, written a meditation on violence.”

—*The Economist*

“This without any doubt is one of the half-dozen best books on warfare to appear in the English language since the end of the Second World War.”

—Michael Howard, *The Sunday Times* (London)

**John Keegan**, born in 1934, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Balliol College, Oxford University. He served as a political analyst for the United States Embassy in London from 1958 to 1960, and since then has been Senior Lecturer in War Studies at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. He is currently at work on a study of the nature of military leadership.

Running Time: Approx. 12 Hours

Unabridged

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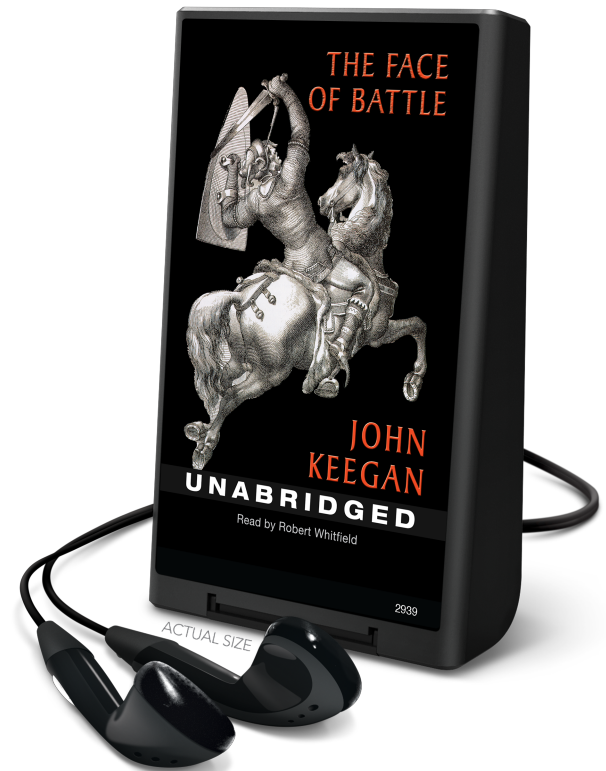


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