

ACQUISITION RELEASE

For Immediate Release on 10th November 2017



Tom Palmer celebrates the unsung athletic heroes of the Armistice on centenary anniversary

World rights to Tom Palmer's *Armistice Runner* have been acquired by Barrington Stoke Editor, Emma Hargrave, from David Luxton at David Luxton Associates.

Tom Palmer will mark the centenary of the end of First World War with a powerful, fictionalised account of the fell-runners who were used as messengers to and from the front lines in the last days of the war. Deftly told in an intertwining narrative of past and present, *Armistice Runner* follows a young fell-runner called Lily as she discovers the diaries of her great-great-grandfather and his experiences as a runner-messenger in the lead-up to the Armistice of 1918.



Tom Palmer (pictured here in the aftermath of the Withins Skyline Fell Race) was inspired to tell this story after his research for *Over the Line*. Published in spring 2014, *Over The Line* tells the real-life story of professional footballer-turned-soldier Jack Cock and has sold almost 20,000 copies. *Armistice Runner* will be a companion novel to *Over the Line*, publishing ahead of the 2018 Armistice centenary in Barrington Stoke's middle-grade Conkers series.

Tom Palmer says:

*While researching **Over the Line** I became fascinated with the Armistice and how hundreds of thousands of men could collectively stop fighting at eleven a.m. after all they had been through. I read that there was no time to lay down communication wires, the allies had been advancing so quickly on the Germans. That runners were used to pass the news on. Knowing that many cross-country and fell runners went to fight in the First World War, the story started there. My daughter is a fell and cross-country runner (as am I) and I wanted the story to come from the point of view of a girl like her and the other children who run cross country and the fells.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Emma Hargrave, Editor, says of the acquisition:

*It was an honour to work with Tom on **Over the Line**, and I am tremendously proud to follow this with **Armistice Runner**. It's utterly compelling – a pacy tribute to the athleticism and bravery of men such as Ernest Dalzell, fell-runner extraordinaire and soldier. With its themes of loyalty, competitiveness, heartbreak and endurance, **Armistice Runner** is full of authentic emotion. I love how Lily learns that she shares her fitness, speed and eye for navigation over tough terrain with her great-great-grandfather. A connection that gives her an edge of fortitude when she most needs it ... **Armistice Runner** will enhance readers' understanding of the tragedy of war – and I hope, too, it inspires some to lace up their studs and head out into the fells.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Palmer is originally from Leeds and credits articles about football with getting him into reading as a child. As well as writing the top selling *Football Academy* and *Foul Play series* (Puffin), he has also written many books for Barrington Stoke including *Over the Line*, *Ghost Stadium*, *Secret FC*, and the *Rugby Academy* and *Wings* series. He has been shortlisted for prizes including the Blue Peter Book Award and the Lancashire and Coventry Book Awards. *Rugby Academy: Combat Zone* is featured in the Scottish First Minister's Reading Challenge. He travels all over the UK for events, performing his immensely popular rugby and football reading games, and is well-loved across the book trade. He lives in Halifax. Twitter: @tompalmerauthor

ABOUT BARRINGTON STOKE

Award-winning Barrington Stoke has almost 20 years' experience of publishing super readable books accessible to young people with dyslexia or reading reluctance. Twitter: @barringtonstoke

For further information please contact Kirstin Lamb on kirstin.lamb@barringtonstoke.co.uk

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