Seeking Victory on the Western Front: The British Army and Chemical Warfare in World War I

Citation metadata
Author: MARTIN WALKER  
Date: Summer 2001  
From: The Wilson Quarterly (Vol. 25, Issue 3)  
Publisher: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  
Document Type: Book review  
Length: 640 words

Main content

Article Preview:

By Albert Palazzo. Univ. of Nebraska Press. 245 pp. $50

Though World War I has been written about exhaustively, Palazzo offers a genuinely fresh dimension by focusing on the British army's extensive and imaginative use of gas. The Germans may have pioneered its use in 1915, but the British developed it, devised and put into mass production the most lethal chemicals, and provided their troops with by far the better gas masks. Above all, the British incorporated gas into their operational doctrine and training in a methodical way, a key consideration in the defense of Field Marshal Douglas Hague and his much maligned staff against the usual charge that they were unimaginative butchers.

In 1915, Major Charles Foulkes of the Royal Engineers took command of the Special Brigade, as the chemical warfare unit was formally known. An inventive bunch, many of them drawn from universities and chemistry labs, the Special Brigade experimented with pepper sprays, itching powder, nicotine, and other...

Source Citation


Footer

About  
Contact Us  
Terms of Use  
Privacy Policy  
Accessibility

General Alexei Evert's Western Front army group, which had a near double numerical advantage over the enemy, was due to deliver the main blow, with Alexei Brusilov's Southwestern Front as an auxiliary force. Brusilov's troops were the first to advance, and their unexpected success made the offensive in this direction the priority. Inspired by Russia's successes, Romania entered the war on the side of the Entente. This, as it turned out, brought nothing but problems for the Allies, but that is a separate story. If using any of Russia Beyond's content, partly or in full, always provide an active hyperlink to the original material. The World War I battles fought between
major global superpowers opened up new frontiers in international warfare. Lasting from 1914 to 1918, many horrendous battles were experienced during World War I. The 1918 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand at the hands of 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip is seen as the catalyst for starting the war. This German attack was the biggest breakthrough in three years of warfare on the Western Front, and Gough ordered the Fifth Army to withdraw. The British also surrendered the Somme region to the Germans. This put Paris within the German's target as they moved their three Krupps cannons they used to shell Paris 120 kilometers away. Following the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the German Army opened the Western Front by first invading Luxembourg and Belgium, then gaining military control of important industrial regions in France. The tide of the advance was dramatically turned with the Battle of the Marne. Both sides then dug in along a meandering line of fortified trenches, stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier with France. This line remained essentially unchanged for most of the war. 1 During World War I, there were major developments in warfare and weaponry. Much of this new technology was blamed for extending the war. Why do you think this might have been? 292 oxford big ideas humanities and social sciences 9 western australian curriculum. DRAFT. chapter. 9. Source 1 Trench warfare was a major part of the fighting that took place across Europe during World War I. This photograph shows the remains of a fallen soldier photographed in the trenches during World War I. 9C 9D. It illustrates the horror of daily life in the trenches for soldiers on both sides. What impact did W...