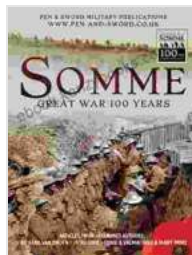


Somme: The Great War 100 Years On

The Battle of the Somme, fought from July 1 to November 18, 1916, stands as one of the most iconic and consequential battles in human history. It was a bloody and protracted struggle that forever altered the course of World War I and left an enduring mark on the world.

The Prelude

The Somme offensive was conceived by the British and French high commands as a decisive blow against the German forces on the Western Front. The plan called for a massive artillery bombardment followed by a simultaneous infantry assault along a 25-mile front.



Somme: Great War 100 Years

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 27455 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 151 pages
Lending : Enabled



The British commander, Sir Douglas Haig, believed that a sustained artillery barrage would destroy the German defenses and pave the way for a swift advance. However, the German defenses proved to be far more resilient than anticipated.

The First Day of the Somme

On July 1, 1916, the British launched their attack. The initial artillery bombardment had failed to neutralize the German defenses, and the British infantry suffered heavy casualties under heavy machine gun fire.

In one of the darkest days in British military history, the first day of the Somme saw over 19,000 British soldiers killed or wounded. The German defenses held firm, and the British offensive ground to a halt.

The Long and Bloody Battle

The Battle of the Somme continued for another four months. The British and French repeatedly launched attacks against the German lines, but they made little progress. The fighting was intense and the casualties mounted on both sides.

The Somme landscape was transformed into a desolate wasteland, pockmarked by craters and strewn with the bodies of the fallen. The war of attrition took a heavy toll on the morale of both armies.

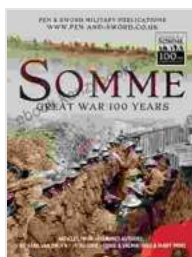
The Legacy of the Somme

The Battle of the Somme ended in a tactical stalemate. However, it had a profound impact on the course of World War I. The British and French learned valuable lessons about the limitations of artillery and the importance of combined arms warfare.

The Somme also had a lasting impact on the British psyche. The heavy casualties sustained during the battle led to a widespread sense of disillusionment and cynicism. It was a turning point in British public opinion towards the war.

In the decades since the war, the Battle of the Somme has been the subject of much historical debate. Some historians have criticized the British commanders for their ill-conceived plan and lack of preparation. Others have argued that the Somme was a necessary sacrifice in the long and bloody struggle against Germany.

The Battle of the Somme was a defining event in World War I. It was a brutal and costly battle that tested the limits of human endurance and sacrifice. The legacy of the Somme continues to resonate today, a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of peace.



Somme: Great War 100 Years

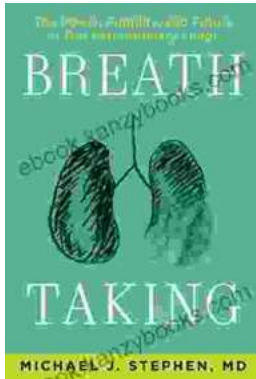
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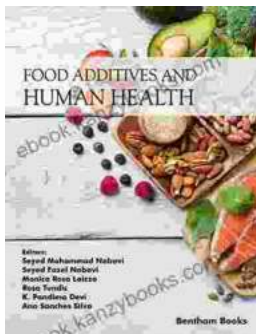
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