

Chapter 1 : World War I | HistoryNet

*Allied Small Arms of World War One [John Walter] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Walker tells of the background, development, and construction of the weapons of the Allied powers during WWI.*

Visit Website The assassination of Franz Ferdinand set off a rapidly escalating chain of events: Austria-Hungary, like many in countries around the world, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Serbian nationalism once and for all. The Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary then sent an ultimatum to Serbia, with such harsh terms as to make it almost impossible to accept. World War I Begins Convinced that Austria-Hungary was readying for war, the Serbian government ordered the Serbian army to mobilize, and appealed to Russia for assistance. On August 4, German troops crossed the border into Belgium. In the first battle of World War I, the Germans assaulted the heavily fortified city of Liege, using the most powerful weapons in their arsenal—enormous siege cannons—to capture the city by August. Leaving death and destruction in their wake, including the shooting of civilians and the execution of a Belgian priest, whom they accused of inciting civilian resistance, the Germans advanced through Belgium towards France. First Battle of the Marne In the First Battle of the Marne, fought from September, French and British forces confronted the invading German army, which had by then penetrated deep into northeastern France, within 30 miles of Paris. The Allied troops checked the German advance and mounted a successful counterattack, driving the Germans back to north of the Aisne River. The defeat meant the end of German plans for a quick victory in France. Both sides dug into trenches, and the Western Front was the setting for a hellish war of attrition that would last more than three years. Particularly long and costly battles in this campaign were fought at Verdun February-December and the Battle of the Somme July-November. German and French troops suffered close to a million casualties in the Battle of Verdun alone. This increased hostility was directed toward the imperial regime of Czar Nicholas II and his unpopular German-born wife, Alexandra. Russia reached an armistice with the Central Powers in early December, freeing German troops to face the remaining Allies on the Western Front. America Enters World War I At the outbreak of fighting in, the United States remained on the sidelines of World War I, adopting the policy of neutrality favored by President Woodrow Wilson while continuing to engage in commerce and shipping with European countries on both sides of the conflict. In, Germany declared the waters surrounding the British Isles to be a war zone, and German U-boats sunk several commercial and passenger vessels, including some U.S. Widespread protest over the sinking by U-boat of the British ocean liner Lusitania—traveling from New York to Liverpool, England with hundreds of American passengers onboard—in May helped turn the tide of American public opinion against Germany. Germany sunk four more U.S. Gallipoli Campaign With World War I having effectively settled into a stalemate in Europe, the Allies attempted to score a victory against the Ottoman Empire, which entered the conflict on the side of the Central Powers in late. After a failed attack on the Dardanelles the strait linking the Sea of Marmara with the Aegean Sea, Allied forces led by Britain launched a large-scale land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula in April. The invasion also proved a dismal failure, and in January Allied forces were staged a full retreat from the shores of the peninsula, after suffering, casualties. The young Winston Churchill, then first lord of the British Admiralty, resigned his command after the failed Gallipoli campaign in, accepting a commission with an infantry battalion in France. British-led forces also combated the Ottoman Turks in Egypt and Mesopotamia, while in northern Italy, Austrian and Italian troops faced off in a series of 12 battles along the Isonzo River, located at the border between the two nations. British and French—and later, American—troops arrived in the region, and the Allies began to take back the Italian Front. The biggest naval engagement of World War I, the Battle of Jutland May left British naval superiority on the North Sea intact, and Germany would make no further attempts to break an Allied naval blockade for the remainder of the war. Second Battle of the Marne With Germany able to build up its strength on the Western Front after the armistice with Russia, Allied troops struggled to hold off another German offensive until promised reinforcements from the United States were able to arrive. On July 15, German troops launched what would become the last German offensive of the war,

attacking French forces joined by 85, American troops as well as some of the British Expeditionary Force in the Second Battle of the Marne. The Allies successfully pushed back the German offensive, and launched their own counteroffensive just three days later. The Second Battle of the Marne turned the tide of war decisively towards the Allies, who were able to regain much of France and Belgium in the months that followed. Toward Armistice By the fall of , the Central Powers were unraveling on all fronts. Despite the Turkish victory at Gallipoli, later defeats by invading forces and an Arab revolt had combined to destroy the Ottoman economy and devastate its land, and the Turks signed a treaty with the Allies in late October Austria-Hungary, dissolving from within due to growing nationalist movements among its diverse population, reached an armistice on November 4. Facing dwindling resources on the battlefield, discontent on the homefront and the surrender of its allies, Germany was finally forced to seek an armistice on November 11, , ending World War I. Treaty of Versailles At the Paris Peace Conference in , Allied leaders would state their desire to build a post-war world that would safeguard itself against future conflicts of such devastating scale. As the years passed, hatred of the Versailles treaty and its authors settled into a smoldering resentment in Germany that would, two decades later, be counted among the causes of World War II. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle. The political disruption surrounding World War I also contributed to the fall of four venerable imperial dynastiesâ€”Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey. World War I brought about massive social upheaval, as millions of women entered the workforce to support men who went to war, and to replace those who never came back. The severe effects that chemical weapons such as mustard gas and phosgene had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. The Geneva Convention agreements, signed in , restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare, and remains in effect today.

Chapter 2 : Formats and Editions of Allied small arms of World War One [calendrierdelascience.com]

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Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Air warfare At the start of the war the land and sea forces used the aircraft put at their disposal primarily for reconnaissance, and air fighting began as the exchange of shots from small arms between enemy airmen meeting one another in the course of reconnoitering. Fighter aircraft armed with machine guns, however, made their appearance in Tactical bombing and the bombing of enemy air bases were also gradually introduced at this time. Contact patrolling, with aircraft giving immediate support to infantry, was developed in Strategic bombing , on the other hand, was initiated early enough: In October the British, in turn, began a more systematic offensive, from eastern France, against industrial targets in southwestern Germany. While the British directed much of their new bombing strength to attacks on the bases of the U-boats, the Germans used theirs largely to continue the offensive against the towns of southeastern England. On June 13, , in daylight, 14 German bombers dropped high explosive bombs on London and returned home safely. This lesson and that of subsequent raids by the German Gotha bombers made the British think more seriously about strategic bombing and about the need for an air force independent of the other fighting services. Peace moves, March 1918–September 1918 Until the end of 1918, the pursuit of peace was confined to individuals and to small groups. In the following months it began to acquire a broad popular backing. Semi-starvation in towns, mutinies in the armies, and casualty lists that seemed to have no end made more and more people question the need and the wisdom of continuing the war. The new emperor, Charles I , and his foreign minister, Graf Ottokar Czernin , initiated peace moves in the spring of 1918 but unfortunately did not concert their diplomatic efforts, and the channels of negotiation they opened between Austria-Hungary and the Allies had dried up by that summer. In Germany, Matthias Erzberger , a Roman Catholic member of the Reichstag, had, on July 6, 1918, proposed that territorial annexations be renounced in order to facilitate a negotiated peace. The Allies took almost no notice of it. An unofficial peace move was made in London: Indeed, the Germans conducted their preliminary peace talks exclusively with Wilson. And the Armistice , when it came on Nov. 11, 1918. Library of Congress, Washington, D. Haig thus devoted 46 of his divisions to the front from the Channel to Gouzeaucourt southwest of German-held Cambrai and 14 to the remaining third of the front from Gouzeaucourt past German-held Saint-Quentin to the Oise River. On the German side, between Nov. 11 and 18, 1918. By these means the German armies in the west were reinforced by a total of about 1,000,000 men. Accordingly he formed an offensive strategy based on taking the tactical line of least resistance. The main German attacks would begin with brief but extremely intense artillery bombardments using a high proportion of poison gas and smoke shells. Then a second and lighter artillery barrage would begin to creep forward over the Allied trenches at a walking pace in order to keep the enemy under fire , with the masses of German assault infantry advancing as closely as possible behind it. The key to the new tactics was that the assault infantry would bypass machine-gun nests and other points of strong resistance instead of waiting, as had been the previous practice on both sides, for reinforcements to mop up the obstructions before continuing the advance. The Germans would instead continue to advance in the direction of the least enemy resistance. The mobility of the German advance would thus be assured, and its deep infiltration would result in large amounts of territory being taken. Such tactics demanded exceptionally fit and disciplined troops and a high level of training. Ludendorff accordingly drew the best troops from all the Western Front forces at his disposal and formed them into elite shock divisions. The troops were systematically trained in the new tactics, and every effort was also made to conceal the actual areas at which the German main attacks would be made. Two German armies, the 17th and the 2nd, were to break through the front between Arras and Saint-Quentin, north of the Somme, and then wheel right so as to force most of the British back toward the Channel, while the 18th Army, between the Somme and the Oise, protected the left flank of the advance against counterattack from the south. The attack, which is known as the Second Battle of the Somme or the Battle of Saint-Quentin,

took the British altogether by surprise, but it did not develop as Ludendorff had foreseen. While the 18th Army under von Hutier achieved a complete breakthrough south of the Somme, the major attack to the north was held up, mainly by the British concentration of strength at Arras. For a whole week Ludendorff, in violation of his new tactical emphasis, vainly persisted in trying to carry out his original plan instead of exploiting the unexpected success of the 18th Army, though the latter had advanced more than 40 miles westward and had reached Montdidier by March. At last, however, the main effort of the Germans was converted into a drive toward Amiens, which began in force on March. By that time the Allies had recovered from their initial dismay, and French reserves were coming up to the British line. The German drive was halted east of Amiens and so too was a renewed attack on April 4. Ludendorff then suspended his Somme offensive. This offensive had yielded the largest territorial gains of any operation on the Western Front since the First Battle of the Marne in September. Previously, Haig had resisted the idea of a generalissimo. The British, however, after being driven back 10 miles, halted the Germans short of Hazebrouck. Thus far Ludendorff had fallen short of strategic results, but he could claim huge tactical successes—the British casualties alone amounted to more than 1,000,000. Ten British divisions had to be broken up temporarily, while the German strength mounted to 1,000,000 divisions, of which 80 were still in reserve. A restoration of the balance, however, was now in sight. Furthermore, Pershing, the U.S. The tactical success of his own blows had been his undoing; yielding to their influence, he had pressed each too far and too long, using up his own reserves and causing an undue interval between blows. He had driven three great wedges into the Allied lines, but none had penetrated far enough to sever a vital rail artery, and this strategic failure left the Germans with a front whose several bulges invited flanking counterstrokes. Moreover, Ludendorff had used up many of his shock troops in the attacks, and the remaining troops, though strong in numbers, were relatively lower in quality. The Germans were to end up sustaining a total of 1,000,000 casualties in their great offensives. Meanwhile, the Allies were now receiving U.S. It came to nothing: Masses of light tanks—a weapon on which Ludendorff had placed little reliance, preferring gas instead in his plans for the year—played a vital part in forcing the Germans into a hasty retreat. By August 2 the French had pushed the Champagne front back to a line following the Vesle River from Reims and then along the Aisne to a point west of Soissons. Marne, Battle of the Engineers of the U.S. Having recovered the initiative, the Allies were determined not to lose it, and for their next blow they chose again the front north and south of the Somme. The British 4th Army, including Australian and Canadian forces, with tanks, struck the Germans with maximum surprise on Aug. Several German divisions simply collapsed in the face of the offensive, their troops either fleeing or surrendering. The Battle of Amiens was thus a striking material and moral success for the Allies. Ludendorff put it differently: Then, in the fourth week of August, two more British armies went into action on the Arras—Albert sector of the front, the one advancing directly eastward on Bapaume, the other operating farther to the north. From then on Foch delivered a series of hammer blows along the length of the German front, launching a series of rapid attacks at different points, each broken off as soon as its initial impetus waned, and all close enough in time to attract German reserves, which consequently were unavailable to defend against the next Allied attack along a different part of the front. By the early days of September the Germans were back where they had been before March—behind the Hindenburg Line. All the Allied armies in the west were to combine in a simultaneous offensive.

Chapter 3 : List of common World War II infantry weapons - Wikipedia

List of guns and related small arms of all nations in World War 1. TOP ^ Many cheered the arrival of war in Europe in August of , expecting it to conclude by Christmas - and it did, only in November of after four years of brutal fighting.

For more information, click to see the Casualties of World War I. The outbreak of war between European nations was the result of several factors: This would increase German influence in the world and likely allow the country to expand its colonial holdings. Russia was rebuilding and modernizing its large army and had begun a program of industrialization. They formed an alliance for self-protection against the Russian bear. France, still stinging over the loss of Alsace and part of Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian war, made an agreement allying itself with Russia in any war with Germany or Austria-Hungary. Britain, after finding itself friendless during the Second Boer War in South Africa " allied itself with France and worked to improve relations with the United States of America. Russia, with many ethnic groups inside its vast expanse, made an alliance with Serbia in the Balkans. As its ability to exert control over its holdings in the Balkans weakened, ethnic and regional groups broke away and formed new states. Rising nationalism led to the First and Second Balkan Wars, and As a result of those wars, Serbia increased its size and began pushing for a union of all South Slavic peoples. Serbian nationalism led year-old Gavrilo Princip to assassinate Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir apparent to the Habsburg throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife, Sophie. Austria-Hungary, urged on by Germany, sent a list of demands to Serbia in response; the demands were such that Serbia was certain to reject them. Russia came in on the side of the Serbs, Germany on the side of the Habsburgs, and the entangling alliances between the nations of Europe pulled one after another into the war. Although diplomats throughout Europe strove to settle matters without warfare right up to the time the shooting started, the influence military leaders enjoyed in many nations won out"along with desires to capture new lands or reclaim old ones. Combat in the First World War German military planners were ready when the declarations of war began flying across Europe. They intended to hold off the Russians in the east, swiftly knock France out of the war through a maneuver known as the Schlieffen Plan, then throw their full force, along with Austria-Hungary, against the Russians. The Schlieffen Plan, named for General Count Alfred von Schlieffen who created it in , called for invading the Low Countries Luxembourg and Belgium in order to bypass to the north the strong fortifications along the French border. After a rapid conquest of the Low Countries, the German advance would continue into northern France, swing around Paris to the west and capture the French capital. It almost worked, but German commander in chief General Helmuth von Moltke decided to send his forces east of Paris to engage and defeat the weakened French army head-on. In doing so he exposed his right flank to counterattack by the French and a British Expeditionary Force, resulting in the First Battle of the Marne, September 6"10, Despite casualties in the hundreds of thousands, the battle was a stalemate, but it stopped the German drive on Paris. Both sides began digging a network of trenches. The First Battle of the Marne was a window onto how the rest of the war would be fought: The centuries-old method of massed charges to break through enemy positions did not work when the men faced machine guns, barbed wire, and drastically more effective artillery than in the past. The next four years would see battles in which millions of artillery shells were fired and millions of men were killed or mutilated. Click here to read about some of the costliest battles of the First World War. Deadly new weapons were responsible for the unprecedented carnage. New Weapons of World War I Among the lethal technological developments that were used for the first time or in some cases used for the first time in a major conflict during the Great War were the machine gun, poison gas, flamethrowers, tanks and aircraft. Artillery increased dramatically in size, range and killing power compared to its 19th-century counterparts. In the war at sea, submarines could strike unseen from beneath the waves, using torpedoes to send combat and merchant ships to the bottom. Click here for more information on Weapons of World War I. War on the Eastern Front On the Eastern Front, the German general Paul von Hindenburg and his chief of staff Erich Ludendorff engineered strategies that gave them dramatic victories over Russian armies. The war became increasing unpopular among the Russian people. As hoped, Lenin helped fuel the rising revolutionary fervor. The tsar was deposed and executed with his family in the March

revolution. When the new government failed to bring about a rapid peace, it was overthrown in November by a socialist revolution led by Lenin, following which Russia signed a peace agreement with Germany. War in the Mountains Fighting in the high elevations of the Balkans and Alps created additional agony for soldiers fighting there: Serbia, whose countryman had fired the shots that gave rise to the slaughter taking place in Europe, was invaded twice by Austria-Hungary but repulsed both attempts. In the autumn of 1914, a third invasion came. This time the Hapsburgs were joined by Germany and Bulgaria. The outnumbered Serbs gave ground. Ultimately, the Serbian Army only escaped annihilation by a demanding march through Albania to the Adriatic Sea, where the French Navy rescued the survivors. Romania remained neutral until August when it joined the Allies and declared war on Austria-Hungary in hopes of securing additional territories including Transylvania. As the poorly trained Romanian army advanced into Transylvania, German forces invaded and occupied Romania itself, quickly knocking the country out of the war. Italy, wooed by both sides, entered the war on the Allied side in May 1915. What gains the Italians made in the war were wiped out by a rout that began at Caporetto in October and unhinged the entire line. An attempted invasion on the Gallipoli Peninsula resulted in a bloody repulse, but war in the interior of the Ottoman Empire met with greater success. Arab groups seeking to overthrow the empire waged a successful guerrilla war in the Mideast, led by Prince Feisal, third son of the Grand Sharif of Mecca. The revolt was aided by British liaison officer T. Lawrence of Arabia, who became known as Lawrence of Arabia. When the war ended, the Ottoman Empire was broken up. England and France drew borders for new countries in the Mideast without regard for ethnic and religious factions. The centuries-old tensions between the native inhabitants of the region led to many of the problems causing turmoil in the Mideast today, another irony of the War to End War. Africa was home to a sideshow of the European fighting. European nationals and colonial troops of both sides fought against each other, but the German colonies were widely separated and unable to support each other. In German East Africa Tanzania an aggressive general named Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck waged a guerilla campaign against his British opponents until after the armistice was signed in Europe that ended the Great War. In the waters of the Pacific Ocean German commerce raiders found prey among merchant vessels of Allied nations. Japan joined the Allies war effort on August 23, 1914, ostensibly in fulfillment of the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1902. Accomplishing that goal while supporting large armies engaged in warfare proved impossible for Germany, but World War I saw the last great battles fought entirely between surface ships. Jutland would prove to be not only the largest naval battle up to that time but the last in which fighting would take place only between surface ships. The most significant advance in naval warfare to come out of the Great War was the development of submarines, which the German Imperial Navy called Unterseeboots undersea boats. That got shortened to U-boats, a name that became synonymous with submarine. Subs could hide beneath the waves in shipping lanes to attack merchant or combat ships with torpedoes without ever being seen. Germany engaged in such unrestricted warfare until U-201 sunk the British passenger liner Lusitania off Ireland in May 1915. Over 1,198 lives were lost, including Americans, and the US threatened to break diplomatic relations with Germany. The Imperial Navy subsequently instituted strict regulations for U-boat attacks, but those went by the boards in as the Germans tried to cut off supplies to Britain and starve the island nation into submission. It was a bad decision. Italian aircraft were used for reconnaissance and small-scale bombing during the Italo-Turkish War of 1911-12. Aircraft during World War I continued to be used primarily for reconnaissance, including photo-reconnaissance missions. Pilots began shooting at each other with pistols and rifles. Soon various schemes were attempted to attach machine guns to planes. Early war planes were very light and used small engines with top speeds of less than 100 mph. On many designs the engine was in the rear and pushed the plane through the air. Changes might occur within weeks; in the decades following the war, such changes would take years. Zeppelins were also used for reconnaissance and for bombing over land and sea. While the war on the ground was a miserable existence in muddy, rat- and disease-infested trenches, and millions of lives might be spent to gain a few miles of territory, the war in the air captured the imagination of the world. Using this exciting new technology to maneuver through the skies and engage the enemy in one-on-one dogfights in which skillful pilots could rise to the status of ace gave the air war a sense of glamour that still hangs over the pilots of World War I. America was drawn into the conflict by the Zimmerman telegraph and unrestricted submarine warfare. On January 16, 1917, Foreign Secretary of the

German Empire Arthur Zimmerman sent a coded message to the German ambassador in Mexico City, Heinrich von Eckart informing him Germany would return to unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, a policy that might cause America to declare war. The code was broken, and the contents of the telegram published on March 1. Two weeks later German U-boats sank three American vessels. Wilson asked Congress on April 1 to authorize a declaration of war against Germany, which it did four days later. War was declared on the other Central Powers shortly thereafter. When American troops and war materiel began arriving in Europe later in , it unalterably shifted the balance of power in favor of the Allies. A final German offensive began on May 21, , an attempt to win the war before the full weight of American strength could arrive. An Allied operation that became known as the Hundred Days Offensive pushed the enemy back to the German border by September. The German navy mutinied. Ludendorff, architect of many German victories in the east, was dismissed. Riots broke out, often led by German Bolsheviks. Prince Max, Chancellor of Germany, authorized negotiations for peace terms and stipulated that both military and civilian representatives be involved. He then turned his title over to Friedrich Ebert, leader of the Socialist Democratic movement. Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated on November 9. An agreement between the combatants called for all guns to fall silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Yet, even on the morning of November 11, before the designated time for the armistice to begin, some field officers ordered their men to make attacks, which accomplished little except more bloodshed. The Armistice A series of peace treaties were signed between the combatant nations, but the most significant was the Treaty of Versailles, signed on July 28, , five years after Austria-Hungary had declared war on Serbia. Germany had hoped Woodrow Wilson would be a moderating factor that would allow for more generous peace terms, but the nations that had lost millions of young men to the weapons of the Central Powers were in no mood to be forgiving. As a result of the various treaties, the Ottoman Empire was dismantled. Austria-Hungary was broken into separate nations and forced to cede lands to successor states such as Czechoslovakia.

Chapter 4 : Allied Small Arms of World War One: John Walter: calendrierdelascience.com: Books

Tells of the background, development, and construction of the weapons of the Allied powers during WWI. Provides an overview of the developments in the years leading up to the conflict and then documents the handguns, rifles, and machine guns of each of the nations involved.

Countries that had been traditional enemies; Russia and Japan, Germany and the Ottoman Empire, and even France and Great Britain were scrapping old enmities. Although long before victory against the Central Powers was assured, Britain and France were diplomatically at odds over the division of the spoils. World War 1 broke the mold. In this war, partners simply chose "all of the above". Triple Entente Allies vs. Triple Alliance Central Powers Great Britain, a limited monarchy, France, a republic and Russia, an absolute monarchy all were intent on defending the deep differences in their goals, but nevertheless bound them into a Triple Entente. They formed a mutual military alliance to counter the imperialistic ambitions of Germany and its Austria-Hungary ally and their Triple Alliance that included Italy. The sophisticated diplomats wrongly believed they had achieved a balance of power that would prevent conflict. There were different roads that led each participant into the relationship that was called the Triple Entente. Many of those byways crossed each other in the form of treaties and secret agreements that formed a tangled web, without an agreed starting point, that surprisingly found a common end point as World War 1 allies. However, France seems to have always been central. However, before that war, Germany was exhibiting its desire to expand at the expense of France. Germany was noticeably an absent partner preferring to act with a smaller group of like minded nations. This was evident in their hostile attack on France in July , when the German states, marshaled by the Prussian monarchy, struck France. France was forced to cede a rich prize, Alsace- Lorraine and Chancellor Bismark would pull the various Germanic states into a unified nation that was more of a threat to its continental neighbors. It had no mutual defense treaties excepting those non military arrangements dealing with dispositions of influence on other continents. However, Germany was taking no chances that a potential Russian -French alliance would force Germany into a two front war. In Germany and Russia secretly agreed to respect the then current territories of each. The quid pro quo was Germany recognizing Russian sphere of influence in Bulgaria. A "treaty" with Russia would be a diplomatic coup. However, the French Constitution required that a treaty be approved by its Chamber of Deputies. The possibility existed that a treaty with Russia would be defeated by that body. Thus, The French Foreign Minister called the agreement a "convention" and avoided a confrontation with the Deputies. Russia approved, and in an about face, did not renew the Reinsurance Treaty with Germany. They had betrayed Bulgaria to empower Russia. Nevertheless, Bulgaria would ultimately choose joining the Central Powers as a wartime partner because Russia was more of a menace to a free Bulgaria than another German ally, the Ottomans, with their loose footprint in the Balkans. Wilhelm had courted the Ottomans and his bellicosity toward Russia must have charmed the Turks. The seat of the Ottoman Empire sat astride Europe and Asia and a natural block to Russian ambitions for a southern passage into the Mediterranean Sea. However, the Kaiser forced Bismark from government leaving Wilhelm unchecked to deal on the international stage. Their peoples shared a common culture and language. Both of these men had displayed little compunction about extending their realms at the expense of adjacent countries. In point of fact, even their countries had been at war with each other in mid 19th century when the Austrians unsuccessfully attempted to impose Hapsburg succession over Prussia and the German confederation of states. Each of these monarchs, and their predecessors, were no strangers to wars of conquest. In , they formed an alliance to defend against potential Russian aggression that was a challenge to Austrian ambitions in the Balkans. Together they formed the core of the "Triple Alliance" until Italy joined the group in At that time, Italy was embroiled in a dispute with France over Tunisia. Russia was feeling the heat of the German-Austrian agreement despite its secret agreement with Germany. The reality on the ground in Serbia, allied with Russia, pointed to a conflict with Austrian ambitions and hence a clash with Germany--the tight partner of Austria. Russia then allowed the Reinsurance Treaty to expire in in the face of the dual alliance of Germany and Austria. In turn, this led to Russian rapprochement with France. The diplomatic wheel was spinning and

turning in the direction of conflict. France then saw an opening and offered Russia financial and technological assistance in exchange for a military agreement pointedly to protect each other from invasion from the Central Powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary. This beneath the table agreement went unnoticed by the world for two years. The table was set for an eventual war and a pairing of potential World War 1 allies. Britain had remained aloof from the German problems that had beset France. There was no love lost between these nations with a year history of war between them. The British empire with its vast, far flung global wealth was protected by its navy. Any potential threat to its fleet could not be ignored. And a united Germany was a threat as the new century loomed on the horizon. Subsequent to the Napoleonic wars in the early years of the 19th century there were some diplomatic overtures between France and Great Britain that fell far short of any mutual military assistance. They joined other European countries to guaranty the neutrality and viability of Belgium. Essentially to protect it against invasion The signatories included all of the initial belligerents in World War 1 who were, at that moment in time, acting in concert. This document, added to the later Franco-Russian agreement, were the building blocks of the Triple Entente some 75 years in the future. When that "future" arrived in , Germany advised Britain that it would cross Belgium to invade France. England warned Germany that it would mean war and cited the protocol. The German Chancellor declared that it was unbelievable that their countries would go to war over a "scrap of paper". In Britain, Belgium was the red line and not the protection of French sovereignty. Britain and France took a further step to improve their relations. A small step forward, but short of any mutual military agreement. Historically, avoiding foreign entanglements, they broke that rule after a near battle of fleets with Germany over commercial hegemony of the Samoan Archipelago. The United States entered into a Tripartite agreement with Germany and Britain dividing their geographical spheres of influence. Thus, in , America became part of the web of treaties that would be severed by war. Was it coincidence or prophesy that in that year an Austrian mother gave birth to Adolph Hitler, a future master of secret agreements made to be broken? Ten years later in , following on the heels of their Philippine acquisition from Spain in , the United States annexed eastern Samoa and Germany annexed western Samoa pursuant to the Treaty of Berlin. America was firmly in the European game that created overseas empires. Italy personified the adventurism that gripped many countries in the early s. Search for the best alliance that would bring the greatest rewards in the event of war. Italy was much more subtle than the United States that had exacted the Philippines from Spain in Since, Italy was a nominal partner of Germany and Austria-Hungary. Nevertheless, Italy entered into a secret agreement with France in that effectively nullified relations with the German Triple Alliance. Italy had long coveted Trieste, immediately to its north and the Dalmatian coast to its east. Italy recognized that Austria would never voluntarily cede these areas to Italy as a price for Italian support in case of war. Italy did not feel uncomfortable quitting one alliance because it had become an initiator of offensive actions to join another alliance whose sole purpose was to engage in an offensive war. The secret understandings and treaties that traded the territories of others was the currency of diplomacy. Countries that had in recent memory been at each others throats were now initialing secret protocols with former enemies. Russia coveted the Straits of Constantinople, the mile wide Bosphorus separating two continents, behind the guise of protecting Christians from Ottoman persecution. Britain, France, Germany and the Ottomans, the one empire most directly affected, vigorously opposed the action. Originally these same European countries had conspired to grant Russia its dream of a southern path to the sea. When the deal fell apart, what followed was the Crimean war setting Britain against Russia. However, each of these strange bedfellows had there own agendas. Theological differences had morphed into national policies and the French believed that war was the only way to win that argument as well as adding territory to the empire. The outright annexation of these Ottoman territories in was another harbinger of a wider war. Nevertheless, the annexation was approved in by an amendment to the Treaty of Berlin. The rapidly dissolving Ottoman Empire left them with three options in Their choice of the Triple Alliance sealed their ultimate destruction. Another secret treaty committed the Ottoman Empire to enter the war the day after Germany declared war on Russia. It was so secret that the Turkish home government was unaware that one of its ministers had committed the Ottomans and left them with little wiggle room. Great Britain had designs on the Holy Land. France looked north at Syria. Both areas had long been major components of the Turkish

Empire for six centuries. In the background, there were also the commercial interests that understood the international thirst for middle eastern oil. The only way the Ottoman Empire, now years old, could survive was through its ability to make and break alliances as the western countries were constantly feeding on its periphery. Russia had all but eliminated the Ottoman presence in the Balkans and Romania during the s. Ten years later, Tunisia was seized by the French. Thus Great Britain controlled another piece of the Ottoman Empire while thinly disguising that they were now the masters of Egypt. The prize was the Suez Canal. This lifeline was essential for the British, whose power was on the sea, and in the event of war was an essential conduit to their colonies in the far east. However, they came to the new alliance with considerable baggage.

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Edit The Kar 98 actually dates back to the First World War, and was in fact considered a carbine at the time. After the war, it was considered a rifle, however, due to changes in thinking, and was eventually accepted as the new service rifle of Germany. The full power rifle variant, the Gewehr 98, was even more accurate, and was quite popular among snipers. Germany had gone out of their way to manufacture a large number of these weapons in between the two wars, so that they would at least have a weapon even if they could not have a sufficient number of soldiers. As a result, Germany freely issued the weapon to any Allied unit that wanted them, to simplify supply lines. Simple, reliable and already known for its extreme accuracy, the weapon was very popular, especially in reserve or low intensity units which were not given priority for the issuing of M-1 rifles despite being unable to match the rate of fire of the ADK. However, it has since been phased out of service entirely, and snipers have moved on to other weapons. Gewehr 98 - In fact the original, full power version, the Gew 98 was long barreled and heavy, but extremely accurate. Snipers often used this weapon, modified with telescopic sights and other features. Some snipers still use it, although others prefer other rifles, such as the Springfield or the newer No. Karabiner 98 - Originally designed as a carbine for cavalry troops, following the First World War, many considered the Kar 98 as a rifle. After the war, the various stocks of rifles were either disposed of or left in warehouses, and many eventually found their way onto various markets. M-1 Garand Edit Specifically designed to be "The Gun of Democracy" throughout the late s, the M-1 Garand, named for its designer, is widely considered to be one of the best infantry weapons ever issued. Its innovative semi-automatic action, which allowed for unprecedented high rates of fire while preserving its accuracy and reliability, gave it an edge over the Soviet SKAS with its overly complicated and breakage-prone system. About its only disadvantage was that it used an 8-round clip, as compared to the 25 round magazine of the SKAS, though to the shock of Allied soldiers, the Soviets were entirely equipped with ADKs, which could hose down M-1 users with automatic fire.. Many soldiers, generals and historians have gone on record as saying that the M-1 rifle was the single most important component of Allied success in WW2 by holding the line until assault rifles could be manufactured; Patton himself called it "The Greatest Battle Implement Ever Devised". Though in service in the US when the Second World War broke out, the M-1 would be used as a stop-gap measure to try and even the odds against Soviet assault rifles that so outmatched the bolt action rifles before until it could face replacement by the new Rangemaster 14 and FN FAIL. However, during the Second World War itself, the M-1 was king, and a squad would do almost anything to have even one M-1 issued among their number rather than be stuck with Bolt Action weapons. Because line units got priority, reserve units being moved to replace units on the front lines would frequently be without. Due to these supply problems, soldiers rotating off the front lines would leave their M-1s in the foxholes, to ensure the next unit would be properly armed. It became tradition to carve your name and nationality into the stock of the M-1 so the next user would know who to thank; a gesture that was probably in great part responsible for the international goodwill that energized the post-war Allies. It is still used by honour guard units, such as the marines who guard the US president. USM Carbine Edit Loved by soldiers for its light weight and ease of use, combined with the high rate of fire provided by the semi automatic mechanism it shared with the Garand, the USM quickly became popular among soldiers soon after its introduction. The USM was produced in multiple variants, including various police and paramilitary variants. By the time production had ended, over Even with the offloading off many of these carbines to various Allied affiliated factions like the Blue Chinese, there are still many in use. USM - The original model, firing the. No longer in frontline service with the Allies. A large number of them are in use with the Nationalists. USM - Selective fire variant. The USM had a higher rate of fire, and had two settings. Single shot, and full automatic. This variant was extremely popular, but was only ever deployed among military units, although conversion kits were made that could convert USMs into selective fire carbines. Debuting in shock trooper units in , the weapon was paired with an experimental night vision system and "infrared tracers" which only showed up under the same system. The weapon was very

successful despite being issued only in modest numbers, and officers would put in requests for the weapon alongside commendations for medals, ensuring they ended up in the best hands as producing them in the same numbers as the ADK proved difficult. The weapon later became the standard rifle of the Allied Peacekeepers after the Second World War, though it has since been phased out in favour of more advanced weapons. Nowadays it is seen in the hands of pro-Allied militia, police in areas of unrest, and German National Divisions due to its intimidating roar when firing and the limited issue tungsten AP rounds that are commonly employed with the weapon. The Lee-Enfield sniper rifle differs little from the No. The only disadvantage was that a semi automatic rifle has slightly more recoil than a comparable bolt action rifle; this can be annoying for a sniper trying to kill a man from a distance of several hundred metres, where even a slight shift can result in a miss. Of course, the No. Other rifles, such as the Springfield and the Mauser G98 were also used. However, it was the weapon of choice for the riflemen of the 60th and 95th Rifle Regiments, who proved some of the best shots anywhere in Allied territory. When the Rifle Regiments were integrated into the newly formed Peacekeepers and the Hesketh-Prichard Sniper Training School was cemented in its position as the premier school for snipers, the No. The other components of the rifle have remained mostly unchanged since the end of the Second World War; there have been various things like better telescopic sights, but otherwise the Lee-Enfield sniper rifle as it is today is the same rifle that saw action with millions of British troops during WWII. It still uses the original British. Some claim it is because the. The other components of the rifle have also been updated; incorporated above the receiver is an integral rail, which allows for a variety of attachments, such as telescopic sights and spectrum rangefinders, to be attached without too much trouble. Since the rifle no longer needs to be produced in huge numbers to support an army of millions, the components are of higher quality - if significantly more expensive. One feature of the original rifle that is retained is the. Some believe that the Riflemen might do better to switch to a more modern rifle; nevertheless, the Lee-Enfield sniper rifle remains one of the deadliest sniper rifles in the world; a rifle which can put a bullet hole clean through the head of a man from a distance of over a thousand metres, or fell 20 men in one minute with 20 shots fired. In the right hands, the Lee-Enfield is a weapon to be feared. MX Rangemaster Edit An evolution of the M-1 Garand, the Rangemaster was essentially a patch fix for the only issue the M-1 had, replacing the ejecting clip with a proper removable magazine holding 20 shots. The Rangemaster was issued through the late s and early s, and saw extensive use in the early parts of the Third World War. It was also released and sold among the civilian population so as to provide future partisans with weapons to fight the Soviets if their country was overrun; this has unfortunately led to the Confederate Revolutionaries making use of a large number of these weapons. It is extremely popular for its versatility; thanks to the mounted rails soldiers can customize rifles with variety of attachments, ranging from additional sights to underbarrel weapons; one particular favourite among Reservists is the MY under slung grenade launcher. It is the first weapon to use the 5. Light, accurate, and modular, the weapon is extremely popular with almost everyone it is issued to. However, it sees little use in Peacekeeper divisions; a Peacekeeper in recoil-absorbing, weight transferring battle armour has little use for a weapon designed to be light and non-intrusive, and so usually the weapon is discarded in favour of the Grummond-8 shotgun or MG light machine gun. MX Assault Rifle

â€” The original model and current service variant, in full production and in use among Defenders and Jungle Rangers. It is compatible with a large variety of attachments, including the MY Masterkey and the MY under slung grenade launcher. MXC-4 Carbine

â€” With a shorter 10 inch barrel and a telescoping stock, and several other improvements in weight, the MXC-4 is a lightweight, compact variant of the MX Originally designed for Paratroopers, who need to travel as light as possible, the MXC-4 has been used by other units for its compactness and light weight.

Chapter 6 : World War I - HISTORY

As one of the premier rare book sites on the Internet, Alibris has thousands of rare books, first editions, and signed books available. With one of the largest book inventories in the world, find the book you are looking for. To help, we provided some of our favorites. With an active marketplace of.

German troops in a maneuver before the outbreak of the first World War. Neither did World War One truly close with the last shot, because in its aftermath it delivered social and political turbulence on a really remarkable size, that in several ways we are even now awareness its consequences presently. From the political perspective it had been the tiny feuding Balkan nations which started world war one with the most discover and the lowest dreams. The great European powers, happy by amazing parades and impressive summer manoeuvres, joined war with a demonstrate of excitement which has in no way been duplicated since. They were certain that their wonderfully uniformed and amazingly drilled soldiers would bring the war to a quick final result prior to Christmas. Many British officers had been informed to visit their outfitter prior to leaving for the colonies. There they could provide themselves with robust and suitable dress in muted colours, which had been created for shooting and stalking game. They used the appearance of clothing, equipment, as well as arms of their opponents, and so khaki a Persian word meaning earth clothes had been created, initial in the colonies, and later for wear in Europe. By the outbreak of conflict the majority of nations " with 3 significant exceptions " had protective shaded clothes, be it the German field-grey or tobacco brown of Bulgaria. The noteworthy exclusions had been Austria-Hungary, Belgium and France. In Austria created a pike-grey uniform which was so practical and uncomplicated, consequently up-to-date in its shape, that even now its impact can still be realised. He promptly reorganised the army, and requested a huge amount of madder uniform textile from his homeland. Following a variety of ideas, the decision was taken to utilise the material by providing the Austrian cavalry madder trousers. France, despite her colonial practice, and various efforts to modernise her uniforms, joined war in in red and blue. Contrary to public opinion trousers were neither typically French, nor the brainchild of a sartorially inspired monarch. What better method to promote this new knowledge rather than outfit the military in red trousers. The capacity to produce, besides weapons, however all the other items of warfare from bandages to uniforms, resulted in just the well established industrial nations could keep up a war for any time period. Nations like Germany, France, and The United Kingdom had to supply not only their own demands, however those of their allies as well. France possibly had taken on a larger duty compared to any other nation, and stamped out the Adrian steel helmet by the million. Rapidity of fire resulted in he held far more ammo, therefore, the outdated shoulder-belt equipment had been exchanged by one depending on the waist belt, from which one, two, or perhaps three ammunition bags could be hanging, in addition to the rest of the equipment that a soldier needed to have. Accuracy of both artillery and small arms, as well as the character of the warfare in which usually the head was exposed, created an extraordinary quantity of head injuries. The French heavy cavalryman with his metal helmet was to be envied, while his less lucky comrades in the infantry discovered the small round steel skull-cap which they had been expected to use underneath the kepi, helpful for every purpose apart from the one for which it was designed. A French Intendance Department officer, August-Louis Adrian created and had manufactured a steel helmet which was the first of the various that were to follow. In April throughout the Battle of Ypres, the Germans used successfully toxic chlorine gas for the first time, and so started chemical warfare. Paradoxically however the American Civil War may set some claim to the headline, this first completely technological conflict was also to see the rebirth of medieval ways of warfare. Following the first days of movement, each side dug in a short-range away from each other, and for the following 4 years fought a harsh trench warfare in which they catapulted, threw, and fired an entire selection of missiles at each other. After that carrying several types of protective clothing and in some cases body armour, they attacked and slain each other even with maces, daggers and clubs.. Considering that the finest mechanics were to be located in the engineers, it absolutely was reasonable that military aviation started as a department of that service. In the French created their air ship and aviation services straight into an autonomous corps, and the British adopted it in But not anywhere during

World War One was there created an entirely independent air arm, until Britain amalgamated her naval and army flying corps into the Royal Air Force in April. The majority of military used semi-official volunteer corps who were primarily associated with motor transport Austria-Hungary and Italy and the medical services Red Cross, etc.

Chapter 7 : World War I - Air warfare | calendrierdelascience.com

This is a list of infantry weapons of World War I ().

Chapter 8 : Gun Show Books - Online Store

Fortunately, during World War Two, the fields of France provided a direct link for feeding troops, but even then, supplying soldiers in the vague, shifting front lines of the war in Germany and Poland was a difficult task, and one that was not always accomplished successfully; during the winter war, most Allied troops on the front lines.

Chapter 9 : Gun Show Books -- Allied Small Arms of World War One

The M1 Carbine series is often regarded as one of the most prolific American firearms developed during and for the Second World War. Designed primarily for light duty in the hands of logistical military participants such as cooks and clerks, the system went on to good effect with airborne troops and tank crews alike.