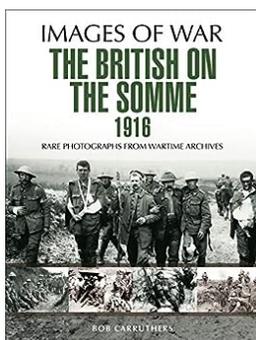


The British On The Somme 1916: Unearthing the Secrets of a Pivotal Chapter in World War I

July 1, 1916, marked a significant turning point in World War I. On this day, British troops embarked on a daring offensive along the Somme River, determined to break through the German lines, gain strategic advantage, and bring an end to the bloody stalemate that had persisted for two years. The ensuing battle, known as the Battle of the Somme, would go down in history as one of the deadliest and most devastating conflicts of the war.

The British offensive at the Somme was a meticulously planned effort to alleviate pressure on the French forces at Verdun, who had been under relentless German assault since February. Led by Field Marshal Douglas Haig, the British forces aimed to achieve a breakthrough by bombarding the German defensive positions with artillery fire and then unleashing a massive infantry assault.

The battle commenced with a thunderous bombardment that lasted for seven days, unleashing devastation upon the German lines. Over 1.5 million shells were fired, but, to the shock of the British commanders, the German defenses held firm.



The British on the Somme 1916: Rare Photographs from Wartime Archives (Images of War) by Takefumi Matsuo (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Lending : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 133 pages



On July 1st, at the break of dawn, the British troops advanced towards the German positions. Despite the heavy shelling, the German defenders were waiting for them, resulting in a devastating slaughter. The British losses were catastrophic, with over 57,000 casualties, including 19,240 soldiers killed in action on the first day alone.

The failure of the initial assault did not deter the British forces. They regrouped, refined their tactics, and continued the offensive for several months to come. Although the Battle of the Somme ultimately failed to achieve its initial objectives of a decisive breakthrough, it served as a turning point that molded the strategies of future battles.

One of the defining features of the Battle of the Somme was the use of tanks on the battlefield. In an attempt to crack open the German lines, the British deployed tanks for the first time in combat history. The Mark I tanks, though mechanically unreliable, managed to demolish barbed wire entanglements and provide crucial support to the infantry.

Amidst the chaos and destruction, notable acts of valor and sacrifice emerged. Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian military physician, penned the famous war poem "In Flanders Fields," immortalizing the sacrifices made by soldiers fighting in the war.

The Somme battleground is marked by numerous cemeteries and memorials, which stand as a solemn tribute to the fallen soldiers. The Thiepval Memorial, in

particular, is a towering testament to the 72,000 missing British and South African soldiers from the battle. The memorial's arches bear the names of these soldiers, etched forever into the annals of history.

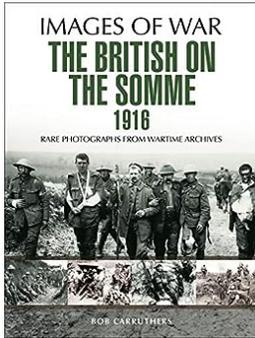
The impact of the Battle of the Somme extended far beyond its immediate military implications. It was a battle that showed the true horrors of industrialized warfare, with both sides suffering immense casualties. The Somme became a symbol of the futility and senselessness of war, with countless lives lost to gain mere inches of ground.

However, the lessons learned from the Battle of the Somme led to advancements in military strategy and technological innovation, shaping the future of warfare. The bitter experiences on the Somme eventually paved the way for the successful Allied offensives in 1918, which ultimately led to the end of World War I.

In , the Battle of the Somme was a pivotal chapter in World War I history. Though marred by tragedy and immense loss of life, it marked a turning point in the tactics employed in warfare. The of tanks, the fortitude of the soldiers, and the eventual progress made on the battlefield serve as a testament to the indomitable human spirit in the face of adversity.

Today, the Somme serves as a somber reminder of the horrors of war and the sacrifices made by those who fought valiantly. The battleground stands as a poignant tribute to fallen heroes and a testament to the resilience of nations during times of turmoil.

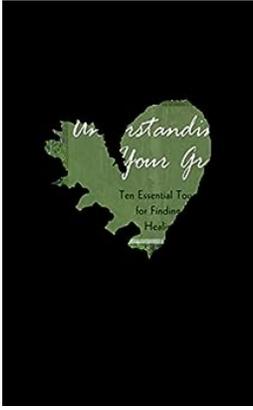
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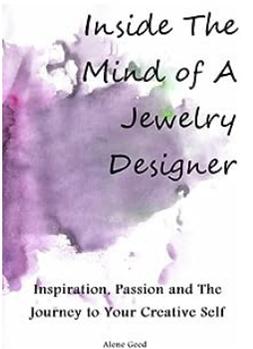


This new volume in the long-running Images of War series features the actions of the British Army on the Somme. Not only is the book comprised of rare photographs illustrating the actions of the British army fighting on the Somme, but it is accompanied by a powerful text written by Official War Correspondent Philip Gibbs, who was an eyewitness to the events. Photographs from the battlefield illustrate the terrible conditions, which the British forces on the battlefield endured in the notorious engagement, which has become synonymous with vainglorious sacrifice. This book incorporates a wide range of images encompassing the actions of the British infantry and their supporting artillery. Also featured are images, which depict the almost incomprehensible reality of landscape, which characterized the war in the trenches. Portraits of the British troops are contrasted with German prisoners of war and the endless battle to get the supply columns through to the front.



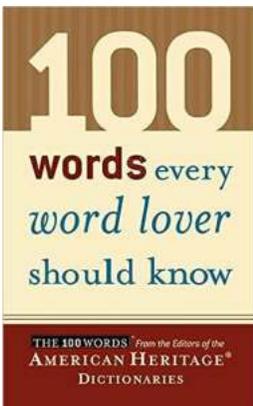
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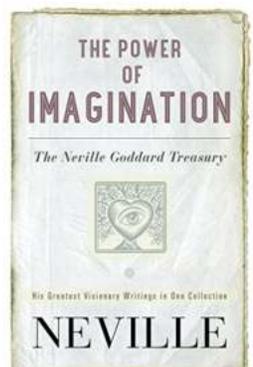
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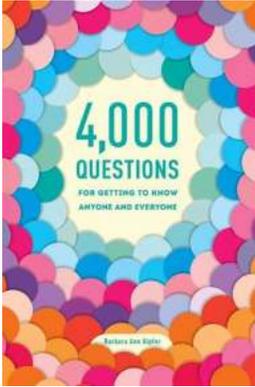
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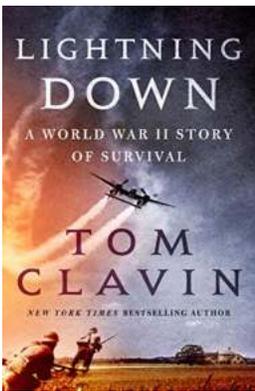
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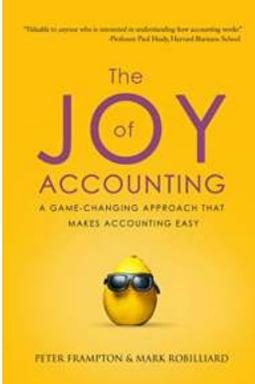
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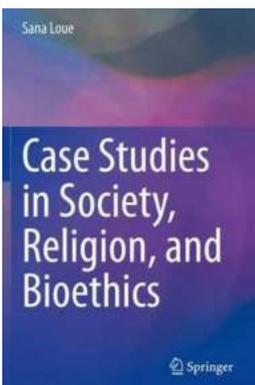
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