

ST JULIEN: YPRES PDF, EPUB, EBOOK



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World War One Battlefields : Flanders: St. Julien

Ottawa, Ontario. Honours the contributions of all Indigenous people in war and peace support operations from the First World War to today. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier honours the more than , Canadians who sacrificed their lives in the cause of peace and freedom. The National War Memorial symbolizes the sacrifice of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have served Canada in the cause of peace and freedom.

Julien Canadian Memorial The St. There, Canadians withstood the first poison gas attacks of the First World War. Julien, Langemark, Belgium. Julien Canadian Memorial is open 24 hours a day. First World War battles Battles and stages main page. Battle of the Somme Canadians faced

months of hard fighting at the Somme in the late summer and fall of Battle of Beaumont-Hamel Soldiers from Newfoundland suffered massive losses on one of the bloodiest days of the entire war. Battle of Hill 70 Canadians fought a major battle to capture Hill 70 and the town of Lens in northern France. Monchy-le-Preux A few Newfoundlanders bravely held off a larger German force. Battle of Passchendaele Canadian soldiers fought through hard rains, deep mud and heavy enemy fire to take Passchendaele. Gallipoli Campaign Newfoundland Regiment participated in the Gallipoli Campaign from September to January, where 30 were killed in action and 10 more died of disease.

First World War stories People and stories main page Rachel Moss "You can read from history textbooks or look at pictures all day but it doesn't really resonate with you until you've been there. Ethelbert 'Curley' Christian After suffering injuries in the Battle of Vimy Ridge that left him a quadruple amputee, Christian Curley helped establish a program for disabled veterans which is still offered today.

First World War medals Medals main page. Campaign Stars and Medals Star. First World War memorials Memorials main page. As night fell on the 23rd, requests for more ammunition and for stretchers were sent back. Lt Critchley of the 10th made some journeys under darkness back to the 3rd Bde HQ, seeking machine-guns and flares. At nearly midnight on the 23rd, some rations were brought up. The Germans were starting a series of counter-attacks along the front. In the early morning, the 10th were ordered to come out of their lines to support another unit the 8th Canadian Battalion on Gravenstafel Ridge. It was light by now, and withdrawal was in view of the enemy.

However, about 20 men and two of their officers could not get out due to the large number of dead blocking the trench. They finally made it about 15 minutes later, but by then the remainder of the 10th had moved off. The 16th Battalion were then relieved by the 2nd Canadian Battalion. This must have been a highly risky operation.

It was performed in daylight, close to the enemy and the relief was literally conducted with one man at a time leaving and being replaced by one from the 2nd Battalion. Incidentally, the 10th Battalion reported to the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade HQ and were sent off on their next task - despite the fact there were now just 3 officers and about men remaining. They were under fire again in their new location within an hour or so. The cost of this vital operation was high. There were dead and wounded lying all around, and the dressing station struggled to cope. Later that same day, the 2nd Battalion were ordered to retire from the trenches which the 16th had gallantly held. A subsequent note made by Major D. Ormond in the 10th Battalion War Diary says that "there were many wonderful and brave deeds done by men of the 10th Bn, but all were doing such deeds that one could not be chosen as outstanding above others". Many of course paid the ultimate price, and because of the nature of the action, many sadly have no known grave.

Ronald Hoskins family was from near Exeter in England. Albert Ball was also wounded in the action at Kitcheners Wood, and survived long enough to begin the journey back to Canada. However, he died on the 29th or 30th of April, and is buried in Quebec. Kitcheners Wood Memorial. St Julien Dressing Station Cemetery is located off a small road leading off to the right from the main road, within the village itself. This area and the cemetery itself was damaged by shellfire in the summer of The cemetery was started during the war in September, and is irregular both in shape and in the layout of the graves.

St Julian Dressing Station Cemetery. After the Armistice, more graves were concentrated here, and there are now buried or commemorated here. At the base of his grave was information about the family; four small wooden crosses at the corners of a sheet showing their names - Mabel, Harry, Lillian and George. Three Maywall brothers from Sheffield served; the other two returned home. The children were born to Isaac and Elizabeth Maywall, who in were living in Attercliffe, Sheffield, where Isaac was employed as a steel moulder. Many of the unknowns buried here have headstones which show at least their unit or their rank.

The inscription on his headstone reads "In paths our bravest ones have trod, O make us strong to go. The inscription on the headstone of Corporal Arthur Malins of the 12th Londons reads "Gone but not forgotten by his loving wife and child". From the village, down a small road to the left are the remains of a large German bunker which was known as Alberta. It used to be possible to venture nearer to it, but now one can only see it from a distance. A large warehouse stands to the west of it. Large German bunker 'Alberta' in St. A little to the south of St. Julien is one of the smallest cemeteries in the Salient; Bridge House Cemetery. The name derives from that given to a nearby farmhouse.

After the war, many cemeteries were being concentrated together to avoid too many small isolated cemeteries or burials on the land which was now returning to use. A figure of 50 was generally taken as the smallest number of graves in a cemetery which would not be concentrated. However, at Bridge House there are just 45 burials five unknown, so this represents an unusual case. The cemetery is an original wartime one, made by the 59th Division at the end of September The majority of those buried here are from that Division, and had fallen towards the end of September, mainly in the Battle of Polygon Wood.

The cemetery contains just three rows, one with just three graves. Interestingly, one man buried here from the South Staffordshires was at one time commemorated by a Memorial Cross which stood in Potijze Chateau Grounds Cemetery. The tiny Bridge House Cemetery. The Monmouths memorial can be found in a small walled enclosure, a short distance along the road from Bridge House Cemetery. Birrell-Anthony was, before the War, an articled clerk with B. Reynolds of High Wycombe. George's Memorial Church, Ypres St. Julien The World War One Battlefields site is undergoing a major update, with pages being converted to a new, user-friendly mobile format. Seaforth Cemetery Exact details of many of the burials were probably not recorded, as graves A8 and B1 are actually long rows of burials, and the headstones for the soldiers buried in them are not above the graves, but instead set against the cemetery walls, so there appears to be a large open space in the centre of the cemetery, as shown in the picture above.

Many of the Canadian soldiers were never recovered and remain as missing in action in the fields or as unidentified graves in the cemeteries around the area of Keerselare near the memorial. Those whose bodies were found and buried lie in the military cemeteries in the surrounding battlefield area. Those who died of their wounds would have been laid to rest in cemeteries near to where they were being treated behind the Allied lines.

The memorial at St. The former Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, was present and paid tribute to the Canadian

forces, thanking them for their sacrifice and extending the gratitude of the French nation for their part in the war of The photograph of the tree-lined road is taken with the memorial behind the camera, looking in a north-westerly direction towards the village of Langemark.

Langemark church spire can be seen on the horizon to the right of the second tree from the left. Langemark was a little way behind the French Front Line on the day of the German gas attack, 22 April On this photograph the Front Line ran from just north of to the right of Langemark and across the horizon to a position about 1.

Following the gas attack on 22 April the British Front Line was pushed south towards Ypres over the next two weeks past this position at Vancouver Corner. By mid May the line reached by the German Army was about 1. The map section is taken from British Army trench map 28 N. Edition 6A , The red markings are German trenches or narrow gauge railway lines corrected to On 22 April the British Front Line was about 1. The black crosses on the map have been added to indicate Triangle Farm left and Vancouver Farm right. Triangle Farm was named presumably because of the shape created by the surrounding roads.

Vancouver Farm was likely named by the Canadian 1st Division when they took over this part of the battle front from the French Army in mid April Website: www. About 1. Turn right to continue on the N

Saint Julien Memorial - Wikipedia

During the war, the location where the memorial is located was known as Vancouver Corner. Visible for miles around, the memorial stands 11 metres tall. The 'Brooding Soldier' column rises from a low circular flagstone terrace and is sculpted at its top to form the bowed head and shoulders of a Canadian soldier. The soldier's hands resting are on the butt of his down-turned rifle in the 'arms reversed' position, a pose used as gesture of mourning and respect for the fallen performed at funerals and services of remembrance. Some of the soil that nourishes the gardens of the memorial was brought from various locations from across Canada to represent the broad spectrum of Canadian men who fought shoulder to shoulder on the battlefields of A replica of Clemesha's St-Julien monument was incorporated into the cenotaph designed by R.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. The Canadian Encyclopedia. Retrieved August 22, Osprey Publishing. ISBN September Combat Studies Institute. Archived from the original on Retrieved ISBN X. The respirators made little difference, however, due to lack of training and the use of local contraptions and poorly made items imported from Britain. The "P helmet" or "Tube Helmet" soaked in sodium phenate was issued by December , and the PH helmet effective against phosgene was issued in early Although many French troops ran for their lives, others stood their ground and waited for the cloud to pass. I wish particularly to repudiate any idea of attaching the least blame to the French Division for this unfortunate incident. After all the examples our gallant Allies have shown of dogged and tenacious courage in the many trying situations in which they have been placed throughout the course of this campaign it is quite superfluous for me to dwell on this aspect of the incident, and I would only express my firm conviction that, if any troops in the world had been able to hold their trenches in the face of such a treacherous and altogether unexpected onslaught, the French Division would have stood firm.

The Canadian Division mounted an effective defence but had 5, casualties by its withdrawal on 3 May. The division was unprepared for the warfare prevailing on the Western Front, where linear tactics were ineffective against attackers armed with magazine rifles and machine guns. The Canadian field artillery had been effective but the deficiencies of the Ross rifle worsened tactical difficulties. The Canadian Division received several thousand replacements shortly after the battle. The Canadians were employed offensively later in but not successfully.

The battle was the beginning of a long period of analysis and experiment to improve the effectiveness of Canadian infantry weapons, artillery and liaison between infantry and artillery. After the war, German casualties from 21 April to 30 May were recorded as 34, by the official historians of the Reichsarchiv. In the British Official History, J. Edmonds and G. Wynne recorded British losses of 59, casualties, the French about 18, casualties on 22 April and another 3, from 26—29 April. The worst day was 24 April, when 3, casualties were suffered during infantry attacks, artillery bombardments and gas discharges.

The Germans overran both divisions' artillery but the survivors rallied and held a new line further back. It produces a flooding of the lungs — it is an equivalent death to drowning only on dry land. The effects are these — a splitting headache and terrific thirst to drink water is instant death , a knife edge of pain in the lungs and the coughing up of a greenish froth off the stomach and the lungs, ending finally in insensibility and death. The colour of the skin from white turns a greenish black and yellow, the tongue protrudes and the eyes assume a glassy stare. It is a fiendish death to die. Canadian participation in the Battle of Gravenstafel is commemorated on the Saint Julien Memorial in the village. During the Second Battle of Ypres, Lt. John McCrae M. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Battle of the First World War. For a list of the Battles of Ypres, see Battle of Ypres. Ypres, a Belgian municipality in the Flemish province of West Flanders.

Battles of Ypres, Gravenstafel Ridge Kitcheners' Wood St. Julien Frezenberg Bellewaarde. Western Front. Depiction of the German gas attack launched on French Territorial and soldiers of the Troupes coloniales , which was launched on 22 April. Langemark-Poelkapelle : Photograph taken from a position just west of Langemark German War Cemetery , facing approx north, towards the former location of the German trench from which the first gas attack was launched on 22 April In this area, the German trench system ran approximately from the farmhouse on the left to the group of willow trees on the right. Hay of the Royal Scots [11]. The city of Ypres before left , and after right the Second Battle of Ypres. Bombarded by artillery fire, most of the city was demolished. World War I portal Canada portal War portal. Urea in urine would react with chlorine , neutralising it by forming dichlorourea. See Chattaway One nurse described the death of one soldier who had been in the trenches during a chlorine gas attack.

He was a magnificent young Canadian past all hope in the asphyxia of chlorine. Is it possible that nothing can be done for me? Both sides found that phosgene was more effective, since only a small amount was needed to make it impossible for the soldier to keep fighting. It also killed its victim within 48 hours of the attack. By the end of the battle, the regiment was commanded by a lieutenant. The battle also blooded many commanders, singling out some for praise, such as brigade commander Arthur Currie , and others for criticism, such as Garnet Hughes.

The inadequacies of training and doctrine in the early CEF was made obvious by the antique tactics used at Kitcheners' Wood and St. Julien, though tactics in the British Armies would be slow to evolve. History Collection. Retrieved 30 April Archived from the original on 23 November Retrieved 21 November Archived from the original on 9 June Retrieved 26 May The Canadian Encyclopedia. Retrieved 22 August Books Cassar, G. Dundurn Press. ISBN Clayton, A. Paths of Glory. London: Cassell. Croddy, E. Copernicus Books. Edmonds, J. II 1st ed. London: Macmillan. OCLC Messines and Third Ypres Passchendaele. London: HMSO. Girard, Marion University of Nebraska Press.

Greenhalgh, Elizabeth Website: www. About 1. Turn right to continue on the N In about 2. Julien village. Continue through the village on the N for another metres when you will come to crossroads. Continue straight on past this junction and within another metres you will see a right turn Zonnebekastraat and the sign for the Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner. You will see the tall memorial to your front right. As you turn right into Zonnebekastraat the car park for the memorial is immediately on your left. There is a parking area next to the memorial with easy parking for cars and coaches. One of the highly acclaimed Battleground Europe guidebook series. Includes maps, photographs and information about what to see on the battlefield today. A detailed, day by day account of the battle, using personal accounts, regimental histories and war diaries. Illustrated with maps and photographs. Passchendaele Canadian Memorial Crest Farm. Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood Canadian Memorial.

Battles of the Ypres Salient. Canadian National Vimy Memorial, France. Julien Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner. Head and shoulders of the sculptured soldier figure with reversed arms. View looking north-west from the memorial towards Langemarck village.

Second Battle of Ypres - Wikipedia

Home Flanders St. The World War One Battlefields site is undergoing a major update, with pages being converted to a new, user-friendly mobile format. Some pages such as this one remain in the original format pending update. The road from St. Julien to Ypres during the War. Photo: NELs. This village, today known as St. Juliaan, can be found a little to the north-east of Ypres, on the N Here and at nearby Langemarck was where, in the words of Hutchinson, "the tiny army of seven Divisions of stood it's ground before the pick of the world's greatest military force". The village was however taken by the Germans during their attack using gas for the first time on the 24th of April , and then they held it for two years. It was only recaptured during Third Ypres, when it was taken on the first day 31st of July by the 13th Royal Sussex. Cheddar Villa was the name given to a farm on the west side of the road, and on the 25th and 26th of April , during the battle of St.

Julien there was severe fighting here. The British dead were buried here at this site, and the Cemetery originally named Cheddar Villa Cemetery. The name was changed in , at the request of the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, as so many men from that battalion were buried here. Nearly soldiers were buried here, 21 "Known Unto God" and 19 whose graves were later destroyed by shellfire now commemorated by special memorials.

Seaforth Cemetery. Exact details of many of the burials were probably not recorded, as graves A8 and B1 are actually long rows of burials, and the headstones for the soldiers buried in them are not above the graves, but instead set against the cemetery walls, so there appears to be a large open space in the centre of the cemetery, as shown in the picture above. Two large stone markers, known as Duhallow Blocks shown below , commemorate the 75 and 18 soldiers respectively that were buried in these mass graves. These can be seen in the foreground of the photo below. Mass grave markers at Seaforth Cemetery. Their names are "officially" recorded on the Menin Gate, along with other soldiers who have no known grave. Panel listing missing Seaforth Highlanders. From widow and children". The inscription on Private George Tait's grave reads "Home is not home since you are not there. By his mother. However, he was still remembered; at the base of the stone was a small photograph of this man.

Such photographs are becoming a more common sight in the war cemeteries, and it is always moving to look at the face of one of those who fell ninety years ago. Memorial stone for Private Arnott, and his photograph beside it. Against the right hand wall is a row of headstones commemorating Northumberland Fusiliers. There are 18 in total, although four are not identified, just commemorated as men of that battalion. However, this is a row of special memorials Row 'D' , commemorating these men buried together in grave A8. These men, mainly Territorials serving in the battalions which made up the th Northumberland Brigade, died on the 26th of April This was the Battle of St. Julien, a British counter-attack following on from the German Gas attack a few days earlier. The position of the lines at that time meant that the Northumberland men attacked more or less northwards, probably just north of where the cemetery now stands.

The attack was meant to commence, in accord with other units, at 1. They had little information and did not know the ground well. The attack of the Lahore Division, to their left, had faltered, and the Northumbrians suffered from enemy shells as well as machine-guns firing from Kitcheners Wood see below. The th Brigade advanced as far as they could and took up a position in some old trenches. The Brigade lost nearly 2, men that day, including their Commanding Officer Brigadier General James Riddell - just one of the senior officers who fell in the Great War. He is buried at Tyne Cot. There are excellent views from this cemetery in all directions across the flat Flanders landscape.

Nearby is the farm which was known to the troops as Cheddar Villa. A farm now stands just to the right of the Seaforth Cemetery, and there is a large bunker visible from the road. This bunker was a German strongpoint, which was taken on the opening day of Third Ypres. It was then used by British troops, but its large entrance having been built by the Germans now faced the enemy, making it a dangerous place. A platoon was also sheltering here when a shell came straight into the entrance opening - with awful but predictable results. Many there were killed, and many "horribly mutilated" according to Brice. Silent pickets can be seen in the fence by the field here. Cheddar Villa. A farm located just west of Seaforth Cemetery was known initially as Shelltrap Farm to the troops. The Holts report that this was changed by Corps order to Mousetrap Farm presumably a name with less worrying connotations, although names such as Hellfire Corner, Shrapnel Corner and many others remained!

Extracts from these and many other trench maps can be found on the excellent Paths of Glory website. The soldiers probably still referred to it as Shell Trap Farm, as a pamphlet published by the Ypres League in the s used that name when describing the position of the nearby demarcation stone. Will Bird, who served with the Canadian Forces during the First World War, described visiting this area in the early s.

He described how, in a single field to the north of the road were twenty-two pillboxes. There was also, then, a massive German gun emplacement

right next to the Seaforth Cemetery. From near the Seaforth Cemetery and bunker, a small road leads off to the left towards where this wood used to stand. The wood no longer exists, but a memorial is set by the corner of a house, next to a large warehouse structure which can be seen from main road and stands out as the words Beton Biquw are painted in white on its roof.

Kitcheners Wood Memorial The perspex panel fixed to the front of the memorial shows a map of where Kitcheners Wood used to stand, and has the statement "During the night of April 22nd after the first chemical attack in warfare, the 10th battalion Alberta Regiment and the 16th battalion Canadian Scottish retook Kitcheners Wood". These battalions were involved in holding the line in the face of the German gas attack in April. The 16th Battalion had trained in England, and upon arriving there in December had experienced a trying time initially. On December the 1st, a night training exercise on Salisbury Plain had to be abandoned due to torrential rain, and several times in early December their War Diary makes plaintive reference to their camp at Westdown being "frightfully muddy". They sailed for France on the 13th of February, but their ship struck severe gales and several horses were killed during the journey.

On the 21st of April, having just come out of the front line, they were billeted in Ypres. The next day, the 22nd, in the afternoon, the Germans started shelling the town heavily. Something was obviously afoot, and the 16th Battalion war diary records that there was panic among the inhabitants of Ypres, with civilian refugees pouring into the town, and many French soldiers mainly French colonials - Zouaves in flight. This was actually based at Shelltrap or Mousetrap Farm, although at that point in the War the farm was known as Farm C. On arrival at the Farm they were tasked to support the 10th Battalion which had already arrived, in an attack, originally scheduled for Julien" - Kitcheners Wood. The name incidentally has nothing to do with Lord Kitchener, but derived from a translation of the original name of the wood. Farm C. The two battalions formed up just to the north-west of where Seaforth Cemetery is located today.

The 10th were in position first, and the attack was delayed whilst the men of the 16th formed up in the moonlight. The 10th battalion was in front, with two companies each in two lines; A and C at the front with B and D behind. The 16th supported them, around 30 yards to their rear. The woods loomed up in the moonlight to their front about yards away.

They could also see a house, which was predicted to contain German machine-guns, and did. The order to attack was given at 11.30. Until the Canadians got to within yards, there was no reaction from the German defenders men of the 2nd Prussian Guards and the 1st Bavarian Infantry Regiment. Then the Canadians encountered a hedge, and the noise they made getting through this obstacle alerted the Germans who opened fire with rifles and machine-guns, and also sent flares up. Langemark church spire can be seen on the horizon to the right of the second tree from the left. Langemark was a little way behind the French Front Line on the day of the German gas attack, 22 April. On this photograph the Front Line ran from just north of to the right of Langemark and across the horizon to a position about 1. Following the gas attack on 22 April the British Front Line was pushed south towards Ypres over the next two weeks past this position at Vancouver Corner.

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Vancouver Farm was likely named by the Canadian 1st Division when they took over this part of the battle front from the French Army in mid April. Website: www.about1.be. Turn right to continue on the N. In about 2. Julien village. Continue through the village on the N for another metres when you will come to crossroads. Continue straight on past this junction and within another metres you will see a right turn Zonnebekestraat and the sign for the Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner. You will see the tall memorial to your front right. As you turn right into Zonnebekestraat the car park for the memorial is immediately on your left. There is a parking area next to the memorial with easy parking for cars and coaches. One of the highly acclaimed Battleground Europe guidebook series.

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St. Julien Canadian Memorial at Vancouver Corner on the Ypres Salient battlefield, Belgium

ISBN September Combat Studies Institute. Archived from the original on Retrieved ISBN X. Veteran Affairs Canada. Vancouver: UBC Press. Australian Army. Canada portal War portal. Canadian Expeditionary Force. Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Courtrai Newfoundland Memorial. Gallipoli Newfoundland Memorial. Namespaces Article Talk. Views Read Edit View history. They were initially ordered to make a further advance at 7. The field guns in the woods are described after the action as being "piled high with dead". They were instead destroyed by engineers to prevent the enemy making use of them. As night fell on the 23rd, requests for more ammunition and for stretchers were sent back. Lt Critchley of the 10th made some journeys under darkness back to the 3rd Bde HQ, seeking machine-guns and flares. At nearly midnight on the 23rd, some rations were brought up. The Germans were starting a series of counter-attacks along the front.

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Birrell-Anthony was, before the War, an articled clerk with B. Reynolds of High Wycombe. He proposed to Colonel Max Bauer, the German general staff officer responsible for liaison with scientists, that they could empty the opposing trenches by a surprise attack with tear gas. Observing a field test of this idea, the chemist Fritz Haber instead proposed using heavier-than-air chlorine gas [1] originally preferring the use of the more deadly phosgene gas, though little was stockpiled for such a use. The German commander Erich von Falkenhayn agreed to try the new weapon, but intended to use it in a diversionary attack by his 4th Army. Twice cylinders were breached by shell fire, the second time three men were killed and fifty wounded. Some of the Germans were protected by miner's oxygen breathing apparatus. The Ypres salient was selected for the attack. It followed the canal, bulging eastward around the town. North of the salient, the Belgian army held the line of the Yser and the north end of the salient was held by two French divisions.

On 22 April at about p. A 6 km 4 mi gap in the French front was left undefended. German infantry followed well behind the cloud, breathing through cotton pads soaked with sodium thiosulfate solution and occupied the villages of Langemark and Pilkem, where they dug in, even though they might have occupied Ypres almost unopposed. Canadian troops defending the southern flank of the break-in identified chlorine because it smelled like their drinking water. The Germans released more chlorine gas at them the following day. Casualties were especially heavy for the 13th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force CEF, which was enveloped on three sides and had over-extended its left flank after the Algerian Division broke. In an action at Kitcheners' Wood, the 10th Battalion of the 2nd Canadian Brigade was ordered to counter-attack in the gap created by the gas attack.

They formed up after p. Both battalions attacked with over men, in waves of two companies each, at a. Without reconnaissance, the battalions ran into obstacles halfway to their objective. Engaged by small-arms fire from the wood, they began an impromptu bayonet charge. The attack cleared the former oak plantation of Germans at a percent casualty rate. The Germans set fire to a chemical product of sulphur chloride which they had placed in front of their own trenches, causing a thick yellow cloud to be blown towards the trenches of the French and Belgians. The cloud of smoke advanced like a yellow low wall, overcoming all those who breathed in poisonous fumes. The French were unable to see what they were doing or what was happening. The Germans then charged, driving the bewildered French back past their own trenches. Those who were enveloped by the fumes were not able to see each other half a yard apart. I have seen some of the wounded who were overcome by the sulphur fumes, and they were progressing favourably.

The effect of the sulphur appears to be only temporary. The after-effects seem to be a bad swelling of the eyes, but the sight is not damaged. Dusk was falling when from the German trenches in front of the French line rose that strange green cloud of death. The light north-easterly breeze wafted it toward them, and in a moment death had them by the throat. One cannot blame them that they broke and fled. In the gathering dark of that awful night they fought with the terror, running blindly in the gas-cloud, and dropping with breasts heaving in agony and the slow poison of suffocation mantling their dark faces.

Hundreds of them fell and died; others lay helpless, froth upon their agonized lips and their racked bodies powerfully sick, with tearing nausea at short intervals. They too would die later — a slow and lingering death of agony unspeakable. The whole air was tainted with the acrid smell of

chlorine that caught at the back of men's throats and filled their mouths with its metallic taste. The Germans reported that they treated gas casualties, 12 of whom died. The Allies reported 5, killed and 15, wounded. Within days the British were advised by John Scott Haldane to counter the effects of the gas by urinating into a cloth and breathing through it. Both sides set about developing more effective gas masks. The village of St. Some of the first fighting in the village involved the stand of lance corporal Frederick Fisher of the 13th Battalion CEF's machine-gun detachment; Fisher went out twice with a handful of men and a Colt machine gun, preventing advancing German troops from passing through St.

Julien into the rear of the Canadian front line. He was killed the following day. On the morning of 24 April, the Germans released another gas cloud towards the re-formed Canadian line just west of St. Word was passed to the troops to urinate on their handkerchiefs and place them over their nose and mouth. On 24 April the battalion, subjected to a German gas attack near St. Julien, was nearly annihilated. The German Army first used chlorine-gas cylinders in April against the French Army at Ypres, [b] when yellow-green clouds drifted towards the Allied trenches. The gas had a distinctive odour, resembling pineapple and pepper. The French officers, assuming at first that the German infantry were advancing behind a smoke screen, alerted the troops.

When the gas reached the front Allied trenches, soldiers began to complain of chest pains and a burning sensation in the throat. Soldiers realised they were being gassed and many ran as fast as they could. An hour after the attack began, there was a 1,yard 1. After the first German chlorine-gas attacks, Allied troops were supplied with masks of cotton pads soaked in urine; it had been discovered that the ammonia in the pad neutralised the chlorine. The pads were held over the face until the gas dispersed. Other soldiers preferred to use a handkerchief, sock or flannel body-belt, dampened with a sodium-bicarbonate solution and tied across the mouth and nose, until the gas passed. Soldiers found it difficult to fight like this, and attempts were made to develop a better means of protection against gas attacks. Private W. Hay of the Royal Scots arrived in Ypres just after the chlorine-gas attack on 22 April [21].

We knew there was something was wrong. We started to march towards Ypres but we couldn't get past on the road with refugees coming down the road. We went along the railway line to Ypres and there were people, civilians and soldiers, lying along the roadside in a terrible state. We heard them say it was gas. We didn't know what the Hell gas was. When we got to Ypres we found a lot of Canadians lying there dead from gas the day before, poor devils, and it was quite a horrible sight for us young men.

I was only twenty so it was quite traumatic and I've never forgotten nor ever will forget it. The French soldiers were naturally taken by surprise. Some got away in time, but many, alas! Among those who escaped nearly all cough and spit blood, the chlorine-attacking the mucous membrane. The dead were turned black at once. About 15 minutes after letting the gas escape the Germans got out of their trenches. Some of them were sent on in advance, with masks over their heads, to ascertain if the air had become breathable. Having discovered that they could advance, they arrived in large numbers in the area on which the gas had spread itself some minutes before, and took possession of the arms of the dead men.

They made no prisoners. Whenever they saw a soldier whom the fumes had not quite killed they snatched away his rifle and advised him to lie down "to die better.