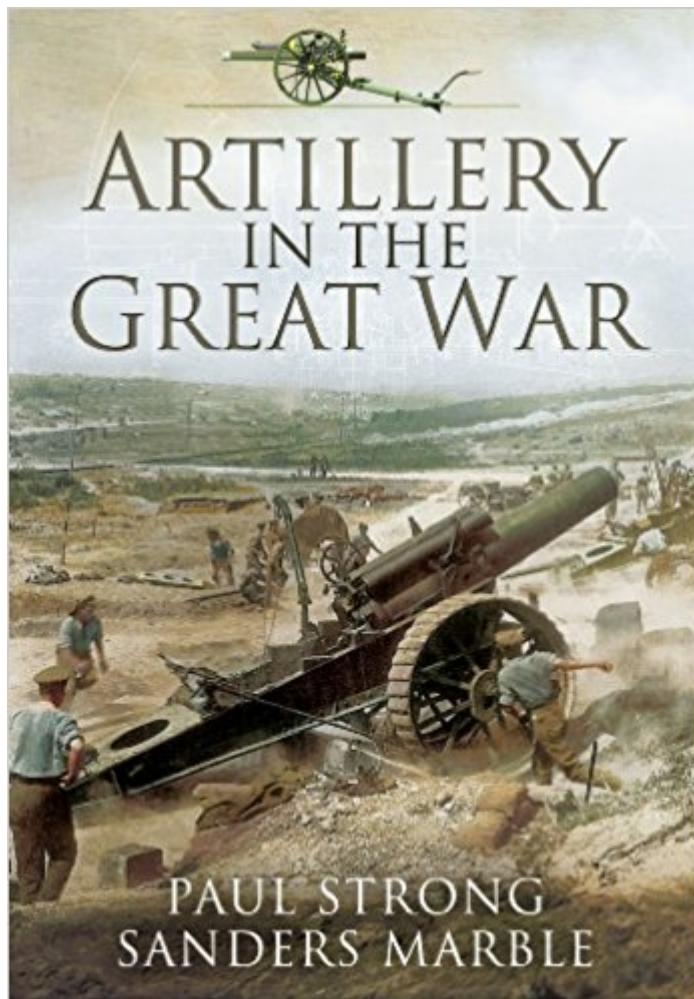


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Artillery In The Great War



Synopsis

Artillery was the decisive weapon of the Great War — it dominated the battlefields. Yet the history of artillery during the conflict has been neglected, and its impact on the fighting is inadequately understood. Paul Strong and Sanders Marble, in this important and highly readable study, seek to balance the account. Their work shows that artillery was central to the tactics of the belligerent nations throughout the long course of the conflict, in attack and in defense. They describe, in vivid detail, how in theory and practice the use of artillery developed in different ways among the opposing armies, and they reveal how artillery men on all sides coped with the extraordinary challenges that confronted them on the battlefield.

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Customer Reviews

Paul Edward Strong is a government researcher and historian whose work has focused on the evolution of command systems throughout history. He has made a special study of the coordination of the offensives of 1918 and is currently writing a study of warfare, governance and the role of leadership. Sanders Marble is a historian based at the US Army's Office of Medical History. He is a leading expert on the history of artillery tactics during the Great War and he has also made a special study of military medicine.

While not an expert on the Great War, I am an aficionado and read everything I can about this most terrifying and fascinating conflict. The author very systematically examines the developments in

artillery doctrine, technology and operational art from 1914-1918. Many English language histories only cover the British and German developments during the war. I was delighted that this book devoted significant space to virtually every combatant on nearly every front: French, Russian, Austrians, Italians, Turks, Serbs, Bulgarians, Romanians and Americans. Like Paddy Griffiths book on Infantry Tactics, it dispels the myth that artillery employment remained static and mindless, but was actually rather dynamic. All combatants learned lessons, and attempted to apply those lessons as they progressed in the war. Strong describes both the failures and the successes of those efforts. He convincingly demonstrates how the allies, particularly the British and French eventually gained artillery superiority over the Germans, despite the latter starting the war with a significant technical and doctrinal advantage. He skillfully weaves in how industrial capacity and shell production impacted operational capability, and although clearly championing the role of artillery, recognizes its proper place among the combined arms team. This book was easy to read and understand by a technical neophyte like myself. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking an overall understanding of the role of artillery in the Great War.

I too enjoyed reading this book for its coverage of the importance of artillery in WW1 "The Great War." It's an important addition to WW1 libraries. It's well-written with thorough research. I have two(2) reservations about the book however,, one being somewhat a "partisan" viewpoint and the other from a historian perspective. As an American, and the son of a West Point graduate..being an army brat, I was disappointed with just five pages of coverage of the AEF in WW1, and the overall negative commentary on the AEF's performance, and contribution towards winning the war after the French and British had run out of "steam" /bodies and needed our troops to stop the German March & April offensives,, and were a major part of the summer offenses against the German Imperial army. As an American, I was somewhat let down to see the bias towards the British and French..but must admit that we, the AEF, were late getting into the game (3rd qtr so speak). As a historian, I was disappointed to check the bibliography and footnotes and could only find secondary source references.. not official (primary) Government documentation, etc. The US Army produced a 17-volume history on WW1, and I'm sure that the French and British did likewise as did the Germans. My late father and LTC/DR Douglas Johnson utilized these resources for their book Soissons 1918. In any case, the book is useful for artillery students, and WW1 fans.

A very fine history of its subject, which as the blurbs note is inadequately covered elsewhere. The implied point of view shifts a bit from the Germans in the beginning to the British at the end...

perhaps following success. No harm done; the logistic and labor background (how DID all those shells get into the loading end of the guns?) is also moderately covered. There is, however, a strange class of typo so glaring that I almost knocked off a star. In the 1918 chapter (only) on my Kindle Keyboard, a strange case of search-and-misplace seems to have happened between (supposed to be) invisible formatting commands and text. In each case the phrase "para" appears in that chapter it has been either replaced with "Para" ("preParation") or "Indent" ("preIndenttion"). Very distracting in this final chapter where preparation, counter-preparation and preparatory bombardments abound; frankly, it looks unprofessional, as if no one proofread that chapter, though it's undoubtedly an artifact of the Kindle export process - maybe trying to replace (bra)Para(ket) with (bra) Indent (ket) and forgetting an open-bracket. In this price range one could reasonably expect better.

Very Interesting. Perhaps tells a bit too much about all of the actions, without detailing the changes in techniques. Easy to read and interesting.

A nice description of artillery strategy and deployment throughout World War 1. I might have liked a bit more technical specifications and technology of say indirect fire, range finding, etc, but there is some of that here, and is certainly a good addition if you are interested in the weaponry and weapon strategy of WWI

This provides a very good treatment of World War I artillery from the top-level perspective, emphasizing doctrine, operations, organization, and the supply of materiel. Clear and well-written. Those seeking details and photos of individual artillery pieces will do better with specialized books. This is for understanding artillery as a whole and the role it played in the war.

Product as advertised. Quickly shipped.

It was what I was looking for.

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