

The Great War



“The War To End All Wars”

The Schlieffen Plan: Germany was going to make a quick strike against France, and then deal with Russia in the east.

By defeating France, Great Britain would be isolated from the war.

Germany wanted to take France by surprise and attack through neutral Belgium.

Schlieffen Plan



Belgium troops fought hard, allowing enough time for Great Britain and France to mount a defense at the 1st Battle of the Marne.

The result was a stalemate, leading to trench warfare from the North Sea to Switzerland.

Battle of the Marne





M468

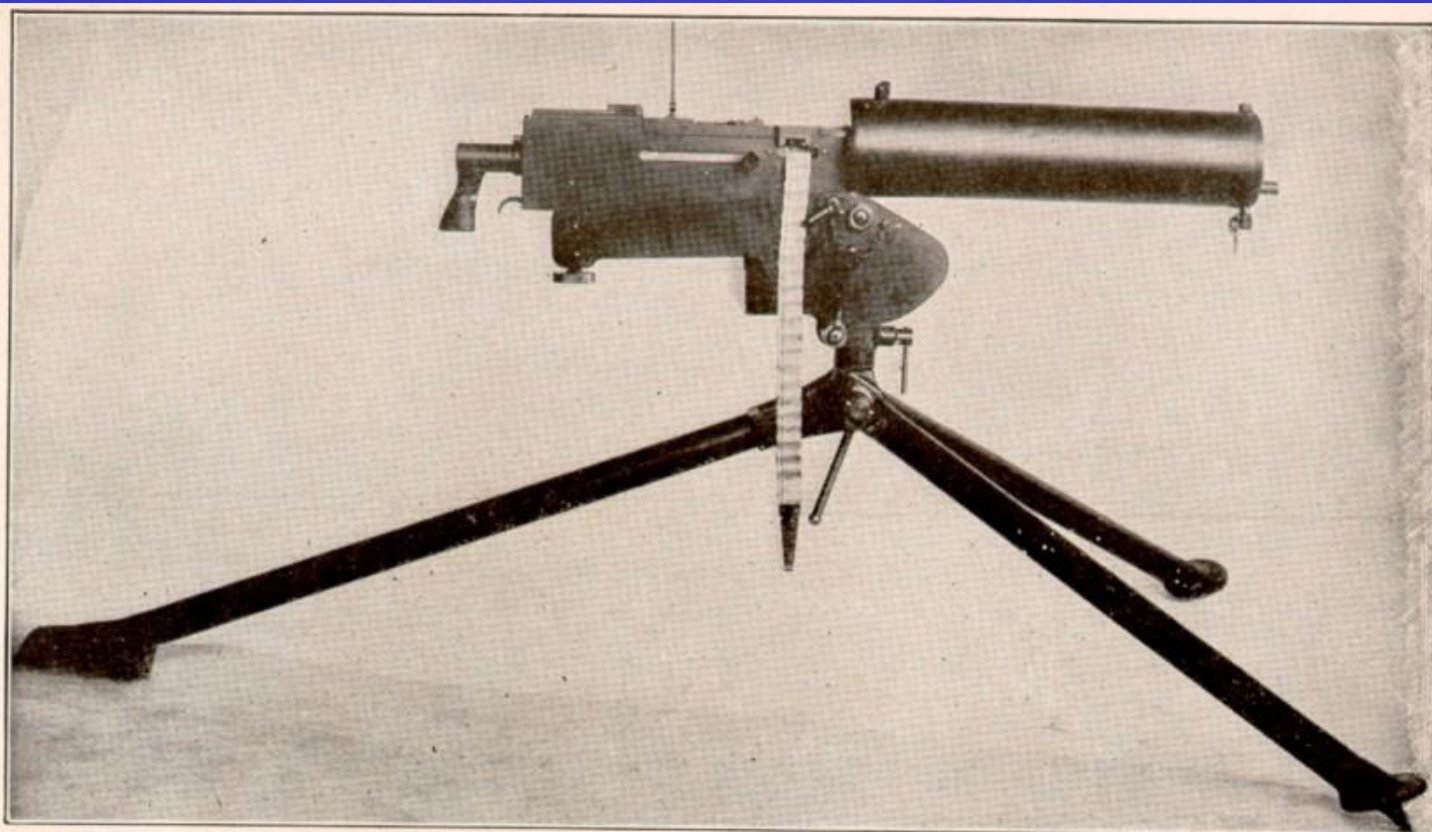


Trench Warfare

Every war is fought with new weapons and old strategies. This led to the construction of the trenches.

Trench Warfare

Each side had a series of trenches designed to protect the soldiers. The use of machine guns, heavy artillery, chemical weapons, hand grenades, and other modern weapons made this a new kind of warfare.



© Committee on Public Information

THE NEW BROWNING MACHINE GUN AND RIFLE

This new machine gun with the accompanying machine-gun rifle has been adopted for the use of the American army. It is believed to surpass other weapons of its kind

**Separating both sides of trenches was the
“No Man’s Land,” an area filled with barbed
wire, land mines, and dead bodies.**



Over The Top

Artillery fire would start the battle. A whistle would signal when it was time to charge the enemies' trenches. This was called "going over the top."

Soldiers could be killed in a variety of ways: snipers, machine gun fire, grenades, land mines, poison gas, or bayonet.

“Over The Top”



Battle Statistics

In the Battle of the Somme, 60,000 British troops died in one day.

More than 1 million soldiers eventually died in this four month long battle.

In 1916 alone, more than 2 million soldiers died in the fighting.

Battle of the Somme



Battle of the Somme



Battle of the Somme



Daily Conditions in the Trenches

Disease was spread due to unsanitary conditions.

Rats and lice were common.

Standing water in the trenches led to trench foot.

Disease killed as many soldiers as the fighting.







Trench Rats



Trench Rats



Trench Rats



New Weapons

The Great War introduced almost all weapons that are used today, including machine guns, biological/chemical weapons, airplanes, tanks, flame throwers, submarines, long range artillery, etc.

PERIMETER DEFENSE WEAPONS, WORLD WAR I

(Top to Bottom)

US Magazine Rifle, M1903, Springfield, caliber 30,
made by Rock Island Arsenal, bolt operated, 5
round magazine.

US Magazine Rifle, M1917, Entco, caliber 30
made by Entco, bolt operated, 5 round
magazine, with the M1917 bayonet affixed.

US Trench Shotgun, M1917 Winchester, 12 gauge,
pump operated, 6 shot magazine, no bayonet stud.

Very Special Pistol, Mark IV, .25-mm (4 gauge),
made by Van Kester Arms Company, fixed star
chamber and parabolic barrel.

US Army Issue Trench Knife, 1918. Of the three
basic models of Trench Knife used, the M1918
was the most common.

US Automatic Pistol, M1911, Colt, caliber 45,
made by Remington-Union Company, 7 round clip.





Mustard Gas



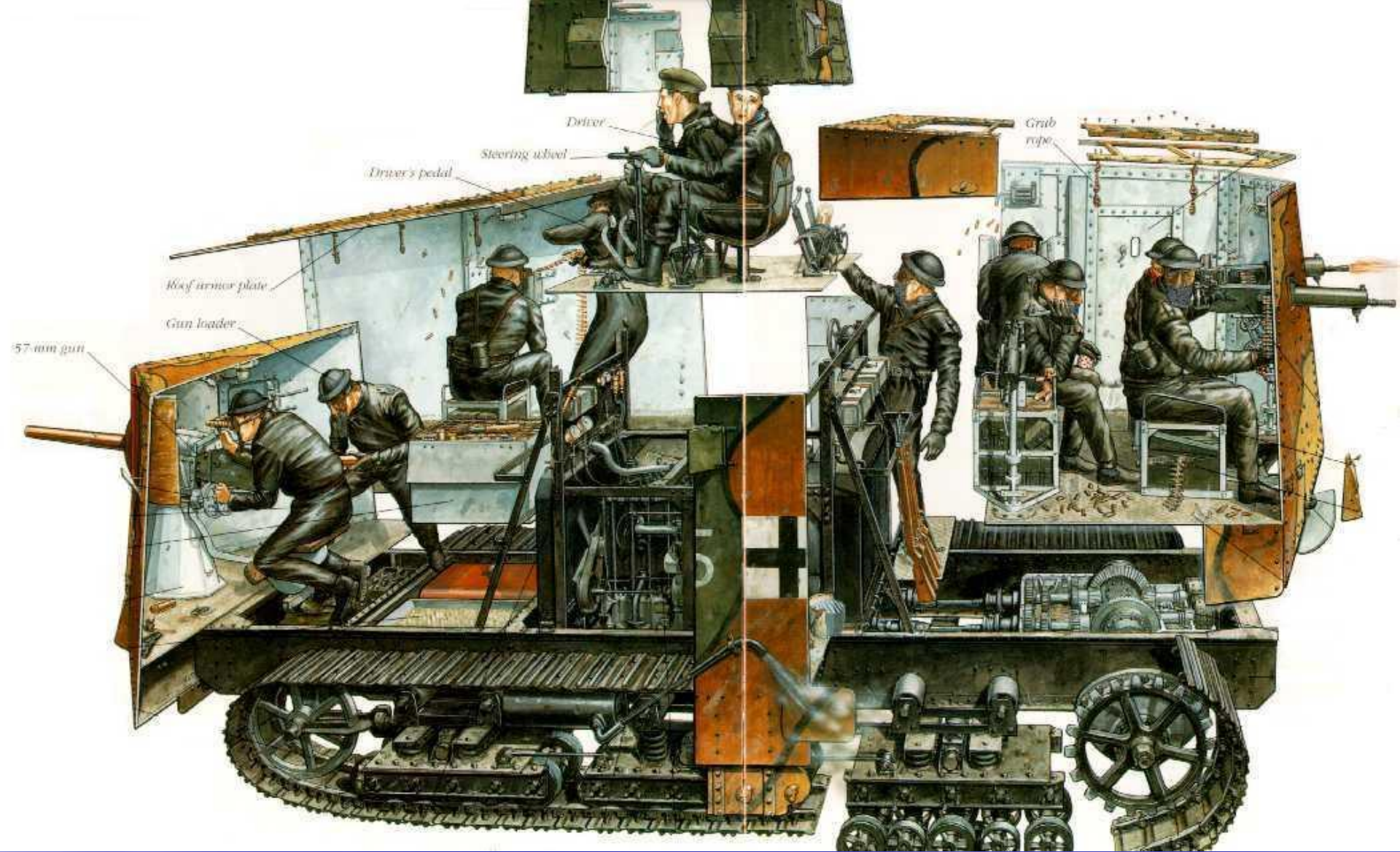
A horse and cannoneer masked during a gas attack, 1918



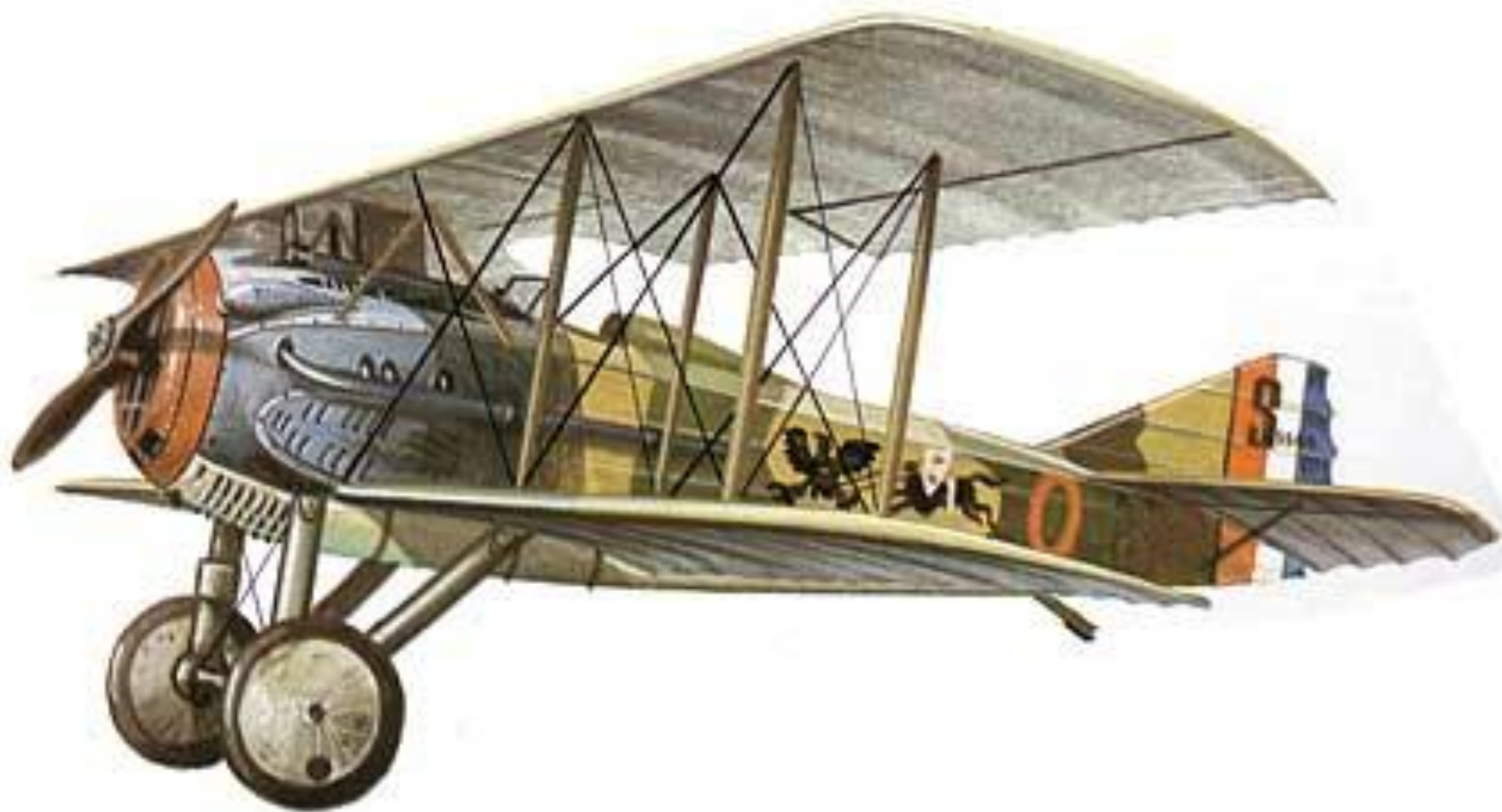


#680















**Manfred von
Richthofen:
The Red Baron**

Eddie Rickenbacker

