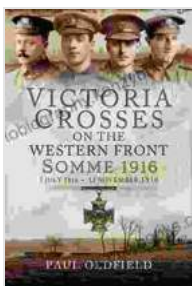


1st July 1916 To 13th November 1916: A Comprehensive Historical Account of the Somme Offensive

The Battle of the Somme was one of the most significant and bloody battles of World War I. Fought between July and November 1916, it involved millions of troops from both sides and resulted in hundreds of thousands of casualties. In this article, we will delve into the events leading up to the battle, its key phases, and its impact on the war.

Origins of the Battle

The Battle of the Somme was the brainchild of British General Douglas Haig. Haig believed that a major offensive on the Western Front would break through the German lines and lead to a decisive victory. He was supported by French General Joseph Joffre, who saw the battle as an opportunity to relieve pressure on Verdun, where the Germans were mounting a major offensive.



Victoria Crosses on the Western Front - Somme 1916: 1st July 1916 to 13th November 1916 by Paul Oldfield

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

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The British and French planned to launch a joint attack on a 25-mile front along the River Somme in northern France. The plan called for the British to attack on the northern flank and the French on the southern flank.

The First Day of the Somme

On July 1, 1916, the British launched their attack at 7:30 AM. The Germans were expecting the attack, and they had prepared their defenses accordingly. The British troops advanced in dense formations, and they were mowed down by German machine guns. By the end of the day, the British had suffered over 57,000 casualties, the bloodiest day in British military history.

The Battle Continues

Despite the heavy losses, the British and French continued to attack. The fighting was fierce, and the Germans fought tenaciously. By the end of July, the British had advanced about 5 miles, and the French had made some gains on the southern flank.

In August, the Germans launched a counteroffensive, but it was repulsed by the British and French. The fighting continued into September, when the British captured the town of Thiepval.

In October, the British launched another offensive, but it failed to make any significant progress. The fighting continued into November, when the battle finally ended.

Aftermath of the Battle

The Battle of the Somme was a costly failure for the British and French. They had achieved their objectives, but they had paid a heavy price in terms of casualties. The British had suffered over 400,000 casualties, and the French had lost over 200,000.

The battle had a profound impact on the British public. The heavy losses and the lack of progress led to a loss of confidence in the government and the military. The battle also marked a turning point in the war. It showed that the Allies were not able to break through the German lines, and it led to a stalemate on the Western Front.

Legacy of the Battle

The Battle of the Somme is remembered as one of the bloodiest and most futile battles of World War I. It is a testament to the horrors of war and the terrible price that was paid by the soldiers on both sides.

The battle has been the subject of numerous books and films. It has also been commemorated with memorials and monuments around the world.

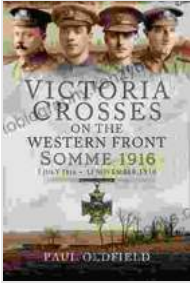
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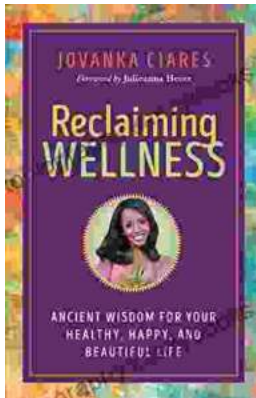
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