

# Sniping in the Great War: A Comprehensive Guide



## Sniping in the Great War by Martin Pegler

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 36724 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 312 pages
Lending	: Enabled



The Great War, also known as World War I, saw the of new and deadly technologies that revolutionized warfare. One of the most significant developments was the widespread use of sniping. Snipers played a crucial role in the conflict, accounting for a disproportionately high number of casualties.

In this comprehensive guide, we explore the captivating and often overlooked world of sniping in the Great War. From the development of specialized weaponry to the tactics and strategies employed by these highly skilled marksmen, we delve into the history, techniques, and impact of snipers on the course of the war.

## **The Development of Sniper Rifles**

The origins of sniping can be traced back to the American Civil War, where sharpshooters armed with rifled muskets inflicted heavy casualties on enemy troops. However, it was during the Great War that the concept of sniping truly came into its own.

The of smokeless powder and bolt-action rifles made it possible for snipers to fire accurately from long distances without revealing their positions. The Germans were pioneers in the development of sniper rifles, and their

Mauser Gewehr 98 sniper rifle became one of the most feared weapons of the war.

Other nations quickly followed suit, and by the end of the war, most armies had specialized sniper units equipped with dedicated rifles and optics.

## **Sniper Tactics and Strategies**

Snipers were typically deployed in pairs, with one spotter and one shooter. The spotter would use binoculars or a telescope to locate enemy targets, while the shooter would take aim and fire. Snipers often used camouflage to conceal themselves, and they would often operate from elevated positions to gain a better view of the battlefield.

One of the most common sniper tactics was to target enemy officers, as their removal could disrupt the enemy's command and control. Snipers also targeted machine gunners, artillerymen, and other high-value targets.

In addition to their individual skills, snipers also played an important role in intelligence gathering. They could provide valuable information about enemy troop movements, positions, and fortifications.

## **The Impact of Snipers**

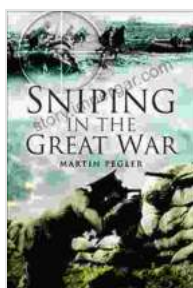
Snipers had a significant impact on the course of the Great War. Their ability to inflict casualties on enemy troops from long distances made them a constant threat, and they forced enemy soldiers to be more cautious and less exposed.

Snipers also played a psychological role in the war. The constant fear of being targeted by a sniper could demoralize enemy troops and make them

less effective in combat.

Sniping in the Great War was a complex and challenging discipline that required a combination of skill, patience, and courage. Snipers played a vital role in the conflict, and their legacy continues to be studied and debated today.

In this comprehensive guide, we have explored the history, techniques, and impact of snipers in the Great War. We hope that this guide has provided you with a deeper understanding of this fascinating and often overlooked aspect of the war.



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