

SUPPLEMENTARY COLLECTION

CANADIAN WAR TROPHIES

In the following descriptions of the various weapons, and the German methods of employing them, I do not wish to give the impression that this is an up-to-the-minute description of the German weapons and tactics.

Since some of the weapons and devices shown in this exhibition are obsolete, or at least seldom used at the present time, and others are of an old pattern, with very few of the more recent improvements, being used, principally because they were available and still serviceable, the explanations given are merely to show the manner in which they were used, and to what extent they were effective.

Of the modern weapons, the descriptions still hold good though the methods of employing them may have altered, or completely changed, since in war there are few hard-and-fast rules laid down as to the manner in which any weapon may or may not be used, and tactics may change overnight.

The following explanations of the German method of employing the various weapons may therefore be accepted as applicable only up to the early part of 1917.

Equipment (Infantry).

In addition to the clothes ordinarily worn by the German soldier, the following spare clothes and equipment are carried in the cow-hide pack:—

One pair slacks (trousers), 2 top shirts, 1 pair drawers, 1 pair socks, 2 handkerchiefs, forage cap, 1 pair laced boots, 1 pair bott brushes, 1 rice bag, 1 housewife, 1 salt bag, 1 grease tin, 1 coffee tin.

The mess tin and drinking cup are usually carried in the small haversack, which is carried looped on to the belt at the right side; the water bottle is also slung from the belt, on the right side, behind the haversack.