

The Ammunition Situation.

Then too, in the matter of ammunition the Germans had the lead. While we were under limitations of three rounds per gun per day for our field pieces he appeared to have plenty of reserve stocks and he certainly used them.

I am afraid that in the early days the artillery situation was not such as to inspire confidence in the minds of our infantry.

Picture to yourself the case of an infantry officer pointing out to a gunner the location of a nest of German machine guns which are worrying the men in the line. The gunner admits it is a good target and he would like to engage it but -- "No ammunition". The retort of the infantryman was likely to be "What are you doing in the Great War anyway?" and the result if the gunner was a bit touchy - permanently damage liason.

Lack of Standardization.

As the war went on, we got more and more ammunition, but, we suffered considerably from lack of standardization.

In the early Summer of 1915 we had four different types of field gun shrapnel in our limbers at the same time, with a variation of range of anything up to 400 yards.

In 1916 in the 4.5 Hows. we had three types of propellant in use simultaneously - Cordite, Ballistite and M.C.T. - all with different temperature and moisture coefficients and all giving results varying in a most obscure way with the wear of the Howitzer.

Charges originally shipped in lots of similar manufacture got mined up on the L. of C. Shell varied in weight, driving band were of many varieties.