

MODERN GUNNERY TERMS.

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momentum. A shell with a properly regulated 'time' fuse always explodes in air. In all our shells we use both, so that if the fuse does not burst in air, it does on striking. We have heard a good deal of the Boers firing with 'plugged shell.' A 'plugged shell' is our modern substitute for the old 'solid shot.' Sometimes, not often, it is desirable, in preference to bursting a shell, to make it strike as a solid whole. Then we take out the bursting composition and, in order that the shell may be even and heavy as before, 'plug' it with some material that will not burst it.

In our modern infantry weapons the first great change that followed rifling was that all our rifles were made to be loaded at the breech or back end of the gun, and not from the muzzle. The ordinary breech loading rifled small arm was the weapon used by both the French and Germans in their great war of 1870. There were differences in the weapons used, but both were in this respect alike. Since then invention has gone on rapidly. By some means or other all nations now supply their men with a magazine for rapid firing. This is either fixed to the breech or detachable.

The form we now employ is the "Lee Enfield." This difference between this and the Lee Metford is very small. It takes the same bullet. The Boers use the Mauser. The chief distinction between the two is this that while the Lee-Enfield has a magazine which is inserted underneath the body through the trigger guard and secured by a catch, and is provided with what is called a "cut off" to prevent the cartridges from rising, so that it can be used as a simple breech loader for single firing till the magazine, which contains ten cartridges, is ordered to be used, the Mauser on the other hand, has a magazine which, though not absolutely fixed, is only intended to be taken off for cleaning. It does not need a "cut off" to use as a single loader. The magazine contains five cartridges, but whereas the cartridges for the Lee-Enfield have, when the magazine is charged, to be each put in separately, the magazine of the Mauser is filled at once by placing against the face of the magazine a set of five cartridges held in a clip which falls off when the cartridges have been inserted in the magazine. Thus if each weapon were at the beginning of a fight empty, the Mauser would permit of more rapid fire because it could be loaded five cartridges at a time while the Lee-Enfield would take cartridge by cartridge as long to load as a single breech-loader. On the other hand, the times when a very rapid discharge of fire is desirable are not numerous, and for these the Lee Enfield has ten cartridges ready against the Mauser's five.

MODERN SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE.

Men who have Served Under More Than One Flag in This Century.

In the Transvaal to-day the soldier of fortune is making his last stand. No other country in the world is likely to offer the alien adventurer of the future the same positions and profit that have hitherto been the portion of Schiel. Von Albrecht and the other European mercenaries of Krugerdor. And in this very fact we may see the decline of the soldier of fortune, if we compare his gains with the colossal harvests of his predecessors in history. Perron, the wonderful Frenchman who commanded the Marhatta army, arrived in Hindustan a penniless petty officer from a man-of-war, and in nine years had amassed between one and two millions sterling. Even more rapid was the progress of Col. Hannay, who had to leave John Company's service to avoid the bailiffs. He entered the service of the Nawab Wazir of Oude in 1778, and left it after three years with a fortune of £800,000. Many other French and English adventurers were nearly as lucky.

At that time there was not the prejudice against these mercenary swords which the ethics of modern Europe have fostered. Few foreigners have risen to eminence in the English service, but large numbers of aliens were recruited for us in the Napoleonic wars. Besides the famous Hessians, there were the French Chasseurs Britanniques, three Swiss regiments, the Corsican Rangers, and the Greek Light Infantry. In the Crimean War a German legion was recruited in Heligoland, but they have never distinguished themselves on the field, and the precedent is not likely to be followed.

In spite of the chilling effect of modern ideas, the soldiers of fortune of the nineteenth century form a picturesque gallery—heroes and rascals, Fenians and Royalists, Poles, Englishmen and adventures of no country. Some of them like Lord Cochran and Hobart Pasha, have established themselves on a higher plane than the mercenary can usually hope to occupy. The former's brilliant record with the English, Chilian, Brazilian, and Greek natives is probably, unique, though Paul was set down as a bad second. The latter's Whitehaven, collier

who was the most successful American officer in the War of Independence, and held command thereafter in the French, and then in the Russian Navy, is not the heroic figure which modern eulogists in the United States like to picture, but he was a fine seaman and a gallant fighter. In fact he was the typical soldier of fortune (for the accident that he fought at sea does not rob him of his place in that gallery).

The revolutionary wars of the Continent have naturally attracted many of these adventurers. Count Ilinski was a Pole who fought the Russians in his native land, and when all was lost took service under Schamyl, Prince of Circassia. The Hungarian War of Independence in 1848 next employed his desperate valor, and at Temeswar he had three horses killed under him. Finally, he became Colonel of a Turkish cuirassier regiment, and was known as Iskender Bey. In the Hungarian Revolt, Gen. Guyon, an Englishman, was a famous figure, and at Tyrnau he held his ground until he had lost three-fourths of his battalion and the village streets were streaming with blood. A less attractive personality is Gen. Cluseret, who served as a Captain in the French Army in Algeria, then, under Fremont, in the American Civil War; was next a Fenian "General" and then War Minister under the Commune. Dombrowski, another "General" in the Commune and a far abler and braver man than the ex-Fenian, had fought in Poland and under Garibaldi. He was killed at the barricades in 1871. Among Continental forces of aliens one ought to mention the French Foreign Legion, which still includes the runaway aristocrats and broken men of half Europe, and the Irish Brigade which fought for the Pope in 1860 under the command of Major Myles O'Reilly, M. P. An old soldier of the Papal Zouaves, another Irishman, is now Gen. Coppinger of the United States Army, Garibaldi himself is of course entitled to a niche in this

gallery of fame, and his son Ricciotti has since his Italian campaigns fought for France in 1870 and for Greece in 1897, in both bravely fighting for a lost cause.

The New World offers us condottieri of a new type, like Walker the filibuster, who became Dictator of Nicaragua and might have ruled Honduras but for a British Man-of-war. Gen. Carroll-Twiss, who served in the Franco-Prussian war, and a good many South American struggles, was a Fenian hero. So was Capt. John McArthur, who served in the Mexican War of 1855, and was then as officer in the Confederate army. He was in all the Fenian plots of 1866-7, and was twice tried here for treason-treason. He was acquitted at one trial, and amnestied after the second, a leniency which he repaid by renewed activity in the ranks of the Clan-na-Gael. He was said to be the real "No. 1" behind the Phoenix Park murders.

Egypt has employed many aliens. Maximilian Bey was a Swiss who had been British Consul at Massowah; Gessi Pasha an Italian who, after serving as interpreter to the English Army in Crimea, became Gordon's Lieutenant in the Sudan, and smashed the slave hunters' revolt in Darfur. Koring Pasha was an American soldier; Lupton Bey, Governor of the Bahar el-Ghazal, who died in the Mahdi's dungeons, an Englishman. Slatin and Emin were both Austrians.

In more recent years we have had Gen. Kohn, an ex-major in the German Army who landed a cargo of Mannlicher rifles for the Chilean Congressionals, drilled their troops, and defeated B. Incedad. Gen. Ronald McIver, a Scotsman who has served under fourteen flags, from the Confederate to the Carlist, is another roaming Briton, like Kaid Maclean, an ex-lieutenant in our service, who is now commander of the army of the Sultan of Morocco. Gen. Digby Willoughby, who commanded (in blue and silver) the Hova army, has since fought for the Chartered Company in Rhodesia, but has now turned to the arts of peace.

DEATHS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

Infantry Fire Still the Most Deadly—Percentages in Two Wars.

The war in the Transvaal appears to show contrary to expectation, that infantry fire is still the most deadly of the causes of death or wounds in the battlefield. The Austro-German war of 1866 showed the following percentages of deaths from the various weapons employed in modern war:

KILLED.	Infantry Fire	Artillery	Shells, Bombs, and Bayonets	Ships, Land, and Air
Austrians.....	90	06	04	
Germans.....	79	116	04	

It is to be noted in explanation of the great difference between the Austrian and the German killed, by infantry fire, that the Austrians fought with a muzzle-loading rifle and the Germans with their then famous needle-gun. The German loss by artillery fire was due to the somewhat reckless manner in which the German troops were hurled against the Austrian guns in position.

In the Franco-German War of 1870-71 the difference in loss of the respective sides from the various causes was marked:

KILLED.	Infantry Fire	Artillery	Shells, Bombs, and Bayonets	Ships, Land, and Air
French.....	88	10	02	
German.....	70	25	05	

In this case the great superiority of the German artillery over the French was clearly demonstrated: on the other hand the inferiority of the needle gun to the Chassepot was shown; while the deaths from the cavalry arms and the bayonets show that the Germans resorted to them more frequently and were more expert in their use than the French, though it was asserted that when the respective cavalry met the

French point nearly always had the advantage over the German cut.

The introduction of high explosives in shells into operations in the field brings a new factor into the causes of deaths in action. The reports both from the British and Boer sides of the effects of lyddite will therefore be of great interest.

Bloody British Battles.

Lord Methuen's telegram after the fight at Modder River told us it was one of the hardest and most trying in the annals of the British army. To the ordinary mind a battle is hard and trying in proportion to the danger the soldier encounters and overcomes, and the only possible gauge by which that danger can be measured is the loss incurred in overcoming it. It may be interesting to compare the action of Modder River with some other battles in which the British army has been engaged in the present century.

Lord Methuen's forces about 6,500 strong. His losses, killed and wounded, were 475, or 7 1/4 per cent. The other figures given below are taken from a table published by Colonel Henderson, Professor of Military Art and History at the Staff College, in his 'Life of Stonewall Jackson':

	Strength	Killed and Wounded	Percentage
Talavera, 1809.....	20,500	6,250	30
Albuera, 1811.....	8,200	3,900	48
Barossa, 1811.....	4,400	1,210	27
Salamanca, 1812.....	26,000	8,385	32
Quatre Bras, 1815.....	12,000	2,504	20
Waterloo, 1815.....	23,991	6,932	29
Frozehab, 1845.....	16,000	2,415	15
Sobraon, 1846.....	15,500	2,063	13
Cullinstown, 1849.....	15,000	2,388	16
Alma, 1854.....	21,500	2,062	9
Inkerman, 1854.....	7,464	2,357	31
Modder River, 1899.....	6,500	475	7 1/4

Lord Methuen's loss in officers was: Killed, 4; wounded, 19; total 23. One battalion of British infantry entered the action at Salamanca with 27 officers and 420 rank and file; it had 24 officers and 342 rank and file killed and wounded.



HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.