Life on the Battlefields
94 Years Later

Charlotte Descamps

Presentation
MCH
Wellington
August 1st, 2012
Passchendaele

Nov. 1917

Varlet Farm
The Ypres Salient
Flanders mud
Passchendaele July 1917
Varlet Farm, then and now
History of the farm

• Built in 1745

• Destroyed in 1917

• Rebuilt in 1922

• Occupied in 1940 - 1945
Human remains

- Human remains
  - Procedure
  - Identification
  - Reburial
Ammunition

- Origin
  - German
  - French
  - British
Condition

- Used
- Dud
- Unused
Types

- Traditional ammunition
  - Cannister
  - Shrapnel
  - High explosive

- Gas
  - Fire
  - Smoke
  - White phosphorous
  - Vomitting Gas
  - Toxic
    - Chlorine
    - Phosgene
    - Mustard gas
    - Arsenic
Traditional ammunition

- Shrapnel
  - Production
  - Use
Traditional ammunition

- High explosive
  - Production
  - Use
Traditional ammunition

- Collecting
Traditional ammunition

- Identifying
Traditional ammunition

• Processing
Traditional ammunition

- Destroying
Gas

- Gas
  - Fire
  - Smoke
  - White fosfor
  - Toxic
    - Chlorine
    - Phosgene
    - Mustard gas
    - Arsenic
Gas

- Smoke attack

- Gas attack

- White phosphorus
Gas

- Processing
  - X-ray
Gas

• Processing
  – Blaukreuz vomitting gas (1917)
Gas

- Processing
  - X-ray

Gas shell with leak

Ideal situation

Gas level too high
Gas

• Destroying
  – Identifying
  – Sorting
  – Burning
Gas

• Injuries
  – Chlorine
  – Phosgene
  – Mustard gas
  – Arsenic
Trench mortars

- Stokes
- Toffee apple
- German 25cm mortar
Grenades

• Types
  – German
    • Egg
    • Stick
    • Rifle grenades
  – British
    • Mills
  – French
    • Viven Bessière
Rifles & bayonets

- Types
  - French
    - Lebelle rifle
  - German
    - Mauser rifle
  - British
    - Long Lee Enfield
    - Shortened magazine Lee Enfield
Other finds

- Drinking bottles
- Rum jars
- Silent pickets
- Helmets
- Buckles
- Entrenching tools
- Machine gun
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Iron harvest
Varlet Farm

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Varlet Farm
Wallemolenstraat 43
8920 Poelkapelle
Belgium
Tel: 0032 475 678 042   E-mail: info@varletfarm.com
charlotteatthefarm@gmail.com
Livens projector

- Position
- Projectile
Livens projector

- Loading
Amazing find