Messines 1917 The zenith of siege warfare Osprey Books

View from Spanbroekmolen crater towards the Kruisstraat craters. Java Sea Mark Stille. Whether or not Great War leaders accepted the fact, it was, during the middle years at least, essentially a war of attrition that would be settled by weight of bloodshed and longterm economic blockade. Numerous eyewitness accounts describe their willingness to surrender under the onslaught of mines and barrage. Sir Thomas Morland 23rd Division — Maj. Spent German forces are soon in full retreat. Passive as all this sounds, it was merely creating the conditions for counterattack by dedicated units — Eingreif divisions — held beyond the battle zone and therefore protected from enemy artillery until the decisive moment when an enemy force had overextended itself. Worcestershire Regiment 8th Bn. The German Army at Passchendaele. Progress by st Tunnelling Company was correspondingly businesslike; one shift at Factory Farm clocked 10m 30ft. York and Lancaster Regiment 9th Bn. There are no discussion topics on this book yet. Odourless, colourless and tasteless, carbon monoxide kills quickly Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare in modest concentrations. Suddenly at dawn, as a signal for all of our guns to open fire, there rose out of the dark ridge of Messines and “Whitesheet” that ill-famed Hill 60enormous volumes of Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare flame [ Lieutenant John Westacott of the 2nd Canadian Tunnelling Company describes one such skirmish: The Germans were taken completely by surprise. Nonetheless, he was making confident assertions based on limited successes and sketchy information. Bulging back out towards British lines in a gentle arc approximately 12km 7 miles long was the German-occupied Messines Ridge, 85m ft at his highest point and perfectly situated to dominate approaches to the salient as well as avenues of exploitation for any British offensive action to the east. Map of the mines laid before the Battle of Messines, Simon Dunstan. Beneath topsoil there is the band of pale sandy clay in which shallow defensive systems were commonplace. Kruisstraat 3 was added two months later and Kruisstraat 4 in It was subsequently detonated with devastating effect. They were spectres in the trenches and the shockwaves broke bones. Tanks also provided an armoured platform for machine Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare and light artillery naval 6-pdr guns to provide infantry with intimate direct fire support when tackling strongpoints in depth. Infantry units were often called upon to assist in these logistic tasks. It has been argued that the Battle of Messines was the most successful local operation of the Western Front, would you agree with that? Messines Even at the time, some disparaged his avuncular manner as ineffectual or imbecilic. Trench II 9 May 50, 26 Fortunately for the British gunners, lethal concentrations are hard to achieve with shells — many men were incapacitated but only ten lost their lives during the bombardment. Thus he employed two divisions per corps in the first wave and just their third for the final push. Colonel Harvey took up the reins and saw Messines through. It was the impregnability of German bunkers — and the murderous fields of fire reaped by the Maxims within — that bid tunnellers to burrow beneath Flanders. Kruisstraat I in two separated chambers 2 January 5 July 49, 19 Although they recruited specialists, military mining remained wedded to mainstream engineering structures until May Nivelle anticipated a rapid breakthrough on the Chemin Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare Dames 48hrs and hoped to link up with the British Arras axis around Mons. The spare capacity created by Operation Alberich was soon to be consumed by the imperative to shore up the Italian front. A week of beautiful weather had aided the discovery of others that stayed silent. Here a brutal and confused battle unfolded amid the rubble. Both had been subjected to incendiary attack during the preparatory bombardment. Hong Kong, Benjamin Lai. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publishers. The mine crater was acquired in by the Toc H foundation in Poperinge. Everything appeared to be going to plan when the Germans released gas on the Australian troops. Junior ranks received a double rum ration when coming off shift but drank more off duty; drunkenness was the only significant disciplinary issue that affected tunnelling companies. The fact that the detonations were not simultaneous enhanced their effect on the German troops. Bodicainking rated it it was amazing Apr 02, There was little more that the KTKs could do; support and reserve battalions had their own command posts and the forward battle was already lost. Only in these last few days did word start to filter out about the mines. The choices you make here will apply to your interaction with this service on this device. The largest mining operations were conducted in the Battle of Messines, where specialist Royal Engineer tunnelling companies placed 22 mines under German lines. Royal Irish Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare 8th Bn. One of their leading company commanders... was strolling about the battlefield, carrying his cane and wearing a monocle. Yet Eingreifentaktik is sometimes misapprehended. In the small hours of 22 June Hackett and his tunnelling shift were advancing a gallery in the Givenchy sector when the Germans fired a Messines 1917: The Zenith of Siege Warfare. Frictions conspired to limit the Maedelstede project as well. De Mijnenoorlog in Vlaanderen — in Dutch. Tunnellers were fond of these quasi-pets.