

CHEMICAL WARFARE PRE-1900

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

As with gas, the methodical planned use of smoke in battle was a development of WWI. History does record sporadic attempts to use smoke tactically in combat, as in 1700, when King Charles XII of Sweden crossed the Dvina River in the face of the opposing Polish-Saxon army under the protection of a smoke screen generated by burning large quantities of damp straw. [Prentiss, cited below]

During the American Civil War, President Lincoln received a letter from a New York school teacher who proposed use of heavy shells filled with liquid chlorine, which would expand into a choking gas. [Lord, cited below]

At the first Hague Peace Conference, May-Jul 1899, the contracting powers voted on a proposition to abstain from the use of projectiles, that diffuse asphyxiating or deleterious gases. The only dissenting vote was cast by the U.S.'s Captain Alfred T. Mahan, who cited as his first reason for voting against the provision: "No shell emitting such gases is as yet in practical use." [Holls, cited below.]

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Steers, Edward. "Risking the Wrath of God." North & South (Sep 2000): pp. 59-69. Per. Confederate sympathizer Dr. Luke Blackburn's offer to introduce yellow fever against the Union war effort.

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See also:

-Bibliography on Tactical Smoke in Chemical.