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A Delicate Affair' on the Western Front: America Learns How to Fight a Modern War in the Woëvre Trenches

By Terrence J. Finnegan

The History Press Ltd. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, 'A Delicate Affair' on the Western Front: America Learns How to Fight a Modern War in the Woëvre Trenches, Terrence J. Finnegan, The American military was experienced in fighting guerilla war. It now had to come to terms with global responsibilities - and it was woefully unprepared for la grande guerre. Forgotten by most Americans in understanding their country's rise to military pre-eminence in the modern era is the debt owed to the tutorial of the French, whose knowledge was bought at a high price in the early days of the war, when catastrophic losses combined with the 'offence' of losing ground could lead to summary execution. The Americans went to the front line for the first time (in the Woëvre region around the village of Seicheprey) with the same enthusiasm as their Allies had shown three years prior. It was in the spirit of a game, a great adventure. But the Germans saw them as novices; and they were determined to teach them this was no game. They proceeded to unleash the war's most ghastly weapons - gas, flamethrowers and high explosives - and called their first major raid,...



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