

## REVIEW

### SIMON JONES “UNDERGROUND WARFARE 1914–1918” (POLISH EDITION)

Underground military acts accompanied many conflicts since ancient times. Evolving throughout history, they took the most advanced form during the Great War 1914–1918.

Simons Jones’ book describes the underground warfare carried out on the western front between Entente and Central Powers. It is one of very few publications about underground war methods conducted by both sides of the conflict, including a detailed analysis. It contains many memories of soldiers taking part in war actions who introduce the reader to the world of underground tunnels, galleries, shelters and dugouts. Apart from describing the living and fighting conditions, the book discusses the daily life of the soldiers, their memories and experiences.

From the mining and geological points of view this publication is a real mine of information about the various aspects of underground warfare. It includes an exhaustive description of drilling techniques that were used underground, from clay-kicking to the most modern machines. On top of that the book discusses the tools applied, dimensioning and shoring up excavations, mining, ventilation, drainage, and listening techniques in a detailed and exhaustive way. The geological issues of the front and the ways to deal with them are also very carefully presented. To help understand the idea better those descriptions are well furnished with many illustrations, diagrams and photographs.

Published in 2010 in Great Britain by Pan & Sword Books Ltd., translated into Polish by Juliusz Tomaczak and published by Wydawnictwo Replika in 2011 the book has 353 pages and over 100 illustrations. The thematic scope is divided into 3 parts. The first one is an introduction to the topic of underground warfare and is a summary description of underground war techniques throughout the ages – to the outbreak of the Great War. The second part is a description of hostilities on the western front, describing battles, strategies and their analysis. The 185 pages present an exhaustive description of the underground war including many maps, plans and schemes. The third part seems to be the most attractive from the mining point of view. Comprehensive description of the technical issues provides an insight to the underground warfare and the tools and machines used. The book constitutes a very interesting reading aimed at acquainting us with this often overlooked method of war games. d of war games.