



THE BEF ADAPTION OF ARTILLERY

An executive summary on 'The capacity to learn and adapt to new circumstances has long been a hallmark of successful military organisations' by u6021810

Hallmark of successful military organisations

Without the ability to learn and adapt to new and emerging circumstances a military organisation will be unable to achieve success in combat. Military organisations must be agile in their ability to learn and adapt to maintain an advantage over their adversary.

The Battle of the Somme



Utilisation of artillery

- 1914 – artillery utilised to achieve destruction
- 1918 – shift in utilisation to achieve neutralisation in the form of creeping barrage and deep target engagements

Command and control structure

- 1914 – decentralised command at divisional level
- 1918 – development of artillery groups and centralisation under the General officer Commanding Royal Artillery at corps and army headquarters.

Operational success?

- Increase in artillery and ammunition

OR

- Learning and adaptation resulting in a shift from destruction to neutralisation and the development of command and control structure to achieve centralisation of artillery.

Conclusion

- It was through identifying and learning from their failures the BEF was able to successfully identify new roles and strategies for artillery to better use their resources on the Western front in 1918.
- Modern day application

Questions

