

# MORTALITY IN BATTLE.: Statistics Show That It Takes a Ton of Shot to ...

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## MORTALITY IN BATTLE.

### Statistics Show That It Takes a Ton of Shot to Kill a Man, Because of Aimless Shooting.

[Tit-Bits:] The mortality during a battle is surprisingly low; in fact, according to the military proverb, it takes a ton of shot to kill a man.

At the siege of Gibraltar 253,387 heavy shot and shell were thrown into the garrison during the ten months' attack; but only 1341 persons were killed and wounded, most of the injuries being very slight. At Salamanca only one shot of every 437 took effect, and at Waterloo the fire of one side of a British square emptied no more than three or four saddles in a squadron of French cavalry.

It has been estimated that in the Crimean War the British troops fired 15,000,000 shots and killed 21,000 Russians, or one death to every 700 shots. The French fired 29,000,000 shots and killed 51,000 Russians, or one death to every 590 shots; while the Russians fired 45,000,000 shots and killed 48,000 of the allies, or one death to every 910 shots.

When the Germans besieged Metz in 1870, 193,000 projectiles were thrown into the town; but only 300 persons were killed, or one for every 643 shot and shell. At Trouville two people were killed by 30,000 shells, or one person for every 15,000; and at

Lorgny 30,000 shells were fired and did not kill a single person.

In battle there is not much time to aim, and military authorities now regard rapidity of fire as being more essential than range and precision.

At the Alma, where Russians, French and British were engaged, the French lost forty, the Russians forty-seven and the English seventy-five per 1000 soldiers. The Russian loss at Inkerman was very heavy, being 110 per 1000, while the English lost thirty-seven and the French only five per 1000 combatants. The British loss at Waterloo was forty-eight per 1000. In fact, wherever Britons fight, they kill, or are themselves killed, in large numbers.

At the famous battle of Sedan only nine per 1000 Germans engaged were killed, while the French loss was twenty-four per 1000 fighters. At Spicheren, in the same war, the French lost sixteen and the Germans twenty-nine per 1000; while at Gravelotte both French and Germans had nine per 1000 killed.

In the Franco-German War only 5 per cent. of the soldiers engaged during the seven months were killed, and the returns for the American Civil War, which were got out with great care, showed that the loss was 7 per cent. of the forces engaged.

Thus it will be seen that the risks of war are from 14 to 20 to 1 against death.

Most wounds are inflicted on a

soldier's lower extremities. Of 100 wounds, the Franco-German War showed that forty-four were on the lower extremities, thirty-three on the upper, eleven on the chest and back, eleven in the head, and one in the abdomen.