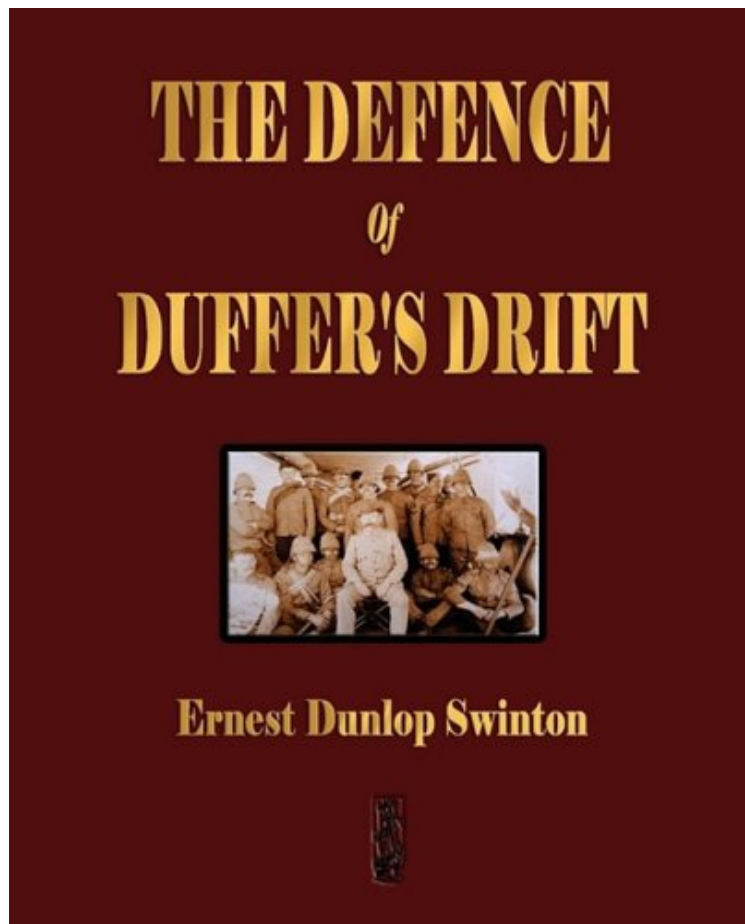


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The Defence Of Duffer's Drift - A Lesson in the Fundamentals of Small Unit Tactics

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Defense Of Duffer's Drift - A Lesson In The Fundamentals Of Small Unit Tactics by Ernest Dunlop SwintonBy Walter A. JacqueThe Defense Of Duffer's Drift - A Lesson In The Fundamentals Of Small Unit Tactics, was written by Ernest Dunlop Swinton, an English officer and veteran of the Boer War. What he as written is as valid today as it was around the turn of the 20th century.The book is written in first person, where the author has himself as a subaltern (either a first or second lieutenant). in a dream, his job, along with 40 men, is to guard a place called Duffer's Drift (a drift is a ford), until the main column arrives. The author has a series of six dreams, in each one an action occurs, and upon waking, the author learns a series of lessons about warcraft.The book is still valid, and should be read by those in the military who even so much as command a squad.

You can even adopt it if you are a civilian and do "paintball" games, or even "zombie shooting." However, the book is GREAT if you are a wargamer, either miniature or board (map and counter). The dreams, or scenarios, are fascinating and can be "gamed," as in each dream the author presents a map and placement of forces prior to battle. This book has been frustratingly in and out of print, but I've finally got my copy, and I'm NOT letting it go. As a wargamer (it can be played from the Boer war to present day), it is a good source, if you're a squadleader, whether military or civilian, it's invaluable. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Didn't expect much, but was I ever surprised! By Prometheus I This book is considered a classic, so thought I would give it a read. I was expecting it to be pretty dry and a slow slog. I was really surprised by how well the book flowed. Since it describes a small group of defenders it is easy to put yourself in the commander's place. The book is a series of dreams where the group commander sets up a defense from an enemy attack, sees how it fails, and then makes adjustments, thinking he had covered all the bases. Then it fails again, so he makes more adjustments, and fails again. Repeat the dream until successful. I really couldn't put the book down, and it is a fairly quick read. Anyone interested in military strategy and defensive tactics will love this book! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How to learn to fight the Boers, amongst others, today By G. C. Evans What a nifty little book, especially for folks who like Army tactics and enjoy a bit of a chuckle at the same time. The book puts a new British officer in command of a small force with a defensive mission against the Boers. Yes, the Boers of the turn of the 20th century Boer War in south Africa. Our officer is given a mission and proceeds to do his best. Then when he has very obviously messed up he dreamily does the same mission again. He gets to try the same mission a second, third, fourth time. Each time he employs the lessons learned from the previous fights. Each reliving of the mission brings different results. The final mission, employing all the lessons learned, brings the hero satisfaction. There are nice maps to go with each reliving of the adventure. That makes it easy to follow what the officer and his soldiers have to do. What is fun, is to put yourself in the boots of the officer and think of how you would perform the mission. It is a bit like taking a military correspondence course, but much more lively. The lessons learned in that old war seem to fit today. The Boer War was a type of insurgency with many similar situations our military face today. A nice touch at the end is a complete listing of all the lessons learned. The book is short enough that a couple of hours went by and I had read it. I was well satisfied. I learned some new useful words, occasionally stumbling through some turn of the 20th century usage, and I compared 21st century thinking to the thinking of the decorated officer who wrote the book.

An unabridged, digitally enlarged printing to include all dreams, maps, and a glossary -

About the Author Major General Sir Ernest Dunlop Swinton (1868 -1951) was a military writer and British Army officer. Swinton is credited with influencing the development and adoption of the tank by the British during the First World War. He is equally renown for popularising the term "no-mans land".