

Monash

There is the claim that there is an Australian angle to blitzkrieg in that an Australian general John Monash* employed aspects of in the last year of the Great War involving the co-ordination of different battle elements e.g. artillery, armour, infantry, air force to mount an assault which emphasised a general military need to find innovative ways to break up the static arrangement of trench warfare of which the Germans would eventually come up with their 'masterclass' in the first years of the 'Second Great War'.

The German Lightning War Strategy of the Second World War. Imperial War Museum. (IWM).

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/the-german-lightning-war-strategy-of-the-second-world-war>

**Thus it has been tempting to envisage the proto-type of blitzkrieg as utilized by the famed innovative Australian general John Monash as to have him as the original innovator of it although it is perhaps more beneficial to see him as one of the better adaptors of this emerging organic battle approach of which the Germans would - from their WWI battle experiences - fully develop (such as the utilization of storm troops to attack perceived weak spots in trench systems and ironically colonial troops such as the Australians would become used as storm troops on the Allied side).*

Blitzkrieg. Wikipedia.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blitzkrieg>

As for John Monash his war reputation as a highly respected Allied officer (Montgomery thought he was the best general on the Allied side) was somewhat cemented on the Western Front in the Battle of Hamel fought against the Germans with raw U.S. recruits fighting alongside battle-hardened Australian soldiers on July 4, 1918. (A date diplomatically deliberately chosen by Monash due to the use of new U.S. troops. However, it seems the top brass of the American army such as General Pershing were not enthused at having any of their troops under Australian command and it seems less US troops were utilized than at first envisaged with units ordered to the rear before the assault but some U.S. troops actually did not support such a command. Thus, the ordinary doughboy was willing to fight alongside the Australians). This Allied shock attack involved impeccable timing and co-ordination between different combat elements such as artillery, communications, ground troops, armour, tanks and aircraft to both advance quickly and minimise casualties. 800 Australians would still die but such was the apocalyptic magnitude of the daily casualty rate in this so called 'Great War' that such a large number of deaths were seen as 'light'. The whole assault apparently lasted only ninety-three minutes and the objectives sought after in and around the town of Hamel were obtained. The Germans were pushed back from their defence lines and writing now in a more speculative tone I do recall reading that the success of this attack had left a distinct impression on the German military leadership which was employed by an Allied officer who was Jewish (yet also had a Prussian background) a historical irony when one thinks that eventually it was in the service of the Nazis that blitzkrieg was fully realized.

General John Monash. Australian War Memorial.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P11013307>

John Monash. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Monash

Battle of Hamel. Wikipedia.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Hamel

Thus as an aside it is disgraceful in the case of Monash that he was not held in high esteem by Charles Bean the Australian official war historian who it seemed held a distinctly Anti-Semitic view of Monash and so with the journalist Keith Murdoch tried to undermine Monash and have him removed by Australia's visiting Prime Minister Billy Hughes. However, Billy Hughes who apparently originally sided with Bean and Murdoch would go on to note the high regard Monash's officers had of their leader and so changed his mind and did not remove him. Bean who for better or worse did so much to mythologize the Anzac fighting tradition etcetera apparently did not think Monash fitted in' to his ideal of the heroic Australian soldier which one may suppose would have been of a WASP disposition perhaps befitting of an audience on a home front which after becoming federated in 1901 would by the end of the year pass the Immigration Restriction Act which actually activated the White Australia policy. Anyhow as this online article shows there is actually a multicultural aspect to the WWI Anzacs:

A Look At The Multicultural Anzacs. April 25. 2013. SBS News. Australia.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/a-look-at-the-multicultural-anzacs/ecl8nnhbg>

As for the Immigration Restriction Act of December, 1901 it had its legislative antecedents such as with the aftermath of the Eureka Stockade as Chinese gold diggers would be excluded from the gains that were achieved by this rebellion. European gold diggers were hostile to the Chinese due to a mixture of racism and jealousy as the Chinese diggers who would often work co-operatively became proficient in discovering gold in places where their European counterparts had previously been unsuccessful. The Lambing Riots near Yass in NSW bear testimony to the hostility that Chinese workers had to deal with yet one also notes the act of kindness of one farmer who gave sanctuary on his land to the victims of these riots so as to escape further harm.