Chemical Warfare during the First World War – the Ypres perspective

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Stalemate Western Front, 1914
Fritz Haber (1868-1934) – German chemist
Ypres, 22nd April 1915 – Gas attack
Second Battle of Ypres (22nd April 1915 – 24th May 1915): frontlines before and after the battle
23rd April 1915: battlefields north of Ypres ...
‘Nothing remained alive. Even the vermin had crawled out of their holes to die. Everywhere there were dead rats, rabbits and mice. The next hundred metres were covered with the bodies of the French who had choked to death. It was horrible. Then we saw British soldiers. From their clawed-open faces and necks we saw that they had desperately tried to get air. Some had shot themselves...’
Protection against poisonous gas: early models

The Hypo Helmet, 1915
Bombardement with gas shells at Le Bizet, September 1918
Gas casualties at an Advanced Dressing Station near Bethune, 10th April 1918
Thanks for your attention

A CONFRONTATION with the First World War