

A cinematic still from a war film showing four soldiers in a trench or battlefield. The soldier in the center is wearing a green uniform and a peaked cap, with a white cloth around his neck and blood smeared on his face. He is looking directly at the camera. To his left, another soldier in a tan uniform and white cloth mask is aiming a submachine gun. To the right, a third soldier in a tan uniform and white cloth mask is also aiming a submachine gun. A fourth soldier, partially visible on the far right, is wearing a green uniform and a peaked cap, and is aiming a submachine gun. The background is a dark, cloudy sky over a battlefield with sandbags and debris.

# DEAD MEN ATTACK

# MEANING

- The Attack of the Dead Men is a legendary feat of Russian soldiers during the First World War in 1915 while defending the Osovetz fortress. It has gone down in history forever as a symbol of courage and fortitude of the Russian spirit.
- The Attack of the Dead Men is a common name for the counterattack of the 13th company of the Zemlyansky Regiment on July 24, 1915, during repelling a German gas attack.





# THE REASON OF THE ATTACK

In fact the Osovets fortress was on extremely important strategic position for the Russian Empire. Impassable marshes were located to the north and south of it, in order to advance in this direction, German troops had to take Osovets at any cost.





# OSOVERTS FORTRESS

- The fortress was founded in 1795 by the forces of the Russian Empire. Today this place is located in Poland, 50 kilometers from the city of Bialystok.
- The first battle took place in September 1914, when part of the German army came closely. It was a very prepared and equipped army with bombs, mines, guns and other weapons. They were outnumbered, but despite this, the Russians repulsed the first attack.



# THE SECOND ATTACK

- On the 3d of February, 1915, the Germans made the next attempt to capture the fortress. It was clear that Osovets, defended by brave soldiers, could not be taken with the help of brute force and artillery guns, the Germans decided to use chemical warfare gases.
- 30 gas-cylinder batteries were deployed under the fortress, which had been carefully camouflaged before. The gas attack began on the 6th of August, 1915 at 4 o'clock in the morning. All living things were struck in the path of destructive chemicals. The leaves on the trees turned yellow, the grass turned black and lied on the ground. According to eyewitnesses, the territory of the defeat of the Osovets fortress was fatal, as a poisonous wave of gas was 8 km wide and up to 15 m high.

76-й ппл

Опорный редут  
12-я р

двор Леонова

Бялогронды

8-я и 14-я р  
Железнодорожный мост



# COUNTERATTACK

- Having control over his own company, Vladimir Kotlinsky led the surviving fighters of the 8th and 12th companies. It was a terrible sight. Wrapped in dirty rags, with terrible burns on their faces, spitting blood and making inhuman wheezes, Russian soldiers moved towards the enemy.
- The Germans, being confident of complete victory and not expecting to meet an enemy destroyed by poisonous fumes on their way, seeing a real "Attack of the Dead", came to real horror and fear. They immediately began to retreat. Many Germans died in the wire nets because in a panic they crushed and trampled each other.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTANTION