



A Century Later: Remembering World War I



Remembering
WWI
The Great War

No. 4



Remembering
WWI
The Great War

No. 5



Remembering
WWI
The Great War

No. 6



Remembering
WWI
Intelligence

No. 2



Remembering
WWI
Intelligence

No. 3



Remembering
WWI
Technology

No. 1



The Great War

No. 5

Battle of the Marne

Visualizing the battlefield, a German Officer sits and ponders his options in this photograph taken during the Battle of the Marne. The "working" map of northeast France is projected onto a screen in a darkened room – a relatively new technology. The map shows the five main thrusts of the German assault on Paris, which the Germans hoped would result in an early war victory. The actual result was a catastrophic German defeat condemning Germany to a two-front war.

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The Great War

No. 4

Helgoland Clash

In the first naval engagement of World War I, the Royal Navy sought to penetrate the defenses established by the German Imperial Navy at the Helgoland Bight in Schleswig-Holstein. Thirty-one destroyers and two cruisers commanded by Commodore Reginald Tyrwhitt joined Commodore Roger Keyes' submarines to attack the Germans. Assisted by Grand Fleet elements, including HMS *New Zealand* pictured here, commanded by Rear Admiral Goodenough and Vice Admiral Beatty, the British inflicted heavy losses on the German forces of Rear Admirals Hipper and Maas.

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Intelligence

No. 2

Berthiot Color Lens

Major John Reynolds, Commander of the 91st Aero Squadron (the pilot) looks on as a French 1824 camera, fitted with a Berthiot color lens, is off loaded at Gondreville-sur-Moselle Aerodrome, France. The airplane is a French Salmson 2A2. The 91st Aero Squadron performed observation, surveillance and reconnaissance missions with remarkable results.

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The Great War

No. 6

The Race to the Sea

In the West, the mobility required for decisive campaigns ended in November when combat turned into static warfare as modern weaponry retarded movement and ended traditional cavalry missions. Neither side could turn the other's flank, resulting in a race to the North Sea. With success at Ypres, the Allies ended the race "Race to the Sea" and retained the Channel Ports. Three British cavalry divisions dismantled and fought in this battle as infantry.

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Technology

No. 1

Beginning of Submarine Warfare

World War I gave birth to undersea warfare. The German Navy first used submarines successfully against an enemy vessel when U-21 sank HMS *Pathfinder* off Scotland's St. Abb's Head on September 5, 1914. The U-boat became one of Germany's premier naval weapons during World War I. In the photograph you can see U-20 (front row second from left), which sank the RMS *Lusitania* on May 7, 1915 and the U-21 (front row, right).

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Intelligence

No. 3

Pigeons at War

Communications were problematic in trench warfare and pigeons became a proven commodity: fast, reliable, difficult-to-down, and virtually undetectable. Success rates per sortie were astonishing. In 1903, a pharmacist, devised a pigeon delivery system for medicine, and subsequently fashioned a miniature camera he could harness to a bird. Camera-fitted pigeons flew at low altitudes, and the mechanism of an interval meter, a camera, and a timer produced usable imagery. Depicted are two German pigeons with their cameras.

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