



A Century Later: Remembering World War I

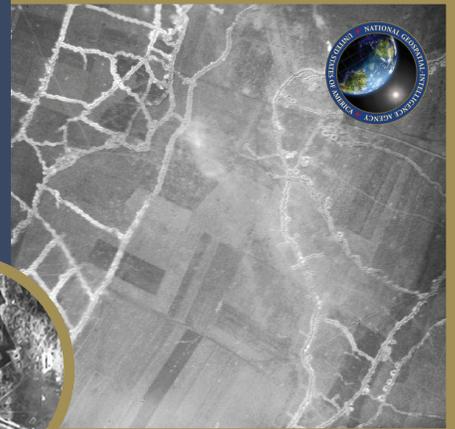


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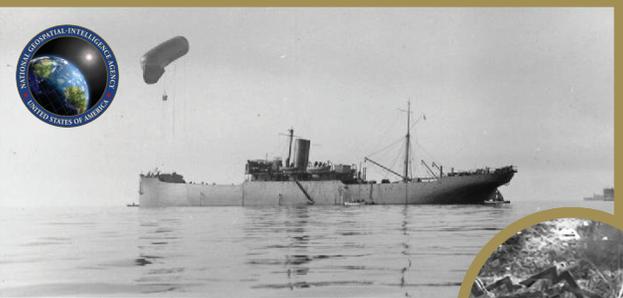
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Hohenzollern Redoubt

The Hohenzollern Redoubt, a German built temporary fortification near Auchy-les-Mines, France, is located in this aerial photograph high center left, with the German trenches north and the British trenches south. During the Battle of Loos, Sept. 25 – Oct. 15, 1915, British forces captured the Redoubt, lost it, and then tried but failed to recapture it. The area in the photograph witnessed indescribable carnage that was later determined to be "nothing but useless slaughter."

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Italian Alpine Troops – Isonzo

The Alpini are an elite mountain military corps of the Italian Army. During World War I, the 26 peacetime Alpini battalions were increased by 62 battalions and saw heavy combat throughout the Alpine region of the Italian-Austrian front. The regiments were never sent into battle as whole, instead single companies and battalions were given specific passes, summits or ridges to guard and defend on their own. This picture depicts one such unit climbing into position.

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Balloons at Sea

The HMS Canning, a kite balloon ship, is anchored off Salonika, Greece, in November 1915. Accommodating the balloon required fitting the ship with a large sloping deck, a hydrogen gas compressor, and a winch to tether the "kite" balloon. The ship also had wireless telegraphy and quarters for the balloon crew. From 3,000 feet, the crew could observe enemy troops, direct artillery fire, and keep a lookout for submarines.

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Self Defense Aloft

Despite the observer's importance, he received minimal protection from his aircraft. The observer's cockpit had three guns: one fixed forward-firing for the pilot to aim, one moveable forward-firing, and one on a moveable rear-firing pole mounted over the upper wing. The observer had to stand on his seat in order to use the rear-firing gun. This photograph demonstrates the observer's firing positions in the Royal Aircraft Factory F.E.2d aircraft.

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Technology

No. 7



Skoda 302mm Howitzer

Skoda's M.11 howitzer entered Austro-Hungarian service in 1911. The 26-ton Skoda 30.5cm/12in heavy siege howitzer was designed to obliterate reinforced concrete to six feet with an 847lb. armor piercing round. First used in 1914 to reduce three Belgian forts, the M.11s served until 1918 against Serbia, Italy and Russia. Pictured here is an M.11 crew preparing the weapon for action in the Carpathian Mountains.

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Intelligence

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View from a French Dirigible

The airborne dirigible served as an excellent venue for observing activities of both allied and enemy forces whether on land or at sea. Once out of firing range, it provided the crew with a relatively safe, if harsh accommodation, barring an actual air attack. Advances in non-dirigible aviation in terms of aircraft speed, reliability, lifting power, flexibility and maintenance, consigned the dirigible to minor support roles after WWI ended.

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