



A Century Later: Remembering World War I



Remembering
WWI

The Great War

No. 23



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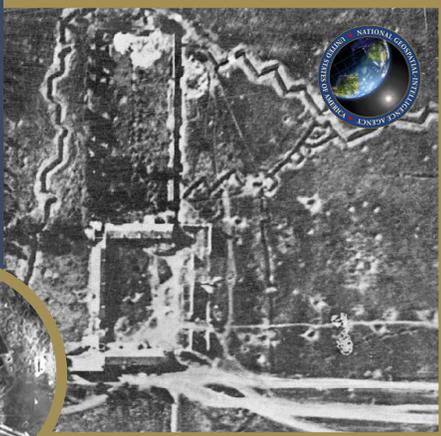
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British Mark I at the Somme

The British Mark I was the world's first combat tank. It could cross trenches, resist small-arms fire, travel over difficult terrain, and carry supplies. The unusual rhomboidal shape gave it a long track run. The main armament was arranged on the side of the vehicle. The tank was fitted with a wire "grenade shield" and steering tail, features that were discarded in the next model. The Mark I was first used during the Battle of Flers-Courcelette on September 15, 1916.

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The Great War

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Battle of the Somme

A British observation balloon looms over the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Here, the forces of the British Empire and France battled Germany and Austria-Hungary from July 1 to November 15, 1916. Aerial observation provided planners with information on enemy positions, equipment, and movements. Balloon observers also directed artillery fire, watched for enemy aircraft, and provided after-action reports and photographs on damage and casualties.

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British Gas Attack

The battle of the Somme fought between July 1 and November 18, 1916 was one of the wars' largest and bloodiest battles. The French and British artillery provided a week long bombardment of the German Lines, intended to crush German defenses. A British gas attack is shown in progress between Carnoy & Mountauban, shortly before the Somme offensive, June 26 to July 1, 1916. Montauban, behind German lines, is at the top left and Carnoy, behind British lines, is at the bottom right.

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Lt. Raoul Lufbery, Lafayette Esc

Born to a French mother and an American father, Raoul Lufbery served in the US Army as a teenager. In 1914, he joined the Aéronautique Militaire and trained as a fighter pilot in the French Nieuport aircraft. In 1916, he helped create the Lafayette Escadrille and emerged as a fighter ace. Commissioned in the US Army Air Service in 1917, he already had sixteen confirmed victories. Commanding the 94th Aero Squadron, he trained such pilots as the American ace Eddie Rickenbacker. He died in action on May 19, 1918.

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Technology

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Bombing from an Airship

Aerial bombardment of the enemy became an obvious use for airplanes and lighter-than-air craft as the war opened. However, the best method of delivering the weapons did not seem nearly as obvious. Shown here an officer on board a British ZZ Class airship employed the most basic method, visual sighting and literally throwing the bomb from the rear cockpit of the gondola.

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Moo Cow Farm

Combat at Mouquet Farm began in August 1915 as part of the Somme offensive. The farm was near the German strong point of Thiepval. Three Australian divisions advanced toward the farm, but their approach was under observation from German artillery. After suffering heavy casualties, they were relieved by a Canadian corps. Eventually, the farm was captured on 26 September following a general attack on Thiepval Ridge. The German zig-zag trenches are evident in this photo as well as the shelled farmhouse walls.

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