# A Century Later:
# Remembering World War I

*Remembering*
**WWI**
The Great War
No. 33

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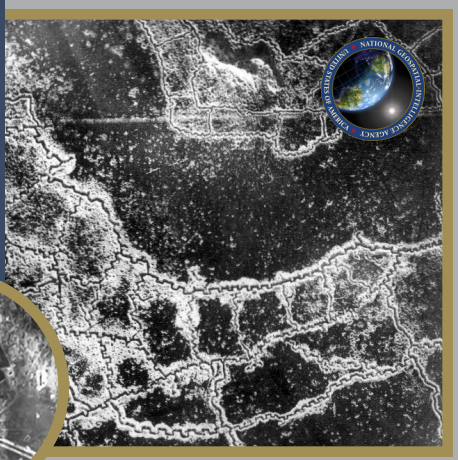

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## Battlefield Photography

Early battlefield photography was a grueling process due to the heavy weight of the equipment and the difficult shooting conditions. Shown are two photographers sitting on the parapet of a British Mark V tank, holding their tripod and field camera. The parapet contained the armaments that made the tank so deadly in battle. The early tank armaments, side mounted rather than on top, lowered the profile and improved stability and balance of tanks when traversing trenches or other rugged terrain.

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## Allenby in Palestine

In June 1917, General Edmund Allenby, fresh from his command of the British 3rd Army at Arras and Vimy Ridge, led the British forces in Egypt. In October his attack on German and Ottoman forces in Palestine at Gaza opened with an artillery barrage from more guns per yard of front than the Allies had used since the Battle of the Somme. Aerial imagery and photo interpretation successfully directed this artillery action. Shown is an aerial photograph of Mount Olivet near Jerusalem a typical example of aerial intelligence during the war.

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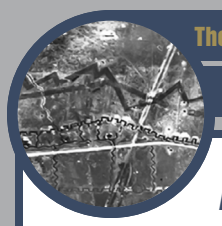

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## American Troops in London

The United States entry into the war was welcomed by the Allies as America's military power and industrial might were desperately needed after the losses at the Somme and Verdun. Shown are American troops, led by a marching band and cheered by onlookers, crossing the Westminster Bridge over the River Thames in 1917, on their way to the Western Front. Visible in the background is the famous Palace of Westminster, home of Great Britain's Parliament.

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## Aerial Clarity

The clarity of century-old aerial photography is often astonishing. Shown is a reconnaissance photograph from July 22, 1917, which shows the opposing trenches between Loos and Hulluch in Artois, France. Clearly visible are the trench systems - German trenches are located on the right, and British trenches are at the upper left. Also visible is the vast area between trench lines, commonly referred to as "No Man's Land". Take note of the vertical line to the left of center, which is a pre-war road.

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## The Hindenberg Line

After a crushing defeat at Verdun, France in 1916, the Germans began erecting protected battle positions, roughly a mile behind a system of trenches, barbed wire, obstacles, and hidden command posts. The Germans began construction in September 1916 on the Hindenberg Line, a defense system that ran from the Belgian coast to Chemin des Dames, north of Paris. The Hindenburg Line was broken before the massive Allied offensive of September 1918. Shown is a portion of the Hindenberg Line near Bellicourt, France in October 1917.

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## The Bolshevik Revolution

Hoping to promote unrest, the Germans transported the Bolshevik leader, V.I. Lenin, from exile in Switzerland to St. Petersburg, Russia in April 1917. In July a provisional government under Aleksandr Kerensky replaced the Russian Tsar, but Lenin and the commander of Bolshevik forces, Leon Trotsky, seized power in November 1917. As the western Allies watched, Lenin pulled their Russian ally out of the war, significantly changing the strategic picture. Shown are Bolshevik forces storming the Tsar's Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

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