A Century Later:
Remembering World War I

Remembering
WWI
The Great War
No. 29

Remembering
WWI
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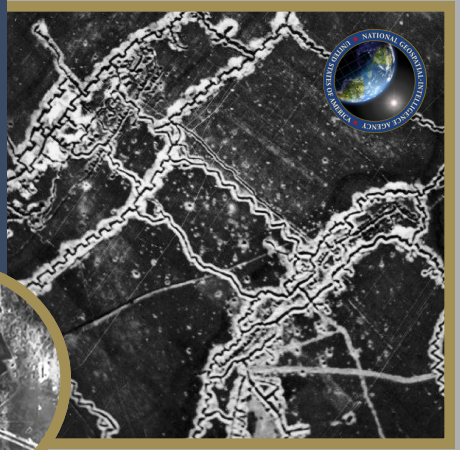
No. 30



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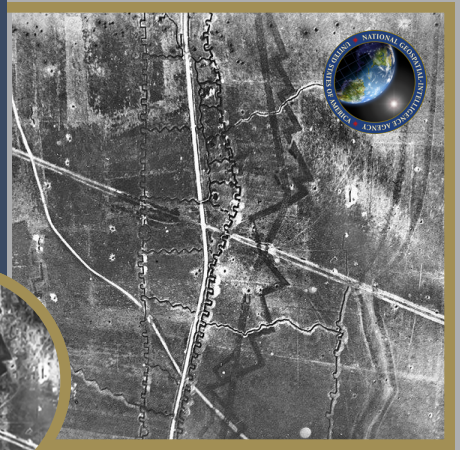

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The Great War

No. 30

Map Mosaic in Palestine

Resourcefulness in the field is evident as British soldiers in Palestine set up an outdoor studio to create a photograph of a mosaicked map. A crate is used for a camera platform and the map is affixed in pieces to a board propped up against a temporary field shed. Atop the shed, a soldier welds a sun screen to evenly shade the map for proper exposure and to keep the sun from entering the camera lens. Another soldier holds a piece in place.

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Artillery in East Africa

Breech loading 5.4-inch (field) howitzer was a British Army artillery piece, based upon a 5-inch howitzer and modified for Britain's Indian Army's duties in Northwest Frontier. With a range of 4,800 yards and in shrapnel mode, the cast steel 60-lb. shell housed 350 metal balls. Shown, is the 5.4-inch howitzer with gunners. These weapons saw combat in East Africa, 1916–1917. Manned by British Territorial Force crews, 5.4-inch howitzers contributed to the destruction of the last powerful rapid-fire 4.1-inch gun from the scuttled German cruiser, SMS *Konigsberg*.

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Becoming Royal Artillery

Artillery dominated trench warfare. Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) controlled siege artillery, and its inventory included 8-inch howitzers. Marks I to V were effective, but improvised naval ordnance. To remedy this, RGA directed Vickers to produce a purpose-built, 8-inch howitzer. In 1916, Mark VI arrived; VII and VIII followed. Shown, breech-loading BL 8-inch howitzer — probably Mark V. With short barrel and two recoil tubes, the breech is a Welin stepped interrupted screw. It fired one high explosive round to five miles. With steep trajectory (plunging fire), the focus was counter-battery.

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Schwaben Redoubt Trenches

The Schwaben Redoubt was a German strongpoint built near the village of Thiepval, overlooking the River Ancre. It formed part of the German defensive system in the Somme sector. Consisting of a mass of machine-gun emplacements, trenches, and dug-outs, this warren of earthworks and its garrison resisted several British assaults before being captured in October 1916. The two German forward lines are at lower left, connected by four communication trenches running SW-NE to the Schwaben Redoubt at upper right.

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Technology

No. 10

German Anti-Tank (AT) Rifle

The 13.2mm AT rifle was the conflict's lone anti-tank rifle. Somme, 1916, marked the inaugural for tanks. Tank performance was wanting, but Germany initiated work on an AT rifle. In 1917, Britain's Mark IV tank debuted at Messines. It represented major improvements, providing additional impetus for AT rifle development. Operational by 1918, two crewmen fired high-velocity, large-caliber anti-tank rounds, penetrating 20mm armor at 100m. Shown two New Zealanders hold the 66in T-Gewehr; single-shot, bolt-action weapon weighing 41 lbs., July 1918.

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Trenches at Vimy Ridge

Canadian artillery research on sound ranging and flash spotting emerged during the conflict as a valuable counter-battery tool. Aerial imagery effectively supplemented artillery sound ranging against German artillery at Vimy Ridge. The Canadian Counter Battery Office at Vimy identified half of all German guns destroyed. Preparation was meticulous, and included massive sand tables depicting hard points. The present image offers a vertical view of Vimy Ridge. The crenelated line is the German trench; heavily-shaded zig-zag line is barb wire and artillery impact areas.

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