



A Century Later: Remembering World War I

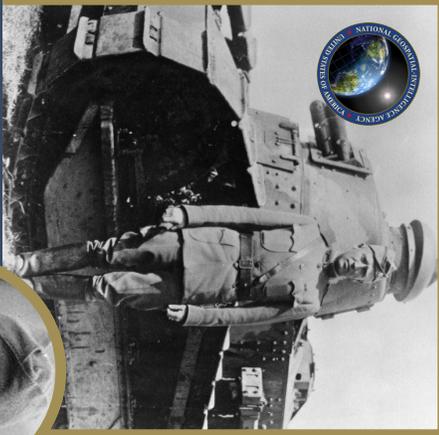


Remembering
WWI
The Great War No. 50



Remembering
WWI
The Great War No. 51

Remembering
WWI
Warrior No. 8



Remembering
WWI
The Great War No. 52

Remembering
WWI
Warrior No. 9



Remembering
WWI
Technology No. 12



The Great War

No. 51

Model of German Lines

Aerial photographs of battlefields were used for intelligence gathering, preparation, and updating maps. The Allies creatively used aerial photography to make three-dimensional models of trenches. Shown is a model constructed northwest of Lens, France, in September 1918. By replicating the natural terrain and adding the manmade features in approximate scale, the Allies created a simple yet effective model. In the center of the model a sign reads "No Man's Land." Barely visible in the background, fence stakes are used to deter casual walkers.

www.nga.mil



The Great War

No. 50

100 Days

A four-day battle during the great Allied "100 Day Offensive" of 1918 successfully reduced the size of the German-held Saint-Mihiel Salient, a land area measuring fifteen by thirty-five miles. The deflated bulge provided US Army General John Pershing a gateway to the fortress city Metz, and beyond to Germany. In this independent American Expeditionary Force operation, US Army Colonel William "Billy" Mitchell planned the greatest amassing of air power to date in support of the Saint-Mihiel offensive.

www.nga.mil



The Great War

No. 52

Critical Staff Work

The work of military staffs was vital in providing senior leadership with information and intelligence, and in serving as a link between those who gathered information and those on the front lines who would use it against the enemy. Shown are staff members from the US Army III Corps Observation Group Staff studying maps, charts, and reports in this photograph taken at Souilly Aerodrome, France, in October 1918 during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Note the "OBSERVERS BULLETIN BOARD" on the left for the posting of aerial reports and photographs.

www.nga.mil



Warrior

No. 8

Major George S. Patton

General J.J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), selected ex-aide, George Patton, to direct the new Tank Corps. Initially, the AEF lacked armor until acquiring French Renault FT light tanks. Patton commanded 345 tanks at the beginning of the Meuse-Argonne offensive in 1918. On the Western Front, maintenance, insufficient fuel, and faulty fan belts doomed most tanks. By the Armistice, only about fifty tanks remained operational.

www.nga.mil



Technology

No. 12

Camouflage

Aerial photography introduced a new dynamic to combat—armies now had to disguise their movements, weapons, supplies, and the like to avoid detection from above. Camouflage became a critical weapon in defeating aerial imaging. The mission to design camouflage for the US Army was given to Company "A" of the 40th Regiment of Engineers. General Charles Summerall, commander of the Field Artillery Brigade of the 1st Division, was recorded during the war saying, "Camouflage is next in importance to ammunition to artillery." Shown are US Army trucks with camouflage netting.

www.nga.mil



Warrior

No. 9

Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bishop

William Avery Bishop was Canada's top flying ace with seventy-two "kills." Initially serving as an aerial observer, Bishop spotted artillery and conducted photo reconnaissance. From 1917 to 1918, he flew combat missions. Late in the war, Bishop worked for an independent Canadian air arm. He was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's ultimate combat heroism award for a solo aerodrome strike—one without corroborating witnesses. Bishop is one of over 20,000 Canadians who flew for Britain during WWI.

www.nga.mil