A Century Later:
Remembering World War I

Remembering
WWI
The Great War
No. 57

Remembering
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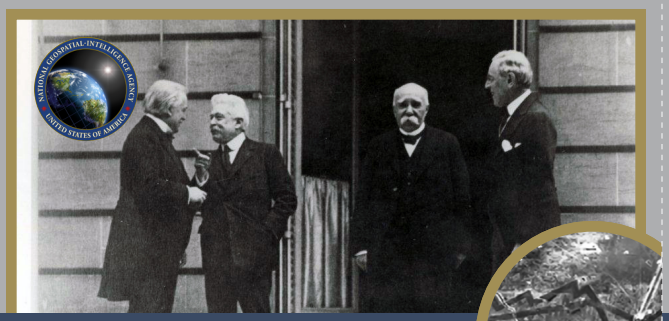

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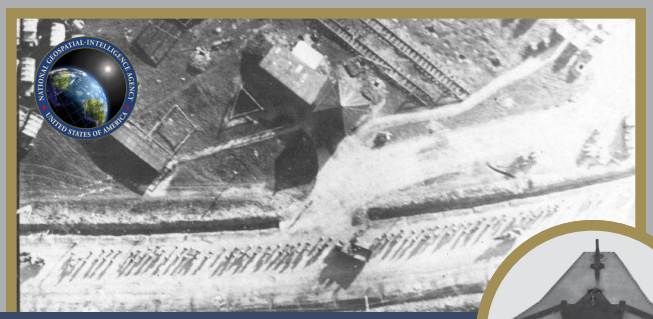

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Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I, although not all nations, including the United States, signed it. Several other treaties were required to bring the war to full closure. On June 28, 1919, in the ornate setting of the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France signs the treaty. While the treaty officially ended the war and brought a much needed peace to Europe, the treaty is thought by some to contain the seeds that sprouted World War II.

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Liquid Fire

The flame thrower consisted of a pressurized tank which had one compartment for nitrogen gas and another for petrol. A rubber hose with a metal nozzle allowed the contents to be directed at the enemy in near or far bursts (twenty-five to one-hundred meters). Flame throwers were very effective tools of war against pillboxes, dugouts, and trenches. Shown is an aerial photo of a section of smoldering battlefield, clearly displaying the effectiveness of French flame throwers in holding back the enemy (circa 1918).

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The Big Four

The Paris Peace Conference (January 18, 1919 – January 21, 1920) brought together the WWI adversaries after more than four years of war. Although attended by more than one-hundred nations, the major decisions were made by the "Big Four"—the United States, Britain, France, and Italy. The most notable outcomes were the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations. Shown here are leaders of the Big Four, (L to R), David Lloyd George, Britain; Vittorio Orlando, Italy; Georges Clemenceau, France; and Woodrow Wilson, United States.

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The Great War

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President Woodrow Wilson

President Wilson initially opposed involvement in WWI. However, once the war became apparent, he championed America's role in "making the world safe for democracy." Wilson came to the presidency primarily with an academic background and was very much a visionary. He offered his Fourteen Points at the Paris Peace Conference, hoping to achieve a more lasting peace. However, America was weary of war and foreign entanglements and rejected the tenets of his Fourteen Points embodied in both the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations.

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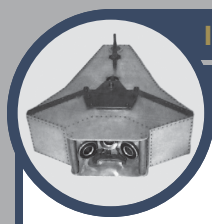

Intelligence

No. 11

III Corps Observation Group

After WWI ended, the arduous task of bringing the troops home could finally begin. Shown is an aerial photo taken by the 90th Aero Squadron over Dun-sur-Meuse, Lorraine, France, capturing a column of victorious American III Corps Infantry beginning their long march home in late 1918.

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