

The **Battle of Hamel** (4 July 1918) was a successful attack by [Australian Army](#) and [US Army](#) infantry, supported by [British tanks](#), against [German](#) positions in and around the town of [Le Hamel](#), in northern [France](#), during [World War I](#). The attack was planned and commanded by [Lieutenant General John Monash](#), commander of the [Australian Corps](#) and [Australian Imperial Force](#).

Many of the tactics employed, such as the use of [combined arms](#), illustrated the evolution of military tactics, from the [massed attacks](#) mounted earlier in the war. All of the Allies' objectives were achieved within 93 minutes, just three minutes longer than Monash's calculated battle time.

To give the newly arrived [American Expeditionary Force](#) (AEF) combat experience, the five Australian infantry [brigades](#) involved were augmented by 10 [companies](#) from US Army battalions. However, six of these US infantry companies were withdrawn from the front line before seeing action. Hamel was the first time during World War I that elements of the AEF were commanded operationally by non-American officers.

While small in scale, the Battle of Hamel was to have far-reaching consequences for [trench warfare](#), because, like the [Battle of Cambrai](#) in 1917, it provided a practical demonstration of tactics for attacking an entrenched enemy using combined arms tactics.¹

¹The strategy employed at Hamel was then successful on a much larger scale in the [Battle of Amiens](#) and was a major factor in Allied successes later in the war.

The result received strong praise from French Premier [Georges Clemenceau](#), who later toured the battlefield and addressed the troops that had taken part:

Field Marshal [Bernard Montgomery](#), the World War II British army commander, later described Monash as the best World War I general on the Western Front in Europe.^[71]

Allied losses amounted to around 1,400 Allied killed or wounded:

There were 1,062 Australian casualties (including 800 dead) and 176 American casualties (including between 13 and 26 killed)-during the main attack and a further 142 casualties amongst the 15th Brigade during their diversionary assault around Ville.

The four American companies that had joined the Australians during the assault were withdrawn from the line after the battle and returned to their regiments, having gained valuable experience.

Monash sent Bell his personal thanks, praising the Americans' gallantry.

They would subsequently play a significant role in the fighting that followed right up until the end of the war, as US reinforcements came to tip the manpower balance in favour of the Allies.

