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THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD WAR I

1914
to
1918

May/June 2017

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Discover American History

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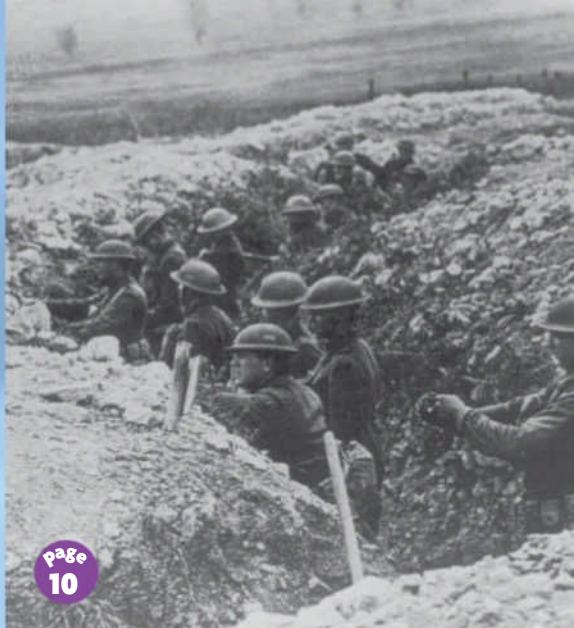


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San Francisco Chronicle
 LEADING NEWSPAPER of the PACIFIC COAST
 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918
 VOL. CXIII, NO. 118

GREAT WAR OVER

EX-EMPEROR FLEES WITH HINDENBURG TO HOLLAND
 Wilhelm Hohenzollern Seeks Asylum After Abdication at Meibach Castle, Across the Dutch Border

Berlin Seized by Red Forces in Big Popular Uprising
 People's Government Instituted, General Strike Declared and Garrison Taken Over as Workmen and Soldiers Fraternize; Dreadnaught Crews at Kiel Join Revolt and Marines Fight Down Resistance From Artillery

DEATH METED OFFICERS WHO RESIST REBELS
 Red Forces Occupy Greater Portion of the German Capital

Foe Signs Truce; Fighting Ceases On French Front
 "MARSEILLAISE" IS SUNG
 Violent Bombardment Shakes City as People Throw Off Hohenzollern Yoke

CITY SHOUTS ITS JOY IN WELCOME TO PEACE NEWS
 Bells, Bonfires, Horns and Whistles Acclaim Victory of Heroic Troops of Free Nations

WASHINGTON, November 11.—The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock, Washington time, 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight. This announcement was made by the State Department at 2:50 o'clock this morning.

ABOUT THE COVER

Once the United States made the decision in 1917 to fight in World War I, posters such as this one, by artist James Montgomery Flagg, appealed to Americans' patriotism to support the cause.

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The Great War

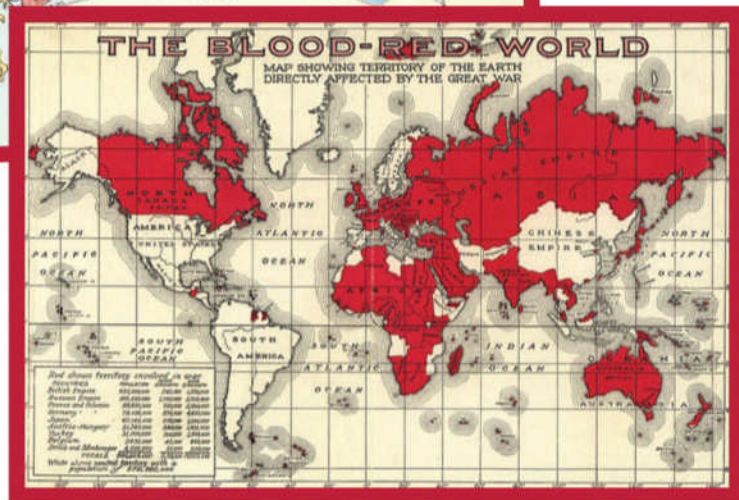
An Overview

by Kathiann M. Kowalski

World War I—or the “Great War,” as it was called—was truly a world war. An estimated 65 million soldiers representing more than 30 countries from six continents took part. Over the course of four years, from 1914 to 1918, battles were fought in Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as on the high seas. Here’s an overview of what happened.



ABOVE: A map of Europe in 1914 represents the region’s countries as characters, such as showing Great Britain as ships, Germany as a bull charging at France, and Russia as Tsar Nicholas II poking Germany. RIGHT: The red areas on the map show at a glance how the Great War impacted the world in 1914.



SIMMERING TENSIONS

In the early 1900s, Europe seemed to be sitting on a powder keg. Tensions from decades-old conflicts simmered just below the surface. Top among them was French resentment from being forced to give up territory and pay large sums in compensation to Germany after losing the Franco–Prussian War in 1871. Feelings of *nationalism* ran high and were particularly strong against Austria–Hungary, which had attempted to seize control of land in the unstable Balkans in southeastern Europe. *Imperialism* also created friction. The Russian Empire eyed southeastern Europe, to which it had cultural ties and where the once-powerful Ottoman Empire was in decline. The empires of Great Britain and Germany, meanwhile, each wanted their interests to dominate Europe. Distrusting one another, countries formed webs of *alliances* that promised support or protection if one of them was attacked. Anything might upset the delicate balance that existed.

WAR BREAKS OUT

On June 28, 1914, a 19-year-old Serbian nationalist, Gavrilo Princip, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, while they were visiting Sarajevo. The archduke was the heir to the Austro–Hungarian throne, and Austria–Hungary demanded immediate action and severe punishment of the people responsible for his murder. When Serbia’s government failed to respond satisfactorily, Austria–Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28.

That set off a chain reaction, as country after country quickly fell in line to support its allies. Russia began to mobilize troops to prepare to defend its ally, Serbia. That decision made Austria–Hungary’s ally, Germany, declare war on Russia. And since Russia and France had an alliance, Germany also declared war on France, as France began calling up troops.

Years earlier, Germany’s Alfred von Schlieffen had thought about how to handle a conflict that pitted Germany against both France and Russia. He believed that Germany had to first strike quickly and forcefully against France to its west. Once Germany defeated France, it could focus on fighting Russia on its eastern border.

Germany put Schlieffen’s plan into action in early August, marching its army through Belgium to reach France. Belgium was a small, neutral country, but it had a powerful ally, Great Britain. Germany’s aggression pushed Great Britain to join France and Russia.

Nationalism is devotion to the interests or culture of a specific nation.

Imperialism is the policy of extending a nation’s authority by acquiring and controlling territory or other nations.

Alliances are pacts under which parties agree to stand by one another other if certain things happen.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, with their children. The assassination of the archduke and the duchess sparked fighting in World War I.





Germany quickly mobilized its troops for a rapid strike at France in August 1914.

By the end of August 1914, German troops made it all the way into northern France. At the Battle of the Marne in September, however, French and British troops stopped the Germans. They began to push back. Each side tried to *outflank* the enemy, searching for the end of the line to launch a major attack.

DIGGING IN AND ADVANCED WARFARE

By December 1914, action in France stalled. Each side dug in—literally.

Soldiers carved long zigzagging trenches into the ground. Active fighting took place in “no man’s land” between those lines. For the next three years, most of the line along what became known as the Western Front didn’t change by more than about 10 miles. Although many battles took place, neither side gained much territory. Soldiers lived in the trenches, behind cover of sandbags and barbed wire.

In an effort to break the stalemate, both sides tested new weapons technology in the war. They made use of machine guns and recognized the advantages of long-range *artillery*. Aircraft played a major role. Airplanes ran scouting missions, dropped bombs, and engaged in aerial “dogfights” with enemy planes. The first tanks appeared on the battlefield, too. And on the seas, underwater mines and submarine attacks were used to cut off shipping supply routes.

Chemical weapons become part of the war’s arsenal. In 1915, in the first instance of a poisonous gas

Taking Sides

In 1907, an agreement called the Triple Entente was put in place. It promised mutual aid among Great Britain, France, and Russia. Those three nations, joined by Japan, which had a 1902 alliance with Great Britain, became the major Allied Powers during World War I. The United States joined as an associate power in 1917. The Triple Alliance was a secret agreement made in 1882 between Germany, Austria–Hungary, and Italy. After Germany and Austria–Hungary declared war in 1914, the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined those nations to form the Central Powers. Italy, meanwhile, claimed that the Triple Alliance was a defensive treaty. Since Austria–Hungary had done the attacking, Italy remained neutral until 1915, when it joined the Allied Powers.

being used in a major battle, the Germans used chlorine gas against the French at the Second Battle of Ypres. After that, countries also used mustard gas, phosgene, and other poisonous chemicals. The gases terrorized, sickened, blinded, and killed soldiers. Carried by the wind, some of the gases also impacted nearby civilians.

Leaders hoped that the new technology would help end the conflict. Instead, the weapons prolonged battles and caused more killing. In February 1916, for example, the Germans used heavy artillery to launch an attack against the *fortified* French city of Verdun in northeastern France. But French machine-gun fire killed the Germans as they attempted to move in afterward. The battle continued until December, and about 250,000 men died. “What a bloodbath, what horrid images, what a slaughter!” wrote French soldier Albert Joubaire. “Hell cannot be this dreadful.”

With the war stalled in the west, Germany shifted attention to the east. Fighting had started there in August 1914, too, between the Russian army and Germany and Austro–Hungarian troops. The Germans made better headway on the Eastern Front, which eventually stretched to more than 1,000 miles. Russian troops were poorly equipped, and they suffered huge losses. Shortages of food and other basic necessities created hardships for Russians at home. Eventually, the war’s toll fed discontent. By 1917, revolution spread through Russia, creating internal turmoil.

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Western Front** referred to fighting that took place in northwestern Europe. When the fighting stalled there, the front became an informal “line” of fortified trenches mostly through Belgium and France. The Western Front generally involved troops from France and Great Britain battling against Germany. The **Eastern Front**, in eastern Europe, extended from the Baltic Sea south to the Black Sea. Russia and Romania fought against the Central Powers on the Eastern Front.

Outflank means to move around or into a position that blocks an enemy force from aid, escape, or another goal.

Artillery refers to large-caliber guns, such as cannon.

Fortified means strengthened or protected by walls or other defensive installations.



A French soldier (right) reaches across the English Channel to a British citizen in this poster to encourage British enlistment in the military.



THE WAR SPREADS

Fighting wasn't limited to Europe. Most of the major European *belligerents* had colonies in Africa, Asia, and Australia. Those colonies sent troops to aid their respective sides. Fighting also broke out in some of those areas.

Starting in 1914, for example, British and Indian troops invaded Mesopotamia. That oil-rich area is part of present-day Iraq, but at the time of the war it was controlled by the Ottoman Empire.

Soldiers in the trenches on the Western Front endured relentless bombing.

Fighting continued there for years. Fighting also spread to other parts of the Middle East and North Africa. In 1915, the Ottoman Empire attacked the Suez Canal in British-occupied Egypt. Soon afterward, Libya's Senussi tribe attacked from the west. Aligned with the Ottoman Empire, the Senussi fighters launched raids against Britain and Italy, after Italy joined the Allied nations in late April 1915.

With fighting stalled on the Western Front, the Allies tried attacking by sea through the Dardanelles in northwestern Turkey in 1915. The Ottoman Empire had closed the *strait* to Allied shipping in October 1914. The British hoped to go through the Gallipoli peninsula to attack Bulgaria. Control of that area also would let them help Russia. With Germany's aid, however, the Ottoman Empire resisted the attack. Forces from Britain, Australia, and New Zealand withdrew from the Dardanelles in early 1916.

In eastern Asia and the Pacific, Allied forces eventually seized the German port of Tsingtao in China. Allied forces likewise attacked German Samoa and German New Guinea. Sea battles also took place in the Indian Ocean and off the coasts of Chile and the Falkland Islands near South America.

ENTER THE UNITED STATES

The United States stuck to an *isolationist* policy for as long as it could. Americans, for the most part, viewed the conflict as Europe's problem, and President Woodrow Wilson had won re-election in 1916 with a promise to keep the country out of war. The situation changed in 1917, partly because of German military tactics to sink ships—including neutral U.S. ships—

Belligerents are people or entities involved in warfare or hostilities.

A **strait** is a narrow channel of water.

Isolationist refers to a policy that limits or restricts political or economic relations with other nations.

that traveled into its declared war zone. When Americans learned that Germany had also tried to coax Mexico into joining the war by fighting the United States, public opinion shifted in favor of war. On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany.

It took months for the United States to gather, train, and transport troops to Europe. By late 1917, the Russian Revolution overthrew the ruling Romanov family in that country, and the revolutionary Bolsheviks seized the government. Hoping to end Russia's involvement in the war and focus on internal problems, they negotiated the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with Germany in March 1918. It allowed Germany to pull forces from the Eastern Front and move them to the Western Front. The Germans decided to launch a massive spring offensive to try to end the war before the United States could become fully engaged.

By late spring 1918, however, hundreds of thousands of Americans arrived in Europe. The bulk of the U.S. troops fought in their first major battle of the war, at Cantigny in France, in May 1918. With the help of fresh U.S. troops, the Allies turned the tide against Germany on the Western Front. By that fall, all the Central Powers sought an end to the conflict.

Fighting finally stopped on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. After agreeing to an armistice, or cease-fire, the parties set about negotiating the terms of peace. The resulting Treaty of Versailles redrew the map of the world. It also imposed harsh penalties upon Germany and the other losing countries.

World War I was so devastating and awful, people referred to it as the “war to end all wars.” It wasn’t. A second world war began just 20 years later in 1939. 🌀

Kathiann M. Kowalski writes often for *COBBLESTONE*. Her grandfather, a Polish immigrant, fought in the U.S. Army in World War I.

Trench warfare turned World War I into a grueling conflict.



Fighting in the Great War reached Asia, where Japan seized the German-controlled port of Tsingtao.



MAPPING
HT!

illustrated by
 Sophie Kittredge

The Great War





- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Allied Powers |  | German Submarine War Zone |  | Allied Powers Offensive |
|  | Central Powers |  | British Naval Blockade |  | Central Powers Offensive |
|  | Neutral Nations |  | | | Major Battles |

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Four Weary Years

by Kathiann M. Kowalski



World War I became a war of *attrition*. A few of its many battles ended quickly, but some dragged on for months.

Sometimes the generals misjudged their enemy and were overconfident. Traditional military methods of ordering soldiers into open battles became outdated and were no match for the new “modern” warfare and weaponry that World War I introduced. Most battles resulted in high costs in human lives and misery. Here’s a look at some of the major action in the war.

Battle of the Marne, September 1914

Alfred von Schlieffen’s battle plan for Germany was to strike quickly and win a speedy victory against the French to the west. German troops swept quickly through Belgium, hoping to reach France before that nation had a chance to prepare. The Belgians fought back, however, delaying Germany’s progress. By early September 1914, the Germans were close to Paris, France’s capital. But the month of traveling and fighting had tired them. Meanwhile, British air flights had gathered important information about German troop movements. The information helped Britain and France rally. They pushed the Germans back from the area near the Marne River. Over the following months, each side tried to outflank its enemy by heading north. By December, the Allies had reclaimed much but not all of the lost French territory.

In the Trenches on the Western Front, 1914–1918

From late 1914 until early 1918, the battle lines in the west changed only a few miles one way or the other. The Western Front’s “line” stretched roughly from Belgium’s North Sea coast to near Amiens in northeastern France and then southeast to the Vosges Mountains near the Swiss border. The armies

After the opposing armies settled in to trench warfare, there were few decisive battles on the Western Front.



Soldiers in the trenches had to learn how to survive waves of attacks and bombings by the enemy . . . and how to use gas masks to protect from chemical warfare.

sickness and death. Cold, mud, rats, and other hardships became part of life in the trenches. Diseases were common, too, including *trench fever* and *trench foot*, which sometimes led to *amputation*. Armies also grappled with a serious new condition. Facing death on a daily basis in the trenches left some soldiers with severe combat fatigue, or shell shock.

Attrition is the process of wearing down someone's or something's effectiveness by ongoing force or attack.

Static means unchanged.

Trench fever is a disease spread by body lice that usually involves a fever and general soreness and lasts about five days.

Trench foot is a medical condition that results from long exposure of the foot to cold and dampness.

An **amputation** is the removal of all or a portion of a body part.

Dardanelles Campaign, March 1915–January 1916

Combined with the Battle of Gallipoli, the Dardanelles Campaign was a British plan to break the stalemate on the Western Front by opening another front. The Dardanelles strait joins

dug and then fortified zigzag trenches along those *static* battle lines to protect their men from enemy fire. Troops rotated turns serving “in the trenches,” hoping they would not be on duty when an officer gave the hopeless command to charge the enemy’s position. Dirt barricades also couldn’t always protect against the introduction of modern long-range artillery and tanks. Unsanitary conditions caused more

Strong resistance by the Central Powers to both a naval assault and an attack by land led to a failed British-led Dardanelles Campaign.





By 1919, citizens of Ypres, Belgium, had lived through five battles.

the Mediterranean Sea with the Sea of Marmara in present-day Turkey. It also provides passage to the Black Sea and Russia. The Ottoman Empire had closed the strait to Allied ships in October 1914. In March 1915, the Allies launched a naval attack on the Dardanelles, but it met stubborn resistance. The Allies then tried attacking the Ottoman Empire on land through the Gallipoli peninsula on the northern side of the strait. The Ottoman Empire's Turkish army fought back fiercely. Allied soldiers, including Australians and New Zealanders, remained pinned down on the beaches where they first landed. They withdrew in January 1916.

Second Battle of Ypres, April–May 1915

The Belgian city of Ypres was strategically important for getting to and from ports on the North Sea. For that reason, five battles were fought near there during the war on the Western Front. At the second of those battles, from April to May 1915, the Germans used poisonous gas against the French for the first time. The third Battle of Ypres in 1917, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, lasted more than three months. Half a million people were killed or wounded in that battle.

Battle of Verdun, February–December 1916

The longest single battle of World War I took place around Verdun, France, from February through December 1916. German general Erich

von Falkenhayn figured “France would bleed to death” trying to defend its historic fortified city or suffer huge humiliation. The Germans launched an enormous offensive designed to overwhelm and demoralize the French defenders of the city. The French lost territory at the start of the battle

The battle for control of the North Sea pitted the British navy against the German navy off the coast of Denmark's Jutland peninsula.



but regained most of it in the fall. By the time the Germans finally withdrew, the combined death toll came to about 250,000 people. Hundreds of thousands more people were wounded or missing.

Battle of Jutland, May–June 1916

The largest naval battle of World War I began on May 31, 1916, off the coast of Denmark’s Jutland peninsula. Led by Vice Admiral Reinhard Scheer, the German High Seas Fleet hoped to cripple the British Royal Navy. The Germans wanted to break the British blockade in the North Sea that kept supplies away from their ports. For 36 hours, about 250 battleships, armored cruisers, and other vessels fired on one another and maneuvered on the water. By the time the Germans retreated, the British had lost 14 vessels and more than 6,000 lives. The Germans lost more than 11 ships and 2,500 lives. Despite their losses, the British Navy retained its superior position on the seas, and the blockade of Germany continued.

Battle of the Somme, July–November 1916

Starting in July 1916, the British and the French made a “big push” against Germany from both sides of the shallow Somme River in northeastern France. Led by British field marshal Douglas Haig and his French counterpart Joseph Joffre, the Allies hoped to quickly break through German defenses and end the war. They also counted on a tactical advantage from the use of Britain’s new tanks. But the tanks weren’t

as reliable as people had hoped. And Germany had strengthened its trenches and underground defenses. Fighting dragged on until November. More than 1 million people were killed or wounded.

The Maginot Line, Constructed in the 1930s

The Treaty of Versailles in 1919 ended World War I and redrew the world map, but it didn’t bring last-



The five-month-long Battle of the Somme resulted in an estimated 1 million total casualties.

ing peace. Sensing the situation in the 1920s, French minister of war Andre Maginot argued for defenses along the country’s eastern border. By the mid-1930s, France had built strong fortifications and weapons banks along its border with Switzerland, Germany, and Luxembourg. Lighter defenses were built along the border with Belgium. The line was supposed to prevent a surprise attack, or if an attack was launched, to give France time to mobilize its army. But the Maginot Line failed to keep the Germans out during World War II (1939–1945). 🌀

THE WAR'S PULL

by Barbara Brooks Simons

Americans read all about the horrible fighting in the Great War in 1914. Their location safely on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, however, allowed them to keep their distance from Europe's problems.

Although most Americans wanted to stay out of Europe's war, the United States was emerging as a world power in the 1900s by involving itself in the affairs of its neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. It had started to influence politics and protect U.S. business interests in nearby Central America, sending in troops when necessary.

But in April 1915, President Woodrow Wilson said, "Our whole duty, for the present at any rate, is summed up in this motto: 'America first.'" The United States officially refused to take sides in the war. But many Americans favored one side or the other. And American businesses continued to sell and ship much-needed products to their prewar friends, Britain and France.

Early in the war, the Germans had introduced a frightening new weapon. They called it an *Unterseeboot* ("undersea boat," shortened to "U-boat" and also known as a "submarine"). At first, U-boats targeted British navy ships, since Great Britain had set up a naval blockade to limit Germany's access to food and supplies. Then Germany announced in 1915 that it would start attacking merchant ships that entered its war zone. Merchant ships carried both passengers and cargo.

In early May 1915, German torpedoes sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania*, off the coast of Ireland. The ship—with nearly 1,200 passengers and crew—sank within minutes. Among the travelers were 128 Americans, including women and children. (As it turned out, the ship had been carrying *munitions* as well.)

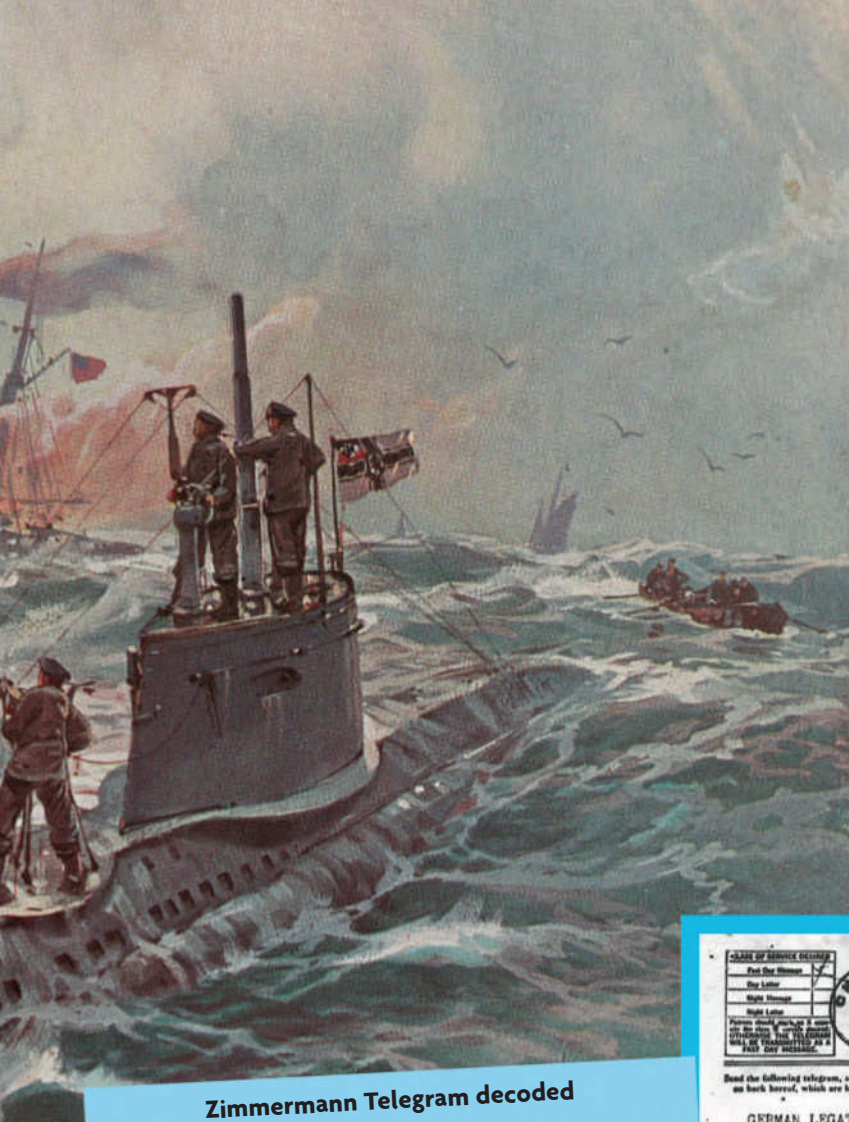
U.S. leaders disagreed about how to react, but German officials did not want the United States to join the war against them. They agreed to



Germany's announcement in 1917 that its submarines in the Atlantic Ocean would target all ships, not just British naval vessels, alarmed the United States.

Munitions are war material, such as weapons and ammunition.

Pacifists are people who are opposed to war or violence as a way to resolve disputes.



the *Sussex* pledge. In that negotiation, the Germans promised to stop U-boat attacks on merchant ships, and the United States agreed to remain neutral. In 1916, Wilson won re-election as president with a popular campaign slogan: "He kept us out of war."

Between 1914 and 1917, fearsome new weapons and new ways of fighting killed or wounded hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the war. U.S. newspapers carried stories about trench warfare, poisonous gases, and staggeringly high casualties. Americans remained deeply divided. *Pacifists* wanted to avoid war at all cost. Irish and German immigrants held strong anti-British feelings. Other Americans were sympathetic to the cause of the Allies and the democratic principles the nations shared.

By January 1917, Germany was determined to end the war. The British naval blockade in the North Sea was taking its toll,

Zimmermann Telegram decoded

Berlin, 13 January 1917
Very urgent
(send with secret cipher)

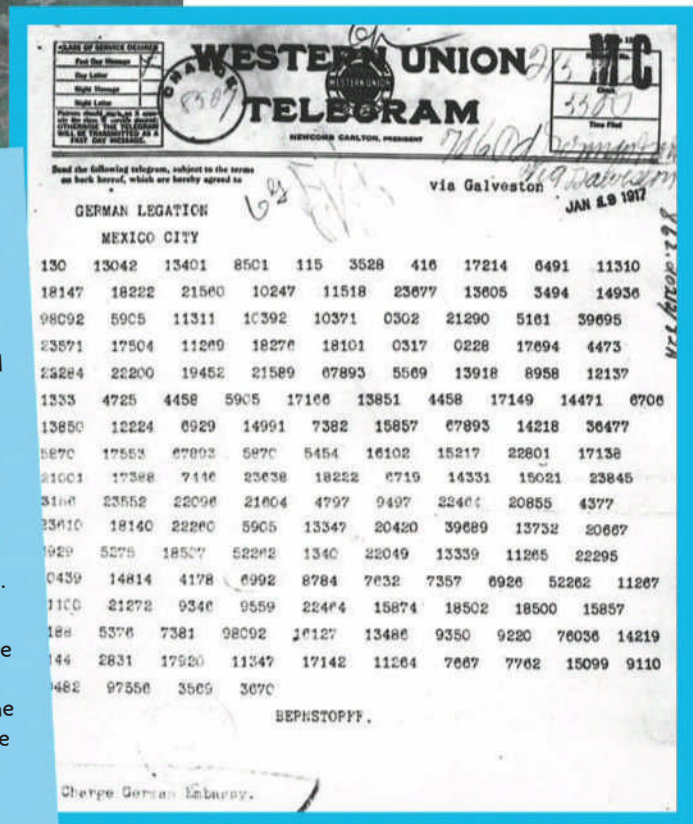
Most secret. Decipher yourself.

We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor nonetheless to keep America neutral.

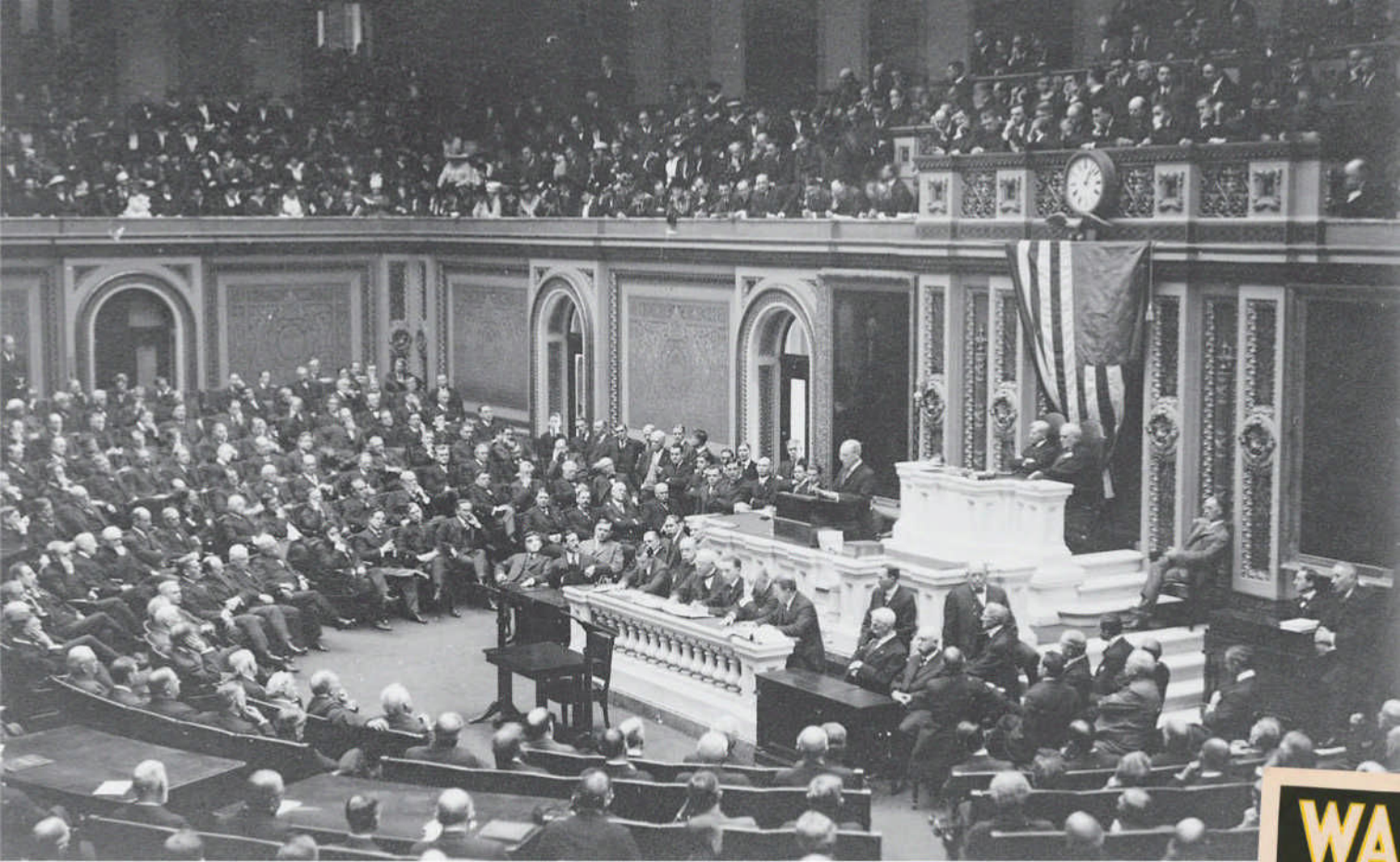
In the event of this not succeeding, we propose to Mexico an alliance on the following basis: Conduct war jointly. Conclude peace jointly. Substantial financial support and consent on our part for Mexico to reconquer lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to your Excellency.

Your Excellency will present to the President the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States is certain, and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence, and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves.

Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace.



The Zimmermann Telegram before it was decoded



ABOVE: On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appeared before Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Germany. **RIGHT:** America is portrayed as a sleeping woman being told to “Wake up” in this poster designed to motivate Americans into action in the days following April 6, 1917.

cutting off supplies and food to Germany and Austria–Hungary. German officials informed the United States that it would renew unrestricted submarine attacks on ships headed to Great Britain. German leaders believed that its unleashed U-boats could defeat Great Britain on the seas within months. They gambled that even if the United States decided to join the fight, the war would be over before the Americans had time to aid the Allies. Wilson still refused to declare war. Instead, in February 1917, he broke diplomatic relations with Germany.


Then, a new threat was revealed. German foreign secretary Arthur Zimmermann had sent a secret coded telegram to Germany’s ambassador in Mexico back in mid-January 1917. The telegram suggested a proposal for the Mexican government: Mexico should join Germany and form an alliance with Japan to oppose the United States. In exchange, Germany would help Mexico take back Texas and other territory in the American Southwest that had once belonged to it. Germany hoped that while Mexico kept the United States distracted in North America, Germany’s “ruthless employment” of its submarines, as the telegram stated, would defeat Great Britain in Europe.

Not only was Mexico not interested in the plan, but British naval intelligence had intercepted and decoded the telegram. They did not immediately reveal it for two reasons: Great Britain did not want Germany to know its code had been

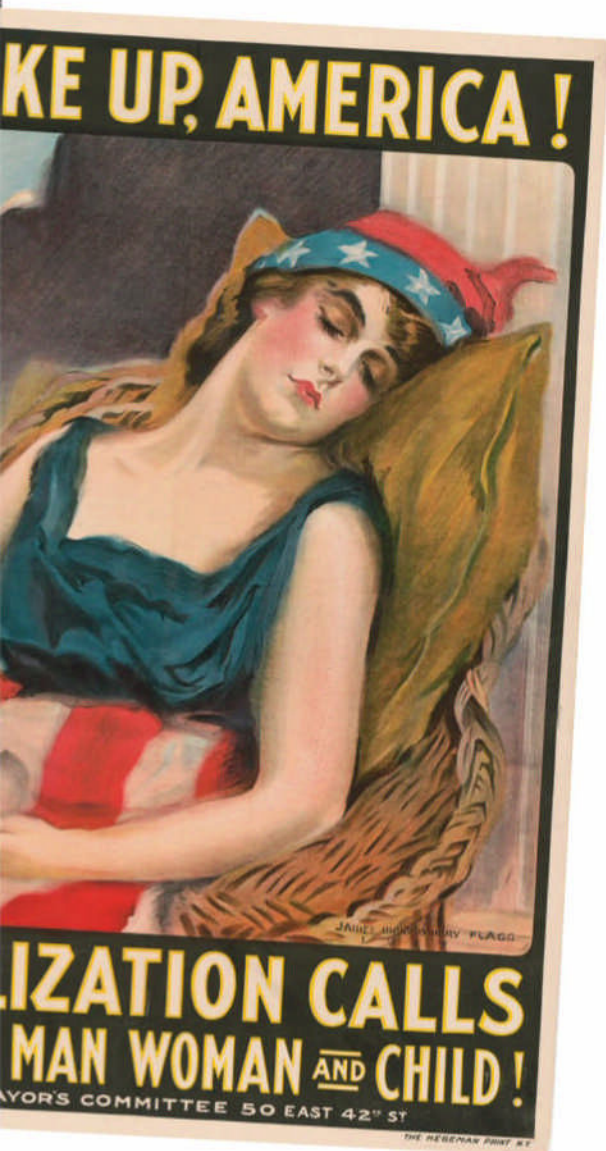
Declaring war is serious business.



broken. It also had to be sure that the Americans would believe it was authentic and be motivated to help in the war. On February 24, the British shared the decoded telegram with U.S. officials. On March 1, the story of “the Zimmermann Telegram” broke in U.S. newspapers.

When Zimmermann confirmed that he had written the telegram, the public outrage over it and Germany’s return to unrestricted submarine warfare forced Wilson to take action. He called together his Cabinet. All his advisors favored going to war. On April 2, 1917, the president appeared in front of Congress to ask for a declaration of war. He told Congress that the United States had to “make the world safe for democracy.” On April 6, 1917, the United States officially declared war on Germany. 

Barbara Brooks Simons is a freelance writer living in Boston but who always loves to travel to the other places where history happens.



SAYING “NO” TO WAR

On April 2, 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war, one House member in the chamber stood out—Jeannette Rankin of Montana. Today, the House of Representatives includes more than 80 women. But in 1917, Rankin was the first and only woman in either house of Congress. Nationwide, women did not have the right to vote in 1917, but they had won the vote in individual states. Montana, Rankin’s home state, had granted its women citizens that right in 1914.

Rankin held strong pacifist beliefs. Members of the House debated the war resolution for several days, but she stayed silent.

Finally, it came time to cast her vote—her first as a member of Congress. “I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war,” she said. “I vote no.” She was not alone, but the final House vote in favor of war was lopsided: 373 to 50. Rankin was not re-elected in 1919. She went on working for peace, women’s right to vote, and other social reform causes.



Jeannette Rankin

Then, in 1940, Rankin was elected to Congress again. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. The next day, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. Once again, there was a roll call vote. Rankin again voted “No.” She added, “As a woman I can’t go to war, and I refuse to send anyone else.” This time, though, she stood alone. The final vote was 388 to 1. When the House later voted to enter World War II (1939–1945) against Germany and Italy, Rankin voted simply “Present.”

When Rankin died a month before her 93rd birthday in 1973, she had spent most of her long life advocating for peace. —**B.B.S.**

Preparing



Is he talking to me?

Artist James Montgomery Flagg's famous World War I poster shows Uncle Sam recruiting soldiers for the U.S. Army in 1917.



to Fight

by Russ Chamberlayne

When the United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, the decision triggered a massive effort to organize, train, and supply U.S. forces for duty overseas.

Hearing that America had declared war, British prime minister David Lloyd George praised Americans' resourcefulness and ability to get things done. But he was mistaken about how soon U.S. forces could help. He criticized a top German general who predicted that the United States would need a year before it arrived in Europe in force. But the general was right—it was spring 1918 before the majority of U.S. troops landed in France.

Almost immediately after declaring war, President Woodrow Wilson said a half million men would have to join the armed forces. He added that the country would ask for many more soldiers "as they may be needed and can be handled in training."

In June 1917, General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Force

(AEF), went to Britain and France. He advised the U.S. War Department to send over "at least 1,000,000 men by next May." At the time, the Allies had 3.5 million men on the Western Front, more than the Germans. But they were tired and discouraged from several years of fighting.

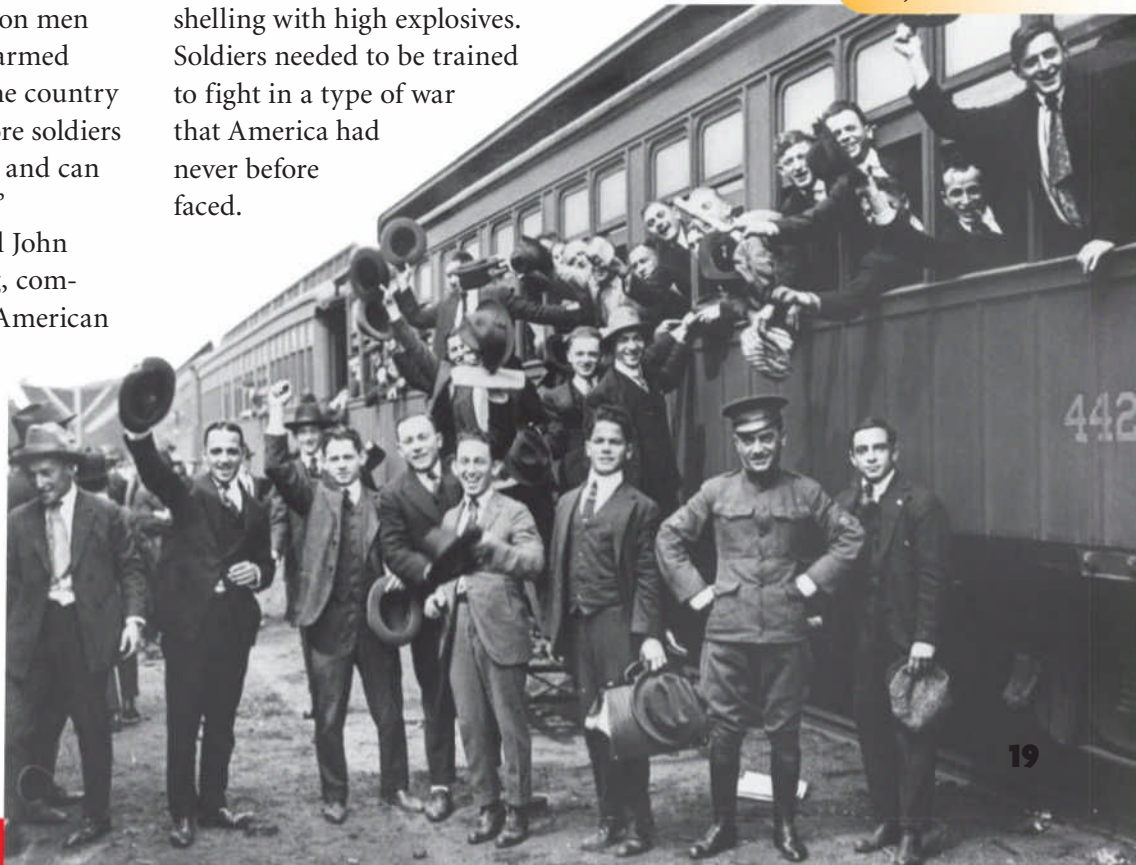
The U.S. military, however, was just not ready. The regular army had no more than 100,000 men. Those men were not prepared for modern warfare. The conflict going on in Europe involved trenches, poison gas attacks, and shelling with high explosives. Soldiers needed to be trained to fight in a type of war that America had never before faced.

A strong effort was made to gather and train men. Recruits, consisting of National Guard and Army personnel, volunteers, and *draftees*, were sent to dozens of new training camps around the country. Most of the trainees had never been in a war or handled an army rifle. They needed to learn quickly.

By that winter, some U.S. troops arrived in the war zone. They fought in the trenches at Barthelemon, France. Top British battlefield commander, Field Marshall Douglas Haig, went out of his way during an inspection to greet an American

Draftees are people ordered by law to be randomly selected for mandatory military service.

Enthusiastic U.S. Army recruits are on their way to training camp in September 1917.





**Armed and ready . . . and loaded!
A U.S. soldier had to know how to
carry everything he would need.**

regular officers, none of them have ever fired a gun.”

Among the men in that category was a Missouri National Guard artilleryman named Harry S. Truman. He and his men had learned soldiering and artillery basics in the U.S. Army before boarding a ship and arriving in France in the spring of 1918. Pershing and the Allied commanders agreed that the new arrivals needed more training. For Captain Truman, that meant several weeks in school to learn trigonometry and other knowledge needed to aim cannon accurately. A 33-year-old high school graduate, Truman found the intensive instruction difficult.

Six days a week, Truman took classes and studied from 7:00 A.M. to 9:30 P.M. Writing to his fiancée, Bess Wallace, he said, “It’s a nice job as far as I can discover if I can get a little surveying geom-

etry, astronomy, and a few other things into my noodle. . . .”

He added, “I’ve studied more and worked harder in the last three weeks than I ever did before in my life. It’s just like a university only more so, right out of one class into another and then examinations and thunder if you don’t pass.”



General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF)

him, “I am delighted; we are very glad to have you here.” When the Americans performed well in the first few months on the frontline, a French general wrote that his troops were “proud to be fighting by the side of the generous sons of the great Republic who have hastened to support France.”

Yet, many American soldiers were not prepared. Near the end of 1917, a secret British report noted the lean and inadequate instruction that Americans were


receiving. It was especially true concerning the artillery branch of the U.S. Army, in which soldiers manned and shot cannon. A French officer said the leadership of the U.S. artillery was “entirely inexperienced; except for a few hundred

Still, Truman could joke about all the jobs his army training would get him. "When I come home I'll be a surveyor, a mathematician, a mechanical draftsman, a horse doctor, a crack shot, and a tough citizen if they keep me here long." In 1945, in the last year of World War II, then-U.S. vice president Harry S. Truman showed how tough he was: He became president after Franklin D. Roosevelt died in office.

Pershing resisted Allied efforts to use the U.S. forces piecemeal to fill in gaps on the Allied lines, although he did loan some units to serve under Allied commanders. He ordered costly offensive attacks, even though the Allies' experience had shown that they led to high casualties and few gains. But even with their hurried training and many battlefield mistakes, the inexperienced soldiers of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps

made large contributions. More than 1 million Americans landed in Europe by the spring of 1918. Their presence and willingness to fight boosted morale among the exhausted Allied forces.

More than 75,000 U.S. troops, fighting alongside French troops, helped stop the Germans' 1918 spring offensive. That huge attack involved hundreds of thousands of soldiers. Then in July, a third of a million U.S. personnel took

part in the Allies' successful summer offensive. Finally, more than 1 million U.S. troops participated in the Allies' fall offensive. That big attack came close to pushing the Germans out of France before fighting in the war was halted on November 11, 1918. The U.S. military ended World War I battle-tested and experienced. 

Russ Chamberlayne has university degrees in history and American studies, including an internship in the military history division of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

By spring 1918, U.S. soldiers joined Allied soldiers in the trenches in France.

U.S. Marines, with gas masks on, wait for orders in France.



The Fin

U.S. Troops Weigh In

The arrival of the Americans provided fresh troops and boosted morale for the British and the French. Here are some of the major battles in which U.S. troops participated in 1918:

Cantigny (May 28–29)

U.S. infantry captures the village of Cantigny, located north of Paris, from German troops. It is the first U.S. victory.

Battle of Belleau Wood (June 1–26)

After multiple attacks by U.S. Marines, the Germans withdraw from the woods, located near the Marne River and the town of Chateau-Thierry.

Marne–Reims Offensive (July 15–17)

German troops attack near Reims, France, along two points. Both attacks are blocked, one by U.S. infantry.

Aisne–Marne Offensive (July 18–August 6)

French and U.S. forces counterattack along the Marne River. The Germans begin to withdraw.

Battle of St. Mihiel (September 12–15)

U.S. troops lead an attack on the German position at St. Mihiel. The Germans withdraw within two days.

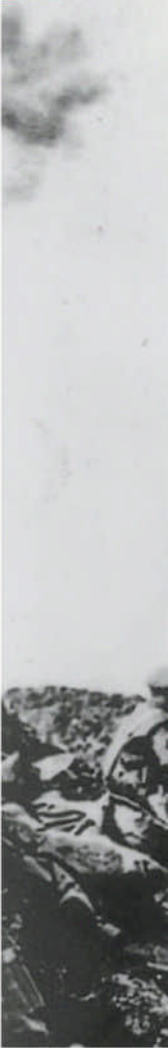
Meuse–Argonne Offensive (September 26–November 11)

U.S. and French forces jointly attack a German position around the Argonne Forest near Verdun, while British, French, and Belgian troops also attack along the Western Front. Worn down by the offensive, Germany asks for an armistice.

When Germany launched a spring offensive in March 1918, it hoped to defeat Great Britain and France on the Western Front before U.S. forces could arrive. But the British and French resisted each German attempt. That summer, about 1 million fresh U.S. troops arrived in France, and the Allies counterattacked. The Meuse–Argonne Offensive was one of the largest and deadliest campaigns in which U.S. troops participated. It also provided the setting for what became known as the Lost Battalion—although in reality the “battalion” was made up of men from several different companies, and they were cut off rather than “lost.”

The Germans had held the area in and around the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River since early in the war. Their network of well-defended trenches gave them a position of strength. As one part of the Allied offensive, French and U.S. troops were ordered to move through the forest and to hold any territory that was taken. Major Charles W. Whittlesey and the 308th Infantry Regiment in the 77th Infantry Division were part of that attacking force. They made slow but steady progress. By October 2, Whittlesey realized that he had advanced ahead of the rest of the Allied line into German territory. The enemy realized it, too. U.S. soldiers from several companies were surrounded, and all communication with headquarters was cut off.

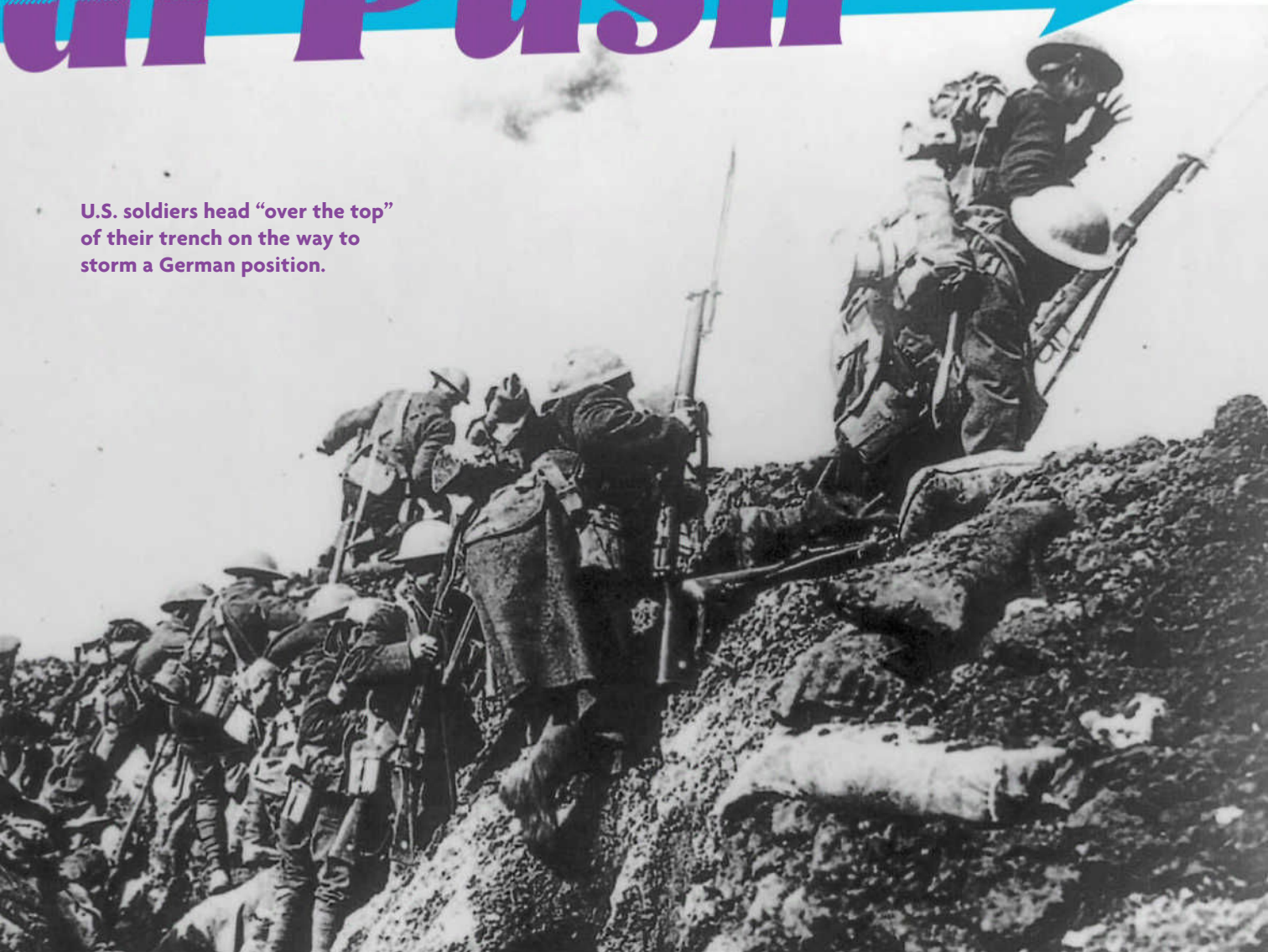
Over the next five days, the Americans held their position, despite running low on food,



al Push


by Andrew Matthews

U.S. soldiers head “over the top” of their trench on the way to storm a German position.



water, and ammunition. They also endured bombardment by both enemy and friendly fire—until a pigeon came to the rescue. The speed, altitude, and homing instinct of pigeons made them useful messengers. Homing pigeons instinctively return to their coop, so a small message attached to a bird’s leg would be carried back to the coop at headquarters. On October 4, Whittlesey released his last homing pigeon, Cher Ami. The message it carried read: “We are along the road parallel 276.4. Our artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heavens sake stop it.” Badly wounded, Cher Ami got through to Allied commanders.

On October 7, when the 308th was rescued, only 194 men of about 550 remained alive and unwounded. Nearly 200 men were killed, and another 150 men were missing or taken prisoner. The men were cited for extraordinary heroism.

The Meuse–Argonne offensive contributed to Germany’s acceptance that defeat was near. Within a month, an armistice was signed, halting four years of fighting. 



FAST FACT

Cher Ami died from its wounds. The bird was stuffed and put on display at the National Museum of American History.

DID YOU KNOW?

illustrated by Chris Ware



Christmas Day 1914 brought an informal truce at multiple spots along the Western Front. Soldiers on both sides sang carols and exchanged greetings. Some soldiers even played soccer. The pause in fighting also let each side retrieve and bury the dead men who lay on the front's "no man's land."



British nurse Edith Louisa Cavell cared for soldiers on both sides during World War I. In 1915, after she helped about 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium, she was arrested, tried for treason by a German military court, and shot by a German firing squad.


Manfred von Richthofen served in the German cavalry and infantry before earning his pilot's license. Piloting a red Fokker plane, he became famous as the "Red Baron." He was Germany's top ace—credited with 80 kills (downed enemy pilots)—before he was shot down in 1918. The British buried him with military honors.





American industrialist and automobile manufacturer Henry Ford was opposed to the Great War. He financed a Peace Ship and invited a group of Americans to sail to Europe in late 1915. His hope to bring together European nations to unofficially negotiate a peaceful end to the fighting did not succeed.





Great Facts


 World War I was the first war that used aircraft and aircraft carriers. About 65,000 aircraft eventually were built and used by the countries involved.


 On the battlefield, it was the first war that used flamethrowers, machine guns, steel helmets, and tanks.


 Artillery went from being pulled by horses to being self-propelled machines. Guns were mounted on a wheeled or tracked chassis, allowing for improved mobility.


 Soldiers built more than 2,500 miles of trenches in Europe.


 German U-boats, or submarines, became effective war weapons, sinking more than 6,500 ships. To combat submarine warfare, the British invented depth charges, which are waterproof bombs with a preset timing device. Ships under attack released depth charges near a suspected submerged submarine. When the bombs exploded, the hope was that they caused enough damage to force the submarine to surface.

 It was the first conflict that employed chemical weapons—poisonous gases, such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gases—in warfare. Poisonous gases may have killed or injured more than 1 million people (both troops and civilians). The use of deadly gases also led to the first gas masks.

 The war introduced the first blood banks, which created the ability to safely gather and store blood until it was needed.

 World War I was the first time women were allowed to serve in a branch of the U.S. armed forces. About 12,000 women enlisted in the Navy as Yeoman (F). “Yeomanettes,” as they were nicknamed, mostly filled support positions.

 Woodrow Wilson became the first sitting U.S. president to make an official visit to Europe.




Aerial battles were called “dogfights,” a term that historically has been used to describe any violent, close-range fight.




About the Great War


by Meg Chorlian



U.S. soldiers carried about 70 pounds of official gear. That gear included a shaving kit; fabric for a half tent shelter, tent stakes, and a tent pole; a blanket; a poncho; a canteen, a cup, and mess utensils; an entrenching tool (such as a pick, an ax, or a shovel); a first aid pouch; and a weapon.



By the end of World War I, an estimated 8 million soldiers died and more than 6.5 million civilians died. An additional 21 million people were wounded. Added to those catastrophic numbers, between 20 and 50 million people died after being infected with influenza in 1918.



The end of the war led to the end of four empires: the Russian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Austro–Hungarian Empire, and the German Empire.



THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS

by Wynne Crombie



The men of the 369th Infantry Regiment wanted to see combat duty.

Private Henry Johnson was on watch in the French trenches of the Argonne Forest on May 15, 1918, when a grenade exploded nearby. With his fellow soldier Needham Roberts badly injured, Johnson faced an approaching German patrol on his own. He shot down one soldier and clubbed another with the end of his rifle. Wounded, Johnson fell to the ground. He seized a grenade and tossed it, and several more, at the Germans.

By the time he was through, the former porter for the New York Central Railroad had single-handedly wounded or killed as many as 20 enemy soldiers . . . with just a knife and a gun. He had more than

20 wounds of his own. The American press called the incident “the Battle of Henry Johnson.”

Two days later, the French presented Johnson with the Croix de Guerre, their country’s highest military decoration for bravery. He was the first U.S. soldier to receive the honor during World War I. When asked about his actions, Johnson said, “There isn’t so much to tell. Just fought for my life. A rabbit would’ve done that.”

When President Woodrow Wilson said, “The world must be made safe for democracy” in April 1917, many black Americans struggled with the call to support the war effort. African Americans faced daily discrimina-

tion and segregation in the United States. Still, more than 380,000 black Americans enlisted to serve in the army during World War I. They hoped that their military service would improve civil rights for all African Americans in the United States.

The U.S. military was a racially segregated institution in 1917. Believing that African Americans were not suited for combat roles, U.S. military leaders assigned the majority of the 200,000 black soldiers who were sent to Europe to support units. Their duties included digging ditches, cleaning latrines, transporting supplies, clearing debris, and burying decaying corpses. They also worked as stevedores, loading and unloading cargo on the docks in French port cities. Some black soldiers felt slighted. “I don’t want to stagger under heavy boxes.” Another said, “I want a gun on my shoulder and the opportunity to go to the front.”

At first, the U.S. military refused to consider the idea of sending soldiers piecemeal to serve under Allied commanders and fill in gaps in other nation’s armies. General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, the leader of

the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), insisted that his soldiers remain together and led by U.S. commanders. But Pershing agreed to “loan” the 369th Infantry Regiment to the French army. The regiment consisted of two divisions—the 92nd and the 93rd—made up entirely of African Americans. Henry Johnson was among the estimated 42,000 black soldiers who saw action.

The French people had been fighting in the war since 1914, so they were grateful for the arrival of the African American soldiers in late 1917. They earned a reputation as “hell-fighters.” Since many of the black soldiers came from the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, they became known as the “Harlem Hellfighters.”

At the Battle of Belleau Wood in June 1918, a French general ordered the soldiers to retreat. The white commanding officer of the 369th Infantry, Colonel William Hayward, refused. “Turn back?” he

Some of the men from the 369th Infantry Regiment unit are shown with the Croix de Guerre medal.



African American soldiers received a warm welcome from the French, who showed little racism. “They treated us with respect,” remembered one soldier of the 369th Infantry Regiment.



Posthumously means occurring after someone's death.

The 803rd Infantry Regiment gathers around its band on the deck of the USS *Philippine* during the return trip to the United States in 1919. These black troops worked on the shipping docks, dug trenches and graves, and built hospitals, roads, and bridges.

said. "I should say not! My men never retire. They go forward or they die!" They spent 191 days on the front line, more than any other American unit. They never had any men captured nor any ground taken. The regiment had about 1,500 casualties.

In addition to providing brave fighting men to the military cause, the 369th Infantry Regiment's band also introduced their French counterparts to American blues and jazz rhythms. The new style of music delighted and lifted the morale of the French soldiers with whom the black men served. The band toured France, raising morale among the country's citizens as well as among its soldiers.

About 170 African American soldiers earned individual awards for fighting. The French awarded the entire 369th Infantry Regiment with the Croix de Guerre for its participation in the attack on Sechault in September 1918.

On February 17, 1919, New York welcomed home their heroes with a celebratory ticker-tape parade. A quarter of a million people turned out. For Johnson, however, life after the war was difficult. He became an alcoholic and died penniless in New York. He was buried under the name of William Henry Johnson in Arlington National Cemetery on July 5, 1929.

An effort was begun to recognize Johnson's contribution in the war. He *posthumously* was awarded the Purple Heart in 1996. In 2002, the U.S. military awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross. And almost 100 years after his heroic actions in France, President Barack Obama awarded him the Medal of Honor, the highest U.S. military award, in 2015. 🇺🇸

Wynne Crombie has a master's degree in education. She taught fifth grade for the DOD overseas school system at Aviano AFB, Italy. She recently retired from teaching English as a second language.



The End of the WAR TO END ALL WARS



by Barbara Krasner

All was quiet on the Western Front at 11:00 A.M. on November 11, 1918. The German Empire's Kaiser Wilhelm II had fled to the Netherlands, and a new German Republic was established. The Great War earned its name—more than 8.5 million soldiers died. Its battlefields littered Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Troops from many of Europe's countries and also including Africa, China, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, India, and the United States had engaged in battle.

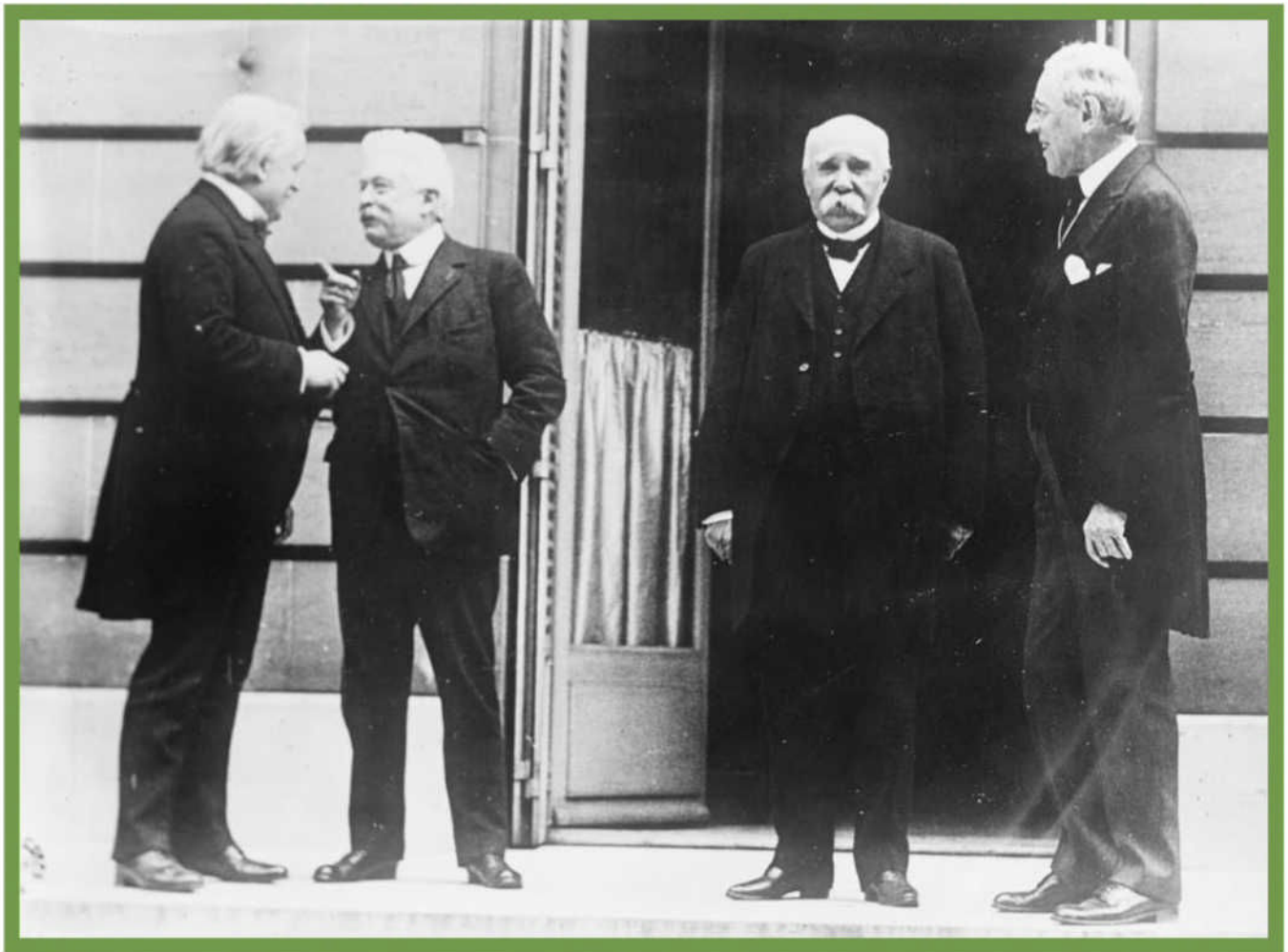
By the end of the war, the empires that had seemed so indestructible just a few years before had either collapsed during the war or crumbled after it was over. The regimes included the Hapsburgs in Austria–Hungary, the Romanovs in Russia, the Turks in the Ottoman Empire, and the Hohenzollerns in Germany. Britain, while still an

empire, was left in a weakened state. Some of its former *dominions* signed peace treaties as the independent countries of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Dominions are territories or colonies that exercise self-government.



The headline on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle* has a major announcement: the end of World War I.



The Paris Peace Conference's Big Four were, from left to right: British prime minister David Lloyd George, Italian prime minister Vittorio Orlando, French prime minister Georges Clemenceau, and U.S. president Woodrow Wilson.

NEGOTIATING PEACE

The war's end brought the daunting task to negotiate peace on a scale never before seen. Officials convened in France in January 1919 for the Paris Peace Conference. The top three diplomats to participate were French prime minister Georges Clemenceau, British prime minister David Lloyd George, and U.S. president Woodrow Wilson. They dominated the conference. Although the United States had been involved in the war for only

An **instigator** is someone who is the motivator behind an activity.

Reparations are goods or money demanded by a victorious nation or alliance from a defeated nation.

19 months, European powers needed its money and supplies.

The task before the members of the conference was two-fold. They had to decide on the punishments for the defeated powers. Many of the victors considered Germany to be the **instigator** of war. They wanted it to bear most of the punishment. They wanted Germany brought to such a weakened state that it could never threaten the world again. The conference attendees also had to redraw the map of Europe. National groups that had once belonged to the fading mighty empires emerged, including the Poles, the Czechs, the Slovaks, the Romanians, and the people of the Balkans. Peace was parceled out through four separate treaties, all signed in France.

THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The Treaty of Versailles, involving Germany and the Allied Powers, was signed on June 28, 1919,

exactly five years after the assassination of Austro–Hungarian archduke Franz Ferdinand. Wilson had once hoped for a “peace without victory,” but Great Britain and France, who shared a border with Germany, focused on punishing Germany.

The treaty mandated that Germany relinquish territory in Alsace–Lorraine to France and other western land to Belgium and Denmark. To the east, Germany had to give up lands of Upper Silesia and western Prussia to Poland. Belgium acquired Eupen and Malmedy, Denmark got North Schleswig, and Italy gained territory. All German colonies outside Europe were divided up among the Allies. Japan claimed German colonies in Asia. A clause in the treaty required Germany to accept “war guilt” and to pay some \$33 billion in *reparations* for damages that took place during the war.

When signing the armistice in November 1918, the Germans had believed they would be allowed to participate in the terms for peace. But that had not happened. The German delegates tried to raise points for discussion by inserting “notes” in the draft of the treaty. The Allies refused to budge on any major points. The 80,000-word treaty required Germany to accept full responsibility for the war.

The treaty created the League of Nations, which was an idea suggested by Wilson’s Fourteen Points (see page 35). The league would be an organization of nations to resolve differences through alternative means and international cooperation. It called for an assembly of member countries, led by a council of four permanent members. The council consisted of France, Britain, Italy, and Japan. The league’s headquarters would be in Geneva, Switzerland, a neutral country, and it would be guided by a secretary general. It also set up a Permanent Court for International Justice.

Although Wilson strongly supported the concept of the League of Nations, the U.S.

Congress did not ratify the Treaty of Versailles. It wanted to return to a U.S. policy of isolationism. In the end, the absence of the United States from the League of Nations resulted in a less-effective organization. It wasn’t able to intervene and prevent aggression and war. The United States ultimately signed a separate treaty with Germany in 1921.

THE TREATY OF SAINT-GERMAIN

A second treaty was signed between Austria–Hungary and the Allies in September 1919. It established the new republic of Austria and recognized the independence of parts of the former Austro–Hungarian Empire, including Hungary and Czechoslovakia. It recognized the independence of Poland, which had been partitioned between Austria–Hungary, Russia, and Prussia since the late 18th century. The treaty also outlawed any coming together of Germany and Austria.

THE TREATY OF TRIANON

Signed in June 1920, the Treaty of Trianon was a peace agreement between the new Kingdom of Hungary and the Allies. Through the treaty, Hungary lost half its population and two thirds of its land to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia (“land of the Southern Slavs”), and Italy. Hungary protested the treaty but signed it.

Cemeteries in Belgium became the final resting place for many World War I soldiers.





So many men came home with terrible injuries.



Many soldiers who survived the war carried its scars. This U.S. veteran lost his eyesight during the war.

THE TREATY OF SEVRES


A final treaty signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies in August 1920 abolished that empire and significantly reduced Turkish lands. The treaty led to a rise in nationalism and an overthrow of the government to create a new republic. Even today, unrest continues in the Middle East, where boundaries were redrawn in the wake of World War I.

PEACE WITH CONSEQUENCES

The penalties levied against Germany were heavy indeed. The new German Republic could never pay the steep price. The decision to punish Germany and the economic recession that followed paved the way for the rise in national socialism. It also saw the advent of Adolf Hitler, a World War I veteran, to power. As the leader of Nazi Germany, he stirred up pride for Germany's past and insisted on its right to reclaim its former dignity and territories.

Taking advantage of a weakened national government, Hitler saw an opportunity to right the wrongs

of the Treaty of Versailles. He began by annexing Austria in 1938, in violation of the Treaty of Saint-Germain. Then, in September 1939, just 20 years after the Treaty of Versailles, Germany invaded Poland. It marked the start of World War II, which would last until 1945.

The League of Nations was unable to prevent Germany's military buildup, Italy's 1935–1936 invasion of Ethiopia, or Japan's 1935 invasion of Manchuria. It disintegrated upon the outbreak of World War II. The Great War was not the “war to end all wars.” Instead, its peace negotiations and treaties designed to punish the vanquished set up conditions for inconceivable horror—and a second world war. After the end of that war, however, the international community tried again by founding a new organization armed with greater authority and support: the United Nations. 

Barbara Krasner is a frequent contributor to *COBBLESTONE*. She teaches history and creative writing in New Jersey and is the author of more than 20 history books for young readers.

FOURTEEN POINTS FOR PEACE

President Woodrow Wilson used an address to Congress on January 8, 1918, to share his ideas for a path toward a lasting world peace. As he summed it up, the United States was hoping for “a world [to] be made fit and safe to live in.” The address became known as the Fourteen Points.

The first few points identified the situation that had led to a historically unsettled Europe and ultimately the outbreak of the Great War. For the part secret treaties had in creating general distrust among European nations, Wilson called for eliminating “secret understandings of any kind.” The rise of nationalist groups and the oppression they felt, which led to rebellions and uprisings, pointed out the need for the “interests of the populations” to be addressed by a nation’s government. Wilson also called for an “equality of trade” and the removal of all economic barriers among nations. Another issue Wilson raised was the importance of freedom of the seas “outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war.” And he pointed out the need for each nation to reduce its *armaments*.

A handful of points dealt with specific borders and territorial disputes. These points tried to resolve Italy’s borders, the return of historical French territory to France, and the creation of an independent Polish state.

Wilson used his last point to propose “a general association of nations . . . for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.” Until that time, a formal international organization of nations that met on neutral territory did not exist. This last point led to the League of Nations that was created as part of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.



President Woodrow Wilson hoped to forge a lasting peace at Versailles, but the Allied leaders wanted to punish Germany.

Armaments are a nation’s military weapons and equipment.

A Deadly Flu

by Barbara Krasner

More than 50 million people, including half a million people in America, became victims of a force more deadly than war. It was dubbed “Spanish influenza” because Spanish papers, which had remained uncensored in that neutral nation during World War I, were the first to report freely on the flu’s devastation. The disease affected more than one third of the world’s population. It killed more people in one year than the Middle Age’s deadly plague known as the Black Death did over the course of 100 years. It killed more people in less than half a year than AIDS killed in almost a quarter of a century. It remains one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. Despite advanced medical training, researchers and physicians were confounded by the disease.

The origin of the disease is not clear, but the first confirmed case of influenza in the United States was in Kansas in early March 1918, when it spread within a military base. Symptoms, including fever, chills, aches pains, and coughing, lasted for several days. The disease struck in several waves, but it caused little notice because Americans were used to an annual outbreak of the flu. U.S. soldiers probably carried it to Europe and North Africa.

While communities were trying to react and recover from the initial spread of the disease, a second, more deadly outbreak of influenza occurred in August. Some people showing initial signs of the flu in the morning were dead by nightfall. It spread to Africa, South America, Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Although influenza typically struck children or the elderly in a population, the second wave in 1918 mostly affected healthy



A Red Cross motor corps readies its stretchers and ambulances in October 1918.




young adults between the ages of 24 and 30—the same group of people who were fighting in the war. People living closely together, such as in urban areas or military camps, faced the greatest risk.

The virus might have had less impact and spared the world's population had it not happened during wartime. But infected soldiers, living in close quarters and moving across continents, carried and spread the disease.

To protect against the flu's spread, ordinances were passed. Some rules limited access to stores or other public places without a certificate that confirmed a person's good health. People in public were encouraged to wear gauze masks. A shortage of doctors, nurses, funeral directors, and gravediggers made handling the disease and its impact that much more difficult.

The influenza eventually faded in the summer of 1919. People were left to deal with the aftermath of a deadly war and a deadly disease drastically thinning the world's population. The influ-

enza *pandemic* did have one positive outcome. It brought about international cooperation between health authorities. It ultimately led to the establishment of the National Institutes of Health in the United States. And every year, a vaccine is offered to protect people from the worst the flu can deliver. 



A *pandemic* is an epidemic over a wide range of territory.

The number of people who became infected with the flu in 1918 was staggering. Here, a makeshift hospital of tents tries to both contain and provide care for the many who became sick.

Maker of MASKS

by Jacquie Sewell



Anna Coleman Ladd puts the final touches on one of her masks worn by a French soldier who was disfigured in World War I.

Busts are sculptures that represent a person's head, shoulders, and upper chest.

Poilus is a French term of endearment for World War I infantrymen.

Mutilated means disfigured by permanent damage.

They were called *mutilés*—soldiers whose faces had been destroyed by the war. Some were missing an eye, a nose, or an ear. Some had horrible burns or parts of their jaws blown away by enemy fire. Repulsed by their own deformed reflections, the former World War I soldiers avoided people and public places. For them, there were no welcome home parades or joyous reunions with loved ones. Many refused even to leave their hospitals. Some committed suicide.

Anna Coleman Ladd, an American sculptor in Boston, Massachusetts, knew she could help these soldiers. With the aid of the American Red Cross, Ladd established the Studio for Portrait Masks in Paris, France, in January 1918. Her hand-painted copper masks allowed the wounded men to feel whole. Their “new faces” gave them the confidence to return to their families, find jobs, and even fall in love and get married.

Ladd was a child when she created her first sculpture out of putty. She was classically trained in Paris and Rome. By 1907, at the age of 29, she was exhibiting her bronze *busts* and fountains for international audiences.

Many famous women, including Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova, American actress Ethel Barrymore, and Italian actress Eleanora Duse, commissioned her to create busts of their likenesses.

The surgeons in Paris, however, were skeptical of Ladd's ability to create masks for wounded soldiers. But Ladd refused to give up, refining techniques developed by English sculptor Francis Derwent Wood. She created masks for three French *poilus* (pronounced "pwah-LOO") and presented the masks to the Service de Sante (France's military medical service). The doubters soon became Ladd's heartiest supporters.

Noted French surgeon Dr. Paul Desfosses confessed, "The results obtained are truly astonishing: a stupendous illusion of reality. . . ." And the minister of the Service de Sante thanked Ladd, adding, "[The masks] permit *mutilated* men awaiting surgery, or whose wounds are beyond the resources of surgery, to circulate without attracting attention or becoming objects of repulsion."

Ladd wanted to do more than just hide a man's facial disfigurements, however. She wanted to "put in that mask part of the man himself." To accomplish this, she made sure that her studio was an inviting place for the men to visit. She explained, "We always tried to keep the place cheerful and frequently had the boys sitting around playing games. . . . We laughed with them and helped them to forget. That is what they longed for and deeply appreciated."

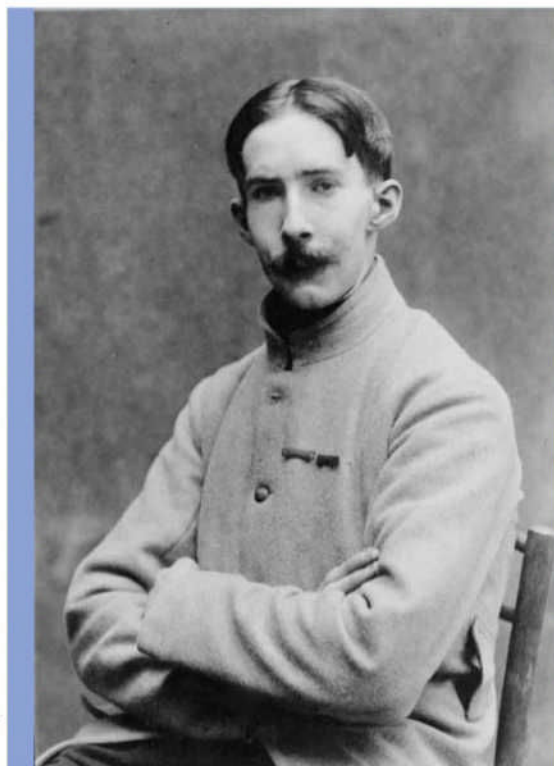
In order to make each mask a true reflection of the man's spirit, Ladd also talked to family members and studied prewar pictures. She knew her efforts were successful because she later said, "I was able in every case to give the mutilated, disheartened man back his personality, and his hopes, and ambitions." The letters of gratitude she received from her "victims of war" were touching. They often told of new jobs, marriages, and happy family reunions.

For her work, the French government awarded Ladd the Cross of the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. It is one of the highest honors a civilian can receive in that country. Ladd made more than 60 masks during her year in Paris. Before leaving in December 1918, she trained her assistants to continue the studio's work. Her postwar sculptures reflected all she had witnessed in France: the suffering, as well as the strength, of the human spirit. Anna Coleman Ladd died in Santa Barbara, California, on June 3, 1939. 🌀



These masks show casts taken by Ladd from injured soldiers' faces as well as final masks made to fit over the disfigured part of the face.

Fitted with his custom-made mask, this French veteran could go out in public without attracting stares.

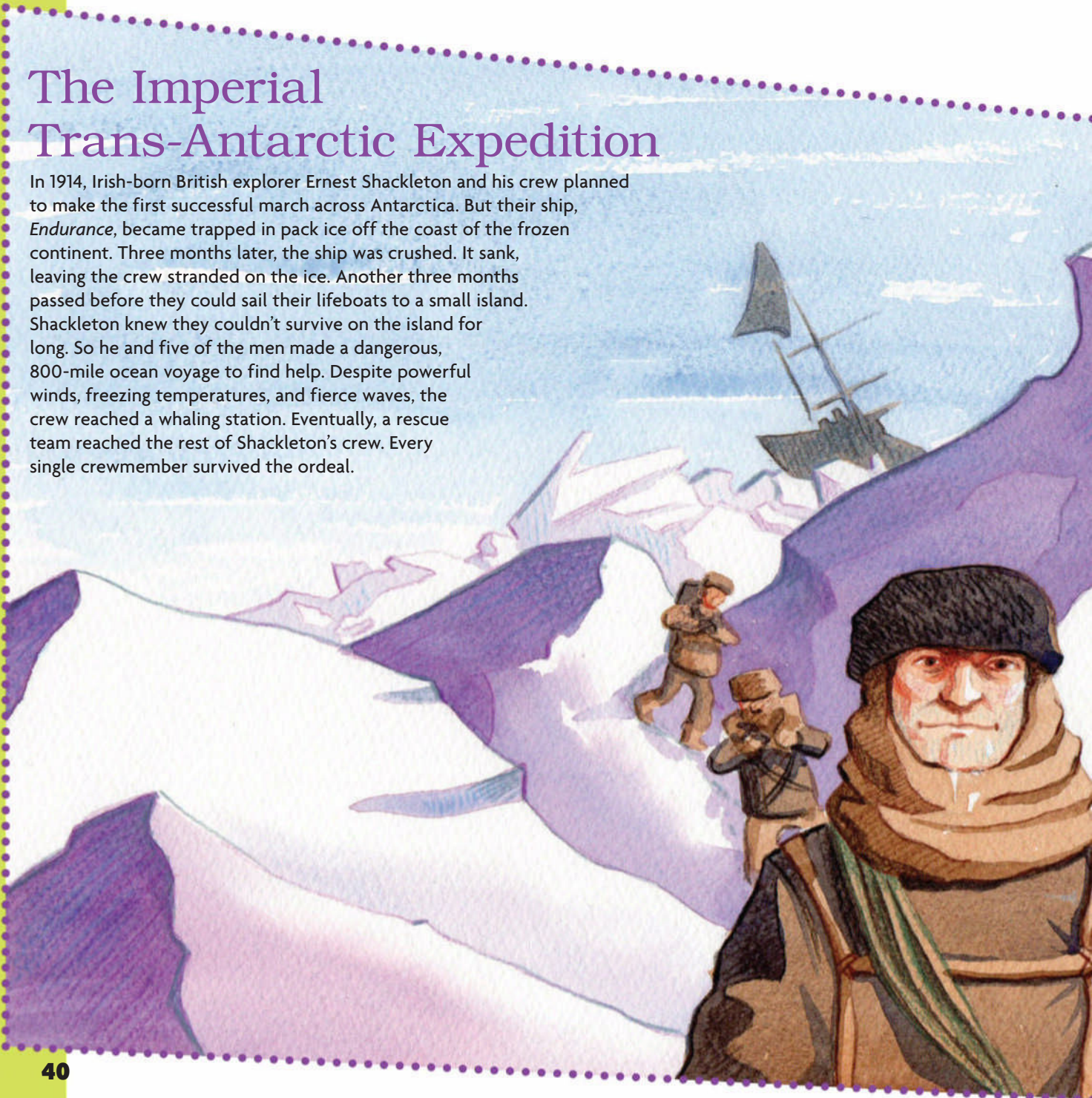


Noteworthy Events

The Great War certainly demanded the world's attention in the second decade of the 1900s, but other international events worth noting took place. Here are a few of them.

The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

In 1914, Irish-born British explorer Ernest Shackleton and his crew planned to make the first successful march across Antarctica. But their ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in pack ice off the coast of the frozen continent. Three months later, the ship was crushed. It sank, leaving the crew stranded on the ice. Another three months passed before they could sail their lifeboats to a small island. Shackleton knew they couldn't survive on the island for long. So he and five of the men made a dangerous, 800-mile ocean voyage to find help. Despite powerful winds, freezing temperatures, and fierce waves, the crew reached a whaling station. Eventually, a rescue team reached the rest of Shackleton's crew. Every single crewmember survived the ordeal.



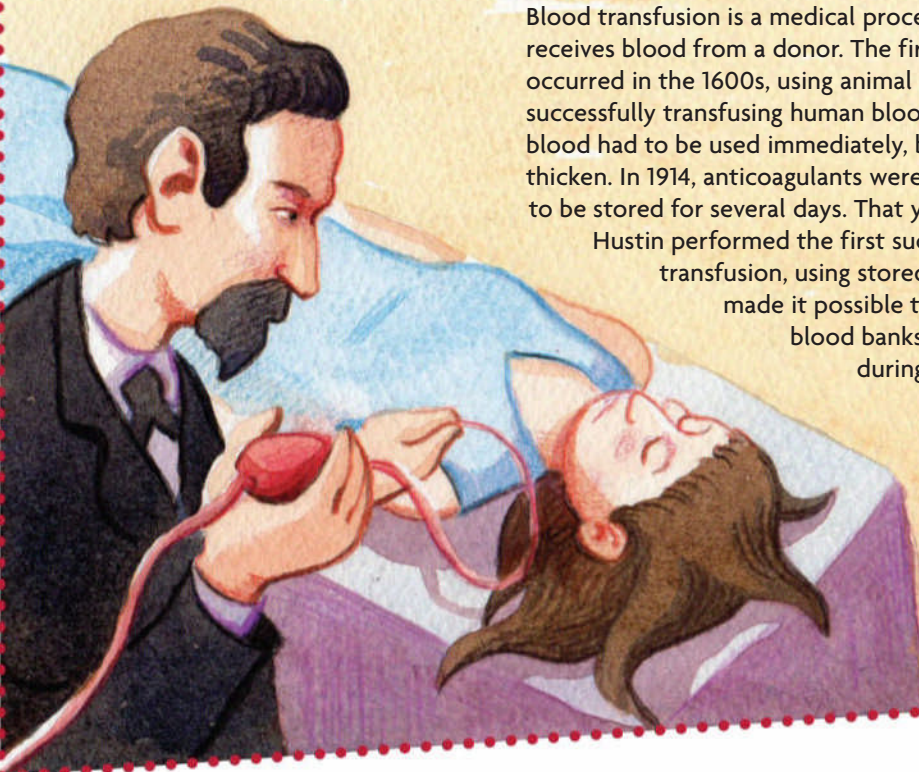
Women's Suffrage

For most of history, only men were allowed to vote. By the late 19th century, women around the world had been organizing for the right to vote for decades. New Zealand and Australia extended voting rights to women in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Finland followed in 1906. In Argentina, Julieta Lanteri was able to cast a vote in 1911 after she sued for that right. The suffragist movement really took off during the years of World War I. That's when large numbers of women stepped outside their traditional roles to fill the gaps made by so many men fighting. Azerbaijan became the first Muslim country to allow women to vote. Women also won the vote in several U.S. states and Canadian provinces as well as a large number of European countries. In 1920, the 19th Amendment made women's suffrage the law of the land in the United States.



BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

Blood transfusion is a medical procedure where a patient receives blood from a donor. The first known blood transfusions occurred in the 1600s, using animal blood. Doctors started successfully transfusing human blood during the 1800s, but the blood had to be used immediately, before it could coagulate, or thicken. In 1914, anticoagulants were developed, allowing blood to be stored for several days. That year, Belgian doctor Albert Hustin performed the first successful indirect blood transfusion, using stored blood. That new method made it possible to set up blood depots—or blood banks—which the British used during World War I to treat wounded soldiers.



**Freeze
FRAME**

This French soldier and his canine companion wear protective gas masks before heading to the frontline during World War I. Dogs helped find wounded soldiers, carry messages, and lay down telegraph wires.



Thoughts on Helen Keller

What do you think of when you hear the name “Helen Keller”? Do you think of a woman who was blind and deaf? I don’t. I think of a woman who helped many people realize that people with disabilities are people just like those without disabilities. Helen Keller was born healthy. She could see and hear just fine until she became sick and lost her sight and hearing. Helen became very frustrated that she couldn’t see and hear until a woman named Anne Sullivan, who became her teacher, helped her communicate. She soon became quite famous because, in the 1800s, it was rare for someone to overcome disabilities and live in the public eye. Helen learned how to read and write and speak. She was writing stories from a young age! She was super intelligent and even graduated from college with honors. As she grew older, Keller traveled the world to improve the lives of others with disabilities. This inspires me because many people didn’t believe Helen Keller could become a smart, independent woman due to her deafness and blindness. Yet, she did, and she spent the rest of her life writing books and improving the lives of others. She was a hero to many people.



*Rachel Anderson, age 13
Hoschton, Georgia*

The Whaling Industry Benjamin Franklin 19th-Century Writers Make History

Draw a picture or write a poem or short essay that connects to one of the above **COBBLESTONE** themes on which we currently are working. All contributions must be your original work. Include a note from a parent or legal guardian clearly stating: “This is my child’s original work, and **COBBLESTONE** has permission to publish it with my child’s name, age, and hometown, in print and online.” We will include as many as we can in the upcoming issue to which your work relates. Mail it to the address shown here, or email it to cobblestone@cricketmedia.com.





HEY, kids!

You can email
your caption!

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"Help! I've fallen
and I can't get up...."

Serena Cooper, age 10
St. Paul, Minnesota

Must...have...water...

Ishwari Diwan
Cupertino, California

You got me, man,
you got me.

Dillon Curtis, age 7
Brush, Colorado

I'm wasting
away to nothing!

Imogen Drake, age 12
Philmont, New York



February Winners!



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DR. D'S MYSTERY HERO

by Dennis Denenberg



The Power of the Paintbrush

Can a person play an important part in his or her country's war effort without being in combat? This month's mystery hero's experience indicates "yes."

Born in Missouri in 1889, our hero was the oldest son of a popular local politician. He was expected to follow his father's path into politics. When he was a boy of just six years old, his father sent him to a military academy, a decision against which our young hero rebelled. Fortunately for him, his mother supported her son's real interest—art!

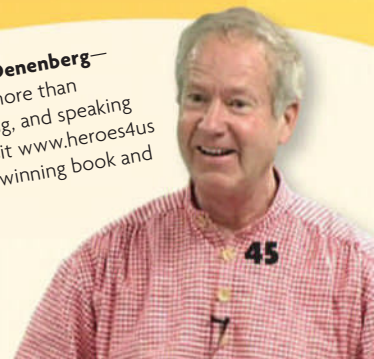
He began his career as an artist as a teenager. A newspaper in Joplin, Missouri, hired him to draw cartoons. At age 18, he enrolled in the Art Institute of Chicago, a school known throughout the art world for its excellent teachers. Two years later, he left the United States to study in Paris at the Academie Julian, a private art school. Throughout that time, his mother supported her son's dream to make art his lifework.

Our hero returned to the United States in 1912. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy when the country entered World War I in 1917. At first, his job involved captur-

ing shipyard scenes. He worked as a camoufler, too. He drew the camouflaged U.S. and Allied ships as they entered the Norfolk, Virginia, naval base. His documentation of the patterns on the ships provided the U.S. Navy with a record to identify a ship that was damaged or lost during the war as well as a way to identify other nations' ships and camouflage patterns.

Today, our mystery hero is recognized as one of the greatest American artists of the 20th century. He credited his time in the U.S. Navy during the war for shaping his distinctive style that uses bold colors. Here's an extra hint: Make certain you identify the artist and not his famous great-grandfather, the senator from Missouri after whom our hero was named. Answer on page 48.

"Dr. D"—also known as **Dr. Dennis Denenberg**—loves history and real heroes. For more than 20 years, he's been writing, teaching, and speaking about heroes all over America. Visit www.heroes4us.com to learn all about his award-winning book and his Hero-Virtue trading cards.



SPOTLIGHT
ON...

by Ebenezer

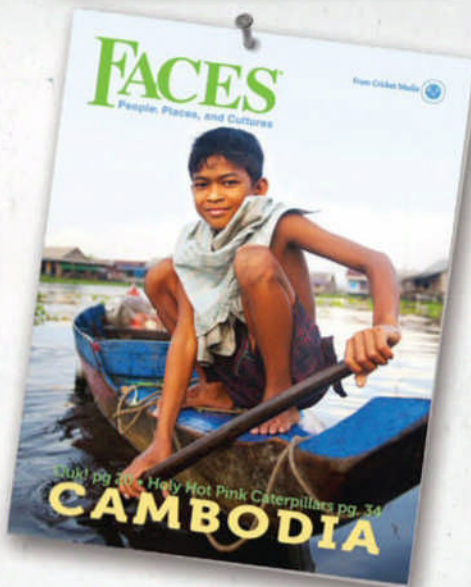


Stories From the Trenches

The story of any war is also the stories of the people who fought in it. A great place to learn more about the veterans of World War I is the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project at www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-wwi.html. The project collects and preserves the accounts of veterans through their oral histories, letters, diaries, and photographs. I found the personal, first-hand stories about what it was like to be in the trenches during World War I fascinating. The Colonel liked browsing through the photographs of life on the battlefield and seeing what the soldiers did for fun. The squirrels, of course, were curious about what the men ate. They didn't know that corned beef in a can was a real thing!



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LANDSHIPS

Did you know that tanks initially were referred to as “landships”? With trench warfare creating a stalemate in the fighting in World War I, countries sought ways to get around it. One

answer was a massive vehicle that traveled on land, much as a ship traveled on the sea. The British initially assigned the project to a naval committee.

The “landships” that resulted were designed to bridge the large gaps in the earth created by the vast system of trenches. Within months of the committee’s first landship design, the British army took over. To conceal the true purpose of the new “weapon,” people were led to believe that the large machines carried water—which led to the name “tanks.”



Answer to Dr. D’s Mystery Hero from page 45: Thomas Hart Benton

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Cartoon Connection with EBENEZER & The COLONEL

by KE Lewis

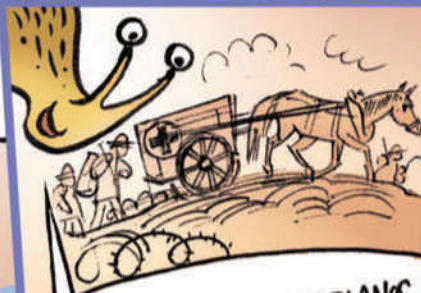
I sure am **INSPIRED** by all the **ANIMAL HEROES** of World War II!

HORATIO SLUGWORTHY, inveterate invertebrate and Veteran **MILITARY HISTORIAN**, at your Service!

ANIMALS played crucial supporting roles in the War.



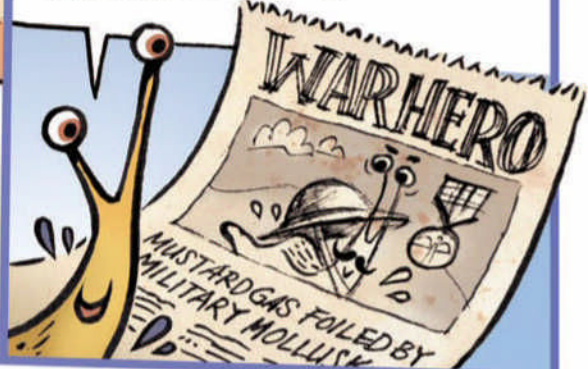
DOGS also served as messengers, scouts, and guards for soldiers in the field.



One famous dog, **STUBBY**, was promoted to the rank of **SERGEANT** for his bravery!



C'MON, GUYS! Looks like somebody needs a heroic **SLUG HUG!!**



Of course, they were mostly creatures of the **WARM** and **FUZZY** kind...





May/June 2017 Volume 38 Number 5 cricketmedia.com \$4.95

Super Slugs to the Rescue!

Dr. Paul Bartsch, who worked in the Division of Mollusks at the National Museum of Natural History, had been studying garden slugs for years. He noticed that slugs were sensitive to gas fumes from his furnace. Bartsch conducted further tests during World War I, when combatants began using chemical warfare on each other on the battlefield. Bartsch's slugs showed signs of distress or discomfort when low levels of mustard gas were present. Bartsch shared his findings with the military, and by mid-1918, U.S. forces in Europe were informed of the service that slugs and their great sense of smell could offer. By observing the behavior of slugs in the trenches, soldiers were given advance warning of the presence of mustard gas and had time to put on their gas masks. Not too shabby for a shell-less, gastropod mollusk.

