

Lesson #72 U.S. History

U.S.A Enters War

1914 Panama Canal opens – 5,000 miles trip instead of 12,000 miles security of canal an issue.

1916 Pancho “Villa” kills 16 American in raid on Columbus, New Mexico

Colonel Pershing sent to punish and never saw Pancho and his troops. It expedition did prepare the American Army for the Great War. Pershing had vehicles and airplanes that needed service. Men had to be trained to enter into the modern warfare. The U.S. developed a test to evaluate soldiers aptitude the Intelligence Quotient Test.

The Army also looked at the condition called “Shell Shock” and developed testing for the condition.

Wilson won the 1916 Election with “He keep us out of War”



The United States Army enter the war with 127,500 Troops and officers and 181,620 National Guard members.

Started 1914 with:

U.S. Army at 92,482 men

285,000 Springfield Rifles

400 Artillery guns

150 Heavy guns

1,500 Machine Guns – four different models

National Guard at 127,000 men

The Navy was in better shape with a total of 37 Battleships, 33 Cruisers, 66 destroyers, and 44 submarines all total the Navy had 342 surface ships. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels remove alcohol from ship and replaced with coffee – “Cup of Joe” term enter the language.

American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.)

Major General Pershing was promoted to that rank and skip three ranks (Major, Lt. Colonel & Colonel) and was the lowest ranking General then appointed to lead the AEF’ 14,000 members to France and was the lowest ranking. General Leonard Woods but he called Wilson a “spineless rabbit” and Pershing was jumping over 852 senior officers.

When the General appointed to lead the AEF'. He was told to keep the American Army together. The Allied leaders wanted to use the Americans in their armies and not have an American Army in Europe. Plus, Pershing did not like trench warfare and wanted Open Warfare that had troops charge machine guns instead of using gunfire to pin down enemy while other troops move to flank or go behind enemy.

To build an Army the government established 32 army camps with a division of 28,000 men. The U.S. Army Division was twice as large as the European divisions. To build the Army there was a lack of NCO's and Officers so a system of training was setup for a 6 month of training program (ROTC) in States before then being sent to Europe for more training.

On August 3, 1918 a Camp Leach lab had a mishap that released cloud of Mustard Gas it was the second mishap at the camp. Today the area is Spring Valley and in the 1990's a contractor uncovered a canister of Gas that was part of the buried shells from WWI.

Morality and the fear of young men falling into vice the government established in 1918 Venereal Disease Division of Public Health.

Shell Shock (PTSD -Stress Disorder) – (PTBI -Brain Injury)

In 1914 the idea was that a man could survive war and if he did not, he was weak. The German used the term "Male Hysteria". There was no looking at the mind as a damaged part of the body unless it was damaged. A man who broke down and refused to fight was shot for being a coward. Slowly a new view took shape and by 1916 the term "Shell Shock" became a medical diagnose. Great Britain saw reeducation as a method to place men back in the front.

Enlisted men were given weaving classes and later moved up into more manly occupations like farming then carrying a gun. There was also the use of electrical shock treatment to rehabilitate individuals. Officers were given the "Talking Cure" Therapy.

The Americans enter the war with medical teams of psychologist in every unit to deal with "Shell Shock". After the war the men that suffered from the effects of war had a negative effect on future treatment. If treatment fail, then there must be another cause must be behind "Shell Shock" and the psychologist were removed from units in the front in WWII only to be replace again during the Vietnam War. First artillery shell fired by Americans October 23, 1917.

American Units:

Rainbow Division (42nd) made up of National Guard Units from 26 States. Douglas MacArthur promoted to Colonel to lead.

The 369th Black troops held honor of longest continuous duty at front for Americans race played a part. 367,710 African American in the Army 200,000 to France – 50,000 saw combat 92nd & 93rd

Americicaine Escadrille formed April 16 with symbol of Indian Head – first action at Verdun – later became the 103rd of U.S. Army

General Ludendorff Plans the Spring Offensive for March 21, 1918 – plan to strike between French and British lines on the Somme – 132,000 Doughboys in the line with no tanks

A Second Offensive on April 9, 1918 in Flanders – worried Allies finally appointed a Commander-in-Chief – Baron von Richthofen shot down on April 21, 1918 at the Somme.

A third Push was in late May – influenza was hitting the German lines – Germans pushed the French back some 60 miles to the Marne River once more. The Americans were used at Chateau-Thierry. Ludendorff gambled to end the war with a massive push to Paris before American troops could arrive in large numbers.

Pershing allowed troops to fill weak points. At Belleau Woods the 5th and 6th Marines held the line. The Germans nicknamed them “Devil Dogs” This was the first America victory. One company of Marines lost 380 men out of 400. Sargent Dan Daly was said to have yelled “Come on, you son’s-o-bitches! Do you want to live forever?” At Belleau Wood marine sharpshooters cut down Germans at over 600 yards.

British were upset that the Americans were not put in their units under their command

USA Intelligence forecast German attack in Reims and Montdidier areas and French and British refused to believe. Saint-Mihiel Offensive began as a surprise to the allies.

Allied Command planed a Winter Offensive on September 12, 1918. The Americans 550,000 with 110,000 French would begin the attack at 6 a.m. after a 4-hour bombardment – this tactic was used by the Germany Shock Troops

Doughboy Lee Duncan found a German Sheppard with pups – he took them back to American lines and gave all away except two – He named his two Nenette and Rintintin – when he returned home the dogs went with him Nenette died soon after arriving in the States Rintintin became Rin-Tin-Tin in in a 1922 film and went on to make 27 films

Pershing wanted an America share of the battle victory and planned the Argonne campaign to plan to cut the German lines in three days of open warfare. That failed on massive scale. Pershing said that men who turned back should be shot if necessary.

For 47 days the American troops lost an average of 550 men a day in the Argonne while the press was given stories of success. Pershing collapsed and turned field command and set up two commands to finish the Argonne. Wilson also wanted a major American victory to set stage for post war settlement. During the offensive Alvin C. York killed 20 Germans and captured 132 Germans alone Oct. 8, 1918.

N.Y. 77th Lost Battalion in area 350 yards by 100 yards with some 700 men sent a pigeon with a message “We are along the road parallel 276. 4 our artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven’s sake, Stop it!” at the end of the battle 194 walked out, 190 carried, 107 dead and 63 missing. The pigeon was awarded with a medal. By 1918 there were 20,000 pigeons in use on the Western Front.

There was a pause in the battle and on November 1, 1918 Argonne resumed, and the U.S. had 2million men in Europe. The Americans used Choctaw Code talkers to send messages.

The Germans used flamethrowers and Muster Gas that would stay in ground for weeks. The gas wounded 1/3 of wounded Americans. Last German offensive was on July 18,1918.

The Americans troops in Belgium ate fried potatoes and started calling them French Fries

Soldiers Newspapers WWI

Papers were handwritten in the begging of the war and soon they became printed with ad’s and were paid for by troops in the front - with self-censorship.

British had 107 titles of monthly runs of 5,000

French had 200 titles with runs of 100,000 in 1916

Russians had no papers for troops in field

Germany had 115 titles with runs of 100,000 on western front and 200,000 on eastern front.

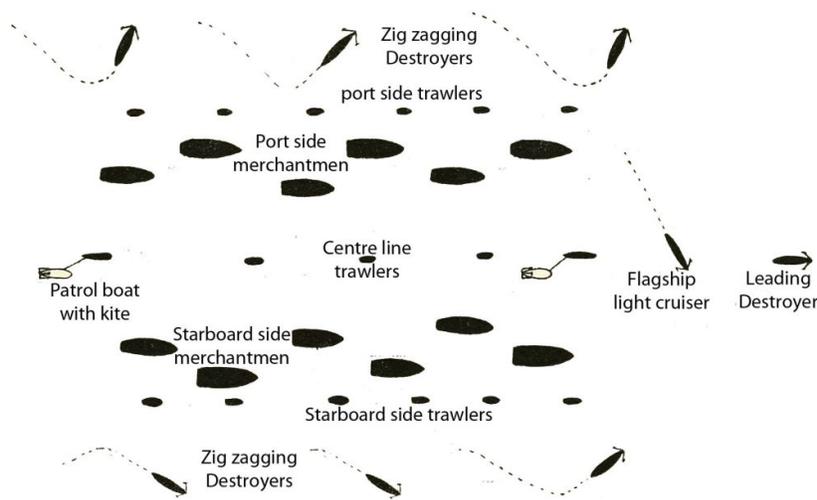
Western front had domestic newspapers from home in trenches.

Spanish Influenza 1918

Most flu is carried by duck and birds this new strand was carried by pig (swine). By the end 500,000 Americans died 20,000,000 sick. World lost at 20 to 60 million King Alphonse XIII of Spain first notable person to die. Flu was first seen in U.S in Feb. 1918, in France in early April and Germany in late April there were 160,000 sick in Berlin. The civilian population in Germany was already starving in 1916.

Life expectancy	1917	51 years old
	1918	39 years old – 12 years drop
	1919	51 years old

U.S. and Allied Navies began Escorting convoys across the Atlantic.



German plans to return to unrestricted U-boat war was to cutoff American supplies and manpower to Europe and end the war. The war at sea picked up in June the U-151 sank six ships off New Jersey coast that included the *SS Carolina* before returning to Germany the U-151 sank 23 ships.

July 19, 1917 the *USS San Diego* hit a mine and sank it was the only American war ship lost during the war

The U-156 fired three torpedoes at a tugboat and barges. All three torpedoes missed and the U-boat surface to fire the deck gun at the tug off the coast of Cape Cod as beachgoers watched the convoy pass.