

The Great War 1917

January 10,	Announces ready to resume unrestricted U-boat warfare
January 22,	Wilson give "Peace without Victory" speech
January 31,	Germans resume unrestricted warfare
February 3,	U.S. drops diplomatic ties with Germany
February 23,	Germany move back to stronger positions
February 24,	British pass the Zimmerman Telegram (Note) to United States
February 26,	Wilson asked Congress to arm merchant ships
March 1,	Zimmermann telegram published
March 12,	Wilson announced arming merchant ships – Congress refuse permission
March 15,	Russian Revolution and Tsar Nicholas II abdicated
March 20,	Wilson's Cabinet voted in favor of war unanimously
April 2,	Wilson asked Congress for Declaration of War
April 6,	U.S. Declares War on Germany
April 13,	Wilson signed Executive Order #2594 for Committee on Public Information
April 16,	Lenin arrived in Russia with help of Germans
April 20,	French failure at Battle of Champagne
April 29,	Mutiny in French Army – refuse to attack enemy
May 18,	Selective Service Act passed
May 29,	General Pershing leaves for France
June 15,	Espionage Act passed
June 26,	First U.S. Troops enter Europe
June 27,	Greece enters war on Allied side
July Days	Russia Bolsheviks try to seize power – Kerensky order the arrest of Lenin
July 2,	General Pershing asked for 1,000,000 men
July 11,	General Pershing increase request to 3,000,000 men
July 16,	Battle (Ypres) of Passchendaele starts
July 28,	War Industries Board
September 1,	Germany took the north end of the Russian Front in Riga
September 9,	General Kornilov coup? Kerensky asked Bolsheviks for help
October 24,	Germans break through at Caporetto on Italian Front
November 7,	Lenin takes control of Russia with Bolsheviks
November 20,	British launch tank attack at Cambrai
December 7,	U.S. Declared war on Austria-Hungary
December 22,	Russia open peace talks with Germany at Brest-Litovsk

NOTES 1917

Past Peace Efforts before 1917:

Henry Ford's Peace Ship the *SS Oscar II* peace mission 1915 – failed

54 reporters

3 cameramen

83 Delegates

50 Staff Members

18 Students

And William J. Bryan

Election of 1916: “Keep Us Out of War”

Republicans nominate Charles Evans Hughes.

Wilson renominated by Democrats.

Wilson wins on social issues in a close race.

Wilson's efforts to maintain peace.

Wilson asks each side to state war aims.

Victory seems to be close at hand for the Germans.

1917

January 22, Wilson address the United States Senate “Peace without Victory” that a Peace only between equals can last.

T.R. said Wilson's was idealistic and had empty words. That “Peace without Victory is the natural idea of the man who is too proud to fight”.

Germany and Allies wanted American support. They saw that if Americans did go to Allied side and they did not see the American Army as a problem. They could end the war before the industrial power of America could play a part. Reason behind the unrestricted warfare resumed in February. Germany had pushed America to join the war for the Allied side. Germany was under the control of General Ludendorff (the Army) who was the “silent dictator”.

Britain wanted US in war on their side and worked every situation to see that America did enter the war on their side.

Wilson meeting on February 2 to discuss cutting diplomatic relations with Germany said ‘war would weaken the White race’ Asians

February 3, severed diplomatic relations with Germany

March abdication of Tsar Nicholas II the Provisional Government by Alexander Kerensky

Lenin's trip to Russia by Germans with funds to support Bolsheviks

Americans saw the Russian revolution as a case for democracy

Renewed U-boat campaign:

February 3, first US ship sunk in 1917 was the *SS Housatonic* by U-53

February 12, the Schooner *Lyman M. Law* sunk

SS Eagle Point was sunk after surrendering to German U-boat 1917

SS Locania Sank

March 12th *Algonquin* sunk

16th *SS Vigilaneia* sunk

17th *SS City of Memphis* sunk

18th *Illinois* sunk

21st *SS Healdton* sunk

In May of 1917 - the U-151 placed mines off the coast of Virginia and cut two undersea cables then on the 25th the U-boat sank 3 schooners

Then in June 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

U-156 fired three torpedoes at a tugboat and barges – all three missed the U-boat surface and fired the deck gun at the tug off the coast of Cape Cod as beachgoers watched

March 19, 1917 - Tsar out and America saw it as a move to democracy

March 20, 1917 - cabinet debate on declaring war – Albert Bursleson and Josephus Daniels were the Doves

Panama Canal

Germany (East Coast) and Japan (West Coast) both were looking for ports in Mexico. U.S. saw Mexico as a connection to the Panama Canal security. The Canal open in 1914 cutting 7,000 miles of the trip from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean.

January 16, 1917

The Zimmermann Telegram to Mexico and Japan was known by British because they had cut Transatlantic cable in 1914 and British broke German ciphers in Room #40 under Admiral William Hall of British Intelligent. British hope (or planned) for the U.S. would enter war when unrestricted naval was began once more. Wilson still held on to peace and neutrality.

March 1, 1917.

Zimmermann Telegram published in the newspapers

German Ambassador Bernstorff admitted to the authentic telegram

April 1, 1917 - *SS Aztec* sunk by German U-boats and they were sinking ships faster than they could be replaced.

April 2, 1917 - Wilson asked Congress for Declaration of War

Wilson was reluctant to declare war – 36-minute address “right is more precious than peace”

“My message today was a message of death for our young men. How strange it seems to applaud that!” Wilson made the war into a righteous cause

Senate 82 to 6 for war

House 373 to 50 for war

April 6, Declaration signed

Zimmerman Telegram

NAME OF MESSAGE
Date of Message
Date of Letter
Date of Telegram
Date of Receipt

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

NO. OF MESSAGE
NO. OF LETTER
NO. OF TELEGRAM
NO. OF RECEIPT

via Galveston JAN 29 1917

GERMAN LEGATION
MEXICO CITY

130	13042	13401	8501	115	3528	416	17214	6491	11310
18147	18222	21560	10247	11518	23677	13605	3494	14636	
98092	5905	11311	10392	10371	0302	21290	5161	59095	
23571	17504	11269	18276	18101	0517	0228	17694	4473	
22284	22200	19452	21589	07893	5569	13978	8958	12137	
1333	4725	4458	5905	17166	15851	4458	17149	14471	6708
13850	12224	6929	14991	7382	15857	67893	14218	56477	
5870	17553	67893	5870	5454	16102	15217	22801	17138	
21001	17388	7146	23638	18222	6719	14331	15021	23845	
3106	23552	22096	21604	4797	9497	22461	20855	4377	
23410	18140	22260	5905	13347	20420	39689	13732	20667	
6929	5275	18527	52242	1340	22049	13339	11265	22295	
10439	14814	4178	6992	8784	7632	7357	6926	52262	11807
21100	21272	9346	9559	22464	15874	18502	18500	15857	
2188	5376	7381	98092	16127	13486	9350	9220	70036	14219
5144	2831	17920	11347	17142	11264	7667	7762	15099	9128
10482	97556	3569	3670						

BEPNSTOPFF.

Charge German Embassy.

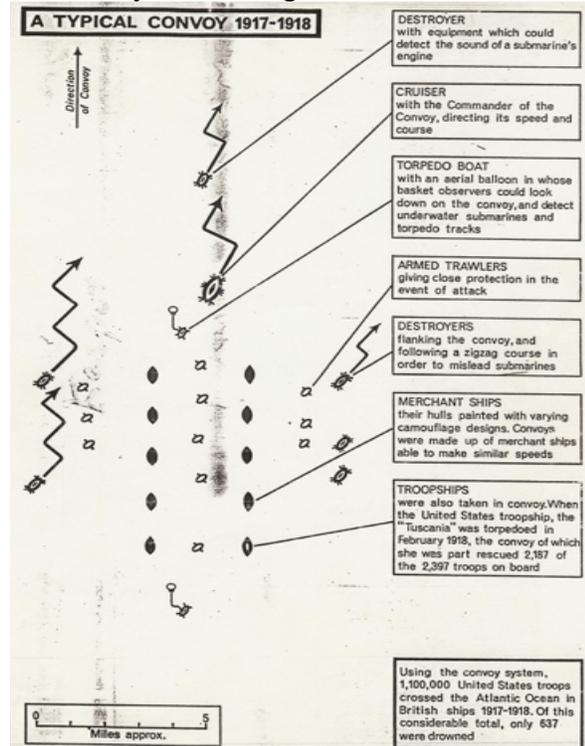
TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America 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." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.

CODE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM			
<p>Edward Bell's copy of the decode made at the American embassy (National Archives, Foreign Affairs Branch, State Department Decimal File, 862.20212/81 1/2. English translation added by the author).</p> <p>This is the text, with Bernstorff's slight alterations at the beginning, which Bernstorff forwarded to Eckhardt, and is the same as the text obtained by Admiral Hall in Mexico City which he gave to Ambassador Page.</p>			
<p>130 (number of telegram) —</p> <p>13042 (code identification number) —</p> <p>13401 Auswärtiges Amt</p> <p>8501 telegraphiert</p> <p>115 Januar 16</p> <p>3528 colon(:)</p> <p>416 number r</p> <p>17214 ganz geheim</p> <p>6491 selbst</p> <p>11310 zu</p> <p>18147 entziffern</p> <p>18222 stop(.)</p> <p>21560 Wir</p> <p>10247 beabsichtigen</p> <p>11518 am</p> <p>23677 ersten</p> <p>13605 Februar</p> <p>3494 un-</p> <p>14953 eingeschränkt</p> <p>98092 U-boat</p> <p>5905 Krieg</p> <p>11311 zu</p> <p>10392 beginnen</p> <p>10371 stop(.)</p>	<p>Foreign Office telegraphs</p> <p>January 16 colon(:)</p> <p>no. 1</p> <p>strictly secret</p> <p>yourself</p> <p>to</p> <p>decipher</p> <p>stop(.)</p> <p>We</p> <p>intend</p> <p>from the first</p> <p>February</p> <p>un-</p> <p>restricted U-boat</p> <p>war</p> <p>to begin</p> <p>stop(.)</p>	<p>0302 Es wird</p> <p>21290 versucht</p> <p>5161 werden</p> <p>39695 Vereinigten Staaten</p> <p>23571 trotzdem</p> <p>17504 neutral</p> <p>11269 zu</p> <p>18276 erhalten</p> <p>18101 stop(.)</p> <p>0217 Für den Fall</p> <p>0228 dass dies</p> <p>17694 nicht</p> <p>4473 gelingen</p> <p>22284 sollte</p> <p>22200 comma(,)</p> <p>19452 schlagen</p> <p>21589 wir</p> <p>67893 Mexico</p> <p>5569 auf</p> <p>13918 folgender</p> <p>8958 Grundzüge</p> <p>12137 Bündnis</p> <p>1333 vor</p> <p>4725 stop(.)</p>	<p>It will attempted be</p> <p>United States</p> <p>nevertheless neutral</p> <p>to keep</p> <p>stop(.)</p> <p>In the event that this not succeed should comma(,)</p> <p>offer we</p> <p>Mexico on</p> <p>following terms</p> <p>alliance (prefix of verb)</p> <p>vorschlagen—to offer</p> <p>stop(.)</p>
<p>4458 Gemeinsam</p> <p>5905 Krieg</p> <p>17166 führen</p> <p>13851 stop(.)</p> <p>4458 Gemeinsam</p> <p>17149 Friedensschluss</p> <p>14471 stop(.)</p> <p>6706 Reichlich</p> <p>13850 finanzielle</p> <p>12224 unterstützung</p> <p>6929 und</p> <p>14991 einverständnis</p> <p>7382 unserer seits</p> <p>15857 dass</p> <p>67893 Mexico</p> <p>14218 in</p> <p>36477 Texas</p> <p>5870 comma(,)</p> <p>17553 New</p> <p>67893 Mexico</p> <p>5870 comma(,)</p> <p>5454 AR</p> <p>16102 IZ</p> <p>15217 ON</p> <p>22801 A</p> <p>17138 früher</p> <p>21001 verloren</p> <p>17388 Gebiet</p> <p>7416 zurück</p> <p>23678 erobern</p> <p>18222 stop(.)</p> <p>6719 Regelung</p> <p>14331 im</p> <p>15021 Einzelnen</p> <p>23845 Euer Hoch-</p> <p>3156 wohlgeboren</p> <p>23552 stop(.)</p> <p>22096 Sie</p> <p>21604 wollen</p> <p>4797 vorstehendes</p> <p>9497 dem</p> <p>22484 Präsident</p> <p>20855 streng</p> <p>4377 geheim</p> <p>23610 eröffnen</p> <p>18140 comma(,)</p> <p>22260 sobald</p> <p>5905 Krieg</p> <p>13347 Ausbruch</p> <p>20420 mit</p> <p>39689 Vereinigten Staaten</p> <p>13732 fest</p> <p>10667 steht</p>	<p>Together war make stop(.) Together peace stop(.) Generous financial support and understanding our part that Mexico in Texas comma(,)</p> <p>New Mexico comma(,)</p> <p>AR IZ ON A</p> <p>former lost territory back conquer stop(.) Settlement in the details Your Excel-</p> <p>lency to be left stop(.) You will of the fore-going the President in strictest secrecy inform comma(,)</p> <p>as soon as war's outbreak with United States certain is</p>	<p>6929 und</p> <p>5275 Anregung</p> <p>18507 hinzufügen</p> <p>52262 Japan</p> <p>1340 von</p> <p>22049 sich</p> <p>13339 aus</p> <p>11265 zu</p> <p>22295 sofortig</p> <p>10439 beitreten</p> <p>14814 einladen</p> <p>4178 (setze infinitiv mit zu—i.e., einzuladen)</p> <p>6992 und</p> <p>8784 gleichzeitig</p> <p>7632 zwischen</p> <p>7357 und</p> <p>6926 und</p> <p>52262 Japan</p> <p>11267 zu</p> <p>21100 vermitteln</p> <p>21272 stop(.)</p> <p>9346 Bitte</p> <p>9559 den</p> <p>22464 Präsident</p> <p>15874 darauf</p> <p>18502 hinweisen</p> <p>18500 comma(,)</p> <p>15857 dass</p> <p>2188 rücksichtslos</p> <p>5376 Anwendung</p> <p>7381 unserer</p> <p>98092 U-boote</p> <p>16127 jetzt</p> <p>13486 Aussicht</p> <p>9350 bietet</p> <p>9220 comma(,)</p> <p>76036 England</p> <p>14219 in</p> <p>5144 wenigen</p> <p>2831 Monat-</p> <p>17920 en</p> <p>11347 zum</p> <p>17142 Frieden</p> <p>11264 zu</p> <p>9667 zwingen</p> <p>7762 stop(.)</p> <p>15099 Empfang</p> <p>9110 bestahigen</p> <p>10482 stop(.)</p> <p>97556 Zimmermann</p> <p>3569 stop(.)</p> <p>3670 Schluss der Depesch.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BERNSTORFF.</p>	<p>and suggestion add</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>by himself from to immediately join invite (form the infinitive—i.e., invite)</p> <p>and at the same time</p> <p>between us and Japan to mediate stop(.) Please the President of this point to comma(,)</p> <p>that ruthless employment our U-boats now prospect offers comma(,)</p> <p>England in few month-s to peace be compelled stop(.) Receipt acknowledge stop(.) Zimmermann stop(.) End of dispatch</p>

U.S. enters War Of convoys - U.S. began Escort



American Industry:

U.S. Production:	Overcoats	9.5 million
	Shoes	34.0 million
	Rifles	3.1 million
	Gas Mask	5.4 million
	Blankets	22.0 million
	Locomotives & trucks	

Wartime Powers – government gets bigger – administrative agencies

Selective Service Act

May 18, 1917 - **Selective Service Act** – 21-30 had to register by June 5, 1917 – 10,000 register at more than 4,000 draft boards then one could apply for an exemption for deferred or conscientious objector.

Espionage Act June 15, - suppress discontent and no open debate (get in Line)

1918 \$3.7 Billion tax

\$23.0 Billion bonds

16th Amendment – income tax

Single 1% paid income tax on \$3,000 or more

Married 7% paid income tax on \$4,000 or more

Corporation 67%

17th amendment – Public elections of U.S. Senators

18th Amendment - Prohibition

19th amendment – Women's suffrage

Immigration Act February 5, Congress passed the that banned Asian immigrants

War Industries Board 1917 – Bernard Baruch – 20% increase in production

Set priorities

Plan production

Allocated raw materials

Standardized styles and designs

Ration – set price – set wages

Joke – Tuesday – meatless

Wednesday – Wheatless

I'm getting more 'eatless' each day

George Creel – four-minute men – propaganda (CPI)

RED, WHITE & BLUE Pamphlets

Loyalty Pamphlets

The Four Minute Men started in movie theaters during reel change. Then it moved to national campaign. The CPI selected news stories. The Four Minutemen gave 7,555,190 speeches during the war

American Protection League was supported by Justice Department. These were vigilantes who attacked “Slackers” and others that did not appear to support the war - Everyone was watched. Justice Department organized 250,000 to watch German-Americans. They were given badges and rank in the American Protective League and their power grew over time with hysteria.

Wilson wanted to put the fear of God into those that did not support the war.

Social The Germans were the largest ethnic group in America at the start of the war

In 1917 there were 522 German publications by 1918 there were only 26.

Frankfurters became hot dogs

Sauerkraut became Liberty Cabbage

Kaiser Rolls became Liberty buns

German measles became Liberty measles

Hamburger became Liberty Stake

German Life Insurance Company became the Guardian Life Insurance

German composers eliminated Mozart and Beethoven were not played by orchestras

One high school in Wisconsin burned German books

April 1, 1917

Pacifist Alexander Bannwart yelled at Senator Henry Cabot Lodge “Anyone who wants to go to war is a coward”. Then Lodge punched Alexander in the face and police arrested Alexander and the charges were later drop after an apology.

German Beer Brewer Christian Heurich was suspected of building artillery weapons at his home to attack Washington D.C. His home was searched three times.

Hyphenated Americans began to be used – Teddy Roosevelt hated the term

President Wilson sailed to Tangier Island for lunch one day and the town thought the Germans were invading

German Foreign Secretary von Jagow said there were 500,000 reserve in America and if war started with German. American Ambassador Gerard said back to von Jagow there are 500,001 lampposts in America for anyone taking up arms against his country.

Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman opposed the Draft

Ernest Meyer the son of a German immigrant at the University of Wisconsin refused to fight and defended a German professor. He resigned from the college magazine and was expelled from the University. Then he was drafted in July 1918 and refused to wear a uniform. He was released in December after the war and never was court marshalled.

N.Y. Herald said that the Germans were “dope” to make them beast.

Butte Montana – the citizen loaded 1,000 German Americas in boxcars and left them in the desert without food and water.

Wobblies (IWW) Big Bill Haywood

September 5, 1917 indicted 165 members 101 convicted after 5 month - trial Bill Haywood and 13 others given 20 years –jumped bail and fled to the Soviet Union and died in 1929 he is buried in the Kremlin Wall

Billy Sunday asked do you want the Kiser of Wilson, Hell or Heaven, Krupp or Christ, the Iron Cross or the Cross of Christ?

Liberty Bond Act April 24 - \$5 billion

Liberty Bonds May 1917 raised \$2 billion
October raised \$4.6 billion
April 1918 raised \$4.2 billion
September raised \$7 billion

1917 start of Consumer Price Index to measure inflation

Coal shortage -

Rail Roads lacked organizing

Day Light Saving Time started March 31, 1918 and ended August 1919 to be restarted in 1942

Strikes were fought with cheap labor from the South – Blacks moved North and work cheaper

Race riots:

July 2, 1917 East St. Louis riot on– 39 Blacks and 9 Whites

July 2, 1917 in Houston, the police beat 3 Black soldiers. Then Black troops went into town with rifles shooting Whites (17 Whites killed and 3 Blacks). Trials held on the riot with 13 black troopers being hung and 41 sentenced to life 16 of these men had been condemned to death and Wilson commuted the sentences to life.

Suffrage Movement:

Alice Paul used war effort and Wilson words to win the vote took the protest to the White House front gates.

Wilson had locked up political opposition many on the left that were supporters of the Democratic Party.

The Democrats lost the Congress in 1918 elections to the Republicans

Saboteurs – March and September 13 ships explosions and fire

July 2, the reception room at the Senate 3 sticks of dynamite exploded

Frank Holt was picked up after he held Jack Morgan and British Ambassador at gun point with a pistol and dynamite – Jack was wounded stopping Holt – Holt was actually Erich Muentner who was a Harvard Professor that was charged with the murder of his wife in 1906. He took his one life

Dr. Heinrich Albert an attaché at German Embassy left his briefcase in a subway station – show that the Germans had sent 27 million to German agents in U.S. along with list of operatives

July 30, Black Tom Island explosion blew up damaged Statue of Liberty's arm
“Slacker”

Schenck v. United States – Oliver W. Holmes “Clear and Present Danger” – he was wounded twice in Civil War

War – Troops in Europe:

American Expeditionary Force (AEF)

Lafayette Escadrille (Americans in French Air Wing) formed April 16 with symbol of Indian Head in France by young Americans that wanted in the war. Their first action at Verdun and later pulled into the American force and became the 103rd of U.S. Army.

Wilson wanted a well-trained Army not ill-trained volunteers. Pershing wanted 625,000 wanted at first and by the end there were 4.7 million men in arms with 2 million in Europe

General Leonard Wood was a Medal of Honor recipient and critical of Wilson so he was not given the army in Europe. General John Pershing was promoted to general from the position of Captain by passing the ranks of Major, Lt. Colonel and Colonel. He was the lowest ranking general in 1914. Plus, he was a supported open warfare not the trench warfare being practice in Europe.

General Wood had set up 32 Army camps with one division per camp. The trained was for six months then sent to Europe for more training.

American Black Troops in Europe:

There were 367,710 African-American in the Army 200,000 to France and 50,000 saw combat.

The 369th and 371st wore French Uniforms (Black Troops) and under French control the 369th Regiment in line more continuous than any America Regiment.

Color troops – Harlem Hell Fighters

Rainbow Division (42nd) made up of National Guard Units from 26 States

The United States did not declare war on Austria/Hungary until 8 months later

Wilson Commission of Inquiry to establish war aims – 14 points came out of this

Allied powers never bought into the 14 points

Allied nations formed a Supreme War Council failed to unite they parties

TR was rejected for the war. Pershing did not want him in Europe stealing the show.

T.R.'s four sons went 2 suffered terrible wounds and one died

Government started for the first-time War Risk Insurance with a premium of \$6.50 a month taken from his soldier pay of \$37.00 a month. Men took advantage at a rate of 90%.

Dog Tags were issued for battle field identification.

Blue Star (in service) and Gold Stars (lost in service) started to be displayed in windows

Allied Powers Troubles in 1917

1. November 1917 Germans victory at Caporetto weaken Italy and Allied forces move to back up Italian Army
2. Russia is almost out of the fight on November 7, when the Bolsheviks take power
3. France is in turmoil Prime Minister Paul Painleve out and George Clemenceau takes office

June 26, 1917-14,500 Americans in Europe

Colonel Charles Stan on “Nous Voila Lafayette / Lafayette we are here” not General Pershing

Term Doughboys?

1. Possible from clay dust from chasing Villa in Mexico
2. Buttons on uniform looked like a dumpling
3. First American troops in Europe looked like fresh dough

Command of American Troops:

Europe saw America as a supply of bodies for the killing machine. Wilson and Pershing saw an opportunity for America. American troops would stay under American control. America had been watching the war and Pershing had different views on the way to win. The French and British wanted to amalgamate the Americans into their armies. Pershing rejected this and demanded the American Army have it own position in line. The U.S. was never an Allied partner.

General Pershing saw the rifle as the best weapon and ‘open warfare’ better than ‘trench warfare’. He expected aggressive fighter and remove more than a 1,000, officers for not being aggressive

He also did not want American troops trained by allied troops for they acted defeated and that would be bad for moral.

The United States enter the war without supplies, uniforms, and weapons. The Allies supplied the Americans with almost everything. Most of what America product after 1917 would arrive in Europe after the Armistice in 1918. American troops in Europe did not have a full uniform or weapon when they got off the ships.

First artillery shell fired by Americans October 23, 1917 - with a French weapons

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

George S. Patton chased the 'Villa' in Mexico with autos and later would start a tank training camp in France.

U.S. Army was prepared for Shell Shock after studying the first years of the war and seeing what the British were doing. The U.S. enter the war with psychologist at every level. The understanding of the effects on men in combat showed that men who had 35 days of uninterrupted battle had a 98% chance of suffering some degree of psychiatric disturbance.

Mutinies of 1917 In the Great War

Russia

February/March 1917

October/November 1917

Russian Revolution – November Bolsheviks seized power

Loses & economy in paralysis

1915 in Russia

300,000 killed

1,500,000 captured

1916

1,000,000 killed

1917

Civil War

Russian Civil War - Red army against White Army (**Prada** = truth)

Czechoslovak legion 2 years and 2,000 miles fight home

British Mutiny

Singapore Mutiny 1915 – 47 executed

September 1917 Etaples Mutiny – Staging Camp

Wilfred Owen – men have looks without expression – that look like nothing at home or in battle

Siegfried Sasson – poem Base Details

If I were fierce, and bald, and short of breath,

I'd live with scarlet Majors at the Base,

And speed glum heroes up the line to death.

You'd see me with my puffy petulant face,

Guzzling and gulping in the best hotel,

Reading the Roll of Honour. 'Poor young chap,'

I'd say—'I used to know his father well;

Yes, we've lost heavily in this last scrap.'

And when the war is done and youth stone dead,

I'd toddle safely home and die—in bed.

Contempt for Infantry veterans at Etapes by Officers and NCOs many of whom had no combat experience

Corporal Jesse Robert Short was executed 4, October 1917 - 3 men given 10 years -

10 men given 1 year - 33 given field punishment and reduction in rank

French Mutiny – (Best kept secret of the War)

April 16, 1917 - Unrest started in troops

May 1917 - Second Battle of the Aisne mutiny started

May 3, French began the Nivelle Offensive and were badly mauled
Mutiny broke out – 21st division refused to go to the front – leaders shot and others sent to Devils Island

May 6, 120th regiment refused others soon followed fear that it was pattern after the Russian army that had joined Soviets in revolution. Almost ½ of French army threaten to march on Paris

June troops refused to move up in relief 49 Divisions were destabilized out of 113 Divisions

General Petain placed in charge and promised no more offensive movements

There were 23,385 court marshals and 432 death sentences handed out.

Records for this part of French history have not been released by government. There are those that believe that as many as 30,000 soldiers were shot to stop the mutiny.

Conscientious Objector could become Ambulance drivers for 6-month tours. During the French Munity Ambulance drive William Slater Brown wrote home about a conversation it and was arrested by French censors. His friend E.E. Cummings was also arrested he was release in 3 months and Brown had to wait three months Cummings. – E.E. Cummings and William Slater Brown did and in their conversation with French soldiers heard of the Mutiny – in a letter home the French censors arrested both men Cummings was held for 3-months for not stating he hated the Germans

Germany

Battleship *Prinzregent Luitpold* 400 sailors August 1917

October 1918 High Seas Fleet had widespread mutiny

Revolution at home – Army told civilian government to save the nation (Army) and make peace.

Soldiers Newspapers WWI

Papers were hand written in the begging of the war as they became printed they ran 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

Newspapers were read aloud in 1910

Censorship was informal at first then after mutiny formal in France

Germans censored and filled with propaganda

Letters home did not mention women in Europe

Soldiers newspapers did not relate the violence of the battle