# CHAPTER 10 – SECTION 3



#### Americans on the European Front

## The War Drags On



- By April of 1917, the war had been dragging on for almost 3 years and the Allies desperately needed replacement troops
- However, despite the success of the preparedness movement, the United States was far from ready to send an army to the European front

## **U.S Enters the War**

In April 1917 the US Congress cautiously sends supplies, weapons, about \$3 billion in loans and only a few token troops (about 14,000) to France.
These few troops won't actually help much, but will boost Allied morale.



## **Selective Service Act**

When the US entered WWI our military wasn't big enough (needed 3 million, but we only had 120,000)
In May 1917 Congress passed a law that authorized a draft of young men for military service
A lottery picked 3 mill. (24 mill. men registered)

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## **Draft Riots**

- Most people accepted this program
- Unlike the Civil War, riots didn't break out because people felt this would be the "war to end all wars"



## Women in the War

- 11,000 women served in uniform as nurses, drivers, and clerks
- Another 14,000 served abroad as civilians working for the govt. or private agencies



## Convoys

 Groups of unarmed ships surrounded by a ring of armed ships to prevent against sub attacks (u-boats had sunk 430 ships by 1917 – this cut the number in half)



## **Torpedo boats**

#### American ships specially equipped to track and destroy submarines



## American Expeditionary Force (AEF)

 Name given to American troops during WW1
Consisted of draftees, volunteers, and National Guardsmen from the U.S.

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## African American troops

- 300,000 troops discriminated against during WW1
- Kept apart from white troops
- Not allowed in the Marines at all
- Only given minor jobs in Army & Navy



## **Harlem Hell Fighters**

- The 369<sup>th</sup> infantry
- African American regiment that persuaded their white officers to let them fight with the French troops
- Earned France's highest combat medal for distinguished service (Croix de Guerre)



## **Russia Drops Out**

- Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, promises to make peace with Germany after the Czar is gone
- Allows Germany to focus on fighting French and British (the Western Front) and no longer has to fight on both sides



## The Tide Turns

- American Marines lost half their troops, but dug in and prevented the Germans from overtaking Paris
- "We dig no trenches to fall back on. The Marines will hold where they stand."



#### New Weapons Help Win the War

- Two new weapons helped the Allies win the War
- *The Tank* could cross trenches and roll through barbed wire
- Airplanes could drop bombs and engage in aerial "dog fights" (between planes)





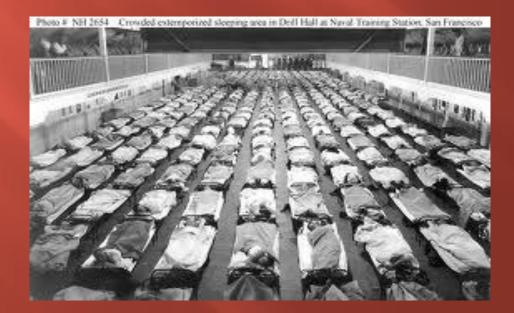
### The Armistice

- The cease-fire to the war
- November 11, 1918 at eleven o'clock in the morning – "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month"
- Celebrated in Europe as Armistice Day and in America as Veterans Day (official holiday declared by Pres. Wilson in 1919)



## Death Toll

- **50,000 American soldiers** died in battle in WWI
- Many more died of influenza (the flu)
- Would have been much higher if not for the volunteer nurses in the Red Cross



### **European Deaths**

Over 8 million soldiers and sailors were killed during the conflict (1914-1918)
An average of more than 5,000/day



## **European Civilians**

- During and immediately after the War millions more civilians died from starvation, disease, or war-related injuries
- Europe was permanently changed as a result



## Genocide

- The organized killing of an entire people
- (Most well-known was the Holocaust in WWII)
- During WWI Ottoman forces kicked out and killed hundreds of thousands of Armenian civilians who they suspected of disloyalty to the government (continued into early 1920's)



## Writing Assignment

 Pretend you are a journalist during the war. Write a one page newspaper article describing *what you see on the battlefield* on the Western Front in France. <u>Use 5 facts</u> from your notes (underline or number them in your paper!)

#### • Or

Write a one page newspaper article describing the *actions being taken on the home front* to help with the war effort back in America. <u>Use 5 facts</u> from your notes (underline or number them in your paper!)