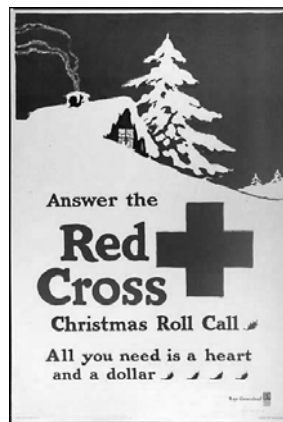
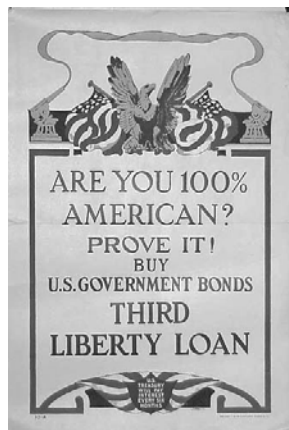
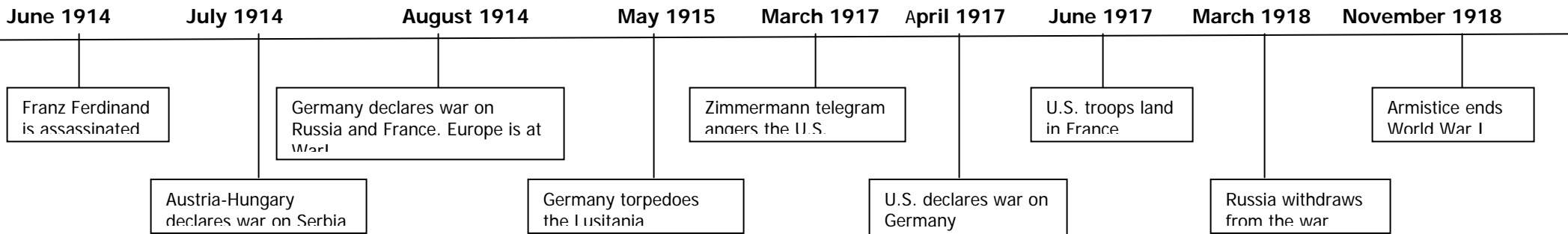




Mr. Saccullo
8th. Grade Social Studies

World War I

"The War to End All Wars" Part 4: America Joins the War









Canadian and other allied soldiers were often buried in the British cemeteries as well as their own. Here graves are prepared for burying the casualties of another day of war. Later, dedicated work by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission would re-intern over 385,000 dead in many small and large cemeteries throughout Europe.

America Supplies the Allies

- By 1917, the Allies desperately needed soldiers to help fight the war. Years of trench warfare had led to a shortage of Allied troops and some French troops refused to continue to fight.
- The British had started to run out of food and ammunition.
- German U-boats were sinking 25% of the Allied ships that carried supplies.
- To stop the large losses of supplies to U-boats the U.S. Navy first helped the British find and sink German U-boats.
- The Navy also created a convoy system that drastically reduced attacks.
- The convoys were teams of ships made up of Navy Destroyers and merchant ships that traveled together in an escorted line across the Atlantic.

Russia Withdraws from the War

- The Allies needed more troops after the second Russian Revolution when the **Bolsheviks** (a group of communists) overthrew the democratic Russian government in March of 1917.
- Vladimir Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which surrendered Poland, the Ukraine, and other territory to Germany in exchange for an end to the War.
- The loss of the Eastern Front (in Russia) was a blow to the Allies as Germany was able to turn all its forces towards the Western Front (in Belgium and France).

New German Offensive

- With new troops from the Eastern Front Germany launched a powerful attack against the Allies.
- By June of 1918, the Allied lines had been broken and the Germans were 50 miles from Paris.
- After years of stalemate along the French-German border—it suddenly looked as if Germany would win the war.

The American Expeditionary Force enters the War

- Although the U.S. forces had arrived in June 1917, it was many months before they had all their supplies and training so they would be able to fight.
- General John J. (Blackjack) Pershing led the American Expeditionary Force (the name given to the U.S. troops) into battle.
- The American entry into the fight-helped turn around the course of the battle. The German offensive was halted and the American troops began to advance on the Germans.
- The American force was at full strength by the spring of 1918, and General Pershing refused Allied requests to use American troops to bolster the French and British forces. Pershing kept the U.S. troops a separate force.
- By November, the Allied forces, led by the AEF, broke through the German lines and Germany was now faced with an invasion of its own country.

- With their troops in retreat, a severe shortage of food and essential supplies the German leaders asked President Wilson of October 4, 1918 for an Armistice Agreement.

The End of the War

- Wilson agreed to the Armistice on the condition that Germany agree to his plan for peace and promise not to resume hostilities.
- While German leaders considered Wilson's terms, political unrest led to the overthrow of Kaiser (emperor) Wilhelm II, and he gave up his throne; Germany then became a republic.
- The new leaders quickly agreed to Wilson's terms for an armistice.

Peace

- The armistice began November 11, 1918 with Germany agreeing to withdraw all its forces west of the Rhine River and its fleet to the Baltic Sea.
- Germany also agreed to surrender large quantity of war equipment.
- President Wilson Announced:

"Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will now be our duty to assist by example, by sober, friendly counsel, and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world"