

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

Life on the Home Front During the Great War, 1917-1918

A Whole-House Exhibit at the Trail End State Historic Site, April 1997 – December 1998

World War One, known in Europe as “The Great War,” began in 1914 as a dispute between Serbia and Austria. Because of a complicated maze of treaties, their small conflict soon engulfed most of Europe and Africa in the flames of the most devastating war the world had known to date. The United States didn’t enter the war until 1917. Although our own landscape was spared the horrors of battle, hundreds of thousands of American soldiers and sailors went overseas to fight the “vicious Hun,” leaving millions of Americans behind to worry and wait.



“Keep the home fires burning while your hearts are yearning.
Though your lads are far away, they dream of home.”

Keep the Home Fires Burning, lyrics by Lena Gilbert Ford, 1914

The U.S. joined the Great War with every intention of winning, but it was a battle requiring more than just military strength. As George Creel noted in his 1920 book, *How We Advertised America*,

The ‘warwill’ - the will-to-win - of a democracy depends upon the degree to which each one of all the people of that democracy can concentrate and consecrate body and soul and spirit in the supreme effort of service and sacrifice.

America needed food, clothing, equipment, medical supplies and, perhaps most importantly, moral support. Throughout the country, all citizens - housewives, school children, ranchers, farmers, shopkeepers, tradesmen and industrialists - were asked to help with the war effort.

Their principal weapons were to be commitment, cooperation and sacrifice, fueled by a heady mixture of patriotism, propaganda and politics.

1917 and 1918 were also years of social upheaval, both in this country and around the world. Women's suffrage, prohibition and the Russian Revolution were all making headlines, along with baseball, bobbed hair, jazz, airmail, daylight saving time and influenza.

THE POLITICS OF WAR

For three years, President Woodrow Wilson had kept the United States out of the European war. He and other leaders saw the conflict as a regional quarrel in which America had no direct concern. The public grudgingly accepted Wilson's position: he was narrowly reelected in 1916 under the banner of "Peace With Honor."

Not everyone was in agreement, however. In early 1917, opinions about the United States' intervention in the war in Europe were sharply divided. At that time, immigrants constituted nearly one-third of the population of America. Over eight million of these were German immigrants, many of whom still professed strong loyalties to their homeland. Some of them thought the U.S. should either stay neutral or side with Germany and Austria.



Meanwhile, most upper-class American businessmen were fiercely anti-German, particularly those with social, family or business connections to Britain and France. These captains of industry advocated immediate entry into the war on the side of the Allies. The majority of Americans, however, were not connected to the European conflict by either blood or money and were not at all interested in waging war overseas. So, despite increased attacks on American ships by German submarines, the U.S. maintained official neutrality. This position made America no friends in the world, as noted by John Kendrick in 1918:

Throughout nearly three years of the conflict we strove earnestly to maintain amicable relations with all. The unquestioned proof of our success in maintaining an attitude of neutrality is found in the fact that we pleased none but displeased all.

In early 1917, Americans learned that Germany had tried to coax Mexico into invading the United States and reconquering her "lost territory" in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Although

Germany's scheme was not successful, the threat to her borders finally prompted America to take action. On April 6, 1917, before a special joint session of Congress, President Wilson signed a resolution declaring war against the Imperial German Government. Of the 432 members of the 65th Congress of the United States, only fifty voted against the resolution. Among those signing the document was the newly-elected junior senator from Wyoming, John B. Kendrick. This was one of Kendrick's first official acts, one that would have an effect on all his constituents, including those in his own family.

REGISTRATION, RECRUITMENT & SERVICE

Within hours of the American declaration of war against Germany and her allies, volunteers were lining up to join the armed services. The government hoped to have more than a million men in the service within the first year and two million by the end of the next year – if the conflict continued.

Joining Up

Fearing that there would not be enough volunteers, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, allowing for the involuntary recruitment of all able-bodied men aged 21 to 30. The age limit was later extended to include men aged 18 to 45. Skilled tradesmen, food producers and those whose civilian jobs were considered vital to the national defense could receive exemptions.

Regardless of whether or not they would be excused later, all eligible men had to register for the draft at their local post office. Those not registered were brought in under protest. In Sheridan, the June 5 Registration Day was marked with a parade of registrants, solemn patriotic ceremonies held on the steps of the courthouse, and a benefit baseball game. As each man registered, he was given a flag pin with an attached white ribbon bearing the inscription, "Registered at Sheridan, Wyoming, in the Cause of Humanity."



Registering didn't necessarily mean enlisting. Prospective soldiers still had to pass physicals and other exams before heading overseas. As Powell, Wyoming, matron Cecilia Hennel Hendricks noted on Registration Day 1917,

It is too bad that anybody has to go, but since the situation's what it is, the conscription plan is the very best possible way to solve the problem. This registration is merely taking an invoice of the stock there is available. Then the most eligible will be chosen.

After registration, recruits were sent off to training camp. Eighteen-year-old Alfred E. Dunning, one of Sheridan's first recruits into the Navy, wrote home to his parents, describing life at his training camp, located at Goat Island near San Francisco:

Our company has been drilling for the last few days. We have learned the manual of arms and march about ten miles a day. I am serving my time in the mess hall until tomorrow. We all have to do that. We will go down to the lower camp by Monday anyway. After we have been there about three weeks, we will go out to sea, maybe before. I surely will be glad. Every night all of us go down in the basement of the mess hall and dance and sing. We manage to enjoy ourselves but we don't have much time to lay around. Every morning we take a cold shower before breakfast and it surely makes one feel good.

Men who enlisted rather than waited for the draft could choose from a variety of military organizations in which to serve. In addition to the Navy, Coast Guard (created in 1915) and Marine Corps, there was always the Army. This branch of the service offered a variety of options itself, among them the U.S. Cavalry, the Tank Corps, the Coast Artillery Corps and the Army Air Service. This last was considered one of the most dangerous branches of the military.

Manville Kendrick's Military Experience

In September 1918, after the age limit had been lowered to eighteen, it was Manville Kendrick's turn to register. Unfortunately, he neglected to do so before leaving for college and his father had to take steps to have it done long distance. Numerous telegrams went back and forth between Senator Kendrick and the registration clerk in Sheridan:

Manville Kendrick arrived Washington this morning without having registered in Sheridan ... too late now to have registration card from Washington reach you by mail ... if I have boy register here today and have card mailed immediately will it be possible for you to accept his registration as of September twelfth ... particularly desire that boy should be registered from Sheridan ... the young man left Sheridan without having thought to register in advance and without realizing that the date of registration was so near at hand.

The draft board was amenable to the long-distance registration and Manville was duly registered with the draft. On October 15, 1918, shortly after his arrival at Harvard, Manville was selected for immediate military service and ordered to report to Division 4, Cambridge,

Massachusetts, to begin active duty. He was assigned to Company D of Harvard's Student Army Training Corps.

Long interested in airplanes, Manville Kendrick entered the military with an eye toward joining the Air Service. In September 1918, just days after registering, Manville sent his father the following telegram: "Aviation Corps open for short time only ... if accepted would enter officers training camp immediately ... may I try ... wire immediately."

Both John and Eula Kendrick were appalled by the idea of their only son entering into such a risky proposition. The life span of an Air Service pilot was rather short, as Captain Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine aviator in France, noted in his 1917 diary:

Everyone here [in France] is in dead earnest and you can realize the grimness of it when you realize that an average of one man a day is killed flying here. This afternoon we flew low over the wreck of a machine in which a pilot was killed yesterday. They keep the deaths as quiet as possible and I do not know if anyone was killed today or not.



John and Eula weren't opposed to Manville's being in the military. Indeed, they applauded his patriotism and desire to serve his country. But they had doubts about the way in which he wished to do it. As John told his son in early October of 1918:

As I size up the situation this war will probably continue from one to two years longer, and if one enters it in a common sense way they will, in my judgment, have an opportunity to display just as much patriotism and just as much of courage and devotion to the cause as they will by taking up the so-called sensational work and they will come out of it with health improved or health impaired according to the branch of service they take. If a man wants just to do something sensational and quit, why undoubtedly your best plan would be to go into aviation, but certainly if you chose that branch of the service with a view of keeping it up, you are not expecting to become an important man in your State and community in the next twenty or thirty years, because aviation doesn't lead in that direction.

Manville's parents tried every argument they could think of to keep Manville out of the air service: health reasons, safety reasons, education reasons, etc. Nothing was working. In early October, Manville wrote to Senator Frances E. Warren, his father's colleague and one-time

political rival, asking him to write a letter of reference to the Corps. Warren responded with a letter to the Chief of the Division of Military Aeronautics:

[Manville] is a splendid specimen of young manhood with a most pleasing personality and appearance which, we cannot doubt, mean much in a young man's favor when he is under consideration for training as an officer. ... I beg to endorse and ask your consideration of the application referred to ... I feel that young Kendrick will be a success in your Service.

The same day, Warren wrote to Manville about his prospects:

I commend you for your "high" ambition and hope you may qualify for the Air Service as you desire. ... I can understand your Father's feelings in giving his consent to your application rather involuntarily. But I know that in his heart he wants you to serve in the place where your inclination leads you, for that is where you will have every incentive to "make good."

Unfortunately for Manville, that was not his father's attitude. Instead, John Kendrick asked Senator Warren to put off mailing the recommendation until he made one final plea to Manville's common sense. This was done and in the end they arrived at a compromise: if Manville would stay in school the rest of his freshman year, he could join the Air Service in the spring – if he still wanted to:

We cannot avoid the conviction that it is a vital mistake for you to enter this branch of the service, but if you cannot be reconciled to follow any other plan then we would like to have you delay making this application or going into aviation at least until next Spring. ... by deferring your application you will have the benefit of the military training as well as one year's academic work in college. Such a course will please your mother and myself beyond measure, and as stated before we would, whether willingly or not, cheerfully cooperate with you at that time in carrying out any plan upon which you have your heart set.

The issue of Manville's enlistment in the Air Service was soon moot, however, as the war was over by the middle of November – in spite of the Senator's earlier predictions.

Military Uniforms

The most visible mark of the soldier or sailor was his uniform. Made of wool, the uniforms were hot, scratchy and prone to shrinkage. Nevertheless, they were a source of pride for the men who wore them. Uniforms distinguished the wearer from not only the civilian, but from members of the other services as well.

In general, the enlisted Navy man's uniform was made of dark blue wool in a style similar to that of the British Navy, with wide-legged pants, tunic top, white undershirt and black

neckerchief. Officers wore double-breasted coats over trousers. In the Army, both officer and enlisted men's uniforms were made of khaki or olive drab wool with knickers-style pants (jodhpurs), leggings (puttees) and high collars. Different hats – flat-brimmed, peaked cap and others – were also issued, depending on service unit or rank.

Uniform rules and regulations could be quite confusing to the uninitiated or ill-informed. In October 1917, for instance, the War Department issued a bulletin in regards to the wearing of the Sam Browne belt. This style of belt went not only around the waist, but had an additional leather strap that crossed diagonally across the chest, over the shoulder and diagonally down the back. It was popular with officers but not with the War Department:

WEARING OF UNAUTHORIZED BELT PROHIBITED: It has been observed that some officers are wearing a belt known as the Sam Browne belt. There is no authority for the wearing of this belt within the limits of the United States, and until such authority is given this belt will not be worn.

Less than two months later, in December 1917, the War Department issued another bulletin, this time allowing the belt to be worn – but only overseas. No mention was made of stateside use of the belt. To further confuse the issue, they renamed the item, now calling it a Liberty Belt.

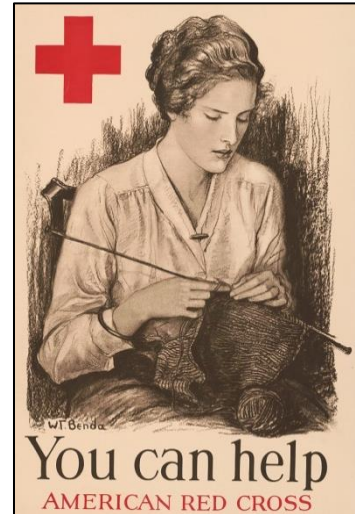
Because of a shortage of wool, the War Department found it difficult to provide enough uniforms for its officers. When they reported to duty in mid-1917, candidates at the officers' training camp in Fort Riley, Kansas, were asked to provide their own uniforms. Because many different private tailors were employed to make the uniforms, they were not all alike.

The Knitting Brigade

Not only was the military short of uniforms, it had no extra scarves, mufflers, mittens, socks, vests or caps for thousands of its new recruits. This became a particular problem at the time of embarkation. Crossing the North Atlantic was a perilously cold journey and without adequate clothing, the men risked frostbite and hypothermia. In response to the need, millions of American women turned their needlework skills to the war effort. A giant "Knitting Brigade" was formed and chapters sprung up all over the country. As Needlepoint Magazine noted in 1917, "Everywhere women are knitting, knitting, knitting; we see them on the trains, the streetcars, in the waiting-rooms, wherever there is a spare moment to be utilized outside the home."

While some knitting groups were sponsored by the American Red Cross, the Sheridan Knitting Unit was organized by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1917, the Unit pledged itself to make 1,500 sweaters, caps and scarves for the men on the Battleship Wyoming. Starting with 25 knitters, the Unit soon grew to 225 and completed the project within six months. Another local knitter, Elizabeth Kraft, made over 200 pairs of regulation wool socks – quite a feat for an elderly blind woman! The work was greatly appreciated, as noted in *The Sheridan Post*:

It is difficult to estimate the help these warm knitted articles will render to our lads in the navy. It must be remembered that the government or the commissary department of the nation does not furnish the articles which the women are knitting, neither do woolen factories knit what will be a necessity and comfort to our boys.



Other equipment provided to servicemen included boots, coats, helmets, dog tags, canteens, mess kits and blankets, plus rifles, bayonets, knives, ammunition belts and lifesaving gas masks.

OVER THERE

When Johnny went marching off to war, he left behind one world and entered an entirely new one. It started from his first day at training camp where he found himself in the company of men from all over the country. Despite the variety of customs, accents and religions, however, the soldier took comfort in knowing that these were fellow Americans, all fighting for the same cause. Europe, on the other hand, was something else altogether.

Transport Ships & U-Boats

All of the 2,079,880 American soldiers who fought in Europe during the Great War had to get there by transport ship. So did all the food, horses, tanks, weapons, airplanes and other supplies needed by the troops. This was a massive undertaking, one which was not lost on Senator Kendrick. In 1917, in a letter from France, Kendrick noted,

One of the first impressions to be had from such a trip is the tremendous stretch of water over which we must transport our troops and supplies, and the huge task involved in landing our men safely in Europe.

Because of the threat of German submarines, called “U-boats,” that “tremendous stretch of water” could be very dangerous. Not only was there the cold and enemy to worry about, but rough seas made for a great deal of seasickness. Lt. Harry Henderson, a close childhood friend of Manville and Rosa-Maye Kendrick, wrote of his experiences:

[Date and Location Censored] -- *Just a few lines that must perform be rather formal, as censorship always upsets my originality. We cannot talk about the boat, the people, or much but our health, but the latter is probably good ... Are scrambling thru the worst of the “zone” and the appearance of a sea gull is carefully noted by a very pop-eyed and anxious flock of passengers. Some of the rather weak sisters sleep in their clothes and cluster close to the life preservers.*

Believing there was safety in numbers, ships traveled in convoys. These large, closely-formed groups were protected on all sides by heavily armed naval vessels. This helped deter the U-boats, which liked to prey on lone, unescorted ships. To disguise their position, the vessels were camouflaged by a mixture of colored stripes, called “dazzle patterns,” designed to maximize light refraction.



Soldiers and sailors weren’t the only ones crossing the ocean during the war. Along with Red Cross nurses and other volunteers, politicians such as Senator Kendrick rode the transport ships to see for themselves how the war was going. And just like everyone else, they had to watch out for enemy submarines. Although U-boats could easily be sunk by torpedoes, floating mines or depth charges, they were hard to locate. Along with the rest of the crew, transport passengers shared patrol duties, watching around the clock for the appearance of U-boat periscopes.

On February 5, 1918, the SS *Tuscania* was sunk off the coast of Ireland. It was one of the first American troop transport ships to be torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. Some of the ship’s survivors later described their ordeal:

The lifeboats and rafts were drifting helplessly about. In and out among these boats the destroyers raced, looking for traces of the submarine and dropping depth bombs. Each time one of the “ash cans” exploded, the boats would shiver and shake. Those men who were in the water were knocked breathless. The noise of the depth bombs, the bursting of the distress and the illuminating rockets, together with the reports from the destroyer’s deck

guns, created the impression that a Naval battle was in progress. Most of the boys believed we were being shelled by the Germans.

Harry Henderson was almost a passenger on the *Tuscania*. As he told Manville in a letter dated February 1918,

I guess I told you I saw the "Arania" might soon before she was sunk from the deck of my boat. That was squeak #1. #2 was when I missed taking the "Tuscania" by a matter of minutes -- it all depended where I stood in line. And #3 was when I was so close to being in a channel collision in a young fog that I'd have sold my commission chances for two bits. One of my friends, whom I saw in the New Willard the day we [were] there, was killed when the "Tuscania" jammed him against a life boat.

Americans in Paris - And Beyond

While some soldiers were stationed in England, Italy and Belgium, the vast majority of them served in France. American soldiers were given training in basic French phrases, but nothing could prepare them for the culture shock of Paris: it held temptations no farm boy had ever encountered! Not practitioners of the Victorian lifestyle, French women were quite different from "the girl back home," a fact that was not lost on either the soldiers or their women.

Commanding officers warned soldiers about "dallying with the locals," but it was the officers themselves who had the most contact with "the charming French girls." As one Army captain noted, "most of the American officers are behaving scandalously over here." It may have mattered, however, where one was located. Lt. Harry Henderson of Cheyenne, Wyoming, complained that the soldiers in his unit, stationed at the front, "have not spoken to a girl or even seen one for three months at a time," other than young children or old women.

Much to their dismay and confusion, the first American troops in Europe were used as backups to the British and French armies. The Yanks were thrown into areas described as "meat grinders" while the French troops were sent to positions of least resistance (of course, the French had been fighting the war since 1914 and were becoming increasingly short of manpower).

Black Jack Pershing

When it was his turn to lead, General John J. Pershing, Commander in Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, turned his army into a cohesive force capable of entering and winning battles on its own.

Known as “Black Jack” Pershing, the General had first established a name for himself in the Spanish American War, and again when he went to Mexico to track down the outlaw Pancho Villa in 1916. He had a proven reputation for leadership and a skill for organization that was sorely needed in Europe.

In addition to leading the troops, Pershing was responsible for determining their needs and convincing the American public that those needs had to be met. His eloquent letters of support for agencies such as the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and others were frequently printed in newspapers and magazines. Because it felt he was doing a good job as commander, the nation responded. One of Pershing’s favorite organizations was the YMCA, which during and after the war provided recreational opportunities for soldiers overseas:

A sense of obligation for the varied and useful service rendered to the Army in France by the Y.M.C.A. prompts me to join in the appeal for its further financial support. I have opportunity to observe its operations, measure the quality of its personnel and mark its beneficial influence upon our troops, and I wish unreservedly to commend its work for the Army.

Information Exchange

Without radio, television or overnight mail, timely war information was hard to come by. Newspaper reporters stationed at the front lines sent their dispatches via telegraph and troop ship, but neither method was entirely satisfactory. Telegrams were fast but had to be brief; ship-borne reports could be lengthy, but swift delivery was impossible. Nevertheless, nearly every issue of every newspaper and magazine in America contained some kind of war news. All the latest details on battles, political intrigues and fundraising efforts were given front page treatment.

For firsthand information, politicians like John Kendrick went on fact-finding tours of the front lines. Their reports helped other congressmen make informed decisions on funding and staffing needs. Kendrick was profoundly moved by what he saw in Europe and expressed his feelings upon his return:

We traveled over hundreds of miles of the front and had a glimpse here and there of the actual line of battle, which was all intensely absorbing of course. It goes without saying that no man who has ever really glimpsed the war in Europe can be quite the same again. The effect of it is one well calculated to sober the mind of most anybody.

Another important source of news was correspondence from the troops themselves. Although military censors carefully blacked out any references to troop movements, unit names or weapon descriptions, these letters helped show the human side of war to a news-hungry

nation. Often humorous, these letters were frequently published in local newspapers as a way to give friends and neighbors a sense of what it was like “over there.” Lieutenant Harry Henderson sent his letters to the Cheyenne Tribune. Long and full of amusing anecdotes, they nonetheless gave a clear picture of the desperate conditions faced by trench-bound soldiers. On October 6, 1918, he wrote of life “On the Front”:

A real letter usually begins with the set phrase, “It’s a quiet Sunday as I take my pen in hand,” but altho it’s Sunday, I’d hardly call it quiet. Rolling barrages that rumble continuously, sharp rifle reports, the jangle of caissons, the whining of truck motors which are skidding around on the sleazy roads in the rain, and the clatter of mess kits in a nearby rolling kitchen, make a medley of familiar sounds.



Communication worked both ways: not just from the front to home, but vice versa as well. Families writing to their soldiers were advised to be cheerful and uncomplaining. Were they impacted by shortages? Don’t mention that to the doughboys! Were they worried about the soldiers’ safety? Don’t breathe a word of it! As John Kendrick told his niece in 1917:

Instead of writing doleful and pessimistic letters, do not fail to remember to have your letters breathe words of good cheer and encouragement no matter how difficult this is to do. While telling him how much you miss him and how glad you will be to have him at home, do not overlook the very important responsibility of expressing your gratitude and appreciation at the fact of having a man in the family who was man enough to fight for the principles and for the ideals of his country.

DOMESTIC DUTIES

After the United States entered the fray in Europe, the efforts of all Americans – political, professional and personal – were expected to go toward winning the war. If one couldn’t serve overseas, one served at home. If one couldn’t work directly in the war effort, one could make life easier for those who did. If one couldn’t give money, one could contribute by donating goods and services. If one couldn’t donate, one could at least have a positive attitude - as Needlecraft Magazine pointed out in 1918:

There is one duty that belongs to us all alike. It is the duty of being cheerful, no matter how depressing circumstances may seem for the time. By being steadfast in this, we help our

boys “over there” as well as our friends, neighbors and ourselves. Courage enables us to do better work and more of it.

Volunteerism

Volunteering became one of the most important duties of American men and women at the home front. In addition to the local Red Cross, which donated thousands of pounds of medical supplies and bandages to the soldiers overseas, other volunteer organizations in Sheridan County included the Loyalty League, the Wyoming Home Guards and the secretive American Protective League.

The YMCA, Boy Scouts, Women’s Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and other groups, including schools and churches, also provided ample opportunities for volunteers. They held knitting bees, conducted Liberty Bond raffles and sponsored food conservation workshops. Everyone, Sheridan County residents included, was geared toward helping America “fight the good fight.” As *The Sheridan Post* noted in 1918:

The proper spirit is evident upon every hand. Ever since the declaration of war, the flag has flown from the top of almost every business house in the city, as well as from ninety per cent of the residences. The patriotic fund in aid of volunteers and to pay necessary expenses contracted by public organizations has been liberally supplied with money for all helpful purposes. The school children and those ineligible for military or naval service have turned cheerfully and enthusiastically to the production of food stuffs and hundreds of acres of land that would otherwise lie idle and unproductive will be brought into cultivation this season. In addition, numerous organizations and ladies societies are even now at work in a number of helpful ways assisting to bear the public burdens.

The American Red Cross

One of the most important volunteer organizations was the American Red Cross. Before war broke out in Europe, the American Red Cross dealt primarily with disaster relief. After the start of hostilities, the British Red Cross asked for more volunteers to help tend wounded soldiers and civilians. Hundreds of Americans – many of them women – went off to assist. Some of the bravest volunteers during the early days in France were American Red Cross ambulance drivers – male and female – and Red Cross hospital nurses.

At President Wilson’s urging, the Red Cross changed from an efficient private agency into a powerful branch of the government. At the start of the war, about 500,000 Americans belonged to the Red Cross. By late 1918, there were over 31,000,000 members. One of those was Eula Kendrick, who was active in the Washington, D.C. chapter. During the First World War, Eula

wrote to *The Cheyenne Daily Leader* about the contributions Washington society was making to the war effort:

Nearly every one is contributing his bit, either at home or in clubs, meeting in church parlors, club buildings, or as we, the ladies of the senate, do, at the headquarters of the Red Cross. ... It is here the boxes are packed and shipped to the front.

The Sheridan Chapter of the A. R. C. was organized in May 1917. Within two months, it enlisted over 500 members and raised nearly \$42,000. By the end of the war local membership exceeded 4,300 while donations amounted to just under \$100,000 (national donations topped \$400,000,000). Elsewhere in the county, auxiliary chapters were started in Acme, Arvada, Ash Creek, Beckton, Big Horn, Carneyville, Clearmont, Dayton, Dietz, Dietz No. 8, Monarch, Parkman, Soldier Creek, Story, Ucross and Ulm.

Locally, the spirit of the A. R. C. was embodied in the service of two Big Horn residents, Robert and Charlotte Walsh. Both in their fifties, they left their privileged lives (he was the polo-playing president of Sheridan's First National Bank; she was the daughter of a millionaire architect) and "entered the service of the American Red Cross in November 1917 ... and sailed for France the same month." While Bob served in



the war zone, organizing and controlling Red Cross hospitals, Charlotte was initially detailed as a canteen worker close to the front. In a January 1918 letter to *The Sheridan Daily Enterprise*, Bob noted the conditions under which Charlotte labored:

My wife is doing canteen work a long way from here [in the French war zone near Rheims]. She works all night. They are all obliged to run to bomb-proof caves during the night several times which makes it thoroughly interesting, yet she seems to enjoy it.

After six weeks at the canteens, during which time she suffered from a serious illness, Charlotte left the A. R. C. to work as a hospital nurse with the French Red Cross (for which service she received a "medal with palm from Societe Secours Blesses Militaires" [the Wounded Military Relief Society]). One other worker in the system of French hospitals was Oliver H. Wallop, another English-born resident of Big Horn.

The Walshes and Wallops were exceptions; most Red Cross work took place on the home front. In addition to fundraising, Red Cross projects included rolling bandages, sewing hospital garments and surgical dressings, knitting socks, helping soldiers in transit, assisting widows and orphans, collecting used clothing and, toward the end of the war, nursing influenza victims. As Louise Eberle noted in Needlecraft Magazine in December 1918,

The great Red Cross Mother asks you and me to answer “present” to the Christmas Roll-Call, so that there may be no missing stitch to mar the garment she is weaving to cover the sufferings of the world. ... The Red Cross, beginning with the idea of saving wounded soldiers from the terrible lot that once was theirs, has extended its activities to the relief of every distress that is born of the present conflict.

To assist with the relief and recovery effort overseas, the Red Cross asked homemakers to sew or crochet clothing for refugee babies in France and Belgium. Each official Red Cross layette included two flannel dresses, a flannel jacket, crocheted booties, two wool blankets, twelve diapers, three undershirts and a crocheted bonnet. To these was added a “comfort bag” containing safety pins, soap, a washcloth, talcum powder, six needles, white thread and a thimble.

Fundraising

As part of their patriotic duty, private citizens were asked to contribute money to the war effort through the purchase of Liberty Bonds. Issued by the government, the war bonds were promoted by motion picture stars and other celebrities who crisscrossed the country on Liberty Trains. Competition sprang up between towns as to who could sell the most.



Issued in eight denominations from \$50 to \$100,000, Bearer Bonds and Registered Bonds were sold during the four Liberty Loan campaigns, so-named because the money was “devoted to the establishment of liberty in Europe and on the high seas.” In the last one, concluded in October 1918, Sheridan County alone raised nearly a million dollars.

Bonds weren’t just for the wealthy. War Thrift Stamps were for those who couldn’t afford to give more than a few cents at a time. Sixteen of the 25¢ stamps, sold at post offices and banks, could be exchanged for a \$4 War Savings Stamp, also called a baby bond. Twenty of these could then be converted to War Savings Certificates worth \$100 at maturity. Some people even

borrowed money to buy the bonds, seeing the purchase as a long-term investment in America. As Cecilia Hannel Hendricks noted in 1918,

We ourselves have invested in five one-hundred dollar bonds. Of course we had to borrow the money, but it sure is the time to lend our credit to the nation now. We can pay off the money when our crop returns come in next fall.

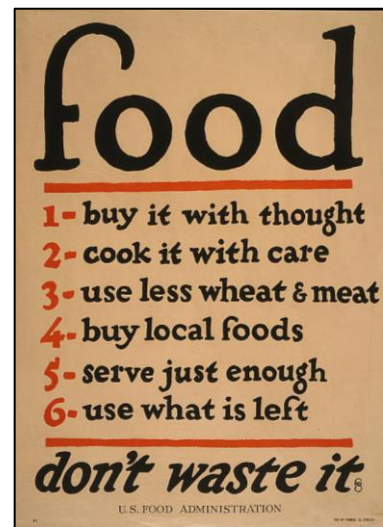
The voluntary fundraising effort was a tremendous success. Nationwide, over \$21 billion dollars – nearly two-thirds of the cost of the war – was pledged and collected between April 1917 and October 1918.

Food: Sharing & Shortages

One of the hazards of war is famine. From the earliest days of the Great War, the people of Europe faced severe food shortages. Because so many of the battles took place on their soil, the French and Belgians were hardest hit. When it joined the war, America became a major supplier of food to Europe's civilian population.

Led by United States Food Administration Secretary Herbert Hoover, the all-volunteer Food Conservation Army fought as hard to win the war as any soldier. The USFA was created to assure adequate and reasonably priced food supplies for both civilians and the military. Through Meatless Mondays, Wheatless Wednesdays, and Victory Gardens, American consumers either cut back, grew their own or did without:

From our fields and orchards and gardens we must feed and clothe our hundred million of men, women and children, supply our armies, and feed a large part of the population of Europe, where the need is far greater than here.



Food manufacturers were eager to help with the war effort. Through patriotic-themed advertising, they showed consumers how the use of their products could help win the war. Royal Baking Powder, the consumption of which might have been curtailed with the rationing of wheat flour, went out of its way to supply new recipes that conformed to government regulations:

The New Wheat Saving Biscuits – Wholesome and Appetizing, Easily and Quickly Made with Royal Baking Powder – Our Red, White and Blue book, "Best War Time Recipes," containing directions for making many other wholesome and delicious foods, which economize in wheat flour, butter and eggs, mailed free.

Due to the wheat shortage, corn meal and graham flour replaced white flour in cakes and breads, while beans and eggs replaced meat as a major source of protein. Women's magazines tried to help by providing even more new recipes: "Receipts That Save Sugar," "Making Meat Go Twice as Far," "Conservation Receipts That Save Wheat." Cecilia Hennel Hendricks, a farmwife from Powell, Wyoming, was just one of many American housewives who followed this new style of cooking in 1918, stating,

I am using very little white flour now. We use corn bread for dinner every day. We want to try to heed as much as possible the request of the Food Administration to refrain from using wheat until the new crop is in.

Home gardening was very important to the war effort. With help from monthly magazines and the Department of Agriculture's National War Garden Commission, housewives started growing as many fruits and vegetables as they could. These foods were primarily for home use, allowing commercial producers to send most of their goods to the military. To provide incentive for youth participation in food production, garden clubs were established for Sheridan students in grades four through eight. To participate, each child had to care for one-tenth acre of ground planted in a variety of vegetables. He or she was required to keep a record of all the produce harvested and of all the labor expended. The resulting crop could be displayed at the county fair, sold in local markets, or preserved for use in the home.

Preserving the crop could be done in several ways. The most popular was to can the food in glass, ceramic or tin containers. Almost everything could be canned, from applesauce to zucchini. Even meat could be canned: whole chicken and stewed rabbit were especially popular. Because improperly canned foods could be deadly, local agricultural extension agents offered classes on safe canning and preservation practices. Cecilia Hendricks was one of the women approached about teaching the classes in 1917:

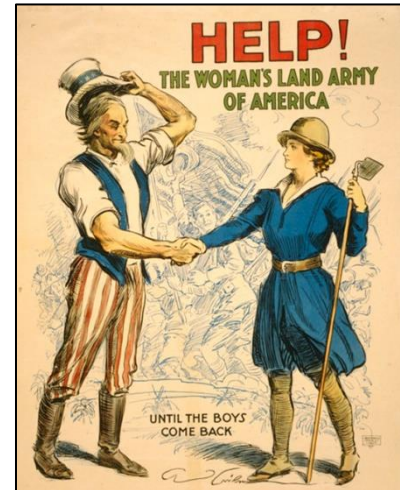
The state agricultural station at the state university wants a dozen or more women to come to be trained to give canning and drying demonstrations over the state. The station will furnish the training and expenses for traveling, if the women will give their time and talents for a month or two this summer.

Farming & Ranching

The Great War was a time of mixed blessings for farmers and ranchers. While production was high and there was a guaranteed market for everything that could be grown, there was an acute shortage of workers. While many young men left for overseas, others went north to take high-paying jobs in the Canadian wheat fields. So like other industries, farms had to rely on women and other nontraditional farm workers to get out the goods.

One of these nontraditional groups was the American Indian. While ranching on western reservations was not uncommon, farming beyond the subsistence level was unusual. Nevertheless, in a telegram to Major E. W. Estep, superintendent of Montana's Crow Reservation, Federal Commissioner Cato Sells called for seeds of cooperation to be planted between Indians and neighboring farmers:

War situation makes it imperative that every tillable acre of land on Indian reservations be intensively cultivated this season to supply food demands, particularly wheat, beans, potatoes, corn and meat. Call farmers and leading Indians together immediately for organized, united effort under your continuous supervision. This is of highest importance and requires aggressive action. There must be no delay in anything necessary to insure results.



For American cattle ranchers, the war was a time of prosperity. In Wyoming alone, cattle production almost doubled between 1914 and 1918. Much of the meat was sent overseas to feed the troops. It was during this profitable time that John Kendrick, incidentally, substantially increased his land holdings and the size of his herds.

The War Horse

In addition to meat, the army also had need of horses – some 500,000 head – and ranchers were asked to breed as many work horses as they could. Although horses were no longer ridden into battle on a regular basis, they were still a vital part of modern warfare. Because motorized trucks were often impractical due to fuel and tire shortages and muddy roads, animals were frequently used to pull wagons and artillery. Unfortunately, there was such a shortage of horses that cavalry recruits had to train on wooden models.

The life expectancy of a horse at the front was short. Many of the eight million horses estimated to have died during the conflict were killed by bombs, artillery, overwork and starvation. Others were victims of poison gas. In 1918, an American ambulance driver named William York Stevenson described the fate a horse could expect:

Many new dead horses along the road. The gas gets them, even the smallest whiff, and, of course, they have no masks. Some of the dead [white] horses around Verdun ... are very useful landmarks at night.

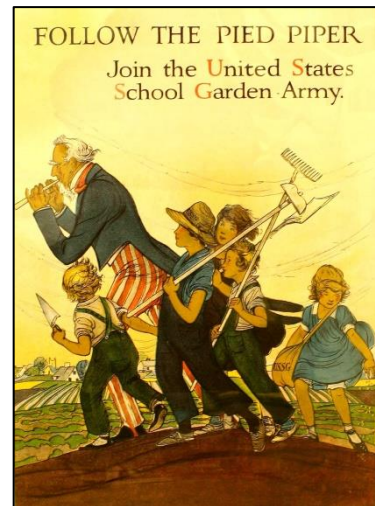
The Child Patriot

Children were taught about patriotism through their toys, games and hobbies. Just because boys and girls were too young to go to the factory or the front, that didn't mean they were too young to help with the ongoing war effort. Boys' Clubs, the Boy Scouts and other youth organizations encouraged membership based on patriotic terms. The physical and mental preparation of America's future soldiers and citizens was deemed a vital war effort and any money donated to these groups was considered a patriotic gesture. As noted in Needlecraft Magazine in 1918,

It's up to the boys at home to help those at the front. Your support of the Boys' Club Federation in extending its BOY mobilization here – to back up your boy, husband, brother, son – in France – is a patriotic duty. Will you send a contribution now?

Just like adults, children were encouraged to make good use of their free time. In Sheridan, hundreds of school children were involved in farm and ranch clubs. Each child would select at least one farm project such as raising a calf or growing a crop. The resulting food was used by the child's family, thus freeing up commercially grown crops for military use and to feed the starving civilian population of Europe:

It is the patriotic duty of boys and girls to enter club work this year as, under existing conditions, every amount of food grown, no matter how small, will be that much toward fending off famine.



Children's toys were also influenced by the war. Toy tanks, cannons and airplanes were popular with boys, while girls were encouraged to become make-believe nurses, using their dolls as wounded soldiers. German-made toys – including porcelain dolls and toy soldiers – were banned in England and America. As a result, the all-American Teddy bear became even more popular than when it first appeared in 1903.

JOBS, VOTES & CLOTHES

Although kept distant from battle by both convention and desire, women were nonetheless vital to the success of the American war effort. They filled non-combat roles in the military; they helped raise the funds needed to wage the war; they went to work so that factories and

farms could stay productive; they kept the “home fires” burning so that there would be an America for the soldiers to come home to.

Before the war, most women did not work outside the home: cooking, cleaning and child rearing filled their days instead. Those who did have to work for a living were generally limited to low-paying jobs as maids, seamstresses or factory workers. The war changed all that. With all able-bodied men leaving civilian life and entering the service, thousands of jobs were suddenly available. In addition, new munitions and arms factories provided more high-wage jobs for the only ones left behind to work: women.



Many people were shocked. It had long been thought that “a woman’s place is in the home.” The pressure of war, however, soon made outside work an acceptable patriotic duty, sanctioned by the government. Poor women seeking higher wages weren’t the only ones taking these jobs. Unmarried women – those traditionally expected to live at home and care for their aging parents – were attracted to the chance to get out and see the world. In addition, early feminists saw it as a way to prove that women were equal to men and should therefore be allowed to vote. No matter the motivation, all enjoyed the independence which came with their paycheck. It was an independence that would not be forgotten once the war was over.

A Woman’s Right To Vote

Many progressive Americans felt that with independence should come suffrage, the right to vote. Women’s suffrage had been a political issue in America even before 1869, when Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. These women and many others campaigned across the country in support of women’s rights, speaking out at rallies and parades. Signs and posters asked men – the only ones who could vote – to support their cause.

Women in Wyoming were luckier than their sisters elsewhere: they had been given the vote by the first Territorial Legislature in 1869. Addressing a Laramie crowd in 1871, Susan B. Anthony said, “Wyoming is the first place on God’s green earth which could consistently claim to be the land of the Free!” Even so, Wyoming women could only vote in



local and state elections, not national ones. Most took their rights and responsibilities very seriously, including Eula Wulfjen Kendrick and Cecilia Hendricks, who noted in 1917:

We went to a school election yesterday and exercised our right of suffrage. People talk about objecting to women suffrage because it takes the women out of their homes, where they belong. Why, voting here is a regular family affair where both men and women vote. The whole family goes, and it becomes a regular social, where everybody visits and has a nice time.

In a way, the Great War helped win the war for women's rights. It proved that women could do the work of men both in the field and in the office. All men and women were persons living in America, it was argued, and therefore should have the same rights. As one anonymous newspaper columnist put it,

Today the woman suffrage question was to have the floor in the House, but it is a question if the women are suffered to be floored. The political Amazons claim the right to vote under the first section of the fourteenth amendment which says, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens there of" etc. If all "persons" are citizens and all citizens have the right to vote it would seem that the claim of the women to vote is not without some apparent grounds.

Such arguments eventually held sway and Congress passed the Susan B. Anthony Federal Suffrage Amendment in 1919. It was signed into law in 1920. Living up to its billing as The Equality State, the Wyoming legislature held its very first special session in 1920, just to ratify the new amendment.

Wartime Fashion

War brought changes to more than just labor and politics: fashion was affected as well. Shortages of fabric and dye became endemic - most were needed by the military - so changes had to be made to all manner of clothing. As one fashion designer said, "We have had our time for the dance and the dinner and the pretty frock. But that time is over." Ladies' Home Journal reported in 1918 that the government had "asked the leading dressmakers to use as little wool as possible in their new spring clothes, to save labor, and brilliant colors, which are not in harmony with war times."

The designers' biggest challenge was to make the new styles attractive to their customers. This was done by appealing to the national sense of patriotism. Washed-out shades such as pale pink, soft green and light blue were called sympathetic hues. Wearing them, the fashion magazines said, demonstrated patriotism because they required less dye. Military suits were

introduced and were worn by women everywhere, providing a sympathetic link to the men in uniform. They also required less fabric, a point that was played up by the manufacturers and designers. Since many women made their own clothes, pattern books such as those offered by Russell's Standard Fashions in 1918 offered similar arguments:

Women of America, are you doing all you can for your country? Fashion and Home are the two spheres where you rule without question. Now is the time for each woman to show her true worth. To be patriotically dressed, wear simple clothes and above all wear out the clothes you already have. Since Fashion is in league with our country to win this war, we will eagerly seize this opportunity to remodel our clothes. The designs shown here are typical of what we are offering for the conservation of materials.

Other changes were dictated by women themselves. In 1917, when they went to work in the fields and factories, women wanted comfortable work clothing. Along with loose, dropped-waist dresses, trouserettes were popular and patterns were sold in most women's magazines. There was still a bit of the Victorian Age left over, however: while trouserettes could be worn during work hours, they had to be covered by skirts after the whistle blew. After all, patriotism could only be carried so far!



PEACE AT LAST

By November 10, 1918, it was clear that the war would soon end. Allied troops had advanced to Germany's last stronghold; Kaiser Wilhelm had abdicated and fled to Holland; German sailors had rebelled and taken over their ships. There was nothing for Germany to do but surrender. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, the fighting abruptly stopped and a "terrible silence" filled the air. Said Philip Gibbs,

Last night, for the first time since August in the first year of the war, there was no light of gunfire in the sky, no sudden stabs of flame through darkness, no spreading glow above black trees where for four years of nights, human beings were smashed to death. The Fires of Hell had been put out.



As one reporter put it, “In a twinkling, four years of killing and massacre stopped as if God had swept His omnipotent finger across the scene of world carnage and had cried ‘Enough.’”

Back home, the armistice was met with joy and relief, but not a slackening of effort. There was still a lot to do before peace could truly be claimed. The army, stuck in Europe without ships to bring them home, still needed to be fed and clothed, as did the people of France, England and Belgium. The Boy Scouts of America, whose wartime motto had been “Help Win the War,” coined a new slogan: “The War is Over, But Our Work is Not.” The Scouts, Red Cross and other groups kept raising money, growing food and conserving fuel until the last of the troops made it home in late 1919.

The True Cost Of War

Of the 79,000,000 men who served on both sides of the conflict, nearly thirteen million perished. Some died in battle, others of sickness and disease. Shortly after the war, still others succumbed to wounds received in the field. Of the nearly five million American men in uniform during World War One, 131,000 lost their lives. Four hundred and sixty-eight Wyoming soldiers and sailors were killed, at least sixty-two of them from Sheridan County.

The average age of the Sheridan County war dead was twenty-four, with eight of the casualties being nineteen or younger. Most were from Sheridan, and most served in the U.S. Army Infantry. Ten were members of the Wyoming National Guard, five were in the Air Service/Signal Corps, two were in the Student Army Training Corps, one was a sailor, and one served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Because it was so difficult to transport their bodies overseas, many American soldiers were buried in cemeteries in France. In 1920, Eula, Manville and Rosa-Maye Kendrick visited the cemeteries during an extended trip to Europe. On the fourth of July, they found themselves at the Argonne Cemetery in France. Eula described it as follows:



It was an impressive sight with each of the 8,000 or more crosses decorated with an American flag. The cemetery is beautifully laid out and kept and a mother would have a little comfort in leaving a son there, if he fell, a sacrifice to his country. It will always be vivid in our minds because one of our party, a Mrs. Swan, sought and found her only remaining son

there. It was a sad time for all of us, and she was so brave. She is leaving him there where he fell along with his companions.

Manville also spoke of visiting the cemeteries and the battlefields. In a letter to his father from Florence, Italy, he commented on their impact:

Of course Mother has written you of the battlefields, so I could not add much in the way of description. Even with the grass growing long over the fields, they impressed me more than anything so far on the trip; especially Verdun. Even this post-mortem view of the scene gave me a new slant on the whole affair ...

Many of the dead were victims of shell shock and gas burns – two new ailments created by modern warfare. Invented by Germany, chlorine and mustard gases were extremely debilitating forms of chemical warfare which could blind, suffocate and kill. New York Tribune correspondent Will Irwin described one of the earliest uses of gas in April of 1915:

The attack of last Thursday evening was preceded by the rising of a cloud of vapor, greenish gray and iridescent. That vapor settled to the ground like a swamp mist and drifted toward the French trenches on a brisk wind. Its effect on the French was a violent nausea and faintness, followed by an utter collapse. It is believed that the Germans, who charged in behind the vapor, met no resistance at all, the French at their front being virtually paralyzed.

A year later, American Ambulance Service drivers were kept busy day and night transporting victims of the deadly fumes. As William Yorke Stevenson noted in 1916,

Nearly all the men we carried were 'gassed.' They kept coming in all day from the trenches, or rather shell holes, in the Bois Fumant and Froide Terre near Fleury. We alone carried some twelve hundred of them, and believe me, it was some strain.

Parades & Monuments

When those troops came home, there were celebrations across the land. Every village and town met their native sons with banners, parades and flowery words of praise:

With the dawn of peace the boys will be coming home to be welcomed with glad shouts and joyous acclaim; outstretched hands and eyes brimming over with the unshed tears of thankfulness will greet them and Sheridan will give her heroes a welcome home such as will repay them for many of the hardships they have undergone and many of the dangers they have braved.

Following the war, memorial books became quite popular. *In the World War, 1917-1918-1919, Sheridan County, Wyoming*, was published in late 1919 or early 1920 by Mills Printing Company

of Sheridan. In it were service photographs of many of the county's veterans as well as extensive reports on the activities of various war-related organizations.

In addition, monuments to the dead and wounded were erected all across America. In Sheridan, it was proposed that a marble shaft be erected that would "bear the name of every man from Sheridan county who during the great war has given his life for his country and humanity." Organizers also recognized the large numbers of men who died when the influenza epidemic swept through the nation's military camps and troop ships:

Not only should [the shaft] bear the name of all those who died in action or from wounds, but of every man whose death came while he was in the service of his country, whether he died on foreign soil or in cantonment, whether from disease or injury. All nobly faced the danger and all went to death for the same great cause and equal honor is due every hero.

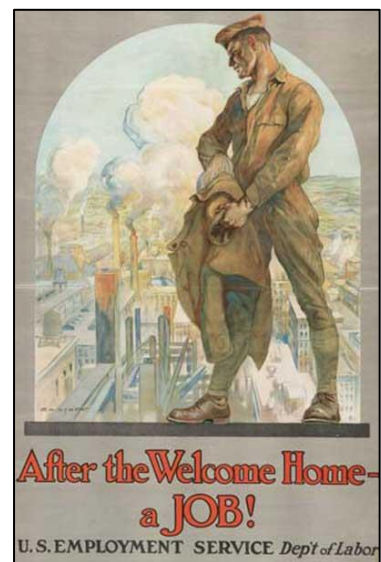
While Sheridan indeed has both a monument and a plaque honoring World War One casualties, nearly half of the men from the county who died in service during the war are not listed on either.

Coming Home

Immediately after the conclusion of the war it was reported that there were 21,000,000 wounded soldiers worldwide, with 234,000 in the United States alone. Recent medical advances had allowed more disabled veterans to return from the front rather than die on the field as had been the case during previous wars. These veterans couldn't just go back to their old lives; some were no longer physically able to do what they had done before while others had psychological challenges from the trauma of war.

It soon became clear that there were not enough hospitals to treat all the returning wounded - both the physically damaged and the mentally impaired - so the government set about creating more. Sheridan's Fort Mackenzie, abandoned by the military since 1918, was turned over to the Veterans Bureau in 1922 and converted to a psychiatric hospital for wounded veterans, a function it still performs today.

Those soldiers who made it through the war without a scratch had their own problems. The end of the war - and the end of the wartime economy - brought high unemployment and an economic downturn. Within six months of the armistice, 2,000,000 soldiers were released from military service, flooding



the country and looking for work. At the same time, factories that had been working around the clock producing weapons, ammunition, uniforms and vehicles shut down production almost overnight. As Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane wrote in a letter to his brother George on January 30, 1919:

Our whole war machine went to pieces in a night. Everybody who was doing war work dropped his job with the thought of [peace] in his mind, with the result that everything has come down with a crash, in the way of production, but nothing in the way of wages or living costs.

In addition to the race riots that broke out in both the North and the South that same summer, Americans were fighting among themselves over politics. The Russian Revolution of 1917 made people acutely aware of just how possible it was for a small determined faction to topple an entire government. A “Red Scare” swept the nation, resulting in mass arrests of bomb-building anarchists, labor agitators and both card-carrying and suspected Communists. Even the returning soldiers themselves were thought to be a possible threat: In New York City, attempts by left-leaning organizations to radicalize over 100,000 unemployed veterans made for multiple headlines.

POSTER ART OF WORLD WAR ONE

Hundreds – if not thousands - of posters were created during World War One. Some were used for military recruitment, others for information disbursement, still others for propaganda purposes. All were intended to spear the American public towards action.

Several of these posters have become a part of the American memory. James Montgomery Flagg’s poster of Uncle Sam pointing his finger and saying “I Want You for the U.S. Army” is one such iconic image. First adopted as a military poster in 1917, this poster of Uncle Sam is perhaps one of the most recognizable images of the First World War.



The psychological impact of the war poster was of prime importance. Some inspired fear or anxiety, others guilt or shame, still others patriotism, responsibility, longing, faith, pride, desire, inspiration - any number of emotions.

Nearly every organization printed some sort of poster, from church groups and hospitals to cigarette manufacturers and biscuit makers. The Liberty Loan posters were especially successful, as were those distributed by the American Red Cross, the YWCA, and the United States Food Administration (USFA). The Liberty Loan posters inspired people to contribute

financially to the cost of the war; Red Cross posters urged civilians to provide goods, service and money to help the soldiers and European civilians; YWCA posters spotlighted the efforts of women workers; and the USFA promoted conservation of all types of food in order to help feed the troops.



WORLD WAR ONE TIMELINE

Just because a country goes to war, it doesn't mean that life doesn't go on as usual in the arts, sciences and politics. Here's a brief timeline to show what was going on both on and off the Western Front.

1914 The War

- Archduke Ferdinand and wife assassinated in Sarajevo
- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
- Germany declares war on Russia
- Great Britain declares war on Germany
- Japan declares war on Germany
- Wilson proclaims American neutrality
- Germany fine-tunes chemical weapons
- Battles of Liege, Mons, Ypres, Lodz

Elsewhere

- Color motion picture process invented
- Tarzan of the Apes published
- Charlie Chaplin creates The Little Tramp
- Panama Canal completed
- W. C. Handy composes St. Louis Blues
- Last known passenger pigeon dies
- Teletype machine invented
- U.S. Navy bombs Veracruz, Mexico

1915 The War

- RMS Lusitania and SS Arabic sunk
- Germany submarines blockade Britain
- Germany creates remote control tanks
- Germany develops fighter airplanes
- U.S. Coast Guard established
- U.S. makes loans to warring nations
- Battles of Dardanelles, Isonzo, Artois

1916 The War

- Tanks used for first time
- Romania declares war on Austria-Hungary
- Severe food shortages impact Germany
- Germany uses plastic surgery to treat war wounds
- U.S. expands Army and National Guard
- Germany uses long-range bombers
- Battles of Verdun, Somme, Corfu, Jutland

1917 The War

- Wilson severs American relationship with Germany
- German-Mexican alliance against U.S. revealed
- Wilson declares war on Germany
- Congress passes Selective Service Act
- Pershing appointed head of U.S. forces
- Congress passes War Revenue Act
- China declares war on Germany
- First ground-to-air radios developed
- Submarine detector invented
- Battles at Ypres, Aisne, Champagne

Elsewhere

- Birth of a Nation released
- Taxi cabs appear on streets
- Ford produces its one millionth auto
- First transcontinental phone call made
- Spoon River Anthology published
- U.S. Marines sent to Haiti
- Perils of Pauline movie serials begin

Elsewhere

- National Park Service founded
- First American birth control clinic opens
- First professional golf tournament held
- Francisco "Pancho" Villa invades U.S.; eighteen killed
- San Diego Zoo opens
- Coca-Cola introduces current formula
- 24 states prohibit alcohol via "dry laws"
- U.S. Marines sent to Santo Domingo
- President Woodrow Wilson reelected

Elsewhere

- First woman elected to U.S. Congress
- U.S. purchases Virgin Islands
- Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. territory
- Prohibition Act sent to states for ratification
- Revolution in Russia; Czar assassinated
- British support Jewish homeland in Palestine
- "Jelly Roll" Morton publishes first songs
- George M. Cohan pens Over There
- Suffrage picketers arrested at White House

1918 The War

- Browning invents first automatic rifle
- Russia signs peace treaty with Germany
- Battles of Aisne-Marne, Chateau-Thierry, Meuse-Argonne
- German fleet mutinies
- Kaiser Wilhelm abdicates
- Armistice signed
- Wilson attends peace negotiations

1919 The War

- Peace Treaty submitted to Congress
- Allies and Germany sign Peace Treaty
- U.S. Congress refuses to ratify Peace Treaty

Elsewhere

- First scheduled airmail service offered
- “Fats” Waller composes first hit
- Spanish Influenza epidemic sweeps America
- U.S. divided into four time zones
- Daylight Savings Time goes into effect
- British women win fight for suffrage
- Willa Cather publishes My Antonia

Elsewhere

- President Wilson suffers stroke
- Prohibition ratified
- Charlie Chaplin creates United Artists movie studio



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For more information, visit www.trailend.org