

Chapter **24** Section 2 (pages 686–690)

America Joins the Fight

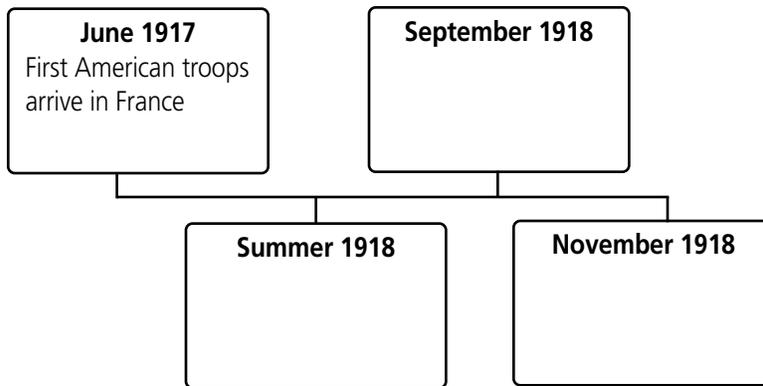
Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the outbreak of World War I and how America eventually decided to join the conflict.

In this section, you will learn how U.S. forces helped the Allies win World War I.

As You Read

Use this diagram to take notes on the significant events of the war.



TERMS & NAMES

John J. Pershing Commander of U.S. forces in Europe

American Expeditionary Force U.S. troops in World War I

convoy system System of using battleships to escort merchant ships for protection

Second Battle of the Marne Turning point of the war, in which Allies halted Germany's advance

Alvin York American war hero who killed 25 German soldiers and captured 132

armistice An end to fighting

Raising an Army and a Navy

(pages 686–687)

How did America raise an army?

When America declared war, the nation had fewer than 200,000 soldiers. To meet the need for more troops, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. This act required all males between 21 and 30 to sign up for military service. About two million soldiers went to France. They served under General **John J. Pershing**. They were known as the **American Expeditionary Force**, or AEF.

About 25,000 American women served in World War I. Many served in the military as clerical workers, interpreters, ambulance drivers, and nurses. About 400,000 African Americans served in the armed forces. They faced discrimination from white American soldiers.

1. How many women and African Americans served in the war?

American Ships Make a Difference

(page 687)

How did the U.S. Navy aid the Allies?

The U.S. Navy helped the Allies on the Atlantic. To stop German U-boat attacks on supply ships, the navy developed the **convoy system**. Under this system, destroyers sailed beside merchant ships as they went across the Atlantic. This system quickly reduced the loss rate of supply ships.

Americans used another *tactic* to stop U-boat attacks. In June 1918, the Allies laid a barrier of 70,000 mines in the North Sea. The 180-mile long minefield kept most U-boats out of the North Atlantic.

2. What steps did the Allies take to stop U-boat attacks?

American Troops Enter the War; Pushing the Germans Back

(pages 688–690)

Who won the Second Battle of the Marne?

In March 1918, the Germans launched an offensive to end the war before the Americans arrived in full force. Within two months, German troops had smashed through French lines. They reached the Marne River outside Paris. However, by then the Americans had begun to arrive. They helped to stop the German advance.

In the summer of 1918, German forces regrouped and launched another attack. During three days of heavy fighting, American troops helped stop the Germans again. This battle was known as the **Second Battle of the Marne**. It was the turning point of the war. From then on, the Allies advanced steadily.

The decisive blow came at the end of September. Around one million U.S. soldiers took part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. It pushed back the German line. The fighting left 26,000 Americans dead. But by November, the Germans were in retreat.

Many Americans were heroes on the battlefields of France. Sergeant **Alvin York**, for example, wiped out an entire crew of German machine gunners. He forced more than 100 enemy soldiers to surrender. High above the trenches, pilot Eddie Rickenbacker won fame as the U.S. “ace of aces.” He shot down a total of 26 enemy planes. Several African American combat units were honored for their battlefield *valor*.

3. Why was the Second Battle of Marne considered the turning point of the war?

Germany Stops Fighting (page 690)

What was the war’s human toll?

After the crushing defeat of the Meuse-Argonne, one of Germany’s top generals advised the German government to seek peace. In early November, Germany’s navy *mutinied*. Its other allies dropped out.

On November 9, Germany’s ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm II, stepped down. Two days later, Germany agreed to an **armistice**, an end to fighting. World War I was over.

The war had caused much suffering and death. About 8.5 million soldiers died in the war. About 21 million were wounded. Millions of civilians in Europe, Asia, and Africa also died during the war. Many of them died from starvation and disease.

4. How many soldiers died in World War I?

Skillbuilder



*Not all countries are listed. Source: *Over There*, by Byron Farwell

1. About how many deaths did Germany suffer in the war?

2. Which nation on the graph suffered the fewest deaths?
