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Reading
Passages

World War I: Later Stages *(cont.)*

Other Battles

A fierce battle was fought in 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey where British forces were trying to keep open a narrow waterway which supplied Russia. The British forces were defeated by the Turks with a loss of 214,000 British and Allied casualties and 300,000 Turkish soldiers. The British won a bitter and costly sea battle at Jutland near Denmark in June 1916, which gave them clear command of the seas for the rest of the war. The Third Battle at Ypres in Belgium had the same effect as the battles at Verdun and the Somme—massive casualties on both sides but no clear victor.

The End of the War

The Russian army simply dissolved as the war dragged on. By the end of 1917, the Russian army and nation were no longer willing or able to fight. A revolution had removed the tsar, Russia's ruler, from the throne. By early 1918, Russia had signed a peace treaty with Germany.

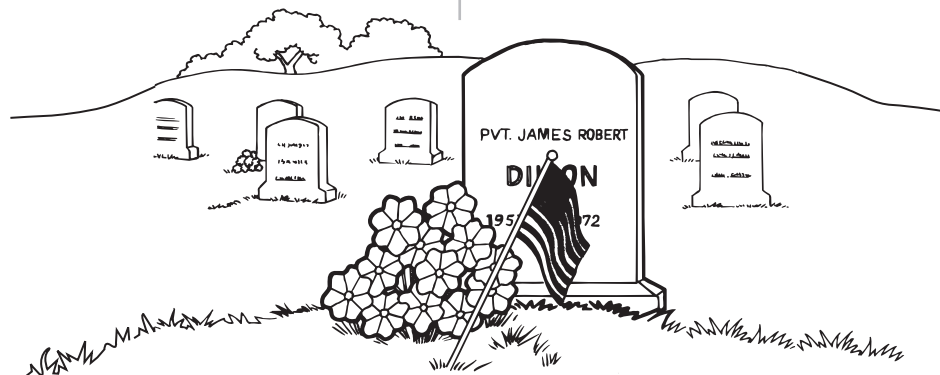
The U.S. Enters the War

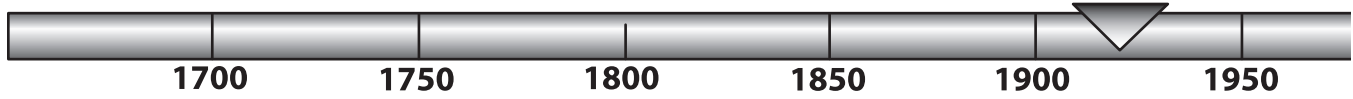
The entrance of the United States into the war turned the tide for the Allies. Two million U.S. troops were sent to France, where

they fought as an independent force under American leadership. In a series of battles at the Second Battle of the Marne, Argonne Forest, and St. Michel, the Germans realized that they could not match the American forces. Germany was losing on other fronts as well as in Bulgaria, Turkey, and Italy.

Armistice

The Germans agreed to an *armistice*, or peace agreement, on Allied terms which took effect on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 A.M. World War I, the costliest war in human history up to that time, was finally over. Nearly 10 million soldiers were killed, and at least 21 million more were wounded. No one knows how many civilians were killed or injured by the war, but estimates suggest there were at least as many civilian deaths as military deaths from disease, starvation, and war-related causes. Most of the nations in Europe were financially ruined and owed massive war debts. The Treaty of Versailles, the peace settlement which followed the war, was very punitive toward Germany, and aimed to punish the country. This planted the seeds for a future war.





Wartime Songs

Music plays a large part in every era. It reflects what is happening during that time period, and tells how people are feeling. During World War I and World War II, American soldiers went overseas with enthusiasm and pride. The songs written about war encouraged fathers, sons, and husbands who had left home to fight in the war. These songs were heard throughout homes in America and also on the battlefields. Songs written in the latter part of the 20th century sometimes reflected a different sentiment about war. In particular, they questioned America’s military involvement overseas.

Read the words to the chorus of the famous World War I song “Over There” by George M. Cohan. If possible, listen to a recording of the song. Why do you think it was a popular song? How does it make you feel?

“Over There”

*Over there, over there
 Send the word, send the word, over there
 That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,
 The drums rum tumming everywhere.
 So prepare, say a prayer
 Send the word, send the word to beware
 We’ll be over, we’re coming over.
 And we won’t be back till it’s over over there!*



Assignment

Use the Internet or other sources to find the words to another song that told about being in combat or on the home front during a 20th century conflict. Share the lyrics with the class. If possible, play a recording of the song. Write a review of the song, highlighting how it affected people and their attitudes and feelings about the war.

Extension

Watch a movie about a war in the 20th century, and then write a review of it. What conflict did it tell about? What happened in the movie? Was it a true story? Was it realistic? What did you learn about the war? Would you recommend the movie to others?

Popular Wartime-Era Songs

World War I

- “I Didn’t Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier”
- “Oh, How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning!”
- “You’re in the Army Now!”

World War II

- “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy”
- “Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition”
- “The White Cliffs of Dover”
- “When the Lights Go on Again”

Vietnam War

- “Ballad of the Green Berets”
- “Born in the U.S.A.”
- “The Great Mandala (The Wheel Of Life)”
- “The I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag”
- “The Times They Are A-Changin’”
- “Universal Soldier”
- “War”
- “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?”