

American Military Involvement in WWI

The U.S. Army chose John J. Pershing to command the troops.

TIME-LINE

The U.S. developed a convoy system because...
they needed to maintain the flow of products needed to sustain the war effort

A convoy is... a large group of merchant vessels sailing together

The purpose of the first U.S. troops to arrive in Europe was to... prop up sagging French morale.

This First Division symbolized America's commitment to the fight & its intention to send more troops.

Russia pulled out of the war because... the new gov't struggled to keep up the war effort → 2 mil troops deserted the front lines.

Lenin wanted to set Russia on the road to Communism

This allowed Germany to shift all of its troops to the Western Front.

Germans began a "peace offensive" in 1918 to try to defeat the Allies quickly.

Chateau-Thierry
Beginning of June Germans broke through Allied lines & got within 50 miles of Paris. Millions of Parisians began to flee & panic right before American troops arrived to reinforce the Allies.

Belleau Wood
heavily forested area that had been fortified with barbed wire, artillery, & machine guns.

3 weeks of hand-to-hand combat, U.S. Marines had many casualties but in their first major battle were successful driving the Germans out

Second Battle of the Marne
Germans attempted a new drive towards Paris. They gained a bit then stalled, more than 250,000 American troops participated the Allies counter attacked. Forced the Germans to pull back.

Argonne Forest
Germans weakened by the flu & an Allied blockade, many were losing their will to fight. Allies pushed forward to the Meuse River & Argonne Forest in NE France that was heavily fortified → slow at first then German defenses began to crumble.

The Armistice
German military & political leaders realized their cause was lost & decided to seek an armistice.

France & Britain wanted to impose a harsh settlement & dictated the terms. Germany pull back troops from western front, cancel Treaty of Brest-Litovsk & hand over entire V-boat fleet.

Armistice → is a halt in fighting that allows peace talks to begin

World War ended on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 at 11:00am.

November 11, 1918