

U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY



UNITED STATES ARMY

THE U.S. ARMY IN WORLD WAR I

FACT SHEET

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World War I remains one of the defining events in the history of the U.S. Army. In all, more than four million served and half of them deployed overseas. The conflict capped a period of reform and professionalism that transformed the Army from a small dispersed organization rooted in constabulary operations to a modern industrialized fighting force capable of global reach and influence. Aviation went from an experiment to a significant element of combat power. Tanks and chemical warfare appeared for the first time. Improvements in artillery, machine guns, and small arms increased the impact of firepower by orders of magnitude. The Army adopted the general staff system and robust command echelons for divisions, corps, and armies, and learned how to deploy and employ mass formations. Many modern units and installations trace their lineage to the vast expansion of the Army for the war. The U.S. participation in the war marked the arrival of the United States as a leading power on the world stage. In sum, a modern soldier could go back one hundred years and feel at home in the Army of 1918, while a soldier from the latter 1800s transported forward two decades would have been thoroughly disoriented by the vast change. The commemoration of World War I allows today's Army to connect with an important element of its past and gain an appreciation for the impact of institutional transformation.

COMBATANTS			
ALLIED POWERS			CENTRAL POWERS
Principal	Affiliated	Associated	
United Kingdom (and Commonwealth)	Belgium	United States (1917–1918)	Germany
France (and colonies)	Serbia		Austria-Hungary
Russia (1914–1917)	Montenegro (1914–1916)		Ottoman Empire (Turkey)
Italy (1915–1918)	Rumania (1916–1918)		Bulgaria (1916–1918)
Japan	Portugal (1916–1918)		
	Greece (1917–1918)		
	Brazil (1917–1918)		
	China (1917–1918)		

U.S. LEADERSHIP	
President	Woodrow Wilson
Secretary of War	Newton D. Baker
Chiefs of Staff	Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott
	Maj. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss
	Maj. Gen. John Biddle (acting)
	Gen. Peyton C. March (4 March 1918–30 June 1921)

SIGNIFICANT DATES	
War Declaration	6 April 1917 (Germany) 7 December 1917 (Austria-Hungary)
Armistice	11 November 1918
Peace Treaties Signed	24 August 1921 (Austria) 25 August 1921 (Germany) 29 August 1921 (Kingdom of Hungary)

U.S. ARMY STATISTICS:

Status of U.S. Army (1 April 1917):

Regular Army:	127,588 (5,971 officers; 121,797 enlisted)
Philippine Scouts:	5,523
National Guard:	181,620
In Federal Service:	80,446
In State Service:	101,174
Total Available:	213,557 (9,693 officers; 203,864 enlisted)

Status of U.S. Army (11 November 1918):

Total Army Forces:	4,176,297
Wartime increments:	3,882,617
Commissioned:	203,786
Inducted:	2,801,373
Enlisted:	877,458

Legal authorization for conscription:	Selective Service Act (18 May 1917)
Total registered:	24,234,021

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES (AEF), EUROPE:

Commander:	General John J. Pershing
HQ Unit:	General Headquarters (GHQ)
Location:	Chaumont, France

AEF Strength (30 November 1918):

Total:	1,929,760 (80,004 officers; 1,849,756 enlisted)
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Logistics Organization:	Services of Supply (SOS)
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Location:	Tours, France
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Strength (11 November 1918):

Officers:	30,593
Nurses:	5,586
Enlisted:	602,910
Total:	644,540

Units:

Armies (3):	First Army	(org 10 August 1918)
	Second Army	(org 10 October 1918)
	Third Army	(org 7 November 1918)

Corps (9):	I Corps – IX Corps
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Divisions (43):	
Regular Army:	1st through 8th
National Guard:	26th through 42d
National Army:	76th through 93d

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, SIBERIA:

Commander:	Maj. Gen. William S. Graves
Approximate Size of Force:	8,400 (300 officers; 8,100 enlisted)
Length of Campaign:	July 1918–April 1920
Purpose:	To aid Russian and Czech-Slovak forces and protect war materiel

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, NORTH RUSSIA:

Commander:	Col. George E. Stewart (September 1918–April 1919) Brig. Gen. Wilds P. Richardson (April–August 1919)
Approximate Size of Force:	4,500 (150 officers; 4,350 enlisted)
Length of Campaign:	September 1918–August 1919
Purpose:	To support Czech-Slovak forces in Russia and protect war materiel

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS:

Cambrai	(20 November–4 December 1917)
Somme Defensive	(21 March–6 April 1918)
Lys	(9–27 April 1918)
Aisne	(27 May–5 June 1918)
Montdidier-Noyon	(9–13 June 1918)
Champagne-Marne	(15–18 July 1918)
Aisne-Marne	(18 July–6 August 1918)
Somme Offensive	(8 August–11 November 1918)
Oise-Aisne	(18 August–11 November 1918)
Ypres-Lys	(19 August–11 November 1918)
St. Mihiel	(12–16 September 1918)*
Meuse-Argonne	(26 September–11 November 1918)*
Vittorio Veneto	(24 October–4 November 1918)

(*) denotes U.S.-led operation

CASUALTIES:

AEF Casualties:

Killed in action:	37,171	(1,648 officers; 35,523 enlisted)
Died of wounds:	12,934	(559 officers; 12,375 enlisted)
Wounds not mortal:	193,602	(6,904 officers; 186,698 enlisted)
Total casualties:	243,707	(9,111 officers; 234,596 enlisted)

North Russia & Siberia:

Killed in action:	27	(1 officer; 26 enlisted)
Died of wounds:	8	(0 officers; 8 enlisted)
Wounds not mortal:	52	(4 officers; 48 enlisted)
Total casualties:	87	(5 officers; 82 enlisted)

Troops at Sea:

Killed in action:	370	(7 officers; 363 enlisted)
Dies of wounds:	0	
Wounds not mortal:	5	(1 officer; 4 enlisted)
Total casualties:	375	(8 officers; 367 enlisted)

U.S. Army Non-Battle Deaths: 55,868

SIGNIFICANT BATTLES AND ACTIONS

(RELEVANT STREAMER)

Battle of Cantigny	27–31 May 1918	(Aisne)
Battle of Belleau Wood	1–26 June 1918	(Aisne)
Second Battle of the Marne	15 July–6 August 1918	(Aisne-Marne)
Battle of Chateau Thierry	18 July 1918	(Aisne-Marne)
Battle of Soissons	18–22 July 1918	(Aisne-Marne)
Montfaucon	26–28 September 1918	(Meuse-Argonne)
Lost Battalion	2–8 October 1918	(Meuse-Argonne)