

North Carolina and World War I

North Carolina Museum of History

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Final Label Text

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Warning: Environment and Images

A simulated battlefield environment—including bright lights, flashing lights, and loud noises—in this exhibit may be disturbing to children or visitors with health concerns. In addition, some images may not be suitable for some visitors.

Please note: Visitors are recorded on CCTV.

[historical film footage on entry wall has no associated text]

The European War

At the outset of World War I, the nations of Great Britain, Germany, France, and Russia were growing as world powers, while the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires were in decline. The murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria-Hungary, by a Serbian-linked anarchist in June 1914 sparked a war between Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire against Serbia, Russia, and France. When Germany invaded neutral Belgium to attack France, Great Britain declared war on Germany.

Why War?

Why did Europeans go to war against one another? Jealousy between nations over economic wealth and colonial possessions led to secret plots to undermine each other. Unbridled pride led to arrogant beliefs of national superiority. Fear of losing power drove nations to strengthen their armies and fleets, which led to more fear. The murder of leaders by anarchists caused increasing distrust between countries. By 1914 European kings, prime ministers, and diplomatic and military leaders had thrown their countries into a catastrophic war that ultimately destroyed some of their nations, permanently damaged others, and cost millions of lives.

[image description]

(top left) Tsar Nicholas II, of Russia.

(top right) Kaiser Wilhelm II, of Germany.

(lower right) King George V, of Great Britain.

Worldwide Terror

In the years leading up to World War I, terrorists known as “anarchists” began a worldwide effort to destroy the governments of empires and nations. Anarchists targeted and murdered political leaders to force social and political change. From 1894 to 1914, 20 world leaders were assassinated, including US president William McKinley in 1901. The terrorists accomplished their goals by causing fear and distrust between nations. Ultimately, the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria-Hungary, on June 28, 1914, was linked to the Serbian government and sparked the European War.

[image description]

(top left) Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, of Austria-Hungary.

[timeline text]

World Leaders Murdered by Anarchists:

President of France (1894)

Shah of Persia (1896)

President of Uruguay	(1896)
Prime Minister of Spain	(1897)
President of Guatemala	(1898)
Empress of Austria	(1898)
President of the Dominican Republic	(1899)
King of Italy	(1900)
President of the United States	(1901)
King and Queen of Serbia	(1903)
Prime Minister of Greece	(1905)
Prime Minister of Bulgaria	(1907)
Prime Minister of Persia	(1907)
King of Portugal	(1908)
Prime Minister of Egypt	(1910)
Prime Minister of Russia	(1911)
Prime Minister of Spain	(1912)
President of Mexico	(1913)
King of Greece	(1913)
Archduke of Austria-Hungary	(1914)

[scripted videos in the three cases are captioned; appearance is random]

[lines spoken by YOUNG GERMAN speaker, translated]

“Germany fought the World War to protect its rights as a nation.”

“Everyone hates Germany and wants to destroy the Fatherland.”

“We must fight to protect ourselves—and the Austrians.”

“The Serbians murdered the Austrian archduke and must be punished.”

“Now Russia, France, and Britain have ganged up against us and Austria.”

“But Germany is strong, and we will fight!”

“We will defeat all of them!”

“Germany will win this war!”

[lines spoken by YOUNG RUSSIAN speaker, translated]

“Austrian bullies attacked defenseless Serbia.”

“Freedom to our Serb brothers!”

“We must defend our Serb brothers from Austria.”

“But now Germany has made war against us.”

“The Germans are bigger bullies!”

“Mother Russia will defend itself from its enemy!”

“Russia must be respected!”

[lines spoken by YOUNG FRENCH speaker, translated]

“The Germans are trying to take over all of Europe.”

“They have already taken away French land.”

“Now they are at war against Russia.”

“The Germans have invaded and are attacking us.”

“The Germans must be stopped!”

“All of France will rise up to defeat the Germans!”

“France will drive away the Germans and win back our lost land!”

[lines spoken by YOUNG BRITISH speaker]

“The British Empire is the greatest empire in the world!”
“Now Germany is causing trouble by making war against Russia and France.”
“They have even invaded little Belgium and are heading towards France.”
“We will not let Germany grow stronger and attack other nations.”
“We will defend Belgium!”
“And we will defeat the Germans!”
“Britain will lead the fight against Germany!”

[lines spoken by YOUNG OTTOMAN EMPIRE speaker, translated]

“Everyone wants to take away our land.”
“Serbia is causing trouble again.”
“Now Russia is threatening us.”
“The French and British cannot be trusted.”
“We must join Austria and Germany to fight the Russians, French, and British.”
“We must fight to protect our land from these selfish people.”
“The Ottoman Empire must fight to defend itself.”

[lines spoken by YOUNG AMERICAN speaker]

“It seems that everyone in Europe is at war.”
“Why can’t the Germans just leave everyone alone?”
“Cities are destroyed, thousands are dead, and thousands more are homeless.”
“We don’t understand why they hate each other.”
“The Germans are invading other countries.”
“We do not want anything to do with this senseless war.”
“America should not be part of this terrible war.”

The American Volunteers

Germany’s attack on the *Lusitania* outraged the American public and hastened many American volunteers, including North Carolinians, to travel overseas to lend support even as their nation remained neutral. They distributed food, clothing, and medicine to soldiers and civilians in Belgium and France. Some drove ambulances and relief trucks; some manned field hospitals. Others served under arms as soldiers in the French Foreign Legion and the British army or as pilots in the French aviation service.

The Lafayette Escadrille

After serving as volunteers in European armies and relief organizations, some Americans transferred to the French aviation service. Those who did so after 1915, but before official US involvement in the war, were organized into the Lafayette Escadrille. Partially because many lacked aviation experience and partly because of US neutrality, the unit’s aircrafts, mechanics, and uniforms were French, as was its commander, Captain Georges Thenault. The unit’s roster eventually included 38 American pilots serving at various times.

[image description]

(top left) Kiffin Rockwell with William Thaw (holding Whiskey, the squadron’s lion cub mascot) and Paul Pavelka.

(top right) Nieuport 11.

(lower right) Lafayette Escadrille.

[biographical label text in case]

Sergeant Kiffin Yates Rockwell

Kiffin Rockwell, of Buncombe County, enlisted in the French Foreign Legion in 1914. After twice sustaining wounds, he transferred to the Lafayette Escadrille in April 1916. The following month, at the Battle of Verdun, he became the first American to shoot down an enemy plane. But on September 23, Rockwell was killed when he attacked a German reconnaissance plane.

[artifacts in case]

1. **Uniform** worn by Kiffin Rockwell, one of the original members of the Lafayette Escadrille.
2. Fragment of **windshield**, from airplane in which Kiffin Rockwell was killed on September 23, 1916.
3. **Croix de Guerre**, presented to Kiffin Rockwell.
4. **French Légion d'Honneur**, presented to Kiffin Rockwell.
5. French **medal** of the Great War, presented posthumously to Kiffin Rockwell in 1919.
6. Inter-allied victory **medal**, presented posthumously to Kiffin Rockwell in 1919.
7. City of Verdun **medal**, presented to Kiffin Rockwell.

[biographical label text in case]

Sergeant James Rogers McConnell

James McConnell, of Moore County, was the first North Carolina volunteer to join the American Field Service in 1915, where he served for 10 months. In January 1916, McConnell reported for flight school and soon joined the Lafayette Escadrille. Like fellow aviator Kiffin Rockwell, McConnell made the ultimate sacrifice: he was killed in aerial combat on March 19, 1917.

[artifacts in case]

8. **Croix du Combattant Volontaire**, 1914–1918, presented to Kiffin Rockwell.
9. French Air Service **badge**, belonging to Kiffin Rockwell.
10. Charcoal **sketch** of Kiffin Rockwell, made by Carolina Griger, of Baltimore. She based the sketch on a portrait by John Elliott that was painted during World War I.
11. Lafayette Escadrille campaign **ribbon** belonging to Kiffin Rockwell.
12. French M1892 Lebel **revolver**, standard handgun used by pilots in the French air service.
13. **Croix de Guerre**, presented to James McConnell.
14. Flag **insignia**, worn by James McConnell in 1916 while serving in the Lafayette Escadrille in France.

The American Field Service

Prior to official US involvement in the war, volunteers were drawn to the American Field Service. Between 1915 and 1917, 12 North Carolinians volunteered to serve as ambulance drivers. With US entry into the war in 1917, the field service was dissolved, and the US Army Ambulance Service was formed. By then, many of the unit's North Carolina volunteers—including James McConnell, Owen Kenan, and Arthur Bluethenthal—had transferred to other units.

[image description]

(right) Edward G. Miles, of Asheville (Buncombe County), member of American Field Service.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Owen Hill Kenan

Owen Kenan, of New Hanover County, miraculously survived the sinking of the ill-fated British passenger liner *Lusitania* by jumping overboard. Though pulled down with the ship, he surfaced in a rising air bubble and was rescued hours later. In the wake of this harrowing experience, Kenan joined the American Field Service in 1916 and later the US Army Medical Service.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. French M1909 **cartridge box**, used by Owen Kenan while serving as a volunteer in France.
2. French M1852 **mess tin**, used by Owen Kenan while serving as a volunteer in France.
3. French **kepi**, worn by Owen Kenan while serving as a volunteer in the American Field Service in France.
4. French M1915 Adrian **helmet**, worn by Owen Kenan while serving as a volunteer in the American Field Service in France.
5. **Tea service**, used by Owen Kenan while serving as a volunteer in France.
6. Bronze **bust**, of Colonel Owen Hill Kenan, by Paul Trobetzky, made in 1929.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Madelon Battle Hancock

Madelon Battle Hancock, of Buncombe County, married a British army officer and became one of the first North Carolina volunteers. A trained nurse, she joined the Red Cross in August 1914 and served with a British field hospital in Belgium for four years. Her enthusiastic support of the Allied cause led to her nickname “Glory Hancock.”

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Robert Rufus Bridgers

Robert Bridgers, of Edgecombe County, joined the American Field Service in 1916 and served with the British army. After US entry into the war in 1917, Bridgers joined the air service. His sister, Ann Preston Bridgers, also volunteered; she served as a YMCA hostess with the American Expeditionary Force in France.

[artifacts in case; some rotate]

1. **Tunic and hat**, worn by Robert R. Bridgers while serving in the American Field Service.
2. French battle **medal**, presented to Robert R. Bridgers.
3. Service **medal**, presented to Robert R. Bridgers by the state of North Carolina.

[artifacts in case; some rotate]

Leather **overcoat and hat**, worn by Robert R. Bridgers while serving in the American Field Service.

United States Neutrality

As war swept across Europe in 1914, Americans were in complete disbelief. When the war continued into 1915 and 1916, they were horrified to learn about the tremendous loss of life on the battlefields and the destruction of entire cities in Belgium and France. Fearing a costly sacrifice, the vast majority of Americans wanted the US to stay out of the war and pressed President Woodrow Wilson and other political leaders to remain neutral.

The Sinking of the *Lusitania*

In February 1915, Kaiser Wilhelm II announced Germany's intention to sink all ships sailing under the flags of Britain, Russia, or France in the waters surrounding Great Britain. Despite newspaper warnings, on May 1, 1915, the British steamship *Lusitania* embarked from New York with 1,959 crew and passengers bound for Liverpool, England. Six days later, as the ship entered Germany's designated war zone off the coast of Ireland, it was torpedoed without warning by a German U-boat. The sinking killed 1,198 people, including 128 Americans. Outrage over that act became a major catalyst for the United States' later entry into the war.

[artifacts in case]

1. **Medal** designed by German artist Karl Goetz satirizing the sinking of the *Lusitania*, accusing the British of flouting military conventions by loading munitions on a civilian ocean liner.
 2. Britain made and distributed copies of the **medal** in protest against the Germans' use of a commemorative medal to celebrate a tragedy.
 3. Pocket **watch** worn by Owen Hill Kenan, of New Hanover County, frozen at 2:33—the time he jumped overboard from the sinking *Lusitania*. Pulled down with the ship, he surfaced in a rising air bubble and was rescued hours later.
- Loan, Liberty Hall Restoration, Kenansville

America Declares War!

In the 1916 election, President Woodrow Wilson was reelected with the campaign slogan “He Kept Us Out of War.” But on April 2, 1917, he went to Congress and asked for a declaration of war against Germany. Wilson felt he had no choice but to enter the conflict, and he worked to convince the American people to support what he claimed would be “the war to end all wars.”

[posters have no associated text]

[artifact on wall]

Towel, “In God We Trust”/“To Hell with the Kaiser,” owned by US Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, of Raleigh.

America Prepares for War

The United States was completely unprepared to fight a war in April 1917. Only 200,000 men were serving in the regular army and National Guard. To enlarge the size of the army, President Wilson called for volunteers, but too few men joined up. So, on June 5, 1917, men were required to register for military service. Within months, nearly 700,000 Americans were called into military service.

[artifact on wall: depending on rotations, only one of these will be on exhibit]

- [1] US **flag**, flown by the 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division, during the war.
- [2] US **flag**, flown by the 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division, during the war.
- [3] US **flag**, flown by the 113th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Division, during the war.

[posters have no associated text]

Why War?

Why did America go to war? First, Germany was sinking unarmed American merchant ships. Second, Germany was caught plotting to convince Mexico to declare war against the United States. Third, Great Britain and France, nearing bankruptcy and defeat, would not be able to repay millions of dollars that they owed to American businesses if they were defeated. President Wilson also felt that the best way to end the war was for the United States to intervene to make the Europeans stop fighting. Then he wanted to establish a League of Nations to ensure world peace in the future.

North Carolina Troops

More than 86,000 North Carolina volunteers and draftees served in the US Army, Navy, and Marines and the National Guard as soldiers, artillerymen, engineers, airmen, sailors, medical corpsmen, and laborers. The greatest number serving together were in the 30th Division comprised of National Guard troops. Most others in the American Expeditionary Force, including some Cherokee, served in the 81st Division, while some of the state's African Americans served in the 92nd and 93rd Divisions.

[posters have no associated text]

North Carolina at War

Like most Americans, North Carolinians did not initially want to enter a European war that had resulted in such horrific loss of life. US representative Claude Kitchin spoke out against President Wilson's request for a declaration of war, but he supported the war effort once war was declared. In addition, North Carolina governor Thomas W. Bickett worked tirelessly across the state, calling for the state's citizens to enlist for military service and to support the fight by purchasing bonds to fund the war.

[image description]

(left) Red Cross workers serving troops in North Carolina.

(right) Promotional poster for war bonds.

North Carolina Goes to War

The North Carolina National Guard was called into service on June 25, 1917. Its 7,500 men were sent to Camp Sevier, South Carolina, for training and were joined by additional volunteers and drafted men. Other North Carolinians volunteered to serve in the regular army, the navy, and the marines, while nearly 61,000 were drafted. Some trained in camps in the state, which included Camp Greene near Charlotte, Camp Bragg near Fayetteville, and Camp Grimes and Camp Polk near Raleigh. In all, more than 86,000 North Carolinians served in the war, many of them in France with the American Expeditionary Force.

[image description]

(above) National Guard troops at Camp Greene, Charlotte.

(left) National Guard troops.

[artwork has no associated text]

American Soldiers in Training

When the first men arrived at their assigned training camps, they often had no uniforms, weapons, or equipment and only tents for shelter. They trained in clothes from home and used sticks for rifles and logs for artillery guns. Still, officers did the best they could to prepare the soldiers for a war few fully understood. Eventually, wooden barracks were built, and uniforms and equipment were issued to the men. Regular army and National Guard divisions were the first prepared for war. Many soldiers did not receive helmets, gas masks, or rifles until they arrived in France.

[image description]

(far right) Wilmington Light Infantry, NC Artillery Corps, 1917.

(right) National Guard troops at Camp Greene, Charlotte.

[artifacts in case]

Uniform and **equipment**, issued to American soldiers.

[historical film footage and scripted drill-sergeant video have no associated text]

The Voyage to Europe

American soldiers sent to France had to make a two-week voyage across the rough Atlantic Ocean. Some were transported in British ships, which were often dirty cattle boats; other soldiers crossed on confiscated German passenger liners that had been captured in US ports. Bad food and rough seas made many men seasick and miserable. In addition, soldiers feared death at sea from German submarines, known as U-boats, that stalked and tried to sink the troop transports.

The United States Navy

Like other forces, the US Navy was unprepared for war in April 1917. As German U-boats began sinking American ships in great numbers in the Atlantic Ocean, the navy responded. It safeguarded merchant ships and supply ships sent to assist the Allies in Europe and mobilized to protect the thousands of American troops who had to be shipped across the ocean to fight in France. From December 1917 to the end of the war in November 1918, US warships used convoys to escort more than two million soldiers to fight Germany.

[image description]

(top left) USS *Zeelandia*.

(left) US sailors training in Raleigh.

[artifacts in case: depending on rotations, only one set of these will be on exhibit]

[1] Denim work **shirt**, **trousers**, and **hat**, commonly worn in the US Navy.

[2] US Navy-issued second-class **blouse** (or jumper).

[3] White cotton **uniform**, **trousers**, and **cap**, worn in the US Navy.

[reenacted videos in the crate are captioned]

Lift lid to view video.

“This is an English cattle boat, and the cattle haven’t been gone very long. It is not a very savory odor.”

“Some of these hammocks have short ropes on one side, so when the ship tilts from the waves—you roll out of your hammock onto the dining room table, which I do most nights.”

“I’m nearly freezing to death on board this boat. Snow and sleet. The steward says we are up near Iceland. The captain scolds me when he calls—he claims I have been signaling to a convoy! I more enjoyed our first night on board—I danced on the deck in the rain.”

“They take these rabbits that have been frozen down in the hold of the ship and pile them on the deck with the hides on them to thaw; so, when you go to eat dinner, there is about as much rabbit fur in the stew as there is rabbit.”

“I don’t care how big a man you are, if you plumbed to be seasick, you will be seasick. I would pay \$5,000 if they would just stop the boat for five minutes.”

“The sergeant tells us to report if we are seasick, so I do. He says, ‘Feed the fishes!’ so I do!”

[label on front of diorama]

Allied Trenches

Look at the battlefield diorama to see if you can find the soldiers seen in these photos. As you continue through the exhibit, look for the real weapons and equipment that the soldiers are using on this battlefield.

[diorama depiction]

British Mark V tank.

[image description]

British Mark V tank.

[diorama depiction]

British soldier with Lewis light machine gun.

[image description]

British Lewis light machine gun.

[diorama depiction]

US soldier with Chauchat light machine gun.

[image description]

French M1915 Chauchat light machine gun.

[diorama depiction]

French soldier with Lebel rifle.

[image description]

French M1886/93 Lebel rifle.

[diorama depiction]

Wounded soldiers in field hospital.

[image description]

Field hospital.

[murals have no associated text]

Who Were the Allies?

America’s allies on the western front included British army troops from England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, India, and other imperial possessions. In addition, French forces included soldiers and laborers from its colonies in North Africa and Southeast Asia, as well as the French Foreign Legion, a multinational mercenary force. Allies on

the western front also included troops from Belgium, Portugal, and Russia. While President Woodrow Wilson did not agree with their reasons for waging war, he nevertheless sent the American army to help the Allies defeat Germany.

[label on back of diorama]

German Trenches

Look at the battlefield diorama to see if you can find the soldiers seen in these photos. As you continue through the exhibit, look for the real weapons and equipment that the soldiers are using on this battlefield.

[diorama depiction]

German officer with field glasses.

[image description]

German M1908 binoculars with case.

[diorama depiction]

German MG08 Maxim machine-gun team.

[image description]

German MG08 Maxim machine gun.

[diorama depiction]

German 77-mm gun and crew.

[image description]

Artillery shell fragments.

[diorama depiction]

German M1918 Mauser antitank rifle team.

[image description]

German M1918 Mauser antitank rifle.

[diorama depiction]

Downed British SE5A fighter.

[image description]

Steering device from crashed German plane.

Trench Warfare

In 1914 each of the European armies believed they would quickly win the war. But after several months of bitter fighting, they became locked in a stalemate. Opposing armies dug trenches to hold their positions and to protect their soldiers from intense machine-gun fire and shelling. The deadly area between trenches was called “no-man’s-land.” For the remainder of the war, each side tried to break through the opposing trench lines, but with little or no success.

[environment on far side of the diorama room has no associated text]

[social media spot: enter a funk hole in the trench wall; environment has no associated text]

[social media spot: enter “the Nest” in the trench wall; environment has no associated text]

Allied Tools

[artifacts in case]

1. French army **shovel**.
2. French M1879 **entrenching tool**.
3. US M1910 **entrenching tool** with canvas **carrier**.
4. British Pattern 1908 **entrenching tool**.

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, Verdun Battlefield, France, 1916.

[historical film footage has no associated text]

Allied Helmets

[artifacts in case]

1. French M1915 Adrian **helmet**.
2. British M1915 Mark I **helmet**.
3. Belgian M1915 Adrian **helmet**.
4. US M1917 **helmet**.
5. Portuguese M1916 **helmet**.

[peer into the periscope]

What's happening on the battlefield? Look through the periscope to see above the trench wall.

Relics of War

Today in France and Belgium, World War I relics are still found in the fields and forests where terrible battles were fought 100 years ago. Some of the relics are unexploded shells that are very dangerous and are collected by the French army to destroy. Other relics include helmets, broken rifles, shell fragments, and personal items like buttons and belt plates. They are often gathered up by farmers and put aside as reminders of the destruction and tragic losses of the war.

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, Champagne Battlefield, France, 1915.

Allied Food

[artifacts in case]

1. French M1877 water **bottle**.
2. French wine **bottle**.
3. French M1865 drinking **cup**.
4. US M1910 **canteen** and **cup** with cover.
5. British Idris ginger beer **bottle**.
6. British Schweppes tonic water **bottle**.
7. British pickle **jar**.
8. British MKVI water **bottle**.
9. British SRD rum **jug**.
10. French M1852 **mess tin** and **utensils**.
11. US M1910 condiment **can**.
12. US Army hard-bread **tin**.
13. US Army emergency rations **tin**.

14. US M1910 **mess kit** and **utensils**.
15. US M1916 bacon **tin**.
16. British Camp Coffee **bottle**.
17. British HD Rawlings soda water **bottle**.
18. British **mess tin**.

The 30th Division

The 30th Division was formed with National Guard units from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Trained at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, the division was sent to France in May and June 1918, and from there, to support the British army in Belgium. On September 29, infantry in two primarily North Carolina regiments in the division attacked and broke through Germany's Hindenburg Line. The victory cost more than 3,000 men, the greatest loss by the state in a single day during the war—and the most since the American Civil War.

[image description]

(above left) Insignia patch, 30th Division.

(right) Officers in the 113th Field Artillery, 30th Division.

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, Bellicourt Battlefield, France, 1918.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Captain Arthur L. Fletcher

Arthur Fletcher, of Wake County, commanded the Supply Company, 113th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Division. Fletcher and his men were responsible for keeping the regiment's guns supplied with ammunition and the artillerymen well provisioned with food, clothing, equipment, and horses and mules to pull the guns.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1917 cotton **overcoat**, **campaign hat**, and British M1915 Mark I **helmet**, used by Arthur L. Fletcher.
2. **Flag**, 115th Machine Gun Battalion, 30th Division.
3. British Lewis light **machine gun**, used by North Carolina soldiers in the 30th Division.
4. **Chest**, used for personal belongings by Sergeant Alexander W. Macon, Company D, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
5. **Trunk**, used by Colonel Joseph H. Pratt, 105th Engineers Regiment, 30th Division.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Major R. Gregg Cherry

Gregg Cherry, of Gaston County, commanded the 115th Machine Gun Battalion, 60th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division, which served with the British army. Cherry and his men fought near the city of Ypres, Belgium, as well as in France, in 1918 and took part in breaking the Hindenburg Line on September 29.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

6. US M1917 wool **uniform**, **haversack**, and **gas mask**, worn by R. Gregg Cherry.

7. US M1910 Colt **pistol, binoculars, whistle, dog tags, match case**, and **tools** to calculate machine-gun ranges, used by R. Gregg Cherry.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Corporal Rodolph Nunn

Rodolph Nunn, of Lenoir County, volunteered to serve in the National Guard in 1916 and served in the 2nd North Carolina Infantry Regiment as a corporal. He was called up for the war in 1917 and reassigned to the Headquarters Company, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division. He served in Belgium and France from May 1918 until April 1919.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1917 wool **overcoat**, US M1917 **helmet**, **New Testament**, and **diary**, used by Rodolph Nunn.
2. Regimental **flag**, used by the 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
3. British Lewis light **machine gun**, used by North Carolina soldiers in the 30th Division.
4. **Chest**, used for personal belongings by Sergeant Alexander W. Macon, Company D, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
5. **Trunk**, used by Colonel Joseph H. Pratt, 105th Engineers Regiment, 30th Division.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

6. US M1917 wool **uniform, haversack**, and **gas mask**, worn by R. Gregg Cherry.
7. US M1917 wool **overcoat, haversack**, and **gas mask**, worn by R. Gregg Cherry.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Captain John E. Ray

John Ray, of Wake County, was assigned as a captain in the Medical Corps, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division, in 1917. On September 29, 1918, Ray was mortally wounded in battle at Bellicourt, France, while moving his first-aid station forward to assist injured soldiers. For his heroism, he was awarded the US Distinguished Service Cross and British Military Cross.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1917 wool **uniform** and overseas **cap**, worn by John E. Ray.
2. Regimental **flag**, used by the 113th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Division.
3. British Lewis light **machine gun**, used by North Carolina soldiers in the 30th Division.
4. **Chest**, used for personal belongings by Sergeant Alexander W. Macon, Company D, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
5. **Trunk**, used by Colonel Joseph H. Pratt, 105th Engineers Regiment, 30th Division.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Brigadier General Samson. L. Faison

Samson Faison, of Duplin County, graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1883 and served in campaigns against the Apache Indians and during the Spanish-American War. As a brigadier general, in August 1917, he was given command of the 60th Infantry Brigade, 30th Division, and led his men, made up primarily of fellow North Carolinians, throughout the war.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

6. US M1917 wool **uniform**, **haversack**, and **gas mask**, worn by Major R. Gregg Cherry, 115th Machine Gun Battalion, 30th Division.
7. US M1912 **uniform**, **belt**, **boots**, British **gas mask**, and **dog tags**, worn by Samson L. Faison.

[biographical label text in case]

Colonel Albert L. Cox

Albert Cox, of Wake County, a former North Carolina National Guard infantry captain, was colonel of the 113th Field Artillery Regiment, 30th Division. He and his regiment manned French 75-mm field guns at the Battle of St. Mihiel in September 1918 and in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October and November.

[painting in case]

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Scout of the 30th "Old Hickory" Div.*, 1918, watercolor.

[artifacts in case]

1. US M1917 **helmet**, M1911 Colt **pistol**, **mess kit**, **dog tags**, **patch**, and **mess kit**, used by Colonel Albert L. Cox.
2. US M1917 **helmet** with 30th Division insignia, worn by a North Carolina soldier.
3. **Gas mask**, used by Sergeant James E. Niven, Company B, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
4. Assault line **tape**, used by 30th Division engineers to mark the starting point of attack on the Hindenburg Line at Bellicourt, France, September 29, 1918.

[reenacted videos in the crate are captioned]

Lift lid to view video.

“I arrive to the western front around 11 o’clock p.m., muddy and tired. The mud is almost knee deep. We walked miles with full packs until we finally found our dugout. The floor is covered in mud, and there’s a big pool of water under the boards. We get on bunks. After the candle is out and all is still, then we get introduced to the trench rats—and, oh, what a welcome they give us!”

“I am in a trench about waist high—more than that—and this old rat just walks across my area. As he did, I duck down; as I do, a machine gun mows that area up around me! That rat saved my life . . .”

“I am assigned to the machine-gun unit without ever having any training, but I go on our mission. I see some Germans running down into the trench; I am the first to yell: ‘There’s the Germans now!’ The sergeant says, ‘Give me that machine gun. I’ll knock them down!’ He fires one shot, and they shoot him—the machine gun is jammed. We try to fix it but a sniper back in some trees picks us off as fast as we can man the gun. They fall one by one. I try to find where the bullets are coming from, but I can’t see a thing. All the other squad members are casualties of the sniper except for me and one private. He tries to use that gun. He is sitting on his knees, working on that gun, and I am sitting behind some bushes behind him. I tell him, ‘They’re gonna see you and kill you. They got the rest of us.’ He says, ‘I reckon not.’ And then he is shot by one shot through the head, and he falls. You can see his brains. He takes only a few breaths and dies. The stretcher-bearers suggest I might as well get out, so I do.”

“This German comes out from a culvert along the railroad in Bellicourt; he has his hands up surrendering. He says ‘Kamerad, Kamerad,’ meaning he is surrendering. One of the men in my platoon section is carrying a Lewis automatic rifle. He’s walking and holding the rifle on his hip. He just squeezes the trigger and puts half a dozen bullets into that German. He falls and dies with his eyes open. He had the bluest German eyes. I turn to that man—we are standing side-by-side—I jump on him. ‘Why did you do it?’ ‘That German: he dropped his hands to his belt, and he had some grenades there. I thought he was fixing to throw one.’ I well remember that man’s name, but I will not call it. He didn’t give that German a chance.”

“When those boys get killed on the front putting up the barbed wires, we have to go out on the next night and hunt them. They get up so high. Once we are so close, as we crawl forward with the wire cutters, we can hear the Germans talking in their trenches.”

“About 800 Fritz charge us in waves. We’re told not to shoot until they are within 100 yards and to make every shot count. The first wave of Germans gets shot down; not a single German makes it to our trenches. The second wave keeps coming. They step over the bodies of the first wave, and then they’re shot down. The next wave keeps coming. These Germans: they’re suicidal.”

The 81st Division

The 81st Division, organized at Camp Jackson, South Carolina, in September 1917, was initially composed of draftees from North Carolina—including Cherokee—as well as South Carolina, Tennessee, and other states. The division sailed to France in August 1918 and joined the American Expeditionary Force in October. The 81st was then sent to the front in November to support the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Its soldiers were ordered to attack German defensive positions on the morning of November 11, just prior to the planned ceasefire that ended the war. That needless attack cost the division more than 1,000 casualties.

[image description]

(above left) Insignia patch, 81st Division.

(left) Company D, 321st Regiment, 81st Division.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Private Paul E. Brauer

Paul Brauer, of Warren County, was drafted in May 1918 and assigned as a private to Company M, 324th Infantry Regiment, 81st Division. He arrived in France in August 1918 and went into battle with his regiment against strong German positions on November 9 and 10, the last days of the war.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

US M1917 wool **uniform, helmet, and equipment**, worn by Paul E. Brauer.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

First Sergeant Thomas P. Shinn

Thomas Shinn, of Cabarrus County, entered the service in September 1917 and was assigned to Company B, 321st Infantry Regiment, 81st Division, as a private. He rose rapidly in rank to

sergeant and on November 11, 1918, led his men in an attack under severe German machine-gun fire, which lasted until the war ended abruptly at 11 a.m.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1917 **uniform, helmet, and equipment**, worn by Thomas P. Shinn.
2. **Booklet and journal**, kept by Thomas P. Shinn.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Private First Class Priestly V. Watlington

Priestly Watlington, of Forsyth County, was called into service in October 1917 and assigned to Battery D, 317th Field Artillery Regiment, 81st Division, as a private. He was promoted to private first class in December, sent to France in August 1918, and served with the US Army until discharged in June 1919.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1912 cotton **uniform** and campaign **hat**, worn by Priestly V. Watlington.

African American Soldiers

African Americans served in the American army as volunteers and as draftees, but they were segregated from white soldiers and assigned to separate units under the command of white officers. Most African Americans served in labor battalions, building roads and rail lines; others served as stevedores, unloading supplies from ships in French ports. Still, two African American combat divisions did go to France. The 92nd Division served in the American Expeditionary Force and fought in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The 93rd Division served in the French army. Its soldiers were issued French weapons, helmets, and equipment and fought with distinction in numerous battles.

[image description]

(left, above) African American troops of the 351st Field Artillery, 92nd Division.

(left) Insignia patch, 92nd Division.

[biographical label text in case]

Private Ernest B. McKissick

Ernest McKissick, of Buncombe County, was drafted in April 1918 and assigned to Battery F, 349th Field Artillery Regiment, 92nd Division, as a private. As part of the American Expeditionary Force, his battery fired French 75-mm field guns to support infantry attacks on German positions during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October and November 1918.

[artifacts in case]

1. French M1915 Adrian **helmet**, type worn by African American soldiers in the 93rd Division.
2. US M1917 **helmet**, worn home by Private John D. Gillis, Company K, 370th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division.
3. US Army **dog tag**, worn by Ernest B. McKissick.
4. US M1917 37-mm **shell**, brought home from France by Private Joseph D. Brown, Company K, 366th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Division.
5. US M1917 **helmet** with the 92nd Division buffalo artillery insignia.

6. British M1915 Mark I **helmet**.
7. US **gas mask carrier** with the 92nd Division buffalo infantry insignia.

[reenacted video is captioned]

Push to hear the story about Private Hudson's button.

“Well, I am not touched.’ A fellow looks up on my coat and says, ‘Yes, you are, too: look at that button on your coat.’ As it turns out, a machine-gun bullet smashed the top button on my coat, and another bullet went through the pocket and comes through the seam of my coat.”

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Private Isham B. Hudson

Isham Hudson, of Sampson County, was drafted in May 1918 and trained with the 81st Division as a private. Once in France, he was transferred to Company M, 168th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division. During the Battle of St. Mihiel on September 12, Hudson was struck by a German machine-gun bullet that was deflected by the top button on his tunic.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1918 wool **tunic** and overseas **cap**, worn by Isham B. Hudson.
2. US tunic **button**, damaged by a German machine-gun bullet, protected the throat of Isham B. Hudson at the Battle of St. Mihiel, France, September 12, 1918.
3. **Letter box**, used by Private First Class Joe Baldwin, Field Remount Squadron 322, American Expeditionary Force.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Sergeant Robert N. Jolly

Robert Jolly, of Cleveland County, volunteered for service in February 1917 and was assigned to Company H, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. His division was sent to France in June 1917, the first American troops to arrive in Europe. Jolly was promoted to sergeant in May 1918 and fought in five battles.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

4. US Army leather **jerkin** and M1917 **helmet**, with red mule insignia, worn by Robert N. Jolly.
5. French M1915 Chauchat automatic **rifle**.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Private James Vance Covington

James Covington, of Forsyth County, was drafted in August 1918 and sent to France the next month with little to no training. He was assigned as a private to Company E, 56th Pioneer Regiment, for road construction work during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October and November.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

4. US M1917 **uniform**, worn by James Vance Covington.
5. French M1915 Chauchat automatic **rifle**.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Ann Preston Bridgers

Ann Bridgers, of Edgecombe County, volunteered in 1917. She served in France as a hostess with the Smith College Relief Unit of the YMCA in the American Expeditionary Force. Her brother, Robert R. Bridgers, joined the American Field Service and later the air service in France during the war.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

4. YMCA **uniform**, worn by Ann Bridgers while serving in the AEF in France.
5. French M1915 Chauchat automatic **rifle**.

The American Expeditionary Force

Most of the American troops sent to France served in the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) under the command of General John J. Pershing, who had refused to send his men to serve under British and French command. Instead, Pershing built a large, independent American army. While still unprepared, the AEF helped stop German offensives in the spring of 1918. Then in the summer and fall, Pershing's army aggressively drove the Germans back from their defensive positions—more by sheer force of numbers than by skill. In doing so, the AEF suffered tremendous casualties.

[image description]

(above, left) US soldiers depart for the front from Le Havre, France, July 12, 1918. National Archives

(right) An elderly French couple greeting US soldiers. US Army Signal Corps/National Archives

[peer into the periscope]

What's happening on the battlefield? Look through the periscope to see above the trench wall.

Allied Personal Items

[artifacts in case]

1. French soldier's **walking stick**.
2. French M1893 **bread bag**.
3. **Ditty bag** for personal items.
4. **Haversack** carried by officers.
5. US Army French-language **dictionary**.
6. Six-sided **die**.
7. British army **pocketknife**.
8. British army **lamp**.
9. US **wristwatch**.
10. US Army trench **lighter**.
11. British army **flashlight**.
12. US M1906 folding **lantern**.
13. US Army steel **mirror** and **sewing kit**.
14. US M1910 **first-aid kit** in pouch.

[social media spot: enter a funk hole in the trench wall; environment has no associated text]

Allied Rifles

[artifacts in first of two cases]

1. Belgian M1889 Mauser **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the Belgian army.
2. British No.1 Mark III Enfield **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the British army.
3. British Pattern 14 **rifle**, made by the United States for use in the British army.
4. French M1886/93 Lebel **rifle**, standard infantry weapon used in the French army.
5. French M1890/16 Berthier **rifle**, standard infantry weapon used in the French army.
6. French M1890 Berthier **carbine**, standard cavalry weapon used in the French army.

[artifacts in second case]

1. Italian M1891/97 Carcano **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the Italian army.
2. Italian M1870/87/15 Vetterli-Vitali **rifle**, secondary infantry weapon used by the Italian army and Russian army.
3. Russian M1891 Mosin-Nagant **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the Russian army.
4. US M1903 Springfield **rifle**, standard infantry weapon used in the American army.
5. US M1917 **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the American army.
6. Canadian M1910 Ross **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used by Canadian soldiers early in the war; replaced by the British No. 1 Mark III Enfield rifle.
7. US M1897 Winchester trench **shotgun**, commonly used in the American army.

Field Hospitals

Soldiers wounded in battle faced the likelihood of dying from continued exposure to machine-gun fire and shelling. If they were lucky enough to be removed from the battlefield—by litter-bearers to a dressing station and then by horse and cart, or later on by motorized ambulances, to a field hospital—their odds of survival improved. There, medical staff sorted the casualties: the fatally injured were set aside, while the others were given immediate attention.

[image description]

(left, above) US marine receiving first aid, France. National Archives

(left) Field hospital, France.

(right) US medic tending a wounded soldier, France. National Archives

Death by Gunfire

Gunfire from rifles, machine guns, and handguns accounted for many battle deaths. Early in the war, the British regular army was known for its expert rifle marksmanship. However, by 1915, after the best riflemen were killed off, the average infantry soldier—in any of the armies—did not have great rifle skills. Instead, machine guns saw increased use as the war raged on, and they caused far more deaths than rifle fire.

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, Somme Battlefield, France, 1916.

Allied Hand Weapons

[artifacts in case]

1. British M1908 cavalry **sword**, which proved useless against German machine guns.

2. British M1897 officer's **sword**, which was generally discarded as useless in trench warfare.
3. British Mark V Webley **revolver**, primary handgun used by the British army early in the war.
4. British Mark VI Webley **revolver**, primary handgun used by the British army late in the war.
5. French M1892 Lebel **revolver**, commonly used in the French army.
6. French M1915 Ruby **pistol**, primary handgun used in the French army.
7. Italian M1889 Bodeo **revolver**, primary handgun used in the Italian army.
8. Russian M1895 Nagant **revolver**, primary handgun used in the Russian army.
9. US M1911 Colt **pistol**, primary handgun used in the American army.
10. US M1917 Colt **revolver**, commonly used in the American army.
11. French **billhook**, commonly used by French soldiers.
12. French M1916 trench **knife**, commonly used by French soldiers.
13. French M1915 **grenade**, commonly used early in the war.
14. US Mark II **grenade**, not generally used because it was unreliable.
15. Trench **knife**, with "A.E.F." on the handle, typical of personal weapons used by American soldiers.
16. US M1917 trench **knife** and **scabbard**, commonly used by American soldiers.
17. US M1909 bolo **knife** and **scabbard**, commonly used by American soldiers.
18. M1909 hospital bolo **knife** and **scabbard**, commonly used by American soldiers.

American Tank Corps

The United States had no tanks when it declared war in April 1917, but a tank corps was soon created. "Light tank" battalions sent to the American Expeditionary Force used French Renault tanks. They fought at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. American "heavy tank" battalions serving in the British army used Mark V tanks in support of the American 27th and 30th National Guard divisions. Tanks were used to break through barbed-wire entanglements, cross over enemy trenches, and knock out machine-gun positions. Battalions typically lost half of their tanks and crews to German artillery fire.

[image description]

(left, above) British Mark V tank.

(right) Colonel George S. Patton in front of a French Renault tank.

[biographical label text in case]

First Lieutenant Thomas R. Darden

Thomas Darden, of New Hanover County, volunteered for military service in August 1917 and was assigned as a first lieutenant to the 301st Battalion, US Tank Corps. Sent to assist the British army as a tank commander, Darden was wounded by a grenade and gassed twice while leading his Mark V tanks against Germany's Hindenburg Line in September and October 1918.

[artifacts in case]

Officer's **haversack**, **gas mask**, **map case**, **binoculars case**, a captured German **bayonet**, and **personal items**, used by Thomas R. Darden.

Matters of Faith

American soldiers, like those in all the European armies, strongly believed in the righteousness of their cause and that their mission was blessed by God. Under the command of General John J.

Pershing, troops in the American Expeditionary Force were often called “Pershing’s Crusaders.” Letters, diaries, and memoirs of American troops, nurses, and aid workers show that many were profoundly religious, and with the uncertainty of death in battle, their faith—or the lack of it—became a pressing concern. All of the armies appointed chaplains to serve the spiritual needs of those in service.

[artifacts in case]

1. Roman Catholic **rosary**, taken from a German soldier killed in the battle of Chateau Thierry, France, June 1918.
2. **New Testament**, used by Private First Class Joe Baldwin, Field Remount Squadron 322, American Expeditionary Force.
3. German **belt plate** with Gott mitt Uns (God with Us) on the seal.
4. **Communion set**, used by Major J. M. Robeson, chaplain of the 2nd North Carolina Regiment, National Guard (later 119th Infantry, 30th Division).

Death by Shellfire

Shellfire from field artillery, howitzers, and trench mortars killed and wounded more soldiers in World War I than any other type of weapon. Locked in trench warfare in France and Belgium, opposing armies pounded each other for years with massive artillery bombardments. Millions of shells might be fired in a single engagement, but the bombardments seldom accomplished anything more than wounding and killing thousands of men, without gaining victory.

Types of Artillery Shells

Three main types of artillery shells were used in the war: high explosive, shrapnel, and poison gas. High-explosive shells detonated when they hit the ground, instantly killing soldiers or throwing out jagged metal fragments that could rip a man to pieces. Shrapnel shells exploded high in the air, blasting down hundreds of bullet-like balls on soldiers in the trenches. Poison-gas shells hit the ground with a plop, then broke open, releasing a gas that slowly spread over the ground. In battle, soldiers were hit with all three types of shells with deadly effect.

[image description]

(left, above) Night attack. Library of Congress

(right) British heavy artillery. Library of Congress

[artifacts in case]

British shrapnel **shell**.

[artifacts in case]

High-explosive **shell** fragments.

[artifacts in case]

French poison gas **shell**.

[historical film footage has no associated text]

[artifacts in case]

Artillery **shell** cases.

[reenacted videos in the crate are captioned]

Lift lid to view video.

“I am on the fire step, guarding, when my friend tells me he’s come to take my place. I go down into a funk hole in the trenches. . . . I hear one shell—they usually drop three at a time; one usually falls short. I think, ‘I reckon I’ll be okay here.’ . . . My friend and I are injured. . . . The captain says to leave him; he says he’s dead already. We take him to the first-aid station where the doctor tells me that the mirror in his breast pocket saved his life.”

“I am assigned to a 75-mm field piece and learn quickly, as the battle is ongoing. My duty is to shove the shell into the gun. We are working down in a gun pit. There are four men—one man punches the fuse into the end of the shell, another man opens the breach, I shove it in, and he closes the breach. Another fellow pulls the lanyard and fires it. I do this night and day without changing positions once. I do a whole lot of shoving in shells; it is my job. I’d never seen a gun fired in my life, of course. It’s not much to learn, shoving in shells.”

“I am relaying the coordinates of the gun fire when a German shell explodes nearby—and I am hit by a shell fragment the size of a coffee cup. I don’t know whether my leg is off. I just feel down until I find where the wound is.”

“We’re bringing the boys out of the lines—the English are relieving the American soldiers. Of course the German army has good intelligence so they know what we’re doing, and the shells are falling like raindrops. I don’t know how many are killed, but I can hear them hollering now . . . I’ll never forget the sound.”

“The Germans have this shell, the 77-mm, makes the loudest scream. You can hear it coming; duck down so it doesn’t hit you in the head and then, right about that time, you can hear it explode behind you.”

“We’re taking our supplies to the front line, and we unload our equipment and hear, ‘boom, boom, boom, boom, boom,’ and a big shell lands over here! And then, another over here and then another over there. It’s all luck—if you don’t get hit, it’s all luck.”

[peer into the periscope]

What’s happening on the battlefield? Look through the periscope to see above the trench wall.

Observation and Communication

[artifacts in case]

1. French M1917 **signal pistol** and **case**.
2. French M1918 Grivolat, Gerest & Cie **signal pistol**.
3. British Mark III Cogswell and Harrison **signal pistol**.
4. British No. 1 Mark III Webley and Scott **signal pistol**.
5. French **binoculars**.
6. French **bugle**, used to signal infantry attacks.
7. British **binoculars** with **case**.
8. British **whistle**, used by Colonel Sidney W. Minor, 30th Division.

[randomized spoken lines in these reenacted videos of an approaching French soldier include the following]

“No, no, stop! Don’t go!”

“Germans! There!”

“Don’t go there! Machine guns will kill you if you go over!”

“Stop here! Stay back!”

“Let’s go! The Germans are ahead of us!”

“When you hear the whistle, attack!”

“Drive the Boches out of France!”

“Victory is near!”

“Attack!”

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, St. Mihiel Battlefield, France, 1918.

Death by Poison Gas

The introduction of poison gas added to the terrors felt among soldiers and civilians. When Germany launched the first large-scale chlorine attack in April 1915, it sparked a furious arms race. The Germans, as well as the British and the French, struggled to develop ever-deadlier chemical agents that would kill or cripple opposing soldiers. Each army also rushed to devise effective methods of protection against the increasing use of poison gas.

Poison Gas

[artifacts in case]

1. US **gas mask** with “My Best Friend” written on the carrier, worn by Private David Chatham Gordon, Battery X, 342nd Artillery Regiment, 42nd Division.
2. US M1917 **gas mask**, with **carrier** and “I Need Thee Every Hour” on the strap, and US M1917 **helmet**.
3. British army Phenate-Hexamine (PH) **Smoke Hood** (gas mask), worn from 1915 to 1916; replaced by small-box respirator gas mask.
4. British army “Black Veil” respirator **gas mask**, worn in 1915; replaced by the Phenate-Hexamine (PH) Smoke Hood in 1916.
5. French army M2 **gas mask** and **carrier**, worn from 1916 to 1918.
6. French army **gas mask carrier**.
7. French army ARS **gas mask canister**, used from 1917 to 1918.
8. German army M1916 **gas mask**, **canister**, and M1916 **helmet**, worn from 1916 to 1918.
9. German army **gas mask** filter carrier.
10. German **gas-alarm bell**.
11. German wooden **gas-alarm ratchet**.
12. French 75-mm poison-gas artillery **shell**.
13. German tear-gas-**shell bottle**, for insertion in artillery shells.

[reenacted video is silent; it has no associated text]

Evolution of Gas Masks

When poison gas was first used in 1915, soldiers had no protection. Within months, the earliest gas masks—little more than cotton pads soaked in neutralizing chemicals that covered the mouth—were issued. Soon, improvements, like the British P and PH helmets, which covered the entire head and included a mouthpiece and goggles, and the French M2 mask, which fit over the face like a snout, were developed. In 1916 the Germans and British both introduced masks that protected the eyes and filtered air through a canister. The United States adopted and modified the British mask when it entered the war.

[image description]

(left) Henry C. Holt, of Randolph County, wearing gas mask.

(right) US troops donning gas masks.

Types of Poison Gas

The French used tear-gas grenades against the Germans in August 1914. The Germans retaliated in April 1915 by releasing 150 tons of more lethal chlorine gas from 6,000 canisters. In December the Germans introduced even-deadlier phosgene gas. Deployed in artillery shells, phosgene gas was soon used by all of the armies and accounted for the majority of poison-gas deaths during the war. Mustard gas, which caused painful internal and external blisters, was commonly used by 1917. Poison gas killed many soldiers, incapacitated others for weeks, and added to the terror of the war.

Machine-Gun Fire

Machine guns were the most destructive weapons in the war, second only to shellfire. The German army quickly adopted the heavy Maxim machine gun, which could easily cut down hundreds of men in a single attack. It often placed machine guns in carefully concealed positions or in concrete pillboxes to stop advancing Allied troops in a crossfire between two or more guns. Machine-gun teams could quickly break up an attack in the open area of no-man's-land between trenches. As the war dragged on, the opposing armies brought more and more machine guns into action.

[battlefield scenario and footage from the film *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930) have no associated text]

[biographical label text in case]

Private First Class Robert H. Salsbury

Robert Salsbury, of Martin County, was drafted in May 1918 and assigned to Company D, 324th Infantry Regiment, 81st Division, as a private first class. He arrived in France in August and went into battle on November 9, where he was struck in the head by machine-gun fire. He was saved from death by his helmet.

[artifacts in case]

1. US M1917 **helmet**, worn by Robert H. Salsbury, was damaged by German machine-gun fire in an attack on November 9, 1918, in which Salsbury survived a severe head wound.
2. French M1915 Adrian **helmet**, damaged by rifle fire and with additional holes punched through it by a German pickax, from the Champagne battlefield, France.
3. Prussian M1916 **helmet**, damaged by a bullet.

4. French M1909 **shovel** and **pick blade**, damaged by a bullet.
5. French M1909 **entrenching tool** blade, damaged by a bullet.
6. Russian soldier's **belt plate**, damaged by three bullets.

Death in the Wire

By 1915 the opposing armies on the western front had started placing barbed-wire entanglements in front of their trenches. Infantry soldiers who attempted an attack across no-man's-land would become trapped in the barbed wire. They were often killed there by enemy machine-gun fire and shelling. Wire cutters became an important tool of the war, used to cut through enemy wire. By night, patrols went out to either put up more barbed wire or to cut paths through enemy wire.

[artifacts in case]

1. British army **wire cutters**.
2. British army **wire cutters**.
3. French army **wire cutters**.
4. French army **wire cutters**.
5. German army **wire cutters**.
6. German **wire cutters**.
7. US M1910 **wire cutters**.

[artillery scenario has no associated text]

[relics in floor-level case]

Relics, Meuse-Argonne Battlefield, France, 1918.

German Rifles

[artifacts in case]

1. Austrian M1895 Steyr-Mannlicher **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the Austro-Hungarian army.
2. German M1888 Mauser **rifle**, with regimental markings, secondary infantry weapon used in the German army.
3. German M1898 Mauser **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used in the German army, with M1898/05 **bayonet**.
4. German M1898KAR Mauser **rifle**, primary infantry weapon used by shock troops in the German army, with M1898/14 **bayonet**.
5. German M1888 Mauser **carbine**, with regimental markings, common cavalry carbine used in the German army.
6. German M1891 Mauser **carbine**, with regimental markings, primary cavalry weapon used in the German army.
7. German M1918 Bergmann **submachine gun** with **drum magazine**, commonly used in the German army.
8. German Goerz 4X **telescope**, used by snipers on the M1898 Mauser rifle.

German Hand Weapons

[artifacts in case]

1. German M1909 trench **pickax**, often used as a weapon in trench fighting.

2. Prussian M1889 infantry officer's **sword**, commonly used in the German army.
3. Austrian M1907 Roth-Steyr **pistol** with regimental markings, handgun commonly used in the Austro-Hungarian army.
4. Austrian M1911 Steyr-Hahn **pistol**, primary handgun used in the Austro-Hungarian army.
5. Hungarian Frommer "Stop" **pistol**, handgun commonly used in the Austro-Hungarian army.
6. German Langenhan F. L. Selbstlader **pistol** with "Jager" light infantry regimental markings, handgun commonly used in the German army.
7. German C96 Mauser Broomhandle **pistol**, civilian contract with military proofs, handgun commonly used in the German army.
8. German Walther Selbstlader **pistol**, handgun commonly used in the German army.
9. German M1908 artillery Luger **pistol** with regimental markings, handgun commonly used in the German army.
10. German M1900 Luger **pistol**, primary handgun used in the German army.
11. German trench **club**, captured by 30th Division soldiers at Bohain, France, in 1918.
12. German M1917 "egg" **grenade**, commonly used by German soldiers.
13. German disc **grenade**, commonly used by German soldiers.
14. German trench **knife** and **scabbard**, commonly used by German soldiers.
15. German trench "crank handle" **knife/bayonet** and **scabbard**, commonly used by German soldiers.
16. German M1898 **bayonet**.
17. German M1887 **entrenching tool**, often used as a weapon in trench fighting.

German Heavy Weapons

[artifacts in case]

1. German Gr.W.16 "Grantenwerfer" **grenade thrower** with **shell**, commonly used in the German army to send explosive shells into Allied trench lines.
2. German M1918 Mauser "Tankgewehr" **antitank rifle**, used late in the war by the German army to knock out British, French, and American tanks.
3. German **body armor** and M1916 **helmet** with brow-plate and **gas mask**.
4. German **body armor** and M1916 **helmet** with brow-plate and **gas mask**.
5. German M1908/15 Spandau **machine gun** with **magazine**.
6. German **sniper shield**, found on the Champagne battlefield, France.
7. German M1908 Maxim **machine gun**, standard heavy weapon used in the German army against Allied infantry attacks.
8. German M1908/15 Spandau Maxim **machine gun**, standard heavy weapon used in the German army, often as an assault weapon.
9. German M1908 Maxim **machine gun**, standard heavy weapon used in the German army with terrible effectiveness against Allied infantry attacks.

German Trench Lines

The German army built very strong and elaborate trench lines that included concrete pillboxes for machine guns and were protected by multiple defensive lines of heavily laced barbed-wire entanglements. Allied troops struggled to breach the German lines and did so only after great sacrifice and loss of life. North Carolinians in the 30th Division broke through the imposing Hindenburg Line on September 29, 1918—with a loss of more than 3,000 men.

[randomized spoken lines in these reenacted videos of an approaching German soldier include the following]

“Comrade! Please . . . please don’t shoot!”

“I give up! I will surrender to you! Don’t shoot!”

“Please do not kill me—please!”

“I have a family! I do not want to die!”

“Stop! Stop! Comrade, I give up! Please do not kill me!”

“Hands up! Go! Go! Surrender!”

“Give up, or I will kill you!”

“You are my prisoner!”

“Put down the weapon, or I will shoot!”

“Surrender now, and you will live!”

Observation and Communication

[artifacts in case]

1. German M1894 Hebel **signal pistol**.
2. German **periscope** with leather **case**.
3. German **phone-buzzer unit** captured by the 30th Division in the battle at Busigny, France, October 9, 1918.
4. German M1908 **binoculars** with case.
5. German Druckknopf **signal pistol**, issued to a Jäger (light infantry) company.
6. German field **telephone** captured by 81st Division in the Battle of St. Mihiel, France, September 13, 1918.

Food and Personal Items

[artifacts in case]

1. German ammunition **belt**.
2. German M1887 **entrenching tool** with leather **carrier**.
3. German M1907 **cap**.
4. German M1915 **canteen**.
5. German M1907 **cup**.
6. German medical **canteen**.
7. German medical canteen **cup**.
8. German M1887 **mess tin**.
9. German beer **bottle**.
10. German wine **bottle**.
11. German M1895 field **pack**.
12. German **cookstove**.
13. German “Hindenburg” trench **candles**.
14. German jam **jars**.
15. German “housewife” **sewing kit**.
16. German **cigarettes** and **case**.
17. German **belt** and **buckle**.

Helmets

[artifacts in case]

1. German Pickelhaube **helmet**.
2. German M1915 Pickelhaube **helmet**.
3. Prussian officer's Pickelhaube **helmet**.
4. Austrian M1916 **helmet**.
5. German M1916 Stahlhelm camouflaged **helmet**.
6. German M1916 Stahlhelm **helmet**.

German Booby Traps

In 1918 the US Army spent months attacking and breaking through German trench lines. Once a line was captured, advancing troops had to clear the German trenches and dugouts of enemy soldiers and weapons. In many cases, they found that the Germans left behind booby traps: hidden trip wires or objects wired to explosives that would blow up if touched. Booby traps were sometimes connected to objects that Americans liked to collect as “war trophies.”

[text for interactive]

Many soldiers collected souvenirs of battle, sometimes called “war trophies,” that belonged to the enemy. Some of these items were rigged with explosives, or “booby traps.”

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

Choose a souvenir of your war experience. Then press its button to learn if the object is a war trophy—or a booby trap.

1. Prussian cavalry officer's Pickelhaube **helmet**.
2. German **belt plate**.
3. German ersatz **bayonet** with scabbard.
4. German officer's **sword**, captured by 30th Division soldiers in 1918.

The US Army Air Service

The popularity of the Lafayette Escadrille necessitated the formation of a larger aviation squadron. American aviators in France were assigned to various French units, known collectively as the Lafayette Flying Corps. Pilots trained in the United States received additional training from the British, then were deployed together to France. Before war's end, President Wilson established the US Army Air Service as an independent but temporary branch of the War Department.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Sergeant James Baugham

James Baugham, of Beaufort County, enlisted in July 1917 and flew for the Lafayette Flying Corps. He earned the designation of “flying ace” for shooting down five enemy aircraft during combat. He was killed in an aerial assault on July 2, 1918.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. Uniform **tunic** and **hat**, worn by James Baugham.
2. North Carolina war service **medal**, awarded to James Baugham.
3. Inter-Allied Victory **Medal** (Medaille de la Victoire), awarded by the French government to James Baugham.

4. **Croix de Guerre**, presented by the French government to James Baugham in recognition for bravery in World War I.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Sergeant Arthur Bluethenthal

Arthur Bluethenthal, of New Hanover County, joined the French Foreign Legion in 1916 and fought at the Battle of Verdun. In June 1917, he joined the Bombardment Escadrille in the Lafayette Flying Corps. He was killed in aerial combat with four German planes on June 5, 1918, over Coivrel, France.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. Uniform **tunic, breeches, hat, and belt**, worn by Arthur Bluethenthal.
2. French **citation** honoring service for Arthur Bluethenthal.
3. Pilot **logbook**, kept by Arthur Bluethenthal.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Second Lieutenant Leonidas Polk Denmark

Leonidas Denmark, of Wake County, enlisted in Company D, 105th Engineers, 30th Division, in September 1917. He transferred to the US Army Air Service as an aerial observer in December. In May 1918, he served as an instructor at the 2nd Aviation Instruction Center in Tours, France.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. US M1917 aviator's **uniform**, worn by Leonidas Polk Denmark.
2. Leather flying **helmet and goggles**, worn by Leonidas Polk Denmark.
3. M1911 Colt **pistol**, M1912 leather **holster** with M1912 cartridge **belt and ammo pouch**, and **first-aid pouch**, used by Leonidas Polk Denmark.
4. **Binoculars** and leather **case**, used by Leonidas Polk Denmark.
5. End sections of **trunk**, inscribed with "Lt. L. P. Denmark/Air Service/AEF."
6. Aviation **map** in roller **case**.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

First Lieutenant Robert Opie Lindsay

Robert Lindsay, of Rockingham County, joined the US Army Air Service, American Expeditionary Force, in January 1918. During the Battle of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, he scored six aerial victories to become the third-highest-scoring ace in his squadron. For this, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. Uniform **tunic and boots**, worn by Robert Opie Lindsay.
2. Oil **painting** of Mercury, Robert Opie Lindsay's plane.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

First Lieutenant John W. Aiken

John Aiken, of Catawba County, served as a pursuit pilot in the US Army Air Service, American Expeditionary Force, from September 1917 through January 1919. He fought in the battles of Chateau-Thierry, the Champagne, St. Mihiel, and in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

3. Leather flying **helmet** and **goggles**, worn by John W. Aiken.
4. **Dog tags**, worn by John W. Aiken.
5. Commemorative **medal**, awarded to John W. Aiken by the town of Hickory; the medals honored World War I veterans.

North Carolina Airmen

North Carolinians in the Lafayette Flying Corps:

Sergeant Arthur Bluethenthal, New Hanover County

Sergeant James Henry Baugham, Beaufort County

North Carolinians in the US Army Air Service:

First Lieutenant John W. Aiken, Catawba County

Second Lieutenant Leonidas Polk Denmark, Wake County

First Lieutenant Robert Opie Lindsay, Rockingham County

[image description]

(top, right) Biplane flown during World War I. Library of Congress

(far right) US Army Air Service recruiting poster.

(right) US aviators in front of hangar, 1918.

[artifacts in case]

1. British Vickers aircraft **machine gun** made for US forces in World War I.
2. **Steering device** from a downed German warplane seized by First Lieutenant Thomas Darden, 301st Battalion, US Tank Corps, in 1918.
3. French **caltrops** like these were dropped from aircraft to cripple horses and mules that were used to pull artillery and supply wagons.
4. German 37-mm antiaircraft **shell**.
5. German **flechettes**, pointed steel projectiles, dropped from aircraft onto enemy troops.

[historical film footage has no associated text]

Base Hospitals

Soldiers who were severely injured or sick from serious disease, like influenza, were transported to base hospitals that were located far behind the trench lines. Generally, these cases fell into four categories: wounds, poison-gas injuries, shell shock, and illness. The goal of medical staff was to save and heal the men so they could return to the trenches as quickly as possible. During the war, new treatments, techniques, and practices included blood transfusions, antiseptics, local anesthetics, and painkillers.

[reenacted videos in the crate are captioned]

Lift lid to view video.

“Honest to God, I am so sick of having people depend on me that I could scream. At the last bombardment, I would have given everything I possessed to hang onto somebody and be as big a baby as I wanted to—instead of having to play the hero of the Johnstown Flood and keep other men from being scared. Poor devils—I know it’s bad enough when one is

up and can look after one's self; but to be in bed, and feel the universe is apt to fall in on you, must be the limit."

"I was to receive some first-aid training as a medical corpsman . . . it is really no training at all. This is our training: If you find a man who's hurt, you try and get him somewhere where something can be done for him—quick like."

"I am a stretcher-bearer, and when the fog lifts about 11 that morning, there is a scene I'll never forget: there are caissons and trucks and wagons and horses and mules and soldiers—some of them hanging on spikes—and rifles and machine-gun nests and shell holes. It is a scene of . . . a scene of . . . devastation."

"We are looking for wounded soldiers to carry back, and we have to step on these dead soldiers to keep from going in the water—and the mud: it's so deep—and throwing the wounded off the stretcher. That's unbelievable."

"Night Duty. I'm still on the front and such, days and nights. We are having to be in every night and send as many off next day as possible. It's interesting but tiring, and I'm sick to death of it. We have stretchers and beds in every corner ready for this push. Let's hope we'll advance this time. It's rotten weather and the trenches must be ghastly. When I come off duty at 8 a.m., I'm all in and not fit for anything. I've got nine dying in here and the rest awfully bad—twelve of them with wounds."

"I'm assigned to a new base hospital in Kerhoun, France. We have about 20 doctors, 100 nurses, and 200 medical corpsmen. Oh, and beds for 40 patients. Within the first two weeks of opening, we had 2,000 influenza and pneumonia patients—most of them directly off the ships from the United States—and, well, most of them are too far gone, and they don't make it. The rest? Well, we keep them warm, feed them, give them aspirin."

"We bury them every day. We have a squad of Germans that dig the graves. They take a ditch, and dig it 25 yards. Every morning we carry out the dead patients. We wrap a blanket around them and lay them down in there, side by side. Yes, we lose a lot of men. Sometimes we have a dozen or 15 that die in the hospital—about the worse thing I've ever seen is a dozen or 15 men lying there wrapped in a blanket, and those Germans throwing dirt on them, with no protection, on those blankets. We tack a dog tag to a board sticking up from the grave for each American."

"Night Duty. I just hate every day—truly, if the war doesn't end soon, I am going have to chuck it. Isn't it awful of me? I've got a ward of bad cases and am going hard all night, and it interests me, of course, and I'm more than sorry for them, but I just can't stand the suffering all 'round me. I'm dying for American cooking, again, and I dream of waffles and fried chicken and sundaes . . ."

"I've never seen anything like it. Ambulances for miles, almost touching each other—a continual stream. Hundreds come in and are operated on, and are sent on, every hour. I've never seen such wounds and so many deaths. Men dying on the stretchers before they can be attended to. The mud is so impossible. Food has to be gotten to the troops by airmen, and some of the wounded lay four or five days before an ambulance can get to them. Sometimes the men get stuck waist deep in the mud, and it is impossible to get them out. Sometimes . . . sometimes . . . they are shot to get them out of their misery. It seems incredible, but this mud: it's like quicksand. It clings and sucks down so . . ."

[photos and murals in this area have no associated text]

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Ruth Schmick

Ruth Schmick (Woodall), of Johnston County, served as a Red Cross nurse in a base hospital in France. After 18 months of service, Schmick (at right in photo) taught at Bellevue Hospital in New York, then returned to North Carolina and helped create Smithfield Memorial Hospital.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

1. Red Cross nurse's **uniform**, worn by Ruth Schmick.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

May Greenfield

May Greenfield (Watson), of Forsyth County, volunteered for duty as an army nurse when the United States entered the war in 1917. She joined a medical team from central North Carolina sent overseas in 1918 to establish Base Hospital 65 at the Kerhuon Hospital Center near Brest, France.

[artifacts in case: depending on rotations, only one of these will be on exhibit]

2. Army nurse's **uniform**, worn by May Greenfield.
2. Army nurse's **topcoat**, worn by May Greenfield.

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Private William D. Berryhill

William Berryhill, of Mecklenburg County, was a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at the time of enlistment in May 1918. He served with Base Hospital 65 at the Kerhuon Hospital Center near Brest, France, from August 1918 through July 1919.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

2. **Uniform**, worn by William D. Berryhill.

North Carolina Medical Staff

The quality of American base hospitals increased as their medical staffs grew used to the rigors and challenges of the western front. During the war, thousands of women volunteered as nurses. Many worked at least 14-hour days in base hospitals and often had to come back on duty when hospital trains arrived with more wounded soldiers. Nurses also served in evacuation hospitals that were only 8 or 10 miles behind the front lines and well within the range of German artillery fire. North Carolinians organized and staffed Base Hospital 65, which was formed by medical staff from central North Carolina.

[image description]

(right) Nurses at Base Hospital 65, Kerhuon, France, 1918.

[biographical label text in case]

Private Isaac E. Winfrey

Isaac Winfrey, of Davie County, enlisted as a private in Company C, 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division, in October 1917. Sent to Belgium in August 1918, he suffered severe wounds

caused by shellfire, resulting in the amputation of his left arm. He was given a prosthetic arm and discharged from the hospital in March 1919.

[artifacts in case]

1. **Prosthetic arm**, issued to Isaac E. Winfrey upon his release from Walter Reed Hospital in 1919.
2. French army hospital **shirt**.

The War to End All Wars

War on the western front ended with a ceasefire at 11 o'clock on the morning of November 11, 1918. Unaware the war was about to end, soldiers ordered to fight that morning were shocked when the gunfire and shelling abruptly stopped. Many, including North Carolinians, died in the useless final attacks on German trench lines. Many survivors wondered if it truly would be "the war to end all wars," as President Wilson had promised.

[murals in this area have no associated text]

Peace Without Victory

After the November 11, 1918, armistice, President Woodrow Wilson wanted a "peace without victory" and a League of Nations to ensure future peace. The British and French, however, rejected Wilson's appeals and imposed very harsh surrender terms on Germany. They carved land from Germany and gave it to neighboring countries. They took all of its colonies. They made Germany pay reparations for damage done during the war, which soon bankrupted the nation and left its people starving. Instead of ensuring peace in Europe, as Wilson had hoped, Germany was left broken and bitter and open to thoughts of revenge.

[image description]

(center, left to right) David Lloyd George, of Great Britain; Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, of Italy; Georges Clemenceau, of France; and Woodrow Wilson, of the United States, at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919.

[murals in this area have no associated text]

Trophies of War (30th Division)

Many American soldiers returning home from battlefields in France and Belgium brought with them captured German trophies of war. Generally, soldiers were allowed to carry home only one of the many trophies they collected, and most of the prized objects that they brought back were small enough to fit into a coat pocket or duffle bag. However, Colonel Joseph H. Pratt of the 30th Division shipped home crates full of captured German weapons and equipment that he donated to the Hall of History (now the North Carolina Museum of History). Other 30th Division veterans brought trophies home to remind them of their service and victory in the war.

[image description]

(far left) German chalk **carving**.
(left, inset) German **trench club**.
(right) German **belt plate**.

[artifacts in case]

1. German M1888 Mauser **carbine**, captured by 30th Division soldiers at Bellicourt, France, September 29, 1918.
2. German 140-mm brass **shell case**, captured at Bellicourt, France, September 29, 1918.
3. German M1916 camouflaged **helmet**, captured from a German sniper, in 1918.
4. German **gas-alarm ratchet**, captured at Bellicourt, France, September 1918.
5. **Wallet**, captured from a German soldier at Bellicourt, France, September 1918.
6. German Saxon **belt plate**.
7. German M1915 **canteen**.
8. Stone **carving**, captured from a German dugout, Bellicourt, France.
9. German M1898/05 sawtooth pioneer **bayonet**, captured at Bellicourt, France, September 29, 1918.
10. German M1898/05 **bayonet**, captured at Bellicourt, France, September 29, 1918.
11. US M1917 **trench knife** with “Ypres” carved into handle.

[maps on video screen depict changes in national boundaries]

[scripted videos in the three cases are captioned; appearance is random]

[lines spoken by GERMAN ADULT speaker, translated]

“Germany fought the World War to protect its rights as a nation.”

“Our soldiers fought with honor and great sacrifice, but they were betrayed by our politicians who agreed to end the war.”

“We were forced to sign a peace treaty that was hateful and harsh.”

“The French and British were especially cruel in their demands against us.”

“They took away German land, our colonies, and made us pay great amounts of money.”

“Our people lost their homes, their jobs, and have been left starving in the streets.”

“But we are growing strong again! We will fight to reclaim our land and reunite our people.”

“We will not be treated badly ever again!”

“Germany will be a great power and is destined for glory!”

[lines spoken by RUSSIAN ADULT speaker, translated]

“My country suffered greatly in the World War.”

“Millions of our people were killed in the fight against Germany.”

“The war was a catastrophe.”

“We got rid of the Czar and established our own government, for the people.”

“But Germany forced us to surrender.”

“Even France, Britain, and America turned against us.”

“Our enemies have stolen our land and have sent spies against us.”

“You can’t trust anyone!”

“Russia will be respected once again!”

[lines spoken by FRENCH ADULT speaker, translated]

“France suffered terribly in the World War.”

“With great sacrifice we finally won the last war and forced the Germans out of France.”

“But millions of our people were killed or injured in that terrible war.”

“Everybody lost someone that we love and many of us lost our homes.”

“Our cities, our villages, and our farms were destroyed. It has taken years to try to rebuild our lives and our homes.”

“Now Germany is threatening war again.”

“The Germans are angry people; we fear they will start another war.”

“But what shall we do if Germany starts another war?”

“France will protect their motherland.”

[lines spoken by BRITISH ADULT speaker]

“The British Empire is the greatest empire in the world!”

“We won the World War against Germany!”

“We forced the Germans to surrender and pay for invading Belgium and France.”

“We have helped to maintain world peace since then.”

“But now Germany is causing trouble again.”

“We must keep Germany from starting another war.”

“We will keep a close watch on the angry Germans.”

“I do not know what the future holds, but it looks very uncertain.”

“Whatever comes, Britain will be ready.”

[lines spoken by TURKISH ADULT speaker, translated]

“All that we feared from the Europeans came true during the war.”

“Even though we fought bravely and often won battles, in the end we lost the war.”

“When the war ended, the French and British stole much of our land.”

“They divided up our land between themselves, creating strange boundaries.”

“The French and British set up puppet rulers in their new colonies.”

“We are now left weak and divided and frustrated.”

“The Europeans should leave our people alone.”

“We should not have to live under their laws.”

“But what can Turkey do now but suffer their yoke and wait for better times?”

[lines spoken by AMERICAN ADULT speaker]

“The World War was pointless and a terrible waste of life.”

“Millions of people were killed.”

“Entire cities and thousands of homes were destroyed.”

“We had to go to Europe and stop them from killing each other.”

“We made them stop the war and make peace.”

“It seems that Europe is slipping toward yet another war. Why?”

“America cannot be expected to fight another war.”

“We have to face the hard times here at home.”

“America must stay out of the mess in Europe.”

Remembering the War in Art

Battlefields and soldiers have been popular subjects with artists since the earliest of times. Indeed, many people are captivated by sublime scenes of destruction: fields of battle charged with action, blazing ruins, and the pathos of suffering and death. World War I was the first war to systematically employ artists, from the painting of camouflage to the production of recruitment posters. But probably the most dramatic art of all was the work of soldier-artists who took their sketchbooks directly onto the battlefields.

[image description]

(top right) Graham Seton Hutchison.

(right) Graham Seton Hutchison, *View Overlooking Dickebusch, Ypres*, 1918, watercolor.

[paintings on wall]

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Camouflaged Road at Kruistaat, Ypres*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Belgian Battery Corner, Ypres*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Road Corner in Ouderdom, Belgium*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Kemmel Hill, a German Stronghold*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Dickebusch, Anzac Ridge, Belgium*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Kemmel Hill as Seen from Ouderdom*, 1918, watercolor.

Graham Seton Hutchison, *Attack on Scottish Wood, Ypres*, 1918, watercolor.

[biographical label text]

Lieutenant Colonel Graham Seton Hutchison

Graham Hutchison was a Scottish army officer, military theorist, and author. He served in the British army in France and Belgium from 1914 to 1917 with the 2nd Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and with the Machine Gun Corps. In 1918 he was assigned to the American 30th Division at Ypres, Belgium, where he painted numerous battlefield scenes.

Souvenirs of War

Americans and other soldiers wanted souvenirs of all types, and many cottage industries started up to meet that demand. Embroidered silk handkerchiefs, many with intricate designs and colors, could easily be carried or mailed home to a mother, wife, or sweetheart. When the war ended and civilians began to reclaim their shattered communities, a new tourist market of war memorabilia sprang up. Thousands of shell casings, equipment, and debris were slowly recycled, struck with commemorative designs, and sold to tourists.

[image description]

(far left) Shell case decorated as trench art.

(left) Postcard.

[artifacts in case]

1. Embossed 75-mm and 37-mm **shell cases**, sold in France to American soldiers as souvenirs.
2. **Jewelry box**, made by a German prisoner of war in Britain, taken as a souvenir.
3. English and Scottish cap **badges**, brought back as souvenirs by Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, 105th Engineers, 30th Division.
4. German **matchbox**, taken as a souvenir by Private Paul E. Brauer, 324th Infantry Regiment, 81st Division.
5. **Match cases** and **letter opener**, taken as souvenirs by Major Robert G. Cherry, 115th Machine Gun Battalion, 30th Division.
6. **Letter opener**, trench art, engraved with “St. Mihiel,” made as a souvenir.
7. British souvenir **cup** commemorating the armistice.

Medals of Service and Sacrifice

World War I service medals were issued to soldiers to commemorate their service overseas and to acknowledge their part in a particular battle. The Allies each issued a bronze victory medal

with similar designs, equivalent wording, and identical ribbons. Each represents the combined colors of the Allied nations, and its rainbow-hued ribbon represents calm after the storm of war. Great Britain's service medal depicts the winged figure of Victory on the front; on the back, it reads, "The Great War for Civilisation 1914–1919."

[image description]

(top left) Purple Heart awarded posthumously to Sergeant Walter G. Jones, of Cumberland County, 81st Division.

(left) General John J. Pershing awarding medals to US soldiers in Chaumont, France, 1918.

(right) Medal of Honor awarded to Private Robert L. Blackwell, Company K, 119th Infantry, 30th Division.

[special tribute label for temporary loan of framed Purple Heart awarded to Sergeant Walter G. Jones]

Sergeant Walter George Jones

Walter G. Jones, of Cumberland County, was drafted in September 1917 and assigned to Company C, 322nd Regiment, 81st Division. Once in France, he went into battle on November 8, 1918, and was injured by poison gas. Discharged from service in June 1919, Jones suffered from the poison gas injury until his premature death in 1926.

[biographical label text in case]

Private Robert Lester Blackwell

Robert Blackwell, of Person County, enlisted as a private in Company K, 119th Infantry, 30th Division, in 1917. He fought near Ypres, Belgium, in August 1918 and in September at the Hindenburg Line. He was killed in battle in October after volunteering to carry a message to secure help for his platoon. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

[artifacts in case]

1. Framed **photograph** of Private Walter L. Caton, Machine Gun Company, 324th Infantry Regiment, 81st Division, and citation for his gallantry in action on November 9, 1918.
2. **Medals**, awarded to Robert L. Blackwell: US Congressional Medal of Honor; Italian Medal of Honor; and Portuguese Medal of Honor.
3. French **Croix de Guerre**, presented to the 119th Infantry Regiment, 30th Division.
4. 30th Division **medal**, presented by the City of Greenville, South Carolina, to Sergeant Wilbur C. Spruill, of Plymouth (Washington County), in 1919.
5. **Medals**, awarded to Second Lieutenant Leonidas Polk Denmark: North Carolina War Service medal and Cross of Military Service, awarded to descendants of Confederate military personnel.

Remembrance

Approximately 116,000 American soldiers died in World War I; another 204,002 were wounded. Afterward, Americans energetically commemorated their role in the war. They built thousands of community monuments, made an elegant scheme for battlefield memorials in Europe, established Armistice Day as a national holiday, and created a tomb to an unknown soldier. The poppy, first used as a sign of remembrance in 1919, has become closely connected with the war and the great losses associated with it.

World War I Family Heirlooms

[biographical label text in case, some rotate]

Corporal Roy Jackson Marshall

Jack Marshall, of Forsyth County, volunteered in 1917 and was assigned to Battery A, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Division. Marshall was an artillery observer who helped to direct the fire of 75-mm guns in his battery. He was wounded by German shellfire on October 2, 1918, at the Battle of Mont Blanc and was out of combat for the remainder of the war.

[artifacts in case, some rotate]

US M1912 cotton **uniform** and **gas mask**, worn by Private First Class Roy Jackson Marshall.