

## **Ch 19 Section 2 American Power Tips the Balance**

### **America Mobilizes**

#### **Raising an Army**

- **Selective Service Act**—men required to register for military service, randomly chosen for service
- African Americans in segregated units, excluded from navy, marines
- Soldiers train for 8 months, often drill with fake weapons
- Women in army, navy, marines as nurses secretaries, phone operators

#### **America Turns the Tide**

##### **U.S. Navy Contributions**

- To overcome threat of German U-Boats, U.S. started to use a **Convoy system**—destroyers escort merchant ships across Atlantic
  - losses drop dramatically
- Navy helps lay mines across North Sea, keep U-boats out of Atlantic
- 1918, Germans have difficulty replacing boats, trained submariners

##### **Fighting in Europe**

- After 2 1/2 years fighting, Allied forces are exhausted, demoralized
- American troops bring numbers, freshness, enthusiasm

##### **Fighting “Over There”**

##### **Doughboys in Europe**

- **General John J. Pershing** leads **American Expeditionary Force**
  - soldiers impressed by cities, shocked by battle

##### **New Weapons**

- By 1917, British learn to use tanks to clear path for infantry
- Early planes flimsy, only do scouting; later ones stronger, faster
  - carry machine guns, heavy bomb loads
- American ace **Eddie Rickenbacker**, other pilots in dogfights
- Observation balloons used extensively, prime target of ace pilots

##### **The War Introduces New Hazards**

##### **New Problems of War**

- New weapons and tactics lead to horrific injuries, hazards
- Troops amidst filth, pests, polluted water, poison gas, dead bodies
- Constant bombardment, battle fatigue produce “shell shock”
- Physical problems include dysentery, trench foot, trench mouth

##### **American Troops Go on the Offensive**

##### **Allies Stop German Advance**

- Russia pulls out of war 1917; Germans shift armies to western front
  - come within 50 miles of Paris
- Americans help stop German advance, turn tide against Central Powers

##### **American War Hero**

- **Conscientious objector**—person who opposes war on moral grounds
- Originally a conscientious objector, **Alvin York** decides WWI is just
- Alone kills 25 Germans; with 6 others, captures 132 prisoners
- Promoted to sergeant; becomes U.S. celebrity

##### **The Collapse of Germany**

- November 3, 1918, Austria-Hungary surrenders to Allies

- German sailors, soldiers rebel; socialists establish German republic
  - kaiser gives up throne
- Germans exhausted; **armistice**, or truce, signed November 11, 1918

### **The Final Toll**

- World War I bloodiest war in history to date
  - more than half of 22 million dead are civilians
  - 20 million more are wounded
- 10 million people become refugees
- U.S. had fewer casualties than France, Austria-Hungary, or Great Britain