An Introduction to World War One with A Brief History Through Related Post Cards

A Presentation for
The North Museum of Nature and Science
Thursday, 11th November 2021
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Paul Petersen
Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

U.S. Recruiting Poster on facsimile PPC (Picture postcard)



Tonight's Presentations

- A thumbnail sketch of WWI, a timeline
- Themes and topics of the war
- A representation of WWI postcards, vintage and reproductions
- Other...
- A war that changed everything

Timeline I

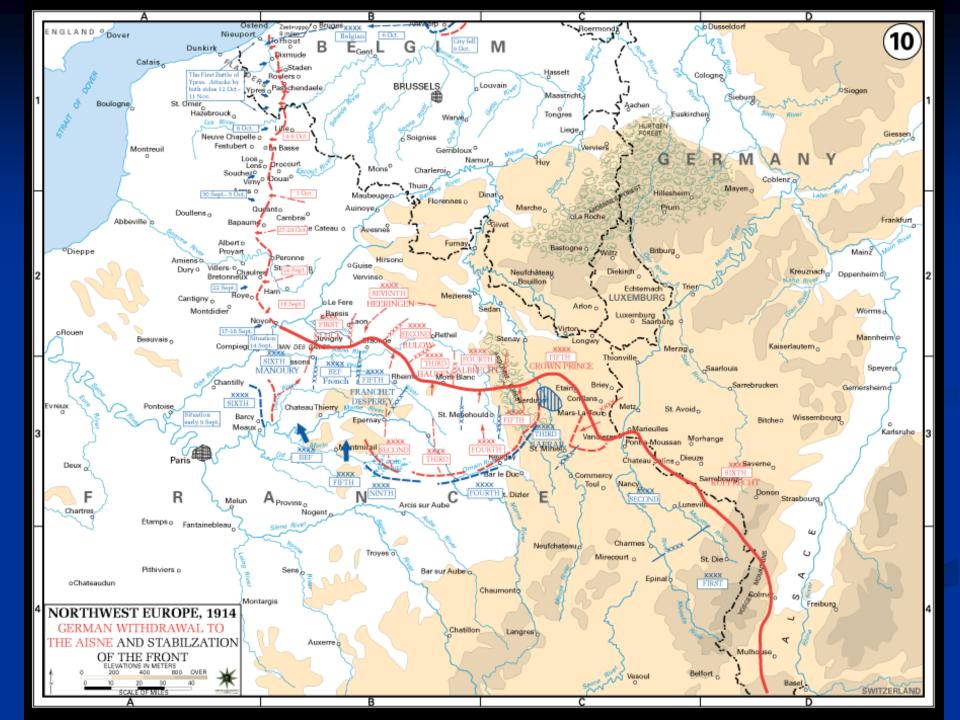
- 1805: Traflgar-1705
- 1839: Treaty of London guaranteeing Belgium neutrality
- 1870-1871Franco-Prussian War with RF's loss of Alsace Lorraine
- 1905 German Schlieffen Plan for a successful two front war
- Russia in Revolution +/- 1905...
- 1912-13 The 3rd Balkan War
- 1912: France: Plan 17 for Alsace Lorraine
- Alliances: RF and Russia; Austria and Germany
- 28 June 1918-Arch Duke assassinated in Sarajevo.
- Austria's ultimatum to Serbia and Russia mobilizes
- Germany mobilizes; Schlieffen plan to the west
- Where's the UK, the BEF? Belgium, The scrap of paper

(U.S.) Timelines-II

- 1915 The sinking of the Lusitania; U.S. deaths
- 1917 The Zimmerman Telegram
- 1917 Resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare
- 1917 7th April Wilson declares war Vs. Germany
- It is said that the U.S. army at the time was the size of that of Belgium!

Timelines-III

- 1914: Serbia, Frontiers (RF's Plan-17), The Schlieffen plan, Tannenburg, Mons, The Marne, 1st Ypres, Falklands (SA), Africa
- 1915: Gallipoli-Dardanelles, 2nd Ypres (Poison Gas)
- 1916: Verdun, The Somme, Jutland, Brusilov Offensive
- 1917: Lenin smuggled into Russia; U.S. enters the war; Treaty of Breast Litovsk, RF Strike, Arab Ottoman Revolt, 3rd Ypres, Passchendaele
- 1918: Kaisarschlacht, Meuse-Argonne, Belleau Wood, Cambrai Communist effect, Lys, German Revolution
- Monday, 11 November 1918-Armistice; UK Blockade of Germany continues; Kaiser Wilhelm II flees to Holland
- 1918-1919 Paris Peace Conference, Versailles
- Remapping of many country boarders



Timelines-IV...don't forget

- Middle East
- Eastern Front
- Carpathians
- Mesopotamia
- China, Japan
- Western Pacific
- Africa
- South America

A Few Long-lasting Results

- End of several monarchies
- Decline in European colonialism
- Austria Hungary & Germany reduced
- Balfour Declaration for a home for Israel
- Rebirth of Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania
- Yugoslavia ← Macedonia, Montenegro, Croatia Slovenia, others
- Russian Civil War, Russo-Polish War
- Japan entrenched in Western Pacific (Marianas, Marshalls, Carolinas and German colonies in China) With ramifications for Sino-Japanese war, WWII, and the coming of Communism in China
- U.S. emerges as a world power

A Free Association of Topics

- •Trenches •Cinema & Drama •Ultimatums
- •Exit strategies •Diet •Over the top •mail
- PhotographyNewsreelsPropagandaQ-
- Ships •Alliances-formed & broken •Change in
- governments •War guilt •A 25 year armistice
- •Anti-Semitism •Submarine warfare •The ten
- languages of Austria-Hungary Paris super-guns
- •Herbert Hoover feeds Belgian children •The
- Red Barron Armenian genocide Transatlantic
- communication •Political disruption •Chaplains
- •Working dogs •Music & Song •Technology

- •Aeroplanes •Logistics •Poison Gas
- •Conscription •Prostitution •Conscription
- •Colonialism •Tanks •Medicine & Surgery
- •Flame throwers •Poetry & •Literature
- •Unexploded ordinance •Machine guns •The
- Home Fronts Ammunition Bond Drives
- •Internment camps •Passivism •Amphibious
- assaults •Forestry & deforestation •Venereal
- disease •New countries •Uniforms •Nation States
- •Flags •Patriotism •White Feathers •Rest &
- Relaxation •Field Hospitals •Cemeteries •Red
- Cross •Stretcher Bearers •Tunnels •Graves
- Registration •Entertainment at the Front
- •Trains/Railroads •Gramophones/recordings

- •Prisoners of War •Zeppelins •Hunger •Coastal blockades • Ersatz • Strikes • Communism • YMCA •Redrawn •Borders •Mines •+40 Countries Worldwide • Who's in charge? • Hawks & Doves •Biographies •Early second thoughts •Diplomacy-Success and Failure • Memoirs • Sovereignty •Diaries •War planning •The Long Fuse •Foreign Policy •Queen Victoria's Grandchildren •Turkish Straits Chokepoint •Naval Powers •Science & War •Race to the Sea •Optics •Dyes •Radio & Telegraph •Home by Christmas •War Memorials •Unknown Soldiers •Freedom of the Seas •Rights
- •Unknown Soldiers •Freedom of the Seas •Rights of Neutrals •Kulture Vs. Int'l Law Vs. Militarism

- •Science Vs. Humanities •Naval Race •War art
- •Telephones •Christmas Truce •Known Only Unto
- God •Slave labor The Riddle of the Sands Looting
- & Pillage Carrier Pigeons Lice Historical
- Revisionism Electricity Post War Passivism
- •Trench foot •Suffrage Publishing •Off-coast
- bombardment •Leipzig War Crime Trials
- Victory gardens
 Anti-submarine warfare
- •Metal drives •Magazines & serials •Death of
- the circuses •Servicemen's Centers •Salvation
- Army Wolfpacks Worldwide coaling stations
- •Ossuaries •Poppies •The White Feathers

- Pill Boxes & Bunkers
 An Underground War
- •Trees & Wood Supply •Genocide •Mud & Rain
- Cartography & Mapping
 Benedictine & Brandy
 (Bennies)
 Silver Badges
 Two Minutes of Silence
- W

Close-up on Diet

- The army travels on its stomach; Feeding the home front? Destruction of foodstuffs
- War related changes in harvesting
- Disruption of supply chain; Horses drafted
- Priorities: Soldiers, home front, POWS, laborers
- Food requisition, commandeering
- Reduction of quantity and quality of food
- Famine in much of Europe
- Half and quarter rations
- Malnutrition, starvation rickets, and other deprivation disorders
- Maternal-child health issues

Close up on Unexploded Ordinance

- Reliability issues of the Great War Ammunition Duds, Fuses, and blasting caps
- Static front with continuous artillery barrages Weather, Mud

Live shells coming to the surface: Especially nasty are mustard, chlorine, and phosgene gas shells

- Danger in farm fields when hit by tractors, Deaths
- Grants to farmers for "Cow Catchers" for their tractors
- Special "Iron Harvesting" plants: 1-Explosive shells; 2-Gas shells
- Today, still, 910 Tons/year in RF, 1.5-200T/ in Belgium*
- *Since 1919, Belgium has lost 20 bomb disposal techs

Why WWI Postcards

- A piece of history in your hand
- Maintain your own museum
- Learn from vintage images and photos
- View the war from a postcard perspective
- Explore postal history (more later)
- Seek personal or family connections
- Practice your foreign languages-for the hearty!
- Figure out the auxiliary markings, censors
- The price is right
- Opportunities for research and sharing this

Challenges with Postcards

- Condition of the paper; Need care
- Fading of the handwriting-Frustrating
- Have a long term plan for your collection
- Postcard messages are often idiomatic
 - This makes reading of foreign languages difficult and messages are often of lesser substance than letters

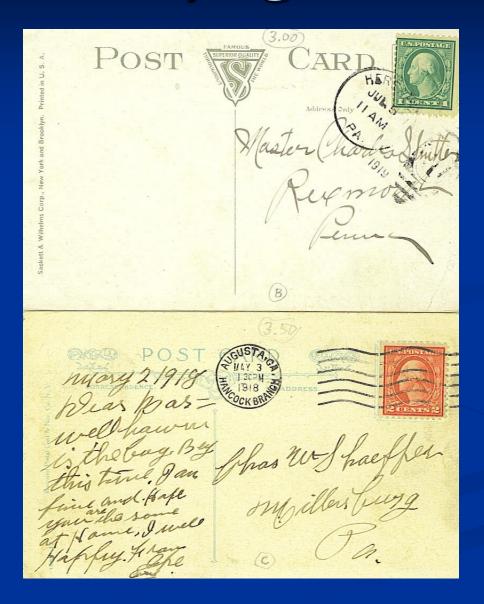
It is more than a postcard

- Historical documents; written notes
- Interesting stamps & postmarks (towns & dates)
- Postal & military history; locations, units, etc.
 - Markers of people, place, and time
- Social history (i.e. The home front)
- Auxiliary markings
 - Soldier's/Sailor's mail, Feldpost
 - Censor stamps and officer signatures
 - POW Notifications

Not to exclude stamps...



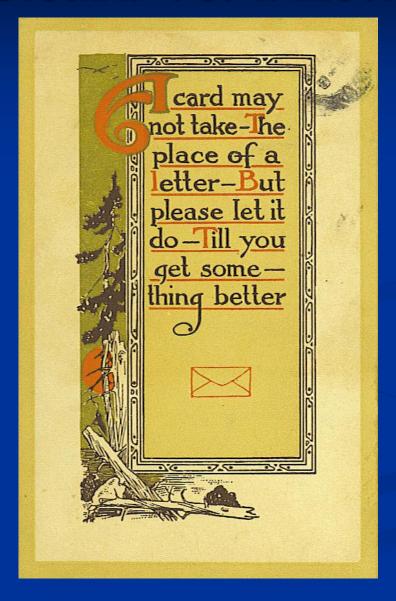
Tidbits-Paying for the War

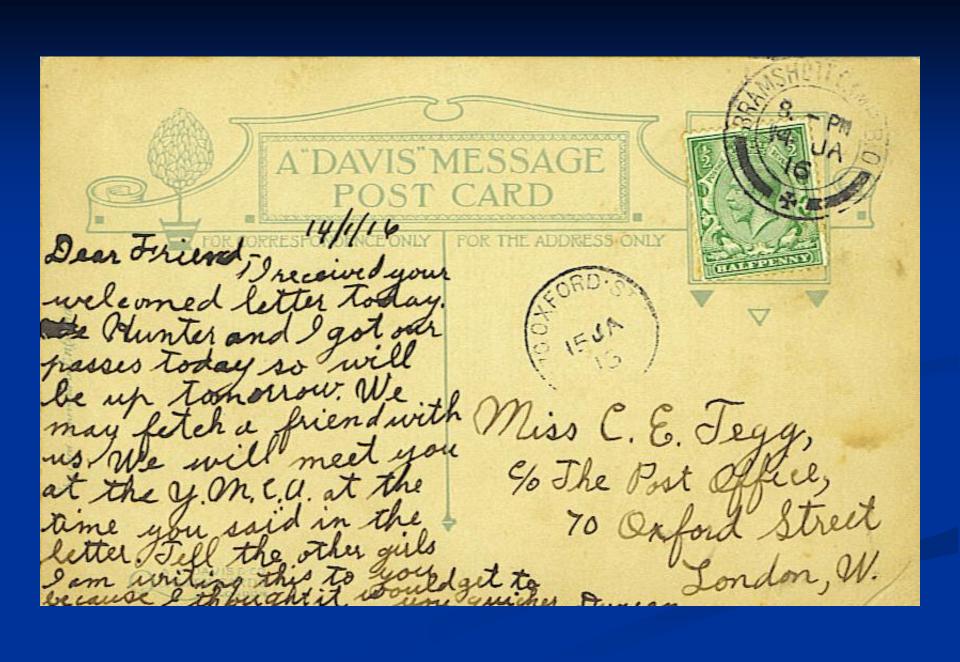


Soldiers Mail/Feldpost



Postcard Vs. a Letter?





Yesteryear's Postcards

- Think of them as today's email & texting
 - There was expedient mail delivery in the olden days
- Golden age (Late 1890s into early 20th Century)
- Inexpensive for the sender, special postage rate
- Gazillians available, mint or used, WWI or other topics
- Free postage from (and sometimes to) the front
- Limited time to write → limited message
 - Some PCs promised a letter to come
- PCs were encouraged-easier to censor than letters
- Postcard blasts by unit (Arriving home on...)

Postcards beyond the war ...

- History of Germany, RF, (1914-1919)...
- Authors (i.e. Graves, Sassoon, Remarque)
- People (i.e. Kaiser, Clemenceau, Wilson)
- Plebiscites → WWII
- The Ruhr, der Rhein
- Town names
- Hyperinflation
- Art, architecture

Where can one get WWI PCs?

- Postcard and stamp shows (Google your area)
- Flea markets, Postcard box in antique shops
- Trading with other collectors
- Internet (For the special stuff)
 - Postcard websites
 - Auctions such as eBay
- Postcard Stores *i.e.* Northeast, MD
- Museum Shops (Reproductions, paintings)
- Modern Publishers *i.e.* Dover for repro PCs
- Auctions/Catalogs (Listed under deltiology.)

Postmark Date Mystery



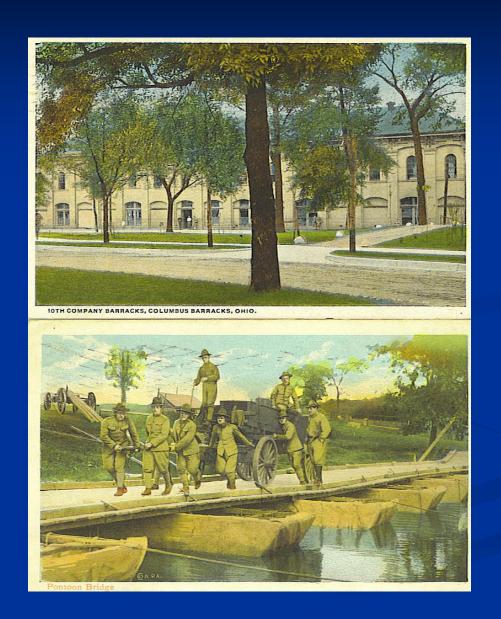
The Solution

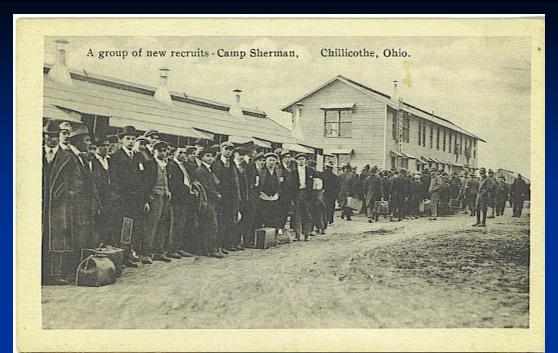
Dudelange, Lux. Dec. 16, 1918. Dear Miss Chapman, I have your Christmas letter & card both of which I enjoyed very much. Very likely I will spend Christmas in this town 4 in the house marked. Of course we would not mind spending it on the hite it we were heading ! Miss. P. B. Chapm for the coast. This is a real pleasent town The alden 4The people are friendly Too. There is a steel mill here that I think I will visit. heurburgh I was in the church Sunday and it was jam full, Every one is Catholic so there is only one church assequently the Good night now + a happy fulure 4.8.0. LAST FA William

The Place

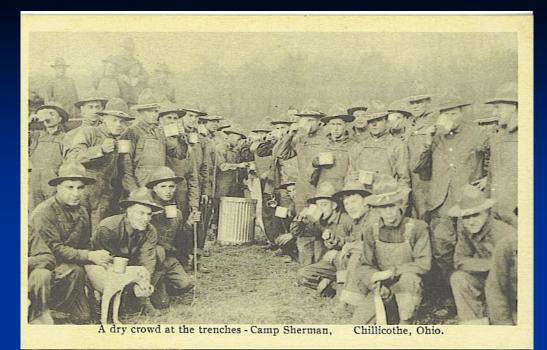


The American Expeditionary Force











Dear Sister: that the way gor line (hoto) Slate, dentogy 1998 girtsh Doe have aluminum elishes, leaving tomorrow hope you are all will I are just ful fine arould like to see you I am so were your Brother

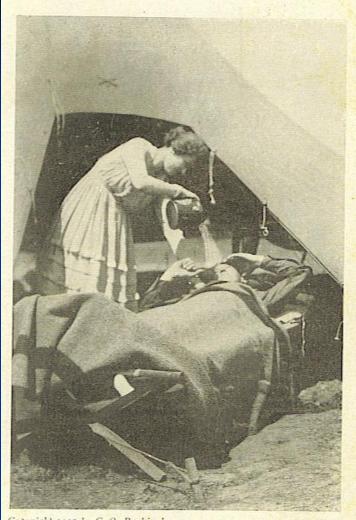
Postmarked the 13th August 1918, Newport News, VA, Stuart Branch to his sister in West Milton, OH



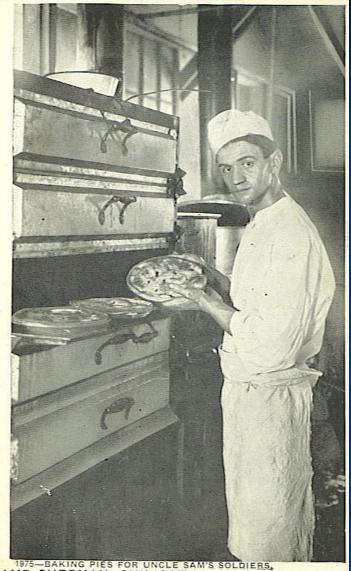
LIFE AT CAMP DIX. N. J.

LIFE AT CAMP DIX.

On the left are bundles of civilian clothto be sent home by the new soldiers. On right are soldiers sending home letters purchasing postcards at the Y. M. C. A. library well stocked with good books.



Copyright 1917 by C. O. Buckingham "REVEILLE"



1975—BAKING PIES FOR UNCLE SAM'S SOLDIERS.
CAMP SHERMAN, CHILICOTHE, O.

Postmark: 6SEP17 Ft. Sheridan

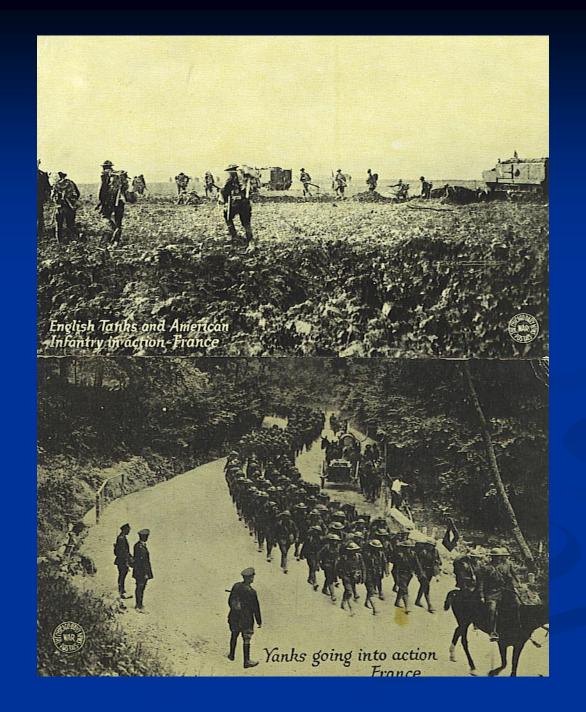
Received your letter and clippings and sure was pleased. We do not get any time to write letters but will try to get one to you in a few days. After a long hike with heavy packs today several fellows fainted. It sure was a march. Will ...? To Miss Caroline Young, 103 E. Wilson St. Madison, Wisc.

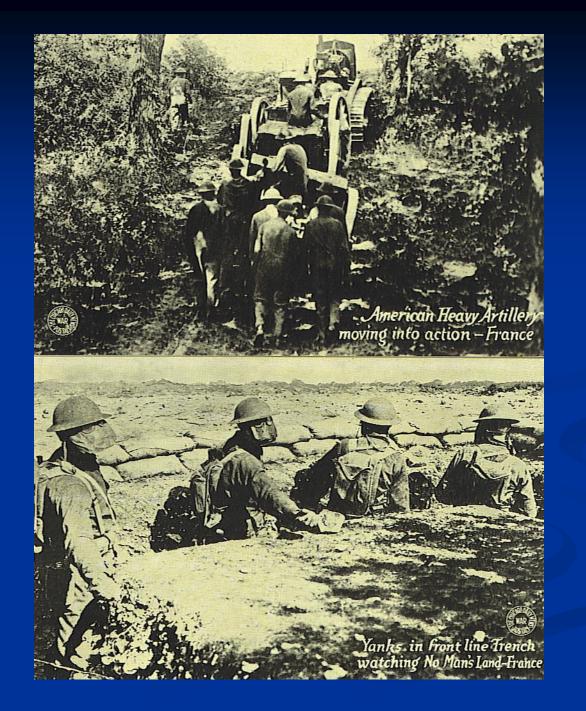




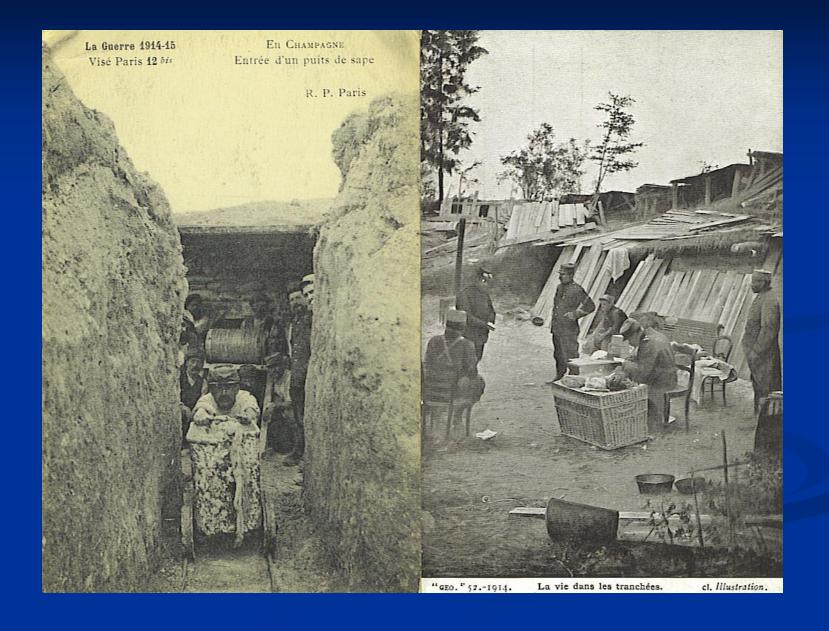
Postmarked the 19th May 1918, Merritt Branch, Jersey City, NJ To: Mr. William Lewis of Carthage, NY.

Dear Friend: Well, I have just got back to God's country and will be home soon to see you. Will tell you more about it when I see you than I can write. Maynard





RF Trench Life

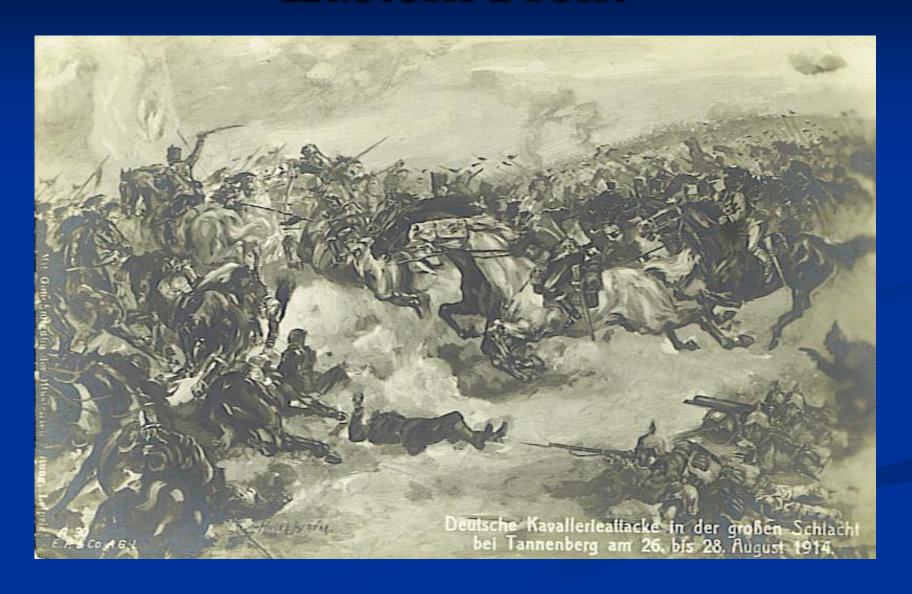




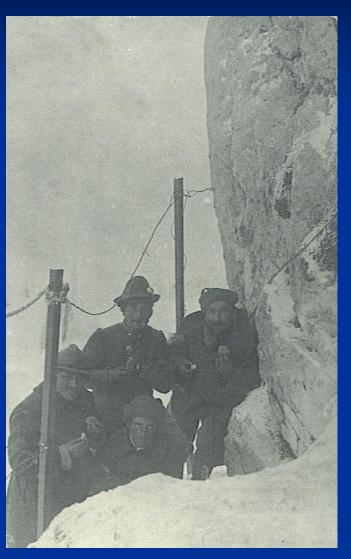
Who said it was a black & white war?

new york, 2. 1917 POST Official Photograph of La Section Photographique de l'Armée Française issued by NEWSPAPER ILLUSTRATIONS Ltd., 161a, Strand, W.C. Mrs. 9. Chevillot Ma chere Lina. Esperant que vous vous allez tous him, West Cornwall L'ever un Touvent de the guerre; mos meils Leurs voeux four en Conn. Shewert Noel, From Louise an Patricka Ro. F. D. Bringing up a Reserve Battery of Guns at Verdun .- Nothing the Kalser can organize now will be able to combat the output of the French Munition Factories.

Eastern Front



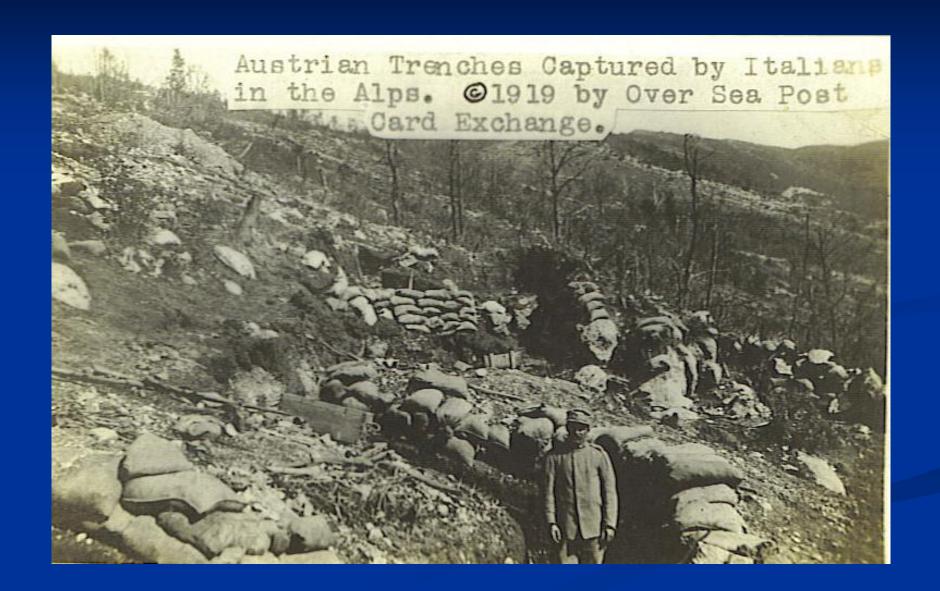
Italian Front (facsimile)



Italijanski vojaki na Batognici

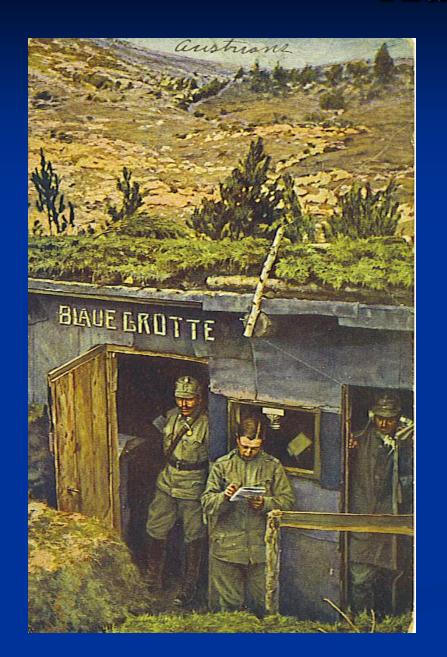
Izdal in založil KOBARIŠKI MUŽĖJ tis Tisk: Grafika Soča, Nova Gorica 2009

Postcard purchased at the Caporetto Museum In Slovenia



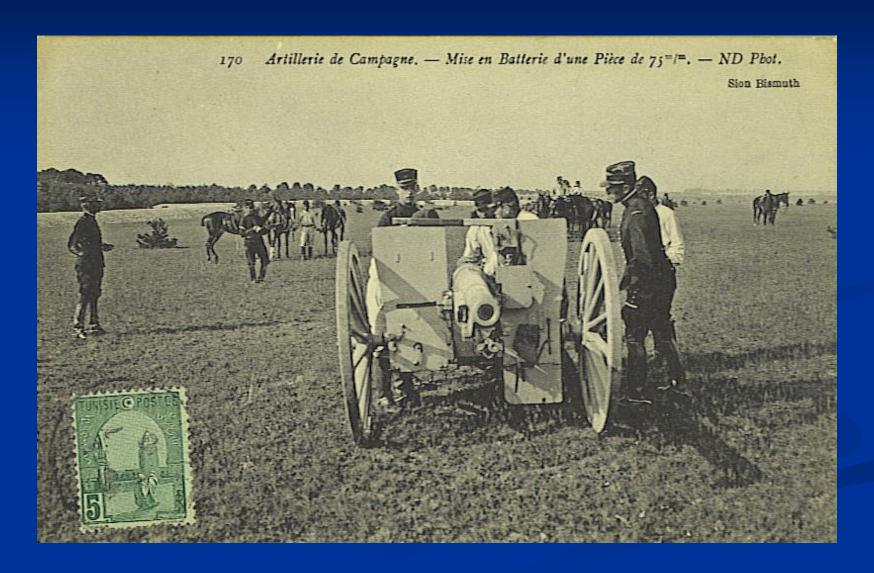


Austria



31st January 1919 Here is three of them in a little shack where they give orders to the arter where to shoot you see the camouflage roof that is to fool the airoplanes (sic) Good luck to all from Al (This is not postmarked. May have been enclosed in a letter.

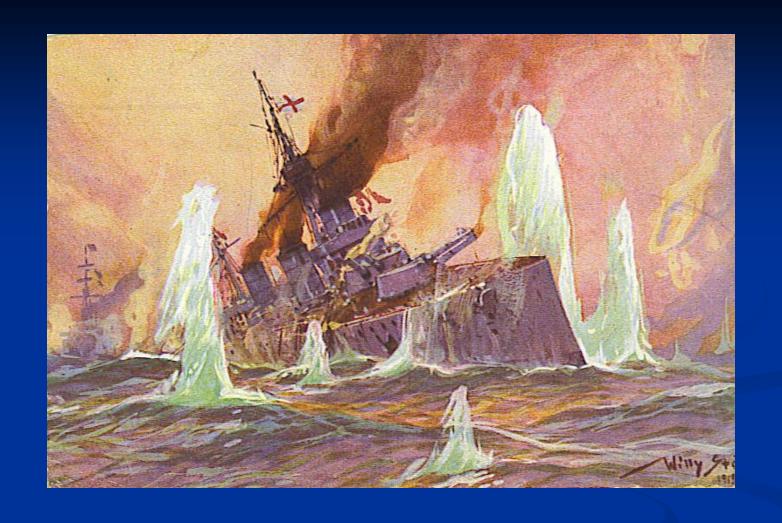
Tunisia



POSTKARTE Carte Postale POST CARD CARTOLINA DOSTALE - OTHPHITTE MICHMO TARJETA POSTAL I rloyd Shullg e, c. c. 41/7 Lancastes Co.

German Navy





Dogger Bank, 24th January 1915. Postcard is dated the 28th Feb 1916 from Achen, Germany



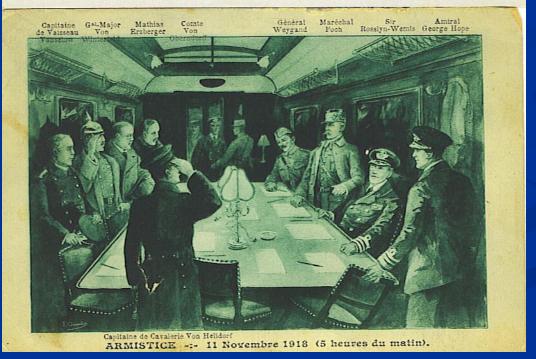
Armistice

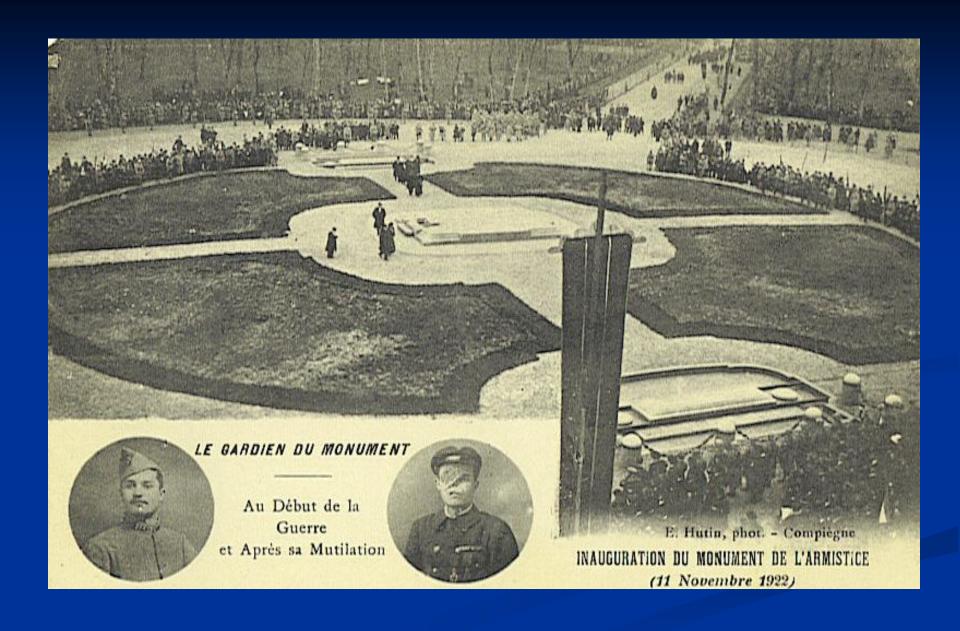


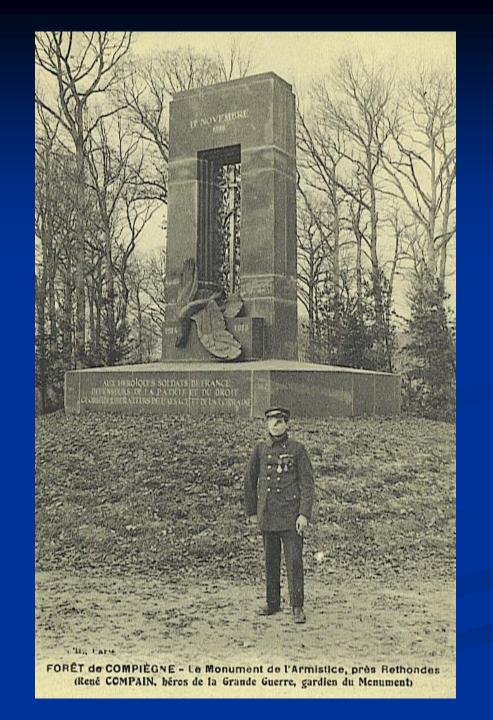
CARTE POSTALE ONOW VILLE Adresse - 139, Rue Lafayetfe

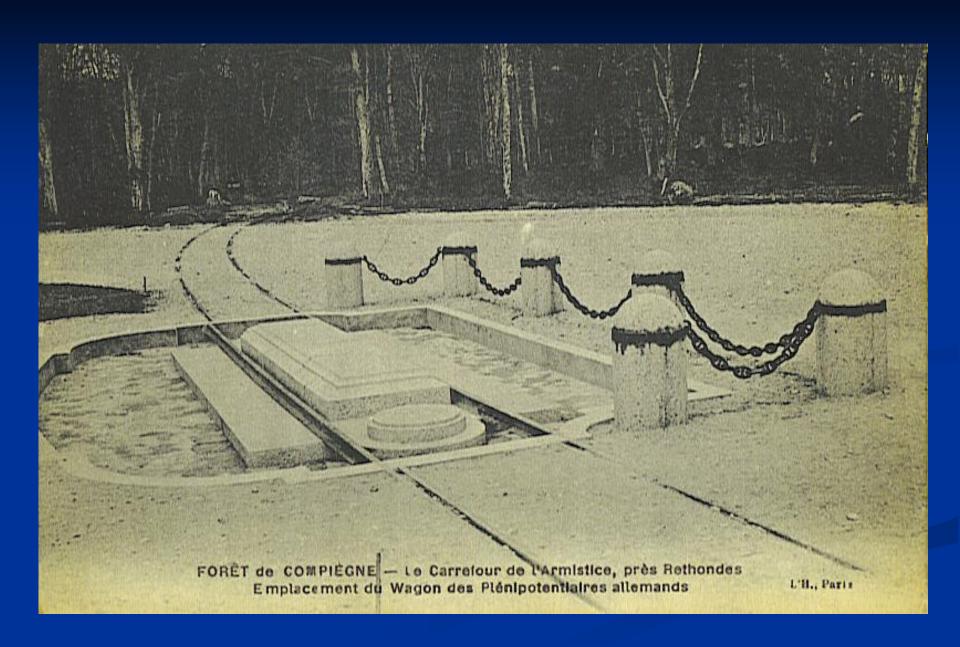
Souvenirs abound











Post-War Liberty: 3 & 4/1919

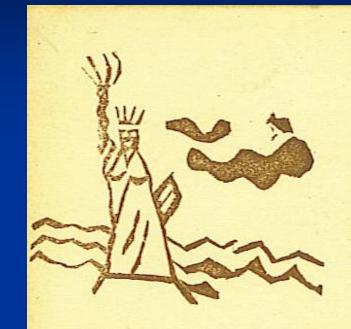


"This is where the YMCA is located at."

A PC to Miss Anna Haas of Stettlersville, Lehigh Co., PA



"Am on a leave just now. Best of eats finest hotels, and if I had a few million francs, would like to stay here. The prettiest town I ever seen. Will write to you later. Pvt. AE Wagner 316 Inf. Supply Co. APO 771 (To Sunbury, PA)



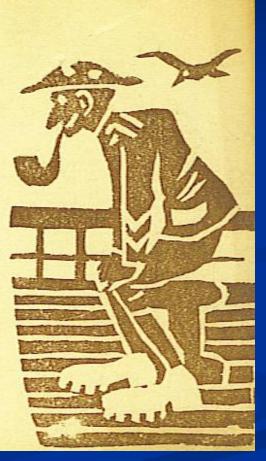
LAND 'HO!!

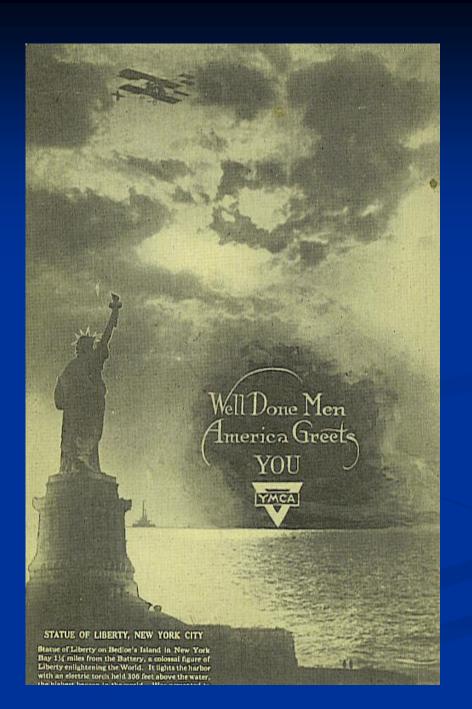
I'm Home Again

Sailed from St. Nazaire, France, May 18, 1919

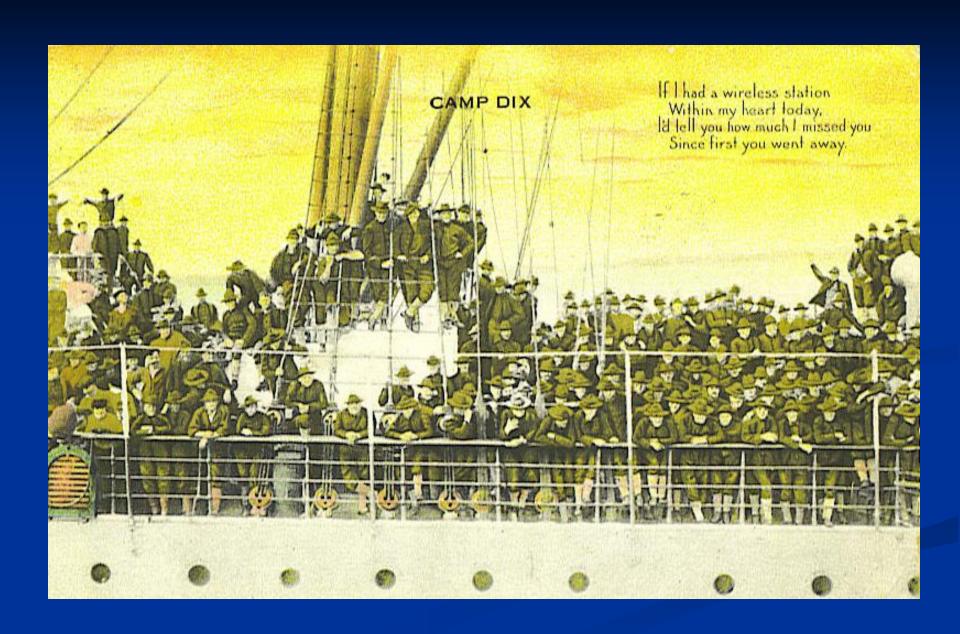
Arrived at_____

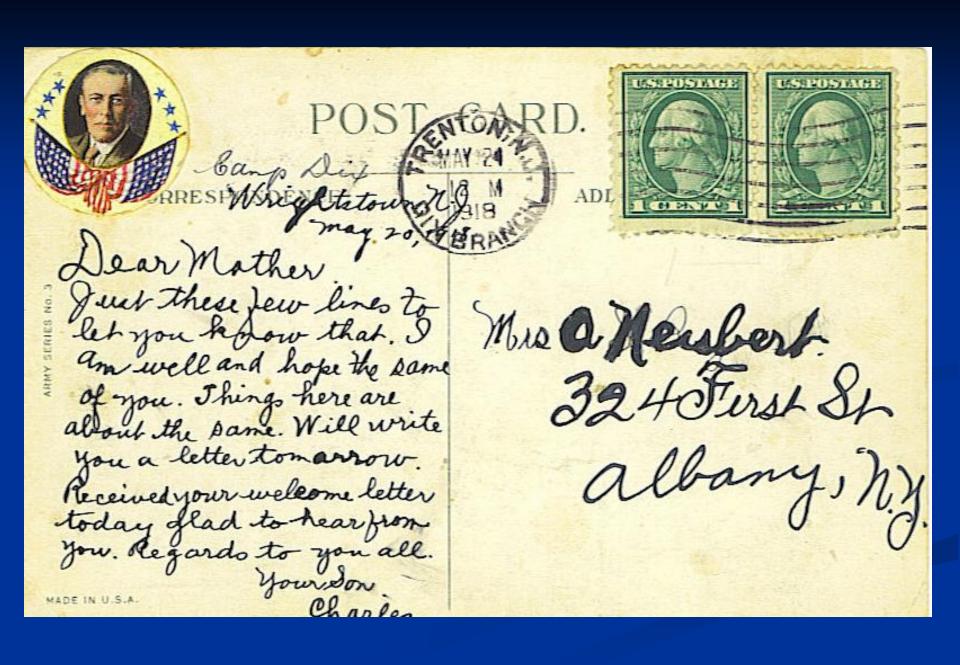
on Board U S. S. ANTIGONE





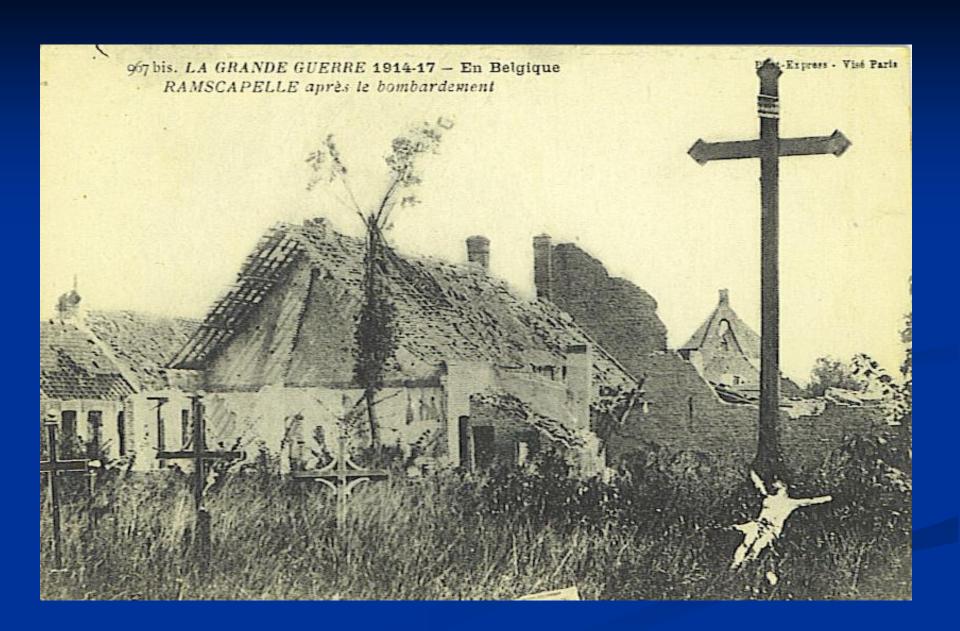
DEPARTMENT FOR RECEPTION SILDIER'S MAIL OF RETURNING TROOPS NO POSTAGE IF Post Card MAILED ON BOAT OR DOCK. OTHERWISE For Address Only 2c POSTAGE REQUIRED. Arrived to-day Transport Going to Camp_ Will write from there as soon as possible.

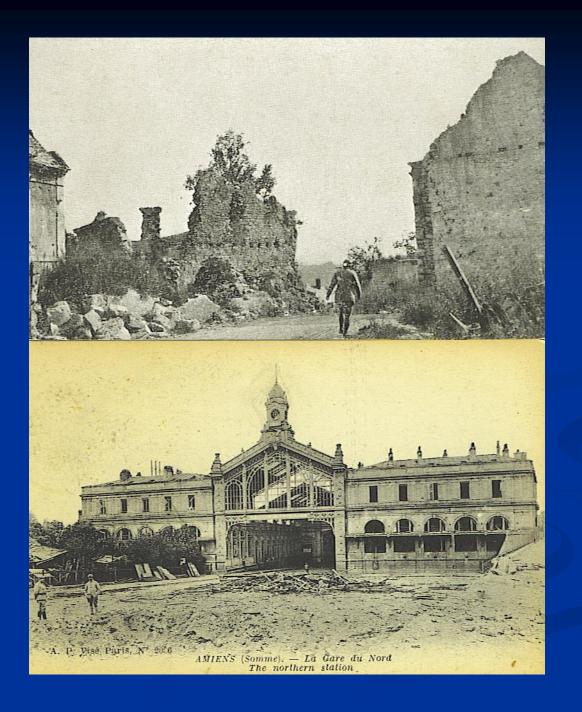


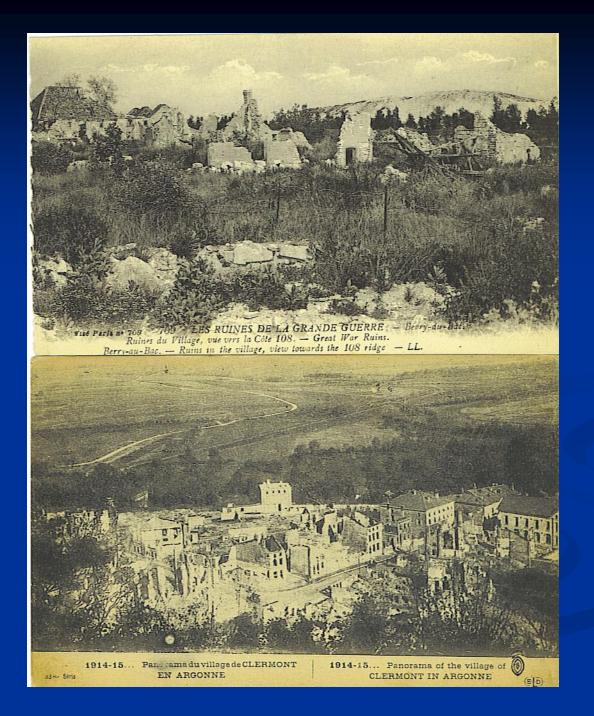


Ruins, ruins, and more ruins









Coup. W.M. E. Dobbins.

Hogis Co. 115 !! INSY.

CARTE POSTALE MARIE

A. P. O. 76 6:

CORRESPONDANCE

CORRESPONDANCE

COUP. W.M. E. Dobbins.

Soldier's Maril.

ROSTALE

ROSTALE

ROSTALE

ROSTALE

ROSTALE

ROSTALE

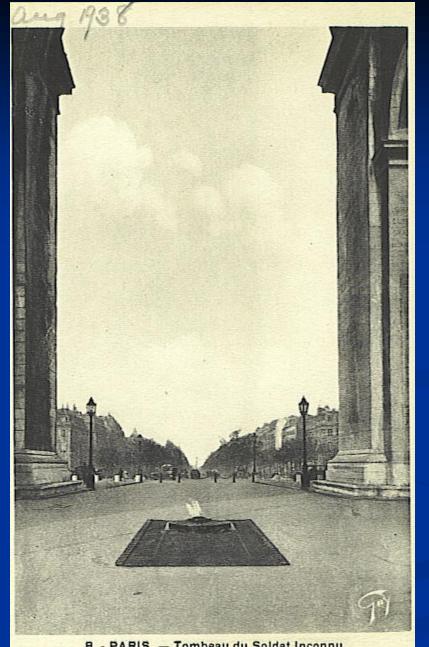
ROSTALE

SOLDIER'S MARIE

SOLDI Coup. Will E. Dobbins. Mus. Win H. Doblins. We scene of german # 182 Elm Strut. frightfulness. This Hagustaurs. Maryland. is just one of the many French luwers that were distruyed. Lovingly Edward .

Memorials



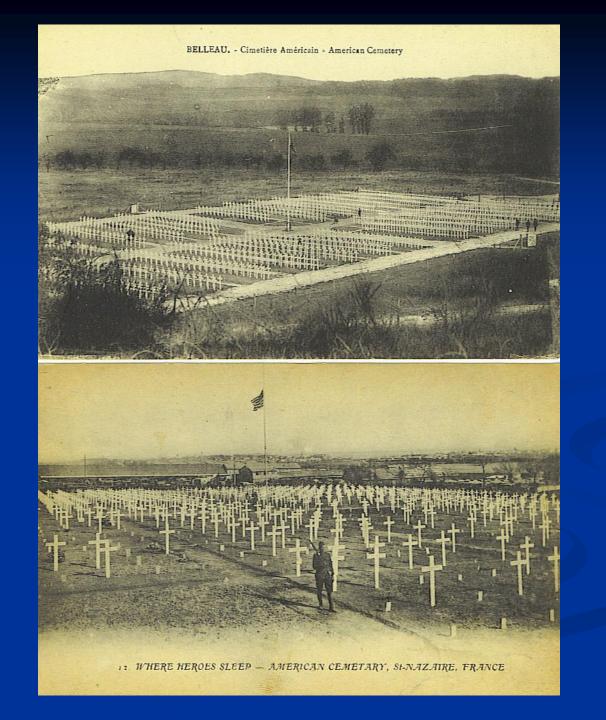


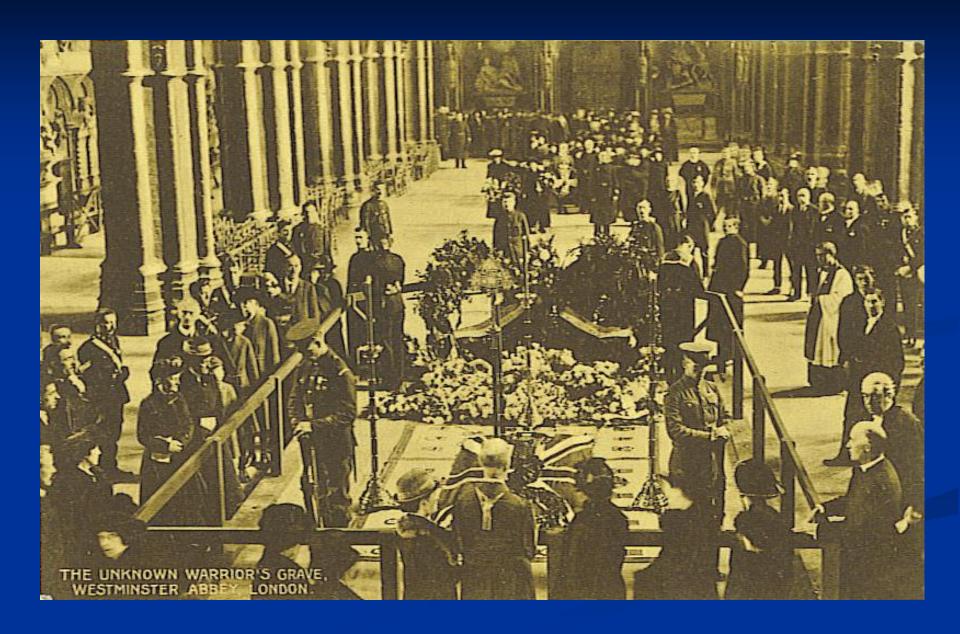
8. - PARIS — Tombeau du Soldat Inconnu The Unknown Soldier's Tumb



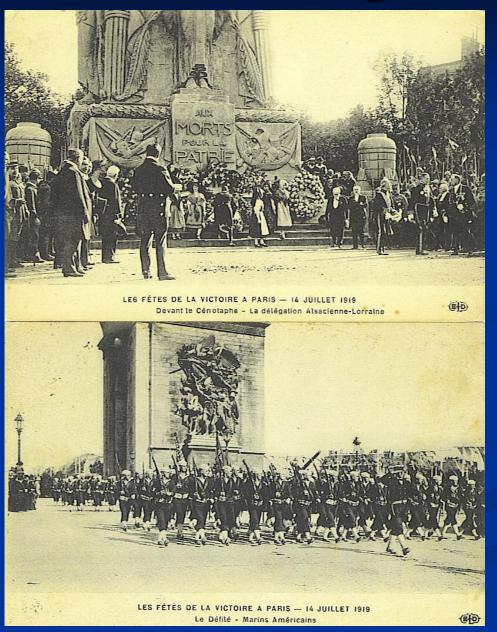
Dinant Mur Eschoffen (23 août 1914).

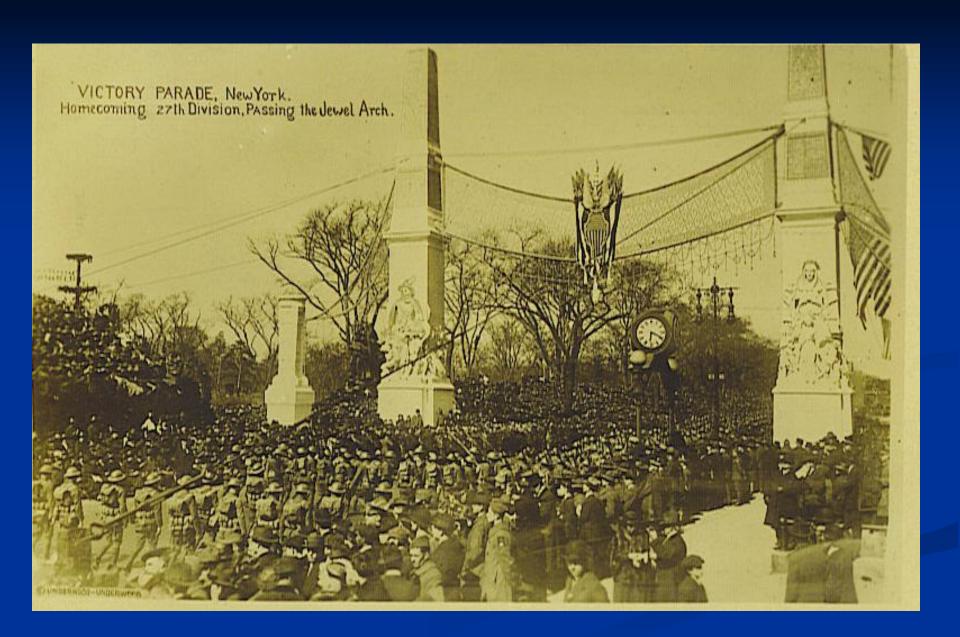




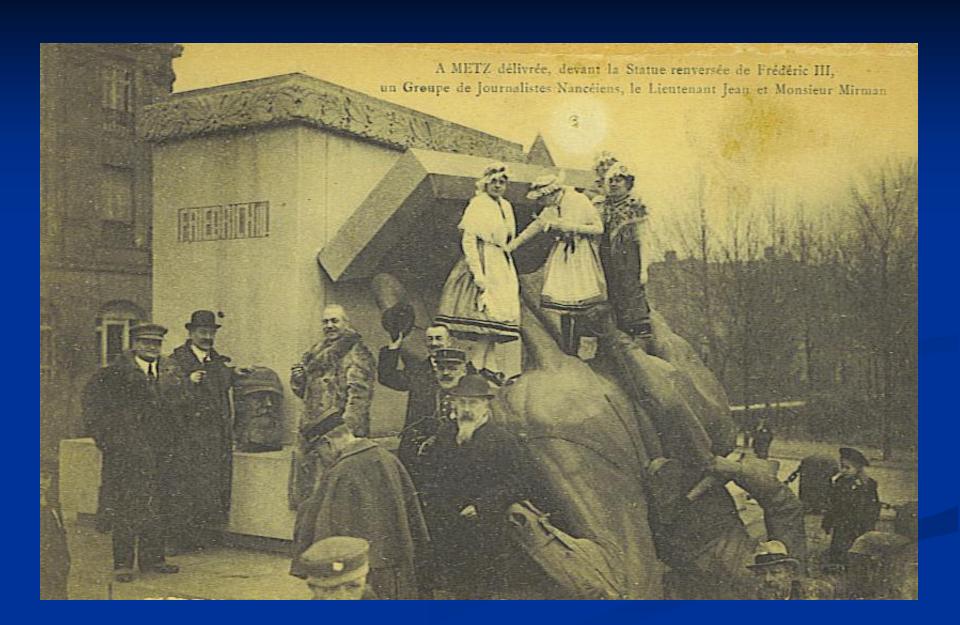


Celebrating

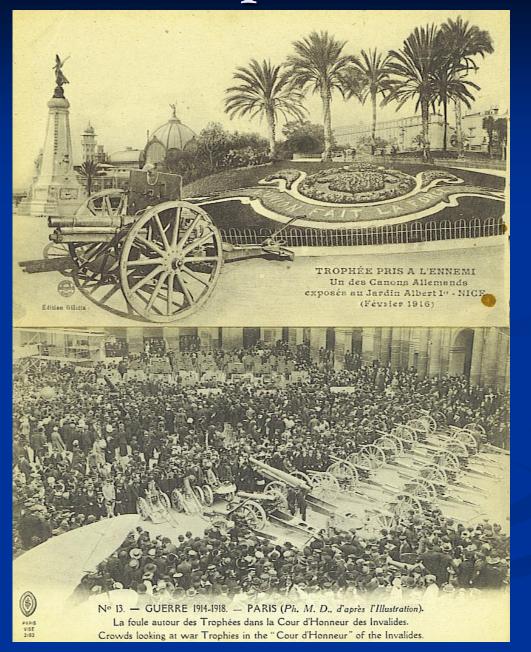








Trophies



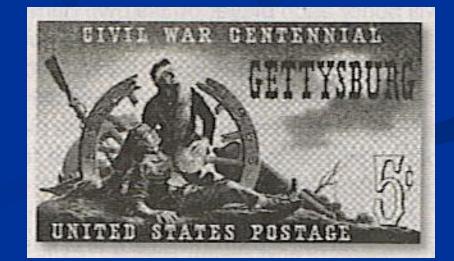
Mourning

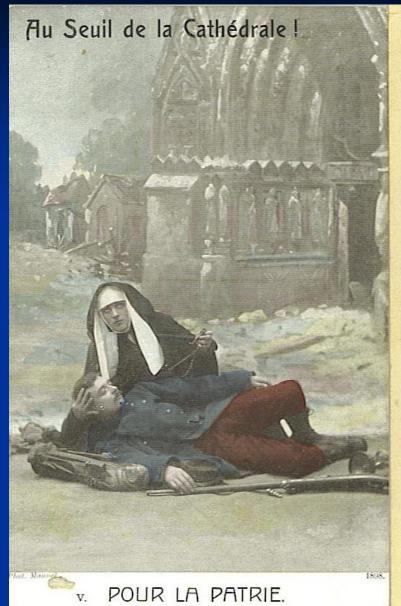


MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE — Église des Invalides — « NOS MARTYRS pour le Droit et la Liberté »

Par Joseph Aubert (1916)

ARMY MUSEUM — Invalid Church — « OUR MARTYRS for Right and Freedom », by Joseph Aubert (1916)







Weckruf.

Bemalbe von 21. v. Hoefler.

Self-made Postcards



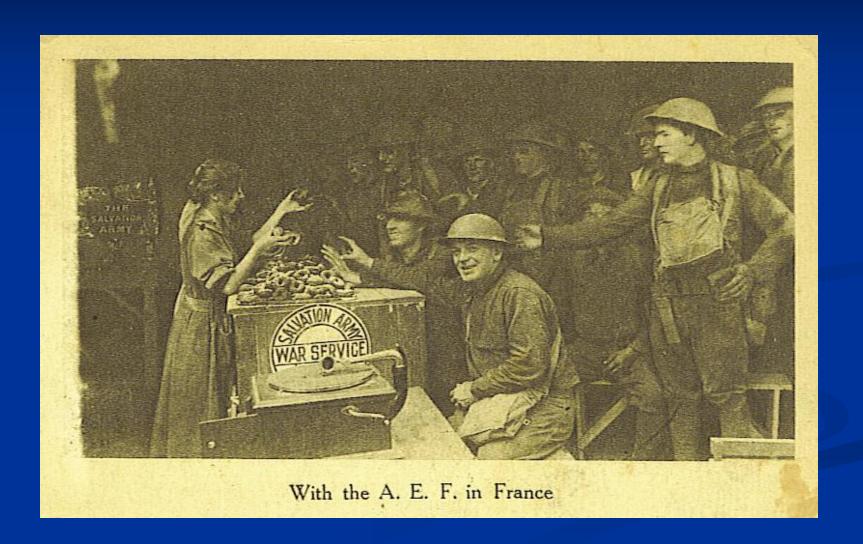


Red Cross & WMCA



FROM AN AMERICAN RED CROSS L. O. C. CANTEEN IN FRANCE.

Salvation Army



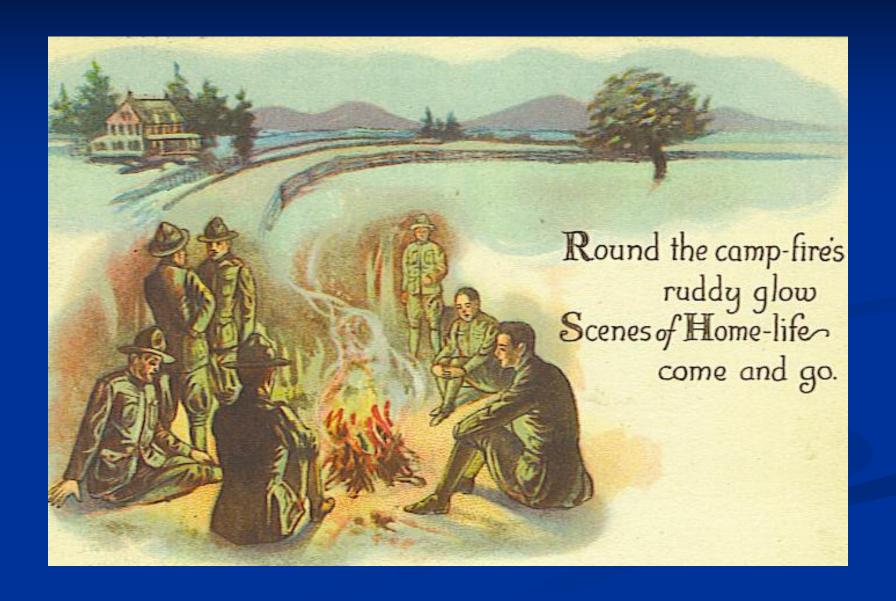
6/15/19

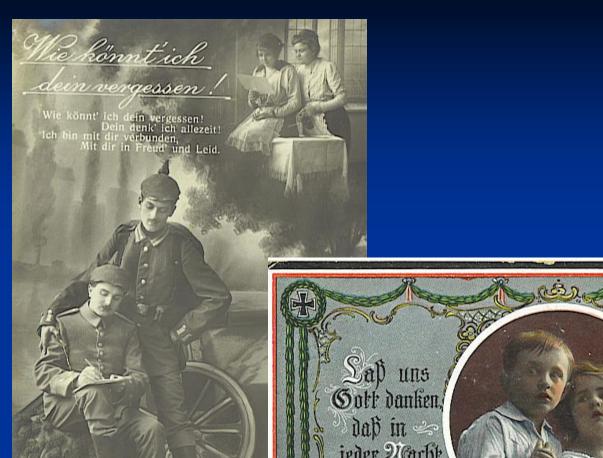
Dear Aunt Eva, I came across Ralph and Hubert today and they are both looking fine and guess shall get along alright in good shape and get a great experience. They are here in Brest and I am on my way home and I was very glad to see them both. Hope you are all well. Hope to be home soon and can talk to you all.

Sgt 1/c WH. Upham, AEF Brest



Home Fires

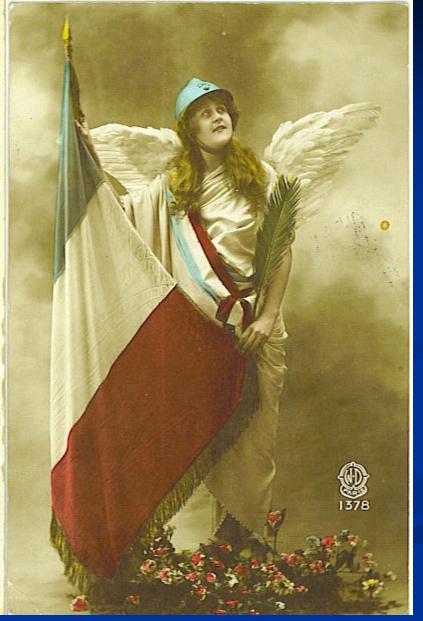






· Jabronilar 10. Linbour Forgor! oln Im armiver the Gir fill dir Ollbart Almbyn town 1 borgviffn Loundonfor División 3 Romes Inn formilin Din Gnigliffm arming Lor tolion Junison mud Bills Vninn Allnotin Serie 2635/1 flfer. No 49.





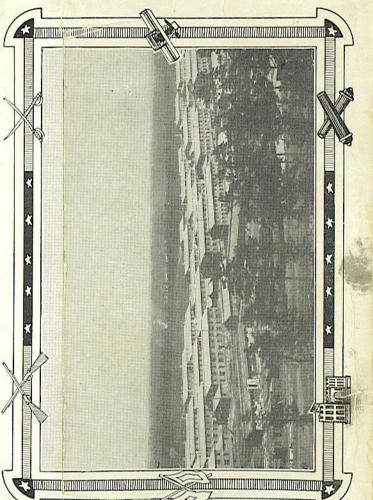
But W. R. do Rat Goldeless Mail Co.C. 102 M. S. Br. a. E. F. Clar Friends: -Mr. & Mrs. Horald in best of health. hope to heave the + Mr. De Brock same from you. 59 Bleecker St Wall Sail after 1 the aterson ! July U. S. C.

Posted from Upton Branch, Brooklyn, NY the 21st June 1918 (Friday) Dear Sister, The box came today and many thanks. I will be glad to have you come Sunday and bring Helen. If I should be called in the meantime, I will telephone you but be early as we may be sent out Sunday afternoon. With best wishes to all. I am Bring some candy and my watch.

Picture card Booklets

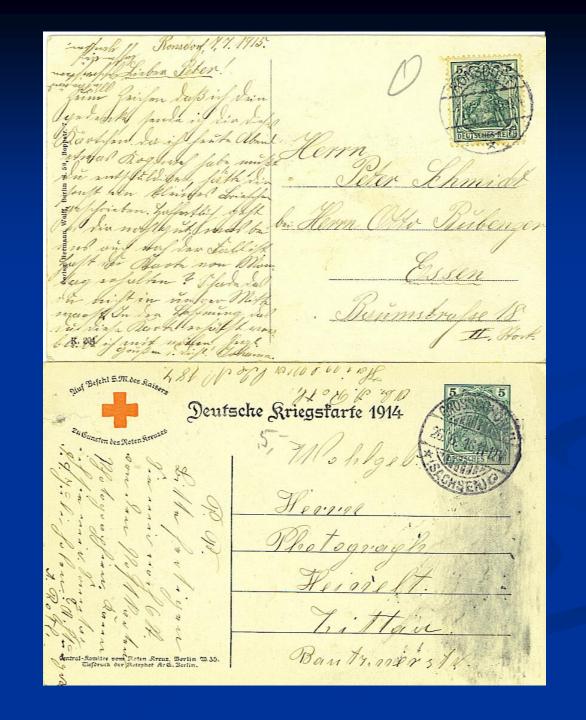


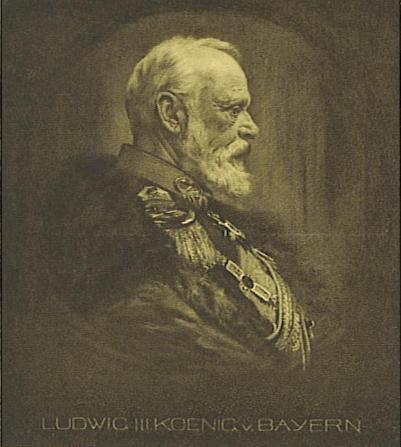




Personalities





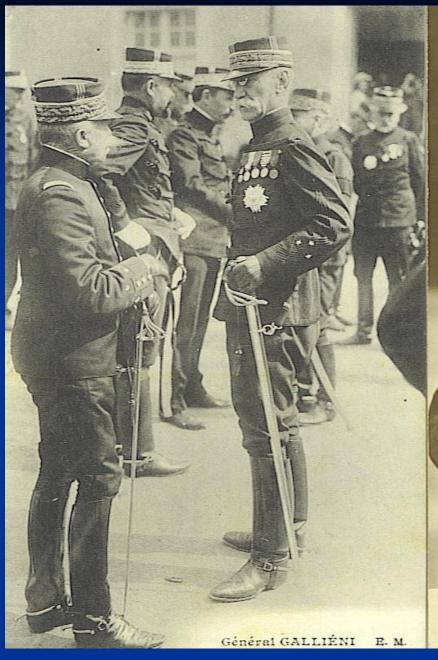


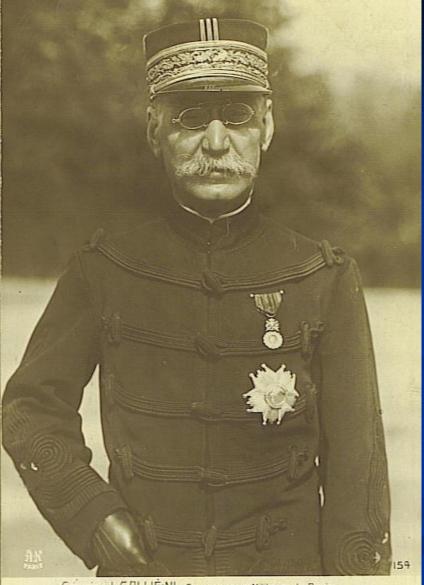
BRENDAMOUR, SIMHART & CR. MCHN.

PROF WALTHER FIRLE, PINX

Mil Fried Mil Eff. Aufgenommen von Jhrer Majestät der Kaiserin und Königin im Juli 1915







Genéral GALLIENI, Gouverneur Militaire de Paris.

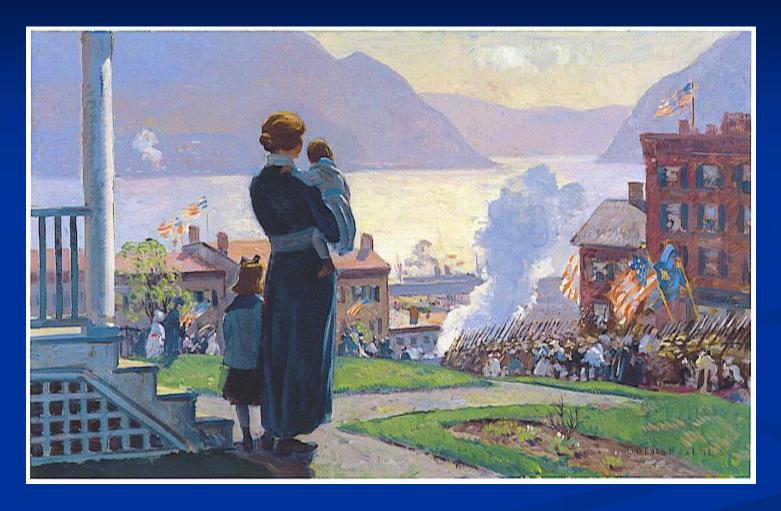
_Prit une large part à la Victoire de la Marne par la merveilleuse organisation de sa Vaillante garnison de Paris.

For those with an inquiring mind



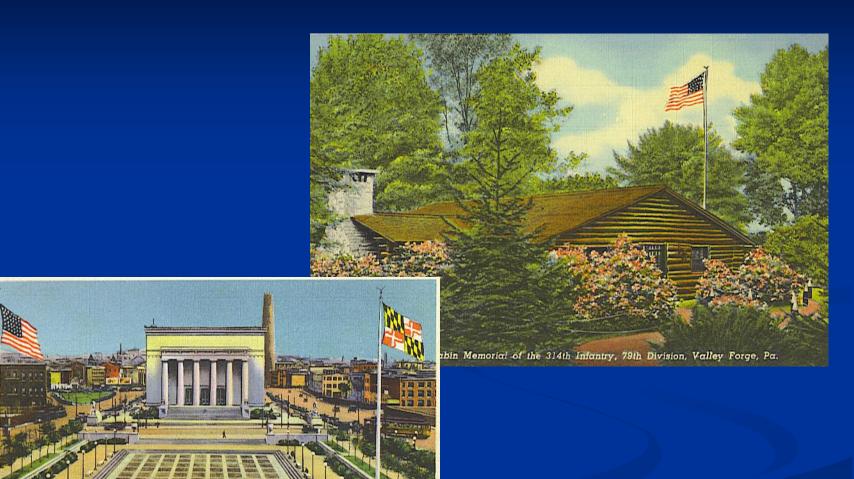
Roylers Panorama of chaysee de Monin. Throngon Krinkon Paulers, now noir fint from Vaponimis Kith Nellepell buil Backerer orl for mathen afarmation contraction. It is all Variations brutaroffs bui surpriseing To financy semoppinsonin Exceptler Third Rivernie Horst in Raules. With worknowing your Growing

Hudson River School



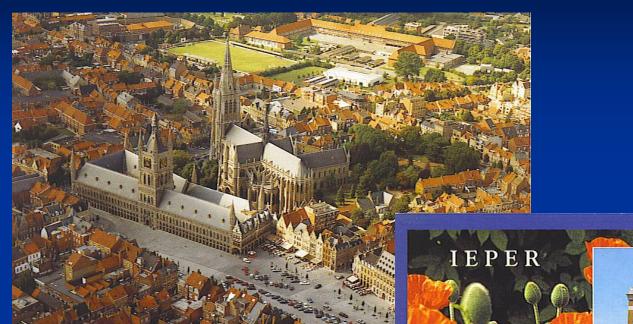
Clifford Beal (1879-1956) On the Hudson at Newburgh, 1918

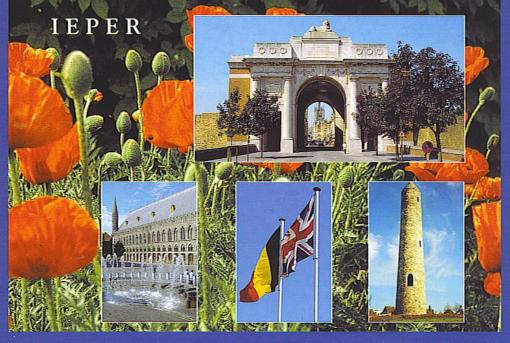
Of Local Club Interest



WAR MEMORIAL AND PLAZA, BALTIMORE, MD.

Ypres-Contemporary



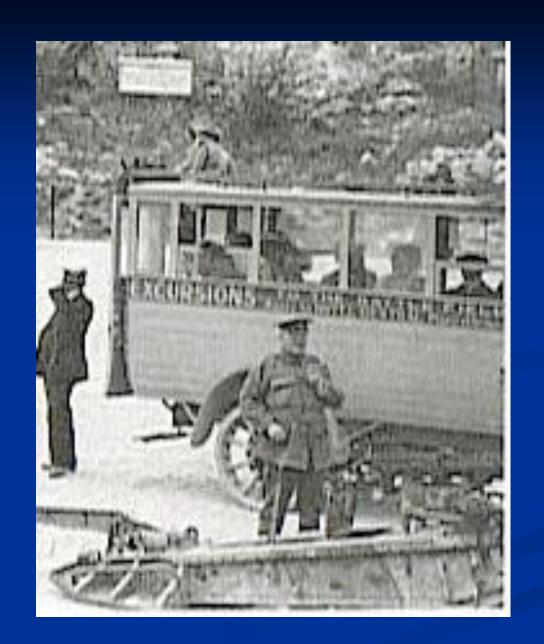


Retrospective PCs from In Flanders Fields Museum Ypres, BE

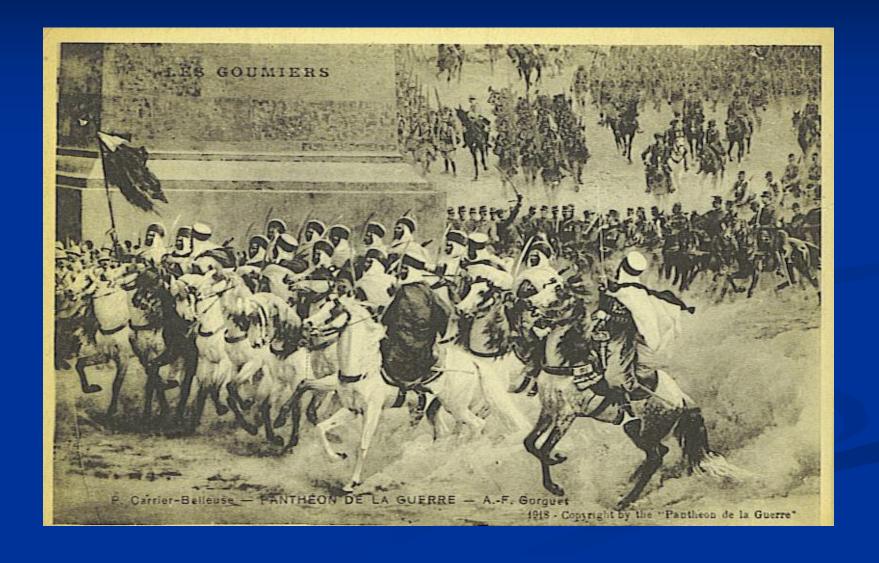
↓ 15th Sep 1919

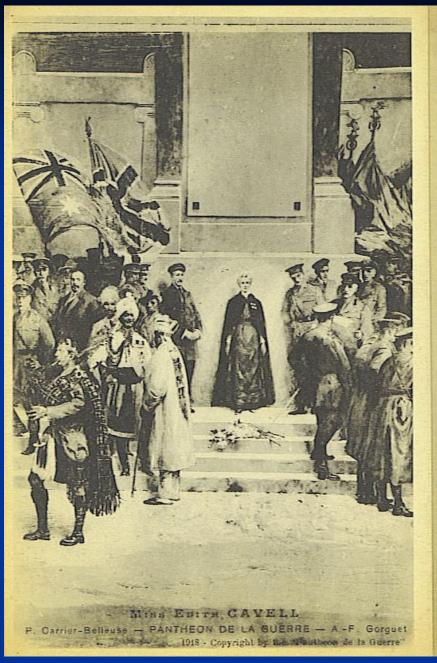


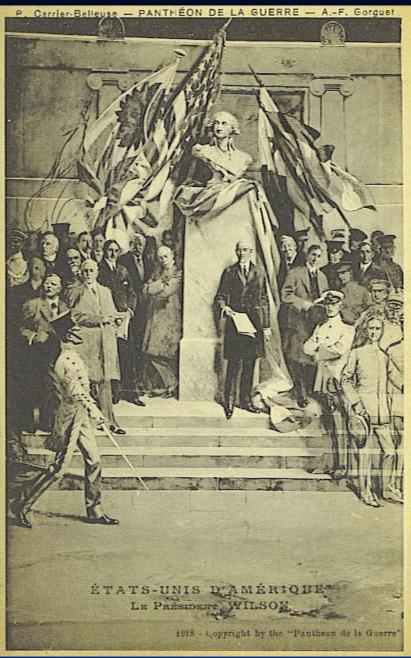
21st Nov 1914



Pantheon de la Guerre-1918



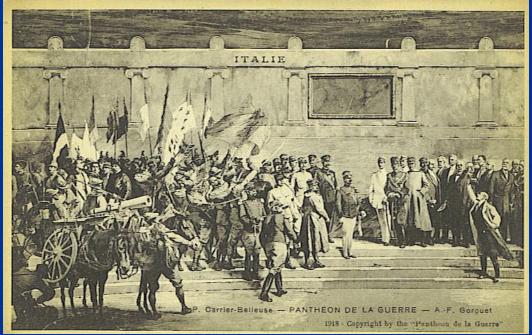








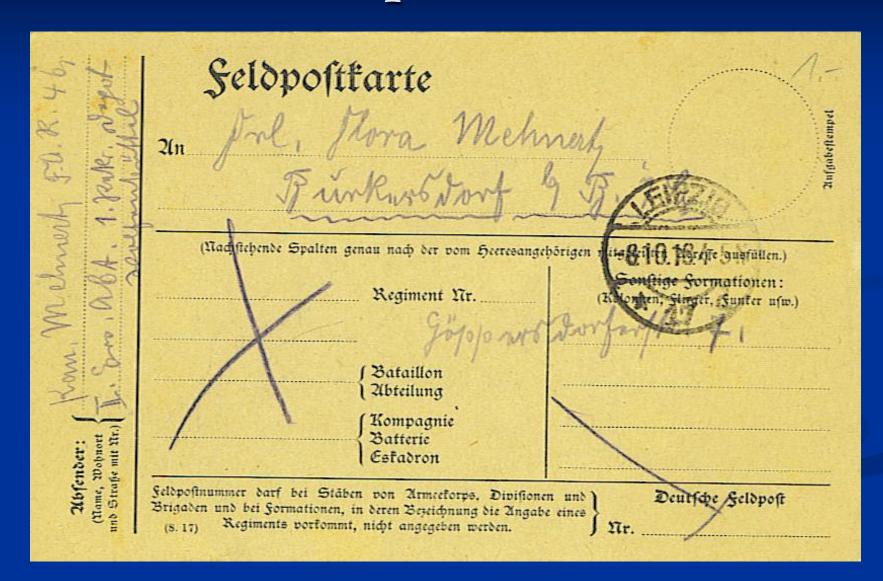




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Textes Français et Anglais



CE QU'ILS ONT FAIT

DE SOISSONS

24 Cartes postales détachables avec vues phototypiques

Avant et Après

WHAT THEY HAVE DONE OF SOISSONS

24 Detachable Post-Cards with photolypical views

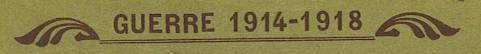
Before and After

Édition G. Nougarède



12 CARTES POSTALES
Textes Français et Anglais

ND. Phot.



Reims bombardé

12 Cartes Postales Artistiques



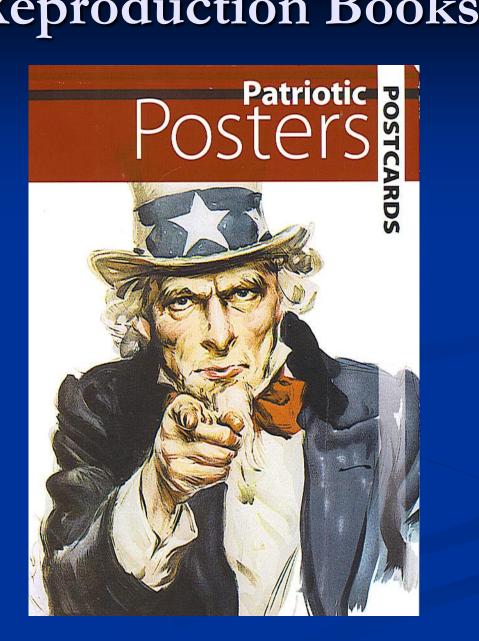
L'H. Paris

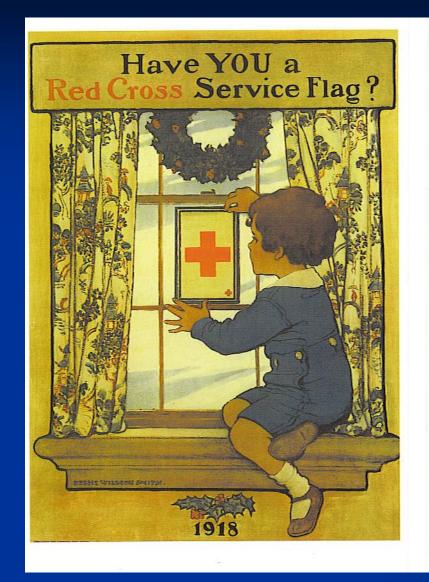
M. D. Bordeaux

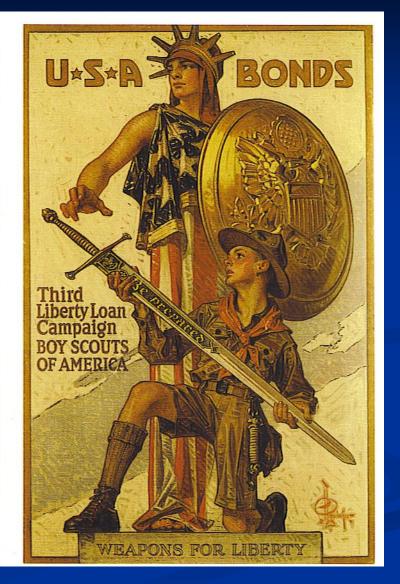
ypres

British War Memorials

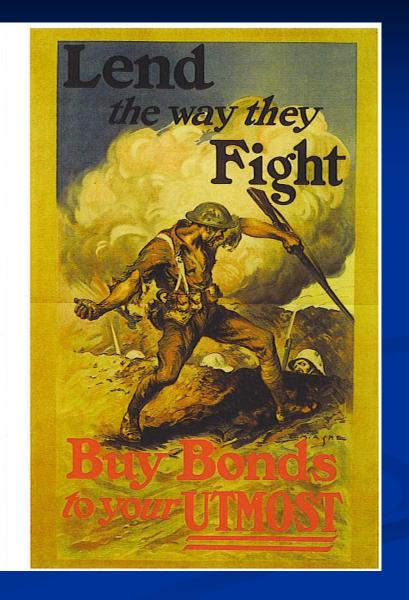
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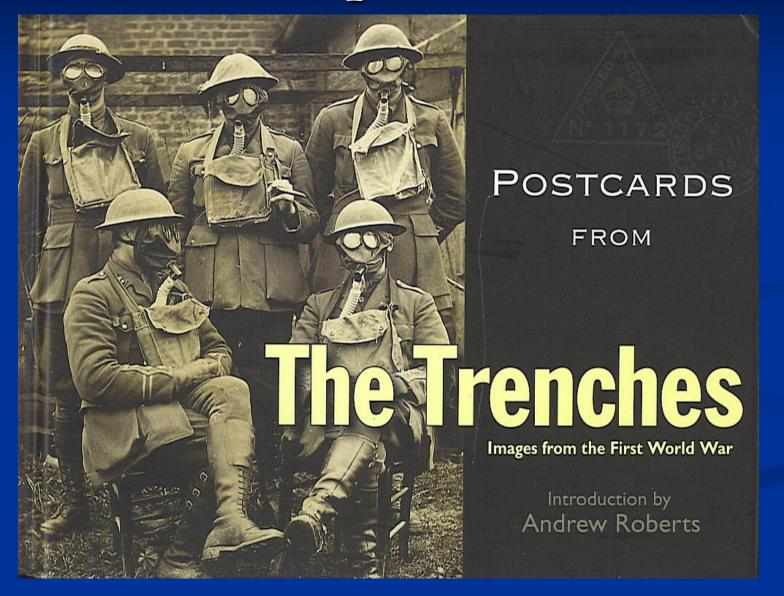




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