

World War I

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. American soldiers started to arrive in Europe in 1917.
2. The Americans helped the Allies win the war.
3. Germany agreed to an armistice after suffering heavy losses.

Key Terms and People

American Expeditionary Force U. S. troops sent to Europe during World War I

Communists people who favor the equal distribution of wealth and the end of all forms of private property

armistice a truce between opponents that ends hostilities

Academic Vocabulary

strategy a plan for fighting a battle or war

Section Summary

AMERICAN SOLDIERS ARRIVE

The Allies were near defeat when U. S. troops began to arrive in Europe in 1917. French and British generals wanted the **American Expeditionary Force** to go to the front lines right away. General Pershing refused to spread American troops among Allied forces. He also insisted on completing training before sending soldiers into battle.

The Allies lost the help of Russia after **Communists** seized power in late 1917. The new leaders signed a peace agreement with the Central Powers in March 1918. Then civil war broke out in Russia. Rejoining the war in Europe became impossible.

WINNING THE WAR

After Russia left the war, Germany decided to move its soldiers from the eastern front to the western front. At the same time, General Pershing sent two divisions of American soldiers to the western front. The fresh troops helped stop the German advance

Why did General Pershing refuse to send his troops into battle right away?

Why did Russia leave the war?

Section 3, continued

on Paris. The Americans had helped bring about one of the major turning points in the war.

With more than one million American troops in France, the Allies began attacking German positions. Soon the Germans were retreating. Many U.S. soldiers became heroes. One group of African American soldiers, known as the Harlem Hell fighters, received the Cross of War medal from France for their bravery.

By November 1918, U. S. and Allied soldiers were moving quickly toward Germany. The Allies were also winning the war at sea. They used a new **strategy**, the convoy system, to protect merchant ships from the U-boats.

What new strategy helped protect merchant ships from German attacks?

ARMISTICE

Germans were tired of the war. Food was scarce, and the country was running out of soldiers. Germany's allies were also ready to end the war. Several of them signed peace agreements and quit fighting. On November 4 the German leader, Kaiser Wilhelm II, gave up his throne and left Germany.

The Germans agreed to a ceasefire. The Allies demanded that Germany return all conquered territory and destroy its weapons. The Germans accepted the demands, and an **armistice** went into effect on November 11, 1918.

What did the allies demand that Germany do as part of its surrender?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Imagine that you are an Allied leader at the end of World War I. Why would you want Germany to destroy all of its weapons as part of a peace treaty?