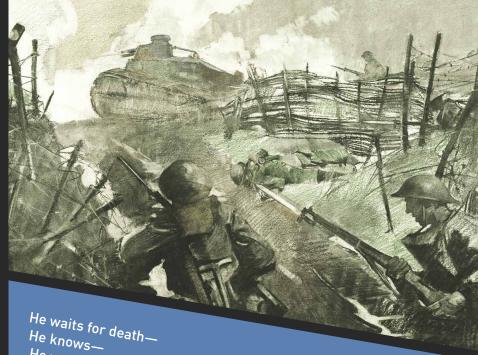


Two million Americans joined the armed forces and 2.7 million more were drafted. Nearly half of them saw combat in France. All who went abroad understood the inescapable tragedy of total war, a war that spared no one.



He watches it approach— He hears it coming—

He can feel it underneath his feet— Death bearing down on him from every side,

Violent death, death that tears the sky to

-Mary Borden, excerpt from the poem "Unidentified," 1917

## OVER THERE

Over 350,000 African Americans served in segregated units, where many were assigned menial tasks. Others were deployed with the French Army and fought with distinction, earning France's highest military honor, the Croix de Guerre.



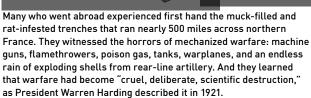
Smithsonian

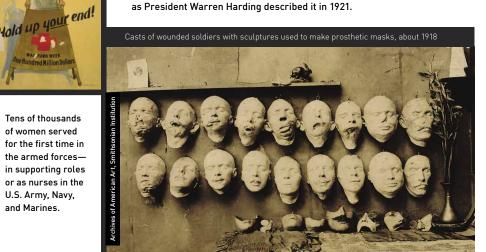


WORLD WAR I: LESSONS AND LEGACIES Tens of thousands of women served for the first time in the armed forces in supporting roles or as nurses in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines.

National Air and Space Museum







World War I: Lessons and Legacies is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the National Museum of American History, with funding from The United States World War I Centennial Commission and the Smithsonian Women's Committee.