



Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I

After the United States entered World War I in April 1917, millions of American men joined or were drafted into the armed services. Some 2 million served in Europe with the American Expeditionary Forces.

“Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I” showcases World War I overseas military photography from the immense photographic holdings of the National Archives. The exhibition includes photographs from the fronts, behind the lines, and the consequences of the war and how it was remembered.



Exhibition Details

Content:

38 framed and matted black & white photographs, 2 panoramic photographs, text, graphic panels, and labels.

Curator:

Bruce Bustard, PhD, National Archives

Supplemental Materials:

Educational and promotional resources, including an education and resource guide, marketing resources, installation manual, and exhibit-related products through the National Archives Store.

Rental Fee:

\$3,000 for 7-week display

Security Requirements:

Limited security and environmental controls

Shipping:

Exhibitor is responsible for all outgoing shipping costs

Size:

175 linear feet

Number of Crates:

2

Insurance:

Insured by the National Archives

Tour Dates:

Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I is available through 2021. Dates are subject to change.

Project Status:

Opens April 5, 2017

More About this Exhibition

“Over There: Americans Abroad in World War I” is organized topically in three sections that document America’s role on the battle front during the Great War.

Behind the Lines

Of the millions of Americans who enlisted or were drafted, 60 percent served in noncombat support roles. These photographs show the complexities of transporting and maintaining an army in an industrial era and hint at some of the rapid changes in technology, medicine, armaments, and even social relations within the military.

Battle Fronts

Each combat division was assigned a photographic unit that included both still and motion picture cameramen. Military photographers did not shy away from shots that included dead and wounded soldiers or the war’s destructiveness. They especially show the expressions on the faces of Americans at war.

War’s End

Parts of the U.S. military—including many Signal Corps photographers—remained in Europe for months after the armistice, as did American photo journalists. Together, they created a visual record of the shattered landscape, the post-war peace conference, and returning prisoners of war.

This exhibition is a companion to “Over Here: Americans at Home in World War I.” You may wish to book the two exhibitions together to provide your visitors with a more complex understanding of the American experience during World War I.

National Archives Traveling Exhibits Service

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