

Doughboys

In the spring of 1917, the United States entered World War I ill-prepared to fight. It had an army of only 110,000 soldiers, and a call for volunteers failed to significantly increase the ranks. Consequently, a selective service law was passed in May 1917. Approximately 24,000,000 young Americans registered for the draft. Roughly 3,000,000 were enlisted, and some 1,000,000 young men went to serve in France.

Infantrymen of the American Expeditionary Force (A.E.F.) who went to France in 1917 were called doughboys. (Infantrymen are soldiers trained to fight on foot.) The exact origin of the term "doughboys" is unknown, although some sources say it came from soldiers in the 1850s who cleaned their belts with a "dough" made of clay. Regardless, the name was applied to all American foot soldiers who served in the trenches on the western front.

The arrival of the A.E.F. turned the tide in favor of the Allies. In the last year of the war, American doughboys took part in thirteen major operations. Their heroic fighting at Belleau Woods, Château-Thierry, and the Argonne Forest in northern France prevented the Germans from crossing the Marne again.

The fighting in the Argonne Forest produced the war's greatest hero. His name was Corporal Alvin York. (He later became Sergeant Alvin York.) On October 8, 1918, York singlehandedly killed the crew of a German machine-gun nest and captured 132 other soldiers who had been working machine-gun nests. This feat earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor, the military's highest award.

Decide which words could be used to fill the blanks in the sentences below the puzzle. Then complete the puzzle by writing one letter per blank.

1. _____ **D** _____
2. _____ **O** _____
3. _____ **U** _____
4. _____ **G** _____
5. _____ **H** _____
6. _____ **B** _____
7. _____ **O** _____
8. _____ **Y** _____
9. _____ **S** _____

1. A doughboy was an American foot _____.
2. The American Expeditionary _____ arrived in France in 1917.
3. Soldiers were once thought to clean their belts with a _____ made of clay.
4. American doughboys proved themselves at France's _____ Forest.
5. American doughboys also distinguished themselves at _____-Thierry in France.
6. _____ Woods was the site of another important battle.
7. The Congressional Medal of _____ is the military's highest award.
8. Corporal Alvin _____ captured 132 Germans singlehandedly.
9. A selective _____ law helped build the ranks of the United States Army.