

declared war on Germany. A quick succession of war declarations finally involved the greater share of Europe by the end of the summer.

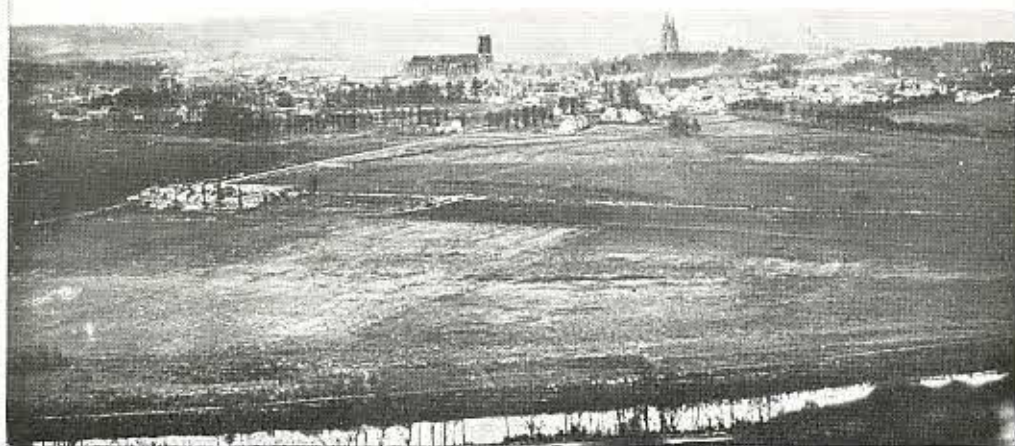
Mad with the ruthless spirit of conquest the Central Powers marched their armies off to war in grand fashion, boasting that they would return by Christmas time, the conquerors of Europe. Their amazing preparations for the dream of world power almost brought within their grasp the greedy ambition of the Junkers.

The initial successes of the German army in its advance through Belgium and on toward Paris astounded the world. England and France reeled and staggered before the terrific onslaught of the famous Prussian Guards and the other crack armies of the Central Powers. Swept off her feet almost by the spectacular aggression of the enemy, the fate of France virtually hung from a thread as the invaders triumphantly swept on and on.

Early in September, when they were practically within reach of Paris, the tide was turned against them in the battle of the Marne, September 6-10. French themselves attribute their good fortune at this point to the hand of the Almighty rather than to their superior military strength at the time. This marked the enemy's point of farthest advance.

The atrocities of the advancing Huns during the months of their early triumphs and conquest have been called infamous by conservative journalists and correspondents. Suffice to say, their bloodthirsty ambition to rule and conquer the world knew no bounds, and that their acts and deeds of disgrace will forever remain one of the darkest of the many blotches brought on the German people during the European war.

Believing that the United States had no part to play in the war at that time, President Woodrow Wilson, on August 4th, 1914, officially proclaimed the neutrality of the United States. The war was thus confined to Europe for many months, a struggle mainly between the two great European Alliances—the Triple Alliance composing Germany, Austria Hungary and Italy, against the Triple Entente, composing England, Russia and



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Devastated Soissons After Its Recapture by Americans and French.