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**Belleau Wood, Famous as the Scene for one of the American Lads' Most Brilliant Victories.**

France. Italy, originally a member of the Triple Alliance, but later one of the chief powers of the Allies, did not enter the war until 1915. She then declared war on all of Germany's Allies, but did not break with Germany herself until late in 1916. Before the war she was a member of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria but severed this connection to fight with the Allies.

After the marvelous advances of the first year, the great battle line in Europe remained practically stationary for nearly three years and extended over more than 300 miles. The large armies of each force fought doggedly, suffered heroically and died willingly, in a mighty death-grip whose battles surpassed the most famous of previous wars for loss of life and destruction of property.

The superb Armies of the Russians in the Eastern theater kept the attention of a large German force occupied and away from the Western Front. This fact aided the Allies tremendously and probably prevented a German Peace in the second and third years of the War.

It was while France, England and Italy were staggering before the last big offensive of the enemy early in 1918 that America's force was thrown into the balance in substantial numbers.

Her declaration of war against Germany on April 6th, 1917, grew out of the Central Powers' failure to recognize the rights of neutrals on the high seas. Repeatedly the rights of the United States were violated, and just as repeatedly Germany refused to discontinue her ruthless program of submarine warfare against the world. The sinking of the Lusitania on May 7th, 1915, without warning and with the loss of 1154 lives, 114 of whom were Americans, was regarded by a great many as just cause for a declaration of war against Germany. The President and Congress believing differently, failed to act, and it was not until more sinkings of women and children that the United States decided to step into the breach herself.