

CHANGES OF HEART

President Wilson called for a “war without hate.”
But can a war be fought without hatred for the enemy?

by Michael Cusack

CAST:

Narrators A-E
Katie Summer, a 7th-grade student
Don Summer, her brother, a 10th-grade student
Mr. John Summer, their father
Mrs. Mary Summer, their mother

Julia
Nora
Glenn } Katie's friends

Diane
Edwin
Mark
Bob
Ruth } Don's classmates

Mr. Wylie, 10th-grade social studies teacher
Rev. William Ashley (Billy) Sunday
Reporter A
Reporter B

ABOUT THIS PLAY

What does it take to start a war? On June 28, 1914 in Europe, a 19-year-old boy stepped out of a crowd and started firing. Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, and his wife were both killed. Within weeks, Europe was at war.

On one side were the Allies — Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and several other nations (see map, p. 11). Opposing them were the Central Powers — Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire.

At the start, the U.S. vowed to stay neutral. But events soon involved the U.S. On May 7, 1915, a German sub sank the British liner *Lusitania*. Among the dead were 128 Americans.

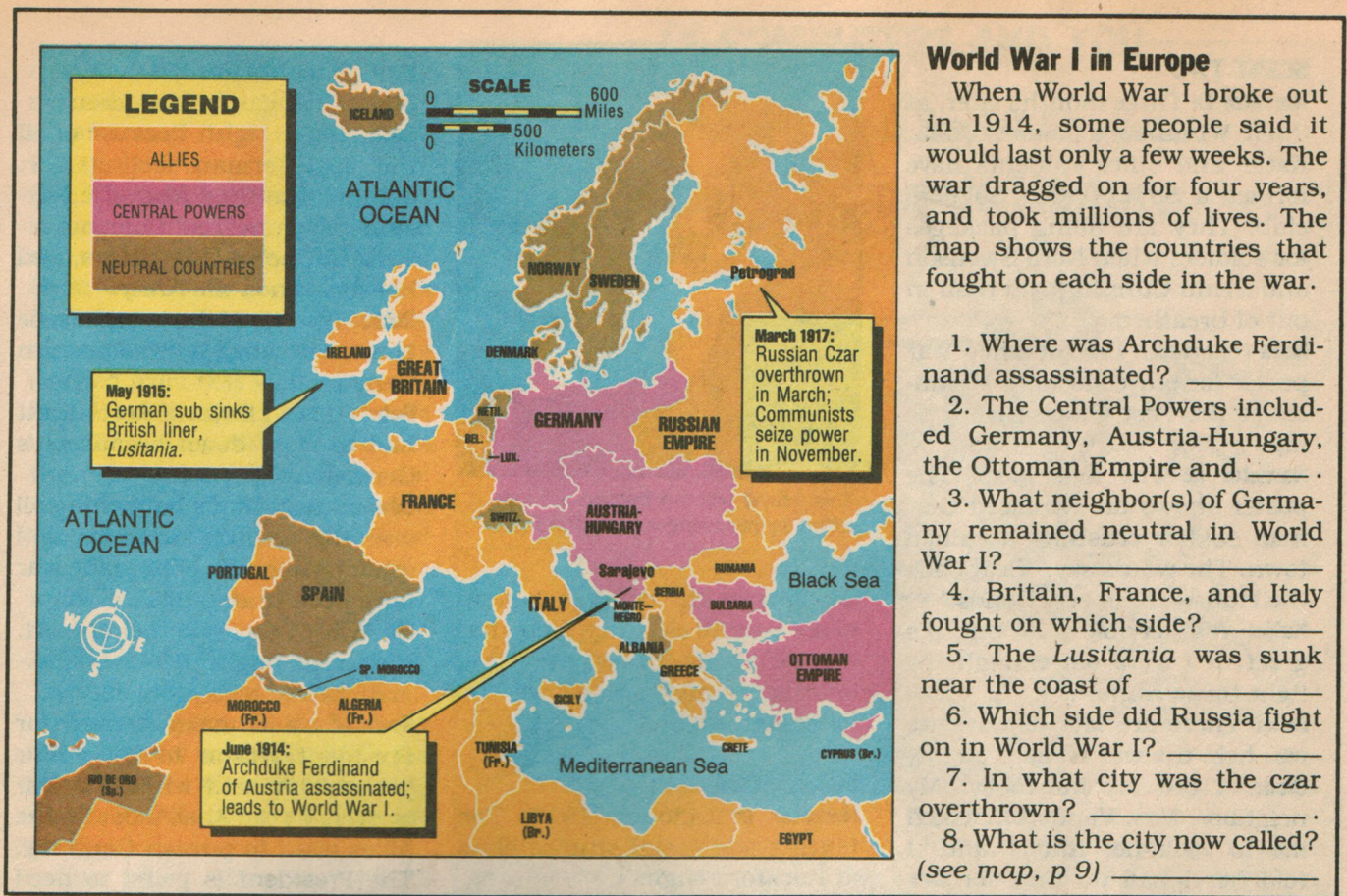
Many Americans were outraged. Germany apologized, restricted its submarine attacks, and promised payments. But the damage was done. Americans started favoring the Allies.

Then came rumors that Germany was plotting to have Mexico attack the U.S. When Germany announced on January 31, 1917, that its subs would attack all ships going to Allied ports, U.S. entry into World War I was almost guaranteed.



UPI/Bettmann Archive

New recruits leave after enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1917. All men between the ages of 21 and 30 were required to register for the draft.



World War I in Europe

When World War I broke out in 1914, some people said it would last only a few weeks. The war dragged on for four years, and took millions of lives. The map shows the countries that fought on each side in the war.

1. Where was Archduke Ferdinand assassinated? _____
2. The Central Powers included Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire and ____.
3. What neighbor(s) of Germany remained neutral in World War I? _____
4. Britain, France, and Italy fought on which side? _____
5. The *Lusitania* was sunk near the coast of _____
6. Which side did Russia fight on in World War I? _____
7. In what city was the czar overthrown? _____
8. What is the city now called? (see map, p 9) _____

On April 2, 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany. But he called for a "war without hate."

Wilson's appeal didn't work. Within weeks, the U.S. government had mounted a campaign of anti-German songs, slogans, and posters to make the nation "war conscious."

The resulting strong anti-German feeling in the U.S. helped the Allies win the war. But it also made it impossible for President Wilson to win a fair and lasting peace.

SCENE ONE

Narrator A: April 3, 1917, in the Summer family's kitchen.

Katie (sings as she pours milk for breakfast):

"... in her lonely years

I heard a mother murmur through her tears:

I didn't raise my boy to be a soldier.

I brought him up to be my pride and joy.

Who dares to place a musket on his shoulder

To shoot some other mother's darling boy?"

Don: Katie, you're out of date. In a few weeks people will throw mud at you for singing that.

Katie: No, they won't. Not in America. We're neutral.

Mrs. Summer: Not any more, Katie. President Wilson has asked

Congress to declare war on Germany.

Katie: When did he do that?

Mr. Summer: Yesterday. It's right here in the morning paper.

Mrs. Summer: Do you think we'll really go to war, John?

Mr. Summer: I'm afraid so. It's looked bad ever since Germany warned they'd sink all ships going to Allied ports. That means we can't trade with Britain, France, or even Canada!

Don: We've already lost five ships. Congress will declare war, for sure.

Mrs. Summer: If we do, I hope we can be civilized about it. Remember what Aunt Emma said about the war craziness up in Canada... so much hatred against everything German.

Mr. Summer: I don't think that will happen here. Listen to what Wilson said. (reads from newspaper) "We have no quarrel with the German people. We have no feeling toward them but one of sympathy and friendship."

Mrs. Summer: That sounds good. But when the fighting starts, hating will come with it.



UPI/Bettmann Archive

SCENE TWO

Narrator B: Three months later, at Julia Windham's house. Julia, Katie, and other students have formed a Support Our Soldiers club. They are filling packages for soldiers when Nora Swenson and Glenn Cunningham rush in out of breath.

Nora (excited): I've got a new war poster for our collection. My uncle at the Post Office gave it to me.

Narrator B: The kids gasp. The poster shows an evil-faced German soldier crushing a ruined town. The words say, "Beat back the Hun with Liberty Bonds."

Katie: It's terrible . . . but it's great. If I were old enough, I'd fight those Huns!

Julia: There are lots of ways we can help the war effort.

Glenn: I did my bit today. My neighbor, Mrs. Vanderoff, asked me to walk her *dachshund*. I told her I had no time for her *liberty pup*!

Julia: Some people never learn. Mr. Myer, the grocer, still says *sauerkraut* instead of *liberty cabbage*, and *frankfurter* instead of *liberty sausage*!

Katie: Those people have got to be more American! We should call on them and ask them to buy some Liberty Bonds!

SCENE THREE

Narrator C: Summer, 1917, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rev. Billy Sunday (praying from the podium): Thou knowest O Lord that no nation so infamous, vile, greedy, and bloodthirsty ever disgraced the pages of history!

Reporter A: Those are not very Christian words Reverend Billy is using to describe Germany.

Reporter B: Along with almost everyone else, Reverend Billy has joined the *Hate the Hun* campaign.

Reporter A: What happened to the President's pledge to wage war without hate?

Reporter B: It can't be done. Almost overnight, the U.S. had to be turned from a peace-loving nation into a war-making pow-



UPI/Bettmann Archive

This young woman helped the war effort by repairing army garments.

er. People are being asked to make sacrifices. They'll do that more willingly if they're fighting *against* something, as well as *for* something.

SCENE FOUR

Narrator D: October, 1917. The tenth-grade social studies class at Rockford High.

Mr. Wylie: Let's talk about the war effort. President Wilson has set up a Committee of Public Information. Here is one of its products. What do you think?

Narrator D: He unrolls a poster that shows a blood-smeared gorilla wearing a German helmet and clutching a helpless woman. The words say "Destroy This Mad Brute. Enlist in the U.S. Army."

Don: I think it's going too far.

Diane: Don's right. We don't need anti-German hate propaganda to remind us of our duty.

Mr. Wylie: What is the purpose of all the anti-German posters, songs, and slogans?

Bob: They're meant to make the American people fighting mad.

Diane: Right. People are being asked to pay higher taxes. Young men are asked to risk their lives. To do all this willingly, people must be made to want to defeat Germany at any cost.

Mr. Wylie: You may be right. The author and historian James Truslow Adams recently said: "Under modern conditions of warfare, hate becomes almost as essential as ammunition, and

hate is manufactured."

Edwin: Hate can be dangerous.

Ruth: You're right. Because of all the anti-German feeling, Mr. Schultz was fired from the Keystone Machine Tool Company.

Mark: But he's a U.S. citizen, and his son joined the Army.

Ruth: They said he couldn't be trusted because he was born in Germany.

Bob: The Old Bavaria Restaurant had to close down because it's German.

Edwin: I read that's happening all over the country. Pacifists and other people who oppose the war have been beaten up.

Mr. Wylie: People are being hurt. How else might this anti-German hatred be a problem?

Don: It could make it hard for President Wilson to get a fair peace settlement when the war is over. I read that most of the Allies want to punish Germany. The President is going to need the backing of the American people to get a fair peace.

Ruth: But you can't change the nation's mood from *hate Germans to be kind to Germans* overnight.

Edwin: If Wilson tries, people will wonder why we got into this war. Americans may reject *any* involvement in foreign affairs.

SCENE FIVE

Narrator E: February, 1919. Don, Edwin, Mark, and Bob are sitting at the soda fountain in Folsom's drug store.

Mark: Are you sorry the war ended before you could join?

Don: I guess not. And you?

Mark: I'm glad the war is over.

Bob: Me, too! Did you know that Jimmy Ryan lost a leg?

Don: Yeah! And he wanted to play football in college. I wonder how he's taking it?

Edwin: I went to see him the other day. He says he's lucky compared to fellows he saw in the army hospital. There are guys there without arms and legs . . . some without faces.

Mark: What did we get from this war? Britain and France

Computers and Social Studies: Riding Through History

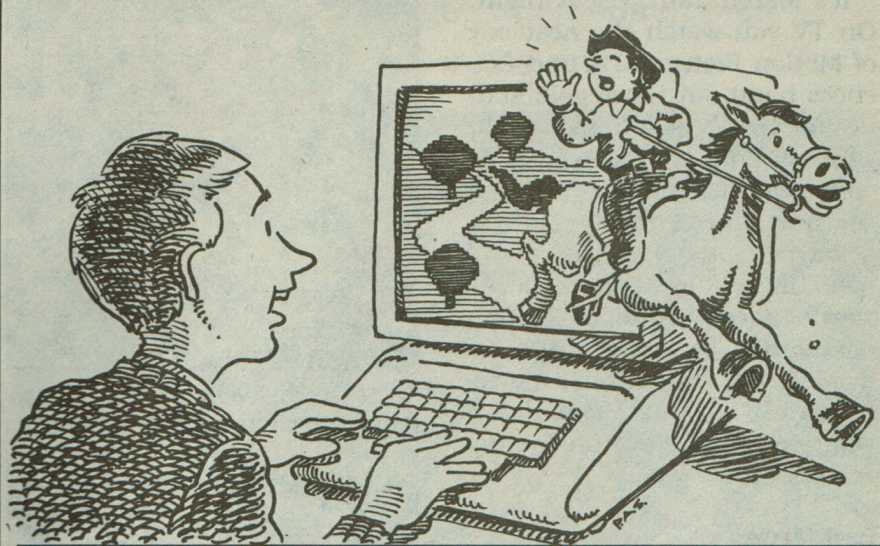


Illustration by Phil Scheuer

dragged us in because they needed our help. Now they pay no attention to us at the peace talks.

Bob: The whole thing makes no sense. Germany is beaten but the world is no better off.

Mark: We should never again get involved in other countries' quarrels. That's the lesson we've learned from this war.

Don: I can't agree. Whether we like it or not, what goes on in the rest of the world affects us. As President Wilson has said: "We are citizens of the world and the tragedy is that we do not know this."

AFTERWORD

One month after the war ended on November 11, 1918, President Wilson went to Paris for peace talks. He presented his Fourteen Points for a fair peace treaty.

The other Allies wanted to punish Germany for its actions. Germany lost its colonies, along with some territory in Europe. It had to pay huge *reparations* (payments for war damages).

President Wilson reluctantly accepted the harsh terms. It was the only way he could win acceptance of his plan for a League of Nations. He hoped that such an organization could solve future disputes peacefully.

The U.S. Senate refused to ratify the treaty because of the League of Nations clause. The U.S. never joined the League, and went into the 1920's determined to mind its own business. ☆

YOUR TURN

Word Match

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| — 1. neutral | a. approve |
| — 2. pacifist | b. not take sides |
| — 3. infamous | c. disgusting |
| — 4. vile | d. disgraceful |
| — 5. ratify | e. person who opposes war |

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the U.S. enter World War I? How did U.S. public opinion change after that?

2. How did anti-German feeling affect the peace treaty that ended the war?

The year is 1775. You are a spy for Paul Revere, helping the Patriot cause for freedom. You must crack secret codes, read invisible-ink maps, and keep your eyes and ears open! As you ride through the Massachusetts countryside, you'll witness the clashes at Lexington and Concord — the first battles of the American Revolution.

You can do all this in a new computer game called *The Shot Heard 'Round the World* (Scholastic *Microzine*, No. 10, 1985). Based on historically accurate information, you work through the parts of the story as if you were actually there.

That's only one of the many types of social studies software now available. Another example is *Computer Diplomacy* (Avalon Hill Game Company), set at the turn of 20th-century Europe. You try to accumulate power and territory for your nation. You must work with your allies, subvert your enemies, and apply political pressure. The program is exciting and challenging.

In *Agent U.S.A.* (Scholastic Inc.), the Fuzzbomb has been

turning millions of men, women, and children into mindless Fuzzbodies. Your mission is to stop the Fuzzbomb. To do that, you must pursue him around the country in rocket trains, but you'll have to remember state capitals, and learn time zones.

Join pioneers during the Gold Rush days in *Trail West* (MicroEd, Inc). You experience the problems they encountered and practice compass directions.

Other social studies programs provide fun drill and practice. In *State Guess/Country Guess* (Basics and Beyond, Inc.), you pick a U.S. state or country in the world. Then the computer must guess which place you chose by quizzing you.

Buying Tips

Before buying software, you may want to check computer magazines that run monthly reviews of the newest software programs. Make sure the hardware and memory requirements listed on the software package are compatible with your computer. Also, be sure to note for which age group the software is intended. ☆