

North Carolina in the Great War, January 6 – March 24: Though the country didn't officially enter World War I until 1917, many from North Carolina volunteered to fight with British, French and others almost immediately after the conflict's outbreak in August 1914. With the declaration of war by President Wilson, North Carolinians rallied to the cause. Women joined the American Red Cross, YWCA, and Salvation Army to serve as nurses in military hospitals at home and in France. Farmers grew victory acres and children grew thrift gardens to earn money to buy war bonds. Individuals and industry united to support the war effort. North Carolinians served in all the major battles of the Western Front in 1918. In only five months of action in 1918, the United States suffered more than 275,000 casualties with more than 50,000 deaths.



