

Off to World War I?

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Fellowship Lesson 2009
Champaign County Historical Archives

Lesson 3 – Serving America in the War

Length: 1-2 class periods

Set-up: Groups of 2 - 4

Procedures:

- Review as a class student responses to the previous lesson's question of what American men and women might have thought about WWI.
- Pass out to each group the [Letter Response Sheet](#) and one copy of each of the following documents: [A Letter from Bob Huff](#), [Letters From Our Boys in France](#), [Letters from Soldiers at Home and Abroad](#), [WWI Soldier Photo](#), [Letters from a WWI Nurse \(Nettie Irle\)](#), and [Letters from a WWI Nurse \(Nettie Irle\) – Transcripts](#).
- In their groups, students should read through the letters from a WWI nurse and soldiers and fill out the Letter Response Sheet.
- Discuss the documents as a class
 - What did students find the most interesting?
 - What did students find the most surprising?
 - Were the letters all about the war or did the soldiers and the nurse talk about other things?
 - Do students think the soldiers and the nurse left anything about the war out of their letters? Why/why not?
 - What did American men and women really feel about serving in WWI?
 - Had the students lived in 1917 or 1918, would they have joined the war effort as a soldier or a nurse?
- Spend time reviewing what students have learned about WWI and Americans' service in the war.

Local Primary Sources: Students will view letters from World War I soldiers printed in the *Champaign-Urbana Courier*, letters from a World War I nurse (Nettie Irle) that her family kept, and photos of local soldiers and Nettie Irle.

Assessment: Students will have completed the [Letter Response Sheet](#) based on the letters and used their knowledge of WWI and understanding of the letters to participate in a class discussion about American men and women who went off to World War I.