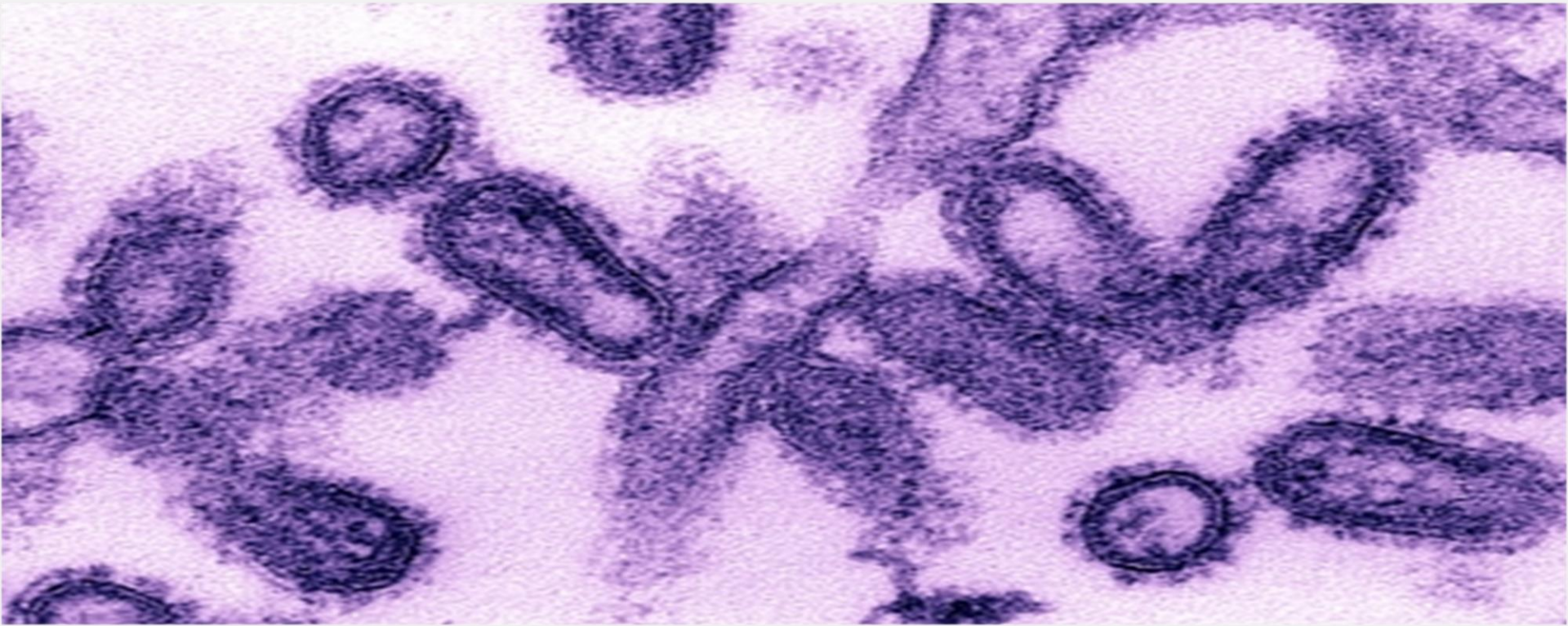


“All the City Was Dying” The Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919

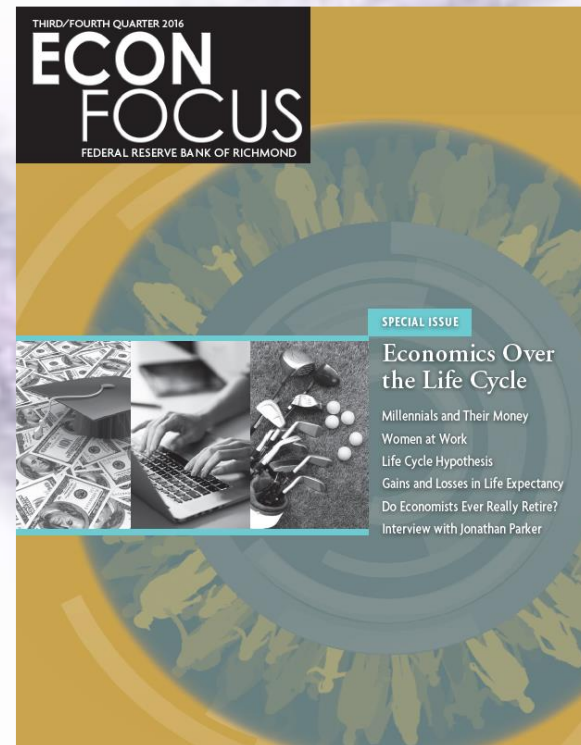
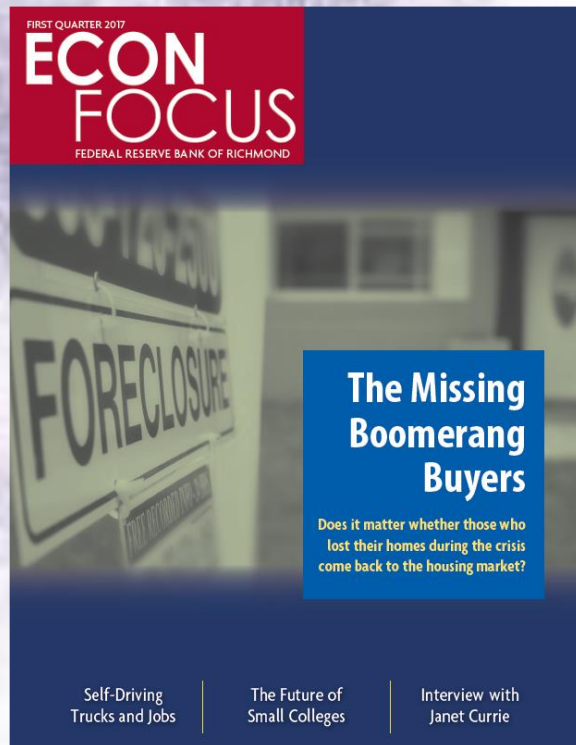
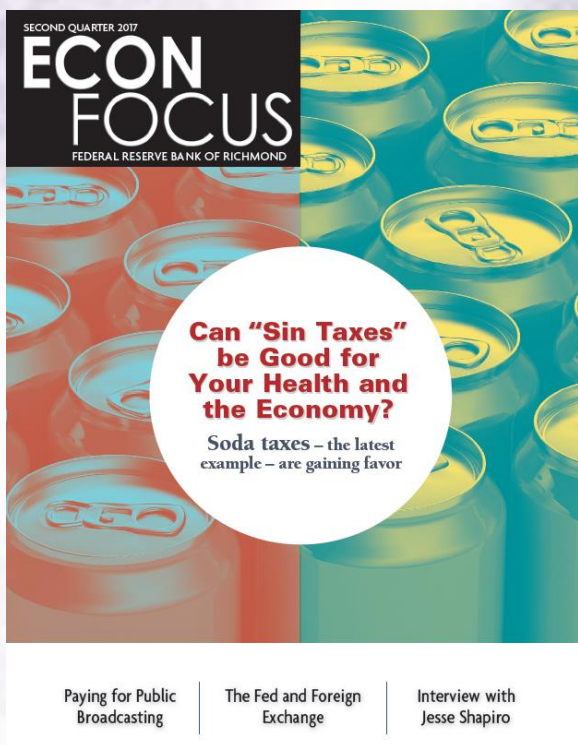
Jessie Romero
October 19, 2017

*The views and opinions expressed are those of the presenter.
They do not represent an official position of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond or the Federal Reserve System.*

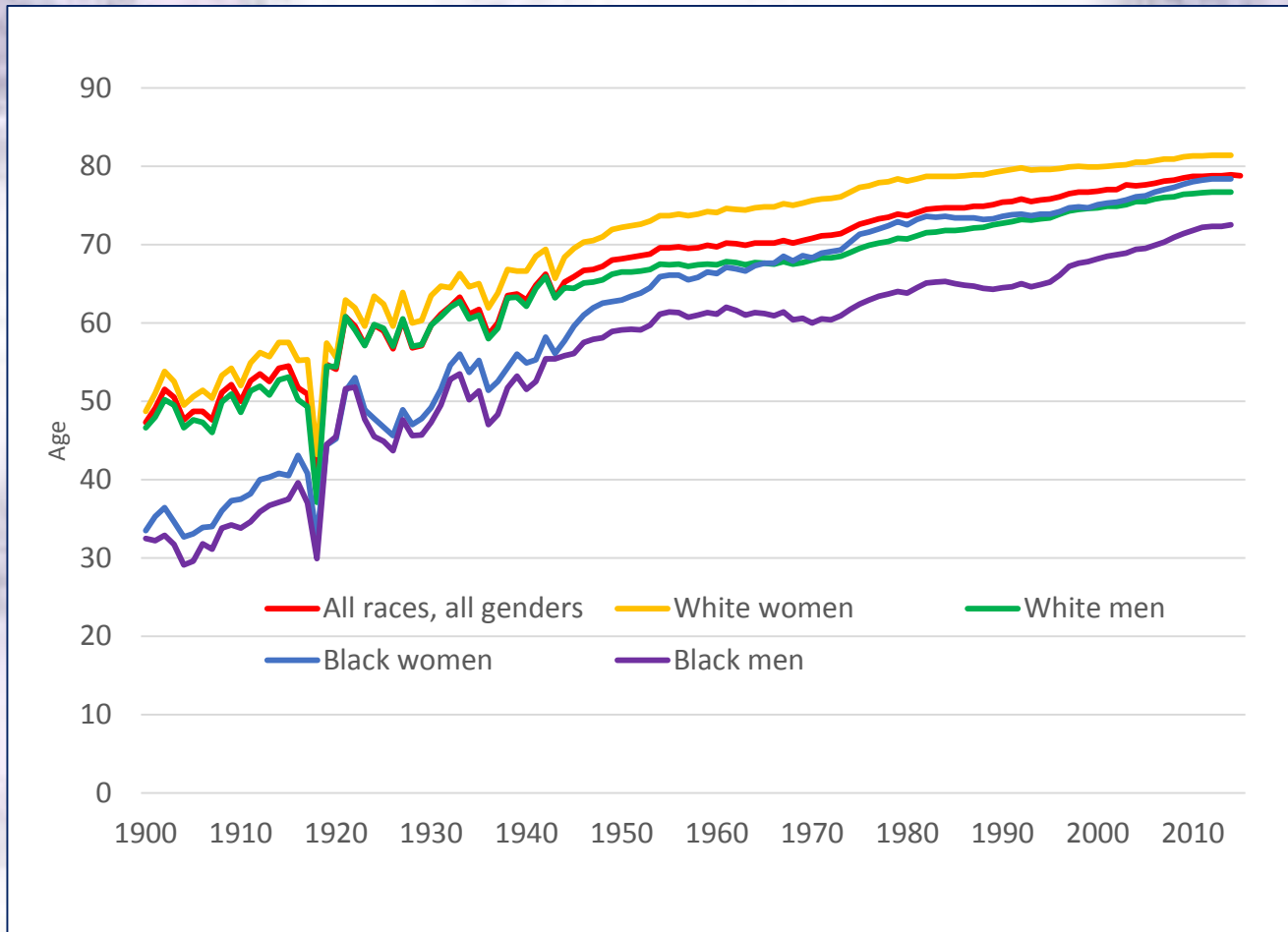


Econ Focus

https://www.richmondfed.org/publications/research/econ_focus

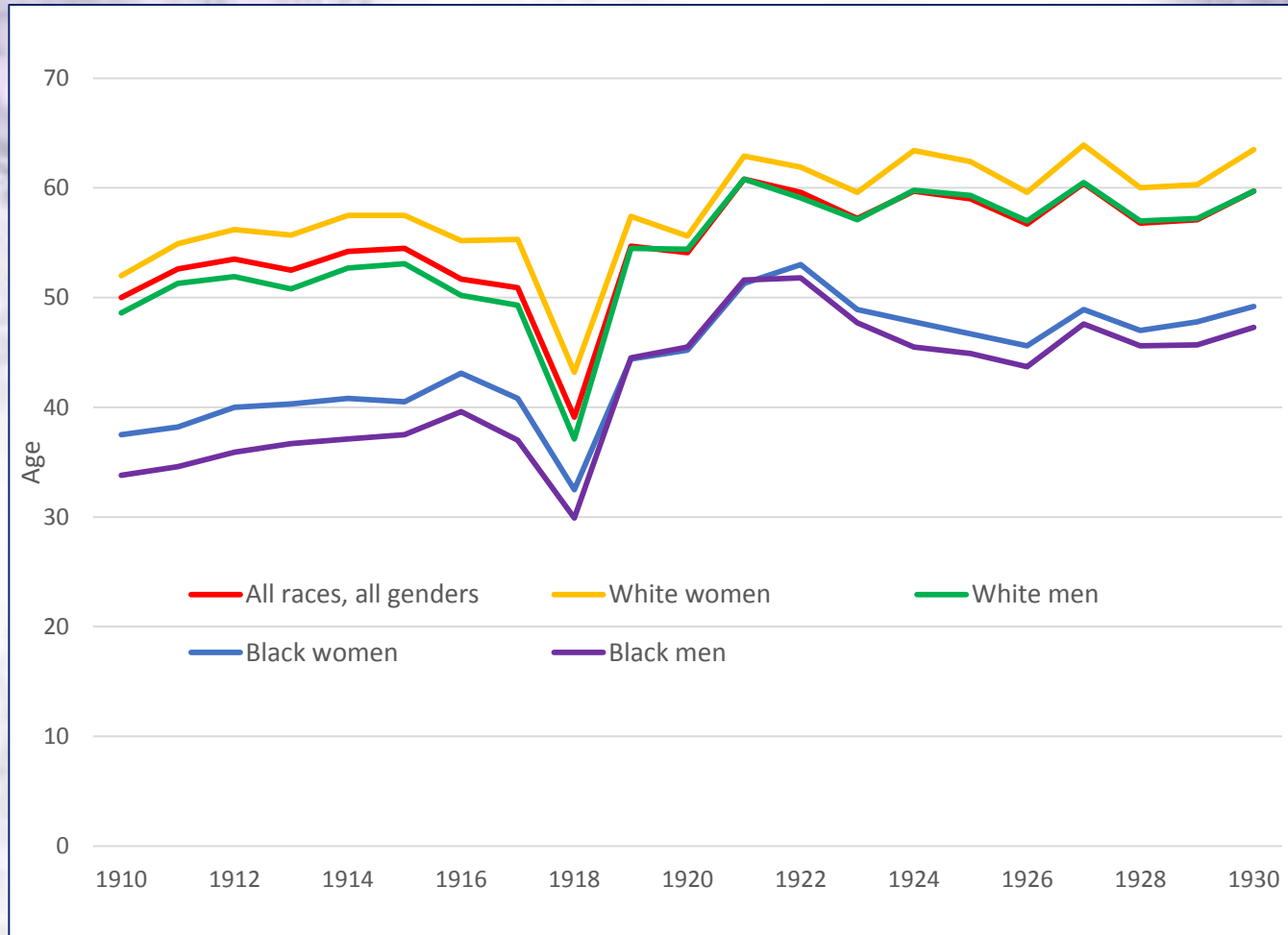


U.S. Life Expectancy at Birth 1900-2016



Source: CDC

U.S. Life Expectancy at Birth 1910-1930



Source: CDC

Spanish Flu Mortality

Worldwide: 50-100 million

United States: 675,000 (6.5 deaths/1,000)

Mexico: 300,000 (21 deaths/1,000)

Indonesia: 1.5 million (30 deaths/1,000)

South Africa: 300,000 (44 deaths/1,000)

Three Waves in the United States

March - April 1918

September - October 1918

(200,000 deaths in October alone)

December 1918 - March 1919



"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1914.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

THE WEATHER
Fair and clear; temperature in the city 60 to 70.

BAPAUME FALLS UNDER ASSAULT OF FRESH GERMAN TROOPS; HAIG ADMITS RETIREMENT AND HEAVY LOSS OF MATERIAL; FRENCH, TOO, FALL BACK, INFLECTING HEAVY LOSS ON THE FOE

NEW LIBERTY LOAN TO BE \$3 BILLIONS; INTEREST RATE 4-1/4
Bond Commission, Under Secretary—Looking to be Exchangeable

COLONEL AND OTHERS CHASE
Hunted by British Forces

BATTLES ON THE SOMME
Germans Moved On at Short Range in First Attempts to Cross

FRESH TROOPS FILL GAPS
Under Pressure of Russian Tide British Advance Under Guns, but Set Off Others Across River

PRESSING ON SAYS BERLIN
Capture of Over 45,000 Prisoners and 600 Guns is Chronicled

British to Retain Losses in West and Gain of Over 1,000 Prisoners in East
Lloyd George Announces in Message to Haig

HAIG REPORTS TROOPS LOST
Nests and Outposts Taken Besides Bapaume

REAR GUARDS TAKEN
British to Retain Losses in West and Gain of Over 1,000 Prisoners in East

STARBUCKS SINKING
100 Sunkers Market Price and May Make Higher Future Rate

PRISONERS TOLD OF LOSSES
As High as 75% in Russian Casualties and Few Escape

PERSHING SAYS ENGINEERS ARE IN
Front of the Line

HAIG REPORT BRAGGING
About Successes of his Troops

HAIG REPORT BRAGGING
About Successes of his Troops

HAIG REPORT BRAGGING
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HAIG REPORT BRAGGING
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HAIG REPORT BRAGGING
About Successes of his Troops

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1914.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

THE WEATHER
Fair and clear; temperature in the city 60 to 70.

GERMANS DRIVE ON IN SOUTH; TAKE ROYE AND MENACE ALBERT; HAIG REFORMS HIS LINES AND HOLDS NORTH OF THE SOMME; FRENCH MAKE STAND ABOVE NOYON

HIGH EXPLOSIVES BOCK ARREST CITY; DAMAGE \$2,000,000
Gone Destroyed for Miles and Blazing Pillars Corner to the Side of the Street.

STORM IN SENATE OVER WAR DELAYS
WARREN, LLOYD AND BROWN

REINFORCED WITHOUT BASTE
British Troops Fall Back With Calm Confidence and Hopefulness

GERMANS TAKE MANY TOWNS
Lihons and Noyon in the South Fall Before Advancing Foe

FRENCH COMPROMISE ALERT
In Heavy British Division in That Region Will Be Held, It is Said

REPORT 100 TANKS TAKEN
Battle Front of 1914 Has Been Recreated at Many Points, Says Official Statement

HOWING SQUADRY OUR GUNS LEVEL
Howing Squadry Our Guns Level

TERRIBLE BATTLE IN SOUTH
Has Been Raging All Day Below the Somme, Haig Reports

"AMERICAN TROOPS" THERE
And Fighting "Steadily in the Front"

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1914.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

THE WEATHER
Fair and clear; temperature in the city 60 to 70.

BRITISH, REINFORCED, BEAT GERMANS BACK; BERLIN ADMITS PROGRESS IS NOW SLOW; LLOYD GEORGE CALLS FOR AMERICA'S AID

MESSAGE TO LORD BEADING
Read by the Ambassador at Lotos Club Dinner Last Night

BEAT FRENCH'S STRONG
Addy Is to Rank High

THE BATTLE FOR ALBERT
Amiens and Other Towns in Rear Bombed by Air Raiders

FOE'S DIVISIONS EXPLORED
Great Run of Engineers Lethal Waves of Artillery Out in Woodland

BERLIN REPORTS SLOW GAIN
Says the British Are Retreating on Both Sides of the Somme

ALBERT IN GERMAN HANDS
The Day They Are Across the River Near North and South of the City

Long Train of Wounded Stream Back
To the Remained Parts of Germany

HAIG HOLDS ON THE SOMME
Retakes Two Towns on the North Bank and One on the South

NEW NORTHERN LINE INTACT
Uninterrupted German Attacks Result in Heavy Losses to the Allies

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The New York Times.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1914.—TWENTY PAGES.

THE WEATHER
Fair and clear; temperature in the city 60 to 70.

GERMANS PUSH ON IN SOUTH, CHECKED ON NORTHERN FRONT; PERONNE TAKEN, BUT GIGANTIC BATTLE RAGES AT BAPAUME; BERLIN REPORTS AMERICANS ENGAGED; TELLS OF SHELLING PARIS

BATTLE ROUND ST. QUENTIN
British in Southern Sector Fell Back Under Stepped-up Gunfire

German Fall Short of Their Objectives
Shown in Plans Taken From Prisoners

THREE AMERICANS AND FRENCH WERE FORCED BACK
Germans Report

WEDGE DRIVEN TEN MILES
Berlin Announces the Capture of More Than 30,000 Prisoners and 600 Guns

SAYS BRITISH USE TANKS
British Press Tosses and Willing to Retain or German Supply Declined

GERMANS TAKE TOWNS
Berlin Announces the Capture of More Than 30,000 Prisoners and 600 Guns

Kaiser and Hindenburg Express Pleased
At Initial Success in the Big Drive

GERMANS CROSS AT CERTAIN POINTS SOUTH OF PERONNE
Haig Reports

LINE BENDS NORTH OF CITY
British Under Terrible Attacks

FOX HELD FURTHER NORTH
Large Bodies of Infantry Reported Dispatched with Heavy Losses—All Supplies Destroyed

WHERE STOPPED 3 TO 1
On a 2,000-Yard Front They Faced an Attacking Force of 100,000

SHIFTED GUNS IN LINE
Wag's Empty Employment—Shattered Shelling Intended to Break the British

BRITISH USE TANKS
British Press Tosses and Willing to Retain or German Supply Declined

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The New York Times.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1914.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

THE WEATHER
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BRITISH REPULSE ALL-DAY ATTACKS AT ARRAS; FRENCH RETAKE GROUND ON GERMAN FLANK; FOCH LIKELY TO COMMAND ALLIED ARMIES

ALLES WELLMAN SAYS MARCH
Chief of Staff Confident of Victory, No Matter What the Cost

GERMANS MASSING AGAIN
Falling to Turn British Left They Move North for Crushing Blow

FRENCH APPRAID VALOR OF OUR MEN
American Report by General

BERLIN CLAIMS MORE GAINS
Says Victories South of Somme Give Germans Ground Lost in 1914

REPORT MONTHS' FALL
Germany East in the Great Prisoner's Count to an Advance of 30 Miles

ENGAGEMENTS NEAR ARRAS
Only Official Report of the British

FOCH LIKELY TO COMMAND ALLIED ARMIES
General Foch to Command Allied Armies

WAR'S DEFENSE STRENGTH
Beats German Assaults in Terrific Struggle Around Arras

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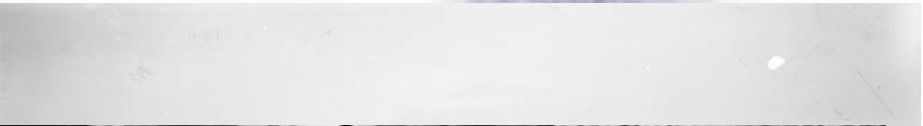
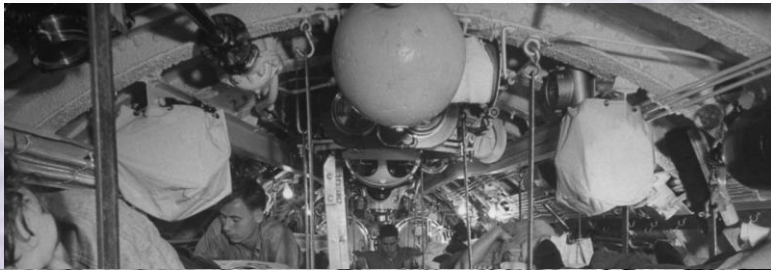
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Retakes Two Towns on the North Bank and One on the South

NEW NORTHERN LINE INTACT
Uninterrupted German Attacks Result in Heavy Losses to the Allies

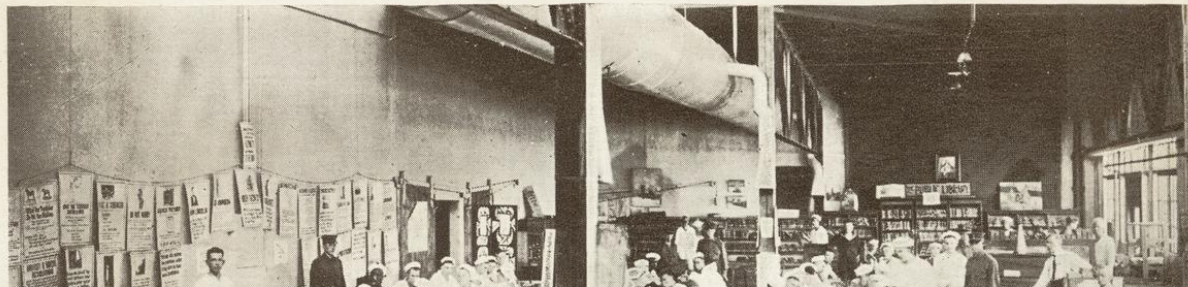
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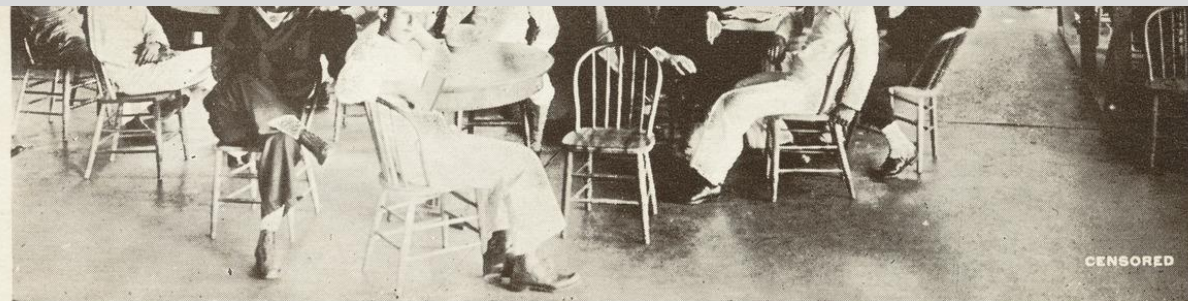
GERMANS TAKE ONE TOWN
Uninterrupted German Attacks Result in Heavy Losses to the Allies



Homeward Bound, U.S.S. "Ohioan" No. 5.



All the city was dying...



CENSORED

Y. M. C. A. READING AND WRITING ROOM, RECEIVING SHIP, COMMONWEALTH PIER, BOSTON, MASS.

George H. Polliss, 26, 1668 Ansonia street northeast.
Nellie M. King, 30, 308 Eleventh street southeast.
Ruth E. Calvert, 22, 704 Eighth street northeast.
Morgan Harvey, 23, Camp Meade.
Edith G. Brown, 1339 H street northwest.
Mary E. Phelps, 24, 1421, Sixth street.
Anna Costello, 33, 1026 Fourth street northeast.
Frank Owens, 25, 905 Second street northeast.
Harry D. Dubbs, 29, 914 L street northwest.
Harrison M. Linda, 30, 601 Rock Creek Church road.
Annie M. Brooke, 24, 1717 New Jersey avenue.
G. W. Louis Hueser, 32, 1114 M street.
Voliet Nelson, 32, 82 V street northwest.
Thomas H. Magruder, 28, 1326 Corbin street northeast.
Annie E. Laws, 1, 218 Linworth place southwest.
Hugh M. Adcock, 32, 2925 5th street northwest.
Susan Carvin, 28, 1128 Girard street northwest.
Dora L. Lattin, 27, 105 D street northeast.
Abbie R. Dodson, 33, 27 Fifth street northeast.
John A. Baily, 38, 148 North Carolina avenue southeast.
Annie Caltabine, 9, 330 Virginia avenue southeast.
Mary J. Thompson, 27, 1015 Sixth street northeast.
Luran B. High, 38, 1014 Massachusetts avenue southeast.
Arthur G. Woodward, 29, 332 E street northeast.
William S. Pierce, 27, 325 Fourteenth street northeast.
LeRoy M. Taylor, 50, Burlington Apartments.
Mary C. Reeves, 35, 1242 C street.
Elizabeth L. Collins, 24, 1104 Twelfth street northwest.
Eva N. Randolph, 1, 301 Tenth street southwest.
Margaret E. Swerbutts, 30, 1849 Good Hope southeast.
Asa E. Marvin, 24, 1216 Maple View place southeast.
Guy C. Freeborn, 43, 925 New York avenue.
Zouie P. Young, 18, 1526 Eighteenth street southwest.
George E. Graves, 84, 2233 Q street northwest.
Bessie E. Edwards, 21, Camp Meade.
Clara M. Cole, 38, 918 K street southeast.
Jeff Haswell, 19, Washington Asylum Hospital.
Louis H. Poole, 20, 1334 Q street northwest.
John G. Yanelli, 18, Brentwood.
Henry T. Ashe, 30, 2032 G street northwest.
Beatrice Denel, 20, 111 Fifth street northwest.
Eva Bowles, 33, Sibley Hospital.
John Walsh, 31, Walter Reed Hospital.
Edna C. Goodwin, 8, 2560 Georgia avenue northwest.
Angel S. Biancoflor, 24, 902 K street southeast.
Charles G. Robinson, 32, 2302 Nicholson street southeast.
Vicenza Calabro, 32, Walter Reed Hospital.
Andrew B. Becker, 30, Walter Reed Hospital.
Roy S. Johnson, 23, Walter Reed Hospital.
Eugene H. Kothe, 34, Walter Reed Hospital.
Raymond H. Noble, 32, Walter Reed Hospital.
Samuel Caplan, 25, Walter Reed Hospital.
Michael Nean, 18, Georgetown University Hospital.
Dollie E. Davis, 27, 705 Fifth street southeast.
Catherine F. Strothers, 20, 425 F street southwest.

Madaline Essig, 28, 612 F street northwest.
George W. Tucker, 1, 1900 Jackson street northeast.
Lawrence Townsend, 30, Naval Hospital.
William T. Byram, 35, 400 Illinois avenue northwest.
Mary V. Ahern, 32, 1343 East Capitol street.
Jeannette V. Payne, 34, 717 Sixth street southwest.
Katherine C. Canty, 34, 22 Fourteenth street northeast.
Mary A. Canty, 56, 22 Fourteenth street northeast.
Margaret Pugh, 22, 515 Eighth street southwest.
Ethel Clark, 21, Walter Reed Hospital.
Agnus McIntosh, 33, Walter Reed Hospital.
Ruth Donohue, 23, Georgetown Hospital.
Rose Meyer, 38, 1332 Seventh street northwest.
John C. McCarthy, 34, Garfield Hospital.
Velma Bartle, 22, 612 F street northwest.
Grace Jackson, 35, 1323 Union street southwest.
Frank C. C. Schneider, 27, 1232 Newton street northeast.
Mary Coyle, 50, 1006 East Capitol street.
Mary T. Seay, 44, 53 Cedar street, Takoma Park, D. C.
Roy A. Gelder, 35, 1346 Monroe street northwest.
Thomas J. Reichard, 43, 1333 Spring road.
Charles A. Backert, 44, 1009 Twenty-third street.
William Beach, 4, Fondling Hospital.
Kenneth Donaldson, 7, Children's Hospital.

COLORED.

Earl Williams, 28, Providence Hospital.
Bernan Parker, 31, 131 P street.
Beinier Baskerville, 37, Garfield Hospital.
Martha Freeman, 27, Washington Asylum Hospital.
Susie E. Stewart, 44, 732 Seventh street southeast.
Clarence Cartey, 20, 358 K street southwest.
Charles Haslon, 4, 1017 First street southwest.
Harry D. Thomas, 34, 1355 First street southwest.
Francis Isiah, 41, 603 Gordon avenue northeast.

Charles L. Martin, 3 months, 211 Sixteenth street southeast.
Rome J. Cecil, 27, Naval Hospital.
Marie Smoot, 23, Providence Hospital.
William F. Kemper, 30, United States Naval Hospital.
Annie Mamion, 26, 1912 N street northwest.
Augustus A. Bishop, 69, Military, Md.
Lewis Doetsch, jr., 27, Homeopathic Hospital.
Hiram W. Kelnap, 51, 100 W street northwest.
Joseph H. Peerse, 37, 216 Fourteen and a Half street.
Noma H. Bridges, 28, Georgetown University Hospital.
Madena E. Burns, 23, 2327 Eleventh street northwest.
Jerome F. Graham, 43, 283 Second street southeast.
Catherine A. McKaig, 39, 2721 Fourteenth street northwest.
Falbert A. Smith, 26, 633 Massachusetts avenue northeast.
William H. Schmidt, 21, Walter Reed Hospital.
George A. Baker, 26, Walter Reed Hospital.
John J. Temple, 33, Walter Reed Hospital.
Arthur Lamire, 27, Walter Reed Hospital.
Bernard Rudisall, 28, Walter Reed Hospital.
Roswell M. Watrous, 29, Walter Reed Hospital.
Fred S. Owen, 40, Walter Raar Hospital.
James Nicoletti, 20, Walter Reed Hospital.
Lawrence H. Bertsch, 39, Walter Reed Hospital.
William R. Weedon, 40, Walter Reed Hospital.
Margaret Shah, 22, Providence Hospital.
Benjamin H. Kidwall, 7, 22 Rock Creek Church road.
Minnie Patane, 28, 1232 D street northeast.
Dorothy Partello, 21, 612 F street northwest.
Clarence Brandenburg, 32, Walter Reed Hospital.
Adah E. Morrison, 2, 2142 O street northwest.
Dorothy D. Weinert, 26, 1316 Euclid street northwest.
Carlos Galvan, 13, 1424 K street northwest.
Archie Auran, 35, 1318 Twenty-second street northwest.
Robert E. Keuhling, 33, Casualty Hospital.
Ivy Cline, 38, Red Cross Hospital, F street between Sixth and Seventh streets.

Green A. King, 1 month, 221 Street northwest.
Adrien B. Laquerre, 22, Walter Hospital.
John A. Suffick, 31, Walter Hospital.
Albert C. Lind, 27, Providence Hospital.
Fay J. O'Neill, 1918 C street southeast.
Clarence K. Goldsmith, 38, St. Abeth's Hospital.
Ma yBelle Hogan, 29, The Pent apartment 20.
Charles L. Botsch, 27, 1726 U street northwest.
Frank H. McGiven, 18, 3218 place.
Jane M. Scanband, 25, 818 New sey avenue northwest.
George H. Folliss, 26, 1668 A place northwest.
Thomas Carper, 28, 1407 Thirty onth street northwest.
COLORED.
Bertha Perkins, 35, 433 Six-and-a-half street southwest.
Glad's Thomas, 34, Garfield Hos Milton Gardner, 34, 933 Tw sixth street northwest.
Mary M. Diggs, 5, 413 Twenty-street northwest.
Clarence Diggs, 31, 908 E s southwest.
Charles M. Harrison, 7, 2254 Tw street northwest.
John Hailtorks, 41, 138 C s southwest.
J. W. Antonio, 2 months, 227 C northeast.
Arthur C. Fehr, 27, 709 Seventh street southwest.
Morrison McCaffrey, 51 Providence Hospital.
William H. Lacey, 2, 1200 G street northeast.
Dot L. Cole, 33, 511 Morton street northwest.
Edna Orr, 37, Providence Hospital.
Hanna McZaren, 28, Emergency Hospital.
Mabel E. Beck, 35, 701 Quincy street northwest.
Mary Burroughs, 34, 490 M street southwest.
Annie Supple, 31, 1870 C street southwest.
Ida Cole, 30, Terra Cotta, D. C.
Edward T. Walsh, 30, Georgetown University Hospital.
John Goldsmith, 27, Emergency Hospital.
Lottie Sederrick, 37, 540 Eleventh street southeast.
Catherine E. Scholser, 30, 1513 Gales street northeast.
Meari E. Donohoy, 24, 3825 Georgia avenue northwest.

Maude Gainer, 30, 414 M street northwest.
Otis P. Gaston, 36, 814 I street northwest.
William A. Boyd, 68, 3 Grant place.
Kenneth Rand, 27, Walter Reed Hospital.
Julius Feldman, 31, Walter Reed Hospital.
Dr. F. G. Murray, 42, 209 Six street northeast.
Harriet Drake, 24, 330 Second street northwest.
Dorothy Eyre, 3, 622 Maryland avenue northeast.
William Wassum, 22, 415 Kentuck avenue southeast.
Samuel Brady, jr., 31, 501 Six street southeast.
Elmer F. Boyd, 30, 406 Eighth street northeast.
Ethel C. Kephart, 16, 1112 I street southeast.
William C. Frumbull, 26, St. Elizabeth Hospital.
Cecilia Newman, 22, 2016 Summit place northeast.
Nettie M. Whittington, 26, National Homeopathic Hospital.
Frank Suter, 46, Emergency Hospital.
COLORED.
Agnes Dandridge, 36, 1233 Wyl street notheast.
Ulysses P. Morgan, 5, 164 Bennie road.
Margarite Ford, 2, 624 Callon street northeast.
Gertrude Hines, 24, 1309 Third street southwest.
James H. Neal, 22, 1310 Half street southwest.
Beatrice Pierce, 12, 1301 First street southwest.
Gertrude Winsmore, 18, Freedmen Hospital.
Sallie Carpenter, 35, 548 Twenty-fourth street northwest.
Arthur Early, 38, 933 New Jersey avenue.
Bettie Gilmore, 25, 915 W street.
Marie C. Morris, 22, 58 Jackson alley.
Josephine Richardson, 18, Washington Asylum Hospital.
Massey Thars, 30, Washington Asylum Hospital.
Phil Page, 25, Washington Asylum Hospital.
George Edward Lynch, 1, 3338 De place.
Samuel Crompton, 29, Washington Asylum Hospital.
Thomas Pye, 26, 1339 V street.
Anna J. Hyson, 66, Broad Branch road.
James Budd, 34, Garfield Hospital.
Mary Banks, 18, 1148 Twentie street northwest.
Chaptori Jackson, 20, 937 Gold street southwest.
Gertrude Vasi, 22, 811 Third street southwest.
Eleanora Lawson, 20, Freedmen Hospital.
Erma Johnson, 5, 911 Golden street southwest.
Catherine Butler, 30, 223 G street southwest.
Luhr Alexander, 45, 924 1/2 First street southwest.
Mamie Campbell, 26, 415 Delaware avenue southwest.
Clara Baker, 30, 1906 Sixteen street northwest.

The Flu in Baltimore

Sep. 24: Several cases reported at Fort Meade
Within days, 1,900 ill

Sep. 26: 300 cases reported at Fort McHenry
1,150 cases at Aberdeen Proving Grounds
First 10 civilian cases
Health Commissioner Blake: “same old influenza”

Oct. 5: 117 deaths in previous week

Oct. 7: School board closes public schools

Oct. 9: Blake bans public gatherings

Oct. 10: New infections reach 1,962 in a single day

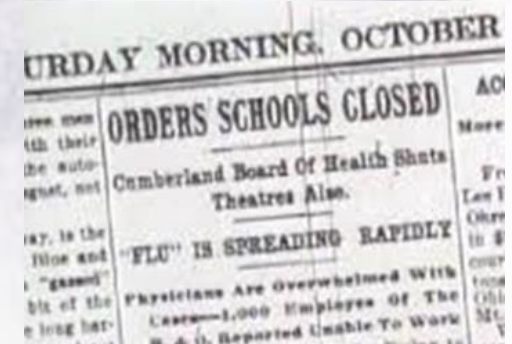
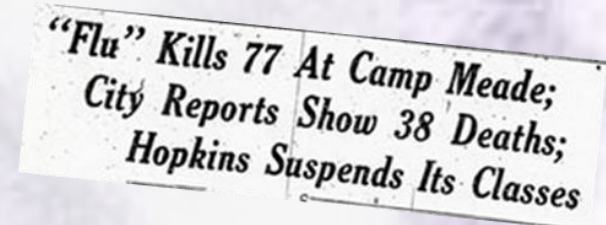
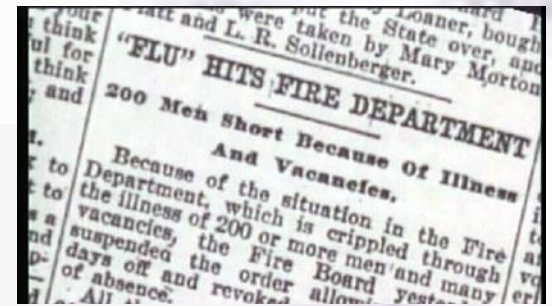
Oct. 12: 563 deaths in previous week

Oct. 16: 200+ deaths in a single day

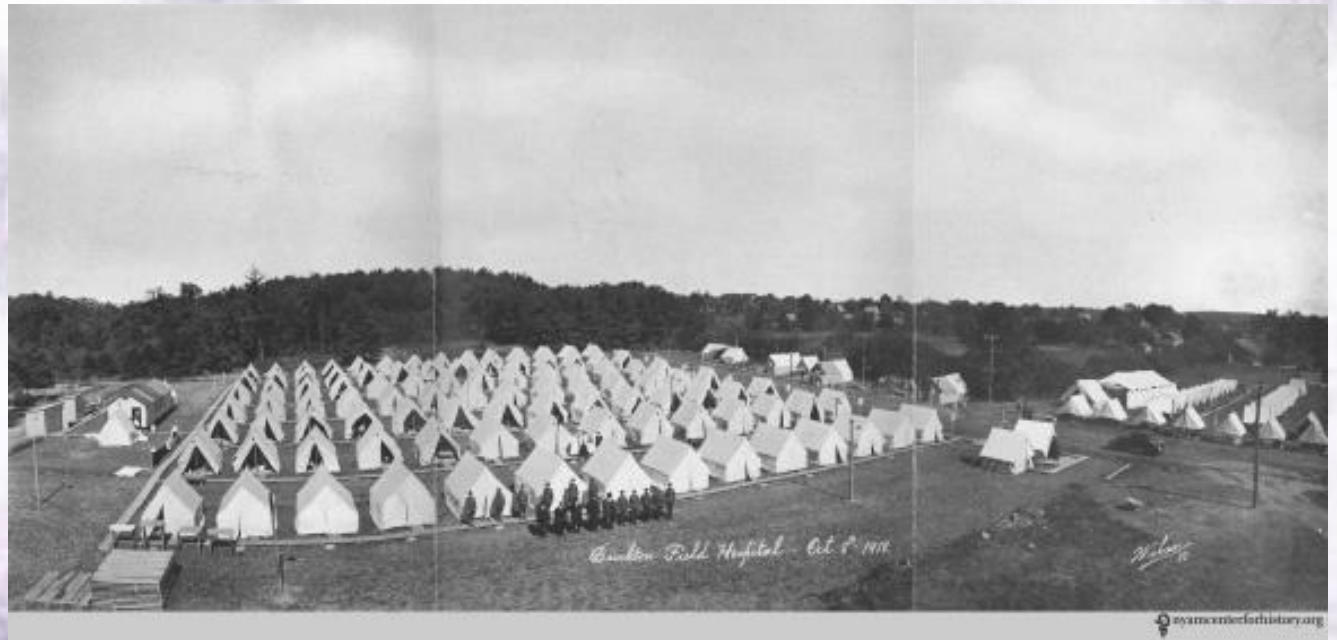
Oct. 31: More than 3,000 deaths in previous month

Nov. 4: Schools reopen

Dec. Third wave

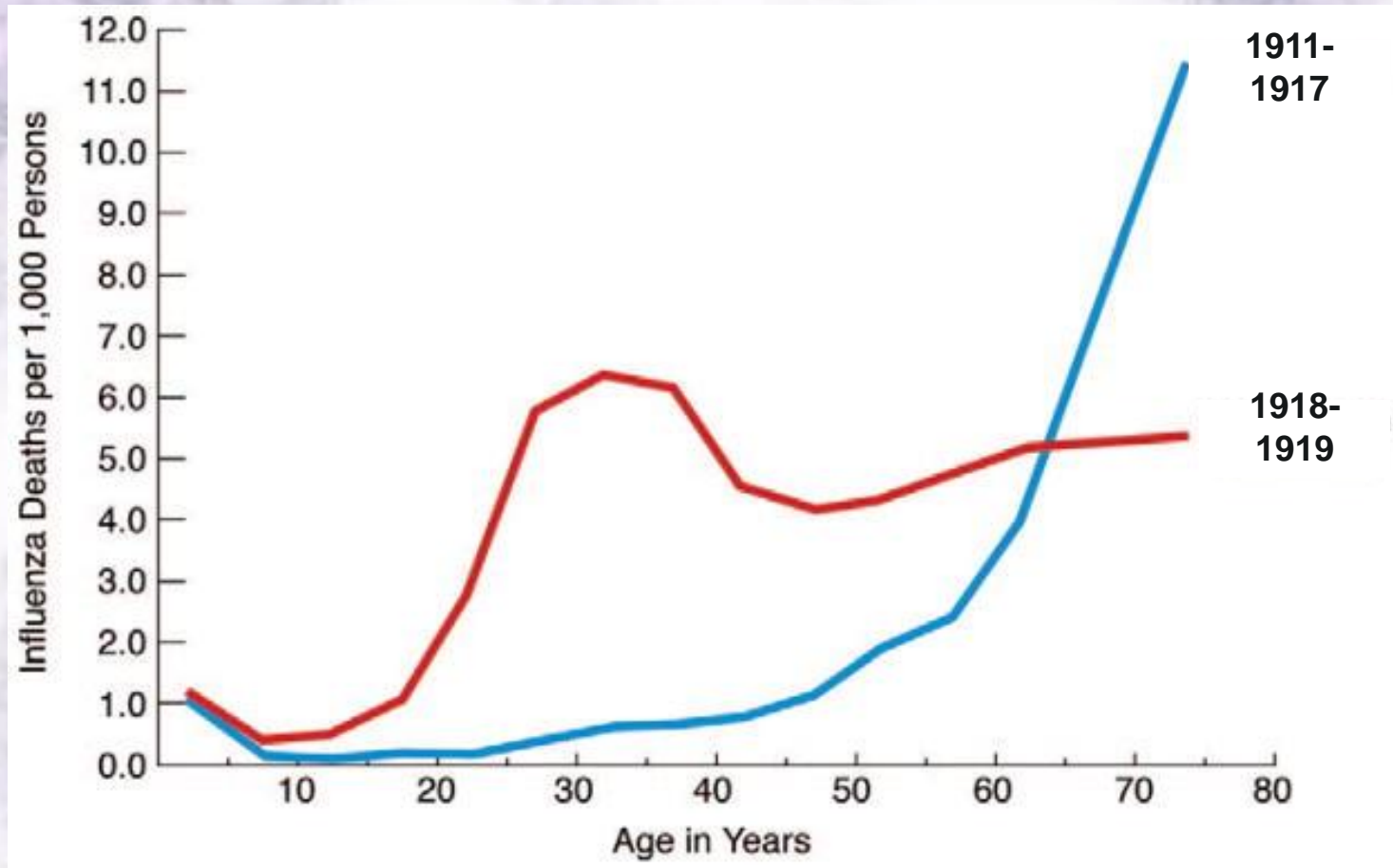


By the end of 1918: 60,000 cases (est.) and 4,125 deaths





Flu Mortality by Age



Source: Morens et. al, 2010

Mortality Patterns

Wide variation in mortality across states

Wisconsin: 360/100,000

Pennsylvania: 757/100,000

Colorado: 681/100,000

Kansas: 423/100,000

Higher morbidity and mortality in urban areas

Wide variation in mortality across cities

St. Louis, MO: 386/100,000

Kansas City, MO: 624/100,000

Baltimore: 559/100,000

Philadelphia: 748/100,000

Coughs and Sneezes Spread Diseases



As Dangerous as Poison Gas Shells

**SPREAD OF SPANISH INFLUENZA
MENACES OUR WAR PRODUCTION**

U. S. Public Health Service Begins Na-
tion-wide Health Campaign.



**TR in Baltimore During
Liberty Loan Drive, 1918**

**September 1918
Producer unknown**

Citizens---

A Crisis Is Here!

THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC has
interfered with all group meetings

—OF THE—

Fourth Liberty Loan

The Government calls upon YOU not to forget
YOUR duty to the FIGHTERS IN FRANCE.

Subscribe at any Bank, Trust Company and
show your patriotism by doing it TODAY!

CITY LIBERTY BOND COMMITTEE

Headquarters 45 North George Street.

York, Pa.

Long(er)-Term Effects

Demand shock

Labor supply shock

Mild recession August 1918 - March 1919

Depression 1920 - 1921

Physical/mental problems for children in utero

Emotional Shock

“Why do narratives affect economics? Because when we want to understand a depression or recession, for instance, we have to understand why some people will stop spending. Recessions happen when people stop buying things: they don’t buy a new car; they don’t buy a new house. So why not? They might say they stopped spending because recession struck, but that doesn’t tell me why the recession started.”

“There was a background then of horrible recent events: World War I, which ended only 14 months before the start of the depression, an influenza epidemic even more deadly than the war that started during the war and was not quite over, and a series of postwar race riots in the United States... hugely unsettling narratives that could have led to a sense of economic uncertainty that might have discouraged discretionary spending of households and slowed down hiring decisions of firms around the world.”

-Robert Shiller

“Destroyer and Teacher”

Development of county health boards

Hospital construction and upgrades

Validation of “germ theory”

- and a boon for advertisers

Informing responses to present-day epidemics

