

ORDER OF BATTLE
OF THE
UNITED STATES LAND FORCES
IN THE
WORLD WAR
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
WASHINGTON : 1931

~p. 14~

Registration	Age Limits	Registered	Inducted	Per Cent Inducted
First and second.....	21 to 31	10,679,814	2,666,867	25
Third.....	{ 18 to 20 } { 32 to 45 }	13,228,762	120,157	1
Alaska, Hawaii, and Porto Rico....	18 to 45	325,445	23,272	7
Total.....	18 to 45	24,234,021	2,810,296	12

TABLE 1.—Men Registered and Inducted.

The first registration, June 5, 1917, covered the ages from 21 to 31. The second registration, one year later (June 5, 1918 and Aug. 24, 1918), included those who had become 21 years old since the first registration. The third registration (Sept. 12, 1918), extended the age limits downward to 18 and upward to 45. The total number registered with the proportion who were actually inducted into the service is shown in Table 1.

At the outbreak of the war, the total male population of the country was about 54,000,000. During the war some 26,000,000 of them, or nearly half of all, were either registered under the selective-service act or were serving in the Army or Navy without being registered. Diagram 4 shows the percentages of the male population who were included in each of the registrations and the proportion who were not registered.

The experience of the Civil War furnishes a basis for comparing the methods used and the results obtained in the two great struggles. This comparison is strikingly in favor of the methods used in the present war. During the Civil War large sums were paid in bounties in the hope that by this means recourse to the draft might be made unnecessary. This hope was frustrated and the draft was carried through by methods which were expensive and inefficient. This may be summed up by noting that during the War with Germany we raised twice as many men as we raised during the Civil War, and at one-twentieth of the cost. This does not mean one-twentieth of the cost per man, but that 20 times as much money was actually spent by the Northern States in the Civil War in recruiting their armies as was spent for the same purpose by the United States in the War with Germany. In this war 60 per cent of all armed forces were secured by the draft, as compared with 2 per cent in the case of the Civil War. Diagram 5 shows the number of men inducted through the draft each month.

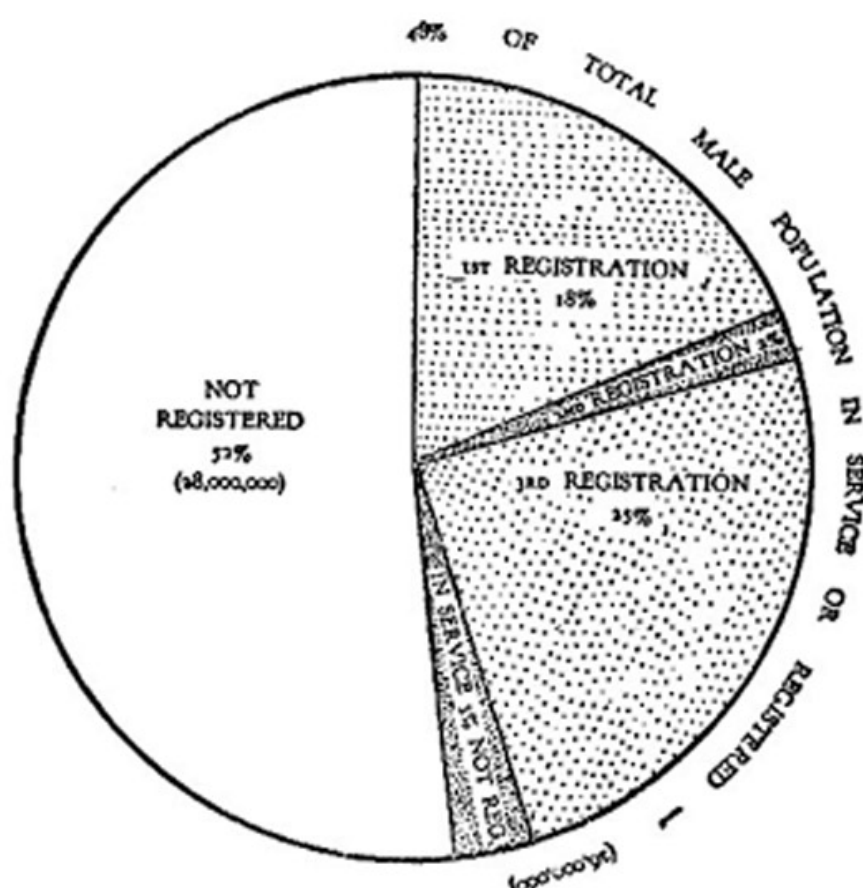
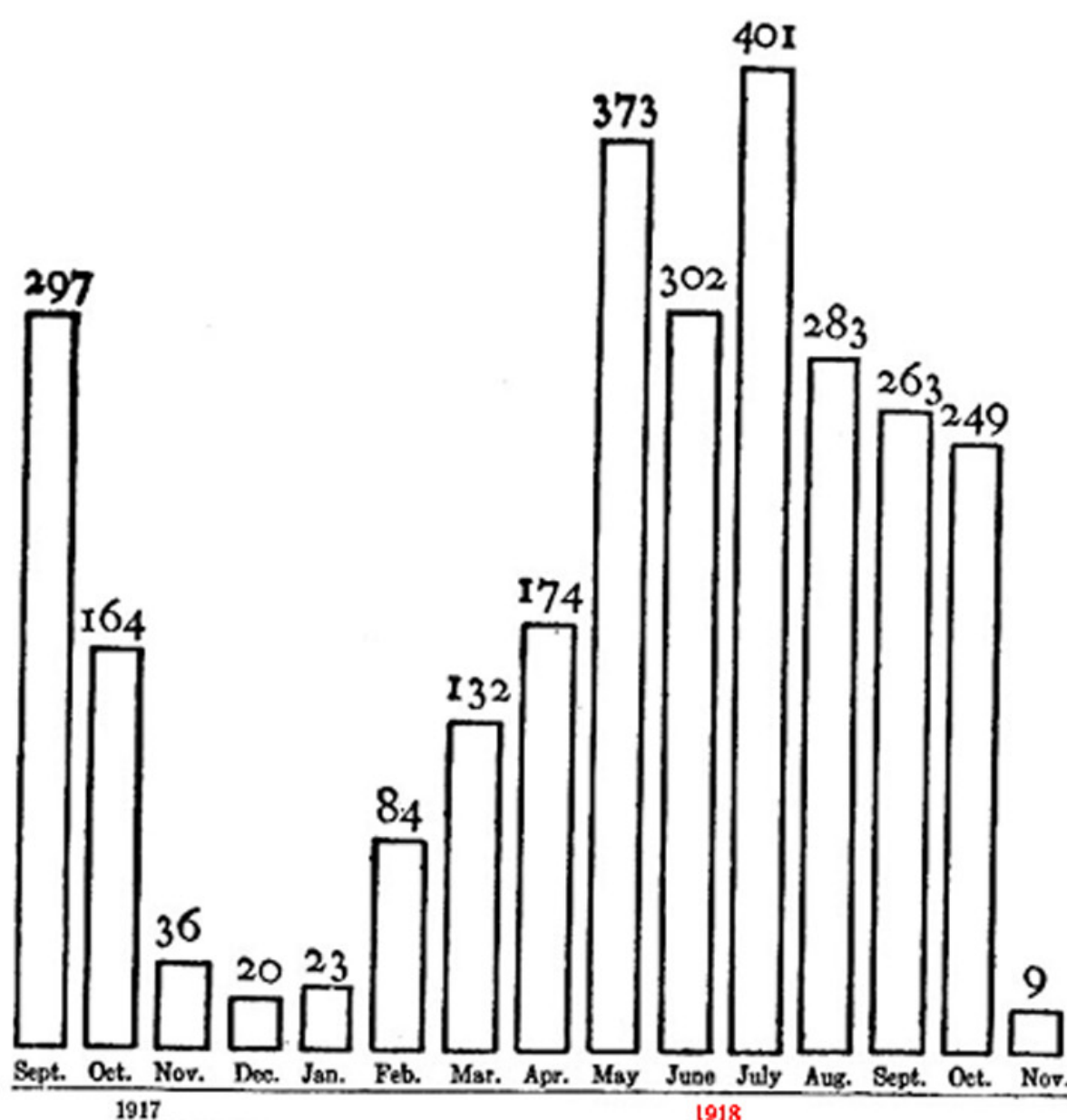


Diagram 4.—Male population registered and not registered.

The columns and the figures of the diagram illustrate the manner in which the men came into the service. In the fall of 1917 the first half million came in rapidly. During the winter the accessions were relatively few, and those that did come in were largely used as replacements and for special services. In the spring of 1918 came the German drive and with it urgent calls from France for unlimited numbers of men. Then over a period of several months the numbers of new men brought into the service mounted into the hundreds of thousands, and reached their highest point in July, when 400,000 were inducted. During the succeeding months the numbers fell off considerably on account of the epidemic of influenza, and with November the inductions ceased entirely due to the unexpected ending of the war.



15.—Thousands of men drafted each month.