



## *Boston American* *Monday, November 11, 1918*

Imagine this planet and all the people living in it after one of the worst collective madneses in history. A madness lasting four years and four months. One in which people competed at exterminating each other in the most cruel of ways. But suddenly a ray of hope came to the help of mankind. The world returned to its senses. Finally at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918 "the war was over". No headline was big enough to proclaim it.

In the United States, where The Boston American was published, the news came at 2:45 AM. Immediately, according to the newspaper, the whistles of factories started hooting, as well as those of the steam locomotives, drivers of taxi cabs honked their horns, policemen on street duty smashed the poles with their sticks, bells of churches and meeting halls where tolling wildly. By four AM everybody was awoken in towns and cities across the states. "Who could sleep with this bedlam?", asked the newspaper rhetorically.

The day of glory had come.

Let's see how the newspaper reported the news beside its huge headline: "In this war, which today passed its 1557th day, approximately \$221,000,000,000 of the world treasure has been spent and about 8,000,000 lives have been brought to an ultimate end. The Great War brought suffering and torture to almost every village and hamlet in the world and has for all time saved civilization from the slavery of autocratic rule. From today onward through the ages, the human race will determine its own methods of rule and the theory of the divine right of chieftain can never again be employed".

Behind stood the massive horrifying death at the trenches, the suffocation, blindness and paralysis brought by the use of poisonous gas, the starvation, illness and broken families, the misery of lives forever ruined by serious wounds. It was a catalogue of savagery that, at least at that moment, in the middle of the cold November night, most people though the world would leave behind forever.