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ABOVE: April 24, 2012. Fighters from the Islamist group Ansar Dine stand guard during a hostage handover in the desert outside Timbuktu, Mali. While government soldiers fought one another for control of the capital, Bamako, Islamist fighters asserted control over the Texas-sized northern half of the country.



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TOP PHOTO FROM LEFT: THE GAZETTE COLLECTION; N.Y.; © DAVID COLLIER/AFIP; NATIONAL ARCHIVES; AP PHOTO; MEDICAL ARCHIVES

The Spanish-American War lasted a mere 109 days, but it propelled the United States to the forefront of world affairs.

— BATTLEFIELD LEADER, "ADMIRAL DEWEY AND THE BATTLE OF MANILA BAY, 1898"

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ON THE COVER

German infantrymen catch a ride atop a panzer during winter combat on the Eastern Front.