

The monument to the 371st Regiment located near the French towns of Ardeuil and Séchault. The top of the monument was damaged when it was hit by an artillery round during World War II.

More information can be obtained at this link: 371 Regiment Monument, Bussy Farm, France.

Nearly 1,000 men from Fairfield County, both enlistees and draftees, served as soldiers, sailors, and officers in the Great War. Of those, thirty-one died during the conflict. Nineteen succumbed to the 'Spanish fly' or other respiratory factors of the disease which killed between 50 and 100 million people world-side in one of the worst pandemics to hit the planet. There was one death of "accidental acute alcoholism" and one possible suicide. At least five sons of Fairfield County found their final resting place in one of the six American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries on French soil.

Of the 53,313 Americans who died in action or from wounds received in battle, five were African Americans from Fairfield County, all members of the 371st Infantry Regiment fighting under French command because the political and military leaders of the United States had no confidence in their fighting ability. The 371st played a key role in the success of the Allied Armies against the Central Powers.

Fifty-two men chose service in the United States Navy. Thirty-six Fairfield County natives were college students when they reported to register at the draft office. The majority (13) were attending Clemson College. Most of these young men served their country in a Students' Army Training Corps unit at their college.

Before enlisting or being drafted the majority of the men were employed in farming. Thirty-one were employed by the Southern Railroad Company, six were mill workers, and four worked in a local granite quarry. Nine listed their home of record in Fairfield County although they were actually employed in one of three steel companies (Bethlehem Steel, Duquesne Steel Works, and Carnegie Steel) in the north where they were most likely engaged in the production of steel for military ships and munitions.

Thirty young men, including four dentists and four doctors, served in a medical field. Seven were assigned to an evacuation ambulance service. Seven were also assigned to the Chemical Warfare Service at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland where during World War II medical-related experiments were performed on soldiers without their knowledge or permission. It is very likely that at least some of those assigned to the Chemical warfare Service were involved in experiments with poison gas. The official purpose of the arsenal was the manufacture of gas masks and other related items.

One woman from Fairfield County, Miss Nan Aline Bryce, was a nurse during the war. She served at Base Hospital 56 at Allerey, Saône-et-Loire, in eastern France.

For more information on Fairfield County's role in World War one visit the Fairfield County Historical Society's 100th anniversary commemorative exhibit at the Fairfield County Museum.



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