



Indiana Department of Education



WORLD WAR I RESOURCES

CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

World War I occurred between July 1914 and November 11, 1918. By the end of the war, over 17 million people would be killed including over 100,000 American troops. The reason why war erupted is actually much more complicated than a simple list of causes. While there was a chain of events that directly led to the fighting, the actual root causes are much deeper and part of continued debate and discussion. This list is an overview of the most popular reasons that are cited as the root causes of World War 1.

1. Mutual Defense Alliances

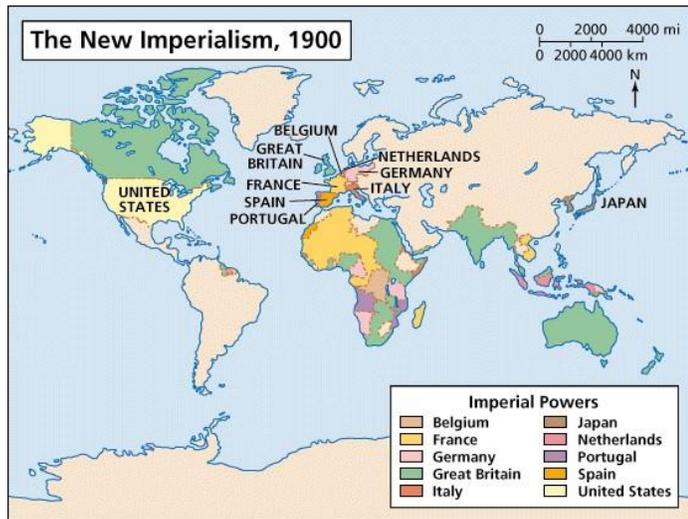
Over time, countries throughout Europe made mutual defense agreements that would pull them into battle. These treaties meant that if one country was attacked, allied countries were bound to defend them. Before [World War 1](#), the following alliances existed:

- Russia and Serbia
- Germany and Austria-Hungary
- France and Russia
- Britain and France and Belgium
- Japan and Britain

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia got involved to defend Serbia. Germany seeing Russia mobilizing, declared war on Russia. France was then drawn in against Germany and Austria-Hungary. Germany attacked France through Belgium pulling Britain into war. Then Japan entered the war. Later, Italy and the United

States would enter on the side of the allies.





2. Imperialism

Imperialism is when a country increases their power and wealth by bringing additional territories under their control. Before World War I, Africa and parts of Asia were points of contention among the European countries. This was especially true because of the raw materials these areas could provide. The increasing competition and desire for greater empires led to an increase in confrontation that helped push the world into WW I.



3. Militarism

As the world entered the 20th century, an arms race had begun. By 1914, Germany had the greatest increase in military buildup. Great Britain and Germany both greatly increased their navies in this time period. Further, in Germany and Russia particularly, the military establishment began to have a greater influence on public policy. This increase in militarism helped push the countries involved into war.



4. Nationalism

Much of the origin of the war was based on the desire of the Slavic peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina to no longer be part of Austria Hungary but instead be part of Serbia. In this way, nationalism led directly to the War. But in a more general way, the nationalism of the various countries throughout Europe contributed not only to the beginning but the extension of the war in Europe. Each country tried to prove their dominance and power

5. Immediate Cause: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The immediate cause of World War I that made the aforementioned items come into play (alliances, imperialism, militarism, nationalism) was the assassination of [Archduke Franz Ferdinand](#) of Austria-Hungary. In June 1914, a Serbian-nationalist terrorist group called the Black Hand sent groups to assassinate the Archduke. Their first attempt failed when a driver avoided a grenade thrown at their car. However, later that day a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip assassinated him and his wife while they were in Sarajevo, Bosnia which was part of Austria-Hungary. This was in protest to Austria-Hungary having control of this region. Serbia wanted to take over Bosnia and Herzegovina. This assassination led to Austria-Hungary declaring war on Serbia. When Russia began to mobilize due to its alliance with Serbia, Germany declared war on Russia. Thus began the expansion of the war to include all those involved in the mutual defense alliances.



Taken from About Education: The Top 5 Causes That Led to World War I

WORLD WAR I – SUMMARY OF EVENTS

THE START OF THE WAR



The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand (June 28, 1914) was the main catalyst for the start of the Great War (World War I). After the assassination, the following series of events took place:

- July 28 - Austria declared war on Serbia.
- August 1 – As Austria's ally, Germany declares war on Russia, an ally of Serbia
- August 3 – Germany declares war on France, an ally of Russia and immediately begins an invasion of neutral Belgium
- August 4 – Great Britain, an ally of France, declares war against Germany
- The United States (President Wilson) declares that the United States will remain neutral

THE WESTERN AND EASTERN FRONTS

The first month of combat consisted of bold attacks and rapid troop movements on both fronts. In the west, Germany attacked first **Belgium** and then **France**. In the east, **Russia** attacked both Germany and Austria-Hungary. In the south, Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia. Following the **Battle of the Marne** (September 5–9, 1914), the western front became entrenched in central France and remained that way for the rest of the war. The fronts in the east also gradually locked into place.



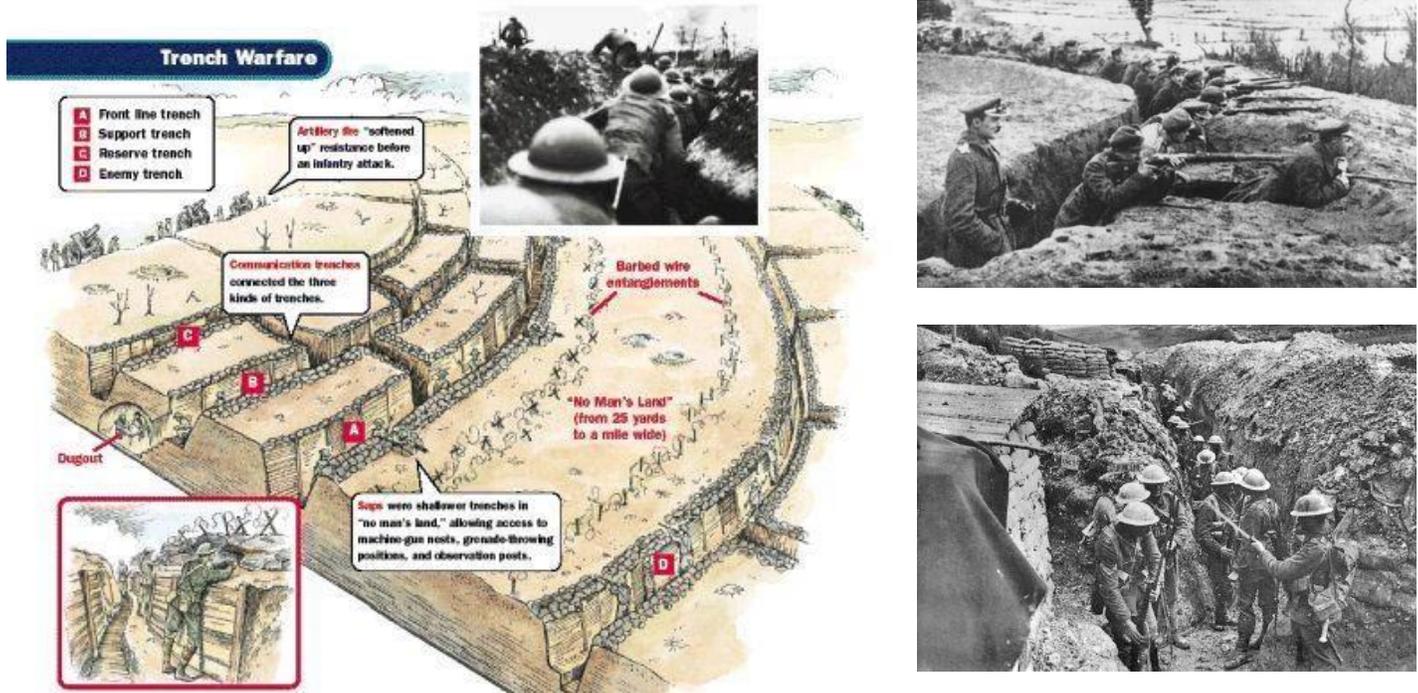
THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE



Late in 1914, the **Ottoman Empire** was brought into the fray as well, after Germany tricked Russia into thinking that Turkey had attacked it. As a result, much of 1915 was dominated by Allied actions against the Ottomans in the Mediterranean. First, Britain and France launched a failed attack on the **Dardanelles**. This campaign was followed by the British invasion of the **Gallipoli Peninsula**. Britain also launched a separate campaign against the Turks in **Mesopotamia**. Although the British had some successes in Mesopotamia, the Gallipoli campaign and the attacks on the Dardanelles resulted in British defeats.

TRENCH WARFARE

The middle part of the war, 1916 and 1917, was dominated by continued **trench warfare** in the east. Both sides had built a series of trenches that went from the North Sea and through Belgium and France. Soldiers fought from dug-in positions, striking at each other with **machine guns**, **heavy artillery**, and **chemical weapons**. The land between the two enemy trench lines was called "No Man's Land." This land was sometimes covered with barbed wire and land mines. The enemy trenches were generally around 50 to 250 yards apart. Though soldiers died by the millions in brutal conditions, neither side had any substantive success or gained any advantage.



THE UNITED STATES' ENTRANCE AND RUSSIA'S EXIT

Despite the stalemate on both fronts in Europe, two important developments in the war occurred in 1917. In early April, the **United States**, angered by attacks upon its ships in the Atlantic, declared war on Germany. Then, in November, the **Bolshevik Revolution** prompted Russia to pull out of the war.



THE END OF THE WAR AND ARMISTICE

Although both sides launched **renewed offensives** in 1918 in an all-or-nothing effort to win the war, both efforts failed. The fighting between exhausted, demoralized troops continued to plod along. In August – September, an Allied offensive along the Meuse River and through the Argonne Forest succeeded in driving an exhausted German army backward toward the German border. A deadly outbreak of **influenza**, meanwhile, took heavy tolls on soldiers of both sides. Eventually, the governments of both Germany and Austria-Hungary began to lose control as both countries experienced multiple mutinies from within their military structures. On November 11, 1918, the Germans signed an armistice in which they agreed to surrender their arms, give up much of their navy, and evacuate occupied territory.

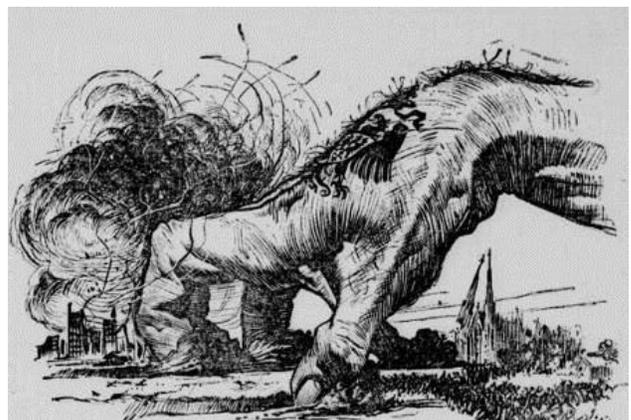


REASONS FOR U.S. ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I

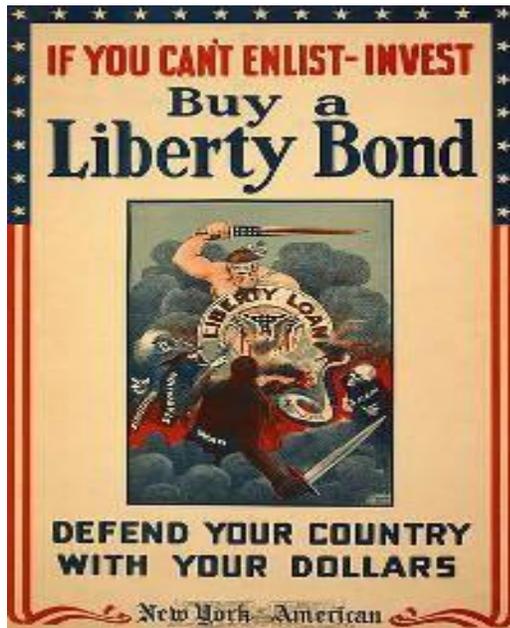
The United States played a crucial role in the outcome of World War I and the subsequent peace treaty, however, the country tried very hard to stay neutral throughout most of the conflict which it saw as a European affair. By 1917, Woodrow Wilson's policy and public opinion changed in favor of the US entry into World War I for the following 5 reasons that are described below.

German Atrocities in Belgium

One factor that had a major influence on American public opinion was the invasion of neutral Belgium and stories of German atrocities in the country which shocked and outraged the Americans. Stories of unarmed civilians being killed and small towns being destroyed circulated throughout the press. Although some of the stories were British propaganda, they left a strong anti-German sentiment among Americans.



Economic Interests



The American businessmen were very interested in the Allied victory and many such as J.P. Morgan helped fund British and French war efforts with approximately \$3 billion in loans and bond purchases. If the Allies would be defeated by the Central Powers, they probably wouldn't be able to repay their debt to their US lenders. Many businessmen therefore supported the so-called 'Preparedness Movement' which campaigned for the US intervention in the war on the side of the Allied forces.

Sinking of the Lusitania

In May 1915, a German U-boat sunk the British passenger ship Lusitania off the coast of Ireland. Over 1,000 passengers were killed, including 128 Americans. Although the ship may have been carrying military equipment along with the civilians, the Americans were infuriated because the people on board weren't warned before the sinking. In addition to straining diplomatic relations between the US and Germany, the Sinking of the Lusitania further increased anti-German sentiment in America.



Unrestricted Submarine Warfare



In response to Britain's blockade, Germany turned to unrestricted submarine warfare to keep goods from reaching Britain. After the Sinking of the Lusitania, Germany promised to stop unrestricted submarine warfare but within less than one year, they torpedoed another passenger ship - the cross-English Channel ferry Sussex. Again, the Germans promised not to attack passenger ships without warning (the Sussex Pledge). But that pledge was short lived as well.

Zimmermann Telegram

In 1917, German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram to Mexico suggesting that if the US should declare war on Germany, Mexico should declare war on the US. In return, Mexico would get back the territory lost in the Mexican-American War (Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona). Unfortunately for Germany, the telegram was intercepted by the British and hurriedly given to the Americans. Although Mexico had no real intention of declaring war on the US, the publication of the letter further mobilized the American people against the Central Powers.



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SOME PROMISE! April 1917

[History Lists](#) · [Events](#) · [5 Reasons for the US Entry into World War I](#)



WORLD WAR I TIMELINE



Interactive WWI Timeline

<https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/interactive-wwi-timeline>

DATE

June 28, 1914

EVENT

Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophia are killed by Black Hand Serbian nationalists (Gavrillo Princip).

July 28, 1914	Austria declares war on Serbia. Russia, an ally of Serbia, prepares to enter the war
August 1, 1914	Germany declares war on Russia
August 3, 1914	Germany declares war on France
August 4, 1914	German army invades neutral Belgium on its way to attack France. Great Britain declares war on Germany. The United States declares its neutrality
August 6, 1914	Austria declares war on Russia
August 12, 1914	France and Great Britain declare war on Austria
August 26-30, 1914	Russians are defeated at the Battle of Tannenberg
September 5-9, 1914	Germans are stopped at the First Battle of the Marne
October 31, 1914	In the First Battle of Ypres, entrenched allies fight off German assault
December 25, 1914	Christmas truce observed on the Western Front
April 22 – May 25 1915	The Second Battle of Ypres. Germans use poison gas and break a hole through the long line of allied trenches.
May 7, 1915	German U-Boat torpedoes the <i>Lusitania</i>
February 21, 1916	Germans begin Battle of Verdun
May 10, 1916	Germans suspend unrestricted submarine warfare
May 31, 1916	German and British navies clash in Battle of Jutland

June 24, 1916	The Battle of the Somme begins
September 15, 1916	British use tanks for the first time at Somme
November 7, 1916	Woodrow Wilson is reelected President of the United States
January 31, 1917	Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare
February 3, 1917	The U.S. severs diplomatic relations with Germany
March 1, 1917	The U.S. discovers the Zimmermann Telegram plot
April 2, 1917	President Wilson delivers his war message to Congress
April 6, 1917	The United States declares war on Germany
June 15, 1917	Congress enacts the Espionage Act
June 25, 1917	First American troops land in France
June 31 – November 10 1917	British launch Third Battle of Ypres against the Germans
October 21, 1917	James B. Gresham – Evansville, Indiana – First American combat soldiers killed



November 2, 1917

The Balfour Declaration is presented in London

November 7, 1917

Bolsheviks seize power in Russia

January 8, 1918

President Wilson outlines his Fourteen Points

March 3, 1918

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed between Russia and Germany

May 28, 1918

Battle of Cantigny – Americans prevail

June 6, 1918

U.S. Marines launch attack at Belleau Wood

June 18 – August 5 1918

Allies launch Aisne-Marne offensive

September 12-16, 1918

Americans take offensive at St. Mihiel

September 26, 1918

First phase of the U.S. Meuse-Argonne offensive underway

October 6, 1918

Germany requests armistice – Allies refuse

November 11, 1918

Germany signs armistice



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HOOOSIER STORIES



Indiana in World War One

BY CONNOR MCBRIDE

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Since there have been Hoosiers, there have been Hoosier willing to serve and sacrifice for their nation and its ideals. The state of Indiana is represented in every major United States war since the state's founding and as of the twentieth century, hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers had served their country proudly. By April of 1917, Indiana had demonstrated their willingness and capability to serve and following the United States' declaration of war, Hoosiers were ready to step up and serve their nation.



Indiana's soldiers and civilians quickly mobilized for war. Organizations both public and private adapted to meet the demands of war. Many Indiana companies, such as the Studebaker Corporation, placed their factories "at the disposal of the government." In the case of Studebaker, they converted half of their plant capacity to the production of military equipment including artillery and supply chassis and wagons. The Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company offered \$25,000 in funding for medical equipment to form Base Hospital 32, which would be comprised primarily of personnel from Indiana and would treat almost 9,700 patients in France throughout the war. Local newspapers and businesses encouraged the citizenry to purchase war bonds, to conserve supplies, and to otherwise support the war effort. Throughout the state, Hoosiers quickly got to work.

Sgt. Alex L Arch of South Bend, soldier who pulled the lanyard to fire the first American shot of World War I

Enlisted Hoosiers went overseas with the first units to land on European soil. Among them, Sergeant Alex Arch of South Bend, Indiana was credited with having fired the first shot of the war for the United States, pulling the lanyard to fire the first American artillery shell towards German lines. As well as the first strike, the first blow was received by Indiana as well. The first three American casualties of the war included young Corporal James Gresham of Evansville, Indiana who died in hand to hand combat while repelling a German trench raid near Bathelemont in France. Hoosiers such as these cemented the state's legacy as among the first to strike at the enemy and the first to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

As the first of the American Expeditionary Forces were arriving in France, the Indiana National Guard was quickly mobilizing. Units from the Indiana and Kentucky National Guards would form the 38th Division and the 84th "Lincoln" Division would be comprised of guard units from Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. In addition, the famed 150th artillery regiment, which had gained a fierce reputation in the Civil War under the command of Captain Eli Lilly, was selected as one of the handpicked units to make up the 42nd "Rainbow" Division. This division would see some of the most intense fighting of the war. The 150th Field Artillery, under the capable leadership of Colonel Robert Tyndall, would take part in six major engagements throughout the war. The first day of draft registration, June 05, 1917, passed without incident in Indiana. During that first period, over 260,000 Hoosiers came forward to register. Over 400,000 more had registered by the war's end.

Throughout the war, Hoosier men and women would time and time again prove their unwavering courage and loyalty to their country in spite of the many faces of adversity. Lieutenant Aaron Fisher of Lyle's Station, Indiana would become the most highly decorated African American soldier from Indiana during the war for his extraordinary courage and levelheaded leadership in the face of overwhelming odds.

Fisher received the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre for refusing to retreat or surrender even while his unit was vastly outnumbered. Despite being wounded, Fisher continued to direct his troops amidst the chaos until finally reinforcements arrived and the German force



was repelled.

Lieutenant Samuel Woodfill would become a national hero when he single handedly incapacitated three German machine gun nests and earned the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor as well as military honors from several European nations. While suffering the effects of mustard gas exposure, Woodfill captured three of the gunners and finish off the rest in intense close-quarters combat where he was eventually forced to wield a trench pick as a combat weapon. At home, citizens continued to support the war effort through the Red Cross and Salvation Army, raising funds and sending supplies to the troops entrenched on the other side of the Atlantic. Women filled the jobs left empty by those men that had departed for the front, eager to serve their country. Among them was Opha Johnson of Kokomo who was the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps. *Welcome Home Day; Returned Soldiers on parade in Indianapolis*

She took over clerical work in the quartermaster department and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant by the war's end¹⁷. This names only a few of the many outstanding Hoosiers who contributed to war effort, most of whom would not receive such recognition but who, beyond a doubt, contributed to the nation's war effort, both overseas and at home.

Over 135,000 Hoosiers would serve their country throughout the war. Of this number, more than 3,000 would make the ultimate sacrifice. The countless number of Hoosier soldiers, nurses, and civilians who were there to proudly serve and sacrifice for their nation, deserve more recognition than they have or could receive. They had demonstrated their commitment to the ideals of the United States and proven that, whenever their nation needed them, the men and women of Indiana would be there to answer to answer the call.

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James B. Gresham
(Aug. 23, 1893-Nov. 03, 1917)



Among the first American Doughboys to be sent to the front, James Gresham was a Hoosier who would be one of American soldiers to die in the First World War. He was an average American from humble beginnings whose life was consistently characterized by personal sacrifice: both at home in Evansville, where he chose working to support his family over continuing his education, and on the Western Front where he was among the first Americans in World War I to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country and its ideals. James Bethel Gresham was one the first of America's fallen heroes in France

whose actions throughout his life reflected a sense of duty and selflessness.

James Bethel Gresham was born to Alice Bethel Gresham (later Alice Dodd) and Green Gresham, on August 23, 1893 in Henderson, Kentucky. In September of 1901, the family moved a short 12 miles over the border to Evansville, Indiana. Here, James attended the Centennial School, which had been located between Indiana Street and Illinois Street. His education would not last very long however, as he ended his education not long after and began working in various factories to help support his family. On April 23, 1914, four months before his 21st birthday, James enlisted in the U. S. Army. After first being sent to Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis, Missouri, his unit was called to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas in June of 1914 to garrison and assist in patrolling the border with Mexico in response to the threat of paramilitary forces under the command Francisco "Pancho" Villa. Gresham would remain at Fort Bliss for the next three years. This changed on April 6, 1917, as the United States declared war on Germany and in June, James as a part of Company F, Second Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, would be called from Fort Bliss as a part of the American Expeditionary Forces in France under the command of Major General John J. Pershing.

Gresham's unit would be among the first of America's forces to land in Europe at the port of Saint Nazaire, France on June 26, 1917. A week later on the 4th of July, Gresham as a part of the Second Battalion of the 16th Infantry marched in a parade through Paris to help bolster the morale of France's population who greeted the Americans with enthusiasm. From there they moved on to a training area in Gondrecourt in where they conducted training in modern trench warfare under the French 47th Regiment of Alpine Chasseurs, regarded by one soldier of Gresham's company as "the best trained and most courageous soldiers in the French army." Upon completing training in Gondrecourt, they moved on to Demange-aux-Eau, where they continued to drill formations. On the 29th of October, the Second Battalion of the 16th Infantry Regiment received orders to relieve the First Battalion who had been holding the trenches in order to familiarize themselves with the conditions of trench warfare on the Western Front. This sector was regarded by the French as a quiet sector and the First Battalion's ten-day occupation of the trenches had not seen anything that would discredit such a claim. On the night of November 2nd, the second battalion entered the trenches one mile from the small village of Bathelemont, near Nancy. Corporal James Gresham commanded a firing squad of the First Platoon of Company F in a trench salient that was reported to be one of the closest to enemy forces, estimated by one witness as merely 500 yards away.

In the hours between two and three o'clock in the morning, German artillery began a barrage of artillery fire that gradually moved over Gresham's trench, effectively cutting off the salient from their comrades. Under the cover of this barrage, German soldiers then began a raid of the trench with the intent to take as many supplies and prisoners as possible, a common tactic in the war that had been employed by both sides. Accounts of the fighting that took place vary, but all indicate that it was in extremely close-quarters, quickly becoming hand to hand, and in nearly complete darkness. Some accounts also suggest that the American sentries, in their first engagement with German soldiers, confused the oncoming Germans for fellow Americans in the pitch dark of the night. After a period of short but extremely intense fighting, the German

forces withdrew with their casualties, a great number of supplies, and 11 American prisoners. After the raid ended and the barrage was lifted, American forces found five soldiers wounded and three dead. Among them: James Gresham, who had been killed in hand to hand combat.

Five days later, the bodies of Gresham and his two fallen comrades Bathelemont. The ceremony was attended by American and French soldiers with a French General reportedly speaking in praise of the bravery of the three soldiers and bidding them farewell. On this site, a monument would be erected by the French government in honor of these soldiers following the end of the war as well as another after World War II, as the original had been destroyed by German Forces in the 1940s. This monument remains there today, approximately 500 meters west of the village of Bathelemont. In July of 1921, Gresham's body was returned to the United States at the request of his family and he was buried in Locust Hill Cemetery in Evansville, Indiana next to his brother and sister. In Evansville, markers and memorials would be placed in his honor, at the Evansville coliseum and at his home, to commemorate that it was one of their own who was among the first to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country and its ideals.

were buried near the village of



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Samuel Woodfill
(Jan. 06, 1883-Aug. 10, 1951)



Praised as “Outstanding” by AEF commander General John Pershing, Samuel Woodfill would be resoundingly praised as a hero following his return from Europe during World War I. For his bravery and heroism, he would receive the Medal of Honor as well as numerous other military honors by European nations. Though Woodfill reportedly disliked publicity, Indiana’s war hero would receive no shortage of it as he met with presidents, was given a standing ovation in Congress, and was hand-picked to represent the Army’s infantry as pall bearer in the burial of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Renowned for his incredible feats as a soldier and remarkable humility as a hero, the Outstanding Soldier of the World War was born and died a Hoosier.

Samuel Woodfill was born in Belleview, Indiana in Jefferson County in January 06, 1883 to John and Christina Woodfill. His Father, John S. G. Woodfill, was reportedly a veteran of the Mexican War and fought in the Civil War with the 5th Indiana Volunteers. It is reported that at an early age Samuel was an excellent marksman, learning from his father at age 7. When Samuel was very young, at the age of 13, his father passed away. Continuing his father’s military legacy, Samuel Woodfill enlisted in the Army in 1901 in Bryantsburg, Indiana at age 18. He was initially sent to the Philippines which had recently come under control of the United States. In 1904 he was reported to be stationed in Alaska at Fort Egbert where Woodfill rose to the rank of sergeant by 1911. In 1912 he was stationed at Fort Thomas, Kentucky for two years until in 1914 his unit was sent to the Mexican Border to protect from bandit attacks against Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona by Francisco “Pancho” Villa. Shortly after the

United States’ entrance into World War I, Woodfill would return to Fort Thomas where he would meet Lorena Blossom Wiltshire, whom he would marry on December 25, 1917. After being promoted to Lieutenant, in April 1918 he was dispatched to Europe as part of the 60th Infantry, Fifth Division.

His division would be sent to the Meuse-Argonne front in the Fall of 1918 where they would participate in part of the final Allied offensive of World War I and the main engagement of the war involving the American Expeditionary Forces. This offensive would begin in late September of 1918 and continue until the signing of the armistice in November. It was during this offensive that the commander of M Company of the 60th Infantry Regiment, 1st Lieutenant Samuel Woodfill, would earn his place in history as a war hero. On the morning of October 12 near Cunel, France, his company came under heavy machinegun fire, holding up the advance. Woodfill would proceed towards a machine gun nest being accompanied by only two privates which followed at 25 yards. Upon flanking the gun, it stopped firing and the gun’s crew of four soldiers emerged. Woodfill shot and killed three of the gun’s crew and was rushed by the fourth, an officer, whom he killed with his pistol after engaging in hand-to-hand combat. His company proceeded forward where a second machine gun nest was encountered and Woodfill rushed ahead under heavy fire, killing members of the crew and capturing three of them. Upon encountering a third machine gun nest, Woodfill once again charged into the first pit, killing five enemy soldiers with his rifle and drew his revolver to engage the second pit where the two enemy soldiers turned the gun on him. After failing to kill them with his revolver, he picked up a nearby trench-pick which he used to kill both enemy soldiers. At this point he was suffering from exposure to mustard gas as well as exhausted but managed to make it back to American lines and was hospitalized in Bordeaux.

For his actions, Woodfill was awarded the Medal of Honor, presented to him by General John Pershing in Chaumont, France on February 09, 1919. In addition to this honor, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm by the French Government and was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He was also presented a Meriot di Guerra by the government of Italy and the Cross of Prince Danilo by Montenegro. With these awards he also received a promotion to Captain. Woodfill would see no further action during the war which would end one month later.

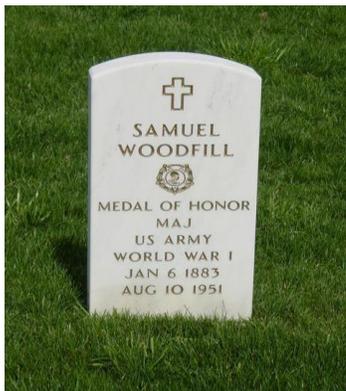


His term in the military would run out in 1919 but Woodfill would reenlist; however, upon reenlistment he would lose his rank of captain. There were local efforts to push Congress to allow Woodfill to retire with a rank of sergeant but on a Captain's pension, however this would ultimately fail, as Woodfill had the opportunity to take the examination for captaincy but opted not to. After arriving home in Fort Thomas, Kentucky on November 26, 1921, he would find it difficult to make house payments on just a sergeant's pay. In 1922, he received leave from the army to work on a dam on the Ohio River at Silver Grove Kentucky where he reportedly earned six dollars a day, roughly double his sergeant's pay, in order to make payments on his home in Fort Thomas. Upon seeing a picture of Woodfill working on the dam, the Keith Theatre Interests in New York City gave \$10,000 to pay off the mortgage on his home as well as pay up some life insurance for Woodfill, causing the sergeant to gratefully offer thanks to "those who made possible the freeing of our home from debt."

Following his return home, Samuel Woodfill would spend a great deal of time in the spotlight, though it was often said that this was not an experienced which he very much enjoyed. Despite Woodfill's aversion to the limelight, his fame would only grow as General Pershing recognized him as one of the most outstanding soldiers of the war and chose him to represent the infantry as pallbearer for the body of the Unknown Soldier buried at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on November 11, 1921. In addition, Woodfill would be honored around the country, receiving a standing ovation from the House of Representatives with a reception being held in his honor, as well as a meeting with President Warren G. Harding who upon praising Woodfill as an outstanding soldier commented that "when he shook hands with me he had the grip of a fighting man." Throughout these events, Woodfill's humility was repeatedly noted, declining to seek promotion to captaincy, feeling uncomfortable before crowds, and even expressing frustration when being called to Washington to receive honors, reportedly telling his wife he was tired of "being a circus pony," lamenting how "every time there is something going on they trot me out to perform." Later on, he would also meet and be photographed with President Calvin Coolidge. Locally, Woodfill was an even bigger hero with, in 1922 a school at Fort Thomas being named in his honor. Woodfill would be brought back into the spotlight repeatedly in the years to come despite reportedly wishing "I hope there won't be any more written about Woodfill."

In 1923, Woodfill would be discharged from the Army with full military honors and the rank of master sergeant. Two years later, Woodfill bought a farm of about 60 acres in Campbell County, Kentucky, reportedly with the hopes of making the land into a profitable orchard; however this would be unsuccessful. To keep his farm and deal with his now accumulated \$2,000 debt, he began working as a watchman, starting in 1929, and would continue at that job until America's entrance into World War II. In 1942 at the age of 59, Woodfill was commissioned a major in the United States Army, serving as an instructor in Birmingham, Alabama training infantry during the war. When

Woodfill left for Alabama in 1942, it would be the last time he would see his wife. She would die on March 26, 1942 at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati. When he once again resigned from the army, he chose not return to his empty home in Kentucky, instead chose to move back to Jefferson County, Indiana, where he had been born, and bought a small farm.



On August 13, 1951, Samuel Woodfill was found dead on his farm at the age of 68, reportedly having died of natural causes several days prior. He was initially buried at Hebron cemetery in Jefferson County near Madison. Four years later, his body was moved to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with honors, approximately 50 feet from the grave of General John Pershing. In addition, a memorial would be erected in his honor at Springdale Cemetery in Madison, Indiana.

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Base Hospital 32 Of Indianapolis, IN

The officers, nurses, and staff of the various hospitals throughout Europe, are the often unsung heroes of World War I. By the war's end, 21,480 nurses had enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps with over 10,000 of them having served overseas. Amongst them, Hoosier nurses were well represented. "Lilly" Base Hospital 32, stationed in the town of Contréxeville in France, was funded largely through the contribution of Eli Lilly & Company, the Indianapolis chapter of the Red Cross, and the citizens of Indianapolis and was comprised primarily of officers, nurses, and enlisted personnel from Indiana. Throughout its year of active service through 1918 and into the beginning of 1919, the hospital was responsible for the care of 9,698 admitted patients representing 35 different nationalities and every U.S. state with the exception of Nevada. Supported by Hoosier funds and personnel, Base Hospital 32 serves as a clear representation of Indiana's unwavering commitment to the national cause from the very beginning and throughout the First World War.

The origins of Base Hospital 32 can be found in a letter from Josiah K. Lilly, president of Eli Lilly & Company, to William Fortune, president of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross, dated February 19, 1917. In this letter, Mr. Lilly offered \$25,000 to purchase equipment for a base hospital in memory of his grandfather, Indiana Civil War hero Colonel Eli Lilly, should the United States declare war. This hospital would be staffed by physicians, surgeons, and nurses from Indiana and would bear the Colonel's name. Lilly's offer was gratefully accepted and following the United States' declaration of war in the following month, planning for the hospital was soon underway. As the work continued, it quickly became apparent that far more than \$25,000 would be needed to equip the hospital, with estimates exceeding \$50,000. This crisis was resolved largely from donations during an Indianapolis Club dinner at which two donations were given for the hospital, amounting to an extra \$27,500. More than half of this was from Mr. and Mrs. Lilly themselves, demonstrating their commitment to the establishment of this hospital.

Major Dr. Edmund D. Clark of Indianapolis was appointed as director of the hospital with Miss Florence J. Martin, also of Indianapolis, being appointed chief nurse. On September 01, 1917, the officers and enlisted men of Lilly Base Hospital began training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, northeast of Indianapolis. Six days later at the Indianapolis City Hospital, the unit's nurses took their oath and on September 9th left for New York where they were quartered in barracks at the Columbia War Hospital, drilling and adjusting to military life. They remained in New York for three weeks before moving on to Hoboken and later Ellis Island. On the night of December 04, 1917, aboard the *SS George Washington*, a German ocean liner that had just recently been repurposed as a troop transport, the staff of Base Hospital 32 began their crossing of the Atlantic.

It would not be until the morning of Christmas Eve that the men and women of Base Hospital 32 would finally feel land under their feet again as they landed at Brest on the Northwestern coast of France. Not long after, they were speeding by train towards the French town of Contréxeville, arriving in the morning of December 26th. Formerly, Contréxeville had been a summer resort, due to the reported medicinal properties of its springs, and had a number of the hotels and luxuries that one could expect of a resort town. Its position along key railways and its proximity to the front, made it an ideal location geographically for a war hospital. In addition, its multiple hotels would make for adequate hospital buildings. Eight of these hotels were assigned to Base Hospital 32 and by the end of February, the hospital was up and operational, having quickly transformed the hotels into respectable medical facilities. Until this point, the hospital had been primarily treating illness among its staff as well as civilians, rather than having many military casualties to tend to. This would not remain the case for long, as the hospital would soon see its first convoy of wounded from the front.

On March 23, 1918, Base Hospital 32 received 350 wounded from the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, the majority suffering from burns as a result of exposure to mustard gas. Injuries from gas attacks were among the most common suffered by patients and treating them remained one of the most frequent and serious tasks of Lilly Base Hospital throughout the war. The hospital performed admirably during the first real test of its capabilities and as of June they had lost only two patients in their care. In the months that followed, the hospital encountered for the first time the infamous 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic that was sweeping much of the globe. Over the course of ten days at the end of May, over one third of the hospital's personnel had reported varying degrees of flu; though, luckily, it lasted only a brief period of time and caused no deaths. This would be their first but not their last encounter with the virus that would prove one of the most deadly forces of the war for soldiers as well as civilians.

During the summer of 1918, the Allies turned the tide of the war by halting the summer German offensive and subsequently counter-attacking at Château-Thierry. Because of these offensive pushes, Base Hospital 32 would see additional spikes in the number of incoming wounded. Over the course of June and July they received 2591 cases, primarily soldiers from the United States and France, with 513 patients being from the U.S. 26th Division alone, as well as 117 British troops and 12 German prisoners of war. During this time, the dramatic increase in number of wounded quickly exceeded the emergency capacity of the hospital, requiring some personnel to give up their quarters for hospital space and to instead sleep in tents in order to accommodate the overflow from the hospital. There was no space to spare at the hospital that summer, as many patients with less serious injuries took up cots on the floors of the hallways to free up the beds for the more serious cases. The incoming flow of wounded would slow in August before rapidly picking back up again in September and October, having 2319 and 2301 patients respectively. These were the result of the final Allied offensives of the war combined with a second, far more deadly wave of Spanish Influenza. In addition to the influx of soldiers suffering from the virus, many of the hospital personnel also contracted it which made treating the pandemic that much more difficult. Nonetheless, the hospital managed to perform admirably according to accounts such as that of Lt. Colonel Guy Rukke, commanding officer for Base Hospital 23 in Vittel, who observed the results of the hospital's services during this period and reflected upon them stating, "The spirit shown is what is winning the war," even despite an "extreme shortage of personnel ... with this personnel depleted by illness." Records indicate that the Hospital treated 1,020 cases of influenza and of the 118 patients of Lilly Base Hospital that died, 50 would be as a result of influenza, making it one of the most deadly conditions the hospital faced and making the wave of it during the final drive of the war, all the more troublesome.

Following the signing of the armistice and the end of the war, the staff of Base Hospital 32 cheered along with the rest of the country, though they found themselves with little time for celebration. Though there were fewer patients with each passing day, the treatment of the remaining wounded would continue to occupy the attention of the hospital over the next few months. Nonetheless, the hospital's staff could breathe a little easier, now having an end in sight and no longer hearing, in the words of one nurse from Elkhart, "the incessant roar of distant thunder" that had been heard for the past year. In addition, there remained the task of taking down and packing up the medical equipment to be returned to the US. Some of the nurses in the unit would accompany the army of occupation, but most would return home aboard *The America*. The nurses departed from Brest on March 3rd and arrived back in the United States at Hoboken, New Jersey on March 13th with the enlisted personnel returning from St. Nazaire a month later. The personnel were awarded two service stripes for their service in overseas as well as the insignia for the Lorraine Advance Sector. The hospital's equipment would return later and would eventually be given to the city of Indianapolis to be used in the city hospital.

One would be remiss not to mention the efforts of the Indianapolis chapter of the Red Cross and the civilians back home in Indiana who contributed the funds and supplies that were vital in supporting this hospital

throughout the war. The women of the Indianapolis YWCA made 2,640 sheets and 1,920 pillowcases for use by the Lilly Base Hospital. The Decatur County Chapter of the Red Cross helped to provide the hospital with 2,859 hospital garments and supplies. The Indiana School for the Blind contributed socks, pillows, quilts, and numerous other articles for the hospital. This list names only a few of the many contributions of the Indiana citizenry who sought to ensure that Indiana's hospital was as well-equipped as possible to accomplish its task. Without these heroes on the home-front, the hospital would not have been able to perform its duties as remarkably as it did.

Over its year of service, Base Hospital 32 would admit 8,506 Americans, 1,003 Allies, and 189 Germans totaling 9,698 admitted patients. Among the many ailments treated, most common were the treatment of injuries from shrapnel and mustard gas, as well as influenza and diseases caused by the unsanitary conditions that plagued the trenches such as Vincent's angina, or 'trench mouth'. Of these patients, 118 would not survive, leaving the hospital with a mortality rate of 1.22%, which Dr. Edmund Clark later reflected was "average". Despite Dr. Clark's more modest comments, the hospital's record received a significant amount of public acclaim with the Indianapolis Chapter of the Red Cross describing it as "a notable record, one that elicited recognition and praise from official sources." Colonel S. H. Wadhams, in charge of the medical department of the American Expeditionary Forces, also praised Base Hospital 32, calling it, "one of the best in France." Through the efforts of the doctors, nurses, and personnel of Lilly Base Hospital as well as the Hoosiers at home who labored to provide them with the supplies they needed, Indiana made crucial contributions to the nation's war effort; striving, as best as they were able, to curtail the cost of war.

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INDIANA MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND HISTORIC SOCIETIES WITH WWI ARTIFACTS FOR VIEWING

NAME		CONTACT INFORMATION	DESCRIPTION
Allen County Fort Wayne Historical Society		302 E. Berry Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46802 260-426-2882	The History Center is home to the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, its museum and collections. When formed in 1921, the society's assets were few, consisting of some historical relics that had been preserved by the Mary Penrose Wayne Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Today it maintains a collection of more than 26,000 artifacts, photographs and documents representing the history of Fort Wayne and Allen County.
Dubois County Museum, Inc		2704 N. Newton Street, Suite A Jasper, IN, 47626 812-634-7733	The Dubois County Museum is the largest County Museum in the state of Indiana with more than 38,000 items and an annual visitation that exceeds 12,000 visitors per year. It holds over 50,000 square feet of exhibits, fourteen community murals providing a picture of each community's early history, a 17-room main street reminiscent of the 1890s, a two pen log house built in 1850, a wild game safari display, a tremendous model train display, and two outstanding exhibit rooms.
Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science		411 SE Riverside Drive Evansville, IN 47713 812-425-2406	The Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science is one of Southwestern Indiana's most established cultural institutions. This general museum maintains a permanent collection of more than 30,000 objects, including fine and decorative arts and historic, anthropological, and natural history artifacts. Over twenty temporary exhibitions are displayed every year in four changing galleries. Shows range from regional to internationally traveling exhibitions.
Evelyn Lehman Culp Heritage Collection/ Nappanee Public Library		157 N. Main Street Nappanee, IN 46550 574-771-7812	The Nappanee Center houses the Evelyn Lehman Culp Heritage Collection, founded at the Nappanee Public Library in 1971. This hidden gem is still maintained by the Library today and tells the story of Nappanee through permanent, rotating and special displays. Main attractions include several "Hoosier" cabinets made in Nappanee, a tribute to the city's six nationally known cartoonists, an Air Force One display and the historic John Hartman House.

<p>Howard County Historical Society</p>		<p>1218 W. Sycamore Street Kokomo, IN 46901 765-452-4314</p>	<p>The mission of the HCHS is to collect, provide physical protection for, and make accessible to the public the photographic and documentary history of the people, organizations, and institutions of Howard County, Indiana. The museum is located inside of the Seiberling Mansion, and explores the vast history of Howard County.</p>
<p>Indiana Historical Society</p>		<p>450 W. Ohio St. Indianapolis, IN 46202 317-232-1882</p>	<p>The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, home of the Indiana Historical Society, underwent a major renovation and re-opened in March 2010 with the launch of its new feature, the Indiana Experience. The Indiana Experience uses new technology to immerse guests in stories of the state's past in easy, enjoyable and meaningful ways.</p>
<p>Indiana Military Museum</p>		<p>715 South 6th Street Vincennes, IN 47591 (812) 882-1941</p>	<p>Located in historic Vincennes, the Indiana Military Museum is home to one of the best, most comprehensive collections of military memorabilia in the country. In addition to the museum's own artifacts, including military vehicles, aircraft, uniforms, insignia, and equipment from the American Revolution to present day, it also hosts traveling exhibits from the Smithsonian Institution and others.</p>
<p>Indiana State Archives</p>		<p>6440 East 30th Street Indianapolis, IN 46219-1007</p>	<p>The Indiana State Archives exists to provide for the protection of, and access to primary-source and historical documents, and those that contribute to Indiana's heritage.</p>

<p>Indiana State Library</p>		<p>315 W. Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202 866-683-0008</p>	<p>The Indiana State Library (ISL) has served the citizens of Indiana since 1825. The ISL is just a few steps away from the Indiana Statehouse and open to the public for a variety of needs including but not limited to; genealogy, Indiana history, preservation, rare books and manuscripts, reference and government services, Talking Books and Braille library, as well as the State Data Center. It also serves as a free facility for meetings and special events available to state agencies and the community (some fees apply to non-agency events)</p>
<p>Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites</p>		<p>650 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 317-232-1637</p>	<p>The Indiana State Museum is a great resource for educators and students when learning all there is to know about the Hoosier state. Whether it is through a field trip experience or classroom learning, our core galleries, special exhibitions and programming complement the subjects for cultural history, natural history, science, art and more! All programs are designed to meet Indiana Academic Standards</p>
<p>Johnson County Museum of History</p>		<p>135 N. Main Street Franklin, IN 46131 317-346-4500</p>	<p>The Johnson County Museum of History is a hub of year-round historic and cultural event programming. The Johnson County Museum of History was started in 1931 by the Alexander Hamilton Chapter of <i>Daughters of the American Revolution</i>. The museum moved in 1963, after Miss Clara Suckow donated her house at 150 W. Madison Street. In 1988 The Historical Society, along with the County, purchased the former Masonic Temple at 135 North Main Street. The museum collection was moved into the space in 1991, after its renovations were completed. The log cabin was dismantled and moved the following year.</p>
<p>Marion County Public Library Museum</p>		<p>600 S. Washington Street Marion, IN 46953 765-668-2900 Ext. 150</p>	<p>As a service of Marion Public Library, the Museum exists to preserve and make available, primarily through artifacts, the history of Marion and Grant County, Indiana. Housed in the historic Carnegie Building, the Museum includes items from the Grant County Historical Society which were displayed in the Matter Park Octogenarian Museum until 1991.</p>

<p>Marshall County Historical Society & Museum</p>		<p>123 N. Michigan Street Plymouth, IN 46563 574-936-2306</p>	<p>The Museum offers countless ways to experience our unique Hoosier history. Tour exhibits, attend events, find your roots... and discover a deeper appreciation for the place you call home. Follow historic highways that trace the story of Marshall County: Meet the man we called “Doc”, Catch the Saturday morning train, Spot Roy Rogers in downtown Plymouth, Hear WWII vets share their memories, Walk the Trail of Death with Chief Menominee, and Meet the Purdue coach who honed his craft defending the Notre Dame Four Horsemen.</p>
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<p>Miami County Museum</p>		<p>51 North Broadway Peru, Indiana 46970 765-473-9183</p>	<p>Founded in 1916 by Judge Hal C. Phelps, the Miami County Museum has approximately 150,000 objects and archival material. The Miami County Historical Society has provided governance and resources for the Museum, making it one of the larger “small” museums in the country.</p>
<p>Monroe County History Center</p>		<p>202 East 6th Street Bloomington, IN 47408 812-332-2517</p>	<p>The Monroe County History Center offers both permanent and rotating exhibits throughout the year giving Monroe County residents and visitors of all ages a chance to experience what life in Monroe County was like for diverse people at different times and to connect these stories with our lives today. We also offer a local history/genealogical Research Library and a museum store.</p>

<p><u>Museum of the 20th Century Warfare Fort Harrison State Park</u></p>		<p>5807 Glen Road Indianapolis, IN 46216 317-501-8424</p>	<p>The Museum of 20th Century Warfare is dedicated to its four cornerstones: Education - Honor - Integrity - Charity . We honor all Veterans from all wars, past, present and future while we teach about the technology, artifacts, uniforms and soldiers of the 20th Century. We strive to ensure that our past defenders of Freedom are never forgotten. The tools we have at our disposal are authentic and reproduction uniforms, artifacts, recorded accounts, documents, re-enactors and our Veterans. We are ever mindful that all our Veterans are our valued warriors.</p>
<p><u>National Military History Center</u></p>		<p>5634 Co. Road 11A Auburn, IN 46706 260-927-9144</p>	<p>Honoring the people, the purpose, and legacy of the American Military. The center is dedicated to helping current and future generations of Americans embrace and understand the unique nature of the American Military. The museum focuses on individual service and sacrifice that continues to secure and preserve our freedoms.</p>
<p><u>Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust</u></p>		<p>450 S. Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46255 317-230-6516</p>	<p>Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust Allison Branch, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, is responsible for maintaining and promoting all aspects of the rich heritage of Allison, which became part of Rolls-Royce in 1995.</p>

<p><u>Scott-Lucas Historic House</u></p>		<p>P.O. Box 500 Morocco, IN 47963 219-285-2008</p>	<p>Scott-Lucas House is a historic home located at Morocco, Newton County, Indiana. It was built in 1912, and is a 1 1/2-story, square, Bungalow / American Craftsman style brick dwelling. It features wood clapboard siding, half-timbering and stucco, and steeply pitched side-gable roof with dormer. It was restored in 2000 and is open as a house museum owned by the Newton County Historical Society.</p>
<p><u>Stevens Museum at the John Hay Center</u></p>		<p>307 Market Street Salem, IN 47167 812-883-6495</p>	<p>The Stevens Museum was built in 1970 from materials of several local historic buildings, particularly brick. It holds several artifacts of Indiana and American importance, and a genealogy center. Exhibits include a dentist office, a local candy maker, and antebellum attorneys. Additions were added in 1984 and 1995.</p>
<p><u>Veterans Memorial Museum of Terre Haute</u></p>		<p>1129 Wabash Avenue Terre Haute, IN 47807 812-208-1396</p>	<p>This 2000 sq. ft. Museum is filled with a variety of military memorabilia from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan, with the sole purpose of preserving our proud military heritage and honoring our Veterans in such a way that their sacrifices are never forgotten. Many of the items have been donated by residents from the surrounding areas but the majority of the items have been collected by museum founder, Brian Mundell.</p>

[Warrick County
Museum](#)



217 South First Street
Boonville, IN 47601
812-897-3100

The Warrick County Museum was organized in 1976 for the purpose of collecting and preserving the heritage of the county. It opened December 4, 1977. The museum is located in the old Ella Williams School. The building was constructed in 1901 and was dedicated to Miss Ella Williams in 1921. It served as an elementary school until its closing in 1976.

[World War
Memorial](#)



51 E Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-7615

The Indiana World War Memorial, begun in 1926 and finished in 1965, is a building commemorating World War I and II veterans. It is 210 feet (64 m) tall, made of Indiana limestone, and based on the Mausoleum of Mausolus. Within it is a military museum. The Plaza also includes the American Legion headquarters, Cenotaph square, an obelisk, and fountains.

