

World War I

Over There

With the entry of the United States into World War I on April 6, 1917, Stratford men registered for the draft under the Selective Draft Act. On June 5, the first numbers were drawn. Seven Stratford men, John Adams, Carl Anderson, Edward Curone, Louis Oyana, Carl Hansen, Earl Smith and Samuel Wass were drafted in the first hour.



As part of the wartime shipbuilding program in 1917, the Housatonic Shipbuilding Company organized to build a series of wooden steam-powered freighters in Stratford to assist the war.

Stratford soldiers fought in the 26th Division – the Yankee Division – at Chateau-Thierry and Verdun. The doughboys endured withering fire, gas attacks and influenza. During the war, 1,278 Stratford men registered for the draft, 630 men and women served, and 13 died.