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Over a century ago, some of the most powerful countries in the world were at war, and this war was known as “the war to end all wars.” I’m talking about World War 1, which was one of the most deadly wars in history. America fought with the Allied Powers, including Great Britain, Japan, and France. The war didn’t take place in The United States, but there are multiple things people did to help America, including me. I’m not entirely sure what I would’ve ended up doing, but, as a Woodbridge citizen, I could’ve chosen from maybe buying liberty bonds, helping out at hospitals, or even just drafting in for the war itself.

One of the most popular ways to help out in the war was liberty bonds. Liberty bonds were something set up by banks, where a buyer would put some money in the bank for liberty bonds, then that money would be spent for war supplies. The selling point of liberty bonds was the fact that, after the war was over, the bank would give you back your money, with a bit of interest. Liberty bonds were *very* popular in Woodbridge, with people even competing to sell more than each other. In Woodbridge alone, there were multiple posters with the slogan “If you can’t enlist, INVEST,” (Vol. XIII, Woodbridge & WWI). Basically, the point of liberty bonds was to get civilians who couldn’t enlist in the war, to be able to help active soldiers with the war efforts.

A simple and very effective way to help the soldiers was to help the nurses and doctors at hospitals. For people in Woodbridge, this was even easier than some other places, because of the U.S General Hospital #3, which was in Colonia, so it wouldn’t’ve hard to commute . Over 6,000 injured soldiers were treated in this hospital, so I would’ve definitely had my hands full (Vol. XIII, Woodbridge & WWI). Working at a hospital also could’ve counted as a part time job, so I could’ve gotten some money on the side, making this a win-win for me. Unfortunately, the hospital closed a little after WWI ended, but it served a great purpose with the great amount of lives saved because of it.

Now for the obvious point: actually drafting in the war itself. Thousands of men from Woodbridge were drafted for WWI. If you were from Woodbridge, President Woodrow Wilson made the Selective Service act, allowing millions of men from the U.S draft into war, including Woodbridge residents. To sign up, you had to be between the ages of 18 and 26, and were called “Doughboys” (Vol. XIII, Woodbridge & WWI). The doughboys were the actual ones fighting in the war in different countries, so they were very important. Obviously, the people fighting in the war prevailed, and all was good, but people didn’t know that while fighting, so being in the war took a lot of bravery.

So, all of that being said, there were a lot of things anyone could've done. There were the liberty bonds, where anyone could just donate and get their money back later, and all you'd need is money. There was the fact that you could help at hospitals, and there you don't really even need anything. Then there was also just the obvious signing up for war. You do need to be a man to be drafted, but I am one, so it doesn't matter for me. Out of all the options I had, I think I'd end up helping at a hospital. I don't think I have the guts for literal war, and I also don't have money for liberty bonds, so helping at the hospital seems like the perfect fit for me. I don't know if I *really* would've done anything else, were I to *really* be alive in 1917, but looking at all of the data, I think working at the hospital was my best plan.