

AH Then & Now – The Pandemic



The above photo was taken 102 years ago, June 24th 1918. It is from the Connecticut State Library Digital Collection, William G. Dudley (Creator). It shows more than 1000 draftees going off to “The Great War”. In the end, just over 1000 Connecticut citizens died in the war, while more that 9000 died of the “Spanish Flu”. Social distancing was not a thing then as you can see. The papers of the time had a lot of reporting on the war, and very little about the influenza.

The photo below was taken 102 years later to the day. A long essay could be written on all the significant changes reflected in these two photos, among them, the prominence of a billboard advertising a Spanish radio station. To date though, we have lost less than half the total then from the flu, and we are not involved in a shooting World War, two things to be very grateful for.

