

Fort Sumter's Garrison By Nationality

A total of 86* officers and soldiers garrisoned Fort Sumter during the April 12-13, 1861, bombardment. Of that number only 23 were native-born Americans. While the nationality of two soldiers is unknown, the remaining 61 were from Europe. Of this number 38 (63%) were from Ireland. Overall, almost 44% of the entire garrison were Irish .

Europe: 61

Denmark	1	England	1	France	1	Germany/Prussia	16
Ireland	38	Scotland	3	Sweden	1		

U.S.A.: 23

IN	1	KY	1	MD	1	MA	1	NH	1
NY	6	PA	5	SC	1	TN	1	VT	2
VA	2	Wash. DC	1						

Nationality Unknown: 2

*This does not include a civilian clerk, 40 Army Corps of Engineer civilian workers, and the African-American officers' servant who were at the fort.

During the April 14th surrender ceremony, one of the guns discharged prematurely and Pvt. Daniel Hough, from Tipperary, was killed. Embers from this premature firing ignited a nearby stack of blank rounds. This explosion injured Pvts. George Fielding, Edward Gallway, James Hayes, John Irwin, and George Pinchard. All but Pinchard were from Ireland. Gallway, died in a Charleston hospital five days later. So the first two soldiers to die in the war were Irish.