Ernest Bartelt was born 3 December 1890 or 1891 in LeRoy Twp, Iowa to August & Ernestine Bartelt, both born in Germany. Ernest attended a German school in LeRoy Township; his parents remained in Tripoli, Bremer County, Iowa. Ernest became a resident of Hastings prior to service, where he worked on farm and in a creamery; he was a butter maker.

Ernest registered for the draft at Rosemount on 5 June 1917 when he was 26 years old and unmarried. He enlisted 26 May 1918 in Rosemount, Dakota County. He served as a Private in Company H of the 124th Infantry, 32nd Division, U. S. Army. He trained at Camp Lewis, Washington and Camp Kearny, California before shipping out to France. He was killed in action on 13 October 1918, and was buried at Argonne; his remains were later disinterred and reburied in the American Cemetery at Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon, Meuse, France.

Notes: Photo on right is courtesy of family member Rebecca Banks. Ernest’s name is incorrectly listed as Ernest Bartlett on the Gold Star Roll documents filed at MNHS.