

Herman Bortz

Herman August Bortz was born on August 28, 1886 in Lindsborg, East Prussia, Germany. He was the son of August Bortz and Marie Damrow Bortz. He had two sisters and three brothers, including a brother Gust, who was also a veteran of World War I, and Henry, a sports writer for the South St Paul Daily Reporter. The family immigrated to the United States when Herman was three years old. They lived in Minneapolis until 1899 when they moved to South Saint Paul.

Herman registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was living at 1534 South Concord Street and working as a car mechanic for Rock Island Railway in Inver Grove Heights. He noted that his eyes were weak in his draft registration. In a news article published July 20, 1917, the South Saint Paul Daily Reporter said that Herman was one of 125 South Saint Paul men drawn for service during the first day's draft lottery. On August 25, 1917, The Hastings Gazette reported that he was drafted. The Dakota County Tribune reported the same on August 31, 1917. Herman trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa along with several other South Saint Paul men. He was visited by his brother Gust in October or November, 1917. Herman was assigned to the 338th Machine Gun Battalion. This Battalion was formed on August 5, 1917 and went overseas on September 7, 1918.

After the war, Herman married Lorena Cole. They had one son, Vernon (and eventually 3 grandchildren). Herman joined the maintenance staff of the South Saint Paul schools, and he worked there for 25 years. In 1942, at age 55, he registered for the draft for World War II, and he listed 1491 South Concord Street as his address. Lorena passed away on December 22, 1956. She was 14 years younger than him. Herman passed away on March 27, 1965 of a heart ailment. He is buried at the Oak Hill Cemetery in South Saint Paul.



Albert,
August, Herman,
Gustave,
Marie,
Louise, Wilhelmine



Albert F. 1883-1957
married Bertha

Herman 1887-1965
married Lorena

Gustave 1889-1941
married Evelyn Kreech

Louise Marie 1896-1971
married Mathew Gisch

Wilhelmine "Minnie"
married Robert Smith

Henry W. 1905-1971
married Margaret Falk

Note: Henry was born after
the photo was taken.