George William Bye

George William Bye was born on January 1, 1895 in Ravenna Township, Dakota County, Minnesota. His father was Gunder (Gunda K) Bye, who emigrated from Norway in 1881. George’s mother, Lena Peterson Bye, was also born in Norway. George had four older brothers: Conrad, Arthur, Oscar, and Adolph. Prior to his military service, George worked as a farm laborer for his father.

George registered for the draft on October 6, 1917. He lived in Hastings, Minnesota at the time. He had not registered for the draft earlier in the year as other men did because he was in Canada. George enlisted in December of 1917. George trained for the Navy at the Great Lakes Training Station in Illinois. He was mustered out of the service on March 28, 1919.

In 1920, George was living with his family in Marshan Township, Dakota County. He again worked as a farmer. George married a woman named Minnie in 1924. The couple adopted a three year-old son named John sometime before 1930. In 1930, the family was living in Hastings and George was working as a garage mechanic. As of 1942, George was living in Hastings and working at King Midas Mill. On February 17, 1945, George married Cora E. Lee. (It’s unclear if George and Minnie divorced or if she passed away.) George died on August 9, 1993 of natural causes. He was buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota.

Photo source: Dakota County in the World War