Herbert August Ehlers

Herbert Ehlers was born on December 16, 1890 in Castle Rock, Minnesota to Christian Ehlers (1845-1925) and Sophia Fiezler Ehlers (1848-1929). Both parents were immigrants from Germany. Herbert was one of at least 12 children. His father was a farmer and Herbert farmed until he enlisted. On May 31, 1917 he registered for the WWI draft in Farmington. He was 26 years old.

He enlisted on May 5, 1918 and was sent to Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina to train with the National Army, 53rd Infantry, 6th Division from May 11 to November 14, 1918. At some point he was transferred to the 7th Company Development, Battalion #2. He also spent about a month in the Base Hospital at camp, most likely due to the Spanish Flu Epidemic. The war ended and he did not go overseas. He was released from Camp Wadsworth on November 14, 1918.

He returned home to help his father on the farm until he married Doris Massing Huntington on April 6, 1922 in Montana, where she lived. They moved to Portland, Oregon by 1930 and lived there for the rest of their lives. Herbert was a home builder in Portland. He died in Vancouver, Washington at age 68. He is buried in the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

There is a souvenir pillow case from Camp Wadsworth that was donated to the Dakota County Historical Society. The attached card says “Left to Emma Ehlers Staph from her brother Herbert Ehlers from WWI”. DCHS Acc#2345.1