

Milburn Leroy Ellsworth



Milburn Leroy Ellsworth, sometimes known as Roy was born on August, 10, 1898 in Algona, Iowa to Milburn Homer Ellsworth (1875-1951) and Mildred (Mollie) Collinson Ellsworth (1878-1944). By 1910, the family is living in South St Paul, Minnesota where his Dad owns a furniture repair business. Roy enlisted early on June 23, 1916 at age 18. We were not able to find many details of his service but by the time most of his friends would have been required to register, he had already been promoted to a Corporal. He left for France on April 6, 1918 from Hoboken, New Jersey on the USS American with the Camp Cody Replacement Draft (2nd Company). He returned home on June 27, 1919 from Brest, France. The ship record called this small group of returning men “Brest Casual Company” which typically meant that they were disabled or sick but well enough to travel. Since he was not released until December 10, 1919 he must have spent the almost six months in the hospital, possibly at Camp Merritt, New Jersey at the Post Hospital. He was now a Sergeant. He may have moved to a different hospital at this time as the Post Hospital officially closed on January 1st and he not listed in the 1920 census.

In 1930, Roy is living in Beverly Hills, California. He is married to Louise M Gauthier Kane (1905-1958). He has two step-daughters and is working as a chauffeur. The marriage does not last and we find him next in 1937, working as a painter in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He may have been hospitalized again because there is no trace of him in the 1940 census. PTSD even though it wasn't named at this time effected many who experienced this psychological trauma during the war. Many suffered symptoms for the rest of their lives. These ranged from distressing memories that veterans found difficult to forget, to extreme episodes of terror when reminded of their trauma.

In 1942 when he registers for the WWII draft he is self-employed living back in South St Paul. He remarries on November 21, 1959 at the age of 61 to Catherine H Nichols. They are still married when he passes away on September 1, 1965 in St Paul. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in South St Paul.