Alvin John Entgelmeier

Alvin Entgelmeier was born on June 11, 1896 in Otter Tail County where his father had homesteaded. His parents were John F Entgelmeier (1861-1907) and Mollie Margaret Mercer Entgelmeier (1861-1929). When homesteading did not work out, the family moved to South St Paul, Minnesota where John was a police officer for seven years. This unlucky family would face many challenges in 1906 when several members became critically ill with Typhoid Fever. Alvin's father, John would die in 1907 from tuberculosis, leaving his mother Mollie, almost blind to raise the family. When Alvin was just 21, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

Alvin trained at Navy Yard, Mare Island, California. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment. They fought in the Battle of Belleau Wood, Soissons and the Meuse-Argonne campaigns. Their unit was twice awarded the French Croix de guerre and to this day, members of the Battalion still wear the French symbol on their uniforms. Following the Armistice, they were assigned to occupation duties in Germany, they guarded US Mail trains, until their return to Quantico, Virginia in July of 1919. The ship that took them home was the SS Troy. The photo describes the excitement as they sailed into the New York harbor. Alvin was officially released from the US Marine Corps on July 18, 1919. Alvin's mother volunteered for the Red Cross in South St Paul and his younger brother, Edward joined the Navy and while he didn't serve in WWI, he was enrolled as a student at the US Naval Academy and he served until his death in 1938. Alvin married Anna Lois Kirkwood (1901-1975) on June 18, 1921 in Prosser, Washington. They had four children. He came home in 1935 to help his brother, Eugene who would end up dying in 1937 from tuberculosis. Eugene had lived in the family home in South Park. Alvin worked as a millwright at lumber companies until his death at the age of 52 in Raymond, Washington and is buried at the Kelso Cemetery in Kelso, Washington.