Paul John Soberg

Paul John Soberg was born in Lakeville, Minnesota on 13 September 1894 to Peter Soberg (1848-1930) and Oline “Lena” Teppen (1854-1941), both immigrants from the Trysil Municipality of Norway. They were farmers in Lakeville, where the family attended the Christiania Lutheran Free Church.

Before the War, Paul worked on the farm and hunted and trapped during the fall. His older brother, Oscar Soberg, had joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces and died in battle in France in 1916, so this must have made quite an impression on Paul.

On 21 September 1917, Paul was inducted into the Army Infantry in Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he had been working on a farm. He immediately went into training to join action on the Western Front. On 21 September 1917 he arrived at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. He trained there until about November 1917, when he was sent to Camp Pike in Little Rock, Arkansas. During his time in training he served in the L.O.M. of the 352nd Infantry regiment. He then went on to gain experience in Headquarters Company in the 347th Infantry Regiment. After his training he was assigned to his combat assignment in Company E of the 38th Infantry Regiment which outfitted the 3rd Division. On 20 June 1918 Paul left for France from New York. After arriving in France, Paul immediately participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. It was in this offensive that Paul lost his life. On 12 October 1918 he was in the process of helping clear out machine gun nests when he was hit. He succumbed to his injury on the battlefield.

After the war Paul Soberg was buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. The Oscar and John Soberg VFW Post 210 in Lakeville was named in honor of the Soberg brothers. In 1933, their mother Lena Soberg went on one of the last U.S. Government-sponsored Gold Star Mothers’ Pilgrimages to visit the graves of her two sons, Oscar and Paul Soberg, who lost their lives in the War.