

## Benjamin Frederick Kist



Benjamin Frederick Kist was born 27 November 1892 in Henderson, Henderson County, Kentucky to Fred Kist and Margurit (Unknown).

Prior to the War, Benjamin worked as a clerk at Swift & Company in South St. Paul. He registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at age 24 while residing in South St. Paul with his aunt, Mrs. Louise Blauth.

He was inducted on 28 May 1918 at Hastings and served with the 44<sup>th</sup> Company, 166<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He trained at Camp Lewis, Washington before being transferred to

Camp Johnson, Florida with the 6<sup>th</sup> Holding Company. He was transferred to the 335<sup>th</sup> Butchery Company, 39<sup>th</sup> Division on 23 July 1918, and on 7 August 1918 he was promoted to sergeant.

He departed Newport News, Virginia aboard the USS *K Den Nederlanden*, arriving at Brest, France on 25 August. His transport list indicates the contact person as his “aunt, Mrs. Louise Blauth” living in South St. Paul. He first saw action on 24 September 1918 at LaRoche. He was at Camp Hospital #39 at LaRoche from 3 February to 6 February 1919, although he reports “no disability” on his service questionnaire. He returned to the U.S., departing from Bordeaux, France on 5 July 1919 aboard the USS *Floridian* with the Quarter Masters Company with rank of sergeant. He arrived at Brooklyn, New York on 15 July 1919 as part of Casual Co. No 1589 (New York).

Benjamin mustered out of service at Camp Dodge, Iowa and returned to South St. Paul, where he lived with his aunt and uncle at 236 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South. He worked in a meat market and did auto repair work. In the 1920 census, Benjamin Kist appears in Spokane, Washington, where he was working as a buyer and

salesman for a sausage factory. In 1922, he was listed as working in auto repair and lived in Saint Paul.

He married Sophia (1900-1972), and their first child was born in 1923 in Minnesota. By 1930, the family was in Salem, Oregon. He registered for the WWII draft in Portland, Oregon while working for Cooperative Radio Company in that city.

Benjamin died 15 August 1970 at age 78 at Marion, Oregon. He is buried at Belcrest Memorial Park in Salem, Marion County, Oregon.