

Ralph Airey

Ralph Airey was born in Whalley, Lancashire, England on 15 March 1895, the son of Mr. & Mrs. William Airey. He obtained a musical education in England, and came to the US as a teenager, In the 1920 census he said he arrived in 1911, but his obituary said he came at age 19, in 1915. Ralph arrived at the port of New York on 7 February 1912 on the SS Lusitania from Liverpool. He was 17, a clerk, born in Whalley, England, the son of Mr. W. S. Airey of Grange house, Whalley. He came to America and resided at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Lucas in Indianapolis, Ind., coming to Minnesota with the family in 1915.

He trained at Camp Cody before being sent to France. His service record says, "Served with Co C Battalion 163 DB from date of enlistment to 10/22/17 with Co G 135 Infantry 10/22/17 to 3/15/18; with Headquarters Co 135 Infantry 3/15/18 to 11/7/18 Headquarters 83rd Division 331st Infantry 11/7/18 to 11/27/18/ With Co E 331st Infantry 1/27/18 to 1/28/19 trans to Camp Dodge for discharge. Blue Chevron authorized. "His last service was as a Private 1st Class in Company E, 133rd Infantry, A. E. F. He was discharged at Camp Dodge, IA on 18 Feb 1919

In 1920 he is enumerated with Morton Lucas and wife in the census at Lakeville, Dakota County, MN, where Ralph was a farm hand. Ralph said he became a naturalized citizen in 1918. He was a member of the Lakeville VFW Post 210. In 1920, he moved to Alden, NY with the Smith family of Dakota County. Ralph married Miss Margaret Smith and together they had sons Donald, William, and Robert, all born in New York.

