

Thomas Barry

Thomas William Barry was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on September 8, 1900. He was one of six children of Edward Barry, an Irish immigrant, and Mary Alice (O'Leary). His father, Edward, worked for the South St. Paul stockyards. Prior to the War, Barry also worked at the South St. Paul stockyards and received military training at St. Thomas College.

Barry enlisted on May 3, 1917 at 16 years old. Barry probably misrepresented his birthdate on official records as October 24, 1899 in order to be "old enough" to enlist legally. He served as a Private in the 71st Company in the 7th Regiment of San Diego, California. However, he "rapidly" moved up the ranks from private to corporal to sergeant. Barry was mustered into service on May 17, 1917 and trained at Mare Island in Vallejo, California. He embarked with his Regiment to Cuba from Philadelphia on August 12, 1917 on the USS Prairie. They arrived at Guantanamo Bay on August 27, 1917. In March 1919, Barry received "sharpshooter qualification". Barry served in Cuba until August 31, 1919. Barry was mustered out of service on October 20, 1919 at Charleston, South Carolina.

After the war, Barry's job was at Armour & Co. in South St. Paul as a clerk. Thomas Barry married Helen Mary Morehead around 1925. By 1930, Barry was a purchase agent at Northern States Construction and a timekeeper at Sewer Contractors. He and Helen had five daughters together: Marry Louella (b. 1926), who died during infancy, Patricia Elaine (b. 1928), Kathleen Helen (b. 1929), Elizabeth Anne (b. 1931), and Eileen Marguerite (b. 1935). Barry also worked as an engineer for Sewer Construction Co. Unfortunately, Thomas Barry died in May of 1935 from lobar pneumonia and acute bronchitis due to exposure to damp surroundings and sewage from his work. Helen was an Insurance Department Worker and lived until 1993.