

Richard J. Bernier

Richard J. "Dick" Bernier was born on November 7, 1891 in Mendota, Minnesota. He was the seventh of nine children born to Esdras Bernier and Eugenia Auge Bernier. Esdras was born in 1850 in Lotbiniere, Quebec, Canada. He immigrated to Eagan Township in 1871. Eugenia was born in 1884 in Mendota. They owned and operated a general store in Mendota before moving to White Bear, MN in 1908. They opened a general store in White Bear as well. Prior to his military service, Richard worked at the family general store.

Richard Bernier registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He claimed exemption because he had to support his mother and was physically unfit. However, Richard started serving on May 28, 1918. Richard served in the 144th Depot Brigade, Battalion Headquarters of the Army. His rank was Corporal. He trained at Camp Lewis, Washington but there is no evidence to suggest he went overseas.

In 1920, Richard and his brother George were bachelors and lived as boarders in Bridget Hyne's house. In 1921, George and Richard opened a drug store known as Bernier Drug Company in Rosemount, MN. In 1923, George sold his stake in the drug store to Richard. In 1928, Richard sold the store to Vic Thune, a pharmacist there. Richard married a woman named Rose (maiden name unknown) some time before 1930. 1930, Richard and his wife Rose were renting at 1702 Hague Ave, St. Paul, MN. He was working as a manager at a retail oil station. In 1940, Richard and Rose lived in a Grand Avenue apartment in St. Paul, MN. He worked as a salesman for Bernier Motors in Rosemount (the family company). Richard was a member of the Rosemount American Legion Post 65. Richard died of cardiac arrest in May 1974 in St. Paul. He is buried at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

Photo: Richard is the one on the far left in white.

