

Paul J. David

Paul John David was born on August 30, 1888 in Minsk, Russia. His parents were John and Katherine David. David came to America in 1907, probably on his own. He listed a friend as his emergency contact on his military documents. Prior to his military service, he worked as a stockman for P.J. Kaye in South St. Paul. Both of David's parents were in Russia at the time of his induction and he apparently had no relatives in the United States.

David registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He resided in South St. Paul at the time. David did not respond when called in February 1918 and was thought to be a slacker. The sheriff picked him up at a job site in Wisconsin and it was determined that he was willing to serve and just did not realize he was supposed to report. He was allowed to proceed to Camp Dodge without guard. David's military service officially began on April 8, 1918. David trained at Camp Mills and Camp Dodge. Then, David travelled overseas and saw battle at Vosges Sector, St. Mihiel, Argonne-Meuse, France. He served with Company F, 138th Infantry, Division 35 of the U.S. Army. His rank was Private. He was mustered out of the service on July 10, 1919 at Camp Grant.

After the war, David became a naturalized citizen in July 1919 in Illinois. Then, he returned to Minnesota and married Flossie Caster sometime in the 1920s. Unfortunately, she was admitted to the Rochester State Hospital in 1928, possibly for chorea. After 10 years in Rochester, Flossie was transferred to Moose Lake State Hospital in 1938. She died of cerebral arteriosclerosis in 1944 at the age of 51. David lived most of his life in St. Paul working at the stockyards and various other jobs. He died of a heart attack in 1962 at the age of 73. His usual occupation listed on his death certificate was as a busboy in a restaurant. He was buried at Fort Snelling.