



Luther Lorenzo Ellsworth

Luther Ellsworth was born on February, 10, 1893 in Randolph, Minnesota to Luther Lorenzo Sr (1846-1908) and Cora Lee Hitchings (1855-1936). His father was born in New York and his mother in Maine. The family farmed in Randolph. When Luther registers for the draft on June 6, 1917 at the age of 24, his father had died and he was helping his mother on the farm as well as working for Northern States Power. He was drafted and assigned to Company A of the 56th Engineers. The Engineers were responsible for building port facilities, roads and railroads essential to moving equipment to the battlefronts. They also harvested timber and operated searchlights. Searchlights were first used in the War to create “artificial moonlight” to enhance opportunities for night attacks by reflecting searchlight beams off the bottoms of clouds. Company A left from Jefferson Barracks for Hoboken where they set sail on March 6, 1918 for Bordeaux, France. They were stationed at Fort Valerien, Paris. They participated in two major campaigns, St Mihiel on September 12th and Meuse-Argonne. They were on the left bank of the Moselle River, the nearest American military unit to Metz,

and were preparing to attack towards Metz when the Armistice was signed and the war was over.

They spent the next several months constructing and operating telephone lines for railroad operation. They received orders to return to the United States and left France from St Nazaire.

He was released on March 1, 1919 as a Private First Class.

He returned to Randolph, Minnesota, lived at home and was a draftsman at Paun Construction Company in 1920. By 1930 he is married, owned his home and was an Electrical Engineer in DuPage, Illinois. He married Ann Elizabeth Butler Augsburger (1885-1979) on September 17, 1923. Together they raised her children and their own. For 30 years he worked for Pioneer Service & Engine Company of Chicago as an Electrical Design Engineer. He died at the Rochelle Community Hospital in Rochelle, Illinois where the family lived on August 23, 1975.

He is buried at the Lawnridge Cemetery in Rochelle.