

Blaso “Mike” Miljanovich (Miganovich)



Blaso M. Miljanovich was born 25 March 1893 in Gradina, Principality of Montenegro and came to the United States in 1914, after having served 2-1/2 months in an infantry unit in Europe. He came to South St. Paul, perhaps to avoid war, and to find work as a laborer in Swift & Company’s meat packing house. He registered as an alien when the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety required all non-citizens to report in February 1918. He said he had a relative, Elia Miljanovich, serving in the army in Montenegro, and that he owned a house and lot at 244 2nd Avenue South. He claimed to have immigrated to the U.S. on 6 June 1914 at New York, but a record could not be found. (It is possible that he is the Vaso Miljanovich who immigrated in 1913.) He was single and apparently had no relatives in South St. Paul.

Miljanovich was drafted in May 1918 and sent to the front lines in France. He served in Company E of the 127th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Division. He was wounded during the Meuse-Argonne offensive as his division attacked the Hindenburg Line. He died of his wounds on 17 October 1918 and was buried at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery.

U.S. military records list him as Blaso “Mike” Miganovich. However, his signature on his 1917 draft registration card at South St. Paul appears as “Miljanovich.”