



John Peter Fasbender

John Fasbender was born on September 10, 1887 in Hastings, Minnesota to Peter Fasbender (1848-1916) and Katherine Brigetta Freiermuth Fasbender (1856-1939). His father Peter was born in Germany and his mother Martha was born in Wisconsin. An early settler to the Hastings area, Peter owned a grocery store. The couple had 13 children.

John was working as a mailman and had previously worked for his father in the grocery store when he registered for the mandatory draft on June 5, 1917. He was 29 years old. Instead of waiting for the outcome, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the Navy Recruiting Station in Minneapolis as a Musician (Drummer) on July 20, 1917. He was sent to train at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. He spent six days in the Naval Hospital on the base shortly after he arrived. This was not due to the Spanish Influenza that hit this station hard in

September of 1918. By October 10th 3,500 people at the station would be stricken and many died. John was on the USS Charleston by this time. The USS Charleston was considered a protected cruiser (C2), the second in U.S. history. She was built in the United States. The protected class meant that she had only a minimal amount of armor compared to armored cruisers. She was designed to be fully operational on her own unlike a destroyer that are designed to work together with other ships. John was onboard this ship when it carried the first troops of the American Expeditionary Force to France on June 14, 1917. Her next voyage was on August 16, 1917 for Havana, Cuba where she supervised the sailing in tow of several former German ships to New Orleans. She next escorted a convoy from Cristobal to Bermuda where she rendezvoused with a group of British transports, guarding their passage to Hampton Roads. This is most likely where John was wounded, an injury that later his family would say was the reason for his early death. The ship spent the next several months transporting troops to and home from France. He was finally released on August 18, 1919.



John returned home to Minnesota and helped his mother, who was now a widow with the grocery store. He married Veronica Schaffer on September 5, 1921 and the couple moved to Shakopee. They had one daughter when John became seriously ill the end of July in 1924. He was taken to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota but died a week later on August 4, 1924. He is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota.

John also had a brother that served in WWI. Doctor Herman Fasbender enlisted in the Medical Corps Reserve S.A.T.C. He lost a son in WW2 who also served in the U.S. Navy.