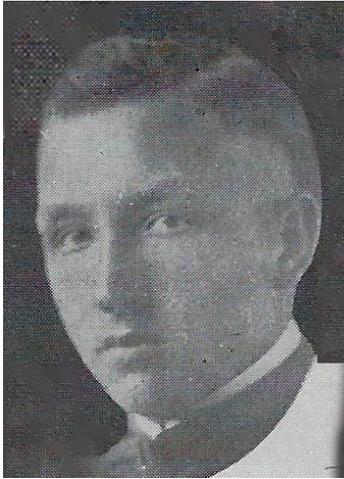


## David George Hardman



David Hardman was born in Fairmount, Minnesota on June 21, 1895 to David Henry Hardman (1866-1933) and Anna Bertha Ackermann (1872).

David's Dad owned a poultry farm and later worked as a butcher at the stock yards in South St Paul, Minnesota. His Mom worked as a telephone operator for a department store. Like his father, David was working for the stock yards when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was 21 and living in South Park, South St Paul. He was drafted and assigned to Company H, 160<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 40<sup>th</sup> Division on May 28, 1918. He was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington to train. Camp Lewis was established as the training camp for the 91<sup>st</sup>

“Wild West” Infantry  
Division of the National

Army (National Guard) which was comprised of inducted men from at least 14 states. He left for France, from Brooklyn, New York in August of 1918 on the SS Nestor. When he arrived in France, he was reassigned to the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division, Company H. The 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was best known for the experiences of several of its companies, including Company H, which formed part of the "Lost Battalion" after becoming isolated behind German lines in an attack on the Argonne Forest in October 1918. On October 18, 1918 parts of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> were sent to an undefended gap between the German and American lines that was actually a deep ravine known as the “pocket”. It was located on the edge of the Argonne Forest near the Aisne River in North East France. Considered Impregnable, the Argonne Forest was a natural stronghold. There they were met with stiff resistance. Then they lost their communication link and were trapped. They held their position in the “gap” without food or water for six full days as they continued to fight. With the capture of this key tactical location, the American forces were able to accomplish what the British and French had not been able to do in four years.



DAVID G. HARDMAN  
*Former mayor, alderman*

He was reassigned to Company A of the 321<sup>st</sup> Infantry, 81<sup>st</sup> Division while still in France. He returned to America on the SS Manchuria on June 9, 1919. They land in Newport News, Virginia and he is discharged on June 27, 1919 from Camp Stuart as a Corporal.

David returned home to South St Paul, Minnesota and returned to his job at the stock yards where he was a cattle buyer Armour & Company several years before starting his own company doing the same. He was Mayor of South St Paul for ten years (1955 to 1965) and City Alderman for two terms. David married Mae Donohue (1899-1992) and they had four daughters. David died on April 1, 1972 at the age of 76. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in South St Paul, Minnesota.