



Herman Henry Hinderks

Herman Hinderks was born on June 11, 1894 in Shakopee, Minnesota to Conrad Joseph Hinderks (1843-1917) and Margaretha Elizabeth Luebers Hinderks (1857-1929). His father was a farmer and the family lived in South Dakota and Minnesota (Scott and Dakota County). They had five boys and three girls.

Herman registered for the WWI draft from in South St Paul, Minnesota on June 5, 1917 at the age of 22. He was working in Houghlin, South Dakota at the time as a farmhand. He was drafted and enlisted on May 28, 1918. He was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington to train with the 160th Infantry, 40th Division, Company H. Camp Lewis was established as the training camp for the 91st "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 308th Infantry, 77th Division. The 308th 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 40th and 77th 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 NE 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. Herman was wounded in action and sent home before his own unit was. On March 26, 1919 he left Brest, France on the USS Leviathan with Camp Dodge Detachment 12B and the 337th Infantry. He was released on April 22, 1919. He returned home and lived with his widowed Mother and sister.

Herman married Anna M Posch (1902-1959) on November 20, 1928. The couple had one daughter. Herman worked at the stock yards in South St Paul, Minnesota as a livestock salesman until he retired. He died on July 5, 1971 at the age of 77. He is buried at Resurrection Cemetery in South St Paul.

Four of the five Hinderks Brothers would serve in World War One: Conrad Joseph at age 28, Frank Bernard at age 22, Herman Henry at age 23 and Joseph Nicholas at age 26. Sergeant Conrad Francis Hinderks (1919-1943), 23 year old son of Joseph & Lucy Hinderks would die serving his County in World War II.

He received the Purple Heart and is buried in Nettuno, Italy.

