



John Peter Illigen

John Illigen was born on November 9, 1893 in Hastings, Minnesota to Anton Illigan (1852-1924) and Katherine Stotzheim Illigen (1859-1844). His father had emigrated from Germany and was a miller at the flour mill in town. Other than the short time in the service, John lived his entire life in Hastings in the same house. He registered for the WWI Draft on June 5, 1917 in St Paul, Minnesota at the age of 23. He was working as a bookkeeper for Noyes Bros & Cutler. He was required to leave almost immediately for Camp Dodge, Iowa. The Camp had been quickly established to serve as a training camp for the 88th Division. John was assigned to the 163rd Brigade Depot, Casual Attachment #24. They would become the base unit for the 88th Division which processed draftees and basic training. Camp Dodge processed about 21,622 inducted men during the War. He was transferred to the 341st and to

Camp Houston, Texas where he became a Supply Sergeant for the Machine Gun Company. He was about to be deployed when the Armistice was signed so he never served overseas. He was mustered out on December 31, 1918 as a Sergeant.

John returned home to Hastings where he worked in several occupations including the King Midas Flour Mill, a carpenter and towards the end of his young life, he operated a milk delivery service for the Hastings Coop Creamery. His father died in 1924 and John and his sister Marie, who was a teacher supported their mother and sister. When John died at the age of 39, Marie had to quit her job to stay home and care for her handicapped mother. She opened a small store in the front of their home at 315 West 6th Street, thinking it would be temporary. She had no idea at the time that this store would support her family for the next forty-one years. John died on May 23, 1933 at Fort Snelling Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis. He is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota. Marie made application for a military stone but never used the benefit.

John was very active in the American Legion Post and was at one time the Commander. He was also a member of the National Guard as Supply Sergeant.