



Walter Hollis Shepard

Walter Shepard was born on October 25, 1888 in Crystal Spring, North Dakota to Joseph Hollis Shepard Senior (1866-1924) and Amelia Anne Nather Shepard (1864-1963). He was one of eight children. His father was a farmer, born in Illinois and his mother was from Vienna, Austria. The family moved to Inver Grove, Minnesota and then to South St Paul. By age 21, Walter had become a taxidermist and was living at home. On June 5, 1917, Walter registered for the WWI Draft in South St Paul. He was 29. He was now working as a teamster for Swift & Company and decided to enlist in the National Guard instead of waiting to see if he would be drafted.

Walter enlisted on September 21, 1917. He was sent for training at Camp Cody, New Mexico and became part of the Replacement Draft. He shipped out from the Boston harbor on June 29, 1918 and then went to Halifax, Canada. They left Halifax on the 4th of July on an old Australian cattle boat. It took fourteen days to get to London, England. From there they went to Southampton and took a boat across the channel to Havre, France. He was assigned to Company A, 59th Infantry, 4th Division. He was injured twice in the war, both times in the right leg. The first injury resulted in gangrene and he almost lost his leg. The second injury was to the same leg when he was hit by machine gun fire. He was sent home from Brest, France on the USS President Grant on January 1, 1919 with many other bed ridden soldiers. They endured a terrible storm at sea and arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey on January 18th. He was taken to the Embarkation Hospital on Ellis Island, where he spent about two weeks. After this he was either transferred to Fort Snelling Military hospital or he was sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa to be released. He was not completely discharged until April 7, 1920.

He was married on November 8, 1921 to Emma Sheimo (1887-1963) in Chippewa, Minnesota where the bride lived. He was 33. They moved to a house in South St Paul, Minnesota on 11th Avenue where his two brothers lived on the same block. He worked for a while as a carpenter and in 1930 opened his own taxidermy business. By 1940, he is listed as a disabled veteran. He died on December 31, 1951 in Dakota County at the age of 64. He is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery in South St Paul, Minnesota.