



## Arthur Carl Swanson

Arthur Swanson was born March 20, 1890 in South Park, South St Paul, Minnesota to Carl John Swanson (1864-1908) and Gustava Sophia Linderot Swanson (1864-1947). Both of his parents were born in Sweden. His father worked as a laborer in a foundry and died when Arthur was eighteen years old. When he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 he was working as a clerk in a hardware store in South Park. He was 27. He was drafted and sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa to train. He was assigned to the 87<sup>th</sup> Division of the Regular Army, Headquarters Company, 312<sup>th</sup> Engineers and was sent to train at the Quartermaster School for Bakers and Cooks at Camp Pike, Arkansas.

Camp Pike was hit especially hard by the Spanish Flu Epidemic and was converted to the National Guard after WWI. The National Guard here were utilized when a race war broke out in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1920. Arthur was held over or possibly re-enlisted. He was released on April 21, 1920 as a Sergeant First Class.

Arthur returned home to South St Paul where his mother was a widow. He worked as a clerk in the Post Office for a while and then for Twin City Ordinance Plant in Rosemount, Minnesota. He married Mable Marie Ollom (1906-1987) in about 1924 and the couple had two daughters. In 1942 Arthur took a job in Pasco, Washington working for the Dupont Company in the Manhattan Project. The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during WWII that produced the first nuclear weapons. Arthur was one of the civilians working on the project. The Military had reopened Camp Upton to be used as barracks for these men. On Memorial Day, May 31, 1943 Arthur died in a fire that broke out in the barracks. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in South St Paul, Minnesota.

Arthur had a younger brother, Elmer John Swanson that also served in WWI.