

## Major Rudolph Henry Wald

Rudolph Wald was born in Boston, Massachusetts on September 20, 1860 to John Henry Wald (1836-1886) and Josephine Stecher Wald (1836-1886) in Boston, Massachusetts. Both parents emigrated from Germany. John was listed as a carpenter, a grocer and he owned a greenhouse. Rudolph was an only child. In 1900 he was attending Harvard Medical School, living in a boarding house with other students.

He did his residency at Salem Hospital in Boston, now called the North Shore Medical Center and graduated in 1904. He married Cora Irene Somersall in Boston on Christmas Eve 1907. The couple moved to Hastings, Minnesota where Rudolph was in private practice. Both of his children were born in Hastings, John in 1908, who became an actor and Josephine in 1916. When Josephine was just over a year old, he was called to active duty to serve in WWI.

Rudolph enlisted on September 7, 1917. He was sent to the Officer Medical Training Camp at Fort Riley, Kansas. Originally assigned to the 137<sup>th</sup> Division he was transferred to the 138<sup>th</sup> and sent to France on May 2, 1918. His official title was Commissioned Captain Medical Corps but he was a Regimental Surgeon that led six medical officers, three dentists, one Chaplain and a full medical detachment. In France was assigned to follow the 110<sup>th</sup> Field Signal Battalion, 35<sup>th</sup> Division as they fought on the front. The detachment carried all hospital and infirmary equipment with them and they set up wherever they could find a somewhat sheltered location. He returned home, leaving from Brest, France on the SS Rotterdam on July 14, 1919. Now promoted to the rank of Major. After the war, Rudolph was asked to participate in post graduate work at the University and hospital in London, England. Since he would be leaving again on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, his family came to New York to see him. When this program ended, Rudolph accepted a job as Physician of Armour & Company in South St Paul. The family lived in St Paul, Minnesota where son John attended Mechanic Arts High School. He once again went into private practice by 1927 until he retired. He died in California while visiting his daughter Josephine where her husband was a radio broadcaster. He is buried at St Luke's Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota with his wife.

For some unknown reason, Rudolph used a date of birth that varied but was about 10 younger than he actually was. His parents were married in Boston in 1859. The 1860 census lists him as one month old but he used 1870, 1871 and 1872. No photo could be found.