



Frank William Yanz

Frank Yanz was born on August 23, 1896 in Hastings, Minnesota to William J Yanz (1867-1943) and Anna Mae Volk Yanz (1867-1916). Frank was one of ten children born into a family of early pioneers in Hastings. His grandfather Frank owned several businesses and buildings in the downtown area and his father William was the Superintendent of the Hastings State Asylum. When his mother died in 1916, the family lived at the hospital for a few years. Frank was working there when he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 at the age of 21. He was drafted and sent to Camp Dodge to train with the 135th Machine Gun Company of the 37th Division. He was sent to France with this unit but transferred to the 269th Military Police Department when he arrived. The complexity of warfare during WWI required a corps of specially-trained soldiers to handle the massive numbers of prisoners of war and control the movement of the troops and supplies in the zones of operation. The Military Police Training Department was established in Autun, France. Because this service was needed long after the war ended, he did not receive orders to return to the United States until September 9, 1919. He sailed home on the USS Mercury from Brest, France. He was released on September 28, 1919 almost a year after the Armistice Agreement was signed. Frank returned to Hastings and married Gertrude E Fasbender (1890-1978) on June 20, 1922.

Frank and Gertrude raised five children in Hastings. He was an Insurance Agent for Prudential until the 1940's when he became a Dakota County Sheriff. He died at the Veterans Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota on July 17, 1972 at the age of 76. He is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery.