

George Carl Koernig



George Carl Koernig was born 13 February 1887 or 1888 in St. Paul, Minnesota to German immigrants, Adolph Koernig and Wilhelmine “Minnie” Strohschneider (born about 1863). George attended Wilson Elementary School in South Park. The family lived at 595 Annapolis Street on the border between South St. Paul and St. Paul. Adolph was a carpenter, and George followed in that trade. George had sisters, Martha, Agnes and Clara.

George Koernig registered for the draft at South St. Paul on 5 June 1917. He was inducted into the Army in May 1918. He served as a private in Company H, 308th Infantry Regiment, 77th Division, part of what would become known as the “Lost Battalion” during heavy fighting in France.

Of the nine companies that made up the Lost Battalion, six (A, B, C, E, G, and H companies) were part of the 308th Infantry Regiment. The other two regiments were the 307th Infantry Regiment (K Company) and the 306th Machine Gun Battalion (companies C and D). Of the 554 men who made up the Lost Battalion, roughly 197 of them were killed, 150 of them taken prisoner or are MIA, and 194 of them were rescued.

George Koernig was killed in action in the Argonne Forest in France on 8 October 1918. He was initially buried in France, but in 1921 his remains were repatriated to the U.S., and were re-interred following a military ceremony at Riverview Cemetery in St. Paul.