

## Benjamin “Bennie” Kuhl



Bennie Kuhl was born on 4 October 1889 in Waupun, Dodge County, Wisconsin and was baptized under the name “Benjamin Ferdinand Herman K uhl.” His parents were Herman Kuhl, sometimes spelled Kuehl, (1861-1932) and Auguste Karstadt (1863-1892), both born in Germany. After Auguste died, Herman married Margaret, who was Bennie’s stepmother. The family was in Inver Grove, Dakota County, by 1905.

Bennie registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 in Inver Grove. He was 27 years old, single, and working as a car repairer for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company.

He enlisted 16 March 1918 at Hastings, Minnesota and was sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa for training. He may have been initially assigned to Company 19, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 163<sup>rd</sup> Depot Brigade. However, from 26 April 1918 until 6 June 1918, Bennie was hospitalized in camp for rheumatism. Therefore he was assigned as a private to Company C, Development Battalion #1, and did not go to Europe. The development battalions were temporary training assignments for men who were unfit for service, typically because of an injury, disability or disease. He was discharged in good physical condition on 1 December 1918.

After the War, Bennie returned to live with his father and stepmother in Inver Grove Heights, also returning to his work as a car repairer for the railroad. His father Herman and his brother, also named Herman, also worked for the railroad. But by 1940, Bennie became unemployed. He was still not working in 1942 when he registered for the WWII draft. It appears that he remained single throughout his life.

Bennie Kuhl died 17 November 1956 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

