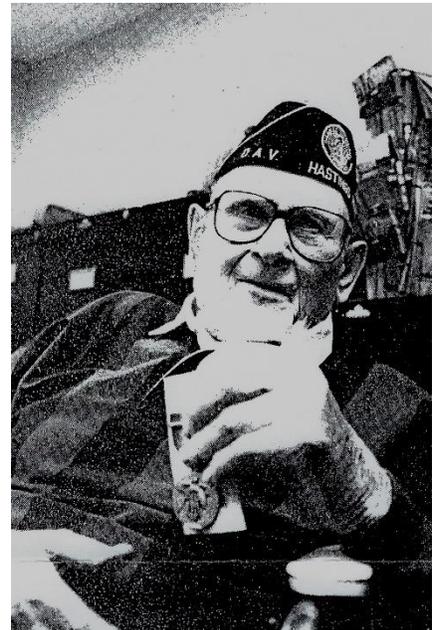# Arthur Louis Kummer

Arthur Kummer was born on November 2, 1894 in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin to Nicholas Kummer (1859-1937) and Theresa Weiss Kummer (1865-1947). Arthur's father was a farmer and his parents were both born in Wisconsin. In 1916, at the age of 21 he was working on a farm in Miesville where he met his wife at a dance. Marriage would have to wait however because America was at war. Arthur registered for the draft on June 6, 1917 and by September he had enlisted and was on his way to Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was then sent to Camp Cody, New Mexico to train with the 109th Engineers, 34th Division as a Sergeant. The Sandstorm Division.

On September 17, 1918, the unit sailed for Europe from Camp Dix, Hoboken, New Jersey on the SS Fredic. They spent eleven days at sea, constantly watching for German submarines. They were never fired upon however the Spanish flu hit the ship hard and about dozen men were buried at sea. They arrived in Liverpool, England on September 29, 1918, too late to be sent to the front. Instead they went to work building hospitals and roads until June 16, 1919 when they received their orders to head home. He was mustered out of the service on July 2, 1919 from Camp Dodge, Iowa.

Returning home, he married Helena (Lena) Mary Gerlach (1899-1998) at St Joseph's Church in Miesville, Minnesota on October 19, 1919. Their first son was born in 1920. The couple would have six children. One, a little girl would die from Pneumonia at 7 months. He would farm his entire life. In 1988, Arthur was presented with a special award by the French Government for services rendered to France during the War. In November of 1993, he was once again recognized. This time he received the 75th Anniversary World War I Commemorative Medal. He was living at Regina Senior Center at the time. He was 99 years old and was one of the last few veterans in Minnesota who was still living.

Arthur died on April 30, 1994 at the age of 99 at Regina Hospital in Hastings. He is buried in the St Joseph Church Catholic Cemetery in Miesville, Minnesota.

Arthur had an older brother that also served in WWI. Frank Kummer was with the 343rd Infantry (Ambulance & Field Hospital) 86th Division, Company C.