

George Joseph Lucking



George Joseph Lucking was born 4 October 1895 in Marshan Township in Dakota County and resided at Hastings as an adult. He was third eldest child of Mathias Lucking (1867-1960) and Margaret Holtgrove (alternatively Holtgrewe or Hockgraver in some records), farmers, and had four brothers and four sisters. George Lucking registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at Hastings.

He was inducted into the Army on 27 February 1918 with a large number of other local men who were sent to Camp Dodge for training. Lucking was transferred to Camp Upton, New York and assigned to Battery B, 305th Field Artillery of the American Expeditionary Forces, and sent to France about two months after his induction. He was a second gunner. Lucking died on 20 August 1918 of wounds received in action the previous day. His parents were notified by telegram one month later.

Lucking's remains were initially buried in France. In 1921, the remains of George Lucking were returned to Hastings. They were identified by Drs. Peck and Olson by a reset broken leg from when he was a boy and from dental work. The body was placed in the courthouse, where it lay in state before military funeral services were held, a huge procession flowing from the courthouse to St. Boniface Church, and afterwards Lucking's remains were laid to rest at St. Boniface Cemetery (now St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery) in Hastings.