

Ben Luke Marschall

Ben Luke Marschall (occasionally listed as Benjamin L.) was born 4 September 1896 in Vermillion Township, Dakota County, Minnesota to German immigrants, Heinrich “Henry” R. Marschall (1867-1901) and Maria “Mary” Klotz (1874-1928). Ben’s siblings were Charles, Nicholas (also a WWI vet) and Regina. His father died in 1901.

Prior to the War, Ben worked for P. J. Klein in Hampton.

Ben registered for the draft on 5 June 1918 at Hampton when he was 21 years old. He was inducted on 19 September 1918 at Hastings and served as a private in the National Army Infantry. He was assigned to the Student Army Training Corps (SATC) at Dunwoody Military Institute in Minneapolis.

During WWI, Dunwoody trained 8,683 men for military mechanical and technical positions including courses in radio telegraphy and aviation mechanics. Students were required to live and take all meals on campus. The men were all considered officially enlisted on the date they entered. It took several months to build these programs to meet the Army requirements. When they were finally ready in October of 1918 the war abruptly ended on November 11th and orders were received to close all of the programs across the county, including Dunwoody. Ben was discharged from service on 9 December 1918 at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

After the War, Ben married Viola M. Bray (1902-1968) in about 1929. She worked as an office clerk in a department store and he repaired cars, according to the 1930 census. At that time they were living in South Minneapolis in Hennepin County. Their daughter, Beverly Ann (1938-1996) was born in 1938. By 1942, when Ben registered for the WWII draft, they were living at 2812 36th Avenue South in Minneapolis, where he was employed by the Archer Daniels Midland Company.

Ben Marschall died 14 January 1985 in Hennepin County at the age of 88. He is buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

