

Donald Duncan Nesbitt



Donald Nesbitt was born on July 10, 1899 in Hastings, Minnesota to Arthur Clayton Nesbitt Senior (1860-1929) and Katherine Ryan Nesbitt (1871-1959). His father was a police officer and worked for the flour mill in Hastings. His parents separated and Donald lived with his Mother. He was working for Hudson Spray Factory in Hastings and age 19 when he elected to enlist in the US Army Student Training Corps (SATC) at the University of Minnesota on October 12, 1918. The University of Minnesota trained 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. They lived in fraternity houses on University Avenue. 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 the University of Minnesota.

Donald returned to Hastings where he would work at the Spray Factory until he died at age 41. He married Helen Harwell in 1924 and the couple had four children. They would divorce and in 1940, the family of five is living with Donald's mother in Hastings when Donald dies. He is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery.