Abner Rude

Abner Rude was born to a Minnesota native and a Norwegian Immigrant on February 4th, 1898. He was born in Sacred Heart Minnesota and later moved with his family to Saint Paul Minnesota. Before he joined the service he worked in the agricultural industry and as a bridge connector. He was also an active member in the Norwegian Lutheran Church.

On April 25th, 1917 at the age of 19 Abner joined the army and was assigned to be an artillery man. He was assigned to the Jefferson Barracks in Saint Louis Missouri where he stayed from April 25th to May 1st. He then was transferred to Port Adams in Newport Rhode Island where he stayed from May first until September 1st. During Abner's training and military service he outfitted the Company B of the 42nd Artillery Battalion and Company K of the 52nd Artillery Battalion. At his time of death he was serving with Company K of the 52nd Artillery Battalion. He received a fatal shock that caused a serious concussion that led to his death. His untimely death occurred on August 6th, 1918 while fighting in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France. At the age of 20 Abner Rude was the first Saint Paul man to die fighting in France against the Germans.

His body was removed from the battlefield and promptly shipped home for a burial service. After Abner arrived in New York he was met by VFW members from the Masonic Temple in Saint Paul and was escorted along his journey home. After Abner was escorted back to Saint Paul he was laid in state at the Masonic Temple under military guard until his funeral service. He was finally laid to rest in Oak Hill Cemetery with full military honors which included a band, all servicemen from Saint Paul that could attend in full dress, and a firing squad. When Abner's father and mother received the flag that had been draped over their son's casket they stated, "Mr. Rude said he will erect a flagstaff in front of his home and fly the flag on all holidays." In recognition of Abner Rude's ultimate sacrifice the Veterans of Foreign Wars named Post 481 in South Saint Paul in his honor.