George John Illa

George Illa was born on April 2nd, 1899, to John Illa (1861-1954) and Mary Illa (1866-1929) in Marshan Township, Minnesota. He was the sixth of nine children. His brothers Francis and Alfred also served in WWI. Prior to WWI, George worked as a butter maker at the Hastings Creamery.

He registered for the draft on September 12th, 1918, and enlisted into the Army 3rd Co, 2nd Regiment, S.A.T.C. at the University of Minnesota as a Private on October 11th, 1918. He trained at Camp Pike in Pulaski, Arkansas. George was never sent overseas and was discharged on December 15th, 1918.

After his military service, George lived with his parents in Hastings and worked first as an oiler at a flour mill and then a laborer at an implement factory. He married Emma Brunner (1898-1985) on June 16th, 1931, in Hennepin County. By the year 1935, George and Emma moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he worked at the Main Post Office. They had two children: Marian Illa, born in 1932, and Charlotte Illa, born in 1933. George died at the age of 80 on August 18th, 1979, in Parma Heights, Ohio. He was buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Brook Park, Ohio.

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