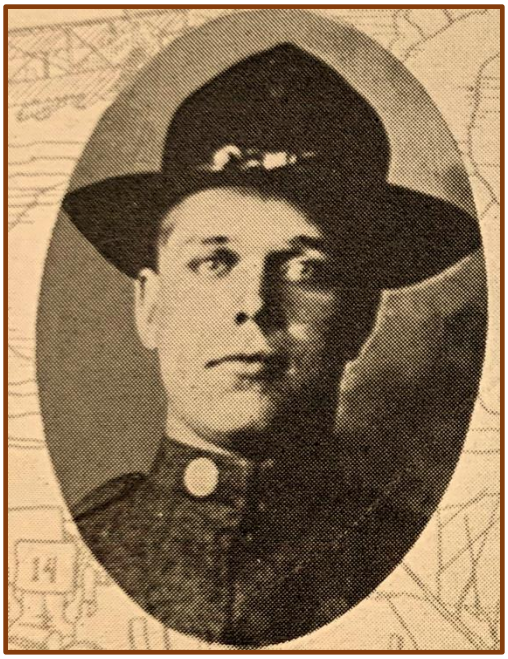
Elmer Ferdinand ("Emmet") Johnson



Elmer Ferdinand Johnson was born 16 April 1896 to Victor Johnson (1864-1931) and Augusta Caroline Berg (1867-1935). They were Swedish; Victor's family had been in Hastings since 1870. Children of Victor and Augusta were William, Fred V., Jessie, Elsie E., Pearl L., Elmer F., Clara M., and Oliver. Elmer's father, Victor, worked as a brick layer.

When Elmer registered for the draft on 5 June 1917, he was single, age 21, and living in Hastings. He enlisted on 13 December 1917 and served with the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Corps, Service Park Unit 416 and Motor Transport Company 413. The Motor Transport Corps (M.T.C.) was formed out of the United States Army Quartermaster Corps on 15 August 1918, by General Order No. 75. US Army Transport documents show that Pvt Elmer F Johnson left New York City on the USS *Ulua* with the rest of Service Park Unit 416 on 12 November 1918. His emergency contact was his father, at 745 W 4th Street in Hastings. During the War, he was part of a Service Park, an organization under the Motor Transport Corps that operated a mostly mobile vehicle repair workshop in combat zones. Elmer returned home a Sgt 1st Class on the USS Pueblo, sailing from Brest, France on 3 July 1919, returning to Brooklyn on July 13. He was mustered out of service on 22 July 1919.

After he returned from the war, Elmer rented a room at 136 W 4th Street in St. Paul. He was 23 years old, single, and worked as a timekeeper, per the 1920 census. Two years later he married Mabel Lorraine Madsen (1903-1987). At the time of the 1930 census, Elmer and Mabel owned a house at 1751 Fauquier Street in St. Paul (now Bush Ave). Elmer was working as a salesman at a wholesale glass company. No children were listed as living with the couple. By 1940, Elmer and Mabel had bought a house at 555 S. Saratoga in St Paul. Elmer was the head of an advertising company.

When the WWII drafts began, Elmer registered on 27 April 1942. His place of residence was still 555 S. Saratoga in St Paul. He was 46 years old, and worked at Johnson Advertising Company at 118 West Central Avenue, St. Paul. He listed as his emergency contact as William E. Madsen (his father-in-law) of 1707 Bayard Ave.

Elmer died on 25 August 1986 in Hennepin County, Minnesota and is buried in Acacia Park Cemetery in Mendota Heights. The grave marker shows his name as “E. F. (Emmet) Johnson,” and shows a Shiner’s emblem and a cross. Mabel L. is buried next to him. His Findagrave listing notes involvement in the Mystic Shrine in Minnesota.