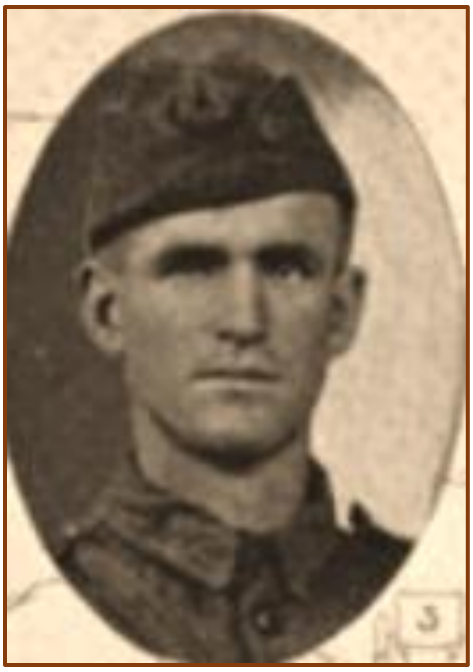
Milton John Karnick



Milton John Karnick was born 29 July 1894 in Basswood Grove, an unincorporated community in Denmark Township in Washington County, Minnesota. His parents were Frank J. Karnick (1859-1938) and Cora Belle Bush (1870-1936); they were farmers and raised nine children: Amelia, Clinton, Milton, Anabel, William, Laura, Frank, Mary, and Ruth.

Before the War, Milton lived in Hastings in nearby Dakota County, where he was engaged in farming with his father. He registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at Hastings under the name of John Milton Karnick. He was 22 years old.

According to the military service questionnaire he completed for the State of Minnesota's War Records Commission, Milton was inducted into the service on 26 February 1918 at Hastings as a private in the Infantry section of the National Army. He was originally assigned to Company F, 352nd Regiment, 88th Division. He went to Camp Dodge, Iowa for training from 28 February to 11 April 1918. He was then transferred to Company E, 139th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division on 15 April 1918 and was trained at Camp Mills, Long Island, New York, after which he was sent to Europe. He embarked on 25 April 1918 on the SS *Adriatic* and arrived in Liverpool on 7 May 1918. He first went into action on 25 September 1918 at Meuse-Argonne. He remained overseas until April 1919, arriving back in the U.S. at Newport News, Virginia on 24 April 1919. He was discharged from service at Camp Grant, Illinois on 2 May 1919. His rank was private first class.

After the War, Milton reported that he returned to civil life under much the same conditions as before. He lived in Hastings and married Helen Katherine Meier (1897-1976) of Dakota County on 26 August 1919. They had eight children: Leona, Evelyn, Marvin, Irving, Clarence, Harry, Delores and Donna Mae. Milton made a living as a farmer. In the 1920 and 1930 censuses, Milton and Helen lived in Nininger Township in Dakota County. In 1940 they were living in Rosemount.

Milton John Karnick died 22 June 1967 at age 72 in South St. Paul, Minnesota. He is buried in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery in Hastings.