

***WORLD WAR I REMEMBERED:
MINNESOTA LAW & LORE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
“WAR TO END ALL WARS”***



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Presented to Minnesota Judicial Center
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COUNTING CENTENARIANS

Total in World:	450,000 (U. N. estimate)
Total in U.S.:	72,197 (2016)
Increase since 2000:	44%
% of Men/Women:	17% / 83%
% of U.S. Population:	.22%
Total in Minnesota:	1,211 (2010)
% of State Population:	.23%

CASUALTY COUNT

- Worldwide:** 36,000,000
20,000,000 deaths
16,000,000 wounded
- Americans:** 330,000 of 4.7 million in military service
116,000 deaths
204,000 wounded
- Minnesotans:** 100,000 estimated in service (57,413 in Capitol plague)
1,432 killed in combat
3,600 Flu epidemic



DECISIVE DATES

June 28, 1914: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serbian Nationalist

August 1, 1914: Beginning of war in Europe (Germany declares War on Russia)

May 7, 1915: Sinking of The Lusitania (1,924 killed, 114 Americans)

January 17, 1917: The notorious Zimmerman Memorandum

April 2, 2017: President Wilson asks for declaration of war

April 6, 1917: U.S. enters the War (Senate 82-6; House 373-50)

June, 1917: U.S. Troops land in France (“Over there, over there”)

November 11, 1918: Armistice

June 28, 1919: Treaty of Versailles (5 years later)

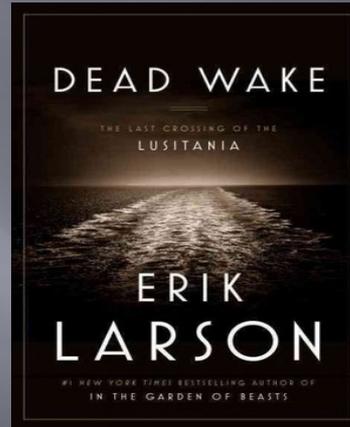
U.S. Troops in World War I



THE LUSITANIA



A rendering of the sinking of the Lusitania on May 7, 1915



Dead Wake: The Last Crossing Of The Lusitania

Author: Erik Larson

Publisher: Crown Publishers

430 Pages



The U-Boat that sank the Lusitania

SOME IMPACTS

- Bolshevik Revolution and Communism in Russia/Soviet Union
- American Isolation (League of Nations Treaty fails)
- Volstead Prohibition (18th Amendment) – Andrew Volstead of Minnetonka
- Women Suffrage (19th Amendment) – Minnesota women first to vote (So. St. Paul bond referendum)
- Expatriates Abroad (Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, etc.)
- The Jazz Age
- Rise of Nazi Germany & World War II



What else?



SUPREME SUITS

“Clear and Present Danger”

Schenck v. United States, 249 U.S. 47 (1919)

Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)
“imminent lawless”

“Arver v. U.S., 245 U.S. 366 (1918): upholding the 1916 draft – “highest duty of citizen ... inherent in citizenship”

Gilbert v. Minnesota, 254 U.S. 325 (1920): Goodhue soldier violates state law banning interfering or disrupting military enlistment; leads to *O’Brien* (1968) (draft card burning); *Rostker* (1981) (all male draft); *MPIRG* (1984) denial of \$ aid.

Supreme Suits (cont.)

Minnesota Cases: anti-war pamphlets; “The war is coming,” discouraging enlistment, “wrong side”

Federal Cases: *Meints v. Huntington*, 276 F.245 (8th Cir. 1921): Tarred & Feathered in Luverne for not supporting war

Tarred and Feathered



INSURANCE ISSUES

Insurance lapsing upon discharge for Nonpayment of Premiums
under 1914 War Risk Insurance Act

Disability Dilemmas:

- *Stephens v. U.S.*, 29 F.2 904 (8th Cir. 1928): No retroactive due to fear of “fraud”

Tuberculosis Deaths:

- *U.S. v. LeDuc*, 48 F.2d 79 (8th Cir. 1931): No lapse if total, permanent disability
- *Eggen v. U.S.*, 58 F.2d 612 (8th Cir. 1932): Lapse because not “permanently disabled”

Gonorrhea Death:

- *Proechel v. U.S.*, 59 F.2d 648 (8th Cir. 1932): Not covered as “total disability”

FIRE FIGHTS



Forest Fire due to locomotive in Northeast Minnesota (October, 1918)

- * 2,000 square miles
- * 40,000,000 property losses
- * 500 deaths

Hall v. Davis, 150 Minn. 35, 184 N.W. 25 (1921): 278 claims for property damages

Wrongful Death Cases

**Granquist v. Duluth M & N Ry. Co.*, 155 Minn. 217, 193 N.W. 126 (1923) *Untimely 4-year old lawsuit against multiple railroads*

**U.S. v. City National Bank*, 31 F. Supp. 530 (D. Minn. 1939)
1935 Federal law supplements earlier settlement

BUSINESS BATTLES

Watkins v. W.E. Neilson Co., 135 Minn. 343, 160 N.W. 864
(1917):

Banker v. Broker: market “uncertain and fluctuated rapidly”

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Minneapolis Gas & Light Co. v. Minneapolis, 140 Minn. 400,
168 N.W. 588 (1918): Gas Attack

1914 fixed price contract valid despite “unforeseen” costs

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Corliss v. U.S., 7 F2d. 455 (8th Cir.
1925): Criminal Creamery Conviction
Reversed due to frenzied “atmosphere
which reigned”



VETERANS!

Thank you for your service!

