

BIOGRAPHY of

JOSEPH ALBERT SCHUMACHER, 3-8-1899 to 2-26-1918

The second eldest of five children of the late Charles George and Margaret Ruth Schumacher, was born on March 8, 1899 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His parents resided at Front and Jefferson Streets, in the city of Philadelphia.

His brothers were Fred C. born March 19, 1897; George W. born on April 1, 1908; Charles G. born on April 20, 1910. His sister, Mary E. born on February 23, 1903.

In 1908 the Schumacher family moved to Knights and Byberry Roads in Bensalem Township, Bucks County. April 1, 1913 to Byberry Road east of Hulmeville Road, Bensalem township.

Joe attended Bensalem District School No. 4 on Knights Road. Joe attended and completed ten grade schooling, a very common practice in that time. The school was built in 1866.

The Schumacher family attended the old original Methodist-Episcopal Church at 430 Hulmeville Road, Cornwells Heights, Bensalem Township. There heralding church services, young Joe rang the church bell at the age of fifteen (15). His younger sister Mary lit the stove hours before the service to warm the parishioners. The church was built in 1810.

June 26, 1916 at the age of seventeen (17), he enlisted in the United States Army, in Philadelphia, Penna. His serial number was 126766. On July 3, 1916 Joe was assigned to Fort Slocum in New York for training. Later to Fort DuPont in Delaware, and Fort Jay in New York. May 11, 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Private First Class. On August 17, 1917 he sailed to France and combat duty against the Germans. Joe was assigned to the Fifth Company, First Trench Mortar Battery, US Army First Infantry Division.

February 26, 1918, Joe was mortally gassed by the enemy at Anisville France. Ironically the date marked his mother's forty-seven birthday. Ten days later Joe would celebrated his nineteenth birthday, March 8, 1918. His total military service comprised of twenty months. He was awarded the World War I Victory Medal and a Purple Heart posthumously. His remains were interred in France. In 1923 upon

insistence of his father, his body was returned to the United States, and laid to rest in the Bristol Cemetery, Route 413 and 13 Bristol, Pennsylvania. Today his late parents lie beside him.

Thomas W. Roberts, a personal friend of the Schumacher family, is credited as Founder of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1597, and selecting the name of Joseph A. Schumacher as their namesake in the year of 1928. Madeline Keene is credited as the founder of the Ladies Auxiliary on November 24, 1928.