**Military Service Record**

This is the Military Service Record of **Lawrence Thomas Hager**

Born on March 20, 1893 In Danbury, Conn. In: Fairfield County

Father’s Name: Charles F. Hager Born in USA

Mother’s Maiden Name: Catherine Sharfenberg Born in USA

Are you white, colored, Indian, Mongolian: white

Citizen: Yes

Voter: No

Church: Baptist

Married: no

Fraternal Orders: BPG Elks, Actors Equity Association

Previous Military Experience: None

Occupation before entry to the service: Actor & Singer, Musical comedy and Vaudeville

Employer: None indicated

Residence before entry into service: 147 Triangle Street, Danbury, Conn.   
Present Home Address: 147 Triangle Street, Danbury, Conn. in Fairfield County

**War Record**

Inducted into service or enlisted on: March 29, 1918 In Danbury, Conn.

As a: Private In the: Depot Brigade Section of the National Army

Identification number: 1,685,716

Assigned originally: Company: **None indicated** Regiment: **None indicated**

Division: **None indicated**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Trained or stationed before going to Europe:  School/camp/station/ship | From | To |
| Camp Devens | March 30, 1918 | April 18, 1918 |
| Camp Upton | April 19, 1918 | April 24, 1918 |

Transferred to:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Company | Regiment | Div | Ship | Date | New location |
| Company A | 320 Machine Gun Battalion | 82nd | Click here to enter text. | April 20, 1918 | Camp Upton |

Promoted- **none indicated**

Embarked from: New York On the ship: S.S. Caronia On April 24, 1918

And arrived at Liverpool, Eng. On May 7, 1918

Proceeded from: Liverpool, Eng. To: Romsey, Eng. On:: May 8, 1918

From: Romsey, Eng. To: LeHarve, France On: May 16, 1918

Trained or stationed abroad:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Place | From | To |
| France | Sallenelles | May 20, 1918 | June 16, 1918 |
| France | Marou | June 18, 1918 | July 13, 1918 |
| France | Manonville | July 16, 1918 | July 16, 1918 |

First went into action on July 16, 1918 In Toul Sector

Participated in the following engagements: Saint Mihiel drive, Baulny, Charpentry Fleville, Chehery and La Viergette in the Argonne Drive and Saint Juvin

Cited, decorated or otherwise honored for distinguished services (give circumstantial accounts of exploits, including dates and places where performed, also by whom and in what manner the honors were bestowed): **None indicated**

Killed in action, killed by accident died of wounds, died of disease, wounded, gassed, shell-shocked, taken prisoner:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nature of casualty | Place | Date |
| Shrapnel wounds (note spelled by respondent at Sharfinel) Had my forehead and part of chin blown off | Near Grand Pre Argonne | Oct. 15, 1918 |

Under medical care:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hospital | Location | From | To |
| Base # 46 | Batailles-sur-Meuse | Oct. 16, 1918 | Jan. 7, 1919 |

Permanently disabled (specify): 16%

Arrived: Newport News On the ship: USS Artemis On May 24, 1919 From Saint Mayaire

Discharged from service at: Camp Upton, NY On June 3, 1918 as a Private

**Return to civilian life:**

Occupation: Actor

If a change of occupation was occasioned by reason of disability acquired in the service, describe the process or re-education and readjustment, and indicate the agencies or individuals chiefly instrumental in furnishing the new occupation: **None indicated**

**Additional information:**

**What was your attitude toward military service in general and toward your call in particular?**

I was rejected twice, the first time in Denver, Colo. and in Plattsburg, NY. I was anxious to get into the service.

**What were the effects of camp experiences in the United States upon yourself – mental and physical?**

Wasn’t in camps here long enough to find out.

**What were the effects upon yourself of your overseas experience, either in the army or navy or in camp in France or in England?**

After I got out of the hospital, I toured the leave areas and camps with a show known as the “Whiz Bangs.”

**If you took part in the fighting, what impressions were made upon you by this experience?**

Wouldn’t want to take a million for my experience, or go through it again.

**What has been the effect of all these experiences as contrasted with your state of mind before the war?**

I have had lots of trouble with my head and my mind is bad. And I am very nervous.

Photographs: Photograph in uniform, dated March 15, 1919 taken in Nimes, France. Headshot taken before going into service.

**Additional data: Will include some newspaper clippings with photographs – Additional documents included with his survey: 1) Letter from State librarian addressed to Mr. Lawrence Thomas Hager dated May 13, 1921; 2) copy of poster, “The Convalescent Entertainers, 10 Whiz Bangs Back from the Front”; 3) Newspaper article from the Bridgeport Herald, dated June 15, 1919, titled, The “Whiz Bangs” Are Home Again; 4) newspaper article, undated and newspaper not indicated, entitled, “Wears Dead Man’s Eyebrow – Surgeons Rebuilt Lawrence Hager’s Face and Head”; 5) Post Card identifying where the picture was taken while he was touring with the Whiz Bangs.**

Signed Lawrence T. Hager ON: May 6, 1921 in Charleston, Ill.