

# OLE STULEN



Ole Stulen (2099929) was living near Brewster Minnesota when he entered the US Army through Worthington on 19 September 1917. He was sent to Camp Greene North Carolina for training.

Initially, Stulen was assigned as a Machine Gunner in an Infantry unit while at training. During his training, however, Stulen fell ill and was put into the infirmary. After he recovered, it was determined that he would better serve in the medical corps than as a Machine Gunner.

Stulen was assigned to Evacuation Hospital No. 30 at Camp Greene. Evacuation Hospital No. 30 was organized on 15 June 1918 in Georgia, and moved to Camp Greene for further training.



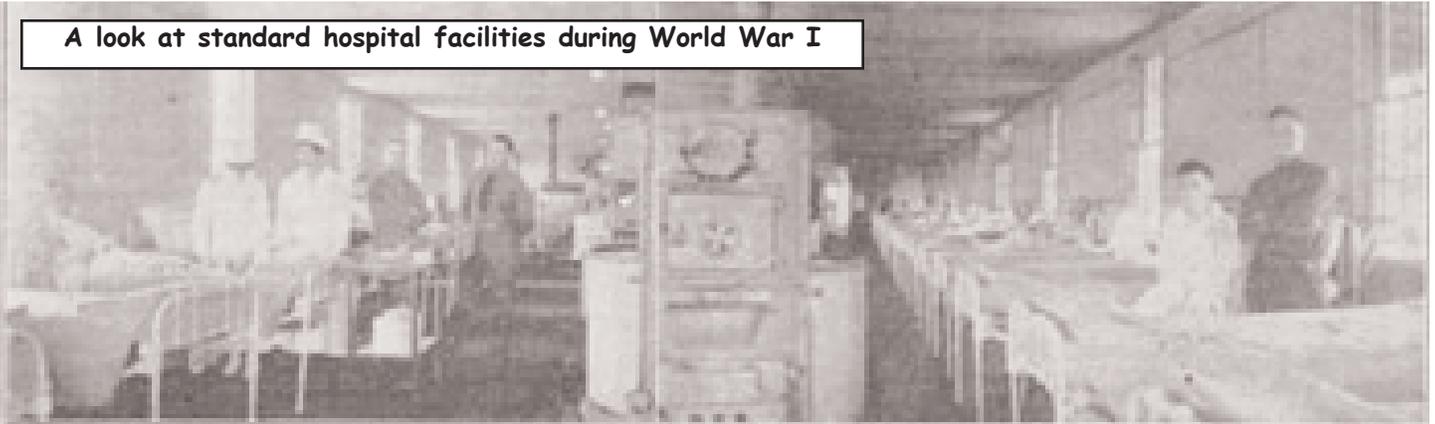
**Barracks at Camp Greene**

**Soldiers on the rifle range at Camp Greene**



An Evacuation Hospital was designed to serve front line divisions, and had accommodations for 432 men. As the numbers in divisions increased, so did the number of accommodations, up to 1,000 or more.

## A look at standard hospital facilities during World War I



While at Camp Greene the unit was equipped to prepare for overseas service. The men, including Stulen, continued training such as drills, lectures and hospital training. In August 1918 the War Department gave orders for mobilization to Evacuation Hospital No. 30.

In September 1918, Spanish Influenza became an epidemic within the United States. Thousands of Americans became ill with the disease. An estimated 50 million people died of it during the epidemic. Although the origins of the illness are not known, it is believed that the World War did help in the spreading of Influenza.

During the epidemic, a field hospital was created on the Camp to try to help relieve the congestion at the Base Hospital. During a short ten day period, 1,800 patients were admitted. The cities in the the area were quarantined, to try to help stop the spread.



With the increased need for medical attention, many men transferred to the hospitals to work rather than in their previous assignments. It is not known for certain if it was during the time of the outbreak that Stulen was transferred to the Medical Corps, or if he had been transferred prior to.

In October, Camp Greene itself was quarantined, which delayed the planned departure of Evacuation Hospital No. 30 and Stulen for overseas duty. They reported ready for departure on 16

**SS Lapland**



October 1918, but due to the outbreak, were turned away. Later, they were unable to secure transport to the base port to leave.

Finally, on 22 October 1918, Stulen and the men of Evacuation Hospital No. 30 left Camp Greene for embarkation at Camp Merritt.

On 26 October, they boarded the Red Star Line steamship the SS Lapland. The Lapland was a luxury liner, turned into a troopship after it was hit by a mine in July 1917 and the need for troop transports rose.. It was a part of a 14 vessel convoy bound for Liverpool England.

After thirteen days, traveling on the liner across the Atlantic, Stulen arrived in Liverpool on 8 November 1918.

They proceeded to the rest camp at Southampton on 9 November, staying overnight and moved on to Le Havre France the following day.

Ole Stulen arrived in France to serve in the US Army during World War I on the morning of 11 November 1918. At approximately 9am that morning, Field Marshall Ferdinand Foch, commander of all allied forces in Europe signed the armistice officially ending the World War. He signed it in a train car, specifically made for his use during the war. The war would end at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, 1918.



Ole Stulen

The ending of the war did not stop the need for the Evacuation Hospital in the war zone. Stulen & the other men went to the rest camp in Le Havre after arriving, and on 14 November headed out for Le Mans.

They arrived at Le Mans on 15 November, and were assigned to the forwarding camp for special gas training.

Soon they received orders to report to Joinville, but due to the armistice, an embargo on troop movements was interpreted to also include Evacuation Hospitals. Until clarification came, Stulen and the other men stayed put in Le Mans.

On 13 December they left Le Mans France for the Mars Hospital Center at Mars France.

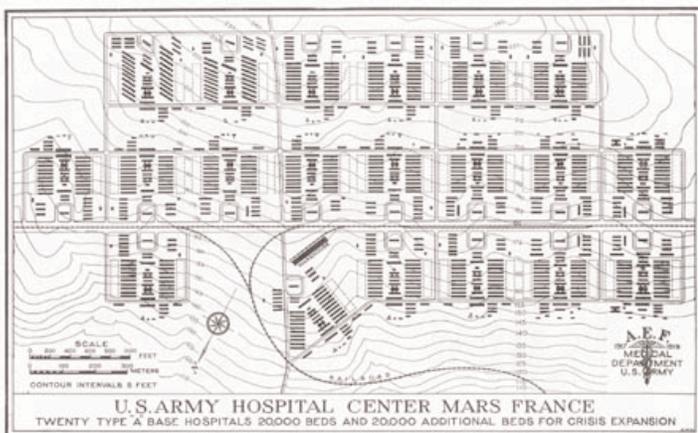


Fig. 18.—General view of Mars hospital center, looking southeast from tower at west end of center.

Arriving on 14 December, the men of Evacuation Hospital No. 30 were quartered in areas formerly occupied by other hospitals. Due to the Armistice, engineering and building at the hospital center at Mars had almost ground to a halt. Supplies needed for construction were difficult to obtain, but eventually, they were obtained and Ole's unit was ready to receive patients on 12 January 1919.



As many soldiers did, Stulen created some "trench art" by making photo frames from bullets and decorating with local items to signify his time in Germany.

Shortly after the unit was ready to receive patients, they were ordered to relieve Base Hospital No.35 who was preparing for transport back to the United States. The transfer took place on 15 January 1919, and Ole's unit began operating with 500 patients. They



Above: German military items that Ole brought home with him after the war. He acquired a German Gas Mask, and the German belt. Donated by his son, Glen Stulen November 2000.

**Ole Stulen** 12/2/82  
 NEW LONDON - Ole Stulen, 89, of Hawick died at the Koronis Manor Nursing Home in Paynesville Tuesday. Funeral services will be held Friday at 1:30 p.m. at the Nordland Lutheran Church, rural Paynesville.

The Rev. Fredrick Jensen will officiate at the service and interment will follow in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held at the Johnson Funeral Home in New London from 2-9 p.m. today and from 9-11 a.m. Friday and at the church one hour prior to the services.

Stulen was born Oct. 7, 1893, in Story City, Iowa, the son of Peter and Jacobina Stulen. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and at the age of 8 he moved with his family to Norway. When he was 12, they returned to the United States, residing in Illinois and Iowa. He served two years in the U.S. Army in Germany and France during World War I and on June 2, 1923, was united in marriage to Hannah Swenson.

They moved to Irving Township, Kandiyohi County, where they farmed until retirement. As a member of the Nordland Lutheran Church, he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher, as well as having served as a member of School District 66 and on the New London Creamery Board. He was a resident of the Koronis Manor Nursing Home for the past year.

Surviving are his wife, Hannah; two daughters, Mrs. Alvin (Ione) Volker of Hawick and Mrs. Paul (Jo Ann) Giinther of Pennoek; two sons, Glen of Hawick and Leo of Hutchinson; 18 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are two brothers, Oliver Stulen of Spicer and John Stulen of Dickens, Iowa, and five sisters, Inger Stulen of New London, Mrs. Olena Hanson of Heron Lake, Mrs. Petra Swenson of Willmar, Mrs. Olaf (Anna) Erickson of Litchfield and Mrs. Alma Barber of Selma.

maintained operating at that capacity for almost a month until they were ordered to transfer again and were relieved by Base Hospital 123.

On 13 February 1919, they left the Hospital Station at Mars for Mayan, Rhineland in Germany to serve with the Army of Occupation. They were going to serve near Coblenz Germany. Ole arrived in the area of operations at Mayan on 17 February, and they relieved Evacuation Hospital No. 8 on 20 February 1919.



Below: US Gas mask carried and used by Stulen.

Ole remained in Germany serving with Evacuation Hospital No. 30 until 4 August 1919 when they were sent back to the United States. Stulen continued on to Camp Dodge Iowa where he was discharged as a Private on 13 August 1919.

In the years following World War I, Ole moved to Kandiyohi County and began farming. He was married and raised a family there. He became active in his church, and in the area.

He retired from farming, and remained in the area before moving into a Nursing home in Paynesville Minnesota.

Ole Stulen passed away on 30 November 1982, at the age of 89.



Keepsake souvenir pillow Ole received during his time in the Army during the World War.



Above: Ole Stulen's Class A dress uniform and helmet donated by son, Glen Stulen - November 2000.



Right: Wool lined leather vest and shirt worn by Stulen. Also donated in November 2000.