

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This document lacks 1950 census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

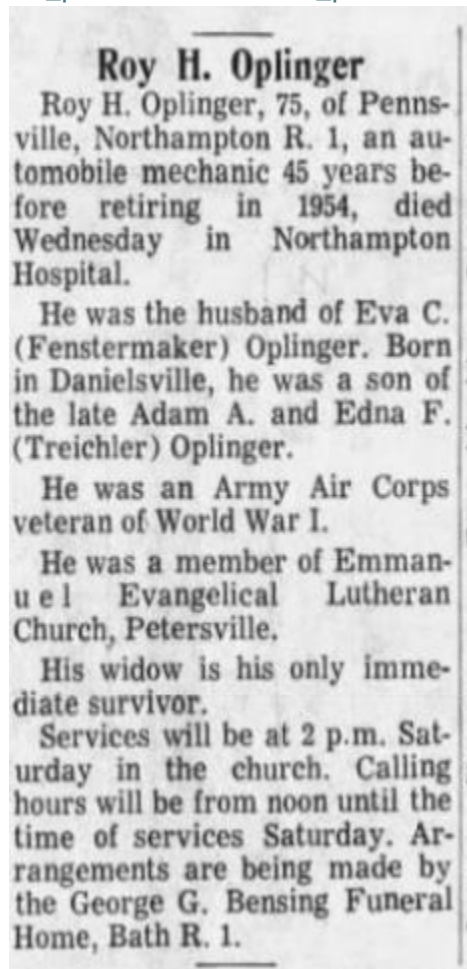
NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Oplinger, Roy Hobart
1896 PA – 1971 PA



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/48299323/person/28215331682/media/b68e93fe-512e-45e3-81d2-bcc2009d0c05?_phsrc=hFB41066&_phstart=successSource



Obituary of Roy Hobart Oplinger – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Thursday 7 Oct 1971 p 9



“Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Saturday 9 Oct 1971 p 21

OPLINGER — The wife of Roy H. Oplinger wishes to thank relatives, friends, neighbors and Reverend Roy W. Meck for the kindness shown me during my recent bereavement. Also for the beautiful floral tributes & cards received. Thanks also to the Veterans of the American Legion.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Tuesday 19 Oct 1971 p 31

OPLINGER ROY H		<i>10/20/71</i> <i>X</i> <i>c</i> <i>18302360</i>	
Corp 158 Aero Sq		<i>RB</i>	<i>cb</i> K
Walnutport Pa		A	2 348 624
Ssn 250 033	Died <i>10/6/71</i>	T	
Born 5/8/96		R	
Enl 8/1/17	Dis 1/23/18	Cl. 1 143 950	
	<i>3/17-19</i>	I	
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1935		INDEX CARD 5-129010	

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MS-8QLT?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AW3CD-YD3Z>

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs		RECORD OF BURIAL PLACE OF VETERAN		LEHIGH County	
NAME ASN: 25 00 33 OPLINGER , ROY H.		DATE OF BIRTH 8 May 1897		DATE OF DEATH 6 Oct 1971	
VETERAN OF World War I		SERVED IN ARMY ☒ NAVY () MARINE CORPS ()			
DATES OF SERVICE Ent: 1 Aug 1917 Dis: 19 Mar 1919		ORGANIZATION(S) 158th Aero Sqdr. A.S.A.		RANK Cpl.	
CEMETERY OR PLACE OF INTERMENT		NAME LOCATION Slatedale Cemetery Slatedale, Pa.			
LOCATION OF GRAVE IN CEMETERY Section Lot No. Lot 104		HEADSTONE Range Grave No. Government () County ☒ Family ()			
INFORMATION GIVEN BY A.W. CHAPLINSKI		REMARKS Bensing Funeral Home R. D. #1, Bath, Pa.			
DATE 9 Nov 1971					
After being recorded in the County Veteran's Grave Registration Record this card is to be sent to THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for final Record. XC 18 302 360 SS 179 18 6406					

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1967/images/31501_B018422-00455?pId=1023530

Oplinger Roy H 250,033 White 1½

(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number) (Race: White or colored)

Residence: Cherryville NORTHAMPTON PENNSYLVANIA

(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

* Enlisted in RA Columbus Bks Ohio Aug 1/17

† Born in Danielsville Pa 21-3/12 yrs

Organizations: 49 Aer Sq to Jan 21/18; 158 Aer Sq to disch

Grades: Corp Oct 15/18

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

‡ Served overseas: Jan 24/18 to Mch 7/19

§ Hon. disch. Mch 19/19 on demobilization

Was reported 0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.

Remarks:

MAR 28 1934

AUD. GEN.

APPLICATION No. 75984 APPROVED

Form No. 724-1½, A. G. O. March 12, 1920. *Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "I. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or date of enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date.

3-7688

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
VETERAN'S COMPENSATION APPLICATION 75984

NUMBER _____ (1)

Read instructions and then type or print answers to the following questions striking out words that do not apply. Numerals in parenthesis refer to corresponding numerals in the instructions.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF LEHIGH

I, ROY OPLINGER

being duly sworn, deposes and says: I am the veteran named in the following descriptive information; I served in the military or naval forces of the United States from August 1, 1917 to March 19, 1919 I claim veteran's compensation as authorized by Act No. 53, approved January 5, 1924; I was a resident of Pennsylvania at time of entry into service; I make this claim with full knowledge of the penalty for making a false statement relative to a material fact concerning this claim and the answers to the following questions and descriptive information are true:

- (2) OPLINGER ROY HOBART 250033 White
(Last name) (First and middle name) (Serial number) (White or colored)
- (3) Legal residence at entry into service R.F.D. 2, Walnutport, Northampton, Penna.
(Street and number, City, County and State)
- (4) Present residence: R.F.D. #2, Walnutport, Northampton, Penna.
(Street and number, City, County and State)
- (5) Enlisted, commissioned or inducted in RA: AND; NA; NG; ERC; NAV; NRE; MC; ORC; Pa. Vols; US Vols; at Allentown, Penna. on August 1, 1917
- (6) On active duty in Navy or in Reserve from _____ to _____
- (7) Place and date of birth Danielsville, Penna. May 8, 1896.
- (8) Names and addresses of dependents: Wife (full name) Eva Fenstermacher Oplinger
Minor children _____
Mother (full name) Edna Treichler Oplinger
Father Adam A. Oplinger
- (9) Service in organizations, at stations or on vessels in the order named as follows:
42th Aero Squadron from Aug. 6, 1917 to Jan 8, 1918
158th Aero Squadron from Jan. 21, 1918 to March 19, 1919
from _____ to _____
- (10) Grades or ratings with dates of appointments or promotions: Corporal, Oct. 15, 1918.
- (11) Engagements: None
- (12) Wounds or other injuries received with dates: None
- (13) Served overseas from Jan. 24, 1918 to March 7, 1919.
- (14) Honorably discharged on March 19, 1919 at A.S.D., Garden City, L.I., N.Y.
- (15) Did you ever apply for or receive a bonus or veteran's compensation from any other State? No.
- (16) Did you ever refuse on conscientious, political or other grounds to perform full military duty or to render unqualified service? No.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of February 1934

(17) Alex B. Morgan
(Signature and seal of officer administering oath)
(Signature and seal of officer administering oath)
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
My commission expires Jan. 1938

(18)

Roy A. Oplinger
(Signature of Applicant)

CERTIFICATE OF IDENTIFICATION

February 7, 1934

(19) I, Irvin K. Davis, do hereby certify that I am Adjutant
(Name of person certifying to) (Title of officer)
Post 16, A.L.; that Roy Oplinger applying for Veteran's
(and position) (Name of applicant)

Compensation is known to me to be the applicant named in the application; that he is mentally competent; that the signature of the affidavit is the signature of the applicant.

Signature and impression of seal or stamp indicating office or position held.

ADJUTANT
ALLEN O. DELKE POST NO. 16
AMERICAN LEGION

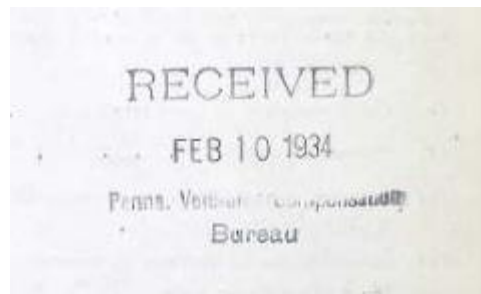
Irvin K Davis
(Signature of person identifying applicant)

Read instructions (19) before signing.

(20) 20 Months at \$10.00 per month; Total \$ 200.00
Computed by 24 1/2 Reviewed by Roy S B. J. L.
Checked and approved by [Signature]
For The Adjutant General.

MAR 28 1934

A.D. 1934



APPLICATION FOR VICTORY MEDAL ENLISTED MEN		DUPLICATE															
<u>Oplinger, Roy H.</u> <u>250033</u> <u>Cpl.</u> <u>158th Aero Sqdn.</u> (Surname) (Christian name in full) (Army serial number) (Grade and organization—Instr. 1)		<u>Spartan, Pa.</u> <u>MAR 16 '31</u> (Station of forwgd. or apprg. officer) (Date)															
I apply for Victory Medal with appropriate clasps for service in the United States Army in The World War: Major operations participated in (Instruction 2): <table border="1"> <tr> <td>CAMBRAI</td> <td>SOMME OFFENSIVE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOMME DEFENSIVE</td> <td>OISE-AISNE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LYS</td> <td>YPRES-LYS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AIISNE</td> <td>ST. MIHIEL</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MONTDIDIER-NOYON</td> <td>MEUSE-ARGONNE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHAMPAGNE-MARNE</td> <td>VITTORIO-VENETO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AIISNE-MARNE</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		CAMBRAI	SOMME OFFENSIVE	SOMME DEFENSIVE	OISE-AISNE	LYS	YPRES-LYS	AIISNE	ST. MIHIEL	MONTDIDIER-NOYON	MEUSE-ARGONNE	CHAMPAGNE-MARNE	VITTORIO-VENETO	AIISNE-MARNE		To The Adjutant General of the Army (.....Incls.) Signature To the Depot Officer, G. S. Depot, Phila., Pa. (Instr. 8) Approved for Victory Medal. With battle clasps:* None 1083494 With clasp... for service not entitling to battle clasp:* FRANCE	
CAMBRAI	SOMME OFFENSIVE																
SOMME DEFENSIVE	OISE-AISNE																
LYS	YPRES-LYS																
AIISNE	ST. MIHIEL																
MONTDIDIER-NOYON	MEUSE-ARGONNE																
CHAMPAGNE-MARNE	VITTORIO-VENETO																
AIISNE-MARNE																	
Defensive sector service (Instruction 3): <u>None</u> Service abroad not entitling me to battle clasp, in (Instruction 4) ☒ FRANCE; ☐ ITALY; ☐ SIBERIA; ☐ RUSSIA; ☐ ENGLAND		Signature of Approving Officer <u>Thomas Gordon</u> (Rank and designation) * If none, so state. CAPTAIN P. S. RET'D.															
Signature of Applicant <u>Roy H. Oplinger</u> (Instr. 6) Address <u>Walnut Point</u> <u>Pa R#2</u>		Date <u>MAR 16 '31</u> (Instructions 7 and 9)															

TO THE GOVERNOR OF Pennsylvania for reference to proper local board

Ohio
Columbus Bks. AUG 1 1917, 19
(Recruiting station)

This is to certify that Roy A. Phlinger
(Name of recruit)

has enlisted at Ohio for Big Bks
Columbus Bks. (Branch of service)

for the term of EMERGENCY His registration

certificate No. 20 shows that he was registered

in Parisville, Precinct Four
(City or P. O. address)

County of Northampton State of Pa

Form No. 618, A. G. O.
Ed. June 6-17-100,000.

3-4383 1st Lieut. M. J. Regan
Recruiting Officer

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/60884/images/41744_182029006040_0939-03095?pld=352073

PUBLIC SALE

Valuable Garage Equipment & Tools, Carpenter Tools, Guns, Antiques, Car and International Cub Cadet Riding Tractor

Saturday, Nov. 20th at 10 A.M. Located in the village of Pennsville close to Indian Trail Park, 7 miles West of Bath, 7 miles East of the Palmerton-Slatington Bridge on Rt. 248, Northampton Co. Look for sale signs.

ITEMS: Rogers Electric Greaser, Singer Shoemaker's Sewing Machine, South Bend large Metal Lathe in Excellent Condition, Air Pressure Regulator, Grinder with Wire Wheel on Platform, Air Compressor Hose, Small Drill Press, Spark Plug Cleaner, Bench Vises, Bench Grinder, Drill Press, Shoe Lathe, Silver Beauty Battery Charger, 1-4, 3-8, 1-2 inch Socket Sets, Tap and Die Sets, Heavy Duty Drill Bits, Large Magnet, Wheel Cylinder Hone, Master Cylinder Burring Tool, 1-4 to 1-2 inch tap and Die Set, Saws, Large Tool Box, 2 Temco 1-2 inch Electric Drills, Thor 1-4 inch Electric Drill, Pipe Threaders, Pipe Wrenches, Brace, Sledge Hammer, Chisels, Small and Large Scribes and Calipers, Squares, Punches, Large Wood Chisels, Brace Bits, Saw Vise, C Clamps, Wood Wedges, Vise Grips, Open End and Box Wrenches, Electric Soldering Iron, Tool Cart, Tool Chest, Drill Chucks, Drill Press Bits, Work Shop Table, Platform Scale, Drop Cords, Tomlee Table Saw with 1-2 HP Electric Motor, 5 inch wood planer, 2-man Saw, Bucket a day Stove, Shelves for Tools, Block and Tackle, Chain Hoist, Drain Pans, Odds & Ends in Car Parts, Copper Tubing, Extension Cords, Motor Pulleys, Oil Filters, Gas Cans, Welding Rods, Air Compressor with 3-4 HP Motor, Lead Ladle, Pullers, Tire Patcher, Brass Pins, Large Shop Fan, Water Pump with Electric Motor, Emery Wheel, Slate Sign, Compression Gauge, 3-4 HP Motor, 110 or 220, Axle Pullers, Gas Hose Nozzle, Battery Tester, Oil Pressure Gauge, Chain Clippers, Wheel Pullers, Creeper, Black Hawk Floor Jack, 3 ton, Ropes and Chains, Large Anvil, Jack and Safety Stands, Large Shop Clock, Hand

Grease Guns, Building Jack, Century 5 HP Motor mounted on wheels 220 volts, Hammers, Cylinder Block Reamer, Acetylene Torch, Acetylene Tips, 71 International Cub Cadet 7 HP Riding Mower with 42 inch Rotary Mower like new, International Snow Plow for same, Tractor weight, Pull-type Parker Lawn Sweeper, 2 wheel Trailer for Cub Tractor, Eclipse reel type Power Mower, Spinner type Power Mower.

ANTIQUES: Large Pot Belly Stove, Wood Planes, Old Brass Gas Torch, Draw Knife, Old Store Cabinet, Ice Saw, Cast Iron Table Bases, Old Car Radiator, Brass Steam Whistle, Broad Axe.

GUNS: B.S.A. .22 Caliber Rifle, Cossman B.B. Rifle, Stents Single Shot .410 Shotgun, Hopkin and Allen 12 Gauge Single Shotgun, Stevens Octagon Barrel .22 Rifle.

CAR: 1960 Valiant, 3-speed Standard Shift on Floor, 6 Cylinder, 4-Door Sedan, Radio. 36,000 Original Miles. In A-1 Condition.

MANY MORE ITEMS NOT MENTIONED
Sale Will Be Held Indoors in Case of Rain.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: All Merchandise Well Kept. A Good, Clean Sale.

TERMS: CASH OR ACCEPTABLE CHECK.

Estate of:
ROY H. OPLINGER

Sale Ordered By:
EVA C. OPLINGER

NORTHAMPTON R.D. NO. 1

ROBERT A. ARNER

Auctioneer

Route 2, New Ringgold, Pa.

Phone Mantzville 717-386-4586

C—Nov. 13-19

Sale following his death – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Saturday 13 Nov 1971 p 19

Name Roy H Oplinger
 (First) (Middle) (Last)
 Occupation Garage Truck Firm
 Business Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Home Address Malnuthport City _____ State Pa
 Military Rank, Feb. 5, 1918 Corporal
 Military Rank, end of War Corporal
 Military Organization? 158 Aero Sqdn Wounded? No
 I am a survivor of the TUSCANIA and apply for membership in the
 NATIONAL TUSCANIA SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION. Herewith \$1.00 due
 for this year.
Roy H. Oplinger
 Signature of Applicant

Application to join National Tuscania Survivors Association – courtesy of Steven Schwartz of
 Renton WA

Wartime:

Our correspondent has received a letter from Private Roy H. Oplinger, who is now stationed at St. Antonio, Texas, in which he says that he is well and soon expects to be send to France to shoot the stuffing out of the Germans.

Cherryville PA news – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Wednesday 5 Dec 1917 p 12

Roy H. Oplinger a private of Camp Kelly, aerial squadron in training at San Antonio, Texas, for several months, spent a week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam H. Oplinger, near Cherryville. Mr. Oplinger's camp will leave for France in the near future.

“Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Thursday 17 Jan 1918 p 15

R. H. OPLINGER, CHERRYVILLE, ON TORPEDOED TUSCANIA

Among the Pennsylvanians on board the British transport Tuscania, which was Roy H. Oplinger, of Cherryville, is Roy H. Oplinger, of Cherryville, Northampton county. He entered the service last July, and was attached to the 158th Aero Squadron. He is the only son of Adam Oplinger, of Cherryville, and a nephew of William Oplinger, the well known undertaker, of near Bossard's Corner. Less than a month ago, he was at home on a furlough visiting his parents for a period of about a week. He left from Cherryville for New York, and it must have been shortly afterwards that he sailed on the Tuscania.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 5

WAR DEPARTMENT VERIFIES ROY H. OPLINGER'S SAFETY

Adam Oplinger, of Cherryville, yesterday received the following message from the Adjutant General at Washington re-assuring him of the safety of his son who was on the Tuscania:

"Roy H. Oplinger saved on the ship Tuscania."

Needless to add Mr. and Mrs. Oplinger are very much overjoyed at the assurance of their son's safety. The Morning Call sent them the first message of his safety on Sunday morning and this verification from the department is much appreciated by them.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 5

OPLINGER'S EXPERIENCE WHEN TUSCANIA SANK

Cherryville Youth Gives His Sensations on Torpedoed Transport.

Private Roy H. Oplinger, of Cherryville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oplinger whose address is now 158th Aero Squadron, American Expeditionary force, via New York, has written the following letters to his parents and Mr. Lerch which will be read with interest by his many friends.

Winchester, England, Feb. 12, 1918.
Dear Parents:

How are you getting along at home. Will let you know that I am well and in the best of health and I think you are still the same as ever I hope so any way. I will let you know also that I was on board the U. S. Tuscania the very first American troop ship that was submarined on the night of Feb. 6, about 5:15. I had finished eating my supper and was

standing on deck at the time we were torpedoed. The boys were all brave and faced every thing in fine manner, nobody as far as I know was panic stricken. All of my squadron was rescued by the British navy. I can not praise the British navy enough for the brave work they done for the U. S. soldiers. There are at least not more than ten or eleven lost of our 158th squadron of the other squadron or regiments I do not know how many are missing. I will also let you know that I experienced that which I will never forget. Seven men and I floated off the Irish coast on a raft for about one hour and a half, were later picked up by a British patrol boat, were taken to Larne, Ireland, when we received first aid from the Red Cross. Larne, Ireland, is a fine place, beautiful scenes, and besides I was and all of us were given much better treatment then we got in my home town. The people in Ireland do surely think a whole lot of a U. S. soldier.

Well must close as I have told you all the news at the present time. The fields are all green in grass, farmers are plowing already. There are some ancient old buildings not very far away from here. The buildings are some of the famous old castles, and a place five hundred years old. Oh this is sure a fine healthy country. I am not in active service yet. It takes quite a while before we see the front in France. I think until next year this time I will be home with you as the

war will, I think not last that long. I sure will do my best to bring some Germans down for submarining they done. Old Bill, the Kaiser has to account for what he has done to America. We won't come home till it is over, so I wish you all a happy time this summer and abundant crops and prosperity in the whole neighborhood. Send my best regards to all my friends, also any one wishing to write me a letter must be careful about military matters. I have enough to eat, am warm, do not worry at all. From your son as ever to father and mother good-by.

PVT. ROY H. OPLINGER,
158th Aero Squadron,
With American Expeditionary.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Monday 11 Mar 1918 p 2

Roy H. Oplinger's Address.
A number of people have asked the parents of Roy H. Oplinger, of Cherryville, for the boy's address in France in order that they might write to him. It is as follows:
Private Roy H. Oplinger,
158 Aero Squadron,
American Expeditionary Force
via New York.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Monday 11 Mar 1918 p 9

MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO FIGHT

**Tuscania Survivor Writes
Home About His Eagerness
to Meet the Enemy.**

Below is an extract from a letter sent to Miss Irene Oplinger, of Danielsville, showing the fine patriotic spirit of Roy H. Oplinger, a survivor of the Tuscania disaster:

Winchester, England,

Feb. 14, 1918.

Dear Friends: I will let you know that I am in the best of health, hoping these few lines will find you and mother the same.

I will further let you know that I have been in a ship wreck, and have witnessed the sinking of the S. S. Tuscania. The very first ship sunk by a submarine with U. S. soldiers on board which you no doubt have read all about in the newspapers, as it must have been spread all over the whole world. I think you did not know I was one of the survivors, rescued after floating on a raft one hour and a half in the rough sea

somewhere off the Irish coast. I tell you it's not at all comfortable to struggle in the water this time of the year.

But I have had a narrow escape this time, I think it was God's will that only a few of us were lost in the disaster on that night of Feb. 5, 1918. I will never forget the explosion of that torpedo which struck us, I can still hear the shock. You can be glad if you never have to witness a scene of a big ocean liner sinking. As I told you before I have all the experience I want of the sea for the present and I will say for the future all I expect to travel by water is some fine day after old Kaiser Bill has accounted for the submarining of the S. S. Tuscania, then I expect to make the trip back home safe and sound, and if I will come home, you can imagine yourself seeing a happy bird shaking hands with you.

The weather is fine over here. The fields are all in green. Farmers are tilling the soil for the crops. I am not in active service yet. It will also take some time before I go in the battling business. I am just anxious to get to the front, as the Germans have made me more determined than ever by the mean dirty work they have done.

I think every young man with at least a little American blood should not stand back and be forced to fight for his country when the whole world knows about the sinking of the Tuscania with the boys of the good old U. S. A. Therefore, I think the boys at home ought be brave and volunteer in case they are needed for service.

Private ROY H. OPLINGER,
158 Aero Squadron,
A. E. F.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 14 Mar 1918 p 5

ROY OPLINGER WRITES HOME FROM ENGLAND

Arthur Shaffer, of Aquashicola, Pa.,
received a letter from Roy H. Oplinger.

Winchester, England, Feb. 21, 1918.

Dear Arthur and all:—

I will write a few lines to let you know that I am in Winchester, England, at the present time and am in a state of good health and hope you and all the rest are the same. I will let you know also that I have experienced the Submarining of the S. S. Tuscania the first ship sunk with U. S. soldiers on board I was with the bunch when she was struck by the torpedo. You sure have read all about it in the newspapers. We were hit at 5.15 p. m. February 5th, 1918. I had just eaten my supper and was standing on deck of the ship. It shook the whole ship. It knocked us down and all the lights went out. As the boiler and engine room were put off working order by the explosion, well we had to work our way through the dark up to the upper decks and lower life boats, ours was missing, so myself and seven of my comrades left the ship shortly after the crash on a raft, we were the first ones to leave her as she sank slowly inch by inch. * We drifted on, the water was

very cold and the sea was rough. And you can imagine how it is to be soaking wet at this time of the year. And besides the big mountains of waves came along and at times were almost washed clean off. But we managed to cling on to the raft and at 7 p. m. we were picked up by a British patrol boat. The thing that saved us was a few dry matches and some cigarettes, I told the boys to get them cigarettes lighted and they did and that light was seen by a ship far away. They at once started for the light and as they neared us they heard our cries for help. We were then rescued by the patrol boat. I was tucked out, but not as far gone as some of the boys with me. A few of them dropped over as they were picked up. We sure were glad to get to a warm place and change clothing. The ship sunk at 9.30, everybody had a chance to get off in life boats and ships that came to the rescue of the sinking ship. Some of the boys jumped over board and were drowned and washed ashore later on. Several life boats were not picked up, they were washed in the rocks some of those were also drowned and found later on. We lost only fourteen men, seven dead and seven missing. There were 2497 soldiers on board when we left New York January 24th, 1918. How many that are dead and missing I do not know. All I know is that one good

friend of mine is among the dead and buried in Scotland. I hope I never have to experience such a sight as a sinking ship. I thank God for saving my life, I think it was God's will that we all got time enough to leave the ship. I will tell you that it made me think of dear ones far away, as I faced the thing. But all the boys kept cool and faced it bravely and hymns were sung. All the trips I am going to make are not very many. The trip back home is all I want and you will sure see a happy bird when you meet me some day after this war is over and we have peace forever. I will come to a close for this time. Wish you all good luck. How is papa, mamma and Lillian. I suppose you are still going to school. I wrote to Lillian a few days ago. The country is fine and healthy. The weather is not cold, some of the most beautiful sights in the world. The famous old Castles of several hundred years old. Good-bye. I remain as ever

Your friend,

PVT. ROY H. OPLINGER,

158 Aero Squadron, A. E. F.,

Via N. Y.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 28 Mar 1918 p 10

TUSCANIA SURVIVOR WRITES FROM ENGLAND

The following is taken from a letter written from somewhere in England, by Private Roy H. Oplinger, 158th Aero Squad, A. E. F. via London. He comes from Cherryville and is one of the Tuscania survivors. The letter was addressed to Miss Lillian Schaeffer, of Aquashicola.

Army life is the same as usual, the weather is getting warm in the day time, but we have ordinary cold nights over here. I suppose the weather is getting different back home from what it was when I left. I suppose you saw my name among the survivors list in the newspapers. I wish you would send me some of the papers with an account of the sinking. I guess you were surprised, but I slipped thru fine not even getting a cold during the time spent in the water on the night of Feb. 5th. I sure do wish to get home safe and if I ever do have the chance to go on board a ship to sail for America, it can't be any too soon for me to get back to old sweet home again to enjoy the good home eats.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Saturday 13 Apr 1918 p 15

Last week Amandes W. Lerch received a letter from Roy H. Oplinger who is in the trenches somewhere in France, in which he stated that he was in the best of health and enjoying himself. He also stated that the country through which they were travelling was very beautiful and but they had to be on the go most of the time, as the Germans were practising speed all the time.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Saturday 26 Oct 1918 p 14

Corporal Roy H. Oplinger, of the 158th Aero Squadron, arrived safely in New York on March 7. His friends are very glad to hear the good news.

Cherryville PA news – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Thursday 13 Mar 1919 p 12

Arthur Henry, Jerry Griffith and Geo. Selp attended the lecture given by Roy H. Oplinger at Salem's Ev. church on Sunday evening. Mr. Oplinger gave talks of his army life, and as a survivor of the Tuscania.

Danielsville PA news – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Saturday 5 Apr 1919 p 12

OPLINGER REUNION AT EDGEMONT AUGUST 30

The executive committee of the Oplinger family of America met at Edgemont Park, and made plans for the coming Victory Reunion to be held on Saturday, August 30th, all day at the same place.

The returned soldier boys of the family will be given first place on the program, among those invited to speak being Roy Oplinger, Danielsville; Granville Oplinger, Bath, and others who may yet return until reunion. Miss Mary Oplinger, Nanticoke, will also speak. Members of the family from different sections of the country will take part in solos, duets and quartettes.

A special feature of this gathering will be a large honor roll containing the names of all the members in war service.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 10 Jul 1919 p 5

NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF LUSCANIA TORPEDOING

Saturday was a day of vivid memories for Roy H. Oplinger, of Cherryville, for it was just nine years ago that day that the British transport, S. S. Luscania, with 2497 American soldiers on board, among which was

Oplinger, was sunk off the Irish coast by a German submarine. It was the first and only ship carrying soldiers of the United States that was sunk, it is reported.

Two hundred and ninety-one soldiers were drowned, among the survivors being four Pennsylvania boys, who included Mr. Oplinger, Floyd I. Pirce of Lansford, Elmer Holmes of Lansford and Earl Widdop, of Philadelphia.

The Tuscania has somehow merged with the Lusitania to become the Luscania – there were 215 casualties – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Monday 7 Feb 1927 p 14

25 Years Ago

March 14, 1918,—A Thursday

Irene Oplinger of Danielsville was in receipt of a letter from her brother, Private Roy H. Oplinger, in which he described the sinking of the S.S. Tuscania. The troop ship, on which he was being transported to the war zone, was sunk off the coast of Ireland.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Sunday 14 Mar 1943 p 8

Life:

Employed Machinist
Thomas Matchette, one of the owners of the Cherryville Machine works has employed Roy Oplinger, of Danielsville.

"Allentown (PA) Democrat" Friday 10 Mar 1916 p 7

Pickets' Case Continued.
Joe Boemio, William Chamello and Leroy Cranch, the three young men who are charged with attacking and beating up Roy Oplinger, while they were doing picket duty at the Bonney Vise and Tool Works, where a strike was in progress, had a hearing before Alderman Bower last evening and the case was continued pending settlement.

Is this him? – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 17 Aug 1916 p 12

Roy H. Oplinger has opened a repair shop at his father's place near Oplinger's store and is kept quite busy overhauling automobiles.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Wednesday 13 Apr 1921 p 14

Howard W. Henry had his house repainted. Roy H. Oplinger did the work.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Wednesday 18 May 1921 p 14

Wife:

Eva C. Oplinger

Eva C. Oplinger, 93, of 840 N. Summit Road, Bath, died Friday in Sacred Heart Hospital. She was the wife of the late Roy H. Oplinger.

Born in Moore Township, she was a daughter of the late John and Ella (Schlegel) Fenstermaker.

She was a member of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Emanuelsville.

Survivor: Sister, Mrs. Anna A. Best of Bath.

Services: 11 a.m. Tuesday in the church. Call 9:30-11 a.m. Tuesday in church. Arrangements, George G. Bensing Funeral Home, Moores-town.

Obituary of wife Eva C. Fenstermaker Oplinger – “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Sunday 18 Aug 1991
p 10

Father:

Adam A. Oplinger

Adam A. Oplinger, 86, of Pennsville, Northampton R. 1, died Saturday night in the home of his son and daughter - in - law, Mr. and Mrs. Roy H. Oplinger, with whom he resided.

A life-long resident of Lehigh Township, he was a farmer practically all his life. He retired in 1941. In early life he worked as a millwright for Lawrence Portland Cement Co., Northampton.

Besides his son, Roy, he is survived by another son, David E., Jewell, Kan., and several nieces and nephews. His wife, Edna Treichler Oplinger, died 19 years ago.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Bensing Funeral Home, Moorestown.

Obituary of father Adam A. Oplinger – the “son” David E. Oplinger mentioned is actually Adam’s brother (1869-1964, F: 43729044) - “Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Monday 14 Apr 1958 p 18

Adam A. Oplinger, brother of Undertaker William Oplinger, has purchased a fine black horse from William Heckman, of Walnutport.

“Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Thursday 11 Aug 1904 p 6

THUMB AMPUTATED.

Adam Oplinger, a slate worker at Danielsville, had a thumb so badly mashed that it was amputated by Dr. Kemmerer.

“Allentown (PA) Morning Call” Friday 22 Jun 1906 p 8

Adam Oplinger who lost his thumb
at the Horner quarry, is doing nicely.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Tuesday 26 Jun 1906 p 5

Mother:

Mrs. Adam Oplinger

**Bossard's Corner Woman Was 71
Years of Age**

Mrs. Edna F. Oplinger, wife of Adam A. Oplinger of Bossard's Corner, Walnutport R. 2, died at her home Wednesday morning at 3.15 o'clock. She was 71 years old.

Born in Kresgeville she was the daughter of Civil War Veteran Edward F. Treichler and Alavesta, nee Keller, Treichler. She resided in the vicinity of Walnutport R. 2 for the greater part of her life and was a member of Salem Evangelical Brick church, Danielsville, and its Sunday school.

Surviving are the husband; a son, Roy H. of Pennsville; and three sisters, Mrs. Ella Vogelbach of Philadelphia, Mrs. Annie Schoch and Mrs. Harvey Schaffer of this city.

Services will be held at her late home Sunday at 1:30 p. m. with continued services in Salem church, Danielsville.

Obituary of mother Edna Frances Treichler Oplinger – "Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 29 Dec 1938 p 7

Name: Roy Hobart Oplinger

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 158th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 250,003

Entered service from: Cherryville, Northampton PA

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Roy H. Oplinger

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father Adam Oplinger, Cherryville PA

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Roy H. Oplinger (Fold3 indexed as Roy A. Oplinger, but it is the correct Roy H. Oplinger on the original form)

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Adam Oplinger, Cherryville PA (cpl, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Roy Hobart Oplinger - b. 8 May 1896 Lehigh Twp PA; res: RFD 2, Walnutport, Northampton PA. Single. Laborer for New Jersey Zinc Co., Palmerton PA. Tall in height, medium build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): Rural Rte 2, Walnutport PA

World War II draft registration (1942): as Roy H. Oplinger - b. 8 May 1896 Danielsville PA; res: Rt. 1, Lehigh Twp, Northampton PA. NOK Arthur Longenbach, Rt 1, Northampton PA. Employed by Bethlehem Steel Co., Bethlehem, Northampton PA. "left arm crooked" – Height: 5'9" – 165 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 1 Aug 1917

Discharged: 23 Jan 1918 [the day before he sailed on Tuscania – unlikely] and 19 Mar 1919

Address: Walnutport PA

Rank/unit: corporal, 158th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 8 May 1896 Danielsville, Northampton PA

Died: 6 Oct 1971 Northampton, Northampton PA (in Northampton Hospital)

Find A Grave record: 136137130 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Slatedale, Lehigh PA

Cemetery: Slatedale

Tombstone: Cpl. 158 Aero Sq. W.W.I

Father: Adam A. Oplinger, 28 Aug 1971 Danielsville, Northampton PA – 12 Apr 1958 Lehigh, Northampton PA. Son of James Oplinger & Susanna A. Easterday. Buried in Danielsville Union Cemetery, Danielsville, Northampton PA.

Find A Grave: 144212054

Mother: Edna Frances Treichler Oplinger, 7 Sep 1867 Kresgeville, Monroe PA – 28 Dec 1938 Walnutport, Northampton PA. Daughter of Edward F. Treichler & Alavesta Muffley Keller.

Buried in Danielsville Union Cemetery, Danielsville, Northampton PA.

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage: 13 Apr 1895 Northampton Co. PA

Spouse: Eva Cora Fenstermaker, 5 Oct 1897 Moore township, Northampton PA – 16 Aug 1991 Northampton Co. PA. SSN 162-24-4896. Daughter of John Fenstermaker (1856-1931, F: 144341182 & Ella Menda Schlegel (1862-1903, F: 144341116). Baptized 19 Dec 1897 in Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Bushkill Center, Northampton Co. PA. Died in Sacred Heart Hospital, a resident of 840 N. Summit Rd., Bath PA. Buried in Slatedale Cemetery, Slatedale, Lehigh PA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 136137227

Marriage: between 1930 censuses (when both were single & living with parents) & 1940, when they were a married couple

Children:

Siblings:

Notes:

There are numerous men named "Roy Oplinger" in Pennsylvania.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" Thursday 2 Aug 1917 p 7 – Among those who enlisted in the aviation corps: Roy H. Oplinger of Cherryville PA

"Philadelphia (PA) Inquirer" 19 Mar 1918 p 2 – in Roy Oplinger's letter to his uncle, Amandes W. Lerch, of Cherryville PA dated 13 Feb, he describes the Tuscania sinking. Roy was the only 1 who knew how to row on his raft with 8 men. Was on raft 90 minutes. He saved the gold watch his mother gave him but it was damaged by salt water.

Numerous letters of his appear in 1918 newspapers:

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 9 Feb 1918 p 5 – resident of Cherryville, Northampton PA. Entered service Jul 1917. Only son of Adam Oplinger of Cherryville; nephew of well-known undertaker William Oplinger near Rossard's Corner. Roy was home on a 1-week furlough less than a month ago. He left Cherryville for NY.

Letter to Miss Irene Oplinger (Danielsville PA) & her mother, dated Winchester England 14 Feb 1918. He figured they had read of the ship, as it must have been in papers worldwide. He floated on a raft 1-1/2 hours; not at all comfortable struggling in water at this time of year. He can still hear the shock when the torpedo hit. The only water travel he wants to do in the future is to go home after the Kaiser is dealt with.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 11 Mar 1918 p 2 - letter to parents, from Winchester, England, dated 12 Feb 1918. Again he remarks that Tuscania was the very 1st troopship torpedoed. He was on deck after supper when the torpedo hit. Gives praise to British Navy. He & 7 others floated on a raft 1-1/2 hours. Was picked up by British patrol boat & taken to Larne, Ireland. Received Red Cross help, was treated much better than in his hometown

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 13 Apr 1918 p 15 - letter to Miss Lillian Schaeffer of Aquashicola asks her to send newspaper coverage of Tuscania.

Post-war:

Obituary:

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 7 Oct 1971 p 9 – died at age 75. Resident of Rte. 1, Pennsville, Northampton Co. PA. Auto mechanic for 45 years before he retired 1954. His wife Eva C. (Fenstermaker) is his only immediate survivor. Born Danielsville PA, the only son of Adam A. & Edna F. (Treichler) Oplinger. Funeral 9 Oct 1971.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 9 Oct 1971 p 21 – died at age 75 years, 4 months, 18 days. Burial in Slatedale.

"Allentown (PA) Morning Call" 19 Oct 1971 p 31 - card of thanks from widow, includes thanks to American Legion

Social Security number: 179-18-6406

Censuses:

1900 Whitehall, Lehigh PA

Adam ABELINGER [also appears to read OPELINGER], 28 PA, Aug 1871, parents b. PA, married 5 years, laborer, cement work

Edna, 32 PA, Sep 1867, parents b. PA, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living

Roy H., 4 PA, May 1896

110 Lehigh, Northampton PA

Adam A. Oplinger, 39 PA, parents b. PA, in 1st marriage, married 15 years, millman, slate factory

Edna E., 42 PA, parents b. PA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living

Roy H., 13 PA

1920 Lehigh, Northampton PA

Adam A. Oplinger, 48 PA, parents b. PA, farmer, own farm

Edna F., 52 PA, parents b. PA

Roy H., 23 PA, single, laborer, NJ Zinc Co.

1930 Lehigh, Northampton PA

Adam A. Oplinger, 58 PA, parents b. PA, age 23 at 1st marriage

Edna F., 62 PA, parents b. PA, age 27 at 1st marriage

Roy H., 33 PA, single, garage man, garage, WWI veteran

1930 Moore, Northampton PA – his future wife

John Fenstermaker, 74 PA, parents b. PA, married (?), married at age 19, carpenter, contractor

Eva C., 31 PA, parents b. PA, single [daughter]

1940 Lehigh, Northampton PA – same house in 1935

Adam A. Oplinger, 68 PA, widowed, farmer, farm

Roy, 43 PA, married, mechanic, garage [son]

Eva, 42 PA, married [daughter-in-law]

