TUSCANIA

Valentine, Leonard Valentine (“Leo”)
1888 WI – 1971 WI



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/10128734/person/422212192198/media/befd85f2-c31e-4574-a914-8ebc65cb59fd



Leonard Valentine (Leo) Zimmermann – Find A Grave 178707459



Leo Zimmerman

Kenosha is host today to the sixteenth annual reunion of the National Tuscania Survivors association, commemorating the anniversary of the sinking of the Tuscania troopship by an enemy submarine off the Irish coast with a loss of 225 lives on Feb. 5, 1918.

Among the leading figures of the reunion are the men shown above. They are Fred Scholey, Kenosha, national president of the association; Robert Riley, Kenosha, national secretary; Leo Zimmerman, Milwaukee, national historian; and John N. Jones, New York, former British naval officer who tonight will be presented a hero medal at the reunion banquet as recognition for his exploits in rescuing the lives of 210 soldiers after he had been left behind on the scene by his own ship.

Leonard Valentine (Leo) Zimmermann – "Kenosha (WI) Evening News" Monday 5 Feb 1934 p 7 - https://www.newspapers.com/image/596044999/

At T. S. A. Meet With The Candid Camera



BY THE CANDID CAMERA.

Found something good Thursday night. I dropped in at the annual meeting of the survivors of the sinking of the troop transport Tuscania off the Irish coast on Feb. 5, 1918, by a German submarine. The meeting was held at the Randolph hotel. And here are a few shots I picked up while enjoying an interesting evening.



T. S. Greene (middle), of Milwaukee, was looking at me when I made this shot and look at the serious look on his face. Harry J. Schostak (left), Chicago, was enjoying a good laugh while Dr. F. Firnstahl of Wisconsin Rapids was probably thinking about how 255 doughboys went down with the Tuscania.



Here is Arthur Bldney, 4216 N. Morris boulevard, Milwaukee, taking a drink. Oh, I know what you're thinking, but it was only water. I know because I was suspicious, too, and investigated.



It might have been a good story Maxwell Collins (right), Milwaukee, past president of the organization, was telling Arnold Joerns of Chicago, but in this case Mr. Collins was merely remarking how good the steak was for a banquet selection. Mr. Joerns is the new president.



One thing I liked about the meeting was the absence of lengthy formal speeches, but I did get this shot of Leo B. Zimmerman, the organization's historian, who made it short and snappy. William A. Schlupp of Chicago, was listening intently, which is all he could have done under the circumstances.

Milwaukee News
Sat, Feb 06, 1932 · Page 9

Milwaukee WI

https://www.newspapers.com/image/1299581691/

U BOAT CHIEF MAY ACCEPT TUSCANIA BID

He was a bit puzzled at first—but now the man who commanded the U-boat which sank the Tuscania is planning to accept the invitation to attend next year's reunion of the survivors of that World war tragedy.

He is Dr. Wilhelm Meyer, who commanded the German U-77 when it sent a torpedo into the American transport off the Irish coast, sending 225 American soldiers to watery graves.

PROMISES TO ATTEND.

Leo P. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, association historian, told members of the Tuscania Survivors association at the Hotel Plankinton last night:

"Dr. Meyer, in his last letter to us, promised to make the trip next year."

Dr. Meyer said of the invitation:

"The invitation stresses the fact that there was no thoughts of bitterness or revenge lingering in the hearts of the survivors of the catastrophe. They recognize that I and members of the crew of the U-77 merely did our duty as duty was understood at that time."

Dr. Meyer now lives in Saarbrucken.

The twentieth reunion (1938) will be held in Chicago.

Arnold Joerne, Chicago, was elected president to succeed M. W. Collins, Milwaukee. Other newly elected officers are: Stanley Hult, Chicago, vice president; Charles Dun, Chicago, secretary, and Henry Knaup, Kenosha, permanent secretary. Mr. Collins succeeds Fred Scholey, Kenosha, on the board. Other directors are Fred Duxbury, Sheboy an, and James Bray, Baraboo. About 100 attended.

Before the banquet a memorial service for the Tuscania dead was held, with John Young, chaplain, officiating.

TUSCANIA SURVIVORS



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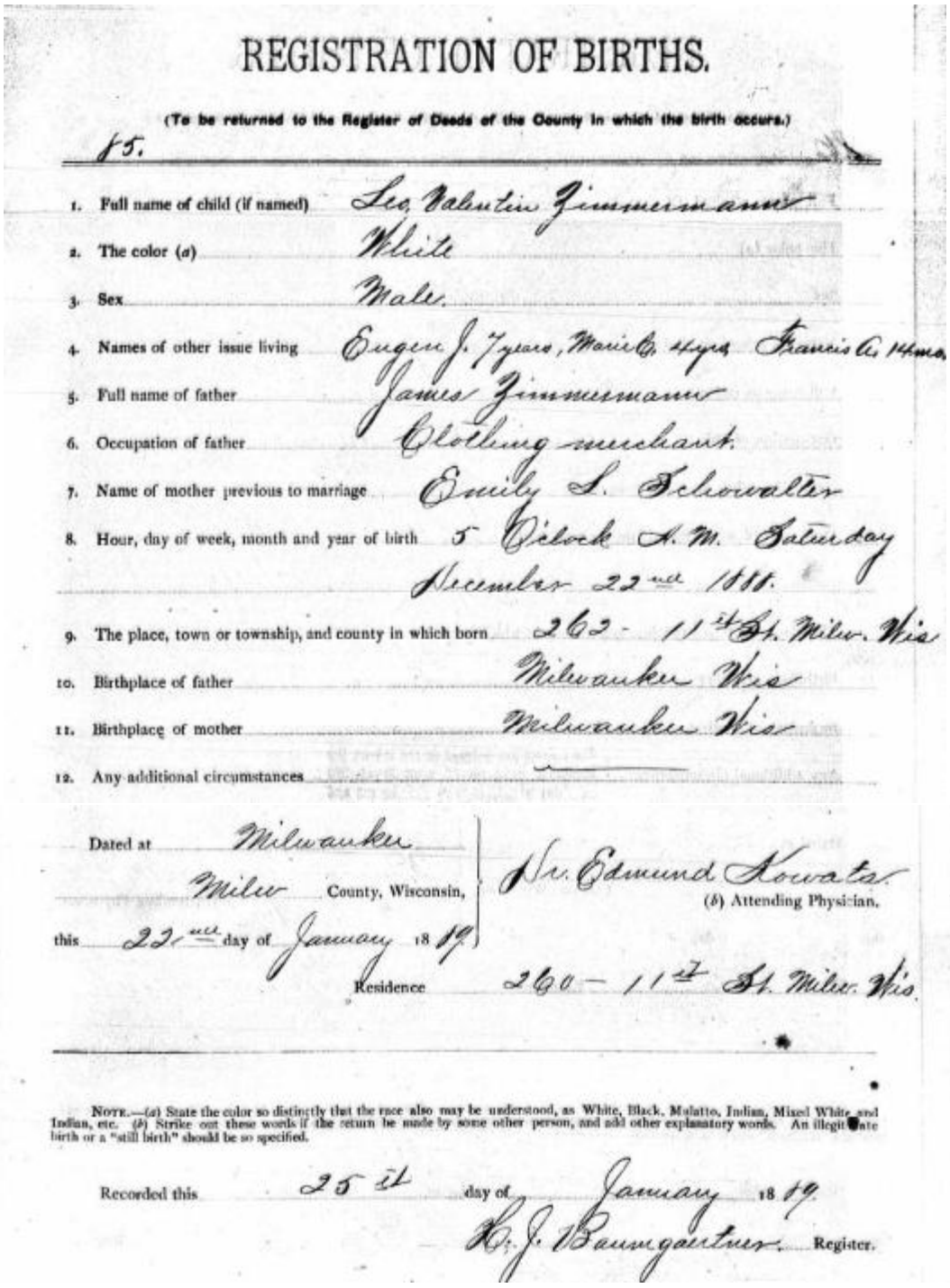
LEO V. ZIMMERMAN **WALTER A. LAEV**

Survivors of the Tuscania, British transport torpedoed by a German submarine during the World war, while carrying 1,200 American troops, celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of the ship's sinking at the Hotel Plankinton. Mr. Zimmermann, 624 N. Water st., and Mr. Laev, 3265 N. Sherman blvd., attended the celebration.

Milwaukee News
Sat, Feb 06, 1937 · Page 4

Milwaukee WI

https://www.newspapers.com/image/1299052099/?search-id=700eaaab-5538-481c-a554-4de519555090&search-rank=28



REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS.

(To be returned to the Register of Deeds of the County in which the birth occurs.)

15.

1. Full name of child (if named) Leo Valentin Zimmermann
2. The color (a) White
3. Sex Male.
4. Names of other issue living Eugen J. 7 years, Marie C. 4 yrs Francis A. 14 mo.
5. Full name of father James Zimmermann
6. Occupation of father Clothing merchant.
7. Name of mother previous to marriage Emily L. Schowalter
8. Hour, day of week, month and year of birth 5 Oclock A. M. Saturday December 22nd 1888.
9. The place, town or township, and county in which born 262 - 11th St. Milw. Wis
10. Birthplace of father Milwaukee Wis
11. Birthplace of mother Milwaukee Wis
12. Any additional circumstances —

Dated at Milwaukee
Milw County, Wisconsin,
this 22nd day of January 1889

Dr. Edmund Kowalski
(b) Attending Physician.

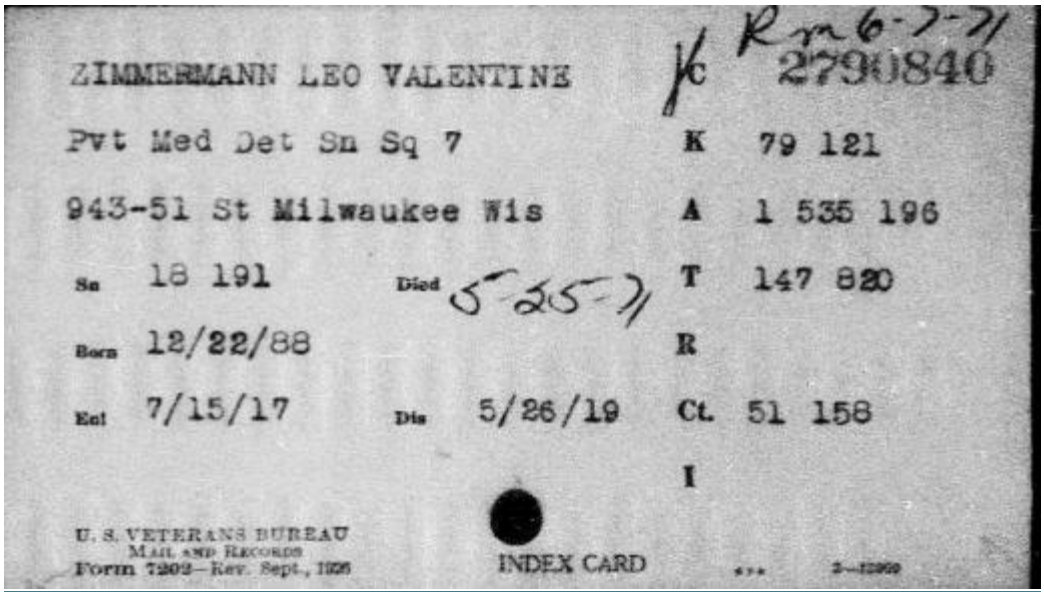
Residence 260 - 11th St. Milw. Wis.

Note.—(a) State the color so distinctly that the race also may be understood, as White, Black, Mulatto, Indian, Mixed White and Indian, etc. (b) Strike out these words if the return be made by some other person, and add other explanatory words. An illegitimate birth or a "still birth" should be so specified.

Recorded this 25th day of January 1889

H. J. Baumgartner Register.

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61719/images/48918_00050-00138?pId=150080070



ZIMMERMANN LEO VALENTINE
Pvt Med Det Sn Sq 7
943-51 St Milwaukee Wis
Sn 18 191
Born 12/22/88
Enl 7/15/17
Died 5-25-?
Dis 5/26/19
C 2790840
K 79 121
A 1 535 196
T 147 820
R
Ct. 51 158
I
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
Mail and Records
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1926
INDEX CARD

https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MD-M3B8?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AWWLS-N9MM

The following documents are courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA:

Translation of a letter between a survivor of the sunk Tuscania and the commander of .U.B.77

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov.12, 1928

Lt. Commander Meyer

U.B . 77 (1918)

Dear Sir:

On Feb., 5 th 1918, your submarine torpedoed the transport-ship
"T u s c a n i a" (British), with American troops on board.
Every year on that evening, we celebrate the occasion by meeting, having formed ourselves into an association.

We admire your courage in that attack and I would be glad to receive a letter from you, that I might read at our next meeting. Tell us about that trip and attack. I will surely appreciate your answer.

You can write to me in German language, if you like. I can read it.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

(signed) Leo V.Z i m m e r m a n n,

1019 - 32 nd St.
Milwaukee, Wis, U. S. A.

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Torpedoed: Survivor's History

THROUGH patient and careful investigation, Mr. Leo V. Zimmermann, of 1713 N. 55th Street, Milwaukee (Wis.), has been able to compile a complete and impartial narrative of the sinking of the British steamer Tuscania by a German submarine on February 5, 1918. Of the 2114 persons on board, mostly American troops, 200 lost their lives, and on the Scottish coast at Islay, where some of the survivors landed, and distant seven miles from where the transport was sunk, is a Cairn made of stones, erected by the U.S.A. Government in memory of the dead.

Mr. Zimmermann is Historian of the Tuscania Survivors' Association, which holds regular reunions, and in a letter to "Reveille," enclosing his narrative of the sinking of the Tuscania, he tenders greetings from Milwaukee Post 1 of the American Legion, of which he is a member, to the Diggers of Australia. Instancing the trouble that Mr. Zimmermann went to unearth all the facts of the Tuscania sinking, he established personal communication with five German submarine commanders during the past seven years, including those who participated in the destruction of the transport.

"At our last reunion," Mr. Zimmermann states, "it was decided to forward a little token of our esteem to the Commanders of the British destroyers, Grasshopper, Mosquito and Pigeon, which assisted in the rescue of the troops, and which had previously performed valiant services in the landing of the British forces at the Dardanelles.

Mr. Zimmermann opens his narrative by describing the embarkation of the troops on the Tuscania (14,348 tons), Capt. Peter A. McLean, at Hoboken, New York; the run up the coast to Halifax (Canada); the departure from that port on January 27, and the merging into a convoy of 14 ships, led by H.M.S. Cochrane, for the voyage across the Atlantic.

"Over each side at the bow of our liner the paravenes cut through the water. These guardians against a menacing mine could ward it to the side, along a cable, and away from the ship to a steel knife, set there to cut it from its floating mooring, when it would rise to the surface and be exploded by gunfire. At the stern of our transport a rapid fire piece was mounted, with shells standing about it—to us such grim reminders of constantly impending danger.

"Rations at mess were the same as enjoyed by the Australians on their trip to Gallipoli, and light calisthenics, occasional lifeboat drill, and individual leaning over the rail constituted our exercises. On shipboard were the following units: Headquarters Detachment and Companies "D," "E" and "F"; Twentieth Engineers; 51 casual officers; 100th, 158th and 213th Aero Squadrons; 107th Engineer Train; 107th Military Police; 107th Supply Train; Medical Detachments No. 1 and 2, 32nd Division. This comprised in all a complement of 2156 American soldiers, two British stewardesses, and a personnel of 237 officers and men in the crew.

"Into the warmth of the Gulf stream, we passed and entered the submarine danger zone, where we perceived a tramp steamer on the starboard offing approaching and receding in the distance. In an admiring mood, we stood, contemplating her pluck, in having safely crossed the ocean alone and unprotected, now rewarded by this act of daring. At night we slept in our clothes; lifebelts hung at the head of our bunks. All the ships were zig-zagging, except a few like the oil tanker astern, that had difficulty in keeping up with the convoy.

"At 7 a.m. (February 4) the convoy was joined by eight British destroyers—Beagle, Savage, Grasshopper, Minor, Harpy, Badger, Pigeon and Mosquito. At about 4 p.m. we saw the first sight of land to north, the high cliff shores of the Scotland coast. We were safe now, we thought, and the next morning expected to arrive in the harbour of Liverpool. Then in the distance, to starboard, a dark grey line lengthened itself on the horizon and formed the shore of Ireland. With the coming of dusk the lighthouse on the point of the Mull of Cantyre cast its bright, blinking beacon of light to our eyes. A welcome sight to us, tired of a long and wearisome ocean trip.

"A few days previously, on January 29, the German U.B. 77, with Lieut.-Capt. Wilhelm Meyer in command, had left Borkum (Germany). On the 31st it encountered the German U.B. 86, likewise starting on a cruise to the north. The U.B. 77 then passed in sight of Fair Island (February 1), doubled the seaward of Rona Island, the Flannan Islands (February 2), and St. Kilda (February 3). On February 4, like a huge triangular iron file, she cut the surface, bound in towards the north coast of Ireland. On February 5 it arrived off the North Channel, where U.B. 97 was also operating. About 5 p.m. it observed a large convoy escorted by destroyers, and manoeuvred to place itself in position for attack.

"We saw nothing of the lurking German submarine, which sighted our convoy and stalked to shoot its missiles of destruction. At 6.45 p.m. one of two fired torpedoes struck, between the engine room and stokehold on the starboard side. These compartments were immediatly filled by water and steam; the crew there on watch being killed. Thus the Tuscania met her fatal blow, heeling over 8 to 10 degrees and swinging to starboard. The force of the explosion threw water and debris up as high as the lifeboats, hanging by their davits, damaging a few—enough to make these unfitted for use.

"At the time of being torpedoed the Tuscania was immediately wrapped in darkness. Speech to us on board was muffled for a time in fright. It felt like running into a sandbar, in addition to the roar of the explosion, the crash of steel and timbers, as also the racket of scattered breakables. In no uncertain terms were we apprised of what had happened. So we crowded to the deck. The hatchways were filled with soldiers adjusting lifebelts, as they scrambled up to the forward deck. With overcoats on, it made quite a difficult task, and some of us fell down on the slanting concrete floor. The steps leading to the promenade deck were crowded with a slowly-moving line. Others were clambering up ropes dangling near. No bugle call had been sounded, nor any warning of impending danger given. The submarine, unperceived, had manoeuvred into position between our column of ships and the outer guard of destroyers, and fired just as twilight began to shroud the sea in gloom. The other vessels put on full speed ahead, and left us to our fate—a naval ruling, rather than a desire. The U.S.S. Kanawha, skirting our starboard, fired its aft gun.

"Like a wounded bird of the flock, the Tuscania whistle incessantly shrieked its call of distress, as if to give voice to its pain. Up into the sky, like two spurts of blood, climbed and quivered two red stars—submarine warning rocket signals. No panic was apparent among the soldiers; they knew their stations from previous boat drill. Few words were spoken; all being intent upon the one object of securing their position in line of abandonment of the ship. There, in the dusk, they stood, counting off or repeating names, as they awaited the launching of the lifeboats.

"The log of the U.B. 77 reveals, that in the early morning of February 5 she was obliged to dive, on the appear-

(Continued on page 34)

Torpedoed: Survivor's History

(*Continued from page 12*)

ance of destroyers out of the darkness, proceeding away from the sound of their propellers. Later a steamer's propeller was heard. The periscope was raised several times, but only destroyers were sighted. At 8.20 a.m. a 2000-ton vessel was sighted. The attempt to reach position ahead of her failed. The submarine constantly broke surface, owing to the swell, and destroyers were sighted in vicinity of steamer. The attack was therefore abandoned. U.B. 77 at 10.30 a.m., came to the surface and charged its batteries. At 2.18 p.m. it had to make a quick dive to avoid patrol craft. At 3.05 p.m. it came to the surface and proceeded into the North Channel. Except for the patrol craft to the north-west, no patrols were seen. At 3.30 p.m. met U97. Lieut.-Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, commander of U.B. 77, relates:—

> At 4.50 p.m. in the west noticed heavy smoke clouds. Hurried up towards these, and soon made out a large convoy steering in a south-easterly direction towards the North Channel. At the head of the convoy was a medium-sized steamer, presumably acting as a barrage-breaker or mine-sweeper (Baltic); following it a large white painted vessel with two smoke stacks (Tuscania); behind this one a large cruiser with four smoke stacks, resembling the Drake class (Kanawha); and behind still six to eight medium steamers in keel line (one back of another); the whole convoy being strongly guarded by destroyers.
>
> Cruising ahead for a time in order to determine the course and speed of the Tuscania; as also to work out a suitable method of attack, we then awaited the convoy in attack position, holding a north-easterly course, close to Rathlin Island. At 6.5 p.m. I made up my mind to attack. As now twilight had set in, I wished to make a water surface attack from the starboard side. In the meanwhile the vessels in the rear and a few destroyers had set themselves out on the starboard side of the large liner, beside which they now rode a parallel course in a "warsline" (side by side). This formation surely made a U-Boat attack difficult. We now were with our submarine directly in front of those ships, set abreast of one another and the destroyers; so could also easily be seen by them, as there still was a great deal of light. I therefore dived at 6.23 p.m., and thereby our visibility was greatly made more difficult, and I could perceive things only through the periscope.
>
> On account of darkness I could but with trouble find the Tuscania, upon which we had intentions. Our situation was somewhat uncomfortable, as the on-coming ships and destroyers could easily run us down. The navigating warrant officer using the foremost periscope was to observe the approaching vessels on the port side, while I endeavoured to pick up the Tuscania with the main periscope. I only succeeded in doing so by using magnification, and after searching for a long time. Finally, I saw gibing along into the periscope an indistinct, befogged shadow, only until over this shadow just as indistinct a smoke stack made its appearance, did I recognise the sought-for ship. Thereupon at 6.40 p.m. I fired No. 1 tube, which torpedo was aimed for just abaft the second funnel, and immediately after the torpedo from No. 2 tube was released.
>
> I had estimated a speed of 15 sea miles; the transport was making but 12 knots. As I had, however, somewhat drifted away from the spot the ship would have, so the torpedoes must hit 'midship. At this moment a destroyer appeared 150 metres (163 yards) away, and headed for the submarine. We dived to 30 meters (98ft.). One minute and ten seconds later a very violent explosion was felt. This would make the range 1200 metres (1312 yards). I considered that both torpedoes must have detonated.
>
> We awaited for a while the evil depth bomb racket. Nothing happened, however, and at 6.57 p.m. we came up and to see what had occurred. The liner had two white masthead lanterns lit (auxiliary lights), and lay very much over to starboard, and astern deep in the water.

"In the meantime, from the deck of the Tuscania, two hissing, serpentine streaks of fire shot up into the sky. They were skyrockets—signals of distress. One line of electric auxiliary lights about the promenade was now visible, gradually meeting reflection in the water as the ship sank. The stars on the wide firmament blinked sadly, and the lighthouse on the high, treacherous Scotland cliff, many miles away, beckoned us on, like a siren, to destruction among its pounding breakers. The English destroyer, Mosquito (Lieut. T. B. Fellowes) approached the Tuscania from the starboard side. On the port side H.M.S. Grasshopper (Lieut. John M. Smith) hove into view

"The lifeboats came scraping down the port side of the Tuscania. As these were filled with soldiers the waves battered them against the bilge of the steel liner. Oars were broken to absorb each shock, and pocket knives at times were used to cut the taut davit ropes! Cracked and leaking, some drifted away. One, striking another lifeboat in its descent, crushed and plunged these men into a black, obliterating sea. On the starboard side other difficulties were encountered in launching. The davits and the waves held lifeboats and rafts out of reach. Soldiers lost their lives in trying to reach these by jumping overboard. The slow churning ship's propeller was a danger that menaced each boat.

The destroyers now began picking up survivors: at times darting off short distances, to prevent the submarine sighting them stationary. The Grasshopper, having rescued over 200 survivors, her capacity list, was obliged to leave. The Mosquito, in a more dangerous position, continued the rescue. Alongside the Tuscania, now deep in the water, H.M.S. Pigeon had ropes thrown to the deck, and the remainder of the survivors slid down to safety. A few lifeboats were drifting to the Scotland coast, only to be broken up against the high cliffs that denied them a landing. Out in an open boat for four hours, a lifeboat with about 50 survivors was picked up 18 miles west of where the Tuscania sank, by Skipper E. Neeve, R.N., in command of the trawler Gloria.

"The German U.B. 77, after a lapse of 20 minutes, quietly rose to the surface. At first swinging her periscope about and perceiving the vessel it had hit, heeling to starboard and settling aft, it came up higher, its conning tower slightly above the water. Then its wireless intercepted our signal of distress, signed Tuscania, thus revealing the victim's identity. Lieut.-Capt. W. Meyer further reveals:—

> In order to hasten the liner's sinking, we tried another attack at 7.15 p.m. We dived to 11 meters (36ft.) in order to approach the ship submerged, but it was already so dark that the situation could not be ascertained, and, besides, the sounds of destroyers' propellers were heard. At 7.40 p.m. we came to the surface to attack. At 7.49 p.m. fired torpedo; it passed ahead of the Tuscania. As we immediately saw by the course it was taking that the torpedo was going to miss, for we thought the ship had not come to a complete stop, I dived on account of destroyers, and proceeded away. At 8.51 p.m. our U-Boat again came to the surface. Boats and signal lights were visible in vicinity of the ship. At 10. p.m. submarine again approached, but nothing more of the Tuscania could be seen. A number of destroyers with all lights screened were steaming about, also smaller craft.

"A few hours later the destroyer Grasshopper passed up the river Foyle, and we landed upon the cobble-stone wharf of Londonderry, Ireland. A number of British officers escorted us up to an old Irish fort, where we were billeted with the Inniskillen Regiment. We were treated to a big bowl of warmth-producing tea, and then talked ourselves to sleep among the straw and woollen blankets on our stone barrack floor, just as dawn streaked the east in grey.

The following day (February 6), U.B. 77 continued to cruise in the northern part of the North Channel, between Rhynns of Islay and the Mull of Cantyre. Late that afternoon another convoy of thirteen ships was sighted, and an attack attempted. However, a stormy sea and a dark night, making visibility in the North Channel difficult, prevented it, and the convoy was missed. In this lot was the Orduna with 200 U.S. nurses aboard. On February 13, U.B. 77 left the North Channel and headed into the sea of Hebrides, looking for stray victims, and arrived at Bremershaven, Germany, on February 21—in all, being out twenty-three cruising days, with one transport sunk.

-2-

HER BROTHER: BLOOD TRANSFUSION

April 6, 1917, had been a strenuous day in the 34th Casualty Clearing Station on the Poperinghe road. Wounded soldiers had been pouring in all day. A request went round for a volunteer from among the nursing staff for a blood transfusion for a poor fellow lying almost at the doors of death. Feeling that I should get a rest from the horrors around me, I volunteered. A test was taken of my blood, and I was chosen. After the transfusion I had 24 hours rest, and when I resumed my duties I was told by the doctor that the man to whom I had given my blood wished to see me. I made my way to his side, and when I saw his face I promptly fainted across the bed. He was my own brother, who had been reported "killed in action" eight months previously. He is alive to-day.—"Springbok."

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Zimmermann, Leo V.
Tues., May 25, 1971, aged 82 years, beloved father of Mary (Frank) Sobotka, grandfather of Gregory, Barry, Lc., Bruce, Kathy and Pamela, brother of Marie Weishar and Paul Zimmermann. Services Fr. 9:15 a.m. at the PRASSER-KLECZKA FUNERAL HOME, E. 3275 S. Howell Ave. to IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH at 10 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery. In state Thurs. after 4 p.m. ST. FRANCIS BAY VIEW POST NUMBER 180 American Legion ritual Thurs., 7:30 p.m. Prayer vigil Thurs., 7 p.m.

MAY 27 1971

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Leo V. Zimmerman

Services were held here Friday for Leo V. Zimmerman, 82, a survivor of the Tuscania ship disaster of World War I and a founder of the National Tuscania Survivors' Association.

Zimmerman died Tuesday of a stroke at the Cameo Convalescent Center, 5790 S. 27th St., where he had been a patient since January.

Zimmerman a medic with the 32nd Division in World War I, was 29 when he was on his way to France aboard the Tuscania. The British luxury liner, which had been converted to a troop carrier, was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sank off the coast of Ireland on Feb. 5, 1918.

Of the 2,030 Americans on board, 166 died. A rough sea and icy cold wind hampered rescue efforts. A total of 213 lives were lost.

After the war, Zimmermann helped to organize the survivors' association and served as its historian. The group has met annually since 1917. Zimmermann had been employed by Milprint, Inc., 4200 N. Holton St., from 1944 until he retired in 1954. Previously he was a grocery clerk.

Zimmermann was a member of the St. Francis Bay View Post No. 180 of the American Legion.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank Sobotka, Riverside, Ill.; a sister, Mrs. Marie Weishar, Milwaukee, and a brother, Paul Zimmermann, St. Louis, Mo.

Services were at the Prasser-Kleczka Funeral Home, 3275 S. Howell Ave., and at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1023 E. Russell Ave. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

MAY 29 1971

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Leo V. Zimmermann

Services were held Friday for Leo V. Zimmermann, 82, a survivor of the Tuscania which was torpedoed by a German submarine in February, 1918.

Zimmermann was a founder of the National Tuscania Survivors Association and worked for more than 10 years to compile a history of the disaster from naval archives and other sources in the United States, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Germany.

The ship was torpedoed in the Atlantic near England and of 2,030 Americans aboard, 166 were lost. Zimmerman was a 29 year old medic with the 32nd Division at the time.

He died Tuesday of a stroke at the Cameo Convalescent Center, 5790 S. 27th St., where he had been a patient since January. He had for several years lived in other nursing homes.

He was a grocery clerk until he began work for Milprint, Inc., 4200 N. Holton St., in 1944. He retired in 1954.

He was a member of the St. Francis—Bay View Post No. 180 of the American Legion.

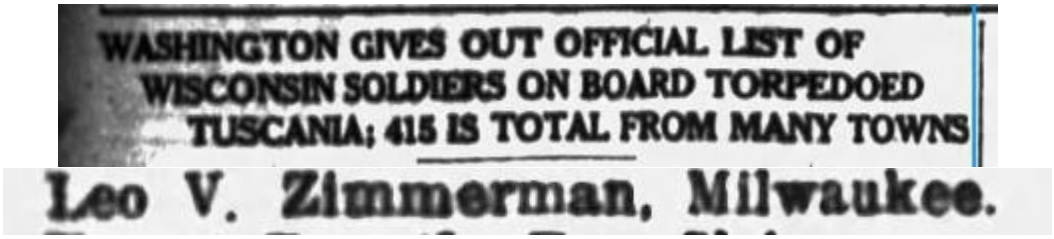
He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank (Mary) Sobotka, Riverside, Ill.; a sister, Mrs. Marie Weishar, Milwaukee, and a brother, Paul Zimmermann, St. Louis.

MAY 29 1971

National
TUSCANIA SURVIVORS
Association

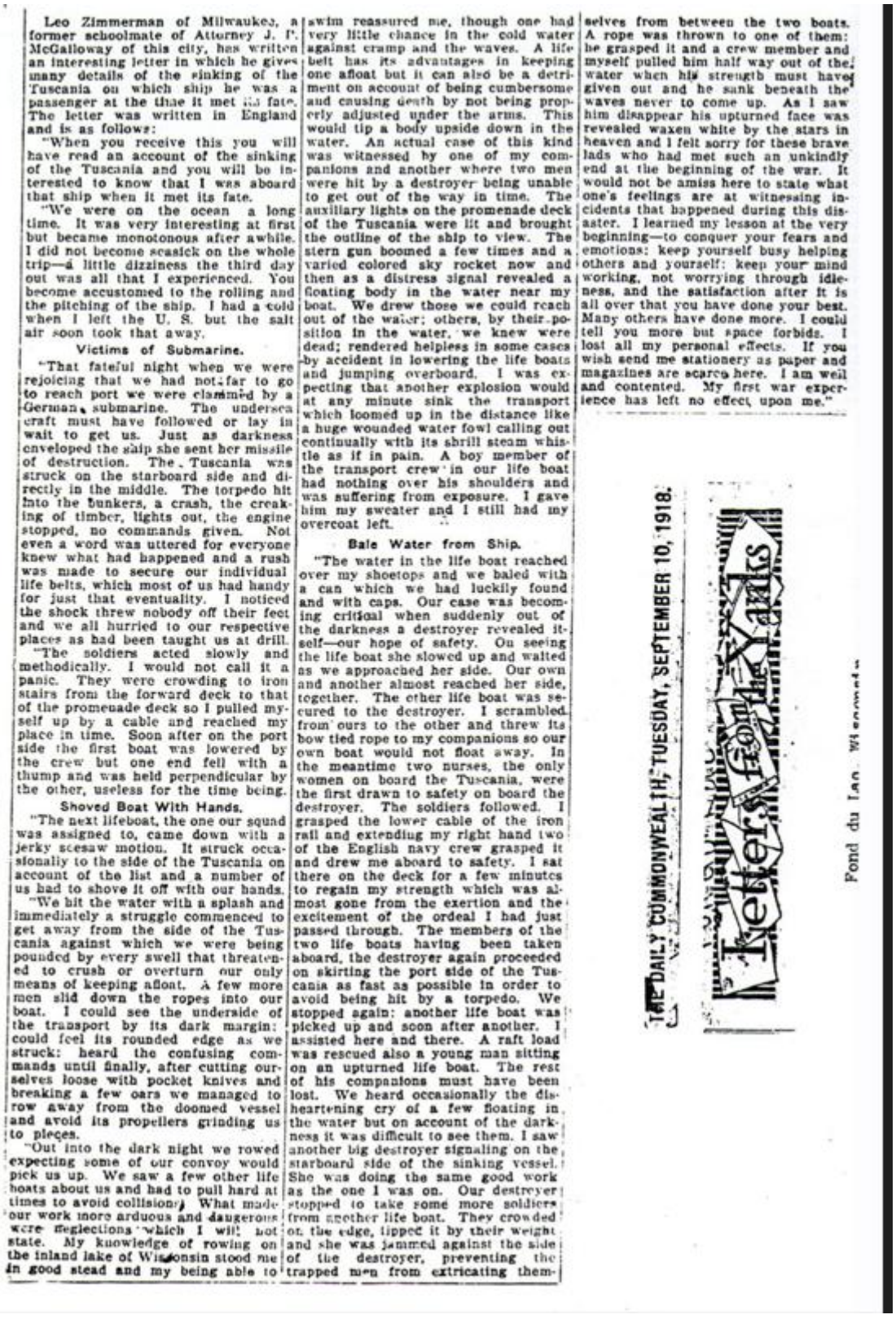
[redacted]
WAUWATOSA, WISCONSIN 53213

Life:


WASHINGTON GIVES OUT OFFICIAL LIST OF
WISCONSIN SOLDIERS ON BOARD TORPEDOED
TUSCANIA; 415 IS TOTAL FROM MANY TOWNS

Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 2



Leo Zimmerman of Milwaukee, a former schoolmate of Attorney J. P. McGalloway of this city, has written an interesting letter in which he gives many details of the sinking of the Tuscania on which ship he was a passenger at the time it met its fate. The letter was written in England and is as follows:

"When you receive this you will have read an account of the sinking of the Tuscania and you will be interested to know that I was aboard that ship when it met its fate.

"We were on the ocean a long time. It was very interesting at first but became monotonous after awhile. I did not become seasick on the whole trip—a little dizziness the third day out was all that I experienced. You become accustomed to the rolling and the pitching of the ship. I had a cold when I left the U. S. but the salt air soon took that away.

Victims of Submarine.

"That fateful night when we were rejoicing that we had not far to go to reach port we were clammed by a German submarine. The undersea craft must have followed or lay in wait to get us. Just as darkness enveloped the ship she sent her missile of destruction. The Tuscania was struck on the starboard side and directly in the middle. The torpedo hit into the bunkers, a crash, the creaking of timber, lights out, the engine stopped, no commands given. Not even a word was uttered for everyone knew what had happened and a rush was made to secure our individual life belts, which most of us had handy for just that eventuality. I noticed the shock threw nobody off their feet and we all hurried to our respective places as had been taught us at drill.

"The soldiers acted slowly and methodically. I would not call it a panic. They were crowding to iron stairs from the forward deck to that of the promenade deck so I pulled myself up by a cable and reached my place in time. Soon after on the port side the first boat was lowered by the crew but one end fell with a thump and was held perpendicular by the other, useless for the time being.

Shoved Boat With Hands.

"The next lifeboat, the one our squad was assigned to, came down with a jerky seesaw motion. It struck occasionally to the side of the Tuscania on account of the list and a number of us had to shove it off with our hands.

"We hit the water with a splash and immediately a struggle commenced to get away from the side of the Tuscania against which we were being pounded by every swell that threatened to crush or overturn our only means of keeping afloat. A few more men slid down the ropes into our boat. I could see the underside of the transport by its dark margin: could feel its rounded edge as we struck: heard the confusing commands until finally, after cutting ourselves loose with pocket knives and breaking a few oars we managed to row away from the doomed vessel and avoid its propellers grinding us to pieces.

"Out into the dark night we rowed expecting some of our convoy would pick us up. We saw a few other life boats about us and had to pull hard at times to avoid collisions. What made our work more arduous and dangerous were deflections which I will not state. My knowledge of rowing on the inland lake of Wisconsin stood me in good stead and my being able to swim reassured me, though one had very little chance in the cold water against cramp and the waves. A life belt has its advantages in keeping one afloat but it can also be a detriment on account of being cumbersome and causing death by not being properly adjusted under the arms. This would tip a body upside down in the water. An actual case of this kind was witnessed by one of my companions and another where two men were hit by a destroyer being unable to get out of the way in time. The auxiliary lights on the promenade deck of the Tuscania were lit and brought the outline of the ship to view. The stern gun boomed a few times and a varied colored sky rocket now and then as a distress signal revealed a floating body in the water near my boat. We drew those we could reach out of the water; others, by their position in the water, we knew were dead; rendered helpless in some cases by accident in lowering the life boats and jumping overboard. I was expecting that another explosion would at any minute sink the transport which loomed up in the distance like a huge wounded water fowl calling out continually with its shrill steam whistle as if in pain. A boy member of the transport crew in our life boat had nothing over his shoulders and was suffering from exposure. I gave him my sweater and I still had my overcoat left.

Bale Water from Ship.

"The water in the life boat reached over my shoetops and we baled with a can which we had luckily found and with caps. Our case was becoming critical when suddenly out of the darkness a destroyer revealed itself—our hope of safety. On seeing the life boat she slowed up and waited as we approached her side. Our own and another almost reached her side, together. The other life boat was secured to the destroyer. I scrambled from ours to the other and threw its bow tied rope to my companions so our own boat would not float away. In the meantime two nurses, the only women on board the Tuscania, were the first drawn to safety on board the destroyer. The soldiers followed. I grasped the lower cable of the iron rail and extending my right hand two of the English navy crew grasped it and drew me aboard to safety. I sat there on the deck for a few minutes to regain my strength which was almost gone from the exertion and the excitement of the ordeal I had just passed through. The members of the two life boats having been taken aboard, the destroyer again proceeded on skirting the port side of the Tuscania as fast as possible in order to avoid being hit by a torpedo. We stopped again: another life boat was picked up and soon after another. I assisted here and there. A raft load was rescued also a young man sitting on an upturned life boat. The rest of his companions must have been lost. We heard occasionally the disheartening cry of a few floating in the water but on account of the darkness it was difficult to see them. I saw another big destroyer signaling on the starboard side of the sinking vessel. She was doing the same good work as the one I was on. Our destroyer stopped to take some more soldiers from another life boat. They crowded on the edge, tipped it by their weight and she was jammed against the side of the destroyer, preventing the trapped men from extricating themselves from between the two boats. A rope was thrown to one of them: he grasped it and a crew member and myself pulled him half way out of the water when his strength must have given out and he sank beneath the waves never to come up. As I saw him disappear his upturned face was revealed waxen white by the stars in heaven and I felt sorry for these brave lads who had met such an unkindly end at the beginning of the war. It would not be amiss here to state what one's feelings are at witnessing incidents that happened during this disaster. I learned my lesson at the very beginning—to conquer your fears and emotions: keep yourself busy helping others and yourself: keep your mind working, not worrying through idleness, and the satisfaction after it is all over that you have done your best. Many others have done more. I could tell you more but space forbids. I lost all my personal effects. If you wish send me stationery as paper and magazines are scarce here. I am well and contented. My first war experience has left no effect upon me."

THE DAILY COMMONWEALTH, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1918.

Letters from the Yanks

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

"Daily Commonweal" (Fond du Lac WI) 10 Sep 1918 – courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

HONOR ROLL

In the following list are given the names of all Wisconsin men included in the current casualty lists forwarded from Washington.

The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American Expeditionary Forces: Killed in action, 1; died from wounds, 4; died from accident and other causes, 9; died of disease, 15; wounded severely, 48; wounded, degree undetermined, 48; wounded slightly, 161; missing in action, 6. Total, 292.

Wounded Severely

Private George F. Murray, Webster.

Wounded Slightly

PRIVATES—

Homer Kizer, Clinton.
Henry Paulson, Whitehall.
Leo G. Pokorney, Richland Center.
Clarence Sampair, New Richmond.
Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee.

CURRENT CASUALTIES

Died of Disease

PRIVATES—

Morris Bistoff, Underhill.
Simon E. Blau, Plain.

CHANGES IN STATUS

The following cabled corrections are issued as an appendix to the regular casualty lists:

Killed in Action, Previously Reported Missing in Action

Tony Pete Vahos, Milwaukee.

Wounded – "Wausau (WI) Daily Herald" Tuesday Jun 1919 p 5

German, Who Sank Tuscania, Bares Details in Letter to Milwaukeean

Tells To Ex-Doughboy Secret He Kept For 11 Years

(By The Associated Press)

MILWAUKEE.—How he sent the troop-laden ship, Tuscania, to the bottom of the Atlantic with 200 members of the A. E. F., is graphically told by Wilhelm Meyer, lieutenant commander of the German U-boat 77 in a copyrighted story in The Milwaukee Sentinel today.

The commander of the U-boat which sank the troop ship told the story in a letter to Leo V. Zimmerman, historian of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors' association, who ascertained the identity of the commander after years of work in preparation of a historical account of the disaster.

Relating for the first time his story of the scuttling of the American troopship, Dr. Meyer, who now lives at Saarbrucken, told of following the British-American convoy protecting the Tuscania.

"At 7:40 we fired two torpedoes, and after a short time—time enough for the torpedoes to travel a distance of 1,200 meters, we heard a loud detonation and knew that our target was hit," Dr. Meyer related, according to the Sentinel.

"After the shot, we sank to a great depth to await the expected crash of the evil depth bombs. Nothing happened however, and at 7:57 we again came to the surface.

"It was then that we saw something had happened to the target. The steamer had put up white mast lights and was listing badly to the starboard with its stern deep in the water. We intercepted the S. O. S. wireless signals and the name 'Tuscania.'

"To hasten the sinking of the ship, we attempted another attack at 8:49 and fired a third torpedo which missed its aim. Quickly thereafter we had to submerge because a destroyer appeared.

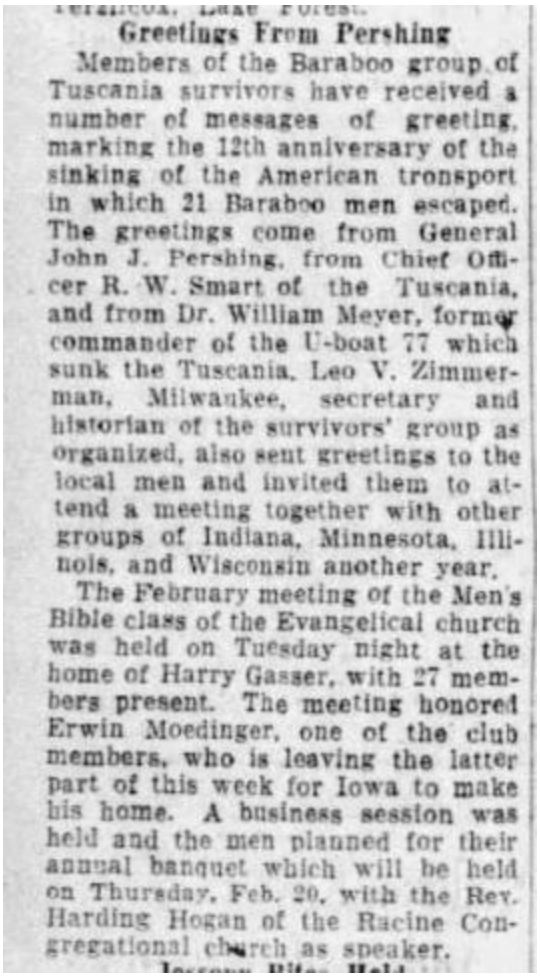
"When we again rose to the surface, we saw a number of vessels at the place of torpedoing. These vessels were giving light signals, bu there was no more trace of the steamer.

"On Feb. 7, the wireless of the British admiralty confirmed that the Tuscania was sunk. Only when we returned to our home port on Feb. 21, did we hear of the tremendous excitement the sinking of the Tuscania had caused in the United States."

Each year the Wisconsin survivors of the disaster meet here to exchange reminiscences. Twenty-six were at the 11th anniversary celebration Feb. 5. Dr. Meyer expressed surprise that the Americans should celebrate.

Breaking a silence he has maintained for 11 years through the letter to Zimmerman, Dr. Meyer closed with a request that "perhaps you could give me now the picture of how this war event looked from your side."

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Sunday 10 Feb 1929 p 1

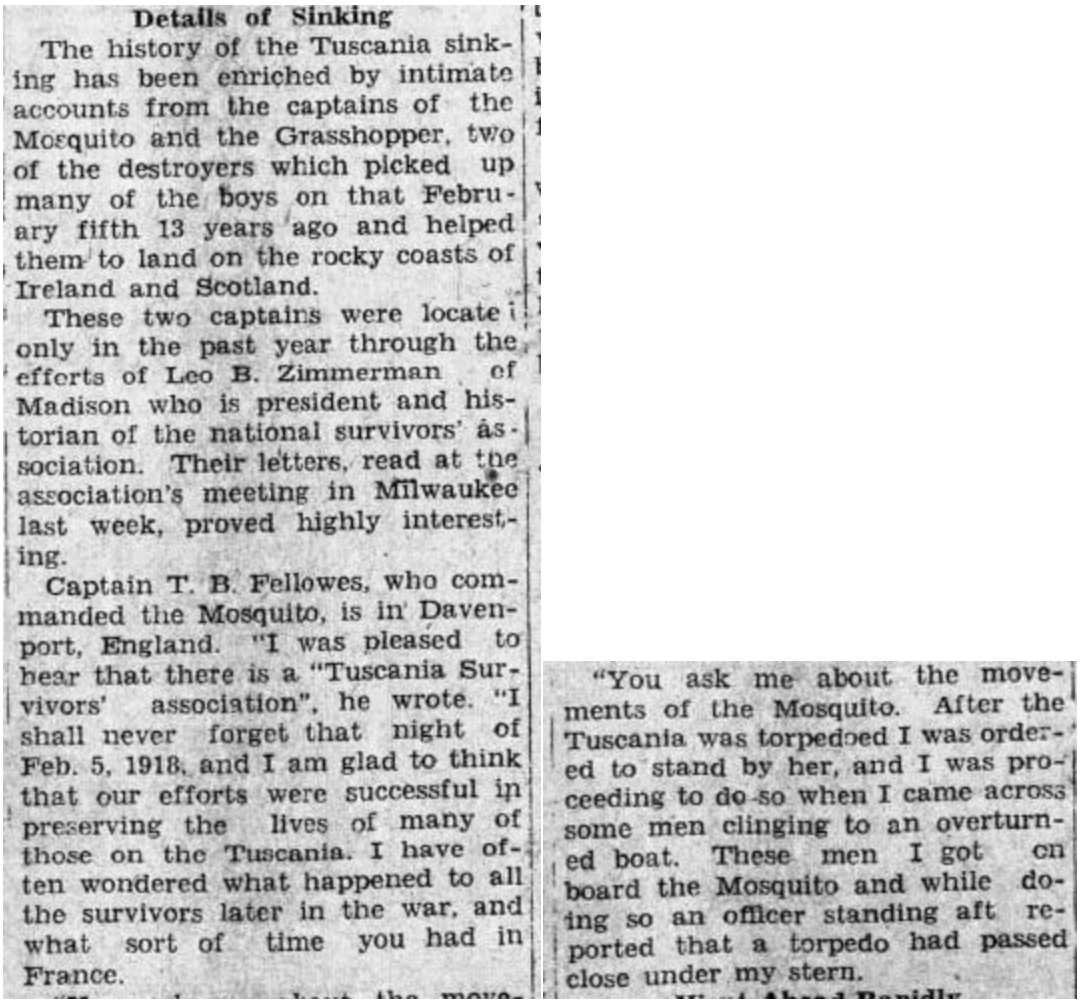


Greetings From Pershing

Members of the Baraboo group of Tuscania survivors have received a number of messages of greeting, marking the 12th anniversary of the sinking of the American transport in which 21 Baraboo men escaped. The greetings come from General John J. Pershing, from Chief Officer R. W. Smart of the Tuscania, and from Dr. William Meyer, former commander of the U-boat 77 which sunk the Tuscania. Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, secretary and historian of the survivors' group as organized, also sent greetings to the local men and invited them to attend a meeting together with other groups of Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin another year.

The February meeting of the Men's Bible class of the Evangelical church was held on Tuesday night at the home of Harry Gasser, with 27 members present. The meeting honored Erwin Moedinger, one of the club members, who is leaving the latter part of this week for Iowa to make his home. A business session was held and the men planned for their annual banquet which will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, with the Rev. Harding Hogan of the Racine Congregational church as speaker.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Thursday 6 Feb 1930 p 16



Details of Sinking

The history of the Tuscania sinking has been enriched by intimate accounts from the captains of the Mosquito and the Grasshopper, two of the destroyers which picked up many of the boys on that February fifth 13 years ago and helped them to land on the rocky coasts of Ireland and Scotland.

These two captains were locate i only in the past year through the efforts of Leo B. Zimmerman of Madison who is president and historian of the national survivors' association. Their letters, read at the association's meeting in Milwaukee last week, proved highly interesting.

Captain T. B. Fellowes, who commanded the Mosquito, is in Davenport, England. "I was pleased to hear that there is a "Tuscania Survivors' association", he wrote. "I shall never forget that night of Feb. 5, 1918, and I am glad to think that our efforts were successful in preserving the lives of many of those on the Tuscania. I have often wondered what happened to all the survivors later in the war, and what sort of time you had in France.

"You ask me about the movements of the Mosquito. After the Tuscania was torpedoed I was ordered to stand by her, and I was proceeding to do so when I came across some men clinging to an overturned boat. These men I got on board the Mosquito and while doing so an officer standing aft reported that a torpedo had passed close under my stern.

Excerpt from long article – "Baraboo (WI) News Republic" Monday 9 Feb 1931 p 1

City Tuscania Survivors To Attend 15th Reunion

J. L. Barnes, C. P. Diggles on Torpedoed Troop Ship; Meet in Chicago Feb. 4-5

MADISON survivors of the "Tuscania" sinking are planning to attend the reunion of survivors to be held in Chicago Feb. 4 and 5, just 15 years after the disaster. The "Tuscania" was the only U. S. troopship torpedoed by a German submarine in the transportation of 2,000,000 troops to France during the World war.

Invited guests of honor at the reunion will be Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, commander of the German U boat No. 77 which sent the "Tuscania" to the bottom. Also invited are John M. Smith, commander of the British destroyer "Grasshopper" which rescued all but the 225 men who were drowned or killed; and Capt. Peter McLean, Glasgow, master of the "Tuscania."

Two known survivors in Madison are John L. Barnes and Clyde P. Diggles. They will be taken to the convention by the delegation from Wautoma, which had 70 men on the ship for the largest group from any one place.

Members of the convention executive committee include Otto F. Bates, Baraboo; C. W. Eagan, Wautoma; Fred A. Scholey, Kenosha; Leo Zimmerman and M. W. Collins, Milwaukee.

"Madison (WI) Capital Journal" Friday 20 Jan 1933 p 4

Left In Open Boat

Before the "Pigeon" drew up alongside the "Tuscania," Jones was lowered in a small whaleboat to pick up the men swimming about in the water. After the "Pigeon" had loaded Vale and the 150 left on the "Tuscania," it was found there was not a single pin's space left for Jones and the couple score men in his whaleboat. So the "Pigeon" was forced to steam off, leaving Jones and his men in an ouen boat on the stormy sea in the thick of the night.

Jones floated about the rough water for 24 hours, during which time the survivors of the "Tuscania" suffered painfully from cold, hunger and exposure. Finally, about a day after, Jones was picked up by a passing steamer.

James F. Bray, Baraboo, was elected president of the association.

Richard J. Poteet, Nashville, Tenn., was named treasurer; Charles B. Dunn, Chicago, judge advocate; Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, historian; Harry Shostack, Chicago, sergeant-at-arms; and Arthur J. Nissen, Milwaukee, chaplain. The 1935 meeting will be in Baraboo on Feb. 5, the anniversary of the ship sinking in which 225 lost their lives.

“Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette” Tuesday 6 Feb 1934 p 7

Survivors Of Tuscania Will Meet In Sheboygan

Fred A. Duxbury, one of Sheboygan's three survivors of the torpedoed transport ship Tuscania off the coast of Ireland on February 5, 1918, was elected president of the National Tuscania Survivors' association, and Sheboygan was chosen as the next convention city at the closing session of the organization's annual meeting at Baraboo.

Each year the association holds its reunion, and at that time the screaming blast of a torpedo, the terror-filled scramble for lifeboats and the thrilling rescue from the icy waters of the north Atlantic are recalled. Membership is limited to members of the American Expeditionary forces and members of the Tuscania crew who survived the torpedoing that resulted in the loss of 315 persons of the 2,700 aboard.

Name Other Officers

Approximately 200 members attended the Baraboo convention, and besides selecting their new president and next convention city, they elected the following officers: Dr. Ingwald Hansen, Manitowoc, vice president; Max Collins, Eau Claire, secretary; Fred Braem, Marshfield, treasurer; Charles B. Dunn, Chicago, judge advocate; Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, historian; Nathan F. Carhart, Galesville, sergeant at arms; John L. Barnes, Wautoma, chaplain.

Besides adopting a resolution asking President Franklin D. Roosevelt to enact the senate bill providing medals for Tuscania survivors, the association conducted memorial services for victims of the disaster at a bridge in Baraboo, with members of the Baraboo unit of the national guard participating.

Speakers at the banquet included Col. P. K. Zinck, Beaver Dam, war-time commander of the 127th Infantry of the 32nd Division. Dr.

(Continued on page 2.)

Heads Survivors



Fred A. Duxbury

Survivors Of Tuscania Will Meet In Sheboygan

(Continued from page 1.)

Wilhelm F. Meyer, commander of the German submarine which sank the Tuscania, was invited to attend, but sent his regrets from his home in Saarbruecken, Saar territory. The recent plebiscite there, he explained, had increased his duties and made his coming impossible.

Three Local Survivors

Sheboygan has the distinction of having three residents who are survivors of the tragedy, and in the selection of this city for the next convention and Mr. Duxbury as the new president of the organization, Sheboygan is signally honored. Other local survivors are Martin Bongers and Theodore L. Briggs, the latter being out of the city at the present time.

Mr. Duxbury was still out of the city this morning, but in a Press interview a year ago he recalled the Tuscania rescue as "the biggest thrill I got out of the war".

The story of the sinking of the Tuscania is most graphically told by Leo V. Zimmerman of Milwaukee, historian of the Tuscania Survivors' association.

"The Tuscania was one of a fleet of eleven vessels forming a convoy headed by the British cruiser Cochrane and the Commodore Ship Baltic and escorted by destroyers. Aboard the Tuscania, en route for Liverpool, were the following units: Headquarters Detachments 1 and 2 of the 32nd Division — comprising in all, a complement of 2,156 American soldiers, two British female nurses and a personnel of 237 officers and men in the crew.

Torpedoes Strike

"We saw nothing of the lurking German submarine on the dark night of February 5. Later it developed it was the German U-boat 77, with Lt. Commander Meyer in charge. It had left Borkum, Germany, and arrived off the North Channel, where it sighted our convoy escorted by destroyers. It maneuvered into position for attack and immediately after nightfall it sent two torpedoes from its forward tubes.

"The torpedo struck directly abreast of the engine room on the starboard side. The compartment was immediately filled by water and steam. The force of the explosion damaged some of the lifeboats.

"In orderly fashion, the soldiers adjusted their life preservers and took to the water, some of them scantily garbed. Like a wounded bird of the flock, the Tuscania whistle incessantly shrieked its call of distress, as if to give voice to its pain. Up into the sky, like two spurts of blood, climbed and quivered two red stars—submarine warning rocket signals. From the deck of the Tuscania two hissing, serpentine

lowing units: Headquarters Detachment and three companies of Twentieth Engineers; fifty-one casual officers; 107th Engineer Train, 107th military police, 107th Supply Train, 100th, 158th and 213th Aero Squadron, Medical de-

streaks of fire shot up into the sky. The other convoy ships put on full speed ahead to leave us to our fate—a strict naval ruling. There was no panic among the soldiers — they knew their stations from previous drills.

Tells Of Rescue

"The English destroyer 'Mosquito' approached from the starboard side dropping depth bombs as it came. The 'Grasshopper' hove into view to port, The German U-boat, diving in a course straight away on the starboard of the Tuscania for a distance of a few nautical miles, quietly rose to the surface. At first perceiving her periscope abut and perceiving the vessel it had hit, the U-boat raised its conning tower slightly above the water, hurriedly set up the wireless and intercepted the signal of distress to learn the identity of its victim. It then resubmerged and endeavored to draw closer despite the movements of the destroyers. It fired a third torpedo, but the distance was too great.

"The destroyer 'Pigeon', throwing out a heavy smoke screen, approached and lowered life-boats to pick the men out of the water. A short time later, just as the Tuscania sank, Officer Jones led a straight column of life-boats filled with survivors to safety.

"We were placed aboard the 'Grasshopper' and taken up the river Foyle to Londonderry, Ireland, where we were billeted with the Inneskillen regiment and given warm food and shelter."

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Wednesday 6 Feb 1935 p 1 & p 2

Historian Of Association Tells Story

Leo Zimmerman Relates Tale Of Torpedoing Off Ireland — Quotes U-Boat Captain

A graphic and detailed history of the torpedoing of the SS. Tuscania has been written by Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, historian of the National Tuscania Survivors' association.

It tells how the American troops boarded the ship at Hoboken in January, 1918, describes the voyage, and contains the story of the sinking off the coast of Ireland as written by Capt. Wilhelm Meyer of the U-77. It also describes the rescue work and contains stories, published in Scottish newspapers of the time, telling of the burials of the American soldiers who lost their lives.

This & other articles are found in "Sheboygan (WI) Press" Wednesday 5 Feb 1936 special section - https://www.newspapers.com/image/239469116/

On the same page:

Sheboygan V. F. W. Post Greets Survivors Today

The Wolf-Olson Post, 1230, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, extends a cordial welcome to members of the National Tuscania Survivors association who are holding their 18th annual reunion here in Sheboygan today.

The letter of welcome written by the post commander, Anton Altmann, follows:

"The annual reunion in Sheboygan of the Tuscania Survivors association, recalls that there is in Sheboygan only a few men who survived that famous war-time catastrophe in which 225 lives were lost when the British steamer Tuscania, conveying American troops and airplane supplies to Liverpool, was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine, U-77, off the north coast of Ireland on February 5, 1918.

"The known Sheboygan survivors are Fred A. Duxbury and Martin Bongers. Another survivor, Theodore L. Briggs, made his home here in this city since the war, but recently moved to California.

"Each year on the date of the sinking of the Tuscania, the survivors hold a meeting and members join hands in a demonstration of fellowship and a deep tribute to the war dead of all nations. The story of the sinking is told by Leo V. Zimmerman of Milwaukee.

"The destroyer 'Pigeon' throwing out a heavy smoke screen, approached and lowered lifeboats to pick the men out of the water. A short time later, just as the Tuscania sank, Officer Jones led a straight column of lifeboats filled with survivors to safety. They were placed aboard the 'Grasshopper' and taken to Londonderry, Ireland, and given warm food and shelter.

"Comrades, survivors of the Tuscania, we welcome you to our city and may you all enjoy every minute while with us here today. May your reunion be successful and well attended. With best wishes from Wolf-Olson Post, No. 1230, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Yours in comradship,

ANTON ALTMANN, Commander.

New Tuscania List Compiled

An updating of Kenosha's list of S. S. Tuscania survivors was offered today by John J. Young, 7401 41st Ave.

Young was one of four Kenoshans who attended a reunion of the survivors of the World War I sinking of the British troopship at Milwaukee Cudworth American Legion Post clubhouse last week. Other Kenoshans who attended the meeting that marked the 40th anniversary of the tragedy were Hans Andersen, Claude Forbes and Otto Mowrey.

In the sinking of the ship in the north channel off the Irish coast on Feb. 5, 1918, 226 American soldiers lost their lives. In 1926, a group of the survivors formed the National Tuscania Survivors Association in a meeting at Milwaukee, and since that time reunions have been held on an annual basis.

In the meeting all officers of the association were re-elected. They are President Harry Livens, Milwaukee; Secretary-treasurer Edward T. Lauer, Wauwatosa; Historian Leo V. Zimmermann, Milwaukee, and Chaplain Harry Vanderburg, Mukwonago.

Young's new listing of the present Kenosha survivors of the disaster includes in addition to the four who attended the reunion: William L. Garner, Floyd S. Hill, Leo Hopper, Karl Hultenius, Rudolph Hultenius, Henry W. Huetten, Charles W. Knaup, John Mitchell, Louis E. Regnier, Norbert M. Tyson, Frank H. Tanking, Fred Young and August Zura. Young pointed out that in the intervening years since the troopship was sunk by German torpedoes, many of the members of the association have died and many have moved away from this area. He said that he is interested in securing a complete listing of the known survivors.

"Kenosha (WI) News" Thursday 13 Feb 1958 p 11

Tuscania Will Hold Reunion

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. —(AP)— Some 200 survivors of the sinking of the Tuscania ,torpedoed while carrying American soldiers during the First World war, will meet here Feb. 7-8 to pay homage to their 269 buddies who perished.

The 1942 meeting of this unusual organization—the national Tuscania survivors' association—will be all the more significant because warriors of a new AEF are on the seas facing not only U-boat attacks, but the danger of aerial bombing.

The Tuscania was smashed by a torpedo within sight of the Irish coast 24 years ago today—On Feb. 5, 1918. A 14,000-ton British vessel under British convoy, she was the first transport lost in the movement of nearly 2,000,000 American troops to Europe.

No Panic

The survivors, wishing the new AEF bon voyage, declared the U. S. navy was better prepared for convoy duty today.

"It felt like running into a sandbar in addition to the roar of the explosion and the crash of steel and timbers," Leo V. Zimmerman, of Milwaukee, association historian, described the Tuscania attack.

"Hatchways were filled with soldiers adjusting lifebelts ... No panic was apparent ... There in the dark we stood on the slanting deck, counting off as we awaited the launching of the lifeboats ... Two hissing serpentine streaks of fire shot up—skrockets, signals of distress ... The stars blinked sadly and the lighthouse many miles away beckoned us on like a siren."

The tragedy was not without its oddities, however. Two men were shooting dice when their raft was found at daybreak. A survivor claimed that the shock of the explosion cured his pneumonia.

A decade later, survivors learned that Captain Wilhelm Meyer, of Saarbrucken, commanded the submarine. He promised to attend the 1933 meeting, saying that the invitation indicated an absence of bitterness and a recognition that he merely had done his duty.

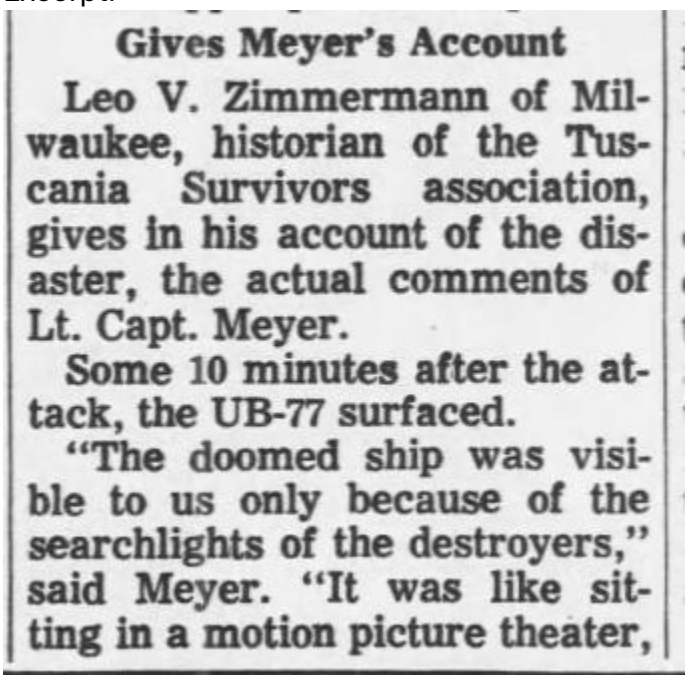
The German embassy in Washington later announced that Meyer "had decided not to come," reportedly because the embassy had been offended at a radio dramatization of Meyer's acceptance in which he was represented as expressing sorrow over the drowning of the American soldiers.

"La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Thursday 5 Feb 1942 p 17

Chicago Tribune SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 1963

Victim, Victor Recall Tuscania Sinking

Excerpt:



Gives Meyer's Account

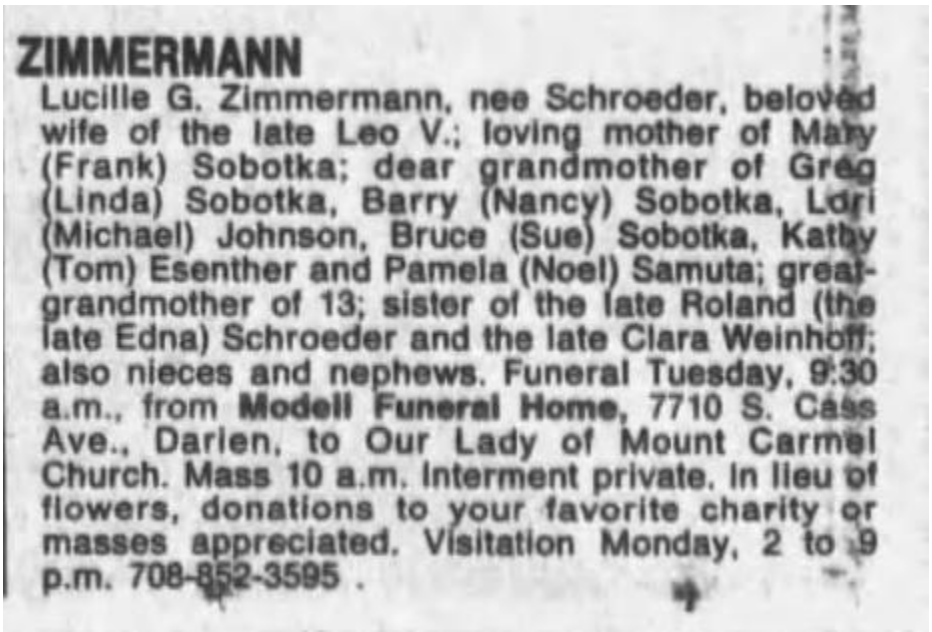
Leo V. Zimmermann of Milwaukee, historian of the Tuscania Survivors association, gives in his account of the disaster, the actual comments of Lt. Capt. Meyer.

Some 10 minutes after the attack, the UB-77 surfaced.

"The doomed ship was visible to us only because of the searchlights of the destroyers," said Meyer. "It was like sitting in a motion picture theater,

"Chicago Tribune" Sunday 3 Mar 1963 p 2

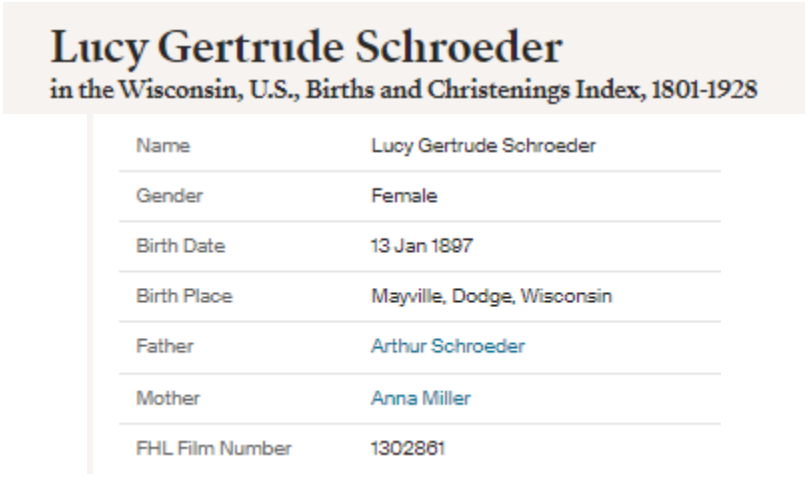
Wife:



ZIMMERMANN

Lucille G. Zimmermann, nee Schroeder, beloved wife of the late Leo V.; loving mother of Mary (Frank) Sobotka; dear grandmother of Greg (Linda) Sobotka, Barry (Nancy) Sobotka, Lori (Michael) Johnson, Bruce (Sue) Sobotka, Kathy (Tom) Esenther and Pamela (Noel) Samuta; great-grandmother of 13; sister of the late Roland (the late Edna) Schroeder and the late Clara Weinhoff; also nieces and nephews. Funeral Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., from **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Ave., Darien, to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Mass 10 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations to your favorite charity or masses appreciated. Visitation Monday, 2 to 9 p.m. 708-852-3595 .

Obituary of Lucille Gertrude Schroeder Zimmermann – "Chicago Tribune" Sunday 12 Dec 1993 p 163



Lucy Gertrude Schroeder
in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

Name	Lucy Gertrude Schroeder
Gender	Female
Birth Date	13 Jan 1897
Birth Place	Mayville, Dodge, Wisconsin
Father	Arthur Schroeder
Mother	Anna Miller
FHL Film Number	1302861

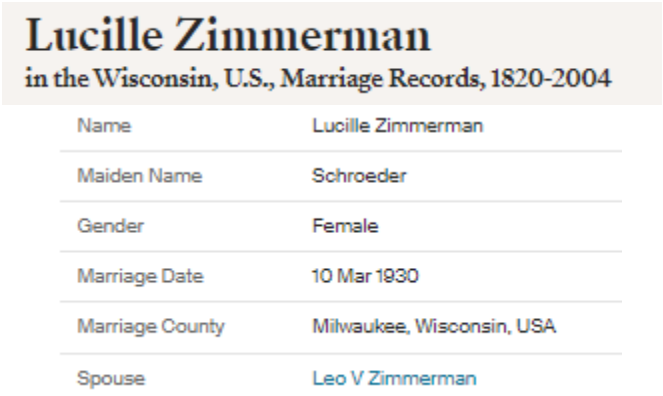
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1393760:2544



Lucille Schroeder
in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Lucille Schroeder
Marriage Date	15 Oct 1921
Marriage County	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Leo V. Zimmermann

Marriage of Lucille Schroeder to Leo V. Zimmermann on 15 Oct 1921 in Milwaukee Co. WI - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91228688:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=007bf5d32b09d6953edd21ab98f10550&_phsrc=hFB72401&_phstart=successSource

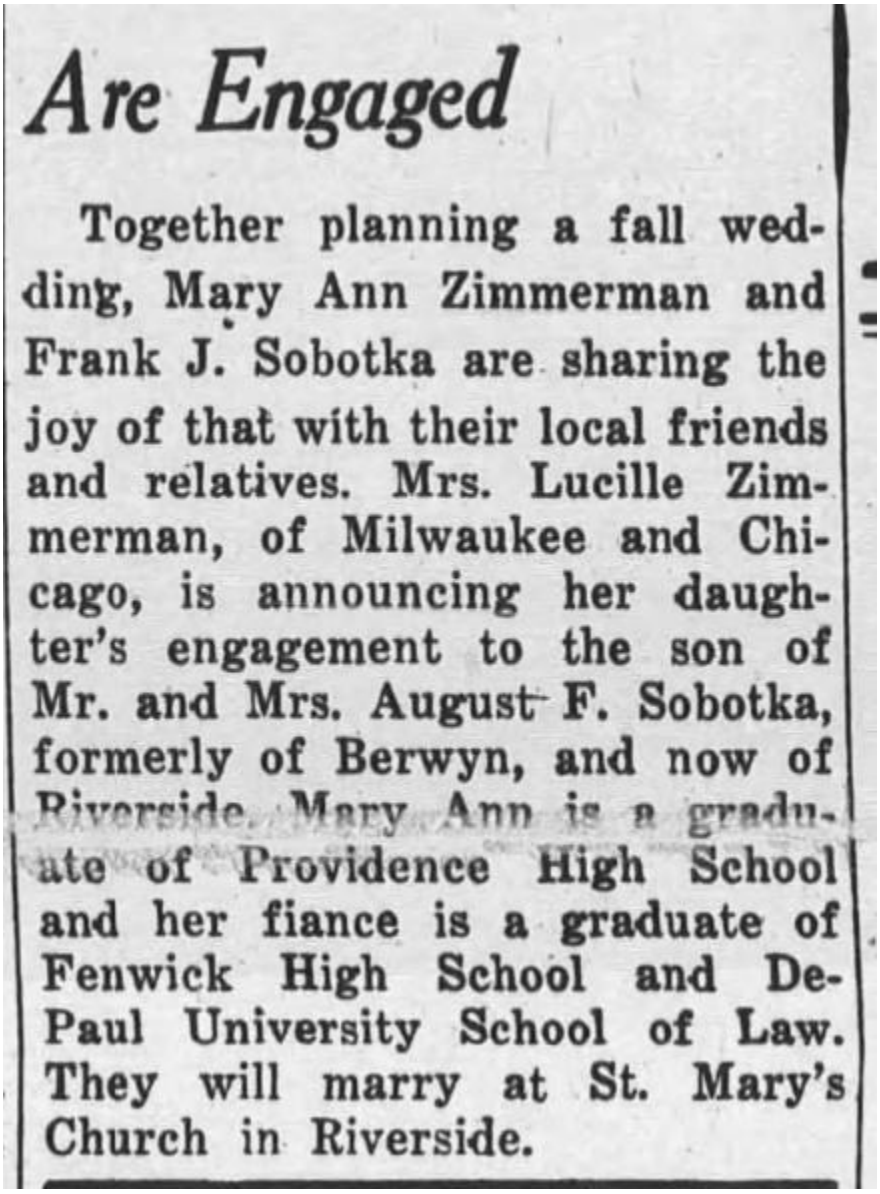


Lucille Zimmerman
in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Lucille Zimmerman
Maiden Name	Schroeder
Gender	Female
Marriage Date	10 Mar 1930
Marriage County	Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Leo V Zimmerman

Remarriage? Lucille Zimmermann to Leo V. Zimmermann on 10 Mar 1930 in Milwaukee Co. WI - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/90986927:61484?tid=&pid=&queryId=007bf5d32b09d6953edd21ab98f10550&_phsrc=hFB72400&_phstart=successSource

Daughter:



Are Engaged

Together planning a fall wedding, Mary Ann Zimmerman and Frank J. Sobotka are sharing the joy of that with their local friends and relatives. Mrs. Lucille Zimmerman, of Milwaukee and Chicago, is announcing her daughter's engagement to the son of Mr. and Mrs. August F. Sobotka, formerly of Berwyn, and now of Riverside. Mary Ann is a graduate of Providence High School and her fiance is a graduate of Fenwick High School and DePaul University School of Law. They will marry at St. Mary's Church in Riverside.

Engagement of daughter Mary Ann Zimmermann to Frank J. Sobotka – note her father's name is not mentioned – "Berwyn (IL) Life" Sunday 26 Oct 1947 p 5

Mary A. Sobotka
in the U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014

Name	Mary A. Sobotka
Social Security Number	353-12-1101
Birth Date	14 Feb 1926
Issue year	Before 1951
Issue State	Illinois
Last Residence	60532, Lisle, Du Page, Illinois
Death Date	22 Aug 2008

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/83301622:3693

SOBOTKA, MARY A.

Mary A. Sobotka, **nee Zimmermann,** beloved wife of the late Frank J.; loving mother of Gregory (Linda), Barry, Lori (Michael) Johnson, Katherine (Thomas) Esenther, Pamela (William) Nicholas; cherished grandmother of 15; great-grandmother of eight; aunt of many nieces and nephews. Funeral Monday, 9:15 a.m. from **Modell Funeral Home,** 7710 South Cass Avenue, Darien, to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Mass 10 a.m. Interment Private. Visitation Sunday, 3 to 8 p.m. For info. Please call 630-852-3595 or www.modellfuneralhomes.com
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

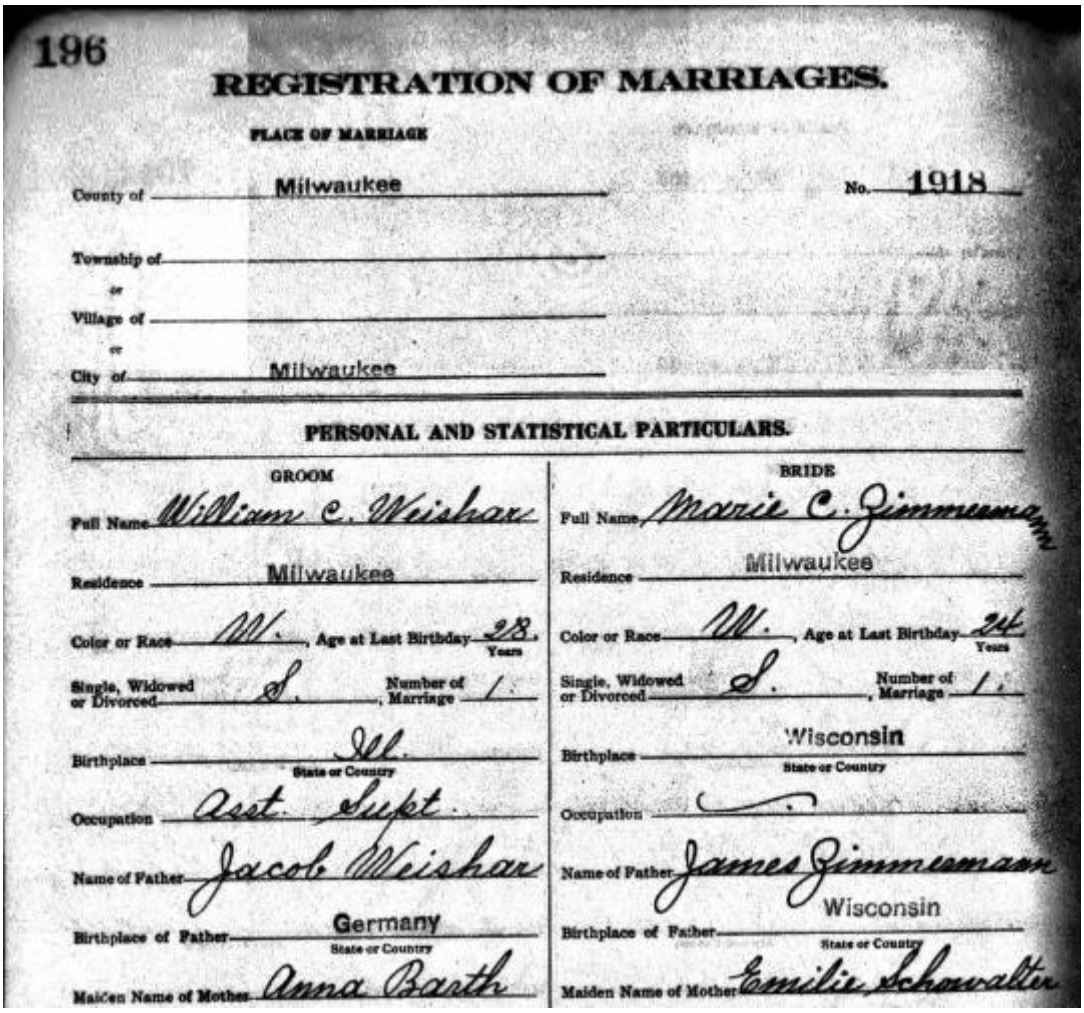
daughter Mary A. Zimmermann Sobotka – "Chicago Tribune" Sunday 24 Aug 2008 p 4-8

SOBOTKA, FRANK J.

Frank J. Sobotka, beloved husband of Mary, nee Zimmermann; loving father of Gregory (Linda), Barry (Lori), Lori (Michael) Johnson, Bruce (Susan), Katherine (Thomas) Esenther, Pamela (William) Nicholas; cherished grandfather of 13; great-grandfather of three; dear brother of Richard (Josephine), the late Marion (the late James) Masek and Rosalie (the late Jack) Will; also nieces and nephews. Funeral Monday, 9:30 a.m. from **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 S. Cass Ave., Darien to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Mass 10 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Thomas Hospice, appreciated. Visitation Sunday, 3 to 8 p.m. 630-852-3595.
Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

husband Frank J. Sobotka's obituary in "Chicago Tribune" Sunday 8 Aug 2004 p 4-9

Siblings:



196

REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES.

PLACE OF MARRIAGE

County of Milwaukee No. 1918

Township of

or

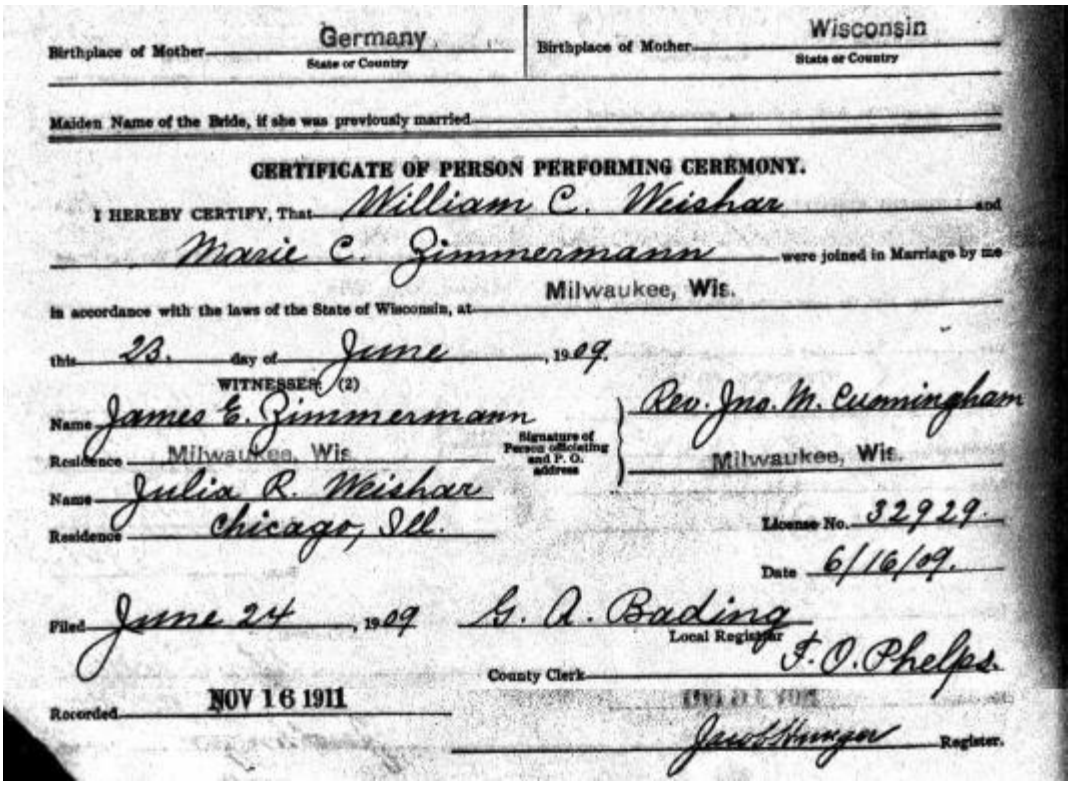
Village of

or

City of Milwaukee

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS.

GROOM	BRIDE
Full Name William C. Weishaar	Full Name Marie C. Zimmermann
Residence Milwaukee	Residence Milwaukee
Color or Race W., Age at Last Birthday 28 Years	Color or Race W., Age at Last Birthday 24 Years
Single, Widowed or Divorced S., Number of Marriage 1	Single, Widowed or Divorced S., Number of Marriage 1
Birthplace Ill. State or Country	Birthplace Wisconsin State or Country
Occupation Asst. Supt.	Occupation —
Name of Father Jacob Weishaar	Name of Father James Zimmermann
Birthplace of Father Germany State or Country	Birthplace of Father Wisconsin State or Country
Maiden Name of Mother Anna Barth	Maiden Name of Mother Emilie Schowalter



Birthplace of Mother: Germany (State or Country) | Birthplace of Mother: Wisconsin (State or Country)

Maiden Name of the Bride, if she was previously married:

CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That William C. Weishar and Marie C. Zimmermann were joined in Marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin, at Milwaukee, Wis. this 23. day of June, 1909.

WITNESSES (2)

Name: James E. Zimmermann
Residence: Milwaukee, Wis

Name: Julia R. Weishar
Residence: Chicago, Ill.

Signature of Person officiating and P. O. address: Rev. Jno. M. Cunningham, Milwaukee, Wis.

License No. 32929.

Date 6/16/09.

Filed June 24, 1909 G. A. Bading Local Registrar

County Clerk F. O. Phelps.

Recorded NOV 16 1911

Register.

marriage of sister Marie Clara Zimmermann (1885-1980) to William C. Weishar 23 Jun 1909 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1350110645:61720

Zimmerman-Weishar.

The wedding of Miss Marie C. Zimmerman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Zimmerman, to William Chas. Weishar, took place on June 30, 1909, at 9 o'clock at the church of the Gesu, Milwaukee, the marriage being solemnized with solemn high mass, celebrated by the Rev. Fr. J. J. Cunningham, S. J., assisted by the Rev. Fr. S. J. Nicholas, S. J., as deacon, and the Rev. Fr. Mathias F. Weishar, S. J., as subdeacon.



The bride wore a lovely princess gown of imported white lace over white satin. Her veil was of tulle, and she carried a shower bouquet of lilies of the valley. The maid of honor, Miss Julia R. Weishar, of Chicago, sister of the bridegroom, wore a delicate gown of pale yellow French batiste, with a wreath of little yellow rose buds by way of her hair dress. She carried white roses. Jas. E. Zimmerman, brother of the bride, acted as best man. Master Charles Edwin Loeber, nephew of the groom, was the page to the bride.

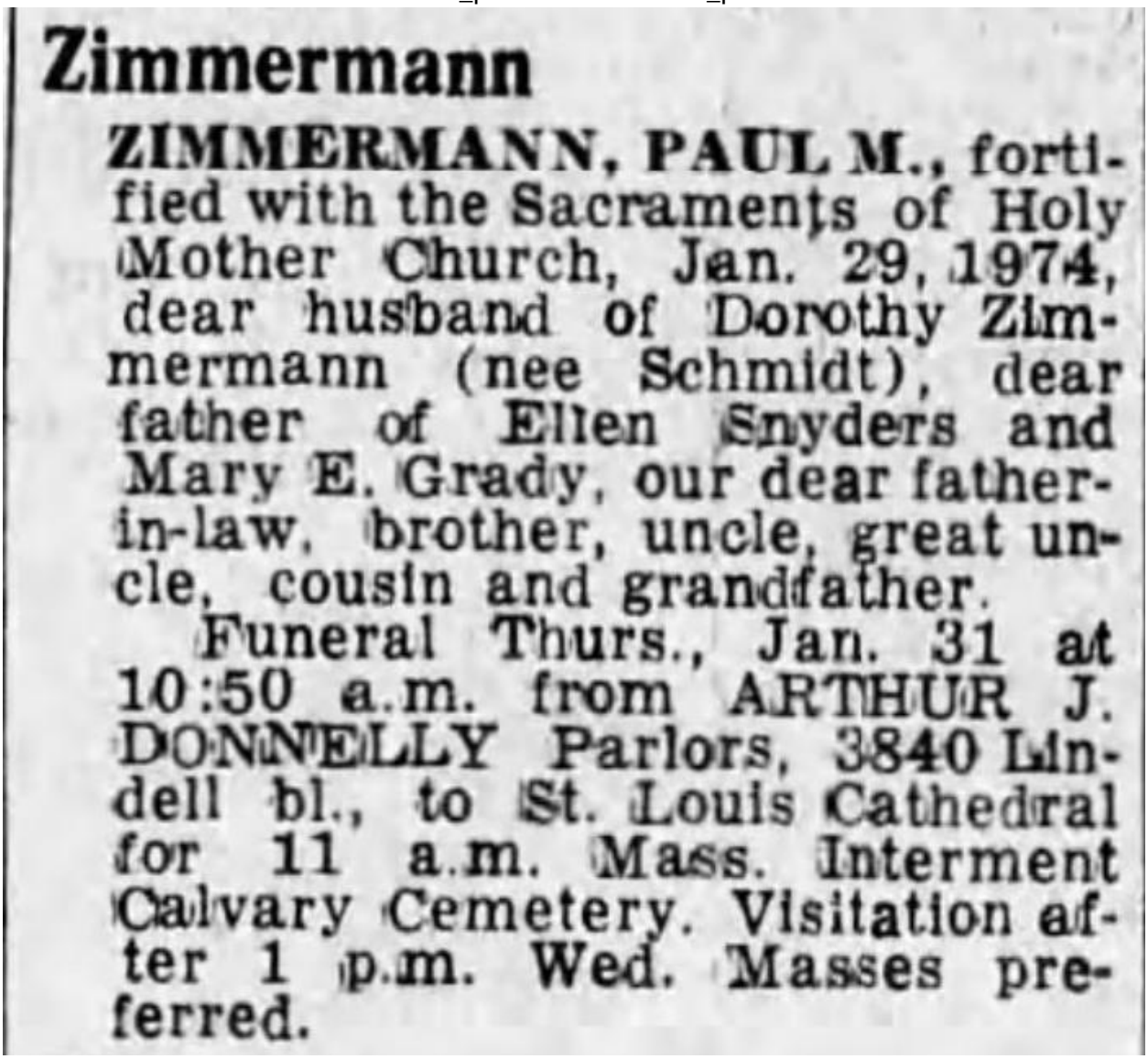
The ceremony at the church was followed by a wedding breakfast at the home of the bride's parents, 310 12th street, Milwaukee, Wis.

Marriage of Maria Clara Zimmermann to William Charles Weishar – "Freeport (IL) Daily Journal" Saturday 17 Jul 1909 p 8

James Zimmermann
in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

Name	James Zimmermann
Gender	Male
Birth Place	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Spouse	Emilie Leocadia Schowalter
Child	Robert Friedrick Zimmerman
FHL Film Number	1305114

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/150464237:2544?tid=10128734&pid=422212192189&queryId=3a5a875caa10c37ed36b4feef3991673&_phsrc=hFB72375&_phstart=successSource



Zimmermann

ZIMMERMANN, PAUL M., fortified with the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church, Jan. 29, 1974, dear husband of Dorothy Zimmermann (nee Schmidt), dear father of Ellen Snyders and Mary E. Grady, our dear father-in-law, brother, uncle, great uncle, cousin and grandfather. Funeral Thurs., Jan. 31 at 10:50 a.m. from ARTHUR J. DONNELLY Parlors, 3840 Lindell bl., to St. Louis Cathedral for 11 a.m. Mass. Interment Calvary Cemetery. Visitation after 1 p.m. Wed. Masses preferred.

"St. Louis (MO) Post-Dispatch" Wednesday 30 Jan 1974 p 28

Abbreviations:
b = born
d = died
F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)
NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Leonard Valentine (Leo) Zimmermann
Name variations:
Military:
On Tuscania: 107th Sanitary #1 - private
Serial number: 18,191
Entered service from: Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI
Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Leo V. Zimmermann
Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father James Zimmermann, 669 - 51st St., Milwaukee WI
Returned from war on: "Rhode Island" May 1919
Sailed on return ship as: Leo V. Zimmermann
Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father James Zimmermann, 669 - 51st St., Milwaukee WI (PFC, San. Sq. 7)
World War I draft registration (1917): as Leo Valentine Zimmermann - b. 22 Dec 1888 Milwaukee WI; res: 669 – 51st, Milwaukee WI. Single. Chauffeur for himself, Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co. WI. Private in National Guard for 2 weeks in WI. Medium height & build.
National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 624 N. Water St., Milwaukee WI
World War II draft registration (1942): as Leo Valentine Zimmermann - b. 22 Dec 1888 Milwaukee WI; res: 1208 N. Jackson St., #2, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. NOK James E. Zimmermann, 1334 N. 45th St., Milwaukee WI. Employed at Milwaukee Athletic Club, 758 N. Broadway, Milwaukee WI. Card was not signed. Height: 5'7" – 150 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:
Enlisted: 15 Jul 1917
Discharged: 26 May 1919
Address: 943 – 51st St., Milwaukee WI
Rank/unit: private, Medical Detachment, Sanitary Squad 7

Birth & death:
Born: 22 Dec 1888 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI
Died: 25 May 1971 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI
Find A Grave record: 178707459 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text
Burial location: Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI
Cemetery: Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum
Tombstone:

Father: James (Jacob) Zimmermann, 20 Apr 1849 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - 13 Apr 1929 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. Son of Friedrich Zimmermann & Sophia Bach. Buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI.
Find A Grave: 178707458

Mother: Emily Leocadia (Amelia/Emilie) L. Showalter Zimmermann, 26 Nov 1856 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 27 Jan 1934 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. Buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI.
Find A Grave: 178707455
Parents' marriage: 1880

Spouse: Lucille Gertrude (Lucy) Schroeder Zimmerman, 13 Jan 1897 Maryville, Dodge WI – 1a Dec 1993 Lyons, Cook IL. Daughter of Arthur C. Schroeder (1872-1962, F: 173357471) & Anna Miller (1871-1960, F: 173357470, buried in same cemetery). Buried in Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI.
Spouse Find A Grave: 173121018
Marriage: Lucille Schroeder married Leo Zimmermann on 15 Oct 1921 in Milwaukee Co. WI. Then Lucille Zimmermann married Leo Zimmerman on 10 Mar 1930 Milwaukee Co. WI, a month before the 1930 census.

Children:

- Mary Zimmermann Sobotka, 14 Feb 1926 WI - 22 Aug 2008 Lisle, DuPage IL. Informant "Mary Sobotka" on her mother's IL death certificate. In the 1940 census, Mary Ann Zimmermann, 14 WI, who in 1935 lived in Milwaukee WI, was a resident of Our Lady's Academy, a boarding school in Manteno, Kankakee IL, for both boys & girls. Wife of Frank Joseph Sobotka (14 Dec 1912 Chicago, Cook IL – Aug 2004 IL), the son of August F. Sobotka & Marie Stastny. They were engaged in Oct 1947.

Siblings: an additional child had died by the time of the 1900 census

- Eugene J. Zimmermann, Sep 1881 WI – Mar 1918. Buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. F: 178707463
- Maria Clara Zimmermann Weishar, 6 Jan 1885 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 17 Jul 1980 Cook Co. IL. - Married 23 Jun 1909 in Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI to William Charles Weishar (1881-1969, F: 146056273), son of Jacob Weishar & Anna Barth. – Buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. F: 146056293
- James Edward Zimmermann, 10 May 1890 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - 27 Jun 1970 West Allis, Milwaukee WI. – Married in 1919 to Marie E. Seeboth (1894-1923, F: 108338785). – Married to Angeline M. ("Helen") Jongebloed (1890-1970, F: 188006826). – James is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. F: 188038123
- Robert Frederick Zimmermann, 18 Jun 1892 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 19 Sep 1960 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. Husband of Grace Anita Steinford (1894-1969, F:

17870757). Buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. F: 178707463

- Paul M. Zimmermann, 8 Dec 1898 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 29 Jan 1974 MO. Married 4 Sep 1928 to Madeline James (1901-1966, F: 47036107). – Following Madeline's death, Paul married Dorothy M. Schmidt (1917-1997, F: 46482118). Paul is buried in Calvary Cemetery & Mausoleum, St. Louis, St. Louis City MO. F: 46482412

Notes:
Leo was the president, secretary and historian of the National Tuscania Survivors Association. Almost all newspaper articles about his Tuscania activities misspelled his last name as Zimmerman (with one "N") so it is necessary to search this incorrect version to find articles.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security number: 397-01-0490

Censuses:

1900 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 277 – 10th St.
James Zimmermann, 54 WI, Apr 1845, parents b. Germany, married 20 years, merchant clothier
Amelia L., 43 WI, Nov 1856, father b. Germany, mother b. France, gave birth to 7 children, 6 are living
Eugene J., 18 WI, Sep 1881, at school
Marie C., 15 WI, Jan 1885, at school
Leo V, 11 WI [indexed as Geo.], Dec 1888, at school
James E., 10 WI, May 1890, at school
Robert F., 7 WI, Jun 1882, at school
Paul M., 1 WI

1905 WI state census Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI
James ZUMMERMAN, 55 WI, parents b. Germany, cloth - merchant
Emilie, 48 WI, parents b. Germany
Eugene J., 23 WI, clerk, store
Mara C., 20 WI

Leo V., 17 WI, student
James J., 15 WI, student
Robert F., 13 WI, student
Paul M., 6 WI

1910 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - 310 - 12th St.
James Zimmermann, 60 WI, parents b. Germany, in 1st marriage, married 29 years, merchant, clothing emporium
Emily L., 53 WI, parents b. Bavaria, Germany; gave birth to 7 children, 6 of whom are living
Eugene J., 28 WI, single, clerk, hotel
Leo V., 21 WI, single, laborer, farm
James E., 19 WI, single
Robert F., 17 WI
Paul M., 11 WI
& servant Helen Schwamb, 20 WI, parents b. Bavaria, Germany; for private family

1920 census Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - 669 - 51st St.
Jas. Zimmermann, 70 WI, father b. Mecklenburg, Germany; mother b. Rheinland, Germany; no occupation
Emily L., 63 WI
Leo, 31 WI, single, machinist/foundry
Paul M., 21 WI salesman/machinery

1930 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI - 2923 Chambers – conducted 12 Apr 1930 (they had remarried 10 Mar 1930)
Leo Zimmerman, 41 WI, parents b. WI, age 35 at 1st marriage, shipping clerk/electric supply office, WWI veteran
Lucille, 31 WI, parents b. WI, age 24 at 1st marriage
Mary, 4 WI

1940 cannot locate Leo or Lucille

1950 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 1422 S. 12th St.
Ida F. Krueger, 66 WI, never married
Leo V. Zimmermon, 60 WI, never married, printer, printing company

TUSCANIA