

Otto O. Zwicker

April 7, 1899 – October 20, 1992

World War I

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery
Administration



**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Otto O. Zwicker (April 7, 1899–October 20, 1992)

By Josh Burns

Prewar Life

Otto Oscar Zwicker was born in Wheeling, West Virginia on April 7, 1899¹ to Herman Lincoln Lawrence Zwicker and Katie West.² Herman Zwicker worked as a liquor salesman and served on the local city council.³ Otto had three brothers, Herman (1892), Stanley (1898), and Julius (1906).⁴ During the first year of Otto's life, he and his family moved to Union, West Virginia but quickly moved back to Wheeling. As a result, he spent much of his early life in Wheeling.⁵ Zwicker likely received a primary education, as he was able to read and write by the age of eleven.⁶ By 1918, Zwicker worked as a mechanic at Hopkins' Motors in Wheeling.⁷

Military Service

Otto Zwicker registered for the draft on September 12, 1918.⁸ He served in the US Army starting on November 4, 1918 only seven days before the war ended. This experience was not uncommon in the US military. The Army discharged Private Zwicker on November 26, 1918; he served for twenty-two days.⁹

Post Service History

After the war, Otto worked in the banking industry, holding multiple positions throughout a long career. He initially worked as a clerk, a teller, and ultimately an assistant credit manager.¹⁰ In 1920, he married Helen E. Mehen.¹¹ Eight years later, they had their first and only child, Otto M.¹² It is likely that the Great Depression deeply affected Zwicker and his family. According to the 1930 City Directory, seen here, Zwicker owned his own home in Wheeling. By 1935, however, the Zwicker family briefly lived in Pittsburgh, and by 1940 they rented from Otto's sister-in-law, Molly Mehen, back in Wheeling.¹³ In February 1942, Zwicker registered for the draft, seen here in his draft registration card. He was not called to service because of his age.¹⁴

The Zwicker family made its way to Florida in 1951, where Otto worked as a furniture salesman at the Woodrum Furniture Company. In 1962, Zwicker was hired as a real estate agent, selling houses in north Miami, seen here in his employment announcement.¹⁵ His job as a real estate agent took him all over south and central Florida. He started selling in the north Miami area and later sold homes in the burgeoning Orlando area.¹⁶

The family lived in Ocala, FL when Helen died in April 1968.¹⁷ Zwicker remarried six years later to Minnie Bell Gentry on November 22, 1974.¹⁸ Otto and Minnie Zwicker moved to Detroit, but returned to Ocala by 1985. Otto Zwicker died in Ocala on October 20, 1992.¹⁹ Otto's legacy include his son, Otto, and three stepchildren, John Miley, Bernard Miley, and Carlotta Williams. In addition, he had two grandchildren and three great grandchildren.²⁰ He was interred in Florida National Cemetery on November 5, 1992, exactly seventy four years and one day from the date he was drafted. His wife, Minnie died on June 1, 2003 at the age of eighty-four.²¹

Endnotes

1 "WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5 2017), entry for Otto Oscar Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.

2 "West Virginia Births, 1853-1930," database, *FamilySearch.org*, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X556-N58> (updated December 2014), Otto Oscar Zwicker, April 7, 1899.

3 Gibson Lamb Cranmer, *History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens*, (Wheeling: Biographical Publishing Company, 1902), 570, <http://www.wvgenweb.org/ohio/hzwicker-bio.txt>.

4 "1920 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.

5 "1900 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia; "1920 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.

6 "1910 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.

7 "WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Oscar Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.

8 *ibid.*

- 9 "U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed August 2, 2017), entry for Otto O Zwicker.
- 10 "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, West Virginia.
- 11 "West Virginia, Marriages Index, 1785-1971," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto O Zwicker, Ohio, West Virginia.
- 12 "1930 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.
- 13 "1940 United States Census," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Zwicker, Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia.
- 14 "WWII Draft Registration Cards," database, *Fold3.com*, <http://fold3.com> (accessed August 2, 2017), entry for Otto Oscar Zwicker.
- 15 "New Associate," *The Miami News* (Miami, FL), Jun. 24, 1962.
- 16 "This Is a Dream," *The Orlando Sentinel* (Orlando, FL), Sunday, January 19, 1964.
- 17 "Florida State Death Records, 1877-1998," *Archives.com* <http://archives.com> (accessed March 17, 2017), entry for Helen Mehen Zwicker, Broward, Florida.
- 18 "Florida, Marriages Index, 1785-1971," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5, 2017), entry for Otto Oscar Zwicker, Florida.
- 19 "Florida Death Index, 1877-1998," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 5 2017), entry for Otto Oscar Zwicker, Marion, Florida.
- 20 "Ocala Star-Banner", Florida, *GenealogyBank.com* https://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/obit/11DA52EC5E3B0768-11DA52EC5E3B0768?search_terms=Zwicker%7COtto%7CO (accessed March 20, 2017), entry for Otto O. Zwicker, 93.
- 21 "U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014," database, *Ancestry.com*, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed August 2, 2017), entry for Minnie B. Zwicker.

Submitted by me on April 7, 1934, Anna M. Jett, Executive

Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials: Otto Zwicker
vlp.cah.ucf.edu

STATE Mississippi
COUNTY Greene
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Greene

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE Greene
EMERGED BY ME ON THE 18th DAY OF April 1880

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION
190
SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 124
EMERGED DISTRICT NO. 4
WARD OF CITY Greene
EMERGED BY ME ON THE 18th DAY OF April 1880

SHEET NO. 3
A
WARD OF CITY Greene
EMERGED BY ME ON THE 18th DAY OF April 1880

LOCALITY	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL INFORMATION				NATIVITY				EDUCATION	OCCUPATION				EXEMPTION			
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
107 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
113 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
115 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
119 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
121 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
123 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
125 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
127 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
129 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
131 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
133 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
135 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
137 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
139 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
141 31 48	Walter Henson	Wife	Age 37	Color white	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married

[illegible]

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

E. 80 A 79
1229State West Virginia
County Ohio

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

Supervisor's District No. 14-WV
Enumeration District No. 126Sheet No. 17Township or other division of county Union District - Precinct 5+6Name of Institution, XName of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, WheelingWard of city, 4Enumerated by me on the 14 day of June, 1900, Joseph A. Metzger, Enumerator.

IN CITIZENSHIP	LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	NATIVITY	CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION	OWNERSHIP OF HOME
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210
211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220
221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230
231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250
251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260
261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270
271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290
291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300
301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310
311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330
331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340
341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350
351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370
371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380
381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390
391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410
411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420
421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430
431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450
451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460
461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470
471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490
491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500
501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510
511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520
521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530
531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540
541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550
551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560
561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570
571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580
581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590
591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600
601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610
611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620
621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630
631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640
641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650
651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660
661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670
671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680
681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690
691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700
701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710
711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720
721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730
731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740
741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750
751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760
761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780
781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790
791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810
811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820
821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830
831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850
851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860
861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870
871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890
891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900
901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910
911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920
921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930
931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940
941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950
951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970
971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980
981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000