

WILBUR ELTING PEECHER

RESEARCHED BY: Katie Craven



DATE OF BIRTH

July 13, 1895

DATE OF DEATH

July 1, 1974

HOMETOWN

Columbus, Ohio

ENTERED THE MILITARY

May 20, 1918

BRANCH OF SERVICE

U.S. Navy

UNIT

Naval Auxiliary Reserve, Ninth Naval District

RANK

Seaman Second Class

CEMETERY

Union Cemetery
Columbus, Ohio



BEFORE THE WAR

On July 13, 1895, Wilbur Elting Peecher was born in Ohio. He graduated from high school and pursued an agricultural degree for two and a half years, but left for a full time job at the railroad where his father also worked. Peecher worked as a farm laborer and as a clerk for the Norfolk & Western Railroad in the years leading to World War I.

MILITARY EXPERIENCE

After the United States entered World War I, Peecher applied to enroll in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force in May 1918. Initially denied entry on medical grounds due to flat feet, he acquired the required endorsements to have his disability waived. Despite being on active duty, Peecher never saw overseas action.

Form 1 40-5 REGISTRATION CARD No. 38
1 Name in full *Wilbur Elting Peecher* Age in yrs *21*
2 Name *379 Charland in Columbus, Ohio*
3 Date of birth *July 13 1895*
4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? *Natural born*
5 Where were you born? *Ohio U.S.A.*
6 If not a citizen, at what country are you a citizen or subject?
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Laborer on farm*
8 By whom employed? *H. P. Edwards*
9 Where employed? *Johnson Garage Co. Ohio*
10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you or support (specify which)? *No*
11 Married or single (which)? *Single* How (specify which)? *Wife*
12 What military service have you had? Rank *Private* Branch *Infantry* years *1917* Nation or State *U.S.A.*
13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *Yes Physical disability*
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.
Peecher Wilbur Elting

Wilbur Peecher's World War I Draft Registration Card, June 5, 1917. National Archives and Records Administration.



Left: Recruits from the 11th Signal Battalion, comprised of men from Chicago, living in the Municipal Pier at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago, Illinois, August 1917. National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-293B-018-ac).



Right: Recruits entering training camp at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago, Illinois. c. 1918. National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-341A-008-ac).

He was stationed in Chicago for training as part of the 9th Naval District and stayed in Chicago and then Cleveland, Ohio for the remainder of the war. The Great Lake Naval Training Station in Chicago, Illinois played a key role in training sailors. Originally designed to accommodate 1,500 recruits at a time, it housed more than 13,000 in October 1917, including schools for yeomen, radio operators, signaling, baking, cooking, and musicians.

Peecher was released from active duty in January 1919 and was honorably discharged in September 1921.

VETERAN EXPERIENCE

Peecher married Beatrice Boardman of Indiana and they had two daughters. Following the end of World War I, Peecher tried different occupations, steadily improving himself.

According to the 1920 federal census, he worked at Ohio Nut & Washer Company, and by 1930 he owned a grocery store in Columbus, Ohio. While running his neighborhood grocery, Peecher also read law and became a member of the Ohio Bar Association in 1936. Peecher established his own practice in the late 1930s and continued to practice law until his death in 1974.

COMMEMORATION

Wilbur Elting Peecher died on July 1, 1974 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.



Wilbur Peecher's grave at Union Cemetery, September 26, 2004. Courtesy of Travis Stephenson.

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11th Signal Battalion...at Municipal Pier, Chicago. Photograph. August 1917. National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-293B-018-ac). Image.

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Peecher Family Photographs. 1918-1990. Courtesy of the Peecher Family.

Recruits Entering the Training Camp for Enlistment in the Navy, Great Lakes Naval Station. Photograph. c. 1918. National Archives and Records Administration (165-WW-341A-008-ac). Image.

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