

Walter Crellin Went Down With Tuscania 20 Years Ago

Twenty years ago Sunday morning 267 Americans lost their lives when the British transport Tuscania was sunk off the coast of Ireland by a German submarine. About 2,187 men were saved.

Walter Crellin, son of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Crellin, 520 Eleventh Street South, was one of those who died.

Walter Crellin is believed to be the first Virginia man to lose his life in service after this country entered the World War. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars post is named after him.

Records show that H. A. Bert Smith of Virginia was among those saved. Other Virginians whom ex-servicemen claim were aboard the transport and who were saved were C. D. Symes, Henry S. Blomberg, T. J. Brown and Carl Hedman. C. Hanson and F. M. Richardson, both of Hibbing; C. A. Anderson, Fred Lager and T. E. Smissen, of Tower, were also aboard

the ship, it is said.

Walter Crellin was born in Ishpeming, Michigan, August 15, 1895. He came to Virginia with his parents at an early age and attended the public schools here, graduating from high school.

He attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1915 enlisted as an electrician with the 158th Aero Squadron at Detroit, November 26, 1917 and died February 6, 1918 when the transport was torpedoed and sunk. Walter Crellin's body was found on the shores of the Isle of Islay, Scotland, and burial took place at Kilnaughton, Isle of Islay, February 9, 1918. At the close of the war, the body was brought to this country and buried in the World War section of Arlington National cemetery.

Hundreds of Iron Range residents attended Memorial services held Sunday, February 17, 1918 in Virginia, for the victims of the disaster.