

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, 1899<sup>1</sup> to Herman Lincoln Lawrence Zwicker and Katie West.<sup>2</sup> Herman Zwicker worked as a liquor salesman and served on the local city council.<sup>3</sup> Otto had three brothers, Herman (1892), Stanley (1898), and Julius (1906).<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> Zwicker likely received a primary education, as he was able to read and write by the age of eleven.<sup>6</sup> By 1918, Zwicker worked as a mechanic at Hopkins' Motors in Wheeling.<sup>7</sup>

## **Military Service**

Otto Zwicker registered for the draft on September 12, 1918.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

## **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.<sup>10</sup> In 1920, he married Helen E. Mehen.<sup>11</sup> Eight years later, they had their first and only child, Otto M.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup>

The family lived in Ocala, FL when Helen died in April 1968.<sup>17</sup> Zwicker remarried six years later to Minnie Bell Gentry on November 22, 1974.<sup>18</sup> Otto and Minnie Zwicker moved to Detroit, but returned to Ocala by 1985. Otto Zwicker died in Ocala on October 20, 1992.<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup>

## 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](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.

STATE W. Va.  
 COUNTY Ohio  
 TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Union District Precinct 7  
 NAME OF INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

9-197

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS 75 (191-478)

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1920—POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 1 SHEET NO. 12 A  
 ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 85  
 WARD OF CITY Powhatan  
 DAY OF January 1920. ENUMERATOR Walter H. Heil

HOUSEHOLD NO.	PLACE OF ABODE.	NAME	RELATION.	SEX.	RACE.	MARRIAGE.	CITIZENSHIP.	EDUCATION.	NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE.						MARRIED IN PRESENT HOUSEHOLD.	OCCUPATION.
									PERSON.		ESTER.		MOTHER.			
									Place of Birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of Birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of Birth.	Mother tongue.		
1702 204 259	Stuyvesant	Head	M	W	29	M	44	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	258
		Wife	F	W	25	M	40	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
		Daughter	F	W	4	S	3	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
255 260	Haw	Head	M	W	58	M	74	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	188
		Wife	F	W	41	M	56	England	English	England	English	England	English	England	English	610
		Son	M	W	22	S	22	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	426
		Daughter	F	W	18	S	18	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
		Son	M	W	10	S	10	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
		Son	M	W	7	S	7	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
247	Bumback	Head	M	W	39	M	54	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	1815
		Wife	F	W	28	M	43	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	1426
		Son	M	W	20	M	35	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
		Daughter	F	W	14	S	14	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	W. Va.	
154 261 262	Famson	Head	M	W	19	S	19	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	420
		Wife	F	W	18	S	18	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	3	S	3	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	
53 267 263	Miller	Head	M	W	43	M	58	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	1064
		Wife	F	W	31	M	46	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
18 268 264	Madison	Head	M	W	57	M	72	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	136
		Wife	F	W	28	M	43	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	15	S	15	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Daughter	F	W	13	S	13	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	25	M	40	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Daughter	F	W	22	M	37	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
117 209 265	Stewart	Head	M	W	41	M	56	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	791
		Wife	F	W	35	M	50	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	12	S	12	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Daughter	F	W	9	S	9	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
118 266	Robinson	Head	M	W	53	M	68	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	994
		Wife	F	W	15	M	30	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
223 267 267	Walter	Head	M	W	59	M	74	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	1378
		Wife	F	W	47	M	62	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
141 268 265	Walter	Head	M	W	59	M	74	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	1944
		Wife	F	W	47	M	62	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	21	S	21	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Daughter	F	W	13	S	13	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
141 268 268	Walter	Head	M	W	53	M	68	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	178
		Wife	F	W	41	M	56	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Son	M	W	21	S	21	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
		Daughter	F	W	15	S	15	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	
153 269 270	Walter	Head	M	W	43	M	58	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	482
		Wife	F	W	31	M	46	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	362
		Son	M	W	18	S	18	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	795
153 2 271	Walter	Head	M	W	49	M	64	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	707

Here ends enumeration of precinct 7 Ward of Wheeling city

Veterans Legacy Program Curricular Materials: Otto Zwicker  
 vip.can.ucf.edu

State W. Virginia Incorporated place Wheeling City  
 County Ohio Ward of city 7th Ward Block No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town or other division of county \_\_\_\_\_ Unincorporated place \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
 FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930  
 POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumeration District No. 35-18 Sheet No. 5B  
 Supervisor's District No. 1  
 Enumerated by me on Apr. 7, 1930 Maria H. Gooty, Enumerator.

Serial No.	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	HOME DATA	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	MOTHER TONGUE OR NATIVE LANGUAGE OF FOREIGN BORN	CITIZENSHIP, ETC.	OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY		EMPLOYMENT	VETERANS		
										OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY			Whether in military service of the United States	Whether in military service of the United States
510	Ohio	Surgeon Vincent	Head	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
511	Ohio	Emma B	wife	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
512	Ohio	George	son	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
513	Ohio	John C	Head	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
514	Ohio	John	wife	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
515	Ohio	John	son	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
516	Ohio	John	son	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
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600	Ohio	John	son	W 4500 R	W 49	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		

ABREVIATIONS TO BE USED IN COLUMNS INDICATED: Ca. 1 - Suburban, Ca. 2 - Suburban, Ca. 3 - Suburban, Ca. 4 - Suburban, Ca. 5 - Suburban, Ca. 6 - Suburban, Ca. 7 - Suburban, Ca. 8 - Suburban, Ca. 9 - Suburban, Ca. 10 - Suburban, Ca. 11 - Suburban, Ca. 12 - Suburban, Ca. 13 - Suburban, Ca. 14 - Suburban, Ca. 15 - Suburban, Ca. 16 - Suburban, Ca. 17 - Suburban, Ca. 18 - Suburban, Ca. 19 - Suburban, Ca. 20 - Suburban, Ca. 21 - Suburban, Ca. 22 - Suburban, Ca. 23 - Suburban, Ca. 24 - Suburban, Ca. 25 - Suburban, Ca. 26 - Suburban, Ca. 27 - Suburban, Ca. 28 - Suburban, Ca. 29 - Suburban, Ca. 30 - Suburban, Ca. 31 - Suburban, Ca. 32 - Suburban, Ca. 33 - Suburban, Ca. 34 - Suburban, Ca. 35 - Suburban, Ca. 36 - Suburban, Ca. 37 - Suburban, Ca. 38 - Suburban, Ca. 39 - Suburban, Ca. 40 - Suburban, Ca. 41 - Suburban, Ca. 42 - Suburban, Ca. 43 - Suburban, Ca. 44 - Suburban, Ca. 45 - Suburban, Ca. 46 - Suburban, Ca. 47 - Suburban, Ca. 48 - Suburban, Ca.



State West Virginia  
County Ohio

Incorporated place Wheeling City  
Township or other division of county Madison

Ward of city 7  
Unincorporated place  
Block No. 228

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

S. D. No. 1 E. D. No. 35-14  
Enumerated by me on April 13, 1940.  
Marvin B. Hooker

POPULATION SCHEDULE

Main census table with columns for LOCATION, HOUSEHOLD DATA, NAME, RELATION, PERSONAL DESCRIPTION, EDUCATION, PLACE OF BIRTH, RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940, and PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS  
For Persons Enumerated on Lines 14 and 29

FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES  
FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER

FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED  
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY—DO NOT WRITE IN THESE COLUMNS

SYMBOLS AND EXPLANATORY NOTE  
EXPLANATORY NOTE

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



**REGISTRATION CARD** AA

SERIAL NUMBER	3630	ORDER NUMBER	5088
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1 *Otto Oscar Zwicker*  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:  
*141 18th Wheeling Ohio W. Va.*  
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

Age in Years *19* Date of Birth *April 7 1899*  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

**RACE**

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6	7	8
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrar's Majority	Declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13
Non-declarant		14	

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

PRESENT OCCUPATION *Mechanic* EMPLOYER'S NAME *Hopkins Motors Co.*

16 *Mechanic* 17 *Hopkins Motors Co.*

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS:  
*57 18th Wheeling Ohio W. Va.*  
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE Name *Mother* Address *141 18th Wheeling Ohio W. Va.*  
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

19 *Mother* 20 *141 18th Wheeling Ohio W. Va.*

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE  
 P. M. G. O. *Otto Oscar Zwicker*  
 Form No. 1 (Red) 65-0171 (Registrar's signature) or mark (OVER)

**47-1-32-C**  
**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
21	22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	23	24	25 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	26	27 <i>Gray</i>	28 <i>Brown</i>

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified?  
(Specify) *No*

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follow:

*Helen Fredericks*  
(Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration *Sept. 12, 1918*

**Local Board for City of Wheeling,**  
 State of West Va. 1425 Chapline St.,  
 Wheeling, West Va.  
 (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

65-0171 (OVER)

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

80 A 79 1229

State West Virginia County Ohio

SCHEDULE No. 1.-POPULATION.

Supervisor's District No. 14 W.V. Enumeration District No. 126 Sheet No. 17

Township or other division of county Union District Precinct 5+6 Name of Institution X

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Wheeling Ward of city, 4

Enumerated by me on the 14 day of June, 1900, Joseph A. Metzger, Enumerator.

Table with columns: LOCATION, NAME, RELATION, PERSONAL DESCRIPTION, NATIVITY, CITIZENSHIP, OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION, EDUCATION, OWNERSHIP OF HOME. Rows include names like Warner, Taylor, Wilson, Zwickler, May, Kessler, Alexander, Pauline, Reinhold, Stein, Mangels, and Smith.