

The 1921 *Dacotah* yearbook claims that seven members died of the flu during the fall of 1918.¹ Yet, it displays eight members of the S.A.T.C. These men were actual UND students who had enrolled for the fall semester. These men were part of the collegiate section. It is therefore appropriate that this number, only pertaining to the registrars record of ‘enrolled students’ who were also S.A.T.C. members was recorded in this particular publication. It does not, however, include all of the S.A.T.C. members who died of the flu during the 1918 flu epidemic.

The Quarterly Journal of January 1920 stated “seven died in the influenza epidemic,” and similarly it also included eight photos of S.A.T.C. members.² In this publication is an individual categorized as an S.A.T.C. member. He was not acknowledged in the 1921 yearbook as an S.A.T.C. member. This young man’s name was Walter Pennington Belyea. Mr. Belyea was disqualified from military service but was accepted into the S.A.T.C. with limited duty.³ According to his registration card, he had a “loss of leg” which prevented him from full military service. Interestingly, the author of this publication was Mabel Randolph, president Kane’s former secretary and it is noteworthy that her article was published after Libby’s. It is widely believed that president Kane refused to acknowledge the military component of the S.A.T.C. and would not accept responsibility for Libby’s account of the death toll of twenty-nine. Kane believed that the U.S. Government should be responsible for the other twenty-one because they were in the vocational section. This explains why the total number reported by Ms. Randolph is seven or eight respectively. Logically the number could not have been only seven or eight

1. “The Honor Roll,” *The Dacotah* (Grand Forks: The University of North Dakota, 1921), 135-144.

2. Mabel Randolph, “Service List of the University of North Dakota: In Memoriam,” ed. A.J. Ladd. *The Quarterly Journal of the University of North Dakota* 10, no. 2 (January 1920): 152, 155-191.

3. A. J. Ladd, ed., “North Dakota Men in the Service: Additions and Corrections since July, 1918,” *The Quarterly Journal of the University of North Dakota* 9, no. 2 (January 1919): 193.

because of the following statement “the toll was highest among the young men in the University military camp.”⁴

The Camp Barrage (November 8, 1918), the official government newspaper at UND during the fall of 1918 claimed the death toll was twenty-six among the S.A.T.C. members. I have found that this is quite accurate if one considers that Walter Pennington Belyea was not officially accepted into the Student Army Training Corps but was given “limited duties.” The *Grand Forks Herald* (November 19, 1918) also reported the number of S.A.T.C. deaths as twenty-six.

Finally, the death toll of thirty-two and thirty-three can be simply explained. These numbers appear in the 1921 *Dacotah* and the January 1919 issue of the *Quarterly Journal*. The *Dacotah* mentioned that “thirty-two men of the unit fell victims of the disease,” yet it also states that thirty-three men “gave up their lives in their country’s service.”⁵ Thirty-two is a mistake. Thirty-three includes all men who were directly affiliated with the university and who died during the war. Not all of these men died of the flu and only eight of them died on of campus. Thirty-three also includes eight of the S.A.T.C. victims my research has confirmed. The *Quarterly Journal* of January 1919 also gives the number of thirty-three and again it also includes only eight S.A.T.C. men.⁶ The others were alumni, former students, undergraduates or former high school students. It is quite obvious that the number of S.A.T.C. deaths has fluctuated over the years and that Libby’s number of 29 has been the authoritative number since 1918.

4. Kennedy, “In Memoriam,” 18.

5. *The Dacotah*, 134-135.

6. Randolph, “Service List of the University of North Dakota: In Memoriam,” 155-191, 288.