

RICHARD FRANK TUNNEY

Private - Company "B" 345th Tank Battalion

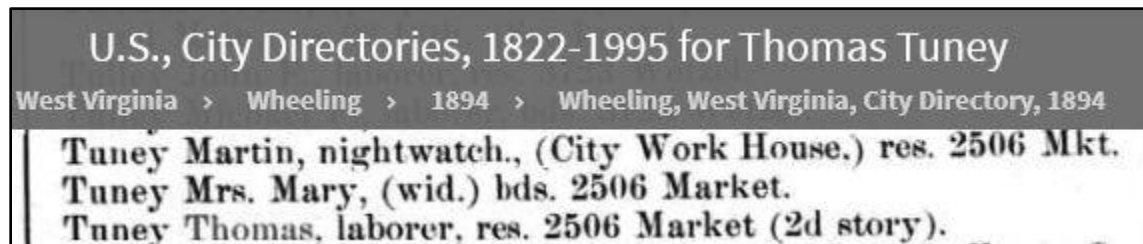
Died September 30, 1918 of Wounds Received in Action in France

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Richard Frank Tunney (also Tunny) was born in New Castle, Pennsylvania on January 3, 1898/1899. His parents were **Thomas Tunney** and Margaret Smith, both born in Ireland.

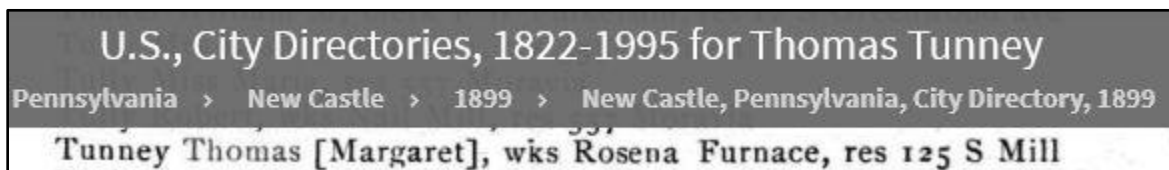
Research indicates that Richard Frank Tunney's grandparents, Dominic Tunney and his wife, Mary Ann McNicholas/McNichols, immigrated from Ireland about 1880 and settled in Wheeling. Known children in Wheeling were Thomas, Margaret and Martin, but there were others.

In 1894, Thomas Tunney was in Wheeling living with his brother, Martin and presumably their mother, Mary, a widow. Sister, Margaret, had married John Dixon in 1892.



Elizabeth Roy, the first wife of Thomas Tunney, died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Wheeling on April 15, 1894. In the West Virginia Death Records she is "Libbie Tuney." Her name was Elizabeth Roy/Ray, and she and Thomas had a son Thomas J. and a daughter, Margaret May, who married Owen Reed, Jr. in Wheeling in 1909.

Thomas Tunney married Margaret Smith in New Castle, Pennsylvania on November 8, 1897, at which time he said his first wife had died on April 15, 1894.



Apparently, Thomas Tunney was working in New Castle after his second marriage and he and Margaret had three children, **Richard Frank**, Margaret and Anthony Walter Tunney. **Richard** and Margaret were born in New Castle and Anthony Walter was born about 1902 in West Virginia. Anthony Walter was baptized at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Wheeling, on June 18, 1902.

The father, Thomas "Tuney," committed "suicide by poison" on June 29, 1904 at 2506 Market Street, Wheeling. He is buried at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. His death record names his parents as Dominic and Mary McNichols and wife, Maggie." Maggie/Margaret and the 3 children are not found in the 1910 census.

When the soldier, **Richard F. Tunny**, left Jersey City, New Jersey on May 10, 1918 to go overseas, his emergency contact was his aunt, Mrs. Margaret Dixon, 2506 Market Street, Wheeling, the same usual

address of the family. Margaret "Maggie" Dixon was the sister of Thomas. As stated, she married John Dixon in 1892 in Wheeling but in the 1910 census, at this address, she was Margaret Tunney, age 40. At the same address was Martin Tunney, brother of Thomas & Margaret. – Martin died on February 7, 1925, and Margaret died at Weston State Hospital on December 29, 1935. Margaret's parents are misstated in her obituary as "Thomas & Margaret," instead of Dominic and Mary.

No obituary for RICHARD FRANK TUNNY/TUNNEY has been found. Private Tunney's remains were returned to Wheeling and he was buried at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling, in August 1921, according to a document among the West Virginia deaths.

From *United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940*:

TUNNY RICHARD FRANK		C 47 834
Pvt Co C 327 Bat 311 Tank Cen K		
2506 Market St Wheeling W Va A		
Sn	Died 9-30-18	T 1 713 526
Born 1-3-99		R
Enl	Dis	CL
		I 69 866
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1926		INDEX CARD

[It is not known why the company and regiment on these Master Index cards sometimes differs from the other records.]

Administrator's Bond: On November 8, 1921, following the burial of Richard Frank Tunney, his half-brother, Joseph J. Tunney was named executor of Richard's estate. It says, "Know all men by these presents, that we, **Thomas J. Tunney**, principal, and Margaret Dixon, surety are held and firmly bound unto the state of West Virginia....."

The soldier's brother, **Anthony Walter Tunney**, died in California in 1971. He named his son, Richard.

The soldier's sister, **Margaret Tunney Drake**, died in Cleveland, Ohio in 1969. Her obituary names her brother, Anthony Walter Tunney and her half-sister, **Margaret Reed**.