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GOLDBERG, SAMUEL B.

SMITHFIELD

GOLDBERG, SAMUEL B. And Then There Were Ten; With the passing of Samuel B. Goldberg of Greenville, the number of known surviving American veterans of World War I is believed to be down to ten. Mr. Goldberg, husband of the late Elsie Marie (Hamburger) Goldberg, died Sunday afternoon, December 10 at Roger Williams Hospital after suffering a heart attack earlier in the day. He was 106.

Sam was born in Lodz, Poland on March 19, 1900. He immigrated with his family at age six to the U. S. where they settled in Newark, New Jersey. He left home at age 16, settling temporarily in Atlanta. He joined the Army "for adventure" on May 6, 1918 at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and was assigned to the Horse Cavalry at Fort Hachita, New Mexico. "I'd never ridden horses," he said for a recent National Public Radio interview, "but they needed men to patrol the border for a possible invasion by Germany through Mexico. Needless to say," he concluded, "our mission was successful."

After serving 16 months, Sam was honorably discharged on September 9, 1919. Tanks and other motorized armored vehicles have long since replaced live military transport, and sources at several Veterans' Associations believe it highly unlikely that any other veterans of the Horse Cavalry are still living.

Settling eventually in Rhode Island, Sam and the late Frank Hurd co-founded Hurd & Goldberg, Inc. the former Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in Cranston, which operated from 1935-1970. Later he founded Puritan Leasing Company, also Cranston. Long a Cranston resident, for the last ten years he lived at The Village at Waterman Lake in Greenville, where he remained active right up to the day of his death.

Besides his wife Elsie, who died one day after their 75th wedding anniversary in 2000, Sam was predeceased by two brothers and a sister, his daughter Edna Gertsacov, and a grandson, Peter Dorian.

He is survived by a daughter, Elena Doria, of New York City; a son, Philip Dorian, of Red Bank, New Jersey, and three grandchildren: Joan S. Kopels and her husband Joseph of Cranston; Martin Gertsacov, Cranston; and Philip S. Dorian and his wife Mayte Cabrera Dorian of New Jersey, and one great-granddaughter, Carolina Dorian. Surviving also are a niece, Liz Goldberg, and a nephew, Hank