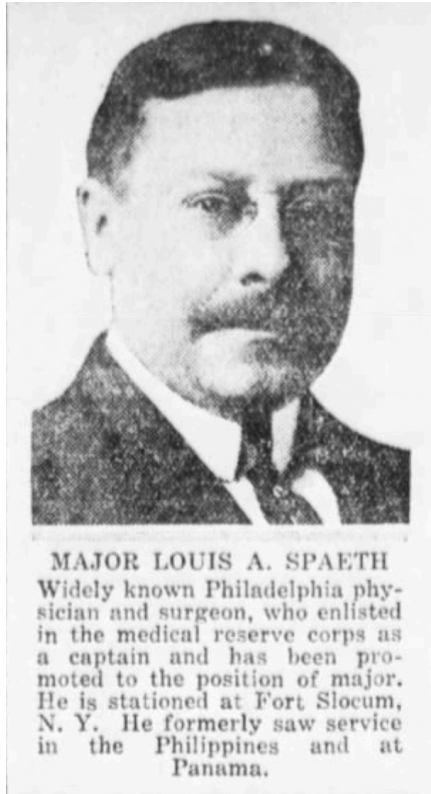


Louis Augustus Spaeth¹ was born on April 7, 1863, in Newark, New Jersey.² He received a medical degree from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1894, and went on to practice medicine as an “allopath.”³ Never marrying, Louis often traveled for work. He served as a doctor in the Spanish-American War in 1898.⁴ Between 1900 and 1902, he was called for duty in the Philippines as an assistant surgeon. Then, from June 1904 until July 1909, Louis worked as a doctor in the US-controlled Panama Canal Zone.⁵ In 1917, he was stationed at Fort Slocum in New York as a surgeon for the US military during World War I.⁶ He reached the position of major, before receiving an honorable discharge in December, 1918.⁷



Louis was admitted to Friends Hospital on August 11, 1919.⁸ He read every day, and was given medicine and a special diet. Beginning on August 23, he took a walk with an attendant every day. Between August 11 and August 31, Louis received 10 visits from family members and friends, including his brother, sister-in-law, and a woman named “Miss Moore.”⁹ Between September 1 and 7, he received 5 more visits, as he continued his routine from August.

On September 8, 1919, Louis was discharged from Friends Hospital with little fanfare. His short stay was similar to that imagined by the founders of Friends Hospital, who selected patients based on the (perceived) “curability” of their condition.¹⁰

¹ Photo is sourced from “Major Louis A. Spaeth,” *Evening Public Ledger*, January 23, 1918, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/163796035/>.

² “Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969,” digital image s.v. “Louis A Spaeth” (died 2 Dec. 1919), *Ancestry.com*.

³ “Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929,” index s.v. “Louis Augustus Spaeth” (died 3 Dec. 1919), *Ancestry.com*.

⁴ “Obituary: Dr. Louis A. Spaeth,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 4, 1919, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/167237843/>.

⁵ “U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937,” digital image s.v. “Louis A Spaeth” (born 1863), *Ancestry.com*.

⁶ “Pennsylvania, U.S., World War I Veterans Service and Compensation Files, 1917-1919, 1934-1948,” digital image s.v. “Louis Augusts Spaeth” (born 7 Apr. 1863), *Ancestry.com*.

⁷ “Pennsylvania, U.S., World War I Veterans Service and Compensation Files, 1917-1919, 1934-1948,” digital image s.v. “Louis Augusts Spaeth” (born 7 Apr. 1863), *Ancestry.com*.

⁸ All following information, unless otherwise noted, is from Daily Record Book, 1918-1921, MC-1261, Item 116, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

⁹ Medical Journal Men, 10/5/1918-3/31/1920, MC-1261, Item 171, Friends Hospital Records, Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford, Pennsylvania.

¹⁰ Corcoran, Abby. “A Mild and Appropriate System of Treatment: Moral Treatment and the Curability of Mental Illness at Friends Asylum.” Accessed March 20, 2023. <http://qmh.haverford.edu/essays/17acorcoran/>.

It is unclear why Louis was at Friends Hospital, but it was most likely a condition related to his time spent on the battlefield. The First World War created a large population of veterans suffering from shell shock, paving the way for the recognition of PTSD as a genuine psychiatric condition. Outside of his mental health, Louis was also suffering physically. On December 2, 1919, less than three months after being discharged from Friends Hospital, Louis died from a myriad of heart issues.¹¹

August 1919

- Ward 2
- Maybe was admitted to hospital on August 11, 1919, maybe was just transferred to Ward 2 on that day???
- Medicine every day, special diet, reading
- Starting August 23 walk with attendant every day
- Between August 11 and August 31, 10 visits from friends and family. Includes his sister-in-law, brother, and "Miss Moore"

September 1919

- September 1-7 received 5 visits from family and friends
- Medicine, reading, walk w attendant, indoor games, special diet
- Goes home on September 8, 1919

¹¹ "Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1969," digital image s.v. "Louis A Spaith" (died 2 Dec. 1919), *Ancestry.com*.