

Henry Samuel Schaumleffel

Birth: 1892, in Nebraska, to Samuel Schaumleffel and Emma Louise
Alvina Schaumleffel (born Wegner)

Death: Oct. 18, 1918 - in France, of Pneumonia

Private, 321st Infantry, 81st Division

81st Division, the "Wildcats" Fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive
November 7-11, 1918, North of Verdun, as part of the AEF in WWI
321st all moved into the front line by October 10th, 1918.

Remember, World War I ended with the Armistice on Nov. 11th, 1918.

Henry Schaumleffel was dead just eight days after his unit went into the trenches of the Meuse-Argonne. He died, not of a bullet or a shell fragment, but from pneumonia. We do not know whether this was secondary to a gas attack, perhaps chlorine, or mustard gas, or if he was one of the many to fall from the Spanish Influenza, the "Flu" as it was called. The Spanish Flu was not a minor illness, it killed more than half a million Americans and an estimated 50 million people worldwide in a single year. Back in Idaho Falls, where his body was returned, people of all ages were suffering, some dying, from this disease. Look at the number of headstones from 1918 and 1919, of mothers, fathers, children, and grandparents. Sometimes whole families were lost. We hope that this virus never again arises, and that modern vaccinations can continue to protect our community from evils such as this.