

The role of our Grandfather Everett Deon Cagle In the Great War (World War 1) and life after war.

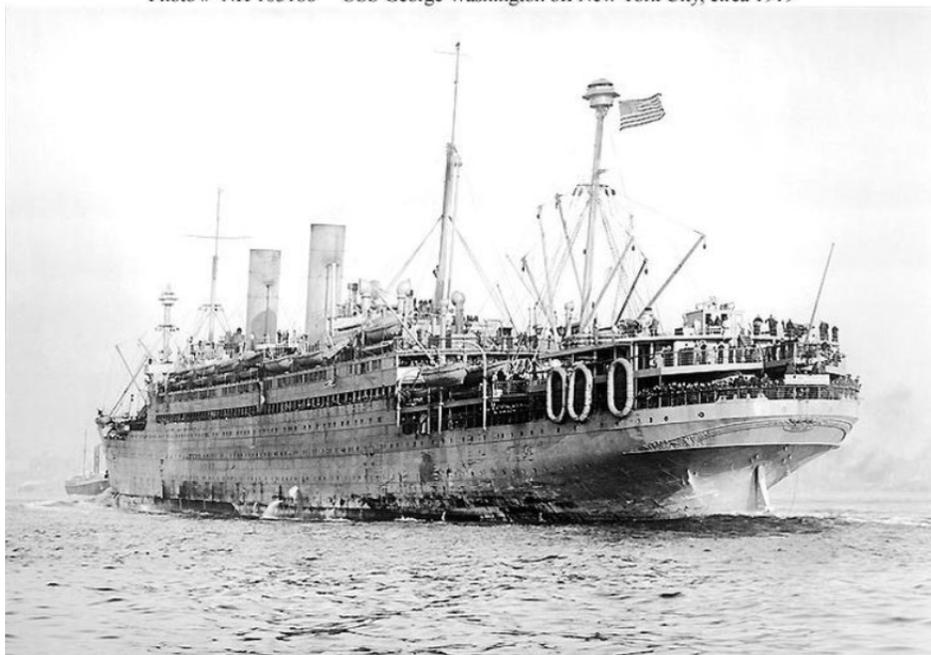
He was inducted into the US Army on Monday May 26, 1918 at Clarksville, Arkansas to

“Serve for the emergency” (WW-1)

He sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey on a ship called “UUS George Washington” on the 18th of July, 1918



Photo # NH 103188 USS George Washington off New York City, circa 1919



US Army #2869137

Private Everett Deon Cagle, 137th Infantry U.S. Army 35th Division



He fought in the [Meuse-Argonne Offensive](#), a 6-hour barrage was launched on this hill and was taken by the Kansas soldiers in their first attempt on [26 September](#), and their trial by fire began; an ordeal that was to last six days and six nights, with little or no food, only snatches of sleep, and an uninterrupted rain of shells, gas, and bullets from infantry, [artillery](#) and warplanes. **The 137th Infantry** took every objective assigned it, but in the taking suffered casualties of nearly 1,300 men out of the 2,800 combatants engaged; 46%.^[4] The regiment was relieved by the [1st Infantry Division](#) on 1 October 1918, and after resting in the rear for 10 days, the regiment moved to [Verdun](#) and remained in the fighting until 4 November. They were in the thick of fighting until 9 November when they were relieved. The [Armistice of 11 November 1918](#) finally stopped the fighting, and the 137th Infantry Regiment was deactivated on 10 May 1919 at home in Kansas.

Everett returned home to U.S. on 19th of April, 1919

He was Honorably Discharged on May 26, 1919 from the U.S. Army, by reason of Disability

He fought on the Western Line "[Offense of Meuse-Argonne](#)", France
Known as Americas deadliest battle

He was subjected to Mustard Gas by the Germans at Argonne, France which made him ill for the rest of his life dying much too soon in an Army Hospital in Livermore, CA. On July 24, 1949 at the age of 56, just 30 years after the war.

Medals he received: Bronze Star, Victory Medal and Battle Clasp



Back of Medal

World War I Victory Medal was awarded to any member of the U.S. military who had served in the armed forces between the following dates in the following locations:^[3]

- **6 April 1917 to 11 November 1918 for any military service.**
- 12 November 1918 to 5 August 1919 for service in [European Russia](#)
- 23 November 1918 to 1 April 1920 for service with the [American Expeditionary Force Siberia](#)



The Bronze Star Medal, unofficially the Bronze Star, is a United States decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.



The U.S.Army authorized a number of clasps to be affixed to the ribbon of the WWI Victory Medal to denote service or combat in various fields or areas. A listing of the various clasps, and the dates service qualified for the specific clasp is listed below:
Meuse-Argonne: September 26 to November 11, 1918 (46 Days of Combat - 25 Divisions)

Inducted Monday May 26, 1918 at Clarksville, Arkansas to “serve for the emergency” (WW-1) he received only 24 days of training at Camp Pike, Arkansas before being shipped to France on July 18, 1918. He was just 31 days away from his 25th birthday.

He spent his birthday in the trenches of the Argonne offensive in France. The Argonne Offensive was a major part of the final Allied Offensive that stretched along the entire Western Front. This was the last battle fought in WW-1. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive is the second-most lethal American Battle by estimated number of Americans killed.

At 5:30 a.m. on the Morning of September 26, 1918 after a six-hour long bombardment over the previous night, more than 700 Allied tanks, followed closely by infantry troops (he was one of them) advance German Positions in the Argonne Forest and Along the Meuse River.

General John J. Pershing was commander of the offensive. Pershing’s American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was to play the main attacking role, in what would be the largest American – run offensive of World War 1.

By the next morning the Allie forces had captured more than 23,000 Germans prisoner and by night fall had taken 10,000 more.

The Offensive was called off on September 30th by Pershing and was renewed again just four days later on October 4th. Exhausted, demoralized and plagued by the spreading influenza epidemic (the Spanish Flu which killed more men than the war) the German troops held on another month before the final retreat. (See pictures of the offensive and the war to follow)

The general Armistice (or better known today as a Truce) was announced on November 11, bringing the First World War to a close. Everett returned home April 19, 1919. He spent 11 months on the Western Front some of the bloodiest battles of WW1.

During his time on the front he was Mustard Gassed by the Germans. The poison gases burned and suffocated others so horribly that nurses dreaded caring for them because they could provide little comfort.

He survived the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919 (also known as the Spanish Flu)

During the AEF campaign at Meuse_Argonne, the epidemic diverted urgently needed resources from combat support to transporting and caring for the sick and dead. Influenza and pneumonia killed more American soldiers during the war than did enemy weapons. It spread to America and was the worst epidemic in American history. By most conservative count, influenza sickened 26% of the Army more than one million men – and killed almost 30,000 before they even got to France.

Notably the soldiers fought diarrhea, dysentery and typhus-flourished, and the trenches offered new maladies such as “trench foot” an infection caused by wearing sodden boots and standing in water and mud for days on end.

His life during these 11 months had to be hell. There was machine gun fire, shell bombings that went on for days. He saw almost half of his unit gunned down in one day. It’s no wonder he didn’t want to walk about the war at his return.

After Returning Home:



Wedding picture 6/2/1920

One year after returning from the war he went on to marry a wife, Mildred (Mintie) Artisha Vick she was 12 years younger than him. They had seven children, Mildred (1922), Charlie (1925), Louise (1927), Chester (1930), Nadine (1931), Donald (1935) and Ruby (1936). I'm told he was a strong disciplinarian, with seven kids you would have to be.



Picture of Mildred and Charlie

He tried providing for his family even though he was disabled by the war. He was a farmer and laborer. He was in and out of the hospital so often it was hard to settle down and provide for the family.

Everett decided to move the family (Mildred, Charlie and Louise at the time) to California because the weather was better for his health. He worked as a laborer at farms and picking fruit, the young children would cut fruit for a small wage all

going to help the family. At times they lived in a tent and other times a home that was rented, until he went back in the hospital. Once Mintie had to take the children back to Fort Smith, Arkansas to live with her parents Richard and Edith Vick as Everett was in the hospital for months and the family had no income.



Mintie with her family

Once Everett got out of the hospital he went back to Arkansas to get the family and they moved back to Northern California where they stayed, and the family grew.

Everett passed away in a hospital in Livermore CA. on July 24th 1949 at the age of 56; he was survived by his wife and his children.



His wife Mintie would die in a head on collision car accident three years later in January 25, 1952 by a drunk driver over the Benicia Bridge. Her Youngest daughter Ruby would only be 16 years old.



Both our Grandparents died before we got to know them, I hope this help us to know him a little better.

Please see attached pictures at on the next pages of the World War he fought in.

MEUSE-ARGONNE

OFFENSIVE





















137th Infantrry



Street scene in Exermont, shortly after its capture by the Americans. The evidences of battle are everywhere. Members of the tank corps seek shelter as a German shell is heard over head





St-JULIEN. - L'Eglise bombardée

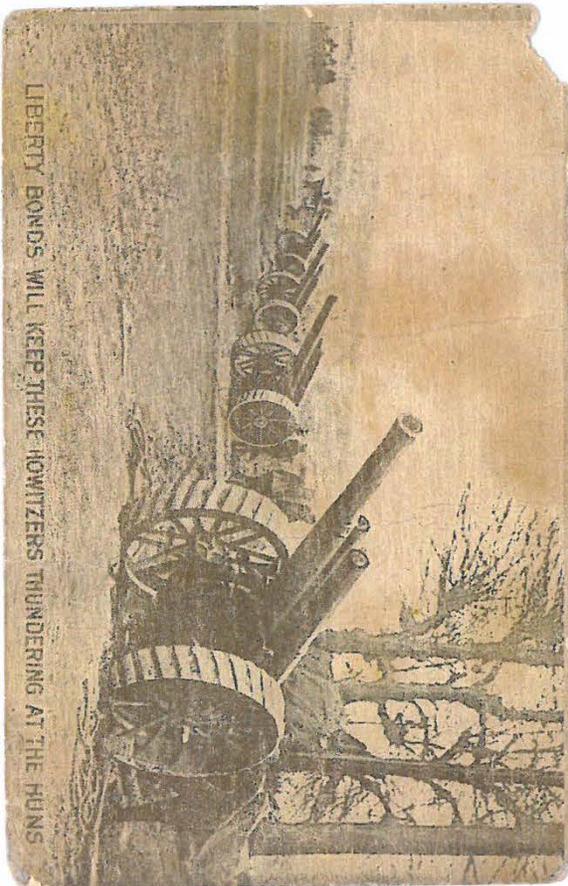
J. Cateux, éditeur, Commercy



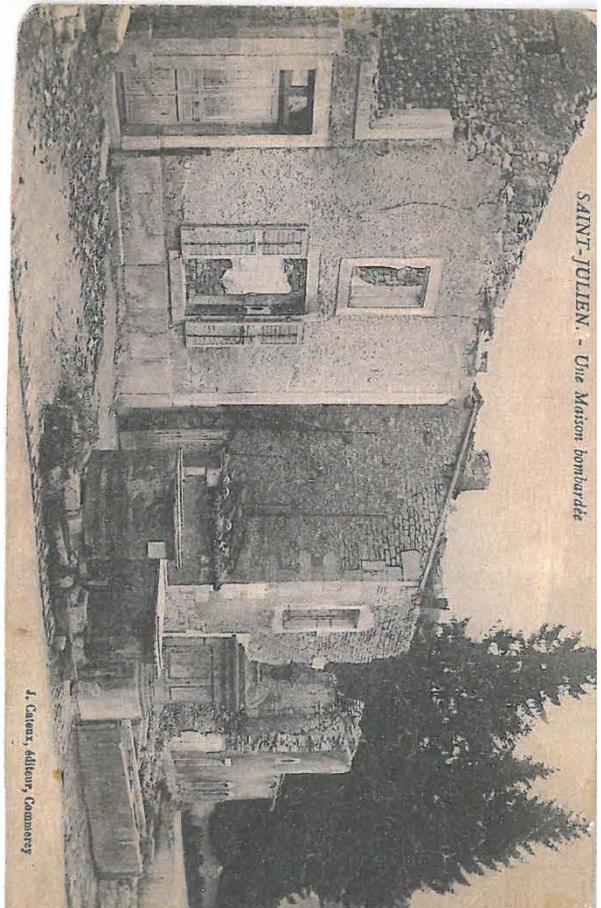
VADONVILLE bombardé. - Intérieur d'une Maison de la Rue Jeanne d'Arc

J. Cateux, éditeur, Commercy

Visé Nancy A. 2040



LIBERTY BONDS WILL KEEP THESE HOWITZERS THUNDERING AT THE HUNS



SAINTE-JULIEN. - Une Maison bombardée

J. Cateux, éditeur, Commercy

Postcards Everett sent to Mintie:

