

## Victor Lawrence Aldrich



Victor Aldrich was born 20 April 1894 in Winnebago, Faribault County, Minnesota to Wilder Gardiner Aldrich (1858-1915) and Vellette or Violet Jane “Lettie” Masters (1861-1940). At the age of five he and his parents moved to Windom, Cottonwood County, Minnesota where he spent all his life and from where he enlisted. His father, Wilder Gardiner Aldrich, died on June 13, 1915. His oldest brother, Leon Earl Aldrich, was living in Crosby, North Dakota and Victor became the man of the house at age 21. His draft registration dated 26 May 1917 at Windom said that he was 23 years old, single, and a student.

Victor Aldrich enlisted in February 1918, entering the 19<sup>th</sup> Aerial Photography Unit of the U.S. Aviation Service. He studied at Cornell University and the Tennessee College of Photography. He sailed overseas early in the fall, his mother then a resident of Farmington in Dakota County, Minnesota. Victor was deployed to France, but he never made it out of Liverpool.

Victor Aldrich died 23 October 1918 at Liverpool, England of pneumonia. A letter to his mother from a nurse in Liverpool was the first notice the family had received of his illness. A few weeks later the War Department notified his mother that he had died. He was initially buried in Liverpool, and a memorial headstone was placed at the family plot at Lake View Cemetery in Windom, Minnesota. Then, in the 1920s, his remains were returned to the U.S. and he was buried under his headstone.

See also: <https://www.mnmilitarymuseum.org/index.php/veterans/registry/info/1149/>

