



## Adlore Joseph Lemay

Adlore Lemay was born on November 6, 1894 in Mendota Heights, Minnesota to Victor Joseph Lemay (1868-1953) and Caroline Deslauriers Lemay (1868-1943). His parents were both 2<sup>nd</sup> generation immigrants from Quebec, Canada.

They farmed in Egan. Adlore was working as a farm hand on June 5, 1917 when he registered for the draft in Farmington. He was 23 and single. He was drafted and enlisted on May 28, 1918. He was sent to Camp Lewis, Washington to train with the 160<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 40<sup>th</sup> Division, Company E. Camp Lewis was established as the training camp for the 91<sup>st</sup> "Wild West" Infantry

Division of the National Army (National Guard) which was comprised of inducted men from at least 14 states. He left for France, from Brooklyn, New York in August of 1918 on the SS Nestor. When he arrived in France, he was reassigned to the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division, Company H. The 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry

Regiment was best known for the experiences of several of its companies, including Company H, which formed part of the "Lost Battalion" after becoming isolated behind German lines in an attack on the Argonne Forest in

October 1918. On October 18, 1918 parts of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> were sent to an undefended gap between the German and American lines that was actually a deep ravine known as the "pocket". It was located on the edge of the Argonne Forest near the Aisne River in NE France. Considered Impregnable, the Argonne

Forest was a natural stronghold. There they were met with stiff resistance. Then they lost their communication link and were trapped. They held their position in the "gap" without food or water for six full days as they continued to fight. With the capture of this key tactical location, the American forces were able to accomplish what the British and French had not been able to do in four years. Adlore was severally injured, taken prisoner and disabled. He was held at Camp Ferenstenfeldreuck, which was in

Bavaria near Munich. He was released to the American Red Cross on February 1, 1919. He never recovered from his service in the war.

In Adlore's own words "I laid on the hillside for two days, wounded, although conscious, and saw the Germans across the ravine moving around, and once in a while could hear them talking. Two other wounded Americans a short distance away in back of me, who could talk German, were calling to the Germans to come and remove them, which they finally did. They also found me, because when I woke up there were Germans all around me, and I was in a different location. They took me prisoner and about \$50 I had, as afterwards I could only find ten cents."

His unit sailed home on the USS America from Brest, France and they participated in the grand parade in New York City on April 28, 1919 as heroes. Adlore returned on April 13, 1919 on the SS Rijndam separately with the SICK & WOUNDED. He was sent to the Military Hospital at Camp Sheridan, Illinois where he remained until his discharge on March 31, 1920. He returned home but was never able to work again. He married Margaret Rose Mahoney in 1920. The couple lived in Dakota County and never had children. Adlore died on August 3, 1977 at the age of 82. He is buried at Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Minnesota. His wife did not apply for military benefits.

*The quote by Adlore was found in the book "Lost Battalion" Survivors from Minnesota and the Northwest" by Carl J Peterson*