

## **Clifford Larson**

Clifford Larson was born in Empire Township, Minnesota on August 24, 1892, shortly before his parents moved to Farmington Minnesota. Eventually he worked for the Milwaukee Railway Company.

Clifford was inducted into service by the United States army on February 26, 1918. When he began his training he was first stationed in Camp Dodge, Iowa from February 26, 1918 to April 1918. He then transferred to Camp Logan in Houston, Texas from April 1918 to May 1918. He arrived in New York on May 1, 1918 and was there until May 15, when he was shipped out to France. He spent time with Company C of the 352<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion during training, and then while stationed in France, he was assigned to the Company C of the 130<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, which then was assigned to outfit the 33<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. After he arrived in France his unit was moved forward across the Muse River and through the town of Consenvoye to relieve another unit on the night of October 18. On the night of October 19, 1918 Clifford was killed fighting in a ravine two miles north of Consenvoye. Clifford was lying at the bottom of a trench when he was struck with a piece of shrapnel that carried away most of his hip. Two friends of Clifford proceeded to put him on a stretcher in attempt to carry him to the rear of allied lines. While lying on the stretcher Clifford told his friends to set him down and leave him so they could return to the fight because he knew he would not make it. Clifford Larson was the first man from Farmington, Minnesota to be killed in action. He was laid to rest by a friend overlooking a French valley.

After the war, Clifford's body was exhumed from French soil and returned home on August 19, 1921. He lay in state at the Larson's house until the funeral at the Presbyterian Church. The church was filled and some people had to wait outside before they could pay their respects. Businesses in Farmington were closed from two until four in a sign of respect for the deceased. After the service, Clifford was brought to the cemetery under armed military guard. He was laid to rest in American soil with full military honors on August 26, 1921. In recognition of Clifford Larson's ultimate sacrifice, American Legion Post 189 was named in his honor.



