



**91st Infantry Division**

**346th Machine Gun Battalion**

### **Private First Class Wilford Nephi Sargent**

Wilford Nephi Sargent, a son of Amos Sargent and Mary Brown Sargent, was born October 9, 1895 in Hoytsville, Utah. He was one of eleven brothers and sisters in the family. He entered the army on September 19, 1917 and was assigned to the 346th Machine Gun Battalion. The battalion was part of the 91st Infantry Division.

He died April 5, 1918, from gastro entero colitis and was buried in the Hoytsville, Utah cemetery on April 30, 1918.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, four brothers; John William, David James, Amos Angell, Charles Brown; and six sisters; Mary Esther, Olive Ada, Fern Lillian, Hannah Rebeca, Rose Pricilla, and Emeline.

The 91st Infantry Division was organized on August 5, 1917, at Camp Lewis, Washington. The states that the men came from were California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and the Territory of Alaska. There were four regiments in the division, the 361st, 362nd, 363rd and the 364th. The 346th, 347th and 348th Machine Gun Battalions were part of the division. The Division's patch is the number 91 on a green pine tree and it was nicknamed the "Pine Tree Division" or the "Wild Bill Division". Eventually, it was nicknamed "The Powder River Division". The pine tree symbolizes that most of the troops came from the North West. It participated in its first operation in September 1918 as part of the St. Mihiel Offensive and its second operation was part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Twelve days before the end of World War I, the division, drove the Germans east across the Escaut River.