



### **Private LeRoy Edward Benson**

Leroy Edward Benson, a son of Eben Edward Benson and Edith Rippon Benson, was born on December 17, 1891, in Payson, Utah. His mother died on January 17, 1892. He and his father moved to Coalville, Utah and he lived with his Uncle, Frank Rippon. He moved to Upton, Utah and then moved to Castle Rock where he worked for David Moore on his ranch.

He joined the army and was assigned to the 59th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. The regiment was organized on June 5, 1917 and it was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on November 19, 1917. The division participated in the St. Mihiel Offensive and attacked the Germans on September 12, 1918. Pvt. Benson was killed on September 16, 1918. His body was returned home and he was buried on August 14, 1921 in the Coalville, Utah cemetery.

The American Legion Post 93 is named after him.

The 4th Division was organized at Camp Green, North Carolina under the command of Major General George H. Cannon and was formally organized on December 10, 1917. The shoulder sleeve patch has four green ivy leaves joined at the center. Its nickname is the "Ivy Division" and it is derived from the four ivy leaves on the patch. The word "Ivy" is also a play on the Roman numeral four, "IV", (I-Vy). The Division was comprised of four infantry regiments, the 39th, 47th, 58th, and 59th. The Division's motto is "Steadfast and Loyal."

The 59th Infantry Regiment was made part of the 4th Division in May 1917, and was organized on June 8, 1917. The regiment's Distinctive Unit Insignia is gold with blue at the top. The three eagles are taken from the coat of arms of Lorraine. On the gold portion is a diagonal blue bend charged with the gold fret is taken from the coat of arms of Champaign. The motto is derived from the action of one of its platoons in World War I. As a machine gun squad approached them, the Sergeant in command yelled, "They come from the wrong direction." Let 'em have it." The dead men were later identified as Germans in American uniforms, thus the motto, "LET EM HAVE IT."