



Private William Arthur Brown



4th Infantry Division



Distinctive Unit Insignia

William Arthur Brown, a son of William James and Mary Ella Birch Brown, was born on March 23, 1895. He was called Willie by his family and he loved to ride horses and go dancing. His family walked down the Creamery Lane in Hoytsville, Utah to see him get on the train to serve his country.

He joined the army on November 2, 1917 and was assigned to the 58th Infantry Regiment. The regiment was organized on June 5, 1917 and it was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division on November 17, 1917.

Part of the Regiment was being transported from Halifax to England on the HMS Moldavia. On May 23, 1918, it was torpedoed by the German U-Boat, UB-57. Fifty-four were killed including Pvt. Brown. Another died of injuries. Private Brown is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the US Military cemetery in Brookwood, London, England. A remembrance headstone was placed in the Hoytsville, Utah cemetery.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, one brother, John Parley; and seven sisters; Annie Lydia, Phoebe Minerva, Zella Leone, Iretha Mary, Hulda Esther, Ada Violet, and Emma Edith.

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."

On the regiment's Distinctive Unit Insignia, the blue is for infantry. The regiment served in France in the 4th Division shown by the ivy leaf from the shoulder insignia. The broken chevron commemorates the piercing of the German line between Soissons and Rheims, which are represented by the silver and golden fleurs-de-lis taken from the coat of arms of those cities respectively.