



Private John Leslie Banner



16th Infantry Division

47th Field Artillery

Camp Kearny, California

John Leslie Banner, a son of Samuel Banner and Ellen Radford Banner, was born on November 5, 1896 in Upton, Utah. He was the tenth of eleven children in the family of seven girls and four boys. He entered the army on September 3, 1918 and was assigned to Camp Kearny, California where he was training in the field artillery.

While training, he became ill with influenza and developed pneumonia. The military contacted his Mother and she traveled to Camp Kearny to be at his side when he died. Just before he died, he told his mother, "Tell the folks not to feel bad. I am one out of thousands". He died on December 6, 1918. A military funeral was held at Camp Kearny before his body was shipped home. Funeral services were held at the Coalville, Utah cemetery and he was buried there.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his parents, four sisters and two brothers: Mary Ellen, Elizabeth Ann, Lydia, Cora Leone, Samuel, and William Henry. He was preceded in death by three sisters and one brother: Frances Alice, Lydia May, Mabel, and Benjamin.

During World War I, the 16th Division was renamed the 37th Infantry Division. The formation of another division designated as the 16th Division occurred in 1918 and was stationed at Camp Kearny, California. It never went overseas and it was one of several divisions in WWI that did not select an insignia. The Army has not designated a new division as the 16th since it was demobilized in March 1919.