



347th Machine Gun Battalion

Private Henry Rudolph Kramer

Henry Rudolph Kramer, a son of John William Kramer and Mary Elizabeth King, was born December 25, 1888, in Benjamin, Utah. He was one of nine brothers and sisters in the family. He married Sadie Nelson on April 20, 1917. He entered the army on September 19, 1917 and was assigned to the 347th Machine Gun Battalion. The battalion was part of the 91st Infantry Division. He fought in the Argonne and St. Mihiel battles and was killed in action on September 29, 1918 and is buried in the Salt Lake City cemetery.

At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife, parents, along with three brothers; Albert William, Horace Edward, John Ruben; and four sisters, Mary Annie Christeen, Ellen Rebeche, and Phermella Olena. He was preceded in death by a sister, Annettie, and a brother listed as Son Kramer

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, 348th, and 349th 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.