

CPL Edwin F. Augustine

Location - West-A: R19, C43

OSHKOSH WORLD WAR VETERAN DIES AFTER AN EXTENDED ILLNESS

After an extended illness said by members of his family to have been caused by service disability, Edwin F. Augustine, world war veteran, passed away Wednesday evening at Statesan, Wales, Wis.

Mr. Augustine was born in Oshkosh June 7, 1893. He attended schools here and was graduated from High school in 1912.

He enlisted in the army in 1917 and was sent in turn to Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.; Camp Greene, Charlotte, N. C.; and Camp Mills, New York City. He sailed for Europe in May, 1918.

As a member of the 42nd division he saw action in France and Germany. He was honorably discharged from service in July, 1919, and returned to America.

Before the war Mr. Augustine had been employed by lumber companies at Iron River, Mich., Winona, Minn., Goodman, Wis., Menominee, Mich., Shawano, and in the south. He was also employed by the Deltex Rug company in Oshkosh.

From 1919 to 1923 he was a salesman of men's furnishings, and returned to Oshkosh, living here until 1925. He was employed by the Badger Lumber company until 1925, retiring because of failing health.

Since 1925 he had been a patient at the National Soldiers' hospital at Milwaukee, Sunnyview sanatorium, Wisconsin General hospital at Madison, and Statesan at Wales.

He was a member of Atley H. Cook post, No. 70, of the American Legion.

Survivors are the widow, formerly Miss Gladys W. Hansen of Oshkosh, whom he married June 21, 1924; his father, Henry Augustine, Oshkosh, and his step-mother; one sister, Miss Hilda Augustine, Wales, Wis.; one step-sister, Mrs. E. J. Moran, Milwaukee, and two step-brothers, Rev. E. A. Schmidt of Fremont and Theodore W. Schmidt, of Camp Mead, South Dakota.

WIDOW OF VETERAN GETS CARD SENT TO HIM 17 YEARS AGO

Christmas Greeting Mailed to
Corp. Edwin Augustine in
1918 is Returned to
Oshkosh

A Christmas greeting card, addressed to a destination in France, but found recently at Fort Lewis, Wash., has returned to Oshkosh. The alertness of the employees at the postoffice, who know Oshkosh people and their kin, directed the envelope into the hands of the person most interested to receive it—the widow of the man to whom it was originally sent.

The envelope, containing a Christmas card of the type that was popular in 1918, has been given to Mrs. Gladys Augustine, 336 Ceape street, whose husband, the late Corp. Edwin Augustine, should have received the letter in France.

Except for her, there was no place for the letter to be returned, and it might have been consigned to the dead letter office except for the watchfulness of the post-office staff.

The letter had a return address in its upper left hand corner, but this was merely "postoffice box 684," and that, of course, no longer exists. That was in the old postoffice, now abandoned for postal service.

FROM LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

The card itself, inside the envelope, was signed in ink with the notation: "Lutheran Laymen's league, Trinity Lutheran church, Oshkosh, Wis."

The Rev. J. E. Elbert, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, said there is no organization of that name in the church now, although such a group is recognized in the synod, to which individuals may belong. He said he did not know if Oshkosh had a laymen's unit in 1918, as that was before he took the local pastorate.

The envelope containing the greeting had been slit open by the censor, and sealed shut again with the official gummed label, but there was no name or initial in the space where the inspector should have written his checkmark.

On the outside of the envelope was the notation in ink: "Found in a field desk of the air corps department, Fort Lewis, Wash., May 21, 1935, by J. A. Taylor." It was forwarded back to Oshkosh without further explanation.

ADDRESSED TO FRANCE

The letter originally had been addressed to a location in France, and had the special direction, "via New York" written as part of the mailing instructions. It was sent east, but ended up west.

Men in Oshkosh, familiar with army equipment, said a field desk is a portable, collapsible piece of furniture. It may have been that the field desk now at Fort Lewis was in France with the A. E. F., and that the undelivered letter remained undiscovered in it during all transfers.

Corporal Augustine returned to the United States after the war, his health impaired. He was at various hospitals and sanatoria, in a futile effort to recuperate. He passed away Nov. 8, 1933, at the sanatorium at Wales, Wis.