

Men of L Newsletter

Issue Number FIVE

Veteran's Day

November 11, 2022



This *Men of L* newsletter provides information of interest to the descendants of Company L soldiers, and the public. It honors the soldier's sacrifices and service during WWI. Our mission also includes identifying descendants of the soldiers assigned to Company L. We also desire to keep descendants, and the public, informed of Company L's participation during WWI, and our continuing research of the soldier's military and related information. Newsletters are emailed to registered descendants and others who may find the information interesting. Newsletters are archived on the Company L website. <https://company-l.com/newsletters/>

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1. Sergeant Wesley Foster

Researched and compiled by Edward W. Hudson, grandnephew of Wesley.

Sergeant, U.S. Army. Assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 132nd Infantry, 66th Brigade, 33rd Division. Killed in action by shellfire during the Battle of Bois de Fays on 11 October 1918.

Buried in a battlefield grave in Bois de Fays, 13 Oct 1918; disinterred 26 Apr 1919 and reburied at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery #1232 (Grave# 17, Sec 31, Plot 1). Repatriated 23 July 1921 and repatriated to Paragould, Arkansas by his father. Buried: Linwood Cemetery, Paragould, Arkansas.

Cited for gallantry in action by General Pershing and General Bell. The Silver Star Medal is the United States' third highest award exclusively for

combat valor. The Silver Star was not established as an individual medal until July 19, 1932. At that time, veterans of World War I who had been cited for “gallantry in action” and awarded the “Citation Star” were, based upon specific criteria, authorized to request issuance of the Silver Star Medal in lieu of the earlier ribbon device.



Silver Star Medal



Purple Heart Medal



WWI Victory Medal
with battle Clasps



Sharpshooter insignia

Born 26 January 1893 in Greene County, AR to John Lindsay and Mary Frances (Osborne) Foster. John and Mollie (nickname) had eleven children total, six who died at childbirth or before adulthood. Wesley’s father and sister Amanda Hartwick are buried in the same location at Linwood Cemetery.

Wesley enlisted in the U.S. Army in 25 April of 1914 and while stationed in the Panama Canal Zone with the 10th Infantry, he participated in several U.S. Military operations overseas before WWI. He was a professional soldier when America declared war on Germany in April 1917. He helped train the “citizen draftees” in two units before being shipped to France on the USS Mt. Vernon out of Hoboken, N.J., on 16 May 1918.

The 33rd Division saw action with British Empire Forces in Northern France and with the AEF (American Expeditionary Forces) in Northeast France. Wesley participated in several minor actions, including night patrols in No Man’s Land (I have his letters). He was gassed while fighting with British and Australians in the Battle of Amiens (Gressaire Wood). He returned to his unit and saw action in two more battles during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, including when the 3rd Battalion was called upon to support the 4th Division at the Battle of Bois de Fays, which had suffered weeks of “unremitting hell.” It was in this battle Wesley was killed. Major-General George Bell Jr., commander of the 33rd Division, cited Sgt. Wesley Foster for gallantry and wrote a letter to his father on 30 March 1919 to express his “deepest and heartfelt sympathy.” His company commander, Captain Charles E. Wise wrote two letters to the family explaining the circumstances of his death. He was greatly esteemed by the men in his company.

Wesley Foster, posthumously, was awarded the Silver Star. Having been killed in action, he can also receive a Purple Heart. In addition, he is also eligible for the WWI Victory Medal with bars of the offensives in which he was engaged.

Commemorative Company L Pin

A Men of L Commemorative Pin is

a unique way to honor your ancestor.



Each one-inch pin is made from a zinc alloy with gold plating

Ten dollar donation includes shipping and handling to U.S. postal addresses.

<https://company-l.com/commemorative-pin/>

Men of L [Descendant Membership certificates](#) make great heirloom gifts. Register your children, grandchildren, and other descendant relatives.

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