

May 9, 2016

American Legion Post 32
826 W. Main St.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Dear Sirs,

We have traced family history for 40+ years and in that time have amassed a lot of information about the Funks who lived near London, south of Cottage Grove.

I am enclosing a bit of the information about Calvin Thomas Funk, for whom your post is named. I have much more, including the photos of him and of his burial place in France.

Perhaps you will want to add some of this to your files.

Please feel free to contact my wife & I :

Paul & Barbara Funk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



in France

CALVIN THOMAS FUNK:

The oldest son of Thomas and Jane Funk was born May 1898 in Clarke Co., WA. By 1910, the family had moved to Wallace, near London, Lane Co., OR.

Calvin enlisted July 1916 in CA and went to the Mexican border a month later, serving as a bugler. He was sent to Syracuse, NY to assist in training men for over-seas. He was promoted to a corporal.

His company, Co. L, 9th regiment of infantry, landed in France on Sept. 19, 1917. His mother, of London, OR, got a letter from him stating he had been through his second battle and "escaped without a scratch. It was mighty hot, but did not last very long."

He was promoted again, this time to Sergeant, and would have been again, but declined it in order to remain with his comrades. He took part in the first great drive in which the Americans helped turn back the Germans from Paris and in recovering the city of Vaux. He also fought at Soissons and Blanc Mont Ridge.

A letter from him said he had been "seven times over the top without receiving a scratch."

On the 3rd day of October, 1918, near Medeah Farm, Sergeant Calvin T. Funk, "with coolness and courage" led his half platoon of men across a zone swept by artillery and machine guns. He was killed by shell fire on Thursday, Oct. 3, 1918, just as the Armistice was about to be signed. His was the first death from the ranks of the Cottage Grove men serving overseas. Captain James H. Day of the Ninth infantry wrote to Jane Funk that her son had not "died in vain and his example would inspire

others." His name appeared in the casualty list on the front page of the C.G. Sentinel on Nov. 29, 1918.

The next summer, Thomas Funk got word from the army recruiting office in Portland to go there and receive a French Croix de Guerre awarded to his son, "for conspicuous gallantry in action" from Marshal Petain, and certificates of honor from General Pershing and President Wilson. His parents later had them framed.

In Jan. 1921, the C.G. Sentinel told that "American Legion Unveils Picture of Sergeant Calvin T. Funk after whom the post is named..." The band played "To The Colors," a solo was sung and there were addresses by the mayor & Presbyterian minister. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Funk and two of their sons were there. Calvin's name would also be added to the memorial to Lane County Veterans who lost their lives in wars. It is located in Skinner's Butte Park in Eugene.

Sergeant Funk had been buried in a little opening about 60 yards West of Madeau Farm-Pylone, but was later moved to the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France.

Memorial Day, 2010, the Cottage Grove American Legion Post 32 rededicated their post with a new mural of their namesake.

93 years after his death, in Oct. 2011, Calvin Funk's g. nephew & wife visited his grave in France, now under the care of the American Battle Monuments Commission.