George Van Camp was the son of Rev. and Mrs. John F. Van Camp (Margaret Cooper Shaw Miller) of Farmington, where his father was the pastor of the Methodist church. Previously he had served congregations in Faribault, Pipestone and Dodge Counties, Minnesota. George was born in Claremont, Dodge County, Minnesota on 2 March 1897.

George enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps while attending Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. in May 1917, just a month after War was declared by the U.S., and received his training at Norfolk, Virginia. After training, he was assigned to the battleship Nebraska. George was transferred to the 97th Company, 6th USMC Regiment, 2nd Division and was advanced to the rank of sergeant. He married Miss Helene MacDonald of Gloucester, Massachusetts on 17 May 1918 in Prince William County, Virginia. Just a week later he was ordered overseas.

George witnessed severe fighting at the Battle of St. Mihiel and the battle of Blanc Mont Ridge as the Marines advanced to the Aisne River. He was killed while attacking a machine gun nest on 6 October 1918. He was buried at the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery.