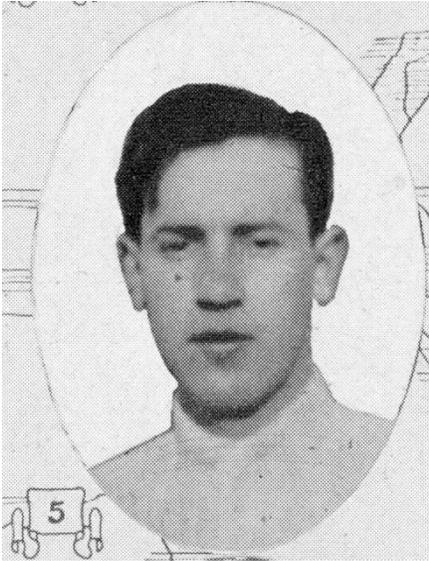


## James Raymond Delisle



James Raymond Delisle was born 8 September 1895 in St. Louis, Missouri. His parents were Joseph Delisle (1861-1931) and Josephine Margaret Lebeau (1873-1923). The family had many children who did not survive to adulthood; at the time of the 1900 census, his mother said she had had ten children, but only four were living. James attended elementary school in St. Louis but eventually made his way with his family to South Park in Dakota County. They attended St. Augustine Catholic Church.

James registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 while working in southern Minnesota, and claimed exemption due to poor eyesight. He worked on a sugar beet farm in Le Sueur County and as a scaler for Swift and Co. in South St. Paul, before induction into the Army, which occurred on 12 April 1918 in Hastings. He was sent to Camp Dodge for training in April and May, and then to Camp Miles from May to June. His company embarked from Camp Miles on 19 June 1918.

James served as a private in Company H, 138th Infantry, 35th Division, and witnessed severe fighting at St. Mihiel and at the Argonne Forest where he was killed in action on 28 September 1918. His mother did not receive confirmation of his death until 1919. In July 1919, she received a letter from James' corporal, W. A. Lookiebill, who returned some of James' personal belongings and said that he had been struck by the same shell that killed James. James' remains were returned to Minnesota in 1921, and he was given a military funeral at Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul, where he was laid to rest.

Note: His mother gave his year of birth as 1897 on his military service questionnaire, but most other records, including military records, give a birth year of 1895.