

## **Richard E. Mortensen**



Richard E. Mortensen was born 1 October 1893 in Chicago, Illinois to Nels P. Mortensen (1851-1945), originally from Denmark, and Mary M. Schaller (1866-1955) of Iowa. He enlisted from Independence, Buchanan County, Iowa, where he was engaged in farming, in February 1918. His parents lived in Empire Township, Dakota County at the time. Previously, the family had lived in Chicago until at least 1910.

Richard received his military training at Camp Dodge, Iowa and then Camp Mills, New York. He served in Company K, 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 35<sup>th</sup> Division. Richard and his company sailed to England in April 1918 and were sent to the Meuse-Argonne sector on 15 September. He was killed on 30 September 1918 during the Argonne drive. He was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.

In 1930, his mother, Mrs. Mary M. Mortensen, went on a Gold Star mother's pilgrimage to visit the gravesite of her son.