

## John Raymond Keenan



John Raymond Keenan was born 8 February 1894 in Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota to John A. Keenan (1867-1941) and Eliza Dunn (1867-1934). He attended elementary school in Wykoff, Minnesota. In 1902, his family moved to Elkton, South Dakota where he completed school and worked as a barber apprentice. He was a member of the Catholic Church and of the St. Peter's Chapter of Knights of Columbus. He worked as a commissary clerk for the Great Northern Railway from 1913 to 1917, and perhaps that is what led him to South St. Paul, where he worked as a shipping clerk at Swift and Company from 1917 to 1918. By then, his parents were living in Cleveland, Le Sueur County, Minnesota. Keen did not marry.

Keenan registered for the draft in 1917 in Le Sueur County, Minnesota. He was inducted into the Army on 24 February 1918 while residing in South St. Paul in Dakota County. He trained at Camp Dodge with Company D, 352<sup>nd</sup> Infantry until April 1918, when he was transferred to Company I of the 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry at Camp Sevier, South Carolina, and then to Company D, 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 30<sup>th</sup> Division at the same place.

He embarked 12 May 1918 from Camp Merritt to France, arriving there on 28 May 1918. He first went into action in July 1918. He was killed in action during the Somme offensive as his division began its attack on the Hindenburg Line. He was buried at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France. His remains were returned to the U.S. and reinterred in Minnesota. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland, Le Sueur County, Minnesota.

Note: There is some confusion as to whether the photo in “Dakota County in the World War” purporting to be of this soldier is accurate or not, so it was excluded.