

## Martin Knutson



Martin was born 5 October 1886 in Molde parish, Møre og Romsdal, Norway. Martin worked as a farmhand at Westwood Stock Farm in Farmington, MN before the war. His brother, Albert Knutson, lived in San Francisco.

Martin registered June 5 and was drafted in August 1917 at the age of 30. He was one of the first fifteen to be drafted from Farmington. The townspeople donated \$30 for a sendoff banquet and dance. Blake's Lunchroom was "taxed to the limit in giving the boys a good feed." The leftover money was given to the men to do with what they pleased. Over a thousand people gathered at the depot to send Martin and the other draftees off.

He enlisted in the Army on September 21, 1917. Martin was part of Company B of the 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 34<sup>th</sup> Division. He trained at Camp Dodge, IA from September to October 1917 and then at Camp Cody, NM from October 1917 to August 1918. The 34<sup>th</sup> Division was shipped to France on September 14 and arrived in Liverpool, England as a replacement division. He was stationed in Verdun, France from 15 October 1918. As a wagoner, his primary duties were hauling and supply; he did see action on 5 November 1918 at Bunevo. The 135<sup>th</sup> regiment earned a WW1 streamer without inscription. Martin returned to New York on 28 May 1919 and was mustered out on June 7, 1919 as a Private Wagoner at Camp Dodge, IA.

Not a lot of threads could be found to weave Martin's story but in the 1920 US census he resided in Empire township, Dakota County, MN and worked as a general farm laborer, working on the Raymond F. Nelson farm.