

American Expeditionary Force Siberia 31st Infantry Regiment



David William Ivie, a son of Jefferson and Eliza Broadhead Ivie, was born on April 11, 1893, in Heber, Utah. There were seven children in the family.

He entered the Army on May 11, 1918, and was assigned to the 31st Infantry Regiment. The regiment was formed on August 13, 1916, from soldiers in the 8th, 13th, and 27th regiments stationed in the Philippine Islands.

The 31st along with the 27th Regiment became part of the American Expeditionary Force Siberia that was sent to Valdivostok, Russia in August 1918. Its mission was to guard the Trans-Siberian railway and protect the Allied war materials from being looted by Red revolutionaries and White counter-revolutionaries. It also prevented the Japanese forces from taking control of parts of Russia. For the next two years, the regiments would execute their assignments.

It was during an engagement with the revolutionaries that Private Ivie was killed at Romonoky, Siberia. His death occurred on June 15, 1919. His body was returned home and he is buried in the Heber City Cemetery in Utah.

At the time of his death, he was survived by a brother, Charles Milton Ivie; along with one sister, Coldia Idella Ivie. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers; Leroy Ivie, Arthur A. Ivie, Charles Milton Ivie; and sisters, Elanora Ivie, Silva (Silvie) Ivie and Coldia Idella Ivie.

Because of the 31st Infantry's actions in Siberia, the regiment was nicknamed the "Polar Bears" regiment. Its Distinctive Unit Insignia was approved on February 29, 1924, and its description is as follows: "On or wreath or and azure (gold and blue) a polar bear affronte se jant (sitting, facing front) head to sinister proper (to the left) with a ribbon bearing the regimental motto, Pro Patria (For Our Country)."