

James H. Murphy

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Utah

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Private First Class

**347th Machine Gun
Battalion**

91st Infantry Division

October 3, 1918



91st Infantry Division

347th Machine Gun Battalion

James H. Murphy, a son of Timothy M. and Mary Murphy, was born March 8, 1892, in Nevada. His family moved to Park City, Utah. There were four children in the family.

He entered the army on September 19, 1917 and was assigned to the 347th Machine Gun Battalion. The battalion was part of the 91st Infantry Division. His unit arrived in England on July 6, 1918. The Division entered France at LeHarve. Two of the major offensives that the Division participated in were the Argonne Forest and St. Mihiel.

Private 1st Class Murphy was killed on October 3, 1918, during the St. Mihiel offensive. At the time of his death, he was survived by his mother, along with two brothers, Ambrose, William, and a sister, Julia.

The 91st Infantry Division was organized on August 5, 1917, at Camp Lewis, Washington. The states that the men came from were California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and the Territory of Alaska. There were four regiments in the division, the 361st, 362nd, 363rd and the 364th. The 346th, 347th and 348th Machine Gun Battalions were part of the division. The Division's patch is the number 91 on a green pine tree and it was nicknamed the "Pine Tree Division" or the "Wild Bill Division". Eventually, it was nicknamed "The Powder River Division". The pine tree symbolizes that most of the troops came from the North West. It participated in its first operation on September 1918 as part of the St. Mihiel Offensive and its second operation was part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Twelve days before the end of World War I, the division, drove the Germans east across the Escaut River.