

## **Morris Vernon Darst**

May 10, 1896 - May 28, 1921

Vernon the son of Joseph William "Will" Darst and Ida Belle Ruckwied, married Vera Ada Locker, the daughter of Jacob Daniel Locker and Leah Etta Freemeyer, on January 28th, 1914 in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

On February 6th, 1918 he enlisted into the US Army and was a World War I veteran. Vernon was a Private and served in Company A, 314th Field Signal Battalion, 89th Division - American Expeditionary Forces. He took part in the battles of St. Mihiel and the Argonne.

While serving in France, he was operating a military motorcycle with his Captain in the sidecar, when both of them were hit by the same piece of shrapnel. Vernon was slightly wounded but his Captain was hit in the neck, severing a blood vessel and he bled to death.

Just prior to the end of the war, Vernon was also "Gassed" and in less than two years after being released from the Army on June 10th, 1919, at the age of 25, at 2:00pm on May 28th, 1921, he died. Cause of Death listed on the Death Certificate was: Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Contributory: Gassed while in Service.

He left behind his wife Vera Ada and two children; daughter Claudia Marciel and son Myron Gail.

Vernon was a proud member of the American Legion at South Bend, Indiana, Healthwiv Post No. 302.

**Contributed by Lake Runner**