

## **LeRoy Austin Grubs, World War I soldier**

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains information on LeRoy Austin Grub, Company C, 353rd Infantry, 89th Division. LeRoy was killed in action on October 21, 1918 while in France.

Date: 1918-1919

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**LeRoy Austin Grubs, World War I soldier**



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Corporal Lee Austin Grubs,  
Company C-353 Infantry-89th Div.  
Acting Supply Sergeant when  
killed in action in The Argonne  
Oct.21,1918.



## LeRoy Austin Grubs, World War I soldier

Record of Corporal Lee A. Grubs, Company C, 353 Infantry, 89th Division-  
Killed in action Oct. 21, 1918.

LeRoy Austin Grubs, son of Elton B. Grubs and grandson of Viola Lucas born at Columbus, Ohio Jan. 16, 1896, raised by his grandmother, Viola Lucas, and educated by her in the public schools at Emporia, Kansas. Entered the service of the Fred Harvey eating house system as night clerk and was advanced to the position of cashier and had served in this capacity at Emporia and Newton, Kas. Clovis, New Mexico and was stationed at Syracuse, Kas. when he was inducted into the service of the United States in Sept. 1917. Assigned to Company C-353 Infantry at Camp Funston, Kansas and promoted to corporal on May 12, 1918. Sailed for France June 3, 1918. Was acting company supply sergeant at the time of his death on Oct. 21, 1918. Killed by concussion of shell which struck a tree above where he and three other comrades were "dug in" for the night in the Bantheville Wood, Argonne Forest.

LETTERS FROM OVERSEAS TO HIS FATHER, E. B. GRUBS, KANSAS CITY, MO.

Somewhere in France.

Dear Father & Allie:-

We are now stationed in a camp in France. We landed in England and did not stay there long. England is a very pretty country but France seems more home like. We are in a small village located in a valley with wooded hills all around us. You would hardly think that such a peaceful ~~country~~ looking country was at war. We sure had some trip over. I did not get sea sick at all. We landed here after a (censored) in box cars and it sure was a novelty. The trains here look queer. The cars are not more than 20 feet long. The climate is just about ideal, warms up in day time and we have to sleep under three blankets at night. We have small one story barracks and are quite comfortable. The chow is very good also and we have good light bread. We are permitted to buy beer and light wines but I do not like the wines very much as they are sour. Not much going on here so I will write more later.

With love,  
Lee

France, Aug. 21, 1918.

Dear Father & Allie:-

Will drop you a few lines to let you know I am still O.K. and feeling fine. We moved from our camp where we were stationed the last time I wrote and are now near the front. We are close to where the Americans first took over a part of the lines. This is a quiet sector and not much going on. I have not seen any boche yet except a few prisoners working behind our lines. There is not much infantry action here, it is mostly light artillery. I have had to beat it to our dug out though several times when I have heard a three inch shell coming our way. I sure felt shaky in the knees the first time I heard a shell whining through the air coming our way but can tell now by the sound if they are coming near us. We have witnessed several exciting airplane battles in this sector. They sure do some trick flying to dodge each other and to outguess the anti-aircraft guns. When we hear airplanes most everybody gets out to watch the fun and it looks like a bunch of rubes in town looking at the skyscrapers. I guess you folks get more news about what is going on over here than we do. Would like to have a Kansas City paper once in awhile as I see other men get papers often (Kansas City Star sent on subscription). Would also like to have a 1/2 dozen packages of Durham Duplex razor blades if you can send them (sent). No more news at present but will write again soon. Love to you all.

Your Son,  
Lee.

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Record of Corp. Lee A. Grubs, Co. C-353 Infantry 89th Div.

(Letter written three days before he was killed in action and it is covered with trench mud)

France, Oct. 18, 1918.

Dear Folks at Home:-

I just wrote a short note and mailed it to grandma and we were later issued these Christmas package coupons so am sending you mine. I do not want much as we have to carry all our belongings on our backs. I would like to have some Durham Duplex blades and a pocket knife, some handkerchiefs and a little Christmas candy. We have not been any place where we could buy anything for over two months and when we are issued candy by the Red Cross or Y.M.C.A. everybody dances around like kids. We see lots of German prisoners now as we are "making them like it" and it won't be long until they are badly beaten. Sgt. Curry left this morning for officers training school to be held here in France. I got a letter from Uncle Charlie (Major Chas. E. Lucas) a couple of weeks ago and lost his address on one of our moves. He said he had seen where we were located before we went to the trenches. I received the bundle of papers that grandma sent last evening. Tell George that I have lots of cooties and it keeps me busy trying to get rid of them. Ha! Ha! Will have to cut this short as the Lieutenant is censoring mail and I want to get this in.

Lots of love to all,  
Lee

LETTER FROM PVT. HAROLD ALLEGRE TO E. B. GRUBS.

Prum Germany, Jan. 10, 1919.

E. B. Grubs,  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Dear Mr. Grubs:-

I have your letter of Dec. 9th asking particulars of the death of your son and although not of his company I belong to the 353 regiment on detached service at the 177th Brigade Headquarters, making it possible for me to visit his company commander as well as the regimental personnel office from which two visits I have been able to get a little information that may answer some of the questions addressed to me. It has been impossible for me to get the Co-ordinates of Lee's grave owing to the absence of Chaplin Gray of the 353rd who had charge of the burial of the unfortunate lads. However interment probably occurred in the Bantheville Wood near the town of Remonville. At the first opportunity I will see the chaplain, who is now in Paris, and forward this information if it is possible.

I visited Rommershime, where Co. C is now located, yesterday and learned from one of the Lieutenants that you son made the supreme sacrifice in instant death caused by a medium sized shell that struck a tree adjacent the hole which this lad and three comrades had prepared for their night's protection. The body was in no wise mutilated, the opinion being that Roy met his death from the concussion of the explosion. This was on the evening of the 21st of October about 4 o'clock. The company had taken a position in the Bantheville Woods-the taking of which was mentioned in official accounts-early in the morning. Members of Co. C underwent a heavy shelling in the morning and all was quite until late in the afternoon when the Bosche resumed the bombardment in which your son lost his life. The company soon moved ahead, leaving the care of the dead and wounded to those behind. One intimate comrade, Bugler Alphin Phillips is still with the company.

I have it from Lieut. Hunter, who was present with the boys through this fight, that your son was in all respects a soldier to be commended and that, at the time of his death, he was acting as company supply sergeant and that he was to have had the promotion shortly. All of the boys of the company have fond remembrances of Roy who, when they speak of him, say he was "bumped off" up in the woods the other side of Remonville.

The company clerk of C Co. informs me that he has addressed several letters to his grandmother and both he and Lieut. Hunter will furnish you





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Record of Corp.Lee A.GrubsCo.C.353 Infantry,89th Div.

with any information that they may have.Chaplin Gray,of whom I have spoken before,will undoubtedly have information of the place of burial and also whether or no personal property was taken from the body.No doubtthe chaplin will be back to the regiment in a week or two and I will speak to him and feel assured that you may expect to hear from him or myself again and I hope we are able to furnish you the place of burial.

I am from Kansas myself and hope that the little information that I have sent will be of some help and I wish to impress that you may feel at liberty to write any number of times and I will do all in my power to get the information you ask for.In civil life I was associated with the Wichita Eagle,Wichita,Kas.and was born and raised only a few miles from Emporia at Burlingame.

Trusting that I have been of some help in alleviating your sorrows,  
I am,

Very truly yours,  
Pvt.Harold Allegre,  
Hg.Det.177 Inf.Brig.A.E.F.A.P.O.761

LETTER FROM LIEUT.HUNTER TO MRS.VIOLA LUCAS,EMPORIA,KAS.

Rommersheim,Germany,Jan.21,1919.

Mrs.Viola Lucas,  
Emporia,Kas.

In reply to your letter of Dec.9th.No doubt you have received ere this my letter in reply to your first inquiry.I beleive I explained that as we were marching into Germany and our stops were very short it was impossible for me to answer your letter at an earlier date.Letters from Corp.Grubs father and his uncle (Maj.Chas.E.Lucas)here in France have reached me and I have written each the facts.For fear my other letter may not have reached you I will endeavor to give you the particulars as near as possible(here follows details of Corp.Grubs'passing identical with details in letter of Prvt. Allegre above)

I have been with this company practically all of the time since Dec.1917 and in that time came to know Corp.Grubs very well.He always showed an extreme devotion to duty and was one of the best soldiers in the company.His death was a severe blow to the entire company for every man admired him for his gentlemanly and soldierly qualities.He paid the supreme sacrifice in the performance of his duty and the cause of Right.I hope that thought may afford you some comfort in your grief.

Let me assure you of my deepest sympathy as well as that of the entire company.

Sincerely yours,  
V.D.Hunter,  
1st Lieut.353 Inf.Commanding Co.C.

(Any further information desired regarding Corp.Grubs can be obtained by addressing his father,E.B.Grubs,518 Delaware St.,Kansas City,Mo.)