

William Ray Thomas, 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 William Ray Thomas, 140th Infantry, 35th Division.

Date: 1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 45 Kansas Soldiers

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

William Ray Thomas, World War I soldier

Wm Ray Thomas was born
Dec 20th 1897 in Cooper
County Mo., after completing
the 9th grade in the high
school at Pilot Grove Mo.
Entered the employ of the
Pilot Grove Telephone Co
where was still employed
when he enlisted on Apr 2-1917
Co. B. 3rd Mo Infantry
which was later changed
to the 140th Regiment he
at first was stationed at
Boonville Mo for a few
months and in the fore
part^{of} Aug 1917 were transferred
to Camp Nichols Kansas City
Mo.

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and from there was
Transferred to Camp
Doniphan Ft Sill Okla
about the tenth of Oct 1917
where his company was
made a part of the 35th
Division. where they
remained until some
time in the fore part of
April 1918 when they were
ordered to Long Island
New York from which
place he was transferred
to the Base Hospital Camp Merritt
for an operation on his
throat. and after recovery
sailed with the USS Cassin
Dec. June 28th 1918

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arriving at Breach France
July 6th 1918. and Proceeded
on his way to rejoin his
Command which he
reached on Aug 8th 1918
in the Trenches in the
Alsace Sector. and Proceeded
to St Michel. afterwards
moved up. Close to Metz
for the the Verdun drive
his Division (the 35th)
went over the Top at
5:30 the morning of
Sep. the 26th 1918 where the
most memorable Battle
of the war was fought.
and was wounded the
evening of Sep. 27th 1918

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Just as they were entering
the Argonne Forest, he
was shot through the
right lung the ball
passing clear through
his body. after spending
several weeks in the
hospital and being
classed as unfit for
service at the front
was sent to Bourges
France. for Post Office
work. where he
refused a chance to come
home, as they asked for
volunteers for P. O. work
untill the Christmas

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Parcels were handled
and was driving a
Truck in this work

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Pilot Grove Mo
Jan 8th 1919
Mr Wm E. Connelley
State Historical Society
Memorial Bldg
Topeka Kan
Dear Sir: I am herewith
handing you a few notes
concerning my son
Wm. Ray Thomas also
his Photograph which
we are very anxious
to have returned to the
address on the Picture
Very Respt.
Geo. R Thomas