

## RAYNHAM FALLEN HERO

### **CORPORAL CHESTER H. DANFORTH, US ARMY**

Chester Danforth was born on March 15, 1892 in Raynham, Massachusetts.

Chet registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. At that time he was described as tall with brown hair and blue eyes and medium build. He was employed as a silversmith at Reed & Barton in Taunton, Massachusetts.

Chet enlisted for the duration of the war in the United States Army at North Easton, Massachusetts. Chet was not married.

Corporal Danforth served with the 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division. At the time, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was known as the "All American" Division. It was part of the American Expeditionary Force's I Corps during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, which was one of five major battles that the Allies called the "Grand Offensive". This offensive was waged between the Meuse River and the Argonne forest. Also serving in this unit was Sergeant Alvin York, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during this battle.

On October 8, 1918, Corporal Danforth's battalion was ordered to attack the German lines and liberate the small town of Cornay, France. The Germans mounted a fierce counterattack which inflicted heavy casualties upon the Americans and they were forced to retreat. The town was retaken by the Americans the next day. Corporal Danforth was killed in action during this counterattack in Cornay, France on October 9, 1918.

Corporal Danforth received the following military awards for his honorable service:

Purple Heart Medal with white cross distinguishing device to denote a posthumous award

World War I Victory Medal

Corporal Danforth is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, France in Plot A, Row 34, Grave 34. Corporal Danforth was 26 years old at the time of his death.

Corporal Danforth draft registration card had his home address listed as Orchard Street. For this reason, it is appropriate that his FALLEN HERO sign be erected at the intersection of Orchard Street and Judson Street.