



Lieut. Laurens C. Shull

Born, Sioux City, Iowa, January 17, 1894
Killed in Battle in France, August 5th, 1918

As Memorial Day approaches we, as Legionnaires, would like to share the following history and origin of Post 211.

The Woodward American Legion Post 211 carries the name of the first Woodward man killed in World War I. Laurens C. Shull was born in Sioux City, Iowa January 17, 1894. He was employed in the local bank before his enlistment in the Army.

He was killed in battle in France, August 5, 1918. A memorial service was held Sunday, August 25, 1918 in the Woodward City Park in honor of Lieutenant Shull. A newspaper clipping and the Memorial Service program provide some information about this young man. The newspaper article states "One of the largest crowds that ever gathered in Woodward was present. ." The invocation was given by Rev. Conrey and music and taps were provided by the Camp Dodge Quartette and Buglers. A life sketch and remarks were given by Charles R. Brenton, Dallas Center, Ia.

Another newspaper clipping relates that Shull was known as "Spike" and was a former University of Chicago football star and all-western tackle. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Shull of Sioux City, Iowa.

A letter dated January 5, 1918 and written to Otho Burkhart from France is as follows:

"Dear Otho:

Just a few words to let you know that I miss the good visits we used to have in the bank. I have longed for even five minutes in Woodward but I know it is impossible. I have been working very hard since arriving in France. I first went thru a British school where I learned to throw bombs, use the bayonet, lay out trenches, build wire entanglements and etc. Now I am with the first Division of American troops. We are all ready to do or die and I suppose it will be mostly

die. We are here to fight and the sooner we do them the better for all. I trust that you were successful this year and as a result are feeling healthy and wealthy. I wish all the Burkharts a Happy and successful New Years. I know you'll have it. Give my best regard to all the Burkharts. Remember a letter is like a message from heaven.

Sincerely,

Laurens C. Shull"

In tribute to all Veterans. . . Laurens C. Shull Post 211, Woodward,
Iowa