

Charles E. Gislason

Born: Sept 16, 1890
On the Island
Died: October 6,
1918

Period of Service: WW I
Sources: Monument, B10 F2
Memorial speech by John
Enigl, Am Legion scrapbook
box 17 Cemetery 012 10

He was the son of John Gislason who settled on the Island in 1871, and operated a store in Detroit Harbor that later became the first community center. Charles operated the store with his brother Lawrence after their father died. 'Chas' as he was called left the store to his brother when he entered World war I in the Spring of 1917 and joined at the age of 26 Captain Ed Reynolds when he formed company F of the National Guard in Sturgeon Bay. He trained there, and then was sent to Camp McArthur near Waco, TX. Company F was broken up and he was assigned to the 128th Infantry. He was named sergeant and sent to France. He was killed in action days before the armistice in November, 1918, just after his 28th birthday. A cousin of his who was also in the 128th notified the family."

He was the first from the Island to be killed in WW I. He was killed at Chateau Thierry October 6, 1918. A news article quoting Jack Gudmundsen stated, "Charlie was killed in action on October 6, 1918 while fighting in the Argonne Forest. He was hit by a piece of shrapnel and died instantly.... He was as brave as they make them and always in the thick of the fight.... He had faced death a hundred different ways.... but he faced it with a smile. He was always happy and full of fun..... He was cited for bravery at Chateau Thierry and slated for a Distinguished Service Cross."

He was awarded posthumously the French Croix de Guerre, which is on display in the American Legion Post 402 hall. The American Legion Post 402, Gislason-Richter Post, bears his name.

His parents were John Gislason (1850-1912) and Augusta Barneson (born 1855)

