

W. Wallace Asher

Compiled by Judy Hansen

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William Wallace Asher was born to William and Ada May Briggs Asher in Lehi, Utah on September 9, 1900. He went by his middle name, Wallace. His father emigrated from England and his mother was also born in Lehi. There was a big family to include siblings Relia, Edris, Reulon, Ada, Azer, Emma, and Ronald.



William enlisted in the Army at Fort Douglas, Utah on May 4, 1917 at the age of 16 and 7/12 months. His brother Edris wrote, *“I will take you back to the year of 1917 when all young men were asked to volunteer for the service since we were in World War I. My brother Wallace being of large stature and a very patriotic boy, went to Salt Lake and enlisted. When they found out he was only sixteen years of age, he was told he had to have the signature of his parents. Wallace came home and convinced our parents to sign their consent. This was very difficult and hard on Mother. He was her first cherished son, yet she never shed a tear when she bid him good bye.”*

He served in World War 1 with Troop H, 1st Cavalry. In December 1917 the 1st Cavalry was assigned to the 15th Cavalry Division creating the A.E.F. (American Expeditionary Forces). They were assigned to protect the southern border of the United States and Mexico. The main bases was in Fort Bliss, Texas under the command of General John Pershing.

Back home in Lehi, Wallace’s family was all affected by the 1918 influenza epidemic. Wallace’s mother was busy taking care of all the siblings which had contracted the flu. After providing all this care she got sick with diabetes. Then in November 1918 Wallace’s brother writes, *“All went well until November 11th when the Armistice was signed. We received a letter from Wallace stating he would be home for Thanksgiving. What happiness this brought to our family. Plans began for our holiday. However this was short lived as we received a telegram from Wallace’s Commander stating Wallace was in the hospital with the flu.”*

Wallace’s cousin Bertha Bradshaw completes the story, *“While Ada (his mother) was staying with Emma, Edris, and Relia (his siblings because she was sick and needed care); Ada’s two daughters called and told Emma that Wallace was very ill with influenza in the hospital. They all decided not to tell Ada due to her illness (diabetes). The next they received a telegram that Wallace had died. Emma and John debated as to whether they should tell Ada because of the seriousness of her condition. They decided that they would tell her in degrees. First they would tell her that he had been sick in the hospital and then later that he had died.*

The next day Emma went to tell Ada that Wallace was ill. Aunt Ada slept with my sister Genna in the back bedroom. When Genna woke up in the morning Aunt Ada told her that someone had been in the room the whole night and stood at the foot of the bed. Emma came into the bedroom and put her arm around Ada by the Eucalyptus Bud Couch, and told her Wallace, her son, was ill. Ada said, “Emma you are not telling me the truth. You have never lied to me in your whole

life and you did not tell me the truth.” Ada told Emma “someone was in the room with me all night and I thought it was you because I could hear the rustling of your skirt. (It was not Emma) Ada said, Wallace came to me last night and said “Mother, where I am, I am taking you.” I know Wallace is dead. Aunt Ada had so many hopes and dreams for Wallace when he left at the age of 17. He said, Mother when I come home I will build a home for you. Wallace’s remains were sent home but they did not have a funeral, but a grave side service because the devastating influenza was still on. Aunt Ada did go to the service but was not feeling to well. Wallace was buried with a 21 gun salute in uniform with a folded flag.

Aunt Ada’s funeral was one week to the day, after Wallace’s. He was buried on Wednesday and she was buried the following Wednesday.”

William Wallace Asher died while in service to his country on November 22, 1918 in Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona. He was a victim of the flu epidemic of 1918. He is buried in the Lehi City Cemetery in Lehi, Utah and his name is honored on the Veteran’s memorial wall there. He had been promoted to a Lieutenant’s Orderly at the time of his death.

Sources:

Wikipedia 1st Cavalry Regiment

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Cavalry_Regiment_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1st_Cavalry_Regiment_(United_States))

Wikipedia 15th Cavalry Division

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Cavalry_Division_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Cavalry_Division_(United_States))

An experience written by Edris Asher Jones -

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/K27Y-8LR>

A story about Ada May Briggs as told by her niece Bertha Mae Bradshaw

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KW8N-5M6>

Ogden Daily Standard 1918-11-26

WW Asher Military Record