

Sergt. Earnest is Killed in France
Champaign Daily News November 26, 1918 page 7

Sergeant William F. Earnest, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Earnest, colored, 221 South Water street, is officially reported as killed in action on the battle front in France on September 17, according to a telegram received by the parents from the adjutant general at Washington.

Sergeant Earnest was serving in Co. L, 370 Inf. and had been in the army since March, 1918. He sailed for overseas duty on April 7, 1918. He was born in Chucky, Tenn. September 3, 1895. When he was eight years old his family moved to Homer, where Sergeant Ernest finished his common school education, later entering the University. He was a sophomore at the University when he enlisted, and a member of the Kappa Alpha Sig fraternity. He was a member of the A. M. E. church.

He is survived by the parents, one sister, Miss Florence and one brother, Robert H. Earnest of Co. A., 366 Inf. A.E.F.

Memorial services for Sergeant Earnest will be held in the near future.

MADE SUPREME SACRIFICE
SERGT. WILLIAM F. EARNEST, KILLED IN FRANCE, OFFICIALLY REPORTED
Champaign Daily Gazette, November 25, 1918

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Earnest, colored, 221 South Water Street, received a telegram Saturday evening from the adjutant general's office, Washington D.C., telling of the death of their youngest son, Sergt. William F. Earnest, Co. L, 370th Infantry, who was officially reported as killed in action in France, September 17. Sergeant Earnest was born Sept. 3, 1895 in Chucky, Tenn. and at the time of his death was 23 years, two months and twenty-three days old. He finished his high school work in Homer, with the class of 1915 and entered the University of Illinois and was a sophomore when he enlisted in the army. He was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity and a member of the A.M.E. church. He leaves his mother and father and sister, Miss Florence Earnest, one brother, Robert H. Earnest, who is with Company A, 366th, somewhere in France, and one niece, Miss Carrie Earnest, and one nephew, Walter Baker. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Champaign Daily Gazette Wednesday November 13, 1918 page 3
Champaign Boy Killed

Letter from Sergt. Vincent Sims to C. F. Hughes:

"Did you know Sergeant Earnest, of Champaign? He was our company clerk, but is no more, as he was killed on September 17, - He had worse luck than I had. Our regiment fought gallantly, and a lot of the boys fell like men, fighting with their faces always to the front."

Sergt. Earnest Not Killed
Card Received from War Department Today Saying He is Alive

Champaign Daily Gazette Friday November 15, 1918 page 10

Miss Florence Earnest of South Water street who heard her brother had been killed, received a card from Washington this morning stating that Sergt. William F. Earnest, member of company L, 370th infantry, was present at duty abroad, and that no mishap of any character had happened to him.

Memorial Service Held Sunday for Frank Earnest
Friday February 14, 1919 page 1 *Homer Enterprise*

Unintentionally the Enterprise failed to mention the memorial service for Frank Earnest Sunday before last.

At this time several people from Champaign including the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Earnest were present. The service opened with several patriotic songs. Miss Inez Dennis sang a solo entitled "When the Blue Service Star turns to Gold" and Mrs. C. E. Kuechler and Mrs. Percy O'Neil sang a duet. Mrs. Earnest pinned the gold star on which takes the place of the blue. It had been planned to have a Champaign quartet and also the pastor from the African Methodist church present but both parties were unable to come. The quartet expects to come later.

The service was very impressive and handkerchiefs were used quite frequently. This gold star, representing the life of Frank Earnest, a model young man, is the second star on the service flag.