SERGEANT WILL FOCHT

Fine College and Town Bey Leaves
His Life On the Battle Front.

WAS KILLED NEAR
VERDUN NOVEMBER 3

Enlisted at Camp Funston in June, 1917, at the close of His College Course.

Grinnell College lost one of its finest young men November 3, when Sergt. Will J. Focht fell while in the fighting line near Verdun November 3.

Will Focht was born near Villisca, April 30, 1894, and at the time of his death was just passed 23 years and 6 months old. He graduated from the Villisca High School and was at that time attracted to Grinnell college. In the fall of 1913 he and his sister, Amelia Focht, entered college and in 1914...

In June, 1917, Will graduated from college. He had been one of the strongest and active men connected with many of the classes and was an officer in the first-aid group. He was assigned to Camp Funston because he was sick, and at first all seemed well. There was no doubt in his mind that he could keep on, but he was sent to hospital and came home, as he was too sick to go on. He was sent home again and was then sent to Camp Funston again. It was then that the news came that Will had died. He was taken to the hospital and died.

Will Focht received a letter last Thursday written Oct. 27. He was then near Verdun, and wrote: "Inside of 48 hours I will be in one of the biggest battles of the war; and stated that he was under 20 and in the 8th Engineers. He was located next to the 89th, to which he belonged.

He had written to his mother of receiving letters designed for Pvt. Wm. J. Focht, written from Pennsylvania, and had written him but had not received an answer.

The telegram notifying Mrs. Focht of his death reached her Saturday night and came as a great shock, so long after hostilities ceased, when she was hoping for his early return. The telegram from the adjutant stated that her son, Sergt. Wm. J. Focht, had been officially reported killed in action November 3.

Will was a fine young man, the pride of his loving mother’s heart, always helpful and dutiful, a young man loved by all who knew him.

His death is the second tragedy that has come into her home as her husband received injuries 19 years ago while being initiated into a lodge which resulted in his death.

During her four years residence here Mrs. Focht has made many friends who deeply sympathize with her in the loss of a brave and manly son.