'Mr. Doughboy' Dies a

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE he was among the first to tice Day, 1918. arrive in France with the U. S. First Division where Leader served with the Second Machine Gun Battalion.

They received their training with the French "Blue Devils" and soon moved into the trenches. The Germans pulled a raid and members of Leader's group were the first American troops to sustain casualties.

With his own machine gun crew killed, Leader grabbed a French rifle and got behind the attacking Germans. He captured 18.

Only later did he discover and that he did not know how to fire the rifle.

Returning to Oklahoma he took vocational training and worked with the Oklahoma highway department for 25 years before retiring.

In 1922 he had to move to Arizona and the Whipple Barracks while suffering an attack of tuberculosis.

Leader's exploits in the war earned him two individual awards of the Croix de Guerre, France's highest military honor, two silver Stars, the Purple Heart with clusters, and battle stars for Sommerviller, Ansauville, Piardy, Cantigny, Second Marne, St. Mihiel, Meusethe rifle had only one bullet Argonne, Mouson-Sedan, and Coblenz Bridgehead.

In 1955, the Oklahoma Leader was wounded and House of Representatives gassed two times before the passed a resolution calling war ended with him in a him the Outstanding Soldier military hospital on Armis- of World War I, and expressed sympathy with his recurring illnesses.

Leader entered the Veterans Hospital at Sulphur on May 9, 1960 suffering from a stroke and was trasnferred to the Ardmore hospital in November of 1960.





"MR. AMERICAN DOUGHBOY," Oklahoma's highly decorated World War I soldier, Otis W. Leader, died Sunday in Ardmore Veterans Hospital. Leader is honored in the French and British Halls of Fame as the typical American doughboy. Photo at right shows Leader in WW I uniform. (Story on Page 1.)

responsibilities.

Monday afternoon.

State's / arch

ters in Oklahoma history cal Society museum. came to a close at 9:20 Sunday morning as Otis W. Tuesday in the American them until Leader and h Leader, highly decorated Legion Hut, Coalgate. Ar- friend caught the train bac American soldier of World rangements are being han- to McAlester as the Texa War I, died in the Veterand dled by the Slater Funeral officers wired ahead. Hospital at Ardmore.

Leader fought his way to He is survived by his wife, the honorary title of "Mr. Myrtle, of Lehigh; two sons, American Doughboy" by being one of the first American troops to face enemy fire Paul A., Anchorage, Alaska, and three of his comrades and James L., 8805 NE 25; were the first American a daughter, Mrs. Charles H. troops killed in combat.

Indian has been honored great-grandchildren. with his portrait painted by the French artist Raymond end of Otis Leader began in Devveraux being hung in the Fort Worth. He was on a ing. French Hall of Fame, the cattle buying trip with a

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Home of Coalgate.

Picture on Page 4

roops killed in combat. Deweese, 801 NE 32, and The 79-year-old Choctaw three grandchildren and four

In April of 1917 the leg-British Hall of Fame and Swiss cattle buyer and re-

One of the proudest chap-|the Oklahoma State Histori-|ports of German spies we circulating.

Fort Worth officers traile

When they reached M Alester, U. S. Marsha Crockett Lee was waitin for them. But Lee and Lea er were old friends and the burst out laughing whe they saw each other.

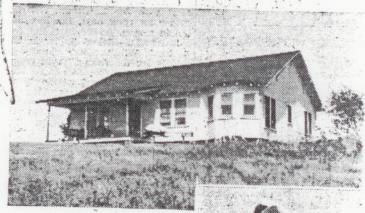
Shortly after that inc dent, Leader enlisted ar after training in Colorado I ended up in Texas on borde duty chasing Pancho Villa with General John J. Persl

When the war broke or (Continued on Page 2, Column 6)

THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN.

railer Business Gro

America's Typical Soldier Is At Home on Lehigh's Hillto



By J. H. BILES

IT was in the summer of 1917 at Gondecourt, France where the first contingent of combat troops bent on saving democracy were in training to take part in the World war under the tutelage of a training corps of French "Blue Devils."

A dapper little Frenchman alighted from an official car in the company street of the machine gun company of the 16th U.S. infantry, A.E.F. After considerable delay and many gestures, he gained entrance to regi-mental headquarters and was ushered into the presence of an obviously annoyed American colonel. In broken but enthusiastic English, he told the aggravated commandant that he was seeking the "ideal American soldat."

"I want to paint his picture. Eet will be hung in the Sale des Inva-lides." I have comeesion from the French government, and I have come.'

He was bluntly but politely told that newly arrived doughboys had no time to pose for pictures if they were expected to help win a war, and that was what they were in France for; that none of them was ideal, and that there were 2,000,000 more of them on the way, and many other things that popped into the mind of

Then it was that M. Raymond Devverraux, artist, produced a little paper that got results. It bore the insignia of American G. H. Q. and the signature of Gen. John J. Pershing.

"But why do you come here seeking the model for your picture?" queried

the now more interested colonel.

"I saw him in Paris, on parade with the American troops on the 4th July. He was with this regiment, the meecheene gun companee, I think you call it."

And at retreat that afternoon, M. Devverraux found his man; a half blood Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma, straight as an arrow and standing over six feet tall; keen, alert, yet with calmness that betokens strength, and his naturally bronzed face reflecting that spirit that they took across with them, the spirit that eventually turned the tide.

ND so Otis Leader, Oklahoman, his home. nainted by M Devverraux.



Otis Leader as he is today above, his hilltop home at Le high, Okla.

discharge at Camp Funston has be spent helping Oklahoma get out the mud as an employe of the e gineering department of the straightful department highway commission. Immediat after his return, he did special vestigation work for the M. K. and and Rock Island railroads and a did guard duty for a while at a state penitentiary at McAlester ur. he was sent to a soldier's hospital Arizona for suspected tuberculo caused from the effects of gas haled in the trenches of France. joined the state highway departme in 1924 and has been with it co tinuously since that time working all parts of the state, but most the time out of Oklahoma City. He has been in Lehigh, Coal count since March 4 1935 being tran

since March 4, 1935, being tranferred there from Hollis. He h bought a home on the tip top of hill which commands a view of t broad valley in which Lehigh is s uated and he is spending his bon money remodeling and modernizing

OTIS Leader ChoctAW Roll # 13606