

## *Remembering Eugene Treat Savage*

By Chris Tucker

### Section 1: Prologue

This project will chronicle the major moments in the life of Eugene Treat Savage, a World War I veteran from Maine. Its purpose is to pay homage to the ordinary man instead of just the big name in history. It will put a face to one of the over two million American soldiers who fought in WWI.<sup>1</sup> I chose Mr. Savage because of his success both inside and outside of the army. He seemed like an honorable man worth remembering. The following is an add from the company he worked in:

**SOAPS!**

Olive Soda,  
Rabbit's Best,  
Welcome,  
Peerless,  
Queen  
French Laundry,  
Imperial

T. R. S. & Co.'s Laundry,  
For sale to 1 by the 1 e box

**T. R. SAVAGE & CO.**

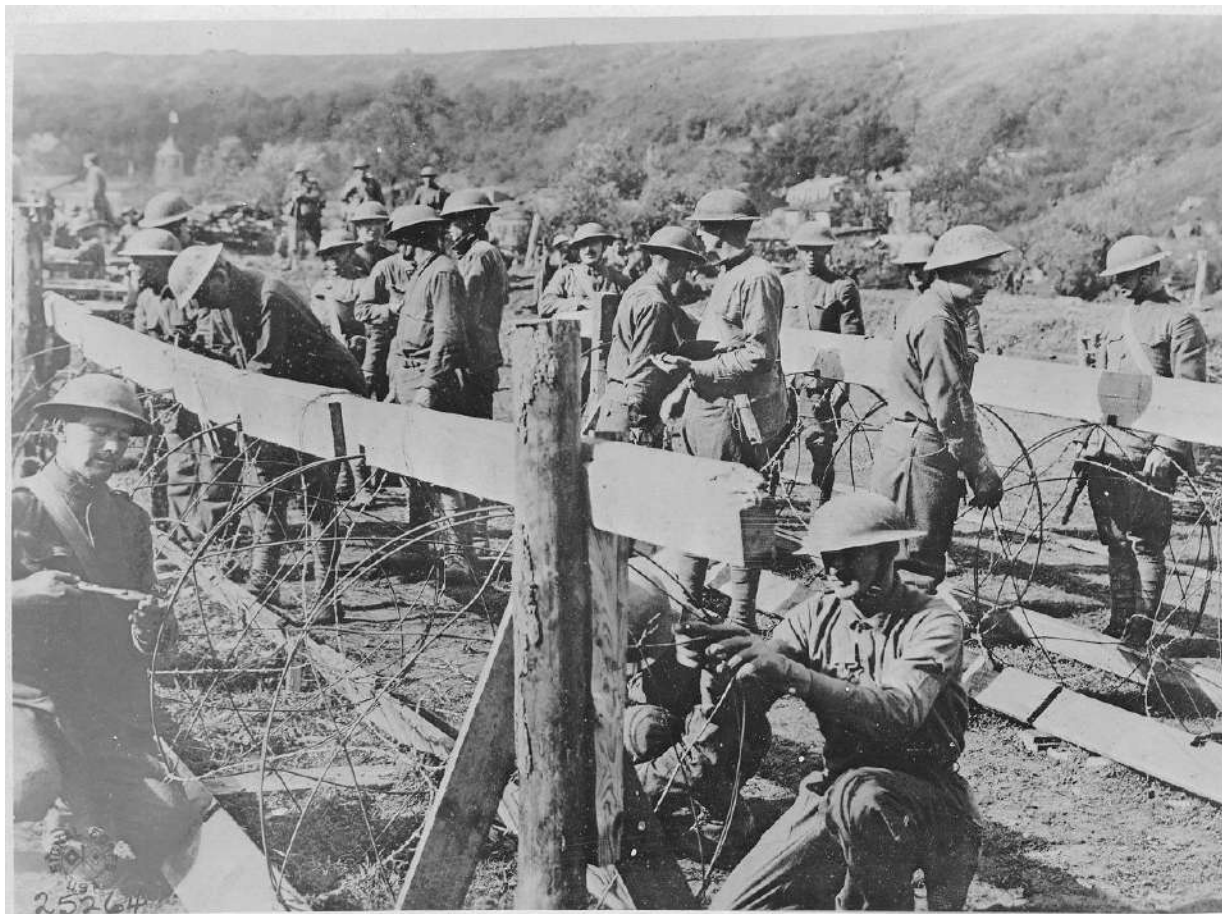
## Sections 2: Introduction

Eugene Savage was born on April 14, 1979 in Bangor, Maine. He attended the Hotchkiss Preparatory School in Connecticut and then went to Yale to graduate with the class of 1900.<sup>3</sup> The following year he married Anne Curtis Boutelle and they had three children: Suzanne B. Savage born 1907, Boutelle Savage born 1910, and Patricia Savage born 1915.<sup>4</sup> In 1902 he was made director and secretary of the T. R. Savage Company, the largest wholesale grocery company in Bangor. He was elected to the position of treasurer in this same company in 1915. In politics he registered as a Republican, served as the vice president of the Maine Traffic Association, and held office two years on the Bangor City Council, one of which he spent as president.<sup>3</sup> This desire to serve his community was most likely the reason he decided to enlist as an officer.

## Section 3: Service

Eugene Treat Savage joined the army in 1917 while in his late thirties.<sup>3</sup> He entered the ORC, Officers' Reserve Corps, and stayed there until he was commissioned major in the Ordinance Department on January 14, 1918.<sup>5</sup> The Ordinance Department's job is to make sure all equipment and munitions are in working order and supervise contracts involving them.<sup>6</sup> Savage most likely joined this because his age and education wouldn't make him a good candidate to be a footsoldier. He served in the 119 Ordinance Department Company (still in the Ordinance Department, just a subdivision) until June 29, 1918.<sup>5</sup> He spent this time as a camp ordinance officer at a machine gun training center in Camp Hancock, Georgia.<sup>3</sup> He was then returned to the regular Ordinance Department and sent overseas on July 30, 1918.<sup>5</sup> Overseas he worked as the division ordinance officer of the Second Division in France.<sup>3</sup> Throughout his time in France, he participated in the two following major engagements:

1. The first major engagement Savage was present at was the Battle of Saint Mihiel.<sup>5</sup> It was the first large American independent attack of the war. It began when General John Pershing deployed the American army on the south side of the St. Mihiel salient.<sup>7</sup> A salient is a piece of land or fortification that juts out to form an angle.<sup>8</sup> The Germans had held the St. Mihiel one since 1914. When they heard of the American's arrival, they began to retreat towards the Hindenburg Line on September 11, 1918. The Americans caught them off guard the next morning and defeated them in two days. With the salient now under their control, the Americans moved to the Argonne Forest for their next offensive.<sup>7</sup> The following is a picture from the Battle of St. Mihiel:



2. Savage took part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive as well.<sup>5</sup> This advance was composed of two forces, the American First Army and the French Fourth Army. It began on September 26, 1918. The American First Army had the most difficult job of getting through the Argonne Forest. In the first five days, they only advanced two miles into the forest while the French forces moved nine miles and the other American forces along the Meuse River moved five. After only two miles of advancement the Americans were exhausted and were replaced with fresh, inexperienced divisions. This slow advancement continued until the end of October when the Americans had finally advanced the ten miles they needed to clear the Argonne Forest.<sup>10</sup> The Second Division that Savage was in fought on the frontline of the offensive after clearing the forest.<sup>11</sup> They continued to advance until the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918.<sup>10</sup> The following is a map of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive:



After the armistice, Savage remained overseas for a little while. He was cited for meritorious conduct and promoted to rank of lieutenant-colonel during this time.<sup>5</sup>

#### Section 4: Dismissal

Eugene Savage didn't remain on occupation duty for long and left France on April 25, 1919. He was honorably discharged for the government's convenience on May 3, 1919.<sup>5</sup>

#### Section 5: Afterward

Savage returned to Bangor and joined the American Legion. He continued to be involved in his community, joining various country clubs.<sup>3</sup> A 1930 survey reveals his home at the time as follows:

|    | PLACE OF ABODE             |                                   |   |   | NAME<br><br>of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family<br><br>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any<br><br>Include every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930 | RELATION<br><br>Relationship of this person to the head of the family | HOME DATA            |   |           |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------|---|-----------|
|    | Street, avenue, road, etc. | House number (in cities or towns) | Number of dwelling house in order of visitation | Number of family in order of visitation |   |   | Home owned or rented | Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented | Radio set |
|    | 1                          | 2                                 | 3   | 4                                       | 5   | 6   | 7                    | 8   | 9         |
| 51 |                            | 133                               | 39  | 53                                      | Savage Eugene T.  | Head  | O                    | 15,000  | R         |
| 52 |                            |                                   |   |   | Anne B.   | Wife - H.   |                      |   |           |
| 53 |                            |                                   |   |   | Susanne B.  | Daughter  |                      |   |           |
| 54 |                            |                                   |   |   | Boutelle ab   | Son   |                      |   |           |
| 55 |                            |                                   |   |   | Patricia  | Daughter  |                      |   |           |
| 56 |                            |                                   |   |   | Golding Inez M  | Servant   |                      |   |           |
| 57 |                            |                                   |   |   | Merriman Medorah  | Servant   |                      |   |           |

It's evident that Mr. Savage was quite rich, having two servants, a radio set, and a 15,000 dollar house. He most likely remained this way until his death at the age of 54 on August 30, 1933.<sup>3</sup> I was unable to find his obituary. The following is a picture of his gravestone:





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