



Photos contributed

Pvt. John W. Carlisle's death announcement

The World War I story of Pvt. John W. Carlisle

BY NORMA ECKARD
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

John Carlisle was born in Mill Branch in 1887. He married Lizzie Fowler or Walker (records aren't consistent) in 1911. His draft registration shows he was married with two children, working as a farmer in Mill Branch. Records show his children were born in 1913 and 1916.

John was ordered to report to duty Sept. 19, 1917. He was 31. A third son was born during his training, Jan. 7, 1918, confirmed by the 1920 Census.

Pvt. John Carlisle was initially assigned to the 322nd Infantry, 81st Division. Many from the 81st Division were moved to supplement the 30th Division and this included Pvt. Carlisle. On Feb. 20, 1918, he was transferred to the 119th Infantry, 30th "Old Hickory" Division, and eventually Company K. He served in that division throughout the war, according to his North Carolina World War I Service Card.

Previous columns described the operations of the 119th Infantry until the war ended Nov. 11, 1918. At that point, the 30th Division moved by rail to Beaumont-sur-Sarthe, southwest of Paris. They remained there until Feb. 11, 1919, when orders were received to march about 30 kilometers to Le Mans to prepare for embarkation to the United States.

Pvt. John Carlisle did not participate in that march. His name was scratched from the passenger list for USS Huron for return to the United States on March 21, 1919, with the notation, "Soldier died in hospital Feb. 13, 1919."

Pvt. John Carlisle died of pneumonia on Feb. 13, 1919. There has been no record found for the return of his remains to the United States.

Some members of the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range visited Griffin Cemetery in Ash recently to pay tribute to Pvt. Carlisle and take photos and rubbings of his headstone. While not an official military headstone, it does include his service on

the back of the headstone, as shown: "JOHN W. CARLISLE PVT. 1316552 CO. K 119TH INF. DIED FEB. 13, 1919 NO. 63 F."

The meaning of "No. 63 F" is unclear. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range.

John's second son died of hepatitis in May 1919 and was buried in the same cemetery as his father. He was three years old. His oldest son died in 1993 and is buried in Brunswick County. His youngest son fought in many battles in the Italian Campaign in World War II and received a Purple Heart. He died in 1994 and was buried in Salisbury National Cemetery in Rowan County with military honors.

This is the last profile for the 119th Infantry. Next week, columns begin for the 120th Infantry of the 30th Division.

If you would like to help us honor Brunswick County World War I veterans, go to caswellriflerange.com or email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com. Three hundred fifty Brunswick County World War I veterans have been honored to date.

A monument was placed at the site of the rifle range in Caswell Beach Veterans' Day 2018 in honor of the men and women from Brunswick County who served their country. A book, "To All Those Who Served in World War I from Brunswick County, N.C.," is to be published during 2019 containing all 724 names, as well as a historical overview of the 1918 World War I Rifle Range Target Pit Storage Room.

We would like the public to review the names of the following Brunswick County men who died during World War I to make certain they have not forgotten anyone who may have perished or missed someone while researching names that should be on this list.

Killed in action: Pvts. 1st Class Walter S. Brock and Erastus I. Nelson, Pvts. Harvey T. Chadwick, Jimmie Griffin and Harry L. Pigott, Cpl. Herbert B. Ward

Died of wounds: Pvts. William C. Hewett and Benjamin B. Smith



Pvt. John W. Carlisle

Died of Disease: Pvts. William F. Brooks, Carl J. Danford, Manning Hall, Claudie H. McCall, Elijah Milliken, Kendrick W. Outlaw, Cecil S. Pierce, Samuel C. Swain, Guy E. Watson, David Williams and Fred Wilson, Pvt. 1st Class John W. Carlisle, David L. Doshier (cook), Seaman James C. Edwards, Sgt. Robert G. Farmer

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