

WWI Profile: David Lafayette Doshier 1893-1919

By NORMA ECKARD

David Lafayette Doshier was born and raised in Southport, Brunswick County, NC. One brother, Charles Edward Doshier, also served in WWI.

David was listed in the 1916 Toledo City Directory. [Source: Ancestry]

David's WWI Draft Registration from 1917 shows he was single, living in Toledo, Ohio, and working at The Doehler Die Casting Company, which had relocated from NYC to Toledo in 1914. (There is also a "David Doshier" listed in the 1914 Sandusky, Ohio, City Directory, but it is unknown whether this is the same David Doshier.)

David was ordered to report for duty and was inducted into the Army on Oct. 4, 1917. On Nov. 12, 1917, Private Doshier was assigned to Company M, 348th Infantry, 87th Division. He became cook on Dec. 18, 1917. [Source: Ohio WWI Service Cards, Ancestry]

He boarded Honorata in Brooklyn on Aug. 26, 1918. [Source: Ancestry]

During the fall of 1918, the commander of the Services of Supply, Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, requested personnel from three combat divisions for labor units in his command. On Sept. 17, Pershing's headquarters re-assigned three divisions scheduled to arrive from the United States to Maj. General Harbord. One of these divisions was the 87th. It was broken up for laborers in the Services of Supply.

The division did not lose its identity as a combat unit. When the Armistice was signed, it was under orders for service at the front. However, the division never served in combat during the war.

Details of the 348th Infantry could not be

found. What is known is that on Feb. 9, 1919, David Lafayette Doshier died of influenza and bronchi pneumonia. When his Company departed Bordeaux on Feb. 25, 1919, his name was not typed and crossed out on the passenger list, which would provide more information on his last days.

On March 6, 1919, The Wilmington Morning Star published the following story on page 3:

Southport's First Sacrifice in War

David L. Doshier So Far as Known Is Only Southport Man to Give His Life

Southport, March 5. Cook David L.

Doshier, whose name recently appeared in a casualty list as having died of disease in France, is a son of Jesse Doshier, of this place. As far as is known, he is the first Southport young man to have lost his life in the big adventure. Southport furnished Uncle Sam with a large number of sailors and soldiers, but they were fortunate in being spared.

In 1929, David's mother, Mrs. W.J. (Margaret Ann) Doshier, was given the opportunity to take a Mother's Pilgrimage to visit his gravesite. All three mothers listed from Brunswick County declined. More information can be found in Claudie Hall McCall's WWI Profile.

David was laid to rest in Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial in France (no photo is available). A memorial flat marker is also in place at Toledo Memorial Park.

Note: David's Ohio WWI Service Card is not linked from this post but is available in Ancestry.

If you would like to help us honor David Lafayette Doshier or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft



Photo contributed

David Doshier grave marker in Toledo (Ohio) memorial park.

Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to www.caswellriflerange.com.

A future fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at the Caswell Beach Town Public Service Facility Building (fire hall) from 4 to 9 p.m. to raise funds for publishing the book of Brunswick County men and women

that served in WWI; to continue historic restoration on the rifle range memorial; and to honor Brunswick County WWI veterans. There will be a dinner, derby and dance with music by Three to Get Ready and Trilogy. Call 278-7584 for tickets and information or purchase tickets from Ricky Evans Gallery on Howe Street in Southport.