

# WWI Snapshot: John Hilton Pigott, 1895-1941

BY AMY ECKARD  
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FRIENDS OF FT. CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

John Hilton Pigott was born in Shallotte on Nov. 12, 1895. He was called to duty and inducted into the U.S. Army on July 22, 1918, and trained at Camp Hancock, Ga., according to local board military records. Pvt. Pigott served with the 45th Machine Gun Battalion of the 15th Division. The men

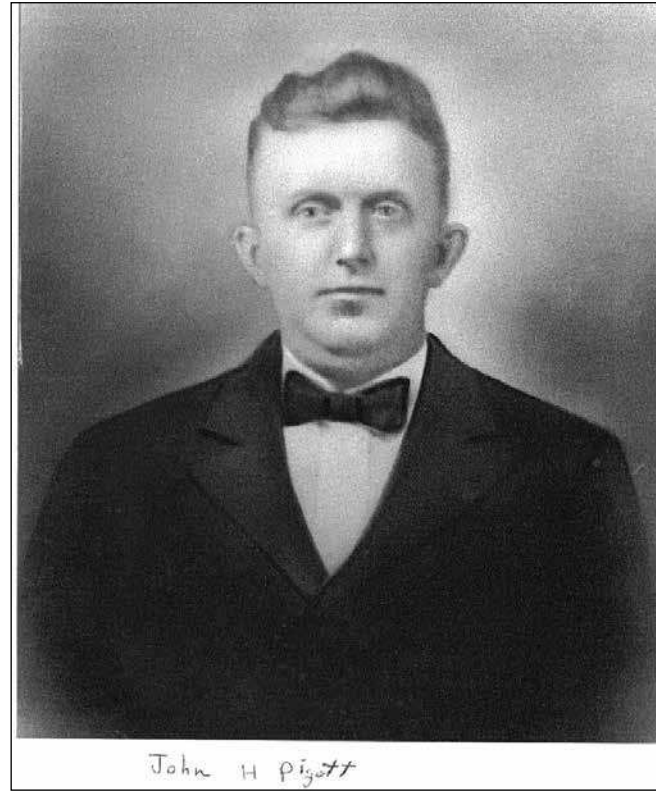
were undergoing intensive training at Camp Logan, Texas, when the war ended. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 29, 1919.

Pigott's life came to a tragic end when he was involved in an automobile accident near Fort Bragg. His death certificate shows that several complications caused his death. On Dec. 19, 1940, he had open-reduction surgery on his fractured left leg. Ten days before his death, he suffered from influenza, then ultimately lost his life from a coronary occlusion. His obituary is shown below.

former Miss Mollie Andrews, one son, Woodis Pigott, one daughter, Miss Pearline Pigott, all of Guide; two brothers, Lewis Pigott of Tabor City, and Lee Pigott of Shallotte.

The accident is said to have happened near Fort Bragg. *The Wilmington Morning Star* [Wilmington, N.C.], Feb. 1, 1941, p.2.

He was laid to rest in Old Zion Cemetery in Columbus County. No request for a military headstone was found and no military honors are shown.



John H. Pigott

Besides his military photo, another photo of John Pigott is displayed in Findagrave. No date or description is given.

**JOHN H. PIGOTT**  
WHITEVILLE, Jan. 31—Funeral rites for John H. Pigott, 46, who died Thursday afternoon in the Fayetteville Veterans' hospital of injuries received in an automobile accident two months ago, will be held from the home in the Guide section of the county Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock.  
The Rev. Phillip Parker will conduct the services. Burial will follow in the Old Zion cemetery.  
Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Mollie Andrews, one son, Woodis Pigott, one daughter, Miss Pearline Pigott, all of Guide; two brothers, Lewis Pigott of Tabor City, and Lee Pigott of Shallotte.  
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John Pigott's obit from the *Wilmington Morning Star*, Feb. 1, 1941, p.2.

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If you would like to help us honor John Hilton Pigott or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at [ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com](mailto:ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com) or go to [caswellriflerange.com](http://caswellriflerange.com).

We have been hard at work with Daniel Norris from Slapdash Publishing on the book we plan to offer this year, September 2020: "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served."

The book covers the history and future preservation of the rifle range, and includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served

in WWI and have been featured on the website and in the Beacon for nearly three years.

If you can, please help. Included in the book is the list of Brunswick County WWI veterans. Alongside each name is the name of the generous supporter who honored that veteran with a donation of any

amount. As the thermometer on the right side of the website shows, 574 veterans have been honored, which leaves 144 with no recognition. Please consider donating any amount to honor the remaining 144 Brunswick County WWI veterans. Thank you, Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range.



This is one of the photos of John Pigott displayed in Findagrave. The photo was taken at Camp Hancock during his training.

Pigott, John H.		3,527,792	1
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	* White * Colored.
Residence:	Nakina,	Columbus,	NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted * R. A. * N. C. * E. R. C. *	Inducted at	Whiteville, N C	on July 22, 1918
Place of birth:	Shallotte N C	Age or date of birth:	Nov 12/1895
Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers:			
53 Dep Brig to Oct 30/18; Co B 45 M G Bn to disch			
Grades, with date of appointment:			
Pvt			
Engagements:			
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.			
Served overseas from † None to † _____, from † _____ to † _____			
Honorably discharged on demobilization Jan 29/19 19			
In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.			
Remarks:			
FORM NO. 724-1, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. Nov. 22, 1919.			

John Hilton Pigott's NC Service Card.

Photos contributed