

WWI Snapshot: Adrian Leroy Willetts, 1895-1973

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GUEST COLUMNISTS

Adrian Leroy Willetts was born in Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC, in 1895. His World War I Draft Registration in 1917 shows he had served in the Coast Guard Cutter Service. His NC WWI Service Card shows his enlistment date as April 29, 1914. Adrian's length of service in the Coast Guard is unclear, as well as whether he served in World War II. An article in the *Raleigh News and Observer* in 1939 confirms he was in the Coast Guard at the time. He and three other members of the crew were hospitalized with food poisoning. (Sources: *News and Observer*, Raleigh, NC, Dec. 3, 1939, p. 12; and *State Port Pilot*, Southport, NC, Dec. 6, 1939, p. 5)

In 1949, an article in the *State Port Pilot* mentioned that Adrian had retired from the Coast Guard and had been stationed on Bald Head Island "until a few years ago." (Source: Keziah, W.B. "Our Rovin' Reporter" *State Port Pilot*, Southport, NC, June 22, 1949, pp. 1-2)

Adrian's brother Harry Lee Willetts also served in WWI. He was ordered to report for duty on Aug. 25, 1918, serving stateside until his discharge on Dec. 30, 1919.

He was laid to rest in Willetts Cemetery after his death on Feb. 1, 1970.

Adrian Leroy Willetts passed away on Aug. 25, 1973, at Ocean Trails Rest Home in Southport at age 77. He was laid to rest in Lebanon Baptist Church Cemetery in Winnabow. No military honors are shown.

As of this date, the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range have sold 81 books. There are three ways to purchase a book now, since the weather is not conducive to selling and signing books outside:

Phone an order to 278-7584; send a check to 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465; \$50 soft cover; \$70 hard cover; plus \$6 shipping; or PayPal via credit card plus \$3 additional charge. If using PayPal, it must be applied at our website at caswellriflerange.com.

Twenty-nine copies of the book are obligated to schools, libraries and colleges in New Hanover and Columbus counties and 90 copies of the book are available for the public to buy.

We also encourage people to send in WWI pictures for Brunswick County men and women and Wall of Honor military from any state to be posted on the website.



Adrian Leroy Willetts and wife Flossie (from Findagrave)

Photo contributed