WWI Snapshot: Phillip Thompson McKeithan 1893-1969

By Norma and Amy Eckard

FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

hillip McKeithan served in World War I and World War II. According to his NC WWI Service Card, Phillip Thompson McKeithan was born in Southport. He enlisted in the Regular Army at Fort Caswell on May 16, 1917. He served in the Medical Department at Fort Caswell throughout the war until Aug. 8, 1919. At that point, he was transferred to the Dental Department at Charleston, S.C., until his discharge on Oct. 4, 1919, as a private first-class.

In 1920, he was living at home in Southport, working as an attendant at a U.S. hospital. It is unclear whether he was continuing to serve in the U.S. Army,

although it seems likely that he was. His VA Index Card is unhelpful because it only shows he enlisted again in 1945. But that is incorrect, as explained in the following paragraph. His application for military headstone is not yet available in Ancestry to verify.

The 1930 and 1940
U.S. Census shows Phillip continued to serve in the U.S. Army in New York, Fort Totten, in 1930, and the post hospital on Governor's Island in 1940. His activities after this date are unknown. From his flat military marker, he served during WWII and attained the rank of Technical Sergeant. His death certificate indicates he was a retired nurse.

Phillip Thompson McKeithan passed away on April 11, 1969, in Wilmington at age 75. He had never married. He was laid to rest in Old Smithville Cemetery in Southport.

If you would like to help us honor Phillip Thompson McKeithan or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com.

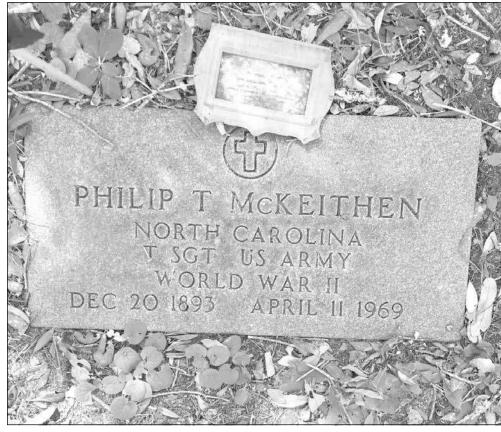
Anyone wishing to purchase the book, "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rile Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served," may call Norma Eckard at (910) 278-7584 to place an order.

The book is 584 pages and covers the history and preservation of the rifle range, includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI. They have been featured on the website and in the Brunswick Beacon for more than three years.

| | McKeithan, | PhilipJ | 717. | 026 | White | 11/2 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|
| (Surname) | (Christian i | | | | (Race: White or | colored) |
| Residence: | | South | | | k NORTH | CAROLINA |
| (Stre | et and house number) | (Town or city) | | (County) | (State) | |
| *Enlisted in | RA Ft Caswell Southport NC | L NC _ | | | May 18 | |
| †Born in Organizations: | MD Ft Caswell SC to Disch. | L NC to_Aug | 8/19; | Dental | Dept Char | eleston |
| Grades: | Pvt lol Aug 2 | 20/17 | | | | |
| Engagements: | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Wounds or other in | njuries received in ac | tion: None. | | | | |
| Served overseas: | No | | | | | a stimule |
| § Hon. disch. | Oct 4/19 | on demobilization | on | | | |
| Was reported | 0 | per cent disabled | on date of | of discharge, | in view of occ | eupation. |
| Remarks: | | | | | | |

Photos contributed

 ${\bf Philip\ McKeithan\ NC\ Service\ Card.}$



Philip McKeithan military flat marker.