

WWI Snapshot: Phillip Thompson McKeithan 1893-1969

BY NORMA AND AMY
ECKARD
FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

Phillip 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 Rifle 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, Philip		717,026	White	1 1/2
(Surname)		(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence: Southport		Brunswick	NORTH CAROLINA	
(Street and house number)		(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
* Enlisted in	RA Ft Caswell NC		May 15/17	
† Born in	Southport NC		23 5/12 Yrs	
Organizations:	MD Ft Caswell NC to Aug 8/19; Dental Dept Charleston SC to Disch.			
Grades:	Pvt 1st	Aug 20/17		
Engagements:				
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.			
‡ Served overseas:	No			
§ Hon. disch.	Oct 4/19	on demobilization		
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:				

Form No. 724-114, A. G. O. March 12, 1920. 3-768

* Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. I. C.", "N. A." as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date.

Photos contributed

Philip McKeithan NC Service Card.



Philip McKeithan military flat marker.