



Photos contributed

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range receive a \$1,000 contribution for the historic 1918 rifle range project from longtime supporters Norman and Lois Sprinthall.



This photo of Sgt. Archie Sprinthall taken near Chateau-Thierry in 1918 shows a large French knife tucked in his belt given to him by the French trainers before he went into battle. He fought in many of the fiercest battles while in France, including the 2nd Battle of the Marne, the Liberation of Verdun and the Meuse-Argonne.

### Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range receive contribution

The 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range was once part of Fort Caswell during World War I. The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range is a nonprofit with volunteers working to stabilize and preserve the rifle range. Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range is periodically publishing short biographies of Brunswick County World War I veterans as part of their "Honor a Brunswick County World War I Veteran" project to raise funds for a World War I Memorial at the site of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range.

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range recently received a \$1,000 contribution for the historic 1918 rifle range project from longtime supporters Norman and Lois Sprinthall.

"What is funny, well not really funny, is that I've been passing the rifle range so often since we purchased our condo back in 1985 and never thought to find out what it was or what it was used for," Norman Sprinthall said in a news release. "So now that we all know that it was used to train the military to perfect their marksmanship before leaving for France in World War I, why not put our heads together and make it a memorial for all residents in North Carolina to honor, especially Caswell Beach? This historic structure tells us a story of our past going back 100 years ago."

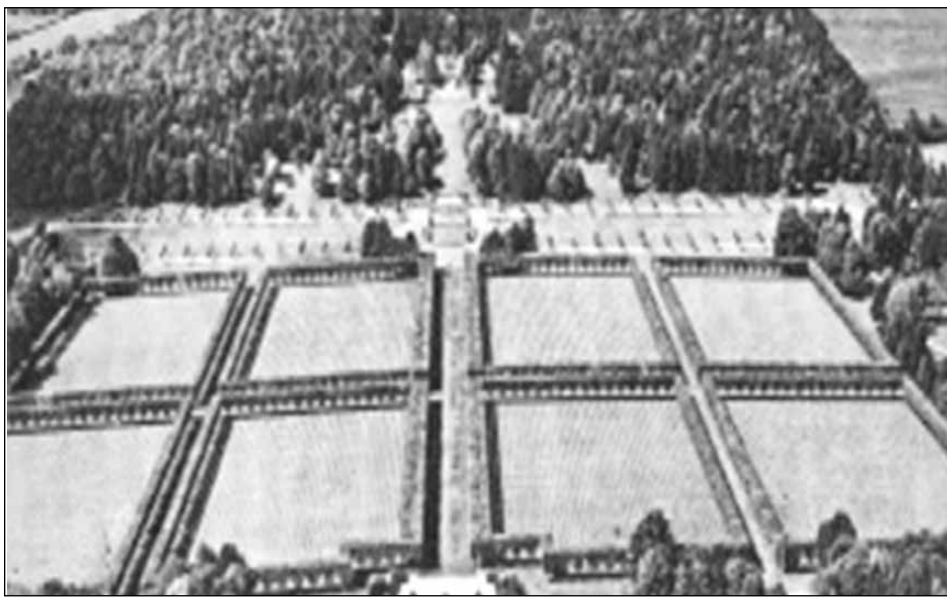
Their contribution was in honor of his father, Sgt. Archie Sprinthall, who served in World War I with the 103rd Field Artillery, 26th Division. Norman Sprinthall has made two pilgrimages to the battlefields in France to reflect on the meaning and the effect it

had on his family as well as others. His father returned from France, but many of his fellow soldiers did not. He visited the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France to pay his respects at the gravesites of his father's fallen comrades from the 26th Division.

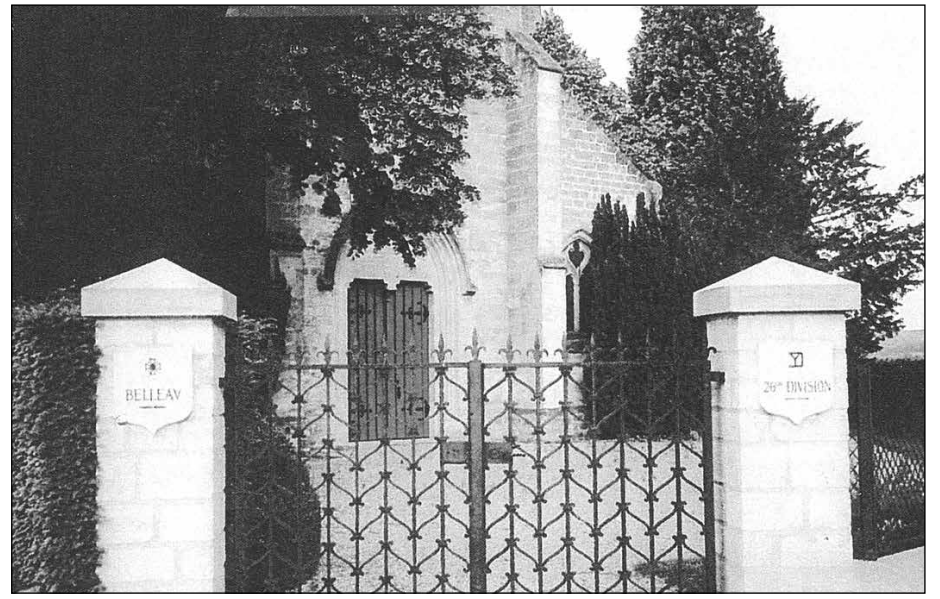
He also visited a church in Belleau that was destroyed by American artillery and rebuilt using funds raised by his father and other veterans from the 26th Division. It was completed and dedicated in 1929. The plaque over the wooden door in a semi-circle carries the inscription: "This church, destroyed during the world war, has been rebuilt by the veterans of the 26th Division of the American Expeditionary Force in memory of their comrades who fell on the soil of France while fighting for a common cause."

"My father joined the war effort in Pawtucket, R.I., and he would have wanted me to help save this rifle range located in our residential area in Caswell Beach," he said. "The Centennial of World War I is here and we have a prize in our own backyard as a reminder of the men and women that served and sacrificed in that war."

The Sprinthalls said their donation is meant to assist in the complete stabilization of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range, and they are looking forward to the Brunswick County World War I Memorial planned for dedication at the site of the rifle range this year on Armistice Day, Nov. 11.



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