



Photos contributed

The Hindenburg Line



Marker for Pvt. Samuel Goodman Fulford

The World War I story of Pvt. Samuel Goodman Fulford

By NORMA ECKARD
SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

Samuel Goodman Fulford was born and raised in Brunswick County. A family tree can be viewed in FamilySearch. His World War I draft registration shows he was single, farming and living in Supply.

Samuel was ordered to report to duty Sept. 19, 1917, and was accepted for service Oct. 4, 1917. On Oct. 16, 1917, he joined 30th "Old Hickory" Division, 119th Infantry, Company C. Previous columns describe training, transport to France, and battles, including the breaking of the Hindenburg Line, until the beginning weeks of October 1918.

The 119th Infantry's final contact with the enemy occurred Oct. 17-19, 1918. It was during that time Pvt. Fulford was wounded, and Pvt. Luther Benton and Cpl. Calmer Clemmons were wounded a second time. Pvt. Fulford and Pvt. Benton recovered by the end of November and early December, returning to duty at that time. Cpl. Clemmons' injuries were severe and required additional hospitalization after returning to the United States. Initially he was reported missing.

The operation that resulted in the three men being wounded began before daybreak Oct. 17, 1918. The 119th Infantry had just rested for six days following their earlier push immediately after the Hindenburg Line assault. Before daybreak Oct. 17, they lined up at the eastern outskirts of La Haie Mennerese and

bore on Vaux Andigny, advancing under an artillery barrage. You can follow their progress on pictured map, starting on the middle right and advancing toward the east (right side of map shown). Companies A (which included Pvt. Luther Benton), B, E, and H led the assault with the others in support. At one point, they experienced a very heavy counter barrage from the enemy. About 11 a.m., the infantry advanced to a railroad cut 2,000 yards west of the village of Ribeaupville. The men dug in for the night. This position was very heavily shelled and there were many casualties. Pvt. Benton and Pvt. Samuel Fulford were wounded at some time during the day's maneuver.

The 120th Infantry (also in the 30th Division) and a British Regiment on their flanks had fallen behind so little movement was made during the day of Oct. 18. At 8 p.m., they began to advance over rough country with only a compass and moonlight. After reaching the eastern edge of Ribeaupville, the shelling became heavier and mustard gas shells were falling. They captured Ribeaupville, liberating one French civilian, then advanced further, halting at 1:30 a.m. Oct. 19. Cpl. Clemmons' severe injuries were received during this maneuver.

There were no more injuries among the remaining Brunswick County men in the 119th Infantry at this time. The infantry continued pushing forward Oct. 19, but made little progress because of open country and deadly machine gun fire by the Germans. During these

three days, the infantry had pushed forward for a total of five miles. They then halted, were relieved and saw no more battles for the remainder of the war.

From Oct. 16-20, the casualties reported by the 119th Infantry were:

KIA: 31
Died of wounds: five
Severely wounded: 47
Slightly wounded: 145
Gassed: 45
Wounds undetermined: seven

Pvt. Samuel Fulford returned to duty Nov. 26, 1918. The 119th Infantry was transported back to the United States in April 1919 and mustered out at Camp Jackson, S.C. Samuel resumed farming.

Samuel Goodman Fulford passed away May 8, 1966, at 71. He never married. He was laid to rest in Sabbath Home Baptist Church Cemetery in Holden Beach.

Most of the information gathered was from History 119th Infantry, 60th Brigade, 30th Division, U.S.A. Operations in Belgium and France, 1917-1919.

If you would like to help us honor Brunswick County World I veterans, go to caswellriflerange.com or email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com. Three hundred fifty Brunswick County World War I veterans have been honored to date.

A monument was placed at the site of the rifle range in Caswell Beach Veterans' Day 2018 in honor of the men and women from

Brunswick County who served their country. A book, "To All Those Who Served in World War I from Brunswick County, N.C.," is to be published during 2019 containing all 724 names, as well as a historical overview of the 1918 World War I Rifle Range Target Pit Storage Room.

We would like the public to review the names of the following Brunswick County men who died during World War I to make certain they have not forgotten anyone that may have perished or missed someone while researching names that should be on this list.

Killed in action: Pvts. 1st Class Walter S. Brock and Erastus I. Nelson, Pvts. Harvey T. Chadwick, Jimmie Griffin and Harry L. Pigott, Cpl. Herbert B. Ward

Died of wounds: Pvts. William C. Hewett and Benjamin B. Smith

Died of Disease: Pvts. William F. Brooks, Carl J. Danford, Manning Hall, Claudie H. McCall, Elijah Milliken, Kendrick W. Outlaw, Cecil S. Pierce, Samuel C. Swain, Guy E. Watson, David Williams and Fred Wilson, Pvt. 1st Class John W. Carlisle, David L. Doshier (cook), Seaman James C. Edwards, Sgt. Robert G. Farmer

Before the monument is engraved, they need the public to help verify the list. If you see a discrepancy or know a name to be added, email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com.

Norma Eckard of Caswell Beach is president of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range Inc.