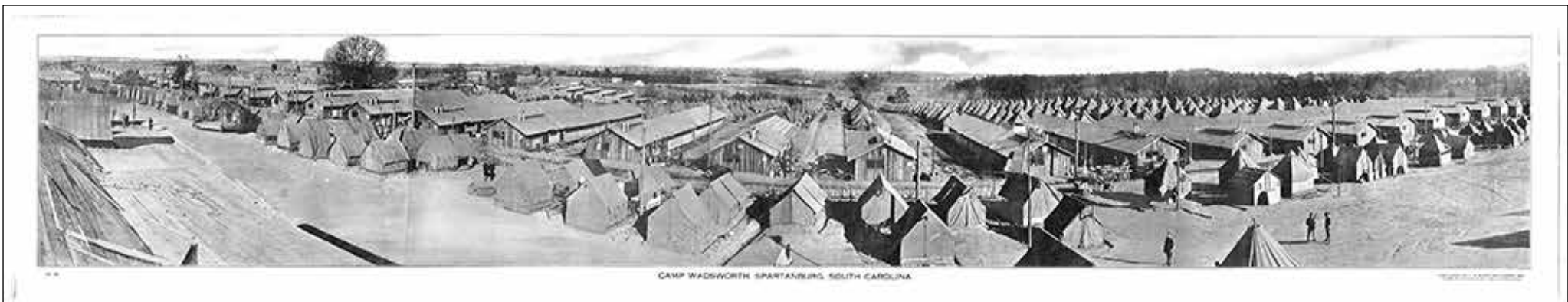


Photos contributed

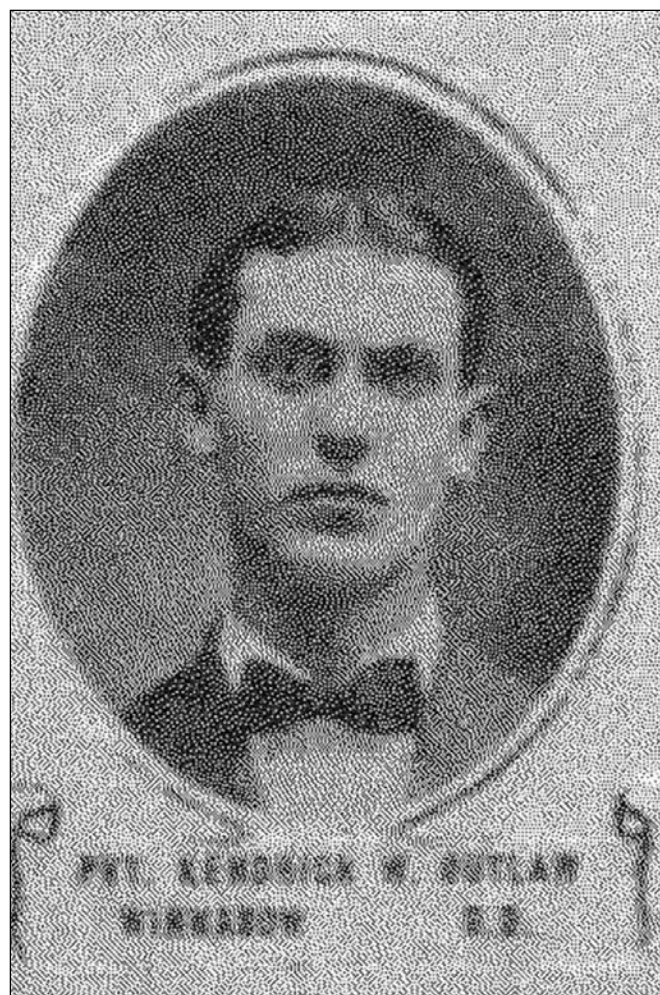
German ship seized by U.S



Camp Wadsworth, S.C., was established in 1917 and abandoned in 1919 (Source: Spartanburg County Library).



Headstone of Kendrick W. Outlaw.



Kendrick W. Outlaw

WWI Profile: Pvt. Kendrick Whiteleaf Outlaw 1892-1918

BY NORMA ECKARD

Kendrick Whiteleaf Outlaw was born in Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC. A family tree is shown in Family Search. There is some confusion due to census records that show Kendrick as "Hendrick" and "Henry."

His WWI Draft Registration shows he was living in Winnabow, single, and working on a farm.

Kendrick was ordered to report for duty on Aug. 8, 1918.

Twenty-five men were called to report that day in Brunswick County and sent to Camp Wadsworth, S.C. Eleven of them, including Kendrick, were eventually assigned to the 55th Pioneer Infantry. Elijah Milliken, who was born in Southport, but currently lived in Rocky Mount, is included in the WWI Brunswick County list, to make a total of 12 Brunswick County men serving with the 55th Pioneer Infantry.

Camp Wadsworth, S.C., was established in 1917 and abandoned in 1919.

55th Pioneer Infantry: Camp Wadsworth, S.C.

Note: The companies listed do not necessarily match NC WWI Service Cards. Not all have companies identified, so the companies were found through the U.S. Army Transportation records located in Ancestry. Therefore, the companies listed are the ones the soldiers sailed with overseas, giving us insight into their experiences.

Pvt. David D. Beck, Company K
 Pvt. Benjamin K Caison, Company K
 Pvt. Julius H. Clemmons, Company K
 Pvt. Lennox W. Clemmons, Company K
 Pvt. Hiram Hewett, Company M
 Pvt. William A. Hewett, Company M
 Pvt. William L. Inman, Company K
 Pvt. Jacob M. King, Company K
 Pvt. Elijah Milliken, Company C (Died of Disease Dec. 11, 1918)
 Pvt. Sandy Milliken, Company K
 Pvt. Kendrick W. Outlaw, Company H (Died of Disease Oct. 5, 1918)
 Pvt. John T. Watts, Company H

When the United States entered the war on April 6, 1917, German ships in US ports were seized. The USS Aeolus was formerly SS Grosser Kurfürst. The German crews were sent to internment camps, but not before they sabotaged the ship.

She was repaired and renamed USS Aeolus, god of wind in Greek mythology, making eight round-trip voyages to France during World War I, and seven post-war voyages returning troops.

Pvt. Outlaw passed away from lobar pneumonia on Oct. 5, 1918, soon after arriving in France. The location of his death is unknown.

Around this same time, General Pershing's Chief-of-Staff wired that "a great number of cases of severe influenza and pneumonia and consequently many deaths among troops recently arriving in France." Back home, Southport and Brunswick County were struggling with the pandemic, as described in Robert Guy Farmer's WWI Profile, yet another Brunswick County soldier who died of pneumonia in October 1918.

Pvt. Outlaw's remains were returned on June 29, 1920, on USAT Mercury and laid to rest in Lebanon Baptist Church Cemetery in Winnabow, NC, where his mother and later his father were buried.

A military headstone was requested in 1950 [Source: Military headstone application in Ancestry] by his sister Flossie Outlaw Willets, and placed in the cemetery.

If you would like to help us honor Kendrick Whiteleaf Outlaw or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to www.caswellriflerange.com.

A future fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at the Caswell Beach Town Public Service Facility Building (fire hall) from 4 to 9 p.m. to raise funds for publishing the book of Brunswick County men and women that served in WWI; to continue historic preservation on the rifle range memorial and to honor Brunswick County WWI veterans. There will be a dinner, derby and dance with music by Three to Get Ready & Trilogy. Call 278-7584 for tickets and information or purchase tickets from Ricky Evans Gallery on Howe Street in Southport.