

WWI Snapshot: Robert Leroy Stratmon, 1897-1940

Robert Leroy Stratmon served in both WWI and WWII. He lost his life while serving in World War II.

Robert Leroy Stratmon was born on June 12, 1900, in Southport, Brunswick County, NC.

On Oct. 27, 1917, Robert, listed as 18 years old, joined the U.S. Navy. At the time, African American men were assigned only menial positions in the Navy, so he began as a Mess Attendant, 3rd Class. By the end of his service, he had risen to Wardroom Cook.

The 1920 census shows that he had returned to his home in Southport. His family relocated some time later to Boston and NYC.

Robert served in the U.S. Naval Reserves in WWII. He died in service to his country on Aug. 16, 1944. In the excerpt below, his name appears at the bottom right. [Source: The New York Age, June 4, 1946]

His name does not appear on WWII casualty lists, so it is assumed that he died of disease.

His remains were returned four years later from the



Headstone for Stratmon (source: Findagrave)

Name STRATMON- ROBERT		Service Number 194-41-51	
Enrolled at RECRUITING STATION- NORFOLK VA.		Date 10-27-17	
Age at Entrance 18 YRS 4 MOS	Rate MESS ATTENDANT 3-CLASS	XXIX U.S.N.R.F.	
Home Address ---	County Brunswick	Town SOUTHPORT	State N.C.
Served at	From	To	Served as
USS DESIRE	10-27-17	2-16-18	MESS ATTENDANT
INSPECTOR OF ACCOUNTS NORFOLK VA.	2-16-18	3-23-18	3 CLASS
RECEIVING SHIP NORFOLK VA.	3-23-18	5-2-18	MESS ATTENDANT
NAVAL AMMUNITION DEPOT- PORTSMOUTH VA.	5-2-18	7-8-18	1 CLASS
NAVAL HOSPITAL NORFOLK VA.	7-8-18	7-29-18	
Remarks RECEIVING SHIP NORFOLK VA.	7-29-18	8-30-18	
USS MUNPLACE	8-30-18	11-11-18	
Date Discharge 3-20-19	WARDROOM COOK		
Place XXXXXX NAVAL HOSPITAL- NORFOLK VA.	Rating at Discharge		

Photos contributed

Stratmon's Service Card

American military cemetery in New Guinea, (USAF Cemetery, Fischaffen #2) and buried in Long Island National Cemetery.

[Source: Ancestry.com. U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962 [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.]

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

Donations continue to be sent supporting the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women that served in the Great War from Brunswick County. Send donations

Lists New Yorkers Among Navy Dead

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U. S. Navy has released the following Negro personnel in the New York area who lost their lives during World War II, with home address of next of kin as listed in the man's record:

William Ameker, cook, 3 c. father, James Amerker, 617 Gates avenue Brooklyn.	Richard J. Banks, motor machinists mate 2 c wife, Mrs. Lillian E. Banks, 1947 Seventh avenue.	Terance Bibbs, Steward's mate, 1 c; father, Lathan Bibbs, 14 Madison avenue, Inwood.	William Blocker, seaman 1 c; wife, Mrs. Edith Blocker, 72 West 99th street.	Louis D. Borges, seaman, 2 c wife, Mrs. Ruby Borges 1053 For-
wife, Mrs. Martha Saunders, 25 Convent avenue.	Carl C. Scott, Gunner's mate 3 c; mother, Mrs. Jessie M. Scott, 444 Gates avenue.	Oliver Singleton, cook, 3 c; wife, Mrs. Penny Singleton, 303 West 151 street.	Lawrence E. Sneed steward's mate, 1 c; wife, Mrs. Lillian N. Sneed, 328 West 53rd street.	Thomas O. Spurlock, motor machinist mate, 1 c; wife, Mrs. Lucitta Spurlock, 2915 Eight avenue.
	Willie A. Stinson, steward, 3 c; wife, Mrs. Naomi Stinson, 1217 Union avenue.	Robert L. Stratmon, steward, 1 c; wife, Mrs. Annie Stratmon, 9 West 111 street.		

Announcement of Stratmon's death

to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

On Saturday, April 4, at 11 a.m., another Roll Call will

be held beside the 1918 rifle range in Caswell Beach. The public is welcome. Bring a folding chair. Please park in condo parking lots.