

WWI Snapshot: William Thompson White, 1892-1969



William White driving the Liberty Truck.



The U.S. sent more than 9,000 Liberty Trucks to France. There are several surviving trucks in existence today, including this restored one in the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton, Ohio.

By NORMA ECKARD AND AMY ECKARD
GUEST COLUMNISTS

William Thompson White (or Son) was previously introduced in a WWI Profile as one of the first two men from Brunswick County sent to France.

The identification tags (dog tags) have his Army serial number, which matches his NC Service Card. They also indicate his rank (Private, although he would ultimately

hold the rank of Corporal), Division (1 Div.), and company (Co. B M.S.T. Company B, Motor Supply Train).

Recall from Corp White's WWI Profile that the First Division (The Big Red One) was the first to arrive in France and the first in battle. The Somme Defensive [sawm] clasp on his medal shows his participation. This is followed by Aisne-Marne [eyn-marn], St. Mihiel [san-mee-yel], Meuse-Argonne [myooz-ar-gawn], and the

Defensive Sector. The medal is the WWI Victory Medal, and each clasp identifies a battle he participated in.

Previously, Edward David Redwine and Doris F. Redwine, the family of Brunswick County WWI veteran Pvt. David Bertram Frink, sent photos of Pvt. Frink's medals. They can be viewed on this post.

Corporal White should have also received the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal as shown on Pvt.

Frink's post.

Another great find is this photo of Corporal White. This will be added to his WWI Profile, which previously included a very grainy newspaper photo.

Kelly also sent a copy of this photo of Son. As he served in the Motor Supply Train, it is especially exciting to have a photo of him behind the wheel of what must be a Liberty Truck.

The Liberty Truck was designed soon after the U.S. entered WWI. Over 9,000 were produced and sent to France. Assembly contracts were awarded to 15 companies located from New York to Illinois. There are several surviving trucks in existence today, including this restored one (see photo) in the National Museum of the USAF in Dayton, Ohio.

Anyone having photos of their ancestor's WWI medals, artifacts, ancestor in uniform, or anything else of interest, please send them via email and we will post them on the website.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the April 4 Roll Call event has been canceled. We plan to continue the Roll Call on Veterans Day.



William Thompson White's great-granddaughter, Kelly Prestipino, contacted the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range to share some fascinating news. "Son was my great-grandfather and I grew up in his house. Kenneth Welch White was my grandfather and Kenneth Dale White was my dad. After my dad passed away, I cleaned out the barn behind the house and found a really old trunk. These were in it." She had found her great-grandfather's medals in the barn.

White, Willie T. 44,953 White		1 1/2
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number) (Race: White or colored)
Residence: Charlotte Brunswick		NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number)		(Town or city) (County) (State)
*Enlisted in	RA at Ft Thomas Ky	Apr 15/17
†Born in	Shallotte NC	24 4/12 yrs
Organizations:	Co B 16 Inf to July 17/17; Sup Co 16 Inf to Apr 27/18; Co B 1 Sup Tn to Disch	
Grades:	Pvt 1st July 24/17; Wag Oct /17; Pvt Mch 25/18	
Engagements:	Corp Nov 14/18	
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.	
‡Served overseas:	June 14/17 to Aug 23/19	
§Hon. disch.	Sept 2/19 on demobilization	
Was reported	0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.	
Remarks:		
Form No. 724-1 1/2, A. G. O. *Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. 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.		

William White's NC Service Card

Photos continued