

WWI Snapshot: Paul Mazyck Barnwell, 1897-1991

BY NORMA ECKARD
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GUEST COLUMNISTS

Paul Mazyck Barnwell was 20 years old and living in Southport when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the recruiting station in Charleston, S.C., on April 30, 1918. He served as a Machinist Mate 2nd Class, and then was promoted to 1st Class until his discharge on Jan. 2, 1920.

He came to the Southport/Wilmington area with his parents from the city where he was born, Sumter, S.C. According to accounts in local newspapers, his father, Rev. William Habersham Barnwell, traveled to churches throughout the South. Both parents and two of his sisters passed away in Wilmington and were laid to rest in Oakdale Cemetery.

One brother, St. Julien Mazyck Barnwell, also served

in the U.S. Navy in WWI, serving on many ships from May 1, 1917 to April 25, 1919. He is a veteran from the state of South Carolina.

The Wilmington Morning Star printed this in the Society News on March 4, 1921, on page 6:

Barnwell notes

His many friends in Wilmington and Southport will be interested to learn that Paul M. Barnwell, who has been living in New York since October, has left for the Pacific coast on the steamship [unreadable] R. Luckenback, on which he has the responsible position as mechanic in charge of an all-American crew. The cruise, on which Mr. Barnwell recently started, will take three or four months and his headquarters will be the Luckenback Steamship company, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Paul Mazyck died in Florida on Dec. 11, 1991. His obituary is shown below. The location of his gravesite is unknown.

Paul M. Barnwell, 94, of St. Petersburg died Wednesday in St. Petersburg. A native of Sumter, S.C., he moved to the area in 1984 from Sea Cliff, N.Y. He retired in 1971 from Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Mineola, N.Y. He was a veteran of World War I, serving in the U.S. Navy, and a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sea Cliff. He is survived by a son, Paul Jr, of East Brentwood, N.Y.; a daughter, Barbara Berry of St. Petersburg; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Mathews-Palms Memorial Funeral Directors, St. Petersburg.

[Source: The Tampa Tribune, North Pinellas, Dec. 13, 1991, p.2]

If you would like to help us honor Paul Mazyck Barnwell or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to caswellriflerange.com.

Funds continue to be sent to support the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women who served in the Great War from Brunswick County. Send donations to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

Note: A publisher is working on the above book that hopefully will be ready by Veterans Day 2020.



Photo contributed from Ancestry

Photo of Paul Barnwell from his Application for Seaman's Certificate of American Citizenship, Feb. 1921. His address at that time was Wilmington, N.C.

Name BARNWELL PAUL MAZYCK		Service Number 110-59-08	
Enrolled at NAVY RECRUITING STATION CHARLESTON S.C.		Date 4-30-18	
Age at Entrance 20 YRS 10 MOS	Rate MACHINISTS MATE 2	CLASS	
Home Address	County BRUNSWICK	Town SOUTHPORT	State N.C.
Served at		From	To
NAVAL TRAINING CAMP CHARLESTON S.C.	5-12-18	7-7-18	MACHINISTS MATE
USS GRANITE STATE	7-7-18	8-31-18	2 CLASS 195
RECEIVING BARRACKS STATE PIER NEW LONDON CONN.	8-31-18	9-23-18	
USS C-136	9-23-18	11-11-18	
Remarks:			
Date 1-2-20 RECEIVING STATION WASHINGTON D.C. MACHINISTS MATE 1			
Place Inactive Duty		Rating at Discharge CLASS	

Photos contributed

NC Service Card for Paul Barnwell