

LIEUTENANT SAMPSON B. BRASHEAR KIA WWI

By
Waukesha Lowe Sammons



Private Sampson B. Brashear
23rd Infantry Regiment, U. S. Army
First Enlistment 1899-1902
Philippine Native Insurrection



Lieutenant Sampson B. Brashear
Company A, 358th Infantry Regiment
90th Infantry 'Tough Ombres' Division
U. S. Army, Second Enlistment, WWI

Sampson B. Brashear was born 25 February 1878 in Viper, Perry County, Kentucky. He was the son of Elizabeth Pratt (1852-1924) and James N. Brashear, Jr. (1835-1920). His grandparents, James N. Brashear Sr. (1800-1865) and Elizabeth 'Bet' Young (1808-1902), were my maternal 3rd great-grandparents. Our Brashear progenitor was French Huguenot, Benjamin Brashear, who migrated to Virginia and moved on into Maryland.

On 25 March 1899 at Lexington in Fayette County, Kentucky, Sampson's first enlistment was in Company M, with a transfer to Company B, 23rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. He served in the Philippine Insurrection during Captain John J. 'Black Jack' Pershing's first post in the Philippine Islands. Private Sampson was discharged at Plattsburgh Barracks, New York on 24 March 1902. After returning to civilian life, Sampson taught school in the Philippines.



Sampson B. Brashear, United States Passport Photograph, 7 April 1916

With the outbreak of World War I, Sampson honored his country with a second enlistment. Lieutenant Sampson B. Brashear, served in the United States Army, Company A, 358th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry ‘Tough Ombres’ Division. He was Killed-In-Action in France in the Battle of Meuse-Argonne on 24 October 1918 in World War I.

His name was misspelled in the book, History of the 90th Infantry Division in World War I by Major George Wythe, Division Historian, copyright 1920, By The Ninetieth Division Association. On the casualty list page he was listed as Samson B. Brasher, KIA 24 October 1918, which agreed with the date of death on his military headstone. The chapter, 90th Division Enters Line October 21-22, Section 8, detailed his death on 25 October 1918.

“REAR AREAS SHELLED. Not only the troops actually in the front line, but the rear areas as well, were subjected during this period to intermittent bombardment which took its daily toll. The Bois des Rappes and the area around Madeleine Farm were favorite targets. The 1st Battalion, 358th Infantry, in support of the 3d Battalion, suffered heavily from this fire. Lieutenant (later Captain) J. P. Woods and Lieutenant Haley G. Heavenhill were wounded by shrapnel; the woods continually reeked with ‘yellow and blue cross’ gas, and Lieutenant Ralph D. Walker, the sole remaining officer of Company D, was overcome and evacuated. On October 25, when the battalion was moving to the northern edge of the Bois des Rappes to support the 3d Battalion more closely, a shell dropped directly in front of Lieutenant Samson B. Brasher, Company A, killing him and his orderly, Private James F. Matlock.”

He was buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Plot A Row 17 Grave 14, located at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Lorraine, France. Second Lieutenant was carved on his military headstone, which can be viewed on findagrave.com, memorial #55957225.

Sampson B. Brashear in World War I and my father in World War II served in the 90th Infantry Division in France and both made the Ultimate Sacrifice. Considering his hometown to be Kodak, Perry County, Kentucky, my father, Technical/Sergeant Albert R. Lowe of Company G, 1st Rifle Platoon Sergeant, 2nd Battalion, 359th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry ‘Tough Ombres’ Division was Killed-In-Action in France on 16 September 1944.

Decades after the death of Sampson B. Brashear, a person, who collected military items, became the owner of letters written by him. He was identified when his name, hometown and photograph were discovered in the book, Soldiers Of The Great War. Hoping to find his relatives, a notice was placed in the Hazard newspaper in Perry County, Kentucky. There was a response to the inquiry, and Sampson's letters were returned to his family.

Sources

Ancestry.com: first enlistment record.

Family Interviews.

Findagrave.com.

Frankie Lane Campbell Roberts.

History Of The 90th Infantry Division In World War I by Major George Wythe, Division Historian, copyright 1920, publisher, The Ninetieth Division Association.

Soldiers Of The Great War a 3-volume book set by W. M. Haulsee and F. G. Howe and A. C. Doyle, Soldiers Record Publishing Association, Washington, D. C., copyright 1920, with the Kentucky section on pages 375 – 408, the photograph on page 375 and the Killed In Action list on page 403.

The Brashear Story A Family History 1637-1963 by Troy L. Back and Leon Brashear, 1963.

Uboat.net: WWII crew lists and ships hit by U-boats.

United States Military Records.

Photographs

Ancestry.com: 1916 Passport Photograph.

Frankie Lane Campbell Roberts shared Sampson's 23rd Infantry Regiment first enlistment military photograph and his 90th Infantry Division WWI second enlistment military photograph, which was also included in a 3-volume book set, Soldiers Of The Great War by W. M. Haulsee, F. G. Howe, A. C. Doyle; Publisher, Soldiers Record Publishing Association, Washington, D. C.; copyright 1920.