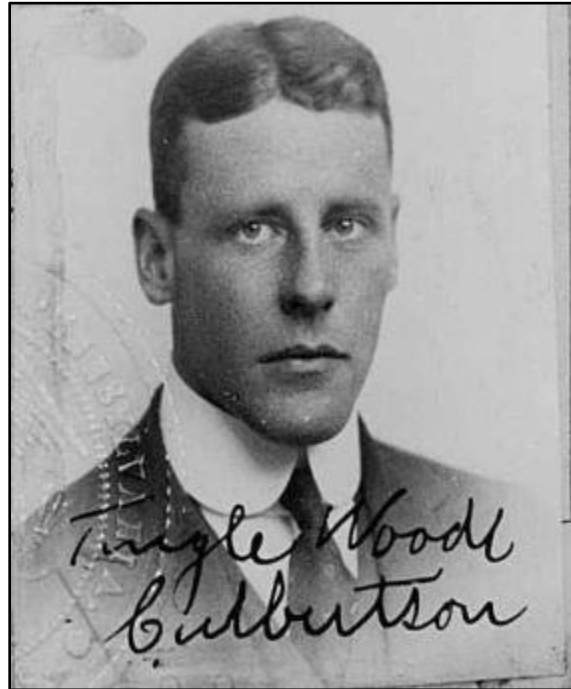


TINGLE WOODS CULBERTSON

First Lieutenant, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division

K.I.A. October 5, 1918; buried Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, France

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty



Passport Photo, 1916

Born in Wheeling on January 16, 1886, per birth record, Tingle W. Culbertson was the son of John Dickey Culbertson and Sarah McF. "Sallie" Tingle, married in Wheeling on August 23, 1870. Biographies indicate that the family moved to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania when Tingle was about 14.

At the time of the 1900 census, Tingle W. Culbertson, birth stated as January 1887, was a "Scholar" at a Philadelphia school.

In 1910, John D. Culbertson and Sallie lived in Edgeworth, Allegheny County. Mr. Culbertson was the "Treasurer, Tube Company." The children at home were John D., Jr., Viola W., and Tingle W.

The father, John Dickey Culbertson, died in Pennsylvania on March 13, 1912. His remains are in a crypt at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling. (His wife died in 1929 and she is interred there, as well.)

On February 28, 1916, Tingle Woods Culbertson stated on his passport application that he wanted to travel to France from New York City on March 4, 1916, "On hospital work with American Ambulance."

In France, he served with the American Field Service (AFS) as an ambulance driver on the Western Front. His incredible experiences are told in letters home, which are presented in a comprehensive biography, [Biography of Tingle Woods Culbertson](#) by Connie Ruzich.

When Tingle registered for the World War I Draft, he was in Officers' Training School at Fort Niagra, New York, and had formerly worked in the Steel Business, National Tube. He said he spent 9 months in France as an ambulance driver.

Form 1 2157 REGISTRATION CARD No. 44		37-1-18. A REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1 Name in full Tingle Woods Culbertson 30 <small>(Given name) (Family name) (Age in yrs.)</small>	2 Home address Leahurst Avenue Sewickley Pa <small>(No.) (Street) (City) (State)</small>		
3 Date of birth January 15th 1887 <small>(Month) (Day) (Year)</small>	4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born citizen	1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? medium Slender, medium, or stout (which)? medium	
5 Where were you born? Wheeling W. Va. <small>(Town) (State) (Nation)</small>	6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	2 Color of eyes? Blue Color of hair? Brown Bald? no	
7 What is your occupation, trade, profession, or service? Reserve Officers Training Camp	8 Where employed? at student (Steel Business) Fort Niagara N. Y.	3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? no	
9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Have no dependents	10 Married or single (which)? single Race (specify which)? White	I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
11 What military service have you had? Rank ambulance driver Branch ambulance old service 9 months Nation or State France	12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No	P. A. Sweeney <small>(Signature of registrar)</small>	
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true. Tingle Woods Culbertson <small>(Signature or mark)</small>		Precinct Brook Edgworth MAJOR, CAVALRY	June 5, 1918 <small>(Date of registration)</small>
		City or County Allegheny	
		State Pennsylvania	

Wheeling Intelligencer, 14 Aug 1917
Receives Commission.
 Another former Wheeling boy has been honored with a commission in the officers' reserve corps. Tingle W Culbertson, now of Sewickley, Pa., has been commissioned as first lieutenant, Infantry section. He is the son of the late John D Culbertson, and was born at Echo Point.

CULBERTSON TINGLE WOODS	X	C	136 545
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U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7302—Rev. Sept., 1925			
INDEX CARD GPO 2-13969			

ESTATE LEFT TO PRINCETON BY LATE LT. CULBERTSON

Alumnus Killed in Action in Argonne
—Had Seen Varied Career in
Service.

Word has been received that Lieutenant Tingle W. Culbertson '11, who was killed in the Argonne on October 5th, 1918, has left his estate to Princeton University and to his brother. This generosity calls to mind his heroic death and his varied career in the service.

Lieutenant Culbertson went to France in 1916 to serve in the American Ambulance and was on board the "Sussex" when she was torpedoed in the English Channel in April of that year. When this country entered the war he returned from France and trained at Fort Niagara, where he was commissioned. He returned a little later to France as a lieutenant in the 318th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division and saw considerable service before the great push of October in which he lost his life. The following is an extract from a letter written to Lieutenant Culbertson's mother by his commanding officer, and describes the circumstances of his heroic death.

Story of His Death.

"October 4th, at 5:45 a. m., your son led his company's advance platoon against the enemy. As the battalion jumped off, the counter-barrage fell upon us, literally tearing the forward platoon to shreds; but the rear wave kept on toward the Bois des Ogons, just one kilometre north of Nantillois, which is itself on the west bank of the Meuse several kilometres north of Montfaucon. Passing over a gentle crest we came under a heavy machine-gun barrage. Those who entered the wood were met by a tremendous barrage and were unable to hold their ground, falling back to the crest short of the wood. Somewhere between the crest and the wood your son was last seen advancing. A Sergeant who was with him declares he was blown to pieces by a high explosive shell. ***Careful search of the field was made under my orders for all dead and wounded. Many we found,—all, in fact, but 115 men and Lieutenant Culbertson. No trace was ever found of him, no body or equipment."

Although, at the time this was written, it was thought that he might have been taken prisoner, no trace of him has since been found and he was evidently killed in this attack. His officers and associates in the service had nothing but praise for him, and he is a shining example of Princeton's sacrifice in the war.

An article in *The Standard Union*, Brooklyn, New York, stated that scholarships were established at Princeton University to honor the heroes of World War I. One was established in the name of Tingle Woods Culbertson, Princeton Class of 1911.

Pittsburgh Press, 10 Jul 1921

TO UNVEIL MEMORIAL WINDOWS TO SOLDIERS.

The memory of two members of the congregation of St. Stephen's Episcopal church of Sewickley who gave their lives in the World war and the efforts of 78 other members of the congregation who served during that struggle will be honored this evening with special services in the church at which time two memorial windows and a memorial tablet will be unveiled. One window, dedicated to Lieuts. Tingle Woods Culbertson and Charles Hyde, Jr., who died the same day overseas, Oct. 5, 1918, is the gift of the congregation, and the second window is the gift of Mrs. J. D. Culbertson, Sr., in memory of her son. Mrs. Culbertson and Charles Hyde, Sr., father of Lieut. Hyde, will unveil the windows and tablet. The latter contains the names of the two officers who made the supreme sacrifice and of the other members of the congregation who served in the armed forces of the nation.

The services will start at 7:45 p. m. and a special musical program has been arranged. It is expected the memorial services will be the largest attended of any held heretofore in the Sewickley valley.

A Recent Gift: The Lieutenant Tingle Woods Culbertson Collection

The Sewickley Valley Historical Society was recently presented with a series of items concerning Tingle Woods Culbertson by Culbertson's great-niece and namesake, Tingle Culbertson Barnes of Allison Park, Pennsylvania. The Culbertsons are an old Sewickley Valley family. Mr. and Mrs. John D. Culbertson lived in "Seven Gables," at the corner of Academy Avenue and Creek Drive.

The photo at right shows Lt. Tingle Woods Culbertson, left, and nephew John Dickey Culbertson III, father of the donor, right.

Tingle Culbertson served in France in 1916 as a volunteer driver for the American Field Service with the American Ambulance Corps. He was on board the *Sussex*, a French cross-channel ferry, when it was torpedoed in error by the German submarine U-29 on March 24, 1916. The damaged vessel was able to proceed to the French port of Boulogne, but there were 80 casualties, including 25 Americans. The United States protested the slaughter of innocents, and the Germans for a time scaled back submarine operations in the English Channel and the Mediterranean.

Culbertson later enlisted in the U. S. Army. He was killed by a shell on October 4, 1918, as he was leading the first platoon of Company H of the 318th Regiment up a hill called 274 in the Bois des Ogeons region near Verdun, France. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne, France.

The heart of the collection consists of two leather-bound albums, composed by the family at home, which include letters from the field, many photographs (among which are several of the *Sussex* incident), Tingle's AFS passport, his orders, clippings and maps.

