

Clarence W. McConnell, Dispatcher, Navy Vet, Dies

HACKETTSTOWN — Clarence Walton McConnell, 69-year-old part-time dispatcher at the Hackettstown Police Department and 30-year U.S. Navy veteran, died Sunday at Hackettstown Community Hospital of cardiac arrest.

Mr. McConnell, 79 Main St., suffered fractures of both legs when he was struck by a car at Main and Liberty Streets Nov. 23. He had been a patient in the local hospital since then.

Born Jan. 27, 1904, in Fredon Township, Mr. McConnell was a son of the late Sanford L. and Mary Alice Sutton McConnell. He moved to Hackettstown in 1945 from Norfolk, Va.

Retiring from the Navy in 1955 as a Chief Warrant Officer after 28 years in the Aerological Service, he received many decorations. He had been employed as a dispatcher for the local Police Department for the past six years, was a life member of the Hackettstown Rescue Squad, Blue Ridge Post of the Hackettstown American Legion and the First Presbyterian Church.

A 1924 graduate of Newton High School, Mr. McConnell enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Newark in 1925, and served continually until his retirement, when he was classified as phase officer of the Aerographer's Mate School (Class A), Naval Air Technical Training Unit at Lakehurst.

Sea duty occupied the chief for approximately 18 years, starting in 1929 as an Aerographer's Mate on the U.S.S. Langley.

He was one of the first students when the Advanced Aerographer's Mate School opened at the Naval Air Station. He graduated with the school's first class in 1933.

Outstanding in his memories were his only shipwreck in 1925 while aboard a tug in the Caribbean; the tornado which struck Anacostia while he was attending the Primary

Aerographer's Mate School; and the experience of earning the title of Shellback in 1936 on his first trip across the Equator.

His decorations included Good Conduct Medal (four awards), American Defense Medal, American Theater Campaign Medal, European Theater Campaign Medal,



CLARENCE W. McCONNELL

Asiatic Theater Campaign Medal, Phillipine Liberation Medal, Phillipine Independence Medal, Victory Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Pearl Savercool McConnell; four daughters, Mrs. Irene Lance of Tucson, Ariz. Mrs. Juanita Gibbs, Mrs. Margaret Lake Mrs. Helen Miller, all of Hackettstown; two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Hornblower of Long Valley and Miss Agnes McConnell of Succasunna; and 11 grandchildren.

Services were conducted Wednesday at the Cochran Funeral Home by the Rev. J. H. Criswell, with interment in Stillwater Cemetery.

Star-Gazette,
December 13, 1973

OBITUARY:
Clarence W. McConnell
Date of Death,
December 9, 1973