

BOUTCHER J.

Private John W. Boutcher (Regimental Number 5940), having no known last resting-place, is commemorated beneath the Caribou in Beaumont-Hamel Memorial Park.

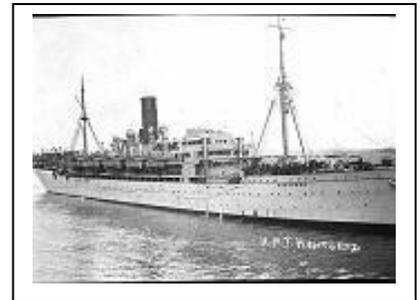
His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, John Boutcher was a recruit of the 24th Draft. He presented himself for medical examination and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on August 8, 1918* - engaged *for the duration of the war* and at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem. He attested on the same day.



**In May of that year the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription) came into effect. From May 11 through to the end of the War, the Department of Militia called a total of 1,470 men into active service.*

Having enlisted, Private Boutcher was granted home leave from August 17 until the 26th when he reported back to St. John's *to duty* with 3rd Battalion.

Almost a month after his return, on September 22, Private Boutcher was one of a draft to take the train from St. John's to Québec (his files say Halifax but – if the date of September 22 is correct - other information makes Québec almost certain – likely he travelled *via* Halifax). There the troops embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Huntsend* and sailed for the United Kingdom on the 28th.



The three troopships in the convoy were infected with influenza: about one hundred men in all would die at sea and more were to expire after having arrived in England.

(Right above: The former German ship Lützow, seized by the British in 1914 and re-named Huntsend. – from Old Ship Photos)

Private Boutcher was one of those who became sick while travelling on *Huntsend*. He reported for treatment and was admitted into the ship's hospital on October 5, having been diagnosed as suffering from pneumonia.

The son of Reuben Boutcher, fisherman, and Emma Boutcher – to whom he had allocated a daily fifty cents from his pay - of Mussel Harbour then later of nearby Mussel Harbour Arm (the name by 1921 changed to *Kingwell*), Placentia Bay, he was also brother to Henry and Sandy.

(continued)

Private Boutcher was reported as having *died of sickness* - of pneumonia - on board HMT *Huntsend* on October 9, 1918, and as subsequently *buried at sea*.

John Boutcher had enlisted at the age of twenty-four years.

Private John Boutcher was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

