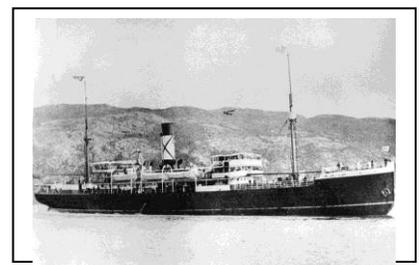




**(Private) Albert A. Brenton (Regimental Number 3874) lies buried at Ship Cove, Burin, in the Old Anglican Churchyard Cemetery.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Albert Brenton travelled to St. John's to join the Newfoundland Regiment. His records soon become contradictory: his enlistment papers document him enlisting and attesting at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury *for the duration of the war* on June 25 of 1917; yet his *War Gratuity* form and the *Medical History of an Invalid* have him doing so on November 18 of 1916, some seven months prior; a third official document has July 2 as the day of his enlistment.**

**Certain papers\* record that Private Brenton did not leave St. John's until August 4 of that year. On that day he apparently marched down to St. John's harbour and boarded the Bowring Brothers vessel, *Florizel* (right)\*. The destination was Halifax, Nova Scotia, from where the Newfoundland draft now took**



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ship – thus far un-identified: maybe *Missanabie* but this is far from certain - to cross the Atlantic to the United Kingdom.

(continued)

*\*A letter written for Private Brenton – he, like many others, was illiterate – in hospital in Halifax and dated October 15, reads:*

*About 3 months ago I left St. John's and landed at Halifax, where I was put in the Station Military Hospital...*

*This is supported by the War Gratuity papers which record him as admitted into hospital in Halifax on July 6.*

The hospital in question was the military hospital in Halifax. While one of his records cites the reason for his admission as being appendicitis, others appear to agree that it was tuberculosis – in the chest and wrist. And despite his hospitalization in Nova Scotia, some papers have him diagnosed in St. John's at the beginning of July\*, the illness a result of exposure and of having been *kicked by a horse!* Curious then, that a memo from the office of the Department of Militia in St. John's would state: *That the man was accepted as fir for Active Service is presumptive evidence that he had no Tuberculosis.*

*\*The same source claims that Private Brenton never saw overseas service. While it is true that he never travelled to France or Belgium to join the British Expeditionary Force on active service, it must be remembered that Canada at the time was foreign soil and thus Private Brenton did serve overseas, however brief that service may have been.*

Tuberculosis having been agreed upon, at the beginning of October Private Brenton was transferred from hospital in Halifax to the Nova Scotia Sanatorium in Kentville. On January 25 of the New Year, 1918, it was recommended by a Medical Board that he continue treatment for at least a further four months and that he also be discharged from service.

Private Brenton apparently remained in Nova Scotia for that period of time. What transpired later is suggested by what follows here:

*\*Excerpts from correspondence sent by the Office of the Commanding Officer of No. 6 District Depot, Hospital Section, Halifax, on August 6, 1919:*

*i)...to state that the marginally noted man is in Sanatorium here and has been since May 20, 1919...*

*ii)...I had the following wire from Halifax on May 10<sup>th</sup>: ...in hospital here long time still needs treatment but refuses remain Canada...*

*iii)...to which I replied on May 12<sup>th</sup>: Please furnish Brenton pass to Saint Johns Newfoundland and order him to report to Board of Pension Commissioners on arrival.*

Private Brenton subsequently returned to Newfoundland on an apparently unrecorded date and was eventually discharged from the by-then *Royal Newfoundland Regiment* on

**December 7 of 1918. His treatment continued, according to a letter written by his mother, at the Escasoni Hospital in St. John's.**

**(continued)**

**The son of John Brenton and Fanny Brenton – to whom he had allocated a daily fifty cents from his pay - of Burin North, he was also brother to a number of brothers and sisters one of whom, Richard, was to serve in the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve.**

**Albert A. Brenton was reported as having died in the Escasoni Hospital on December 9 of 1919. He had enlisted at the declared age of eighteen years and eight months: date of birth, September 4, 1899.**

**Private Albert A. Brenton was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.**

