



Private Lewis Brinson (also *Seviour*) (Regimental Number 5389), is interred in the Church of England Cemetery in the Change Islands, District of Fogo, Newfoundland.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Lewis Brinson presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on May 23*, 1918, before also enlisting – engaged *for the duration of the war* at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – and attesting on that same day. It seems not to be documented as to whether he was granted a period of leave at home – as many were – before being required to report *to duty* back in St. John's when ordered to do so at a later date.

****This was the month during which 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.***

On July 18, Private Brinson was admitted into the Barracks Hospital in St. John's, being transferred six days later, on the 24th, to the General Hospital where, on July 30, he was deemed to be *dangerously ill*.

(continued)

Telegraph from Change Islands to... *Lieut. Col. W F Rendell - Is no 5389 Pte Lewis Brinson better if dies please have body sent home. George Brinson*

The son of George Brinson, fisherman, and of Dorcas Brinson - to whom he had allotted a daily fifty cents from his pay - of Granpher's Cove, Change Islands, he was also brother to John, Lucy, Edlam, Stewart, Elizabeth, Dorman and Rhona.

Private Brinson was reported as having *died of sickness* - meningitis - in hospital at seven o'clock in the evening of the same July 30, 1918.

Medical report: *Has been dangerously ill since admission, did not respond to treatment getting gradually worse never regaining consciousness. Died 7 p.m. July 30th.*

His remains were embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. Oke, the undertaker, and, on the morning of August 1, a funeral cortege escorted Private Brinson to the railway station in St. John's. His body left on the day's express train to begin the journey home.

Lewis Brinson had enlisted at the age of twenty-two years.

W F Rendell
St. John's

Change Islands
Jan 13th 1919

Dear Sir

Your letter came to my hand which was dated January 3rd saying you wanted to no the particulars of my sons grave. Will he was a Church of England member therefore we had him buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Change Islands. There is no headstone put there not yet if you want to no more particulars please write again

Yrs truly
George Brinson