

Private George Brown (Regimental Number 5931) is interred in Bodelwyddan (St. Margaret's) Churchyard in north Wales – Grave reference 462.

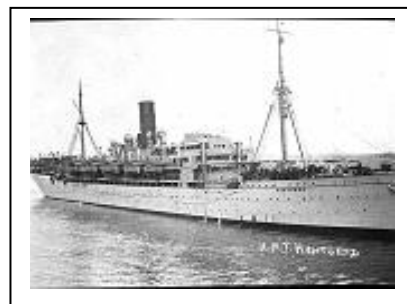
His occupations prior to military service recorded as those of both *fisherman* and *teacher*, George Brown was a recruit of the 24th Draft. He presented himself for medical examination and was *taken on strength* at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on August 8, 1918* - engaged *for the 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 Brown was granted home leave from August 17 until the 26th day of the same month when he reported back to St. John's *to duty* with the 3rd Battalion.

Almost a month after his return from leave, on September 22, Private Brown 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 in the port at Québec City the troops embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Huntsend*, the vessel then having sailed for the United Kingdom on September 26 with some six-hundred fifty military personnel on board.

However, by the time the vessel sailed, fifteen of these had already admitted into the ship's sick bay. 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: *The former German ship Lützow, seized by the British in 1914 and re-named Huntsend. – from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site*)

Private Brown was not one of those who died or became sick while travelling on *Huntsend* but it was only a few days after having been attached to 'E' Company at *Hazely Down Camp* near the cathedral city of Winchester*, on October 21, that - at first having been recommended for repatriation - he was evacuated to Kinnell Park Military Hospital in Flintshire, North Wales, suffering from influenza and pneumonia.



On the 23rd his condition was considered as *dangerous*; on November 1, as *grave*.

(Right above: *A bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp some months before Private Brown's arrival, at some time during the winter of 1917-1918 – from The War Illustrated*)

The son of William Henry Brown (possibly he who drowned in January of 1904) and of Hannah Maria (also found as *Mariah*) Brown – to whom as of September 1, 1918, he had allotted a daily fifty cents from his pay - of Tack's Beach, Placentia Bay, he was also brother to Ephrim, Violet and John.



Private Brown was reported to have *died of sickness – of pneumonia and cardiac failure* - in Kinnell Park Military Hospital on November 2, 1918. A telegram was sent on November 4 to the...*Church of England Minister or School teacher, Tack's Beach...*requesting that that person notify Private Brown's next of kin.

He was buried on November 6, 1918.

George Brown had enlisted at the age of nineteen years.

Private George Brown was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

**2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment had been transferred to Hazely Down, near Winchester, from the previous Regimental Depot at Ayr (Scotland) in late January of 1918.*

