



Private John Butler (Regimental Number 5811) lies in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery – Grave reference C. 4181.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, John Butler 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 July 18, 1918* - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem. He attested on the same day.

From August 17 he was granted home leave for four days, the cost to the Department of Militia for the round trip by boat being four dollars.

****In May of that year the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscriptio) 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.***

(continued)

On September 22, Private Butler 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 – maybe he travelled *via* Halifax).

In Québec 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*)



Upon arrival in Devonport, Private Butler was not alone in being evacuated to the Military Hospital. There he was diagnosed as suffering from influenza and pneumonia. ...*admitted cyanopsia* (looking bluish) *almost moribund, chest full of secretia but unable to expectorate* (cough). *Cardiac condition grave & did not react to usual stimulants...*

The son of Mathew Butler, fisherman, and Martha Butler – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay – of Bauline in the District of St. John's East, he was also brother to sister Mamie and likely also to Charles.



Private Butler was reported as having *died of sickness - of pneumonia - at hospital in Devonport on October 14, 1918, and was buried in nearby Plymouth.*

John Butler had enlisted at the age of twenty-five years.

(Right above: *A family memorial commemorating the sacrifice of Private Butler stands in the churchyard in Bauline. – photograph from 2010*)

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

