

**(A photograph of the grave of Private Caines is as yet unavailable.)**

**Private John Snook Caines (Regimental Number 4974) lies in the Church of England Cemetery, at Pussthrough on the South Coast of Newfoundland.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, John Snook Caines presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury*\* in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on May 9 of 1918. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

***\*The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

**(continued)**

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, May 9, while at the same venue, that John Snook Caines would enlist. He was thus engaged...*for the duration of the war\**...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.

*\*At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.*

Only some few hours were now to follow before there subsequently came to pass, while still at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On the same ninth day of that month of May he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, John Snook Caines became...*a soldier of the King.*

Only nine days after his enlistment, on May 18, Private Caines, Number 4974, was admitted into the *Barracks Hospital* in St John's, reportedly suffering from a cold. Discharged...*to light duty*...on May 27, he was to be re-admitted only four days afterwards, on the last day of the month, with the same complaint. On June 1 he was forwarded on to the nearby General Hospital, at first to be diagnosed as with pneumonia but soon afterwards as with measles as well.

The son of John Caines (often found as *Cains*), fisherman, and of Sarah Caines (née *Durnford\**) of Great Jervois on Newfoundland's south coast, he was also brother to Abraham-George, to Amelia-Ann, perhaps to Alexander-M., and, through adoption, to Sarah-Wilmott.

*\*The couple was married in the Fortune Bay community of Hermitage (formerly Hermitage Cove) on September 19, 1885 (from the WikiTree web-site - as is some of the accompanying family information).*

Private Caines was reported as having...*died of sickness*...– measles complicated by pneumonia - in the General Hospital in St. John's on June 5, 1916. His body, prepared and coffined by J.C. Oke, undertaker, was sent home by train (from St. John's on June 11, 1918) and then by ship, the Commonwealth Graves Headstone arriving by sea from the United Kingdom at a later date\*.

John Snook Caines had enlisted at the *declared* age of eighteen years: date of birth at Great Jarvis (the name is spelled variously), May 14, 1897 (from a copy of Newfoundland Vital Statistics, but also found as May 14, 1898 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

*\*The remaining half-barrel of cement, left over after construction of his grave in Pushthrough, was sold and the money returned to the Department of Militia in St. John's.*



**(Preceding page: *The sacrifice of Private Caines is honoured on the Screen Wall in the Military Plot, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's.* – photograph from 2011)**

**The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to [criceadam@yahoo.ca](mailto:criceadam@yahoo.ca). Last updated – January 31, 2023.**