



Private Michael Dober (Regimental Number 6059) is interred in Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. John's, in the Naval and Military Plot.

His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Michael Dober presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury\**, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on August 19, 1918. It was a procedure which would find him...*Fit for Foreign Service.*

(continued)

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

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, August 19, and at the same venue, that Michael Dober was now to be enlisted. He was 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 a further few hours were then to go by before there came to pass, while still at the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same nineteenth day of that August\* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Michael Dober became...*a soldier of the King.*

***\*It had been two months prior to this that the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription had come into effect. From May 11 through to the end of the Great War, the Department of Militia was to call a total of 1,470 men into active service. No evidence found among his documents suggests that Michael Dober was or was not one of those to be conscripted.***

Many of the recruits during this period are recorded as having been granted several days of a final furlough before departure for *overseas service*. Private Dober, Number 6059, was apparently not to be one of those to receive these several days of leave, his records showing nothing but vaccination dates for most of the month of September. Private Dober, after enlistment, was thus surely then to report to his quarters in St. John's\*\*, these likely in the *Prince's Skating Rink* in the eastern end of the city, there to undergo several weeks of training.

***(Right: This photograph of the Prince's Rink in St. John's with military personnel, apparently attired in uniforms of Great War vintage, on parade is from the Ice Hockey Wiki web-site. There appears to be no further information a propos.)***



On September 23, Private Dober was ordered to Port aux Basques on...*special duty*. The date of his return has not been recorded, but his stay at the other end of Newfoundland was not to be of a long duration. By October 5 he had returned to St. John's to be admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in the capital city to be diagnosed as suffering from 'flu and from the often-accompanying bronchial pneumonia.

By October 10 he was being considered by the medical staff as...dangerously ill.

The son of George Dober, fisherman, and of Susannah Dober (née *Kelly*\*)– to whom he had allotted a daily fifty cents from his pay - of Beaubois, Burin - his own place of residence recorded as being the community of Mobile\*\*, District of Burin – he was brother to at least Daniel and to Mary-Joseph.

*\*The couple had married in the community of Burin on February 11, 1893.*

Private Dober was reported as having...*died of sickness...of pneumonia after influenza...*at the above-named hospital in St. John's at twenty-five minutes past eight on the evening of October 12, 1918.

*\*\*This community appears no longer to exist although it was surely in the area of Marystown and Beau Bois.*



His remains were placed in a coffin which was thereupon sealed by Mr. J. C. Oke, undertaker. The casket, by order of the health authorities, was subsequently buried, on October 16, in St. John's\*.

*\*Although there exists more than a suggestion that it had been expected – indeed requested – that it be shipped to his home.*

Michael Bernard Dober had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-five years: date of birth in Beau Bois, Newfoundland, January 25, 1895 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register, as is the name *Bernard*).

The photograph of Private Dober is from St. Gabriel's Hall, Marystown – with thanks.

