



***Thus far a photograph of Private Dober's grave in Channel is not available. The memorial stone to him pictured above is to be found in the cemetery at Spanish Room on the Burin Peninsula.***

**Private Peter Dober (Regimental Number 6066) is interred in Channel Roman Catholic Cemetery in the District of Burgeo.**

**His occupation prior to enlistment recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Peter Dober presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury\**, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on August 20, 1918. It was a procedure which found him...*Fit for Foreign Service.***

***\*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 20, and at the same venue, that Peter 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 twentieth day of that August\* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Peter Dober officially entered the service of the King.

***\*It had been three 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 Peter Dober was or was not one of those to be conscripted.***

Following enlistment it is likely that Private Dober, Number 6066, reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established by that time in the *Prince's Skating Rink* in the eastern end of the city – although any information a propos the arrangement of the barracks appears almost impossible to obtain.

***(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.)***



It is recorded that some two weeks following his attestation Private Dober was to be granted a period of leave from September 4 until 14 although he did not return...*to duty*...- he likely had to travel by ship – until September 23. There were apparently no further consequences because of this delay.

(continued)

On that same September 23, Private Dober was ordered sent to Port aux Basques on...*special duty*. Three weeks later while still on duty there, on or about October 15, he was taken sick and diagnosed as suffering from influenza.

The son of Joseph Dober, fisherman, and of Elizabeth Dober (née *Green?*) (of Spanish Room until at least 1904 and latterly – at least his father Joseph – and temporarily, of Harbour Island, Placentia), he was also nephew to Daniel Dober and Hannah Dober – to whom he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay - of Spanish Room, Burin. As well, he was brother to John-Joseph, to Mary-Amelia and to Honorah, the latter to whom he willed his personal effects\*, and also perhaps to Anne.

Private Dober was reported as having...*died of sickness...of pneumonia...– at half-past four o'clock in the afternoon of October 25, 1918.*

His remains were placed in a coffin – it having been sent to Port aux Basques on the ship *Glencoe* from North Sydney – which was sealed and buried in Channel by order of the health authorities. The grave itself was constructed by a Mr. William Sheaves at a cost of twelve dollars, this sum being paid by the *Daughters of the Empire*.

Private Dober was buried with military honours on October 26 at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon.

Peter Dober had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-three years: date of birth in Spanish Room, Newfoundland, May 10, 1896 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

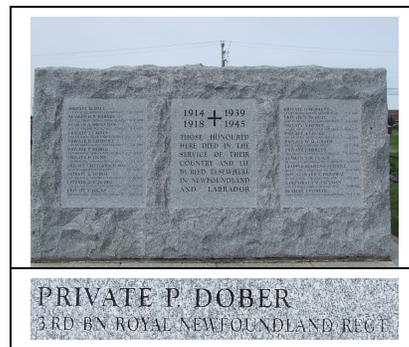
*\*In fact his clothes were all destroyed by the authorities, such was the fear of Infection.*

*The Commonwealth War Graves headstone was sent from St. John's to Port aux Basques by rail on July 14, 1923.*

(Right above: *The sacrifice of Private Peter Dober is honoured on the Screen Wall in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's – photograph from 1911*)

(Right: *The War Memorial in the community of Marystown also commemorates Private Peter Dober with honour' – photograph from 2015 (with thanks to Cyril Bennett)*

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Spanish Room PB

Nfld

September 6<sup>th</sup> 1921

His Majesty Geo V R. I.

Your Majesty:

Again I wish to express my thanks by a personal letter for the memorial plaque received a few days ago.

I must say it is a consolation to us to receive from time to time kind messages and memorials of our dear nephew and it shows that our King honours and appreciates the services rendered by those who fell in a good cause.

Respectfully yours

Daniel Dober

**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 30, 2023.**

