

(As yet a photograph of Private Fudge's grave is not available.)

Private Charles (known as Charlie) Fudge (Regimental Number 5367), is buried in Burnt Islands Anglican Cemetery in the Parish of Rose Blanche, District of Burgeo - La Poile, Newfoundland.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Charles Fudge, on May 22 of 1918, presented himself for service with the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve. However, the Fleet Surgeon, a Doctor Bannister attached HMS *Briton* (formerly HMS *Calypso*), rejected him because of his defective vision and suggested that he attempt to...*try the Army*.



(Right above: *HMS Calypso*, a *third-class cruiser of the Royal Navy built in 1883*, was sent to Newfoundland in 1902 to become the training ship for the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve and was to serve as such in St. John's Harbour until the end of the Great War. She then passed through the hands of a number of private owners and today lies broken in the waters off the Notre Dame Bay community of Embree. – The photograph is from the Provincial Archives.)

Charles Fudge thus presented himself for medical examination on the morrow, May 23 of 1916 at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury\** in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. It was a procedure which, on this second occasion, would pronounce him as being...*Fit for Foreign Service*.

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

It was on the day of that medical assessment, May 23, and at the same venue, that Charles Fudge 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.*

A further several hours were then to go by before there came to pass, again at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same twenty-third day of May\* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Charles Fudge became...*a soldier of the King*.

*\*This was the month during which 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. However, nothing amongst his papers appears to suggest under which circumstances – as a volunteer or a conscripted man – Charles Fudge was to be taken into service.*

Following his enlistment it is likely that Private Fudge reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established since 1915 in the St. John's curling rink and the Prince's Skating Rink in the eastern end of the city.

(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.*)



Only some two weeks following his attestation Private Fudge, Number 5367, would be admitted into the Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases in St. John's on June 4 where he was thereupon diagnosed as suffering from measles. On June 10 his condition was considered by the medical staff to be...*dangerous*.

The son of George Fudge, fisherman, deceased perhaps as early as 1898, and of Elizabeth (Betty) Fudge of Burnt Islands, he was also brother to George-Matthew (born prior to April 2, 1880), William-Thomas, Jeremiah, Martha-Jane, Philip-Jacob, John and George-William.

*\*There appears to be little in the available documentation to confirm much of the above information.*

However, it seems that he spent his youth – from age seven to nineteen - in the care of Mrs. Edith Keeping (husband John, a fisherman), also of Burnt Islands, until the time that he enlisted.

Private Fudge was reported as having...*died of sickness...in hospital in the capital city on June 11, 1918, a victim...of pneumonia as a consequence of measles.*

His remains were embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. Oke, undertaker, and a funeral cortege accompanied him to the railway station in St. John's early on the morning of Wednesday, June 12. The half-past seven train bore him to Placentia from where the SS *Fogota* took him home to his last resting-place\*\*.

Charles Fudge had enlisted at the *declared* age of nineteen years. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive.

*\*\*The Commonwealth Graves headstone was shipped to Burnt Islands on September 25, 1923.*

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

