

(a photograph of Private Fudge's grave is not as yet Available)

Private Charles Fudge (Regimental Number 5367), is interred in Burnt Islands Anglican Cemetery in the District of Burgeo and La Poile, Newfoundland.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Charles Fudge presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on May 23*, 1918. He then also enlisted – engaged *for the duration of the war* at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 – and attested on that same day.

On the day prior, May 22, he had apparently attempted to join the Newfoundland Royal Naval Reserve but had been rejected because of his defective vision.

****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.***

(continued)

Private Fudge was admitted into the Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases in St. John's of June 4 where he was diagnosed as suffering from measles. On June 10 his condition was considered to be *dangerous*.

The son of George Fudge, fisherman, deceased perhaps as early as 1898, and Elizabeth (*Betty*) Fudge of Burnt Islands, he was also brother to Jacob, John and George. 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 was conscripted*.

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 embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. Oke, the undertaker, 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 for burial**.

Charles Fudge had enlisted at the age of nineteen years.

**There is little confirming information about this period in the documentation.*

***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*)

