

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

Private George Thomas Fudge (Regimental Number 4323) lies buried in Muddy Hole Church of England Cemetery, Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *sailor* earning a monthly thirty dollars, George Fudge was likely a volunteer of the Nineteenth Recruitment Draft. He presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury* in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on January 22, 1918. It was a procedure which was not to pronounce him as entirely...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

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

*****George Fudge had undertaken a previous examination on November 27 of 1917. It reported that he had recently and regularly been spitting blood and that he had been suffering from a...'pain in stomach when working hard'. He had thus been ordered to return to Headquarters and there to report on January 18 – this was surely delayed to the above-noted January 22. He was then to submit to a sequence of tests and to...'report to sick parade every second day'.***

It was to be on the day of that second medical assessment, that of January 22, while at the same venue, that George Fudge 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 twenty-second day of that month of January he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, George Fudge became...*a soldier of the King**.

There appears to be no further note of any proceedings *a propos* Private Fudge for over three months. By this time his fellow recruits had travelled overseas and were in training as soldiers of the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at *Hazely Down Camp* in the southern English county of Hampshire.

In the meantime, Private Fudge, Number4323, had remained in Newfoundland.

Private Fudge was admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in St. John's on May 3, 1918, suffering from pneumonia – the diagnosis being later amended to include tuberculosis. On May 22, almost three weeks later, he was transferred to the *Jensen Camp** on Blackmarsh Road.

**The Camp was a predecessor of the Sanatorium which was soon afterwards to be built outside the city on Topsail Road.*

The son of John Thomas(?) Fudge, fisherman, and of Annie Fudge (née *Simms**) – to whom, as of June 6 – he had allotted a daily sixty cents from his pay – of Muddy Hole**, Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland, he was also brother to Minnie, Thomas, John, Mary and (through adoption) Carrie.

**The couple had married in the community of Muddy Hole on September 2, of 1891(?).*

***Apparently in the District of Fortune Bay at the time, although later in that of Burgeo-La Poile.*

Private Fudge was reported as having...*died of sickness*...– tuberculosis - at the *Jensen Camp* on June 22.



On June 24, two days later, the coffin carrying Private Fudge's remains began its journey to home via Placentia by train and by ship, the *SS Fogota*. On a later date – on or about November 20, 1925 - it was the Bowring Brothers' vessel *Portia** which carried the Commonwealth War Graves headstone to Muddy Hole.

George Thomas Fudge had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-one years and one month: date of birth in Muddy Hole, Newfoundland, December 8, 1895 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

(Preceding page: *There were two Portias: this is surely a picture of the second, the one used to transport Private Fudge's headstone.* – from the Newfoundland Archives)

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

(Right below: *The photograph of Private Fudge is from a website entitled... A Soldier who never left the island*)



Muddy Hole
June 8th 1925

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you with the greatest of pleasure saying about the Headstone and the concrete you mentioned to me a time ago about the grave of Pte. George Fudge No. 4323 who laid down his life for King and country and as we havnt received it yet we should like and get it for to put on his grave if we could; and we should also like to get some of them Bulb flowers you sent us before as they all dyed away

Yours truly

John Fudge

Muddy Hole

Via Pushthrough

Htge Bay

