



Private William Ginn (Regimental Number 5912) lies in Plymouth (Efford) Cemetery – Grave reference C. 4809.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, William Ginn was a recruit of the 24th Draft. He presented himself for medical examination and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on August 5, 1918* - engaged *for the duration of the war* and at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem. He attested on the same day.

**In May of that year the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscriptio) 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.*

Having enlisted, Private Ginn was granted home leave from August 17 until the 26th when he reported back to St. John's *to duty* with 3rd Battalion.

(continued)

Almost a month after his return, on September 22, Private Hynes was one of a draft to take the train from St. John's to Québec (his files say Halifax but – if the date of September 22 is correct - other information makes Québec almost certain – he likely travelled *via* Halifax). There the troops embarked onto His Majesty's Transport *Huntsend* and sailed for the United Kingdom on the 28th.



The three troopships in the convoy were infected with influenza: about one hundred men in all would die at sea and more were to expire after having arrived in England.

(Right above: *The former German ship Lützow, seized by the British in 1914 and re-named Huntsend. – from Old Ship Photos*)

Private Ginn was evacuated from *Huntsend* upon its arrival in Devonport on October 11, and was admitted into the Military Hospital in Devonport, suffering from influenza and pneumonia. He was ...*admitted unconscious, dangerously ill – unable to expectorate (cough) – did not react to stimulants – did not regain consciousness – arrived lousy and sores about mouth...* (medical report)

The son of William Ginn and Sarah Ginn (née *Cull*) of Comfort Cove in the District of Twillingate, he was also youngest brother to Johanna (married *White*); Lucy-Anne; Alfred-J.; James-G.; and possibly two other brothers.

Private Ginn was reported as having *died of sickness* - of pneumonia - at hospital in Devonport on October 12, 1918, the day after his landing, and was buried in nearby Plymouth.

William Ginn had enlisted at the age of twenty-one years.

Private William Ginn was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

