



**Sapper Philip Grandy (Number 133) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signal Company (*Canadian Engineers*), Canadian Expeditionary Force, is buried in the Old Anglican Cemetery, Bay l'Argent, Newfoundland.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a telegraph operator, Philip Grandy has left behind him no apparent details of his departure from the Dominion of Newfoundland to the city of Toronto in the Canadian province of Ontario.**

It was there in Toronto that he presented himself for medical examination and attestation on May 5, 1915, having possibly enlisted on the same date – but this requires confirmation. On the same May 5, Sapper Grandy was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signal Company (*Canadian Engineers*), having then been... *finally approved and inspected* by the officer commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Signal Company who also declared himself to be... *satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation*.

It was only nine days after this that Sapper Grandy – in the company of the nine officers and three-hundred twelve other *other ranks* of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signal Company - boarded His Majesty's Transport *Megantic*\*, on May 14, 1915, for overseas service in the United Kingdom. His unit was not to cross the Atlantic alone: also on the ship were the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Canadian Infantry, the Ammunition Park of the Army Service Corps, and General Sam Steele\*\*, accompanied by his staff.



(Right above: *The photograph of Megantic is from the Old Ship Picture Galleries web-site.*)

*\*On August 20, three months afterwards, Megantic was to sail from England carrying the Newfoundland Regiment to Egypt from where it would later be transferred to Gallipoli.*

*\*\*At sixty-three years of age (other sources appear to differ about his age), Sir Samuel Benfield Steele was considered to be too old for command and when he was given the helm of the newly-formed Canadian 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, many protested. He was allowed to accompany the Division to England, but relinquished his command in August of that year, before the formation went on 'active service' to the Continent.*

*Megantic* docked in the English south-coast naval port of Plymouth-Devonport on May 24, ten days after sailing from Montreal, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signal Company being transported by train from there to the fledgling Canadian military establishment of *Shorncliffe* in the county of Kent. By the first day of June the 2<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Signal Company was doing what training it could – some of its common *infantry* exercises – while it awaited the arrival of much of its equipment from Canada.

In the meantime, Sapper Grandy had been admitted into hospital.

The following are excerpts from a Medical Case Sheet dated October 11, 1915: *May 20/15 pain in right side, admitted to Moore Barracks (Hospital) 27/5 with pleurisy and effusion – not tapped – was also complaining of coughs with yellow expectoration. Had been losing weight for 6 weeks previously. Moved to Bevan Hospital June 5 & to Convalescent Home on June 25. Returned to VAD on Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>.*



(Right above: *Bevan Military Hospital, Sandgate, at or about the time of the Great War – from bing.com/images web-site*)

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(Right: *The upper portion of Shorncliffe Military Cemetery at Sandgate and looking southward down the coast – photograph from 2016*)



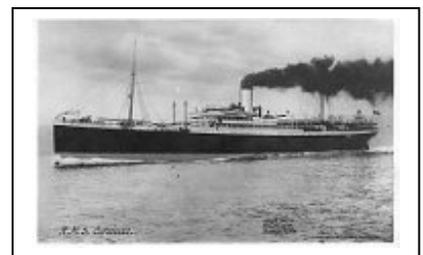
*Now complains of shortage of breath and slight expectoration – no night sweats, no hæmoptysis (coughing up of blood)... TB found in sputum... (Excerpt from a medical report)*

It was in a series of medical facilities that Sapper Grandy found himself spending the summer and early autumn of 1915: in a convalescent establishment May 26 to June 5; in *Bevan Military Hospital* June 5 to 25; in *Church House Convalescent Hospital* in Beckley, Sussex, June 26 to August 13; in *Shorncliffe Military Hospital* – the diagnosis by now confirmed as Pulmonary Tuberculosis – August 13 to 26; in *Pinewood Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) Sanatorium* at Wokingham\* from August 26 until September 27 – the last two weeks of which were spent in a convalescent home; and on September 27, again in *Shorncliffe Military Hospital* to where he had returned, seemingly to remain until his repatriation to Canada.

*\*If the correct Pinewood Sanatorium has been identified, this name was apparently adopted only as of 1919; it was known as the London Open Air Sanatorium at the time of the Great War.*

On October 18 he was... *Discharged (from active service)... Being found no longer physically fit for War Service.* Then, on November 20, 1915, it was recommended... 1) *...that this man be Invalided to Canada for Medical Attention and the final disposition of his case.* 2) *That he be given special treatment in a sanatorium.*

By then *struck off strength*, Sapper Grandy, two days prior, on November 18, had begun his homeward journey to Canada. A single paper in his records shows him travelling on His Majesty's Transport *Corsican* from November 19 to 29. The port of his embarkation is not recorded\*; however, he likely landed in Halifax as he is documented as having been paid in November of 1915 by the Discharge Depot at Halifax.



*\*And there is no mention of this voyage in other sources.*

But while he apparently passed through its Discharge Depot, it was not in Halifax that Sapper Grandy was released by Canadian Army. A further document cites... *Discharged Med. Unfit at Quebec* – and his signature is on a paper signed in Quebec and dated July 23, 1916.

(Right above: *The photograph of Corsican is from the Old Ship Photo Galleries web-site.*)

But, in the meantime, Sapper Grandy had already spent time in Lake Edward Sanatorium in the province of Québec.

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There he had been admitted during that January of 1916, possibly on the 8<sup>th</sup> from an unidentified – but *recommended*, so his papers say - convalescent home, to be transferred elsewhere on the 27<sup>th</sup> – perhaps to Prince Edward Island?

His address recorded at the time of his discharge at Québec was the *Sir Charles Dalton Sanatorium in North Wiltshire, Prince Edward Island*, but there is also notification of a change of address to *Bay l'Argent, Newfoundland*. However, there appears to be no other documentation among his papers which confirms that Philip Grandy now spent a year at home in Newfoundland - but, then again, there is nothing to suggest that he did not.

More than a year after his discharge at Québec, in July of 1916, he once more became the responsibility of the Canadian Army; in fact it was some fourteen months later when he was attached to 'B' Unit MHCC\* on September 26, 1917. Was it because he was once again in need of medical attention? And if so, was he subsequently admitted into *Calydor Sanatorium* (opened in 1916 and thus named *New Sanatorium* in his papers, see \*\* below) in Gravenhurst, Ontario?

If so, this may be where he spent the remainder of his days.

*\*Military Hospitals Commission of Canada*

**\*\*On a document naming his father as next-of-kin is written: *Also notify Miss Winnie Gillerlain, New Sanatorium, Gravenhurst, Ontario... and... has been re-attached in C.E.F. from 26/9/17 in M.H.C.C.***

The son of Thomas Grandy, fisherman, and of Matilda Grandy of Bay l'Argent, Newfoundland, he was also likely brother to at least Blanche. Sapper Philip Grandy is recorded as having died – surely of tuberculosis - on April 9, 1918.

Philip Grandy had enlisted at the apparent age of twenty-one years: date of birth at Bay l'Argent, Newfoundland, June 26, 1893.

Sapper Philip Grandy was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

