



Private Phillip Seymour Hicks (Regimental Number 5426) lies in Merritt's Harbour United Church (Old) Cemetery, New World Island, Newfoundland.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman – and a member of the *Loyal Orange Association* - Phillip Hicks presented himself for medical examination and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on May 24, 1918* - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem. He attested on the same day.

****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.***

Only seventeen days after his enlistment, on June 10, Private Hicks was admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in St. John's, there to be diagnosed as suffering from measles.

(continued)

The son of William Hicks and Elizabeth Hicks of Merritt's Harbour, he was reported as having *died of sickness* – pneumonia following measles – in hospital on June 18, 1918. His remains embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. Oke, undertaker, Private Hicks was escorted by a funeral cortege to the railway station on Sunday, June 23, from where he began his final journey.



It was on board the vessel *Clyde* (shown right – from *Wikipedia*) sailing from Lewisporte, that he arrived home.



Phillip Hicks had enlisted at the age of eighteen years and ten months.

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



Note: *If it had not been for the gentleman – whose name I unfortunately do not know – who, when we asked of the whereabouts of this cemetery, took it upon himself to walk over hill and dale for a half-hour with us to find it, we might well still be looking. Thank you, sir.*