



**Private Eliol (*Elias* in a second source) Hobbs (Regimental Number 5413) is interred in the Church of England Cemetery in Red Cliff (Redcliffe), Bonavista Bay.**

**His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Eliol Hobbs travelled to St. John's from Princeton by train – in First Class - on May 21, 1918\*. The fare, paid for by the Department of Militia, was one dollar sixty-five cents. He then presented himself for medical examination at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury on May 24, 1918 – a process which revealed his swollen tonsils and a history of pneumonia.**

**Nonetheless, he then enlisted – engaged *for the duration of the war* at the daily private soldier's rate of \$1.10 - and attested on that same day.**

**(continued)**

It seems not to be documented as to whether he was granted a period of leave at home – as many were - before being required to report *to duty* back in St. John’s when ordered to do so at a later date.

*\*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.*

On June 11, Private Hobbs was admitted into the Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases where he was diagnosed as suffering from measles, and on the following day was reported by Dr. Burden as being *seriously ill*.

On June 21, that evaluation was amended to that of *dangerously ill*.

The son of Thomas Hobbs, fisherman, and of Caroline Hobbs of Redcliffe, Bonavista Bay, Private Hobbs was reported as having *died of sickness* in hospital St. John’s - of *pneumonia following measles* - on the morning of June 22, 1918.

The remains of Private Hobbs were embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. Oke, the undertaker, and on the following day, Sunday, June 23, they travelled by the daily express train from St. John’s to Princeton. His watch and chain were returned to his father.

Eliol Hobbs had enlisted at nineteen years of age.

*Private Hobbs’ Commonwealth War Graves headstone was shipped via Port Union on August 8, 1923, on the SS Malakoff.*

(Right: *The sacrifice of Private Hobbs is honoured on the Summerville War Memorial. – photograph from 2011*)

