



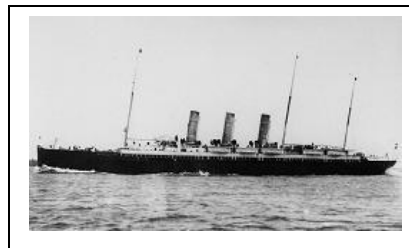
Private John Hobbs (Regimental Number 5415) lies in Magdalen Hill Cemetery, Winchester – Grave reference Newfoundland Plot 9.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, John 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 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 daily 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.***

(continued)

Private Hobbs embarked for the passage to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 22. The Bowring Brothers' Vessel *Florizel* having been wrecked in a winter storm in February of that year, it was on HMS *Columbella* (right), an armed merchant cruiser, that the detachment of six officers, five-hundred sixty-five men and a civilian doctor sailed, weighing anchor in St. John's harbour at a quarter to five in the morning of the 23rd.



Reaching Halifax at about half-past ten in the following morning, one officer, one hundred men and the doctor disembarked. The others remained on board in Halifax harbour and sailed for England on the 27th as one of a ten-ship convoy.

Columbella docked at Tilbury on the River Thames, London, on August 8.

In the New Year of 1918, 2nd (Reserve) Battalion had moved quarters from the Royal Borough of Ayr in Scotland to southern England, to Hazely Down, Hampshire, not far distant from the cathedral city of Winchester. This transfer had been finalized during the latter part of January, 1918, and it was to there that Private Hobbs reported upon arrival in England some eight months later.



(Right above: a bleak-looking Hazely Down Camp at some time during the winter of 1918 – from *The War Illustrated*)

Some three months later again, on November 25, Private Hobbs was reported as being in Hazely Down Camp Hospital, there diagnosed as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. On the following day, November 26, Private Hobbs, having by then been transferred to Magdalen Camp Hospital, was deemed to be *seriously ill*.

The son of Henry Hobbs, fisherman, and Rosina Hobbs (née *Butt* of Open Hall) of Red Cliff (*Redcliffe* in the CWGC records), Bonavista Bay, he was brother to at least Elizabeth, to Hubert and to Ethel-Jane.

Private Hobbs was reported as having passed away from pneumonia in hospital in Winchester on December 2, 1918. He was buried three days later, on December 5, with full military honours.

John Hobbs had enlisted at the age of nineteen years.

(Right above: *The sacrifice of Private Hobbs in honoured on the Summerville War Memorial.* – photograph from 2012)

(Right: *The sacrifice of Private Hobbs is also honoured on this plinth erected to his memory by his parents in St. Michael's Churchyard, Red Cliff.* – photograph from 2011)



Private John Hobbs was entitled to the British War Medal for his overseas service.

