



Private Samuel Hoddinott (Regimental Number 5595) is buried in the General Protestant Cemetery in St. John's, in the Naval and Military Plot.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Samuel Hoddinott presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on June 3 of 1918. It was a procedure which found him...*Fit for Foreign Service.***

****The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, May 27, at the same venue, Samuel Hoddinott was now to be enlisted. He was engaged...*for the duration of the war**...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.

****At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.***

Only a further few hours were then to go by before there came to pass, while still at the **CLB Armoury** on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same third day of June* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Samuel Hoddinott became...*a soldier of the King.*

****It had been during the month prior to this that the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription) had come 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. However, nothing amongst his papers appears to suggest under which circumstances – as a volunteer or a conscripted man – Samuel Hoddinott had been taken into service.***

Whereas many of the recruits during this period were to be granted several days of home leave, Private Hoddinott, Number 5595, has left no evidence among his papers that he had been one of them. But given the rapidity of the events that followed, it is perhaps highly unlikely that a furlough ever came to pass. Therefore he may well have remained in St. John's.

Following his enlistment it is likely that Private Hoddinott reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established since 1915 in the St. John's curling rink and the Prince's Skating Rink in the eastern end of the city.

(Right: This photograph of the Prince's Rink in St. John's with military personnel, apparently attired in uniforms of Great War vintage, on parade is from the Ice Hockey Wiki web-site. There appears to be no further information a propos.)



On June 14, less than two weeks after his enlistment, Private Hoddinott would be admitted into the General Hospital in St. John's and diagnosed as suffering from pleurisy, 'flu and

bronchitis. Apparently, as of June 17, for four days he was being considered as *improved* until – Alas! - on June 21 his mother was informed that...*your son...is not so well.*

He was transferred to the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* on the 22nd, eight days after his first admission, measles and pneumonia having by then been appended to his condition. There, on June 26, he was deemed to be...*seriously ill.*

By July 1, the situation had become even more serious: *Developed cellulitis (deep skin infection) of neck, arms & leg, considerable œdema (retention of fluids) of throat.* On the following day, that of his eventual death, he was being considered by that time as...*dangerously ill.*

The son of (Henry?) Samuel Hoddinott, fisherman, and of Mary Ann Hoddinott (née *Tuck* but Tulk also suggested*) of Indian Islands, Fogo, he was also brother Helen-May and to William-James**.

**The couple had been married on the Indian Islands on December 3, 1894.*

Private Hoddinott was reported as having...*died of sickness...measles and septicæmia**...-* in the *Military Hospital* in St. John's on that July 2, 1918.

***If this is so, he was brother perhaps as well to Walter, Susannah, Tilly, Edward, Florence and Lewis – but this is tentative.*

Due to the infectious nature of the disease(s) involved, Mr. J. C. Oke, the undertaker, was asked to seal his coffin and to prepare it for burial as soon as possible as the remains of Private Hoddinott were not to be returned to his home and family.

He was buried on July 4, two days after his death.

Samuel Hoddinott had enlisted at the *declared* age of nineteen years. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive.

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to criceadam@yahoo.ca. Last updated – January 31, 2023.