

(a photograph of the grave of Private Sheppard as yet unavailable)

Private Henry Sheppard (Regimental Number 5226) is buried in the Church of England Cemetery in the community of Bishop's Cove, Conception Bay.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Henry Sheppard presented himself for medical examination at Headquarters at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on May 20, 1918*. He also enlisted - engaged *for the duration of the war* at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem – and attested on the same day.

**This was the month during which the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription by another name) came into effect. From May 11, 1918, through to the end of the War the Department of Militia called a total of 1,470 men into active service.*

Private Sheppard was granted furlough to be spent at home while awaiting orders to report to St. John's for overseas service. However, during that time, he took sick and was diagnosed as suffering from measles.

(continued)

The son of Henry Sheppard, fisherman, and Naomi Sheppard (née *Barrett*) of Bishop's Cove, he was also brother to Abram, Joseph, John and Arthur W..

Reported as having *died of sickness* on June 8, 1918, Private Sheppard was buried in Bishop's Cove on the following day.

Apparently the local Church of England clergyman, the Reverend Rusted, decided to undertake the later construction of Private Sheppard's grave according to Imperial War Grave Commission standards, as he wrote to the Department of Militia for instructions as to how to mix concrete.

The Imperial War Graves headstone was shipped to Bishop's Cove on July 3, 1923.

Henry Sheppard had enlisted at the age of eighteen years.

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



Lieutenant Col
W. F. Rendell C. B. E.
Militia Dept

Harbor Grace
June 25 - 23

Dear Sir

By Saturday's Post I received a communication from your Dept. advising me that you were about to ship a monument or stone to my address requesting me to have the matter attended to. In this matter I think there must be a mistake somewhere. The stone I understand is for a person in Bishop's Cove some eight miles beyond this town and is in the Parish of Rev. Mr. Rusted of Island Cove. He happened to be in our town just at the time I got your letter on Saturday. So I called on him at Mr. Higgott's rectory and explained my position. I gave him the letter and he promised me to see the matter would have attention and would likely be in correspondence with your Department on the matter.

Trusting this will have the proper attention in due time and with kind regards.

Yours faithfully
John Trapnell