

(a photograph of the grave of Private Simms not as yet available)

Private Ernest Simms (Regimental Number 5580) is interred in Hermitage St. Saviour's Anglican Church Cemetery.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a fisherman, Ernest Simms presented himself for medical examination and also enlisted at the Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's on June 1, 1918* - engaged *for the duration of the war* and at the private soldier's rate of \$1.10 per diem. He attested on the same day.

**In May of that year 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 a week after his enlistment, on June 8, Private Simms was admitted into the Barracks Hospital in St. John's. Two days later again, on the 10th, he was transferred from there to the General Hospital where a diagnosis of *influenza, toxæmia and bronchial pneumonia* was confirmed.

(continued)

The son of John Simms, fisherman, and Maria Ann Simms of Richard's Harbour (close to Hermitage Cove but in the *District of Burgeo and La Poile*) and later, by the time of the 1921 Census, of Hermitage, he was also brother to at least Dorothy, Arthur and George.

Private Simms was reported as having *died of sickness – heart failure due to pneumonia* - in hospital in St. John's on June 14, 1918.

His remains embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. J. C. Oke, undertaker, the funeral cortege of Private Simms was apparently not escorted to the railway station in St. John's until June 24, ten days after his death, for the first stage of the journey back home on the express train, as far as Placentia. The remainder of the passage was made on the SS *Fogota*.

Ernest Simms had enlisted at the age of eighteen years.