



Private Frederick Christopher Seabright (Regimental Number 5713) is interred in the Peterview (formerly known as *Peter's Arm* and before that, *Dominion Point*) Anglican Cemetery.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *steel-worker*, Frederick Christopher Seabright apparently underwent two medical examinations: the first, un-dated, was in Port aux Basques – likely upon his return from the industrial city of Sydney, Cape

Breton, where he had been working; and the second, on June 21, 1918, upon his arrival at Headquarters at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury** in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland. Both procedures apparently pronounced him as being fit for military service.

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

It was on the day of that medical assessment, June 21, and at the same venue, that Frederick Christopher Seabright was 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.*

A further several hours were then to go by before there came to pass, again at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On that same twenty-first day of June* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Frederick Christopher Seabright officially entered the service of the King.

**By this time a month had passed since 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. However, nothing – except conjecture - appears to suggest under which circumstances – as a volunteer or a conscripted man – Frederick Christopher Seabright was to be taken into service.*

It would appear that following attestation he was in mid-July to be granted a period of leave. Although the opening date has not been recorded, it must have begun soon after his third vaccination on July in anticipation of overseas service. He reported back to St. John's on July 22, likely then to be quartered in the temporary barracks established in 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.)*



(continued)

On August 19, Private Seabright was sent to the *Barracks Hospital Venereal Division* in St. John's – for which he initially forfeited a penalty of fifty cents a day from his pay*, a decision later rescinded – and, four days later, was transferred to the General Hospital in St. John's, having been diagnosed as with bronchial pneumonia.

**Particularly in the early days of the war, the practice in the British Army was to dock the supposed cost of treatment of sufferers of venereal disease – although officers were often able to avoid doing so. This was done less and less so as the war progressed.*

The son of Eli Elias Seabright, fisherman and lumberman, and of Susan Seabright (née *Beaton**) – to whom he had allotted a daily fifty cents from his pay – of Red Rock Cove, Norris Arm, and later of Peter's Arm (originally *Dominion Point*, later *Peterview*) he was also brother to Albert, Alfred-Beaton, Mary-Ann and to Florence-B. (*Flossie*).

**The couple had been married in the community of Red Rock Cove in the District of Twillingate, on October 14 of 1892.*

Private Seabright was reported as having...*died of sickness – empyema* (pus in the pleural cavity, often due to an infection in the same area)...– in hospital on September 21, 1918. During his time in hospital he had been considered alternatively as *seriously ill* or as *dangerously ill*, and on October 10 had undergone an operation – possibly to drain the pus from his thorax.

His remains were embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. J. C. Oke, undertaker, and his funeral cortege was escorted to the railway station in St. John's on September 29 for the first stage, on the express train, of his journey home.

The family apparently did not desire a Commonwealth War Graves headstone.

Frederick Christopher Seabright had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-one years: date of birth at Red Rock Cove, Newfoundland, August 12, 1896 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

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 30, 2023.