



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 the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on May** 20 of 1918. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

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

*****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 – although there appears to be no evidence among his papers to suggest that Private Dunn was one of those draftees.***

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, May 20, while at the same venue, that Henry Sheppard would enlist. He was thus 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 some few hours were now to follow before there subsequently came to pass, while still at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On the same twentieth day of that month of May he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Henry Sheppard became...*a soldier of the King.*

On May 30, Private Sheppard, Number 5226, began a period of leave to be spent at home in the Conception Bay community of Bishop's Cove while awaiting departure from St. John's for *overseas service*. However, during that time he took sick and on June 6 was diagnosed by Doctor Cron as suffering from measles and as being...*very sick.*

The son of Henry Sheppard, fisherman, and of Naomi Sheppard (née *Barrett**) of Bishop's Cove in the District of Harbour Grace, he was also brother to Flora, Abraham, Joseph, John and to Arthur W..

**The couple was married in December of 1892.*

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.

After a certain amount of bureaucratic confusion (see below) the Imperial War Graves headstone was shipped to Bishop's Cove on July 3, 1923.

Henry Sheppard had enlisted at the *declared* age of eighteen years. Thus far the exact date of his birth has proved to be elusive.

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

(Right: *The War Memorial in the community of Spaniard's Bay also bears witness to the sacrifice of Private Henry Sheppard. – photograph from 2011*)

(continued)



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

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 19, 2023.