



Private Edwin Augustus Winsor (Regimental Number 5475) lies in Wesleyville (Old) Methodist Cemetery, Newfoundland

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Edwin Augustus Winsor presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on May 27, 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, that Edwin Augustus Winsor 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 twenty-seventh day of May* he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Edwin Augustus Winsor became...*a soldier of the King.*

**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. However, nothing amongst his papers appears to suggest under which circumstances – as a volunteer or a conscripted man – Edwin Augustus Winsor was to be taken into service.*

Whereas many of the recruits during this period were to be granted several days of home leave, Private Winsor, Number 5475, 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 and it may well be that he was then to remain in St. John's.

If he did so it is likely that he reported...*to duty*...to be quartered in the temporary barracks apparently established by that time in the *Prince's Skating Rink* in the eastern end of the city – although any information a propos the arrangement of the barracks appears almost impossible to obtain.

(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, only some eighteen days after his enlistment, Private Winsor was admitted into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases* in St. John's where he was diagnosed as being...*seriously ill*...from measles.

The son of Daniel Winsor, fisherman*, and of Annie (found also as *Hannah*) Amelia Winsor (née *Butt****) of Wesleyville, Bonavista Bay, he was also brother to Ethel, Charlotte, Melena-Susan, Myrtle, Ralph and to Nathan.

**He apparently was one of those who survived the 'Greenland' disaster in 1898.*

***The couple had been married in the community of Wesleyville on December 26 of 1895.*

On June 20 a slight recovery was to be reported by the medical staff, but on June 22, two days later and the day on which he was to pass away, he was deemed to be...*dangerously ill*. Private Winsor was reported as having...*died of sickness...of pneumonia following measles...*- in hospital on the evening of that June 22, 1918.

(Right: *The photograph of Private Edwin Augustus Winsor is from the 'Find a Grave' web-site to which it has been donated by Anne (Winsor) Gosse.*)



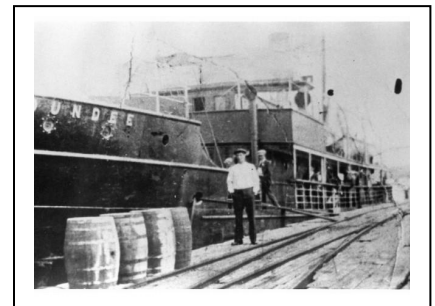
His remains, embalmed and placed in a coffin by Mr. J. C. Oke, undertaker, were escorted in a funeral cortege to the railway station in St. John's on Sunday, June 23. The express train then carried him to Port Blandford where the coffin was embarked onto the SS *Dundee* for the final stage of his journey to Wesleyville.

(Right below: *The photograph of the coastal-steamer 'Dundee', a vessel of the Alphabet Fleet, is from the CN Marine web-site.*)

He was buried on June 26, the Reverend(?) James Bishop officiating.

Edwin Augustus Winsor had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-one years: Date of birth in Wesleyville, Newfoundland, February 8, 1899 (from the *Find a Grave* web-site).

The Commonwealth War Graves headstone was shipped to Wesleyville on the SS Prospero on or about November 20, 1925.



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.