



Aaron Keeping Douglas
First Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 2904
World War I
Died in Service

Born: 09 Mar 1893

Died: 29 Sep 1918 (Age 24)

Place of Birth: Brunette Island, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Andrew and Sarah Jane (nee Keeping) Douglas

Aaron was the first of five (5) children born to Andrew and Sarah Jane. Aaron was born in 1893, followed by James in 1897, Mabel in 1899, Isaac in 1903 and Phoebe in 1905.

Aaron enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment (which became the Royal Newfoundland Regiment) as a member of the 10th recruitment draft on the 23rd of June

1916 at the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road, St. John's.

His enlistment papers describe Aaron as being just 5' 5" tall, of slight build, a fisherman by trade, Church of England by faith, single and 22 years old.

His official service record is provided as follows by date in the format of d/m/yy.

1. 23- 06 – 1916: Enlisted at CLB Armoury, St. John's
2. 30 – 08 – 16: Embarked St. John's on board the SS Sicilian



S.S. Sicilian

3. 30 – 11 – 16: Embarked for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
4. 12 -12 -16: Joined battalion in the field
5. 14 – 08 – 17: Wounded (Gas)
6. 15 – 08 – 17: Admitted to 46 cis
7. 21 – 08 – 17: Transferred to rest camp
8. 22 – 08 – 17: Joined base depot
9. 03 – 08 – 17: Rejoined unit in the field
10. 20 – 11 – 17: Wounded

11. 21 – 11 – 17: Admitted to 89 field ambulance with a severe GSW (gunshot wound) to left arm
12. 22 – 11 – 17: Invalided to England
13. Admitted to London General Hospital
14. 09 – 01 – 18: furloughed then attached to depot
15. 06 – 04 -18: Embarked for BEF
16. 13 – 04 – 18: Joined unit in the field
17. 10 – 08 – 18: hospitalized
18. 12 – 08 – 18: At Rouen hospital
19. 01 – 08 – 18: Discharged to Adjutant
20. 02 – 09 – 18: Arrived Rouen
21. 06 – 09 – 18: to unit
22. 29 – 09 -18: Killed in action by an exploding shell.

News of Aaron's death came by way of telegram to a Church of England school teacher on Brunette Island for that person to deliver to his parents on behalf of the war office. Aaron's parents were provided that message on October 18, 1918.

In total Aaron's service covered the period from enlistment on June 23, 1916, to his death on Sunday 29 September 1918, a total of two (2) years and 99 days.

Pte. Aaron Keeping Douglas is commemorated at the Dochy Farms New British Cemetery, 7 kilometres northeast of the Leper, Belgium.

Brunette Island has long since been abandoned through a resettlement program but the gravestone or cenotaph to the memory of Aaron stands on the island to honour his memory and sacrifice.

“Lest We Forget”