



Benjamin Curnew

Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force

Regimental No. 68464

World War I

Born: 24 Oct 1882

Died: 1970

Place of Birth: Bareneed, Newfoundland

Parents: John and ???? Curnew

Benjamin enlisted in the 25th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force on the 30th of April 1915 at Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia.

According to his enlistment documents, Benjamin was 31 at the time and living and working in Cape Breton as a coal miner. He was married to Julia Judith Ellen Nicholson and they had a son George born in 1903.

Benjamin stood 5' 11" tall, weighed 160 lbs with brown hair and blue eyes. He was a Methodist by faith and a miner by trade.

His service record is as follows and is outlined by date and event. Unfortunately Benjamin's willingness to serve did not turnout the way he had intended.

1. 30 – 04 – 1915: Enlisted at Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia
2. 29 – 05 – 15: Arrived in England On board the S. S. Saxonia



SS Saxonia

3. 04 – 09 – 15: Admitted to hospital
4. 14 – 09 – 15: Transferred to the 17th Reserve Battalion CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force)
5. 18 – 09 – 15: Transferred to Bevan Military hospital at Sandgate
6. 18 – 09 – 15: Transferred to Red Cross hospital
7. 24 – 09 - 15: Admitted to military hospital at Shorncliffe
8. 18 – 10 – 15: P and C (Pensions and Claims) Board recommended return to Canada
9. 22 – 10 -15: Discharged from military hospital
10. 23 – 10 – 15: Returned to Canada for discharge "medically unfit"
11. 27 – 01 – 1916: Discharged at Quebec P.Q.

It seems that shortly after arriving in England, Benjamin started complaining about pain in his back over the right kidney

following a time marching. The pain and its severity increased to the point where he was hospitalized a number of times.

Following a series of medical examinations, it was found that he was suffering from Lumbago, myalgia and rheumatic arthritis. The fifteen years of working the coal mines in damp/wet conditions had taken a toll on him and he was subsequently returned to Canada and discharged.

Following his discharge, it is assumed that he, his wife ,Julia and son resumed their lives in Nova Scotia, since this is where Julia passed away in 1937.

Benjamin at some point moved to Ontario, where he died in 1970. He is buried in Windsor Memorial Garden Cemetery in Windsor, Essex County, Ontario.