



Harold Roy Batten

Harold was born on 21st October 1899 to parents Samuel and Susie Batten of Coleys Point (Bay Roberts).

When Harold enlisted on 20 March 1918, the war was almost over and as a consequence, he did not see action overseas. His time of service, 298 days in total was spent in Newfoundland.

When he enlisted at the ripe old age of nineteen, he was working as a teacher in Marystown. It appears he waited until he was 19 because at that age, he was eligible to be sent to fight in Europe.

His tenure in The First Newfoundland Regiment as his enlistment documents are entitled meant he was now officially part of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and assigned regiment number 4378.

Harold or Pte Batten was promoted twice in his brief tenure. On 20th March 1918, he was

Pte Batten; then on 5th April he became L/Cpl Batten and on 3rd September 1918 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal.

He was “special duty” on the island, first in St. John’s, then on the West Coast in charge of three men who were conscripting and then to Bishops Falls in charge of six men and a L/Cpl doing the same work.

Cpl Batten appears to be an individual who found it difficult to follow protocol. There are two occasions noted: the first being told quite bluntly that all written correspondence to militaries had to be on the Regimental stationery he had been supplied and not on mere white stationery/envelopes.

The second incident appears a little more serious and in fact lead to charges (dated 18th December 1918) of “exceeding duties, taking three men to Grand Falls without permission” He received a reprimand for this faux pas.

His official discharge certificate No. 593 shows him being demobilized from active duty on 21st January 1919. According to his discharge documents, he intended to return to teaching.

Harold passed away September 17, 1924 and is buried in the Grace United Church Cemetery at Coley’s Point.