



James Kavanagh

Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 5870

World War I

Born: 31 Jul 1900

Place of Birth: Clarke's Beach, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: James and Mary A. Kavanagh

At just 18, James made his way to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment headquarters and recruiting office at the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road in St. John's. There, he enlisted on the 29th of July 1918.

His enlistment documents describe James as being 5' 8 ¼", weighting 128 lbs of a light complexion with light hair and blue eyes. He stated his trade or calling as fisherman, was a Catholic and single. James could not write, instead using his mark "X" as his signature.

His service record of 166 days in all has the following entries:

1. 29 – 07 – 18: Enlisted
2. 03 – 09 – 18: Special Duty home defense, Bishops Falls
3. 29 – 10 – 18: Returned to HQ
4. 31 – 10 – 18: Special duty Bell Island
5. 28 – 11 – 18: Special at RN (Royal Navy) dry dock
6. 10 – 01 – 19: Discharged (Discharge Certificate # 396)

James does not appear in the 1921 Newfoundland general census for Clarke's Beach, although his parents, James (60) and Mary (59) do, as well as his brother Sylvester (21).

Following his discharge, James simply disappears. There is no record of him in any official Newfoundland documentation and even his final resting place could not be found.

This biography will be revisited and updated when additional information comes to light.