



John Albert Spencer
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 3884

Born: 1 August 1892

Place of Birth:

Parents: Susanna Badcock, father had died in 1905.

What is known about John Spencer according to his enlistment papers:

1. He is listed as being 29 but is actually 26
2. A Methodist Clergyman by profession
3. Single
4. 5 feet 6 ½ inches tall, weighing 145 lbs
5. Of fair complexion with light brown hair and blue eyes

His term of service runs from the 27th of January to the 29th of March 1919, 1 year, 276 days in total.

Service record entries are:

1. Embarked St. John's on board the S.S. Florizel for Halifax, Canada on the 4th of August 1917
2. Embarked for the British Expeditionary Force 4 February 1918
3. Disembarked Rouen Camps (France) 6 February 1918
4. Joined the BEF battalion in the field 15 February 1918
5. Wounded the 12th of April 1918 at Ametrias
6. Admitted to field hospital with gsw (gun shot wound) to head and shoulder 13th of April 1918
7. Invalided to England 16 April 1918, where he was admitted to St. James hospital
8. Furloughed and attached to command depot the 16th of May 1918
9. Admitted to hospital again on 23 rd. May 1918
10. Furloughed and attached to H Coy 27th September 1918
11. To duty 9th of November 1918
12. To Newfoundland for discharge "medically unfit" 30th of January 1919
13. Arrived Newfoundland 7th of February 1919
14. Demobilized 29th March 1919

Notation in his record reads:

"Recommended discharge from the army – advise examination of throat by specialist, effective 15 March 1919"

L/Cpl Spencer had seen action at Passchendaele in Feb 1918 and Ametrias in April 1918 where he suffered a gsw (gunshot wound) to his neck and shoulder.

Following his discharge, there is a 1919 notation that he was in Montreal at the Wesley Theological College, presumably continuing his studies to become a clergyman but this is not so, as the 1921 census shows him, now 29 and single at home with his widowed mother in living in Shearstown, Newfoundland.

By 1935, John is married with a family and living in the community of Grand Falls Station. John is 43 and his wife Mitchie (spelling is questionable) 37 and they have four children, a girl and 3 boys.

The 1945 census shows the family unit now consists of John and Mitchie and 3 boys. Their daughter Alberta who is now 21 has left home.

The Spencer's are fairly well off by this time, as John is a general merchant in Grand Falls, and they even have a servant girl. They have made their home in Windsor.

Life takes a dramatic shift when in July of 1952, John has a heart attack and passes away. He is buried in Grand Falls.