



John Robert Lyons

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 4253

World War I

Born: 8 March 1898

Place of Birth: Bareneed, Newfoundland

Parents: Esau and Susannah (Roach) Lyons

On the 18th of December 1917, John enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's. He was nineteen (19) years and eight (8) months old at the time.

Personnel records of the First World War at Library and Archives Canada note that John Lyons, Regimental No 4253, was part of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and the Forestry Corps but the official Forestry Nominal Roll does not contain his name.

John's enlistment (Attestation) papers describe him physically as being 149 lbs, 5' 8" tall, of ruddy complexion with brown hair and blue eyes and a tattoo on his right

forearm. . He gave his trade as school teacher and his religious denomination as Church of England.

John would go on to serve a total of 1 year and 229 days in the Regiment but would not be involved in any live action.

His official service record contains the following entries:

1. 18 Dec 1917: Enlisted at St. John's, Newfoundland
2. 28 Mar 1918: Embarked St. John's by train for Halifax, N.S.
3. 24 Jun 1919: To Newfoundland for demobilization
4. 01 Jul 1919: Arrived Newfoundland on board the S.S. Cassandra



S.S. Cassandra

The Cassandra was part of the first Canadian Troop convoy carrying 1199 officers and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

5. 03 Aug 1919: Demobilized at St. John's. Discharge Certificate #3451

Although not reflected in his service record, John did spend time in England but did not go to France to see live action.

Following his discharge, John is found in 1921 living at home with his parents in Bareneed, Newfoundland. John is 24 and single according to the census of the day.

Although John does not show up on any official Newfoundland documents after that, what is known is that in 1924 John had a son. He was named John Robert Lyons after his father. There is no record or mention of the mother.

John's father, Esau was an American citizen having been born in Chelsea, Massachusetts and John did in fact move there sometime after 1921. The only record located then is the date of John's passing on 10 November 1984. No burial site has been found.