



Reuben Parsons
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 1632

Reuben was born to parents Richards (Sr) and Mary Parsons of Bay Roberts in January 1892.

Reuben travelled to St. John's on June 15th, 1915, with the sole intention of enlisting in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. His enlistment papers of that date show a young man who is 23 years old, a fisherman by occupation, Church of England by faith and well educated, being able to sign the papers himself.

His service record provides a timeline of events beginning on the 15th of June 1915 and ending on 16th of September 1918.

The record reads as follows:

1. Embarked St. John's by train for Quebec 27 Oct 1915.
2. Embarked for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force) 28 March 1916
3. Joined the battalion on 15th of April 1916
4. Wounded 1 July 1916
5. Admitted to field hospital 2 July 1916
6. Moved to general hospital Etretat, France 7 July 1916.
7. Sent to hospital in Bristol 9 July 1916

8. Moved to military hospital Wandsworth 9 October 1916
9. Furloughed then attached to depot 2 February 1917
10. Transported to Newfoundland 23 March 1917
11. Arrived in Newfoundland for discharge April 1917
12. Re-attested for home defence Bay Roberts 19 September 1917
13. Assigned special duty 10 October 1917
14. Struck off strength 16 September 1918.

The injury received by Reuben on 1 July severely damaged his left leg and left shoulder, limiting his movement even when healed. His injury was the result of severe GSW (Gun Shot Wound).

An excerpt from a report of Lance Corporal Parsons reads:

"This man is likely unfit for service with the Expeditionary Force for six months on account of gsw to left leg and left shoulder. Recommend he be posted to the depot at St. John's, Newfoundland. 19-12-17."

Following his service, 1921 finds Reuben at home with his mom who is now widowed.

Reuben died on April 4th 1960, and is buried in St. Matthews Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts. His wife Elizabeth passed in 1958.