



Pte. Samuel Roach
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 4494

Born: November 20th, 1899

Place of Birth: Coley's Point, Bay Roberts

Parents: Samuel and Lillian (Lily) Roach

Samuel enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on April 19th, 1918, just as the war was ending.

His enlistment documents paint a picture of a young 19-year-old student, who stood 5' 6" tall, had light hair, blue eyes, was single and Church of England by faith.

Samuel's term of service lasted from April 19th, 1918, to June 27th, 1919, a total of 14 months according to his discharge certificate.

His official recorded service shows he:

1. saw service in France, Belgium, and Germany.

2. embarked for overseas on the 11th of June 1918.
3. spent time in hospital for a period of time with tonsillitis and was invalided from France to England where he was admitted to the "New End Hospital at Hampstead."
4. was sent home to Newfoundland to be demobilized on board the S. S. Corsican on June 26th, 1919.
5. was discharged on June 27th, 1918.

Once back in civilian life, Samuel tried hard to get back to normal life. The 1921 census shows him back home with his parents in Coley's Point. Samuel is 22 now.

It is difficult to find any trace of Samuel following the 1921 census, but the death of his father provides a working theory of where he went.

Here's the official obituary for Samuel Roach (Sr), taken from the Bay Roberts Guardian, a local newspaper of the time:

"Died on May 3rd, Mr. SAMUEL ROACH, passed suddenly away on board the schooner "Romaine", as the ship was entering the narrows of St. John's harbor. Funeral procession was one of the largest seen in Coley's Point in years. Left to mourn their sad loss are a widow and seven children, Samuel, Willis, and Robert, of Albany, N.Y., Mrs. Ted Garton, Wallaston, Mass, Mrs. John Mack, N.Y., Mereada and Harry at home. Also, one sister, Mrs. Esau Lyons residing at Coley's Point."

From this notice, it appears the Samuel and two of his brothers (Willis and Robert) have moved and are living in Albany, New York USA.

This move to the New York accounts for the difficulty in finding any further official

documentation on Samuel but there is a potential gravesite identified with death of a Samuel Roach in May 1989, showing him buried in the Graceland Cemetery, Albany, Albany County, New York.

Unfortunately, there is no additional information on family, birthplace or picture of record, so this this only a logical guess as to where his final resting place may be.