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Solomon French

Canadian Expeditionary Force

Service # 790467

World War I

Born: 18 Jan 1896

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

Parents: Nathaniel and Isabella French

Although born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, Solomon enlisted in the CEF (Canadian Expeditionary Force) from his home in (New Westminster) British Columbia on 23 Jan 1916. He was 20 years old at the time and provided information on his enlistment papers describe this young man as being 5' 8" tall, having brown hair and eyes. He was of dark complexion and 165 lbs in weight. He gave his occupation as that of fisherman and Methodist by faith.

Solomon's service record covers the period from enlistment 23 Jan 1916 to his

discharge on 31 Oct 1917 as medically unfit for further service. The "Medically unfit" notation will be made clear by reading what follows

According to his service record entries, Solomon:

1. Arrived in England on 11 Nov 1916
2. He was appointed lance corporal (L/Cpl) on 13 Nov 1916
3. Over the course of the next three months, Solomon moved around quite a bit, being attached to several companies and battalions
4. Then on 15 Mar 1917, he was admitted to the 13th Field Ambulance, which started a number of medical issues and being admitted to hospitals a total of four times but mainly for minor problems
5. Solomon was admitted to 11th general hospital on 30 Aug 1917 and moved several times suffering from a severe GSW (gunshot wound) to his left hand. This wound was so severe following surgery, that he could not flex his hand sufficiently enough to grip a rifle or fire it.
6. He was invalided to the TGH (Territorial General Hospital?) of the 47th Battalion and then returned to Canada for discharge as being medically unfit for further service on 31 Oct 1917.

From information accessed, Solomon continued to live and work in British Columbia following the war. He passed away in 1972 and is buried in the Forest Lawn Memorial Park , Burnaby, British Columbia