



William “Willie” Starks
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 5554
World War I

Born: Oct 1900

Died: 1969

Place of Birth: Nipper’s Harbour, Baie Verte Peninsula, Newfoundland & Labrador

Parents: Ishmael and Mary (nee Rideout) Starks

Willie enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 31st of May 1918. He was eighteen (18) at the time and according to his attestation papers, stood just 5’ 5 ½” tall, weighed 129 lbs, had brown hair with blue eyes and was of a fair complexion. He gave his occupation as fisherman and his faith as Methodist.

His service in the regiment lasted two hundred forty-four (244) days. His entire

time was spent in Newfoundland. His service record provides the following information by date/location.

1. 05 – 08 – 1918: Admitted to M.I.D. Hospital with the Mumps.
2. 29 – 08 – 18: Discharged from Hospital
3. 29 – 08 – 18: Special duty to Petty Harbour
4. 14 – 09 – 18: Returned to Depot (at St. John’s)
5. 16- 09 – 18: Special duty to dry dock owned by the Reid Newfoundland Company
6. 06 – 10 – 18 to 16 – 10 -18: Granted leave
7. 20 – 11 – 18: Returned to Depot
8. 09 – 01 – 1919: Discharged/demobilized. Discharge certificate # 279.

Following his time in service, Willie returned to his hometown of Nippers Harbour on the Baie Verte Peninsula and resumed his civilian life as a fisherman.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census finds him at age 21 living at home with parents, Ishmael (53), mother Mary (52), sister Emma (17) and brother Frederick (13).

Two years later in 1923, his father died leaving Mary to raise her family as a single parent. The 1935 census lists Mary as a widow. She is now 65. Willie is 36 and Married to Lillian (nee Cramm) and they have a son, Wilbert aged 1 year.

The following census in 1945, has the family still living in Nippers Harbour with the following enumeration entries: Lillian 36, Wilbert 12, Mother-in-law Mary 76,

Sandy 47, and his wife Pearl, along with their son Gerald who is almost 2. There is a notation referencing Willie as “working in Baffin Land.”

Lillian passed away in 1960. A year later, Willie remarried. His second wife hailed from the Conception Bay North area and the two settled at Clarkes Beach. The lady was Minnie (nee Butler ??). Willie passed away in 1969 and is buried at Clarkes Beach United Churchyard (old) Cemetery.