



Private Hezekiah Avery (Regimental Number 5140) is buried in the Methodist Church Cemetery in the Trinity Bay community of Deep Bight.

His occupation prior to military service recorded as that of a *fisherman*, Hezekiah Avery presented himself for medical examination at the *Church Lads Brigade Armoury in St. John's, capital city of the Dominion of Newfoundland, on May 17** of 1918. It was a procedure which was to pronounce him as...*Fit for Foreign Service*.**

****The building was to serve as the Regimental Headquarters in Newfoundland for the duration of the conflict.***

*****This was the month during which the Newfoundland Military Service Act (conscription) came into effect. From May 11 through to the end of the War, the Department of Militia called a total of 1,470 men into active service – although there appears to be no evidence among his papers to suggest that Private Avery was one of those draftees.***

It was to be on the day of that medical assessment, May 17, while at the same venue, that Hezekiah Avery would enlist. He was thus engaged...*for the duration of the war...at the daily private soldier's rate of a single dollar to which was to be appended a ten-cent per diem Field Allowance.**

****At the outset of the War, perhaps because it was felt by the authorities that it would be a conflict of short duration, the recruits enlisted for only a single year. As the War progressed, however, this was obviously going to cause problems and the men were encouraged to re-enlist. Later recruits – as of or about May of 1916 - signed on for the 'Duration' at the time of their original enlistment.***

Only some few hours were now to follow before there subsequently came to pass, while still at the *CLB Armoury* on Harvey Road, the final formality of his enlistment: attestation. On the same seventeenth day of that month of May he pledged his allegiance to the reigning monarch, George V, whereupon, at that moment, Hezekiah Avery became...*a soldier of the King.*

Only two weeks following his enlistment and while awaiting his eventual departure for...overseas service..., on May 31 Private Avery, Number 5140, was admitted into the *Barracks Hospital* in St. John's for *observation*. On the next day, June 1, he was transferred into the *Military Hospital for Infectious Diseases*, having been diagnosed as suffering from a case of the measles.

The son of William Thomas Avery and of Elizabeth Avery (née *Gregory*) of Deep Bight, North West Arm, in Trinity Bay, he was born in the vicinity of that community of Deep Bight, Trinity Bay. He was also brother to William-George (born 1873), Richard, Addi(n), Martha, Catherine, Wallace, Mary-Jane and possibly Lily most of this information from the *WikiTree* web-site.

Private Avery was reported as...*seriously ill*...on June 12, then as being...*dangerously ill*...two days later, on June 14...and subsequently as having...*died of sickness*..., of pneumonia, on June 15, 1918, in the *Military Hospital* in St. John's.

His remains having been embalmed and coffined by Mr. J. C. Oke, undertaker, they were placed on board the eleven o'clock train of June 18 in St. John's, for the journey to Clarendville and thence home.

Hezekiah Avery had enlisted at the *declared* age of twenty-five years: date of birth in Deep Bight, Newfoundland, April 29, 1893 (from the Newfoundland Birth Register).

The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to *criceadam@yahoo.ca*. Last updated – January 31, 2023.