

## 2110 Lance Corporal *Japheth Hounsel* M.M.

**Enlisted:** February 22, 1916 age 24 yrs. 9 mo.

**Religion:** Methodist

**Address:** Japheth gave Wesleyville, Bonavista Bay, as his address, but indicated that his trade was paper maker at the Grand Falls mill.

**Description:**

- Height: 5ft. 5 in.
- Weight: 140 lbs.
- Chest Expansion: 3 in.
- Identifying marks included "Wears glasses but can read type." and "Second finger on right hand deformed." His medical examination was conducted at Grand Falls by Dr. H.B. Chamberlain, February 18, 1916.

**Service:**

- Embarked St. John's, S.S. Sicilian March 24, 1916
- Joined Newfoundland Regiment in France, July 21, 1916
- Awarded military medal for "bravery in the field", at Monchy, April 14, 1917
- Killed in action, April 13, 1918.
  - Lance Corporal Hounsell's death was witnessed by a 2nd Lieutenant A.E. Taylor who, in a deposition wrote: "On the evening of 13/4/18 I was quite near L/C Hounsell and saw him when he was killed, shot by a bullet through the head. Tried to dress his wounds but saw he was dead. .."(20/5/18)

**Burial:** Lance Corporal Hounsell was "buried by the enemy" in the vicinity of Bailleul, a city in Northern France, on April 20, 1918. This information was gathered from a list provided by the Germans through the Canadian Red Cross, July 22, 1918.

The Allied War Graves Commission indicated that Lance Corporal Hounsell has no known specific grave site; hence his name appears on the Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial, Beaumont Hamel, France.

**Note:**

Arrangements were made between the military and the Hounsell family for a public presentation of his M.M. award, to the family, in his home town. The citation reads:

At Monchy on 14<sup>th</sup> April, when an attack had failed and the enemy were advancing on the village, [Lance Corporal Hounsell] displayed the greatest gallantry as one of a small party hastily collected to oppose the hostile advance. This party maintained itself in the face of overwhelming odds, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, and completely checked him on this part of the line

A message to Methodist Minister or School Teacher, Wesleyville, B. Bay, Nfld., requested that Mr. Henry Hounsell of Wesleyville be informed of his son's death. Date of message, May 6, 1918. Later the Government forwarded official notification to Mr. Hounsell.