



Ernest Kelly
World War I
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 2854

Born: August 30th, 1899

Place of Birth: Coley's Point

Parents: Isaac and Jane Kelly

As an 18-year-old, Ernest enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's on June 5th, 1916. His enlistment papers show a young man 5 feet 5 inches tall, 112 lbs with blue grey eyes. He enlisted for the duration of the war and gave his trade as that of a printer.

Ernest's service with the regiment lasted 2 years and 175 days from enlistment to discharge. Here is a timeline of service, Ernest:

1. Embarked St. Johns on the S.S. Sicilian for the UK on 8 August 1916

2. Embarked for the British Expeditionary Force and disembarked at Boulogne, France on 3 June 1917
3. Joined the BEF battalion in the field on 19 June 1917
4. Wounded 16 August 1917
5. Admitted to the field hospital 16 August 1917
6. Rejoined unit on 13 September 1917
7. Admitted to field hospital with gunshot wound to the head 2 October 1917
8. Admitted to station hospital Rouen 2 December 1917
9. Invalided to England and admitted to King George Hospital 7 December 1917
10. Transferred to Wandsworth hospital 25 January 1918
11. After a period of several months of recovery, furloughed and reported to depot for assignment 15 October 1918
12. To Newfoundland for discharge 16 October 1918
13. Arrived Newfoundland 8 November
14. Discharged as Medically unfit for war service 26 November 1918.

The official report of the medical board hearing found that Pte. Kelly "being no longer physically fit for war service on account of wounds received in action."

Ernest suffered wounds at the battle of Cambrai, France. Initially the wounds were thought to be superficial and that he would heal and return to service but following a second wound to his face and two operations to repair wounds to his lower jaw and lip area, and long convalescence it was clear that Pte. Kelly's injuries were more extensive and debilitating.

Following discharge Ernest is found in 1921 civilian life living at home with his parents, Isaac and Jane and younger brother Gilbert.

The 1935 census shows Ernest, now 35, is still living with his parents and he is single.

By 1945, things have changed dramatically, Ernest is now married to May of Port de Grave, and they have a six-year-old daughter.

May passed away in 1987, followed a year later by Ernest (1988). They are buried at Coleys Point in the St. John the Evangelist Cemetery.