



Francis E. Wheeler

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 1909

World War I

Born: Aug 1892

Died: 02 May 1978

Francis was born in August of 1892 to parents, John and Susanna Wheeler of Greenspond, Bonavista Bay

Francis travelled to St. John's (probably by train) and enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment (The Regiment was not given the title "Royal" until later) at the CLB Armoury on Harvey Street.

The date he enlisted was 12 Oct 1915. He was twenty-three (23) at the time. Through his attestation (enlistment) papers, Francis is single, a fisherman by trade, a Methodist by faith and stood just 5' 5" tall.

Service Record

The following entries are taken directly from the handwritten notes of his official service record:

1. 18 – 12 – 15: Embarked St. John's by train for St. John, New Brunswick
2. 09 – 07 – 16: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
3. 24 – 07 – 16: Joined battalion (Somewhere in France)
4. 12 – 10 – 16: Wounded
5. 14 – 10 -16: Admitted to hospital at Camiers (*The village of Camiers itself is small and stands just inland from the dunes on the south-west and west-facing coast just north of Étapes, France*)
6. 18 – 10 – 16: Admitted to general London Hospital Wandsworth suffering from GSW (gunshot wound) and shrapnel in his back near the spine.
7. 02 – 12 – 16: Furloughed and then attached to base depot
8. 07 – 02 – 17: To Newfoundland for discharge
9. ?? – 02 – 17: Arrived Newfoundland
10. 28 – 03 – 17: Discharged as "Medically unfit for service"

07 Apr 1917: Pte Wheeler received pay as follows:

• Balance of Pay	18.75
• Bonus-one weeks pay	12.95
• Civilian Clothing allowance	25.00
• Total	56.70

The 1921 Newfoundland general census finds Francis' parents, John and Susanna still living in Greenspond. They have four (4) children at home with them but Francis is not one of them.

Francis now, 21 is found living in St. John's West with wife Helen (28) and their nine (9) month old son. Helen is from Hearts Content.

The 1945 census has Francis and Helen still living in St. John's West. Their son, Ralph, now 23 is at home and they have two people boarding with them (Sophie and Mary Rowe)

Francis passed away in May 1978 and is buried in the Central United Church Cemetery at Bay Roberts.