



Freeman Bendell, MM
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
World War I
Regimental No. 3187

Born: 01 Sep 1900

Place of Birth: Clarke's Beach

Parents: Joseph and Selina Bendell

Freeman enlisted at St. John's on 31 Oct 1916; he was just 18 at the time. According to his enlistment papers, Freeman stood 5 ft. 7 inches tall, weighed 116 lbs, and had black hair, grey eyes. He gave his calling as fisherman and his faith as Anglican. It is doubtful as to his ability to write, since the signature sections of his official enlistment paper show a "X" mark and the signature appears to be similar to that of the person who was filling out the form.

His service record is quite detailed covering 63 pages in total and can be seen on the Rooms website for personal reading.

Freeman's service record covers a period of 2 years and 149 days, from enlistment (31 Oct 1916) to discharge (28 Mar 1919).

Officially as entered on during WW I
 Freeman:

1. Embarked St. John's on the S. S. Florizel to Winsor N. S. (31 -Jan-17)
2. Embarked for B.E.F. (British Expeditionary Force) 11-Jun-17
3. Joined Battalion in France 2- July-17
4. Admitted to field hospital with tonsillitis 2-Oct-17
5. With Battalion in the field 30-Dec-17
6. Admitted to hospital inn Etaples, France 11-Jun-18
7. To duty 19-Jun-18
8. Admitted to hospital with Influenza 26-Oct-18
9. Discharged to camp 22-Nov-18
10. Joined BEF Battalion at Rouen 24-Nov-18
11. With unit in the field 18-Dec-18
12. Transferred from BEF to Winchester, England 19-Jan-19
13. To Newfoundland for demobilization 30-Jan-19
14. Arrived Newfoundland 7-Feb-19
15. Demobilized at St. John's 28-Mar-19

Freeman was awarded the Military Medal (MM) in April 1918 for action under fire.

Bendell, Freeman, Regt. No. 3187

Military Medal

London Gazette, August 29th, 1918

Action Date, April 18th, 1918 – Armentieres

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 18th of April 1918. He volunteered during a heavy bombardment to reconnoiter the front line and gained valuable information for the support

battalion. He was always ready to go on messages and kept liaison with the flanking units, regardless of danger.

Freeman saw action in France, Belgium and Germany.

Once discharged, Freeman can be found living in Clarke's Beach, the 1921 Newfoundland Census shows he is now 20 years old and is married to Winnie Frost also 20.

The couple have 2 children. Blanche is born in 1923 and the second child is not mentioned by name.

In an interview prior to discharge, Freeman indicated that he wished to become a miner. He tried to fulfill this ambition but records show that he was injured while being trained as a miner. There is no known record of how severe the injury was and while perhaps coincidence, the two separated sometime after the birth of the second child.

All official records of Freeman end there and following extensive research, we were unable to find anything further on him.

His Wife Winnie now separated is found in the 1935 census as housekeeper for widower John Kavanaugh and his children, who she would eventually marry. Winnie died in 1977.

Military Medal



Obverse and reverse of medal

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| Type | Military decoration |
| Awarded for | Acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire |
| Presented by | UK and Commonwealth |
| Eligibility | British and Commonwealth forces |
| Status | Discontinued in 1993 |
| Established | 25 March 1916 (backdated to 1914) |