

Rev. George Heber Maidment

**Royal Newfoundland Regiment
And
Newfoundland Forestry Unit
WW I
Chaplain in the Chaplain's Department
Service No. 0-176**

Born: 19 Sep 1888

Died: 19 April 1969

Place of Birth: Trinity, Newfoundland

Parents: John and Hannah Elizabeth (Hunt) Maidment

George was an ordained Church of England priest when he tried to enlist in 1917. He wished to serve in the capacity he knew well, as a chaplain. His request to be permitted to join the Chaplain's Department was bolstered by a letter from the then governor of Newfoundland, Sir Walter

Edward Davidson, who provided his support for George's request.

The letter addressed to the chairman of the standing committee of O. C. Headquarters reads as follows:

"The Rev'd, G.H. Maidment applies to proceed on active service. He is ready to enlist if need be but it is undesirable that a fully ordained priest should serve in the ranks. I am therefore recommending him for commission into the Chaplain's Department.

He has just brought 17 recruits from his parish.

I suggest, for the consideration of your committee, that he be permitted to be attached temporarily to the next draft, after the precedent afforded in the cases of T. Nangle, Clayton and Stenlake."

The letter dated 15 June 1917 worked because just several days later, a regimental order appointed Rev. Maidment to be honorary Captain for employment in the Chaplain's Department from 19 June 1917.

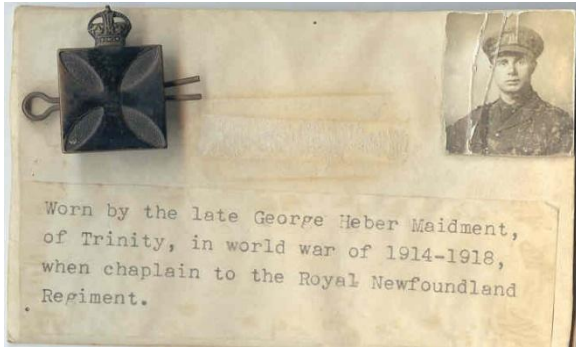
Captain (Chaplain) Rev. George Maidment's service was for one year, as he returned to Newfoundland after his contract was completed. He relinquished his rank and was officially discharged in August 1918. He had served in England and France during his year of service.

Upon his return, the Reverend took up duties as priest at Woody Point in the St. Barbe District, where he is found in the 1921 Newfoundland general census at age 32. His mother Hannah now 70 is living with him as is a boarder by the name of Annie Guy.

The 1935 census find Reverend Maidment now the Anglican priest in Buchans. He is still unmarried at 41.

The next census in 1945 finds Rev'd Maidment still in Buchans and still single.

In the late 1950's he moved to Port de Grave to become the rector of St. Luke's Anglican Church there. It is here in 1969 that Rev'd Maidment passed away and is buried in St. Luke's Churchyard Cemetery.



Above is the hat badge worn by Rev'd George Maidment and is on display at the Lester-Garland House Museum at Trinity, Newfoundland, his hometown.

Over 5,000 Army Chaplains served in World War I. Most received little or no training and although they were often ill-prepared for the situations in which they found themselves, they brought comfort and compassion to those they ministered to.

By the end of 1915, the Army Chaplains' Department had suffered four fatalities due to enemy action; by the end of 1918, this number had climbed to 100. Of these, at least fifty-nine were Anglican while twenty-two were Roman Catholic.

Here is a copy of the original obituary published in the local newspaper at the time of Rev. George's passing:

**“MAIDMENT, Rev George Heber
THE COMPASS, 08 May 1969
PORT DE GRAVE - After being stricken
with another heart attack **George Heber
Maidment**, retired Anglican Priest of Port-**

de-Grave passed away while enroute to hospital on April 19. So ends the long and colorful career of a dedicated life. Father Maidment as he was known was born in Trinity September 19, 1888, where he grew up. After training for the ministry he enlisted and went overseas as Chaplain in the Armed Forces during World War I where he earned a military medal for bravery. After returning to Newfoundland he went to the west coast where he ministered both physically and spiritually to his flock in those isolated communities. From there he went to Buchans, while it was still a campsite, and his services had to be conducted in a tent. From there he moved to Port-de-Grave in 1952 and labored faithfully until his retirement in 1962. During his last years he was lovingly cared for by Mrs. Levi Ralph with whom he resided. His funeral took place from St. Luke's Anglican Church (where his body had been lying in state) at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 22, with 15 clergymen in attendance.

Requiem Mass was said by Rev. J.W. Taylor, assisted by Rev. S. Payne, Rev. E. Willis and the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland, Robert L. Seaborn. Mr. Aubrey Dawe, S.R.N., acted as altar boy. Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, the A.C.A.A. and also the pupils of St. Luke's school attended the service in a body. Interment was in St. Luke's Church yard in the shadow of the church he loved so well. Prayers at the graveside were read by Rev. H. Batten and Rev. K. Goldsworthy. He leaves to mourn two adopted sons, Thomas Baggs of Buchans and Rev. F. Brushett in England, and other relatives and friends.

**MAIDMENT, Rev George Heber
THE COMPASS, 08 May 1969
BISHOP'S COVE - It was with regret, that
we learned of the death of **Father G.H.
Maidment**, on **Saturday April 19.****

Although he was well on in years, he was always very active. He was a very dear friend of the people in this community and was well loved by old and young alike. He was a constant visitor and guest preacher in our church, and it was in this way that we came to know and respect him so well.