

**Harry Augustus Wells**

**The Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Regimental No. 3943**

**World War I**

**Born:** 17 Jan 1894

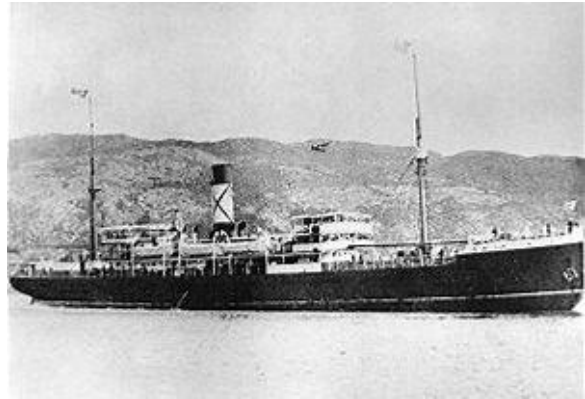
**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Robert James and Ruth Wells

Harry was working as a local school teacher when he travelled to St. John's and enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1917. He was twenty-three (23) years and seven (7) months old at the time.

Harry's time in service lasted fourteen (14) months service record contains the following handwritten entries:

1. 03 – 09 – 17: Enlisted
2. 03 – 10 – 17: Embarked St. Johns on board the S.S. Florizel to Halifax, N.S.



**SS Florizel**, a passenger liner, was the flagship of the Bowring Brothers' Red Cross Line of steamships and one of the first ships in the world specifically designed to navigate icy waters.<sup>[1]</sup> During her last voyage, from St. John's to Halifax and on to New York City, she sank after striking a reef at Horn Head Point, near Cappahayden, Newfoundland, with the loss of 94 including Betty Munn, a three-year-old girl, in whose memory a statue of Peter Pan was erected at Bowring Park in St. John's.

3. 27 – 03 – 18: Embarked for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
4. 29 – 03 – 18: Disembarked France
5. 04 – 04 – 18: Joined Battalion
6. **25 – 10 – 18: Killed in Action**

Harry died in a battle in the small town of Harelbeke, in the West Flanders Province of Belgium, just several kilometres from the Community of Kortrijk (the site of one of the Caribou Monuments to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment).

The fighting was intense in the area and many soldiers killed in action were never located, Harry was one. He does not have a final resting place, and this was a vital concern of his father, Robert James, who pleaded in a letter that his son be found and have a proper burial.

Harry is memorialized on the Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland) Memorial and there

is a Memorial Stone in his honour placed by  
his parents in the Old St. Matthew's  
Anglican Cemetery in Bay Roberts, NL.