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**Henry (Harry) J. Gover**

**The Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Service # 3609**

**World War I**

**Born:** 15 Nov 1891

**Place of Birth:** Trinity, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Frederick and Emily Gover

Henry or Harry, the names seem interchangeable throughout his official service record, so following that format both names will be used in this writing of this biography as well.

Harry's enlistment papers allow a glimpse of this Newfoundland soldier. He was rather tall at a height of 5' 9 ½", single, of the Church of England faith, a clerk by trade and had moved from Trinity to "Belle Isle" for work. Both parents are deceased, but he does have several siblings.

At 24, Harry signed up for service in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on 16 Apr 1917 and a month later, he was on his way Halifax for overseas deployment.

His service record provides this information:

1. Embarked St. John's on S. S. Florizel for Halifax, N.S.: 19 May 1917
2. Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force): 21 Nov 1917
3. Disembarked Rouen, France: 06 Feb 1918
4. Joined the BEF Battalion in the field: 15 Feb 1918
5. Wounded in action 13 Apr 1918
6. Admitted to FH (field hospital) with gunshot wound (GSW) to arm and foot
7. Admitted to 7<sup>th</sup>. General Hospital at Etaples, France 13 Apr 1918
8. Admitted to St. James Inf. Hospital with GSW 16 Apr 1918
9. Furloughed then report for discharge 03 Sep 1918
10. To Newfoundland for discharge 07 Sep 1918
11. Arrived Newfoundland 29 Sep 1918
12. Discharged as being medically unfit for further service 15 Oct 1918

Henry's wounds were initially assessed as being slight but turned out to be more substantial and debilitating.

The report from the 4<sup>th</sup> London General Hospital noted the following:

*"16 - 4 - 18 long wd upper left arm plugged with gauze.*

*17 - 04 - 18 gauze removed*

*12 - 05 - 18 wd excised and sutured*

*22 – 05 – 18 wd uniting throughout – pain  
tenderness of middle arm. Massage &  
movements.*

*Transfer to Newfoundland Headquarters.”*

He had served for a total of one year and 183 days. He had also been promoted twice; to l/Cpl (Lance Corporal on 10 May 1917 and then to A/Sgt on 20 Sep 1917.

The 1935 Newfoundland general census shows Harry living on Bell Island with his 10 year old daughter Enid and their servant Winnifred Snow.

Harry died in 1943 and is buried in the St. John The Evangelist Churchyard Cemetery at Coley's Point.

The 1945 census show Enid, now 20, living with her Aunt Mary (Harry's sister) and Uncle Walter Mercer and their family at Coley's Point.