



Jacob French
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
World War I
Regimental No. 5371

Born: 11 Oct 1896

Place of Birth: Coley's Point,
Newfoundland

Parents: Elijah and Mary (Sarah) French

On the 23 May 1918, Jacob travelled to St. John's for the expressed purpose of enlisting in the war effort. Many young Newfoundland men "signed up" at the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road, St. John's, Jacob was one.

According to his Attestation papers, Jacob was 20 at the time, a fisherman by trade and of Church of England faith. He is described as being 143 lbs, 5 ft. 6 inches tall, single, of fair complexion with dark brown hair and blue eyes.

Jacob's military service would last 438 days in all from 23 May 1918 to 20 Jul 1919. The entries on his service record are minimal to say the least and are as follows:

1. Enlisted 23 May 1918
2. Embarked St. John's aboard the S/S Columbella to Halifax 22 Jul 1918
3. To Newfoundland for demobilization 24 Jun 1919
4. Arrived Newfoundland 01 Jul 1919

In the official service document, is a somewhat scanty notation that Jacob was overseas and in England for a period of time.

Following discharge from service, Jacob appears in the 1921 Newfoundland census living at home with his parents at Coley's Point. He is single at this point.

The 1935 census is an exact copy of the 1921 one, Jacob is still single, living with his parents and is now 39 years old.

In the 1945 census, Jacob, 49 is married to a young lady by the name of Florence from Trinity Bay, she is 33. They have three (3) children and are living at Coley's Point with his parents.

Jacob passed away in 1986, while Florence died in 1997. They are buried in the St. John the Evangelist Church Cemetery at Coley's Point.