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Malcolm Bradbury

Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 1188

World War I

Born: 09 Dec 1893

Died: 18 Feb 1918

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

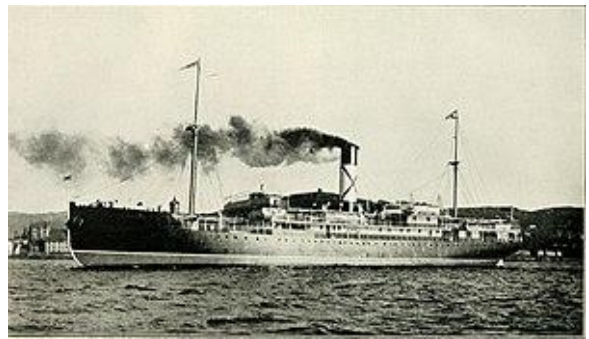
Parents: Joshua and Rachel (Parsons) Bradbury

Malcolm enlisted in what was then the **1st Newfoundland Regiment** (as the regiment had not yet been given the Royal designation) in early March 1915. As taken from his official enlistment paper, Malcolm stood 5' 7 ½ " tall, was of a fair complexion with light brown hair and eyes. He weighed 143 lbs, gave his trade as Telegraph Operator, his faith as Methodist and enlisted for the duration of the war.

The war for Malcolm would last one (1) year and a hundred eighty-nine (189) days as a devastating medical issue would have him discharged in September 1916.

Malcolm's Service Record contains the following entries by date:

1. 22 – 04 – 15: Embarked St. John's onboard the S.S. Stephano



SS Stephano

SS Stephano was a passenger liner and sealing ship, owned by Bowring Brothers and operated in their Red Cross Line of Arctic steamships. *Stephano* is most notable for her role in the 1914 *Newfoundland Sealing Disaster*, under the command of Captain Abram Kean. *Stephano* was the sister ship to the *SS Florizel*. On 20 March 1915, *Stephano* transported D Company of the First Newfoundland Regiment to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where they boarded the *SS Orduña* to Great Britain

2. 20 – 08 – 15: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
3. 31 – 08 – 15: Disembarked at Havre and train to Cairo.
4. 01 – 09 – 15: Disembarked Alexandria
5. 13 – 09 – 15: Embarked for Gallipoli
6. 24 – 12 – 15: Admitted to CGS with frostbite and trench foot.
7. 29 – 12 – 15: To hospital in Malta
8. 20 – 02 – 16: Invalided to England on the hospital ship Panama
9. 29 – 02 – 16: Admitted to Wandsworth Hospital
10. 02 – 03 – 16: Attached to E Company Depot
11. 20 – 07 – 16: To Newfoundland for discharge
12. 05 – 08 – 16: Arrived Newfoundland
13. 12 – 09 – 16: Discharged "Medically unfit"

Following his discharge, Malcolm went home to live with his parents. He was in very poor health and his health continued to deteriorate to the point where on February 19, 1918, he succumbed to his injuries and passed away. He is buried in the Old United Church Cemetery, Bay Roberts. He was just 25 at the time of his death.

Below is a clipping from The Harbor Grace Standard dated 25 January 1918:

Private Malcolm Bradbury, of Bay Roberts, of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, veteran of Gallipoli, has been for months very seriously ill at his home in Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, and is now nearing the end.

Returning home in August, 1916, he went on a recruiting tour around the Island with Dr. Blackall. The strain of the campaign was too much for him.—Cor. D. News.

See what stuff our boys are made of, what they suffer! Sacrificing their lives at the Front! Sacrificing them when they get back, in their anxiety to send recruits to their wearied and worn comrades still there, there but in sadly diminished numbers. Shall we remain careless as to whether we send help or not? Shall we not arise and help them?

Shall we not also provide better for the returned soldiers and sailors unable to fight any longer? Look around every settlement in the land, and see whether the vacant places in the Government Service, in the business places and other places they can fill, is being filled the past three years with them or with stay at homes. Heaven forgive us, fighting over trifles, and neglecting the main thing.

Below is a copy of his obituary from The Harbor Grace Standard dated 22 February 1918:

BRADBURY, MALCOLM Private 1188 18/02/1918
25 Royal Newfoundland Regiment BAY ROBERTS
UNITED CHURCH CEMETERY

—Private Malcolm Bradbury, son of Mr. Joshua Bradbury died on Monday last at his father's residence, Bay Roberts, after a long illness. The deceased enlisted early in the war, and was at Gallipoli, where he was badly frostbitten. He was invalided home, and for the past six months or so suffered patiently the fell disease that was the outcome of his hardships on the Peninsula. He was 27 years of age, and during his short term of life won the esteem and respect of all those who knew him. The funeral was to have taken place on Wednesday, but owing to the storm it was deferred till yesterday. A squad of fifteen soldiers of the Regiment from St John's under Sergt. Hennebury attended, one of the number being Corporal Newbury who was badly wounded in France on the 1st of July, 1916. The body of the brave soldier was laid to rest in the Methodist Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of sympathetic friends, the regular soldiers' burial honors being given by the squad—there to await the final call to arms. The sympathy of the community goes out to Mr. Bradbury and his family in the death of their brave and patriotic son.—Com.

Below are several clippings from The Guardian that mention Malcolm:

Letter from Malcolm Bradbury

St. Paul's Hospital,
Malta, Dec. 29, 1915

Dear Mother:—It is so long since I received any letter from home it seems like ages. The last news I got from home was when I received the socks you sent me, and that was all the parcels I received. I did not get the cake you sent me. It is very warm weather here at Malta, something like the weather you get home in May month. It is just nice.

I am doing fine. I will be getting out of the Hospital about the 3rd of January, and going into the rest camp for about two or three weeks to get my strength back, before I join my regiment, and get out after the Turks again.

Mother, I would much sooner die on the battlefield than be a coward. If the boys at home only knew how the enemy treats our fellow men with that gas, they would certainly fight for the liberty of the Empire, where the good old Union Jack floats. They ought to see what we are paying for their freedom after a night's fighting. But we are looking forward to the time when the enemy will have to yield and we hope the time won't be long.

I had a pin given to me by one of the Red Cross nurses to send to you as a souvenir. It is a silver pin with a cross engraved on it. I am sending it enclosed. And I will send my photo when I get out of the Hospital. I don't know whether my regiment is in Greece or not. But, mother, wherever I go I am safe while in God's keeping. Don't worry about me. If I'm killed it is well with my soul, and that is the best of all. "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."

It is not only true when I have seen the roaring shells kill my comrades around me, but it is also true in life. Kindly remember me to all friends, especially to father, sisters and brothers. Wishing you all a bright and prosperous New Year. I remain, your loving son,

MALCOLM BRADBURY.

1st. Nfld. Regt.

Regt. No. 1188 A Co.,
c/o G. P. O., London.

P.S.—It's only now that I fully appreciate a father's and mother's love.—M.B.

*From The Guardian
04 February 1916*

Home Again

Private Malcolm Bradbury Returns to Bay Roberts

Private Malcolm Bradbury, one of the brave boys that have enlisted from Bay Roberts, and a Gallipoli veteran, came home Monday night last. The town was astir with interest and eagerness to extend to him a hearty welcome.

The members of the W. P. A., in large numbers walked in procession to the railway station, where they were joined by the citizens generally, each vying with the other to show, by their presence and in other ways, that Bay Roberts loves to honor her noble sons.

It was at first the intention to hold a brief informal reception at the station, but the night being chilly and a strong wind blowing, it was decided to go to the Public Building.

On arrival of the train, Pte. Bradbury was taken in Mr. R. Dawe's automobile and driven to the building, where a short address of welcome was made by Mr. C. E. Russell, on behalf of the W. P. A. and the citizens.

He was followed by Rev. S. Bennett, Methodist minister, who made a brief but forcible speech. Mr. Russell then called on Mr. Gus Parsons, as a classmate of the returned soldier, to make a few remarks, which he did in a very fitting manner.

Pte. Bradbury was then called upon. He spoke but briefly, owing to the lateness of the hour and his anxiety to get home to see his mother. He, however, urged the young men to enlist, saying their right place was with the colors, and they should endeavor to get there.

He also stated that when he had time to collect his thoughts and notes he would address the citizens some evening in the near future, and endeavor to give them some idea of what his experience had been.

After singing "God Save the King" and giving three hearty cheers for the returned soldier, the meeting closed.

From the young soldier, who is very reticent to speak of himself, we gleaned the following facts of his career: He enlisted in E. Co. First Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's, in May, 1914. After the arrival of the regiment in Scotland, he was transferred to A. Co. He sailed from Scotland for the Dardanelles with the First Newfoundland Regiment and spent five months in the trenches of Gallipoli. He was wounded in action. He was sent to a hospital in Malta and thence to England, spending five months in hospital in London.

Pte. Bradbury is feeling much better now, and hopes that the doctor will pass him again soon, as he is anxious to join his comrades in arms.

The Guardian cordially welcomes Pte. Bradbury to our midst again and commends his zeal, with the wish that his fondest hopes will be realized.

*From The Guardian
11 August 1916*

Tales of War

Related by Veterans

Last Friday evening the spacious auditorium in the Public Building was filled by a large and appreciative audience, eager to hear from the lips of our two returned veterans, Private Malcolm Bradbury and Naval Reservist Henry Deering, the story of their experiences, while on active duty with the colors in their different branches of the service.

The chair was taken at 8 o'clock by Mr. C. E. Russell, who briefly stated the object of the gathering, which was held under the auspices of the W. P. A., and introduced the different speakers in turn.

Private Bradbury was the first speaker. He told of his experiences from the time of joining the regiment, the training, travels, and their experience at the Dardanelles, where he was wounded, and exhorted the young men to rally to the support of the empire. He was well received.

Naval Reservist Deering followed and told the story of his experience while in active service with Britain's bulwarks in the North Sea, as only a sailor could. His recital was listened to with rapt attention and appreciated as only an audience composed mainly of those, or descendants of those who "go down to the sea in ships," can appreciate a tale of the sea.

The Rev. Dr. Mercer, a noted son of Bay Roberts, who was here on a brief visit last week, next addressed the gathering and made a short but forcible speech, which was listened to intently and followed closely by his hearers.

A vote of thanks to the speakers was moved by Mr. A. Barnes, second by Rev. S. Bennett, and supported by Adj. Ellsworth, S. A., and Capt. Eli Dawe, and carried unanimously. After singing the National Anthem the gathering dispersed. The receipts amounted to the sum of \$39.61.

*From The Guardian
25 August 1916*

From The Guardian - 18 January 1924

During the past fall the G.W.V.A. of Nfld. have remodelled the grave of the late Private Malcolm Bradbury, son of Mrs. Joshua Bradbury, of this town. It is now in a beautiful condition with its concrete enclosure, and is indeed a mark of respect to the hero at rest.