



**Nathan French**  
**World War I**  
**Royal Newfoundland Regiment**  
**Regimental No. 2373**

**Born:** November 1898 in Bay Roberts

**Parents:** Thomas and Susannah French

At the age of 19, Nathan Enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at St. John's. His enlistment papers supply a minimum amount of detail but from it, Nathan supplies information that his trade or calling is a scholar, and he is Church of England.

His service record covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 (enlistment date) to demobilization on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1919, a time frame of 3 years and 4 months.

Nathan's service record:

1. Enlisted at St. John's 1 April 1916
2. Embarked St. John's on S.S. Sicilian for UK 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916

3. Embarked for British Expeditionary Force 20<sup>th</sup> November 1916
4. Admitted to hospital at Amiens with influenza 10<sup>th</sup> February 1917
5. Invalided to England 20<sup>th</sup> February 1917
6. Admitted to hospital in London 22<sup>nd</sup> 1917
7. After recovery furloughed and then attached to Depot 12<sup>th</sup> February 1917
8. Embarked for BEF and joined Battalion on 7<sup>th</sup> of June 1917
9. Wounded the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 1917
10. Admitted to field hospital with severe gsw (gunshot wounds) to right shoulder, left side and abdomen.
11. Invalided to England 4<sup>th</sup> of November 1917
12. Admitted to military hospital (Grove Road
13. , Richmond, London) the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1917
14. Furloughed and then attached to depot the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1917
15. To Newfoundland for demobilization 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1919 and arrived in Newfoundland on 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1919
16. Demobilized at St. John's the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1919

Nathan's war time service saw him promoted several times:

Pte	1 April 1916
L/Cpl	7 November 1916
Corporal	7 April 1918
S/Sgt	27 April 1918
Sgt	7 November 1918

While in London, from records, this is about the time Sergeant. French was stationed at Hazeley Down Camp, an enormous transit camp near Twyford, in South East England

about 35 miles from London. From here, London Battalions went to France via Shawford rail station and Southampton.

Nathan met a young lady by the name of Agnes Taylor of Ayrshire, Scotland. They fell in love and were married on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1918. Together they had a son, Wilford.

After the end of the war, the young family moved to Newfoundland and in 1921, they are found residing in Bay Roberts with Nathan's parents.

By 1935, the French's are now residents of St. John's living on Pleasant Street. The family has grown to include four boys and a girl.

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1938, Nathan passes away at the age of just 41, leaving Agnes a widow with four children. Agnes, affectionally known as "Nessie" (a Scottish nickname commonly used for Agnes) lived to the age of 98. They are buried in the Anglican Cemetery on Forest Road, St. John's.