



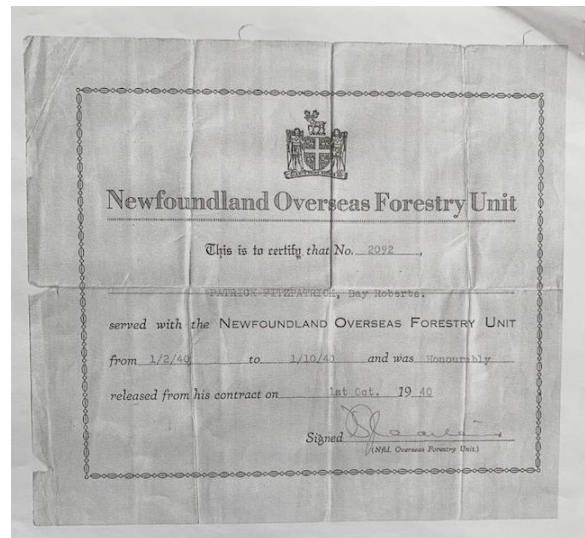
Patrick Fitzpatrick
NOFU Service No. 2092

Patrick was born in July 1899 to parents Patrick and Margaret Fitzpatrick of Bay Roberts. He was one of six children the Fitzpatrick's would have.

Patrick (jr.) would enlist in the Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit (NOFU) in early 1940 at the age of 41. He would serve as a member of the unit from 1st. February 1940 to the 1st October, 1940.

It is believed he was posted to Scotland during his time in service. The picture of Patrick above is clearly marked as having been taken in Scotland.

Patrick would marry Mary (Carroll of Harbour Grace) and together they would have a family of seven.



Official copy of Patrick's Service record.

Although having served for only a short period of time, it is an indication of his willingness to serve in the war effort. Being the age he was, this was his only route to provide such.

It is interesting to note that even though entitled to a medal, the Newfoundland Volunteer Medal, it had never been awarded to him, nor did he question as to why not. It just seemed to him that he had done what he could and that was that.

Following his passing, his son Brian, himself a veteran, applied for his dad's medal and it was awarded posthumously on his behalf.



The photo shows Clement Atlee, the Deputy Prime Minister, visiting a Newfoundland Foresters Camp in 1940.

The island of Newfoundland is situated off the east coast of Canada. In 1949 it became part of Canada, but at the start of World War 2 it was its own country.

Unlike the Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC), which was sent to Britain at the same time, the NOFU was not a military unit. The men were hired on six-month long contracts and were paid the same as they were paid at home. This came to two dollars per day or twelve dollars a week.

In 1945, Patrick found employment with the Canadian National Railway and worked with the CNR for 20 years until his retirement in 1965.

Patrick passed away in October, 1967 and is buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Bay Roberts.

The NOFU

The Newfoundland Overseas Forestry Unit (NOFU) recruited skilled lumberjacks to come to Scotland to cut down trees for the war effort. Over 3,500 men chanced their luck and volunteered.



Although not in the military, many of the men who volunteered to come over wanted to join the fighting. The work they were doing, however, was as vital to the success of the war as the fighting itself.

"They are needed here (Britain) on work of national importance and cannot be replaced. Moreover, it is not easy to train a man, however strong and fit he may be, to become a good lumberjack," Mr. Edgar Baird, NOFU Manager, Illustrated London News (1941).

Many of the men joined the Home Guard, while working at the camps and served locally. In 1942 the 3rd Inverness (Newfoundland) Battalion Home Guard was created consisting of over seven hundred men. It was the only Home Guard unit composed entirely of men from abroad.