

**Richard Augustus Parsons**

**The Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Regimental # 3975**

**World War I**

**Born:** 02 June 1893

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** William and Catherine Parsons

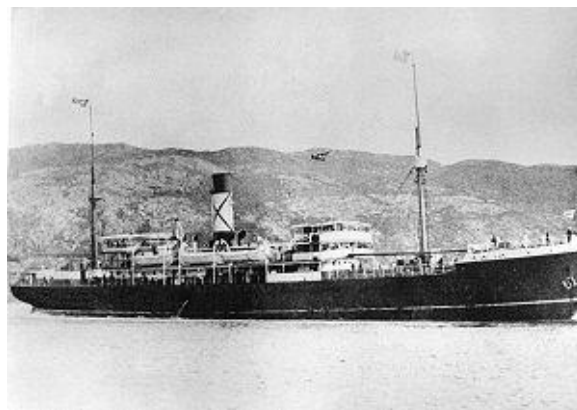
Richard enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1917. His enlistment document provides a picture of him as he appeared that year (1917).

Richard was twenty-four (24) years old, stood 5 feet 8 inches, had light brown hair with blue eyes and of fair complexion. He gave his trade as schoolteacher and his faith as Anglican.

He would spend two (2) years and three (3) days in service, having enlisted on 16 – Oct – 1917 and being discharged on 18 Oct 1919 (according to discharge certificate #

3858). The following items are direct entries in his service record:

1. Embarked St. John's on S.S. Florizel to Halifax, N.S.: 29 – 01 – 1918



**Steamship *Florizel* arriving St. John's Harbour.**

2. Embarked for the BEF (British Expeditionary Force): 02 – 07 – 1918
3. Disembarked France: 05 – 07 – 1918
4. Joined Battalion in the field: 09 – 07 – 1918
5. Admitted to hospital Wimereux, France for 32 days with Tuberculosis: 07 – 08 – 1918
6. Invalided to England: 13 – 08 – 1918
7. Admitted to hospital 13 – 08 – 18
8. Furloughed then to Winchester: 04 – 11 – 1918
9. To Nfld for demobilization: 05 – 09 1919
10. Arrived Newfoundland: 18 – 09 – 1919
11. Discharged: 18 – 10 – 1919  
(Discharge Certificate 3858)

During his service, Richard was promoted Three (3) times.

- a) To Lance Corporal on 27 – 06 – 1918
- b) To Corporal on 12 – 04 – 1919

c) To Sergeant on 01 – 08 – 1919

Richard required to be hospitalized several times during his time in service. This included once for Tuberculosis and another time for the amputation of part of his left foot (although no reason was given).

Before the war, Richard had been attending Dalhousie University and was studying medicine. Now upon discharge, Richard returned to his studies but this time at McGill University in Montreal, where he completed a law degree.

In addition to his law practise, Richard became an accomplished and successful author. He wrote several books about Newfoundland including one dedicated to his hometown entitled: Salute to Port de Grave.”

Richard passed away in 1981, just four (4) years after his wife, Bessie died. They are buried in the Kenmount Road Anglican Cemetery at St. John’s, Newfoundland.