



**Robert North**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Newfoundland Regiment**  
**Regimental No. 2596**  
**World War I**

**Born:** unknown possibly 1898

**Died:** 20 Nov 1917

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

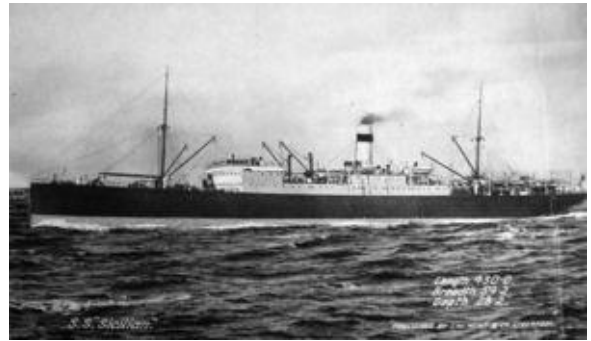
**Parents:** George and Fannie North

Robert enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Newfoundland Regiment on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1916. At the CLB Armoury on Harvey Road, St. John's. According to his enlistment documents, he was described as 5' 7 ½' tall, weighed 115 lbs, gave his occupation as student, his age as 18 years 6 months, Methodist by faith.

The officer who witnessed his signature was 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Outerbridge.

Robert's official Service record has the following entries:

1. 19 Aug 1916: Embarked St. John's on the SS Sicilian.



**SS Sicilian**

2. 11 Oct 1916: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force), France
3. 22 Nov 1916: Joined Unit
4. 27 Feb 1917: In hospital at Rouen, France
5. 09 Mar 1917: Rejoined Unit
6. 13 May 1917: With Battalion
7. 20 Nov 1917: Killed in Action at the Battle of Cambrai, France

The details on the Battle of Cambrai can be found at the following link:

[Battle of Cambrai \(1917\) - Wikipedia](#)

Robert died on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 1917. He is buried in Marcoing Cemetery, France.

An interesting fact arises from Robert's age at death. He is listed as being 19 years old but given his stated age at enlistment of 18 ½ and that his total service in the Regiment is given at 1 year 210 days would have him at 20 years old.

A potential explanation for this discrepancy lies in the simple explanation that dates were entered incorrectly. However, since his birth date can only be identified as 1898, it is more likely that this is incorrect and that Robert was really 17 ½ when he enlisted. He may have lied about his true age. The occupation of “student” on his enlistment papers given some credence to this theory, since it would have been unlikely for him to have been a student at the age given. Whether 18, 19 or 20 when he died is not open to interpretation, the fact remains that he died at a young age having answered the call for King and Country.

Attached below are official copies of the following:

1. Robert’s enlistment or Attestation papers (2 pages).
- 2.. A copy of the telegram sent to his father upon his death.

# **FIRST NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT**

## **ATTESTATION OF**

No. 2596 Name Robert North Corps

### **Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.**

1. What is your name? ..... 1. Robert North
2. What is your full Address? ..... 2. Bay Roberts
3. Are you a British Subject? ..... 3. Yes
4. What is your age? ..... 4. 18 Years 6 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? ..... 5. Student
6. Are you Married? ..... 6. No
7. Have you ever served in any Branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,\* which? ..... 7. No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? ..... 8. Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? ..... 9. Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? ..... 10. FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR  
Name .....  
Corps .....
11. Are you willing to serve upon the conditions as embodied in the roll of service to be signed by you if you are accepted? ..... 11. Yes

I, Robert North do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

S. A. P. 25/16 ..... SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
Robert North .....  
R. A. D. Bridge ..... SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.

Robert North OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.  
I, Robert North do make oath, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

### **CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.**

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at St. John's on this 26th day of Apr. 1916.

Signature of Attesting Officer R. A. D. Bridge 2nd Lieut.

### **CERTIFICATE OF APPROVING OFFICER.**

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 1st.

If enlisted by special authority, such will be attached to the original attestation.

Date ..... 1916

Place St. John's

Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.

‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

\* If so, Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows.  
viz:—(Name) ..... re-enlisted in the (Regiment) ..... on the (Date) .....

# DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT

Applicable to all ranks. To correspond with entries on the Medical History Sheet.

Name Robert Lork  
 Apparent age 18 years 6 months. Height 5 feet 7 1/2 inches  
 Chest Measurement { Girth when fully expanded 35 1/2 inches  
 Range of expansion 4 inches  
 Distinctive marks \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT

Name and Address of next of kin George Lork  
Bay Roberts. Relationship father  
 Particulars as to Marriage

(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow. (b) Place and date of marriage.  
 (c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry.

(a) (b) (c) (d)

## Particulars as to Children

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth

## STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES

Corps in which served	Rgt. or Depot	Promotion, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for fixing the rate of pension		Service in Reserve not allowed to reckon towards G. C. Pay		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of entries
					Years	Days	Years	Days	
Service towards limited engagement reckons from _____									
Joined at _____ on _____									
Total Service forfeited as above.....									
Total Service towards Engagement to _____ (date of discharge) _____ years _____ days									
Pension " _____ " _____ " _____ "									



# NEWFOUNDLAND POSTAL TELEGRAPHS.



## Cable Connection with all the World

### All Messages Sent are Subject to the Following Conditions:

The Management may decline to forward the Message, though it has been received for transmission; but in case of so doing shall refund to the Sender the amount paid for its transmission.

In case the Message shall never reach its destination by reason of any neglect or default of the N. P. T. or its Servants whilst the Message remains under the control of the N. P. T., they will refund the amount paid by the Sender for such Message.

The N. P. T. shall not be liable to make compensation beyond the amount refunded as above for any loss, injury, or damage arising or resulting from the non-transmission or non-delivery of the Message, or delay or error in the transmission or delivery thereof, howsoever such transmission, non-delivery, delay, or error shall have occurred.

The control of the N. P. T. over the Message shall be deemed to have entirely ceased for the purposes of these Conditions at any point where, in the course of the transit of the Message to its destination, it may be entrusted by the N. P. T. (and the N. P. T. shall have full power so to entrust the Message) for further transmission by or through any system, service, or line of Telegraph belonging to or worked by any administration or authority not controlled by the N. P. T. exclusively, although worked as part of or in connection with the Telegraphic system or service of the N. P. T.

I request that the following Telegram may be forwarded according to the foregoing Conditions, by which I agree to abide.

(NOT TRANSMITTED)

Signature of Sender \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Line Number	Red	By	Sent	by	Check

Dated December 1, 1917.

To Mr. George North,  
Bay Roberts.

Regret to inform you Record Office London today reports No. 2596  
Private Robert North was killed in action November twentieth.

R.A. SQUIRES.

Colonial Secretary.

NOTE FOR OPERATOR.

This Message is not to be sent until receiving office  
notifies that message to Rev. S. Bennett Bay Roberts has been  
delivered and acted upon.

FOR TYPEWRITER