

No Picture Available



Ronald Neville

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment

Regimental No. 2066

World War I

Born: 1899- 1900?

Place of Birth: North River, Newfoundland

Parents: James and Ellen (?) Neville

On the 7th of January 1916, Ronald enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment (the Regiment had not yet been given the title “Royal”) for a twelve (12) month period at the Recruiting depot in St. John’s.

The enlistment papers describe him physically as being 5’ 7” tall, with brown hair and blue eyes .He was of Roman Catholic faith, a fisherman by trade and just 19 years old.

When one pictures a good soldier in their mind, Ronald was just that. When one

pictures an undisciplined rabble rouser and, on the edge, bad guy, Ronald was that too. His service record bears out both sides of Ronald to be quite accurate.

Following are handwritten excerpts taken directly from Ronald Neville’s service record:

1. 22 – 03 – 16: Embarked St. John’s on board the S. S. Sicilian for the UK



S.S Sicilian

2. 09 – 07 – 16: Embarked Southampton for BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
3. 10 – 09 – 16: Disembarked Rouen, France
4. 25 – 07 – 16: To Unit
5. 04 – 10 – 16: Admitted to hospital at Rouen
6. 08 – 10 – 16: To England
7. 09 – 10 – 16: Admitted to the 4th London general hospital
8. 06 – 11 – 16: Furloughed then attached to depot
9. 07 – 01 – 1917: Re-engage after his 12 month original enlistment expired
10. 03 – 06 – 17: Embarked for BEF
11. 19 – 06 – 17: Joined Battalion in the field
12. 16 – 08 – 17: Wounded
13. 18 – 08 – 17: Admitted to field hospital, transferred from CCS

- (Causality Clearing Station) with GSW (gunshot wound) to shoulder, thigh and arm.
14. 20 – 08 – 17: Admitted to 6th general hospital at Rouen
 15. 09 – 09 – 17: Rejoined unit in the field
 16. 25 – 09 – 17: Promoted to L/Cpl (lance corporal)
 17. Furloughed London short leave to 04 – 02 – 18
 18. 04 – 02 – 18: Did not return as required. Found and relieved of L/Cpl rank
 19. 20 – 03 – 18: Sent back to France under escort
 20. 21 – 03 – 18: Disembarked at Havre and joined BEF
 21. 09 – 04 – 18: Admitted to station hospital at Rouen with GSW to left knee
 22. 18 – 04 – 18: Transferred England
 23. 25 – 05 – 18: Transferred to London general hospital
 24. 11 – 06 – 18: Apprehended in London for wearing decorations to which he was not entitled and taken under escort to Winchester
 25. 15 – 06 – 18: Received 14 days detention
 26. 05 – 03 – 19: Demobilized at Hazeley Down Camps.

Ronald was discharged in the UK but unlike most Newfoundland soldiers he did not ship home immediately. He had married Rachael McKenna of Ayr, Scotland on June 28, 1918, while on leave

Following his discharge in the UK, Ronald gets himself in trouble with the law and found himself on the 11th of July 1918, sentenced to three (3) months hard labour in Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, Scotland.

Ronald ran into more difficulty when in the spring of 1919, his wife Rachel left him. In his own words, Ronald wrote that “she had gone off with an Australian soldier.”

Following this, Ronald asked for and was granted passage to return home to Newfoundland. According to records, he had passage on the S.S. Sachem to Newfoundland on January 15, 1920 but does not appear in the 1921 Newfoundland census.

The 1935 general census of Newfoundland shows Ronald (36) living in North River, Newfoundland. He is now married to a lady named Bridget (from Labrador). His father, James (79) is living with them

By 1945 census entry shows Ronald and Bridget still living in North River.

Ronald Passed away on March 31st, 1973, at the age of seventy-four (74). He is buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at North River.