

Vincent Noseworthy
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Regimental No. 201
World War I

Born: 1890

Died: 21 Feb 1974

Place of Birth: Manuels, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Peter and Patience Noseworthy

Vincent enlisted in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment on October 1st, 1914 (a Thursday). The Newfoundland Regiment has not yet been given the title "Royal". That would come later in the war following the faithful battle at Beaumont-Hamel in 1916.

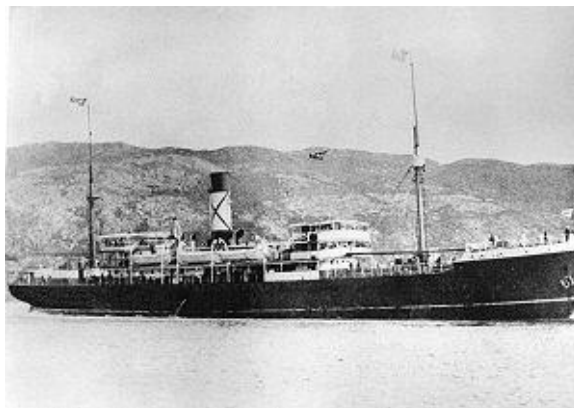
His enlistment papers describe Vincent as being 24 years old, weighing 140 lbs, 5' 8" of fair complexion with brown hair and blue eyes. His trade is listed as miner and his faith as Roman Catholic. He signed up for

the one year. Next of kin is Thomas, an uncle (a possible indication that his parents are deceased).

Oddly enough, Vincent's official service record dates from 03 September 1914 to 24 Jan 17. Accordingly, he served a total of 2 years and 144 days.

Below are excerpts of handwritten entries by date/location/event found in his service record:

1. 03 – 10 – 14: Embarked SS Florizel for the UK



2. 14 – 08 – 15: Re-engaged for duration of the war
3. 20 – 08 – 15: Embarked for BEF (British Expeditionary Force)
4. 31 – 08 – 15: Disembarked at Alexandria and entrained to Cairo
5. 13 – 09 – 15: Embarked for Gallipoli
6. 19/20 - 09 – 15: Arrived Suvla Bay. The night of the 19th or early morning of the 20th
7. 28 – 10 – 15: Admitted to Hospital
8. 15 – 11 – 15: Invalided to England and admitted to Wandsworth Hospital, London
9. 02 – 02 – 16: Attached to "E" Company

10. 28 – 04 – 16: Married Elizabeth Lindsay Beattie of Ayr, Scotland at Belfast
11. 23 - 12 – 16: To Newfoundland
12. 06 – 01 – 16: Arrived Newfoundland
13. 16 – 04 – 16: In Hilden Convalescent Hospital, Galwally, Belfast. Suffers from Neurasthenia
14. 10 – 01 – 17: Medical review board noted that this soldier “suffers from nervous debility and will never make a fit soldier.” He was suffering the lasting/after effects of Dyspepsia.
15. 24 – 01 – 17: Discharged “ medically unfit”

After being discharged as being medically unfit for further service, Vincent now in Newfoundland made his way back to the UK and Belfast in particular. His wife, Elizabeth was there and together, they tried to make a living together for the next 2 – 3 years. Vincent spent more time in hospital and undergoing treatments for what is now known as PTSD but then it was “shell shock.” Times were tough and the couple without much money were supported by the “Soldiers and Sailor Help Society in Belfast.

Things became so difficult that Vincent wrote a letter about his potential pension saying at one point that he would have written sooner but was ashamed at how he had been treated by the Newfoundland government.

Transport for him and Elizabeth was secured to Newfoundland on the SS Sachem from Liverpool on 12th or 13th of March 1920. They arrived in Newfoundland and found a place on Holloway Street, St. John’s.

The 1935 Newfoundland census has Vincent and Elizabeth living in Blackhead, St. John’s West district and they have 4 children,

Francis (11), Alice (10) Thomas (5) and Peter (3).

Vincent Noseworthy, Regimental No. 201 was one of the first 500 soldiers to enlist in the 1st Newfoundland Regiment and are well-known to Newfoundlanders as “the Blue Puttees”.

This item below is taken directly from the write up posted on the <http://ngb.chebucto.org/> website listing all members of that first 500 hundred:

VINCENT NOSEWORTHY Reg. No. 201 (No Photo)

Enlisted, Sept. 3, 1914; British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, Aug. 20, 1915; Evacuated from Gallipoli, Oct. 28, 1915; Invalided to England, Nov. 8, 1915; Repatriated to Newfoundland, Dec. 23, 1916; Discharged, St. John's, medically unfit, Jan. 24, 1917.

The next 2 pages (304 – 305 from Service Record) are a typewritten copy of a letter written by Vincent to the Board of Pension Commissioners regarding his declining health and the lack of any forthcoming pension (his hand written letter can be found on pages 45 to 47 of his Service Record).

The next page (138 from Service Record) is a copy of his Death Notification issued by Veterans Affairs.

Vincent passed away on the 21st of February 1974. His final resting place is at the Roman Catholic All Hallows Cemetery in North River, Newfoundland.

4 Bouston Street,
off Old Park Rd.,
Belfast, Ireland.

Dear Sir,

I trust you will forgive the liberty I take in writing you to see if there could be anything done for me and my wife as we are very badly off. I was discharged on the 27th of January last, just after I arrived in St. John's from Apr. I have never had any pension and am quite unfit for work and the relief funds here will do nothing for me and my wife and myself are wholly dependent on my wife's mother, who is a soldier's widow with a pension of 18/9 per week. I may also tell you my wife is in bad health and I have been in hospital. I tried to work in the country with a Captain Corry but had to give it up. I am sure if the boys knew how I was situated they would give each a little towards keeping myself and my wife out of the work house. I was before a board of doctors at Victory Barracks last Wednesday and they said I was quite unable to work and they would do their best for me, but Sir I thought in the meantime if you or the boys could do anything for me if it was ever as little I would be so grateful to you and them.

Trusting Sir you can see your way to do something for me I am Sir,

2.

Your respectful,

Vincent Noseworthy.

#201 1st NFLD.

P.S. Sir I would have written you long ago only I felt
ashamed to let you know how the Newfoundland Government
had treated me.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS
DEATH NOTIFICATION
AVIS DE DÉCÈS

TO:
À:

DATE April 2, 1974

NAME NOSEWORTHY, Vincent Service No. 201 ROY. Nfld. REGT. CPC No. 260882
NOM Matricule No CCP No

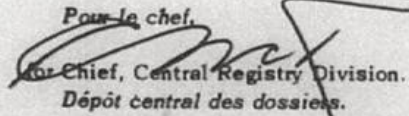
WVA No.
AAC No 17530

Information Received from: SON, Mr Peter J. Noseworthy, P.O. BOX 108, Clarkes Beach, Nfld.
Information reçue de:

Date of Death February 21, 1974
Date du Décès

Place Not Stated.
Endroit

Distribution: WSR-DASG
VI - ASS
DO - BD
HO - BC

Pour le chef,

for Chief, Central Registry Division.
Dépôt central des dossiers.