



Wilfred Nathan French
166th Heavy Artillery
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Service No. 970187
World War II

Born: 26 Apr 1919

Died: 20 Nov 2000

Place of Birth: Ayrshire, Scotland

Parents: Nathan and Agnes (nee Taylor)
French

Wilfred's parents married on 20 May 1918. Nathan, Wilfred's father, was serving with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment at the time. He met and married Agnes Taylor of Ayrshire, Scotland. A year later in April 1919, Wilfred was born. Records show clearly that the family moved to Newfoundland later that same year, 1919, so although Wilfred is claimed as a native-born

son of Newfoundland, he was actually born in Scotland.

According to the Newfoundland general census, Nathan, Agnes, Wilfred and now Donald (Newfoundland born) are listed as living in Frenches Cove, Bay Roberts.

By 1935, they are living in St. John's on Pleasant Street. By this time, the family has grown to include five children: Wilfred 16, Edward Donald 14, Leslie 12, Harold 8, and Yvonne 4.

1938 brought the death of Nathan, leaving Agnes a single mother with five children.

With the onset of World War II, Wilfred enlisted in the 166th Royal Artillery Regiment Newfoundland. The first 400, of which Wilfred was one, embarked for Great Britain on April 14th, 1940. According to his enlistment, Wilfred was given the nickname of P.U. by his fellow artillery buddies.

By 1945 and the end of hostilities, Wilfred is back in Newfoundland and is found in the 1945 census enumeration at age 26, married to Mary Ellen (nee Roche) of St. John's and living on Brazil Street, St. John's.

Together the couple had five children. Son Allan was born in 1948 and died at age 26 in January 1973. He is buried in Gander.

Wilfred passed away in 2000 and is buried in Gander, Newfoundland. His complete obituary is noted below. Mary died in 2007 and is also buried at Gander.

French, Wilfred Nathan

Veteran of WW II - 166th Newfoundland Regiment

*Passed peacefully away **Monday,***

November 20th, 2000, "Wilf" French,

long time resident of Gander, aged 81

years. Predeceased by his brother

Donald and his son Allan. Leaving to

mourn his loving wife, Mary Ellen (nee

Roche); sons; Nat (LeeAnn), St. John's

and Marc (Christine), Gander;

daughters; Linda, London, Ontario and

Donna Lee , St. John's; brothers; Leslie

Taylor (Eileen), St. John's and Harold

(Elsie), Manchester, New Hampshire;

and sister Yvonne (Ern), St. John's; 10

grandchildren and 5 great-

grandchildren, many nieces and

nephews, and countless friends within

Newfoundland and Labrador and across

Canada. Wilf was a veteran of the 166th

Newfoundland Regiment-Mentioned in

Dispatches, a Provincial Past President

to the Royal Canadian Legion, member

of the Executive of Dominion Command,

and five times President of the Legion

Branch #8, Gander. He was also

involved in many local public service

organizations, serving on the Board of

Directors of the Canadian Corps of

Commissioners and the Legion Manor in

Gander. He was a founder of the

Gander Rod and Gun Club and 537th

Air Cadet Squadron. Resting at Stacey's

Funeral Home, Gander. Visitation

Tuesday and Wednesday from 2-9 P.M.

Funeral Service on Thursday, November

23rd, 2000, at 10 A.M. at St. Martin's

Anglican Cathedral, with interment at the

Commonwealth Wars Graves Cemetery,

*Gander. In lieu of flowers donations can
be made to War Amputees of Canada or
the charity of one's choice.*

Nov. 22, 2000