

COST OF WAR

The First World War cost Newfoundland and Labrador enormously. The economic cost left the colony with a war debt of over \$13 million, a significant factor in its near-bankruptcy and the suspension of self-government in 1934.

There was also a great social cost. Newfoundland had a high volunteer rate, with 5,046 volunteers serving overseas. Tragically, the Regiment's volunteers had a fatality rate of over 26% and a casualty rate of over 70%. A large part of a generation of young men were lost or adversely affected by the war.

The Great War was a time of patriotism and military honour for Newfoundland and Labrador. It was also a time of great family and social distress, financial debt, and, above all, immense human sacrifice. To this day, the accomplishments and sacrifices of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment remain a source of pride and sadness.

The Fighting Vaughans

The Vaughans of St. John's were only one of many families in the Colony devastated by the war. Four Vaughan sons enlisted, two of whom were "Blue Puttees". Three of the brothers died and the fourth was discharged as permanently disabled. The parents, Harry and Ellen (Dwyer) Vaughan, both 63 years old in 1918, were left impoverished, without the support of their sons in their old age.



**Francis Joseph
(Frank) Vaughan
(# 481)**

Frank was a tanner who enlisted at age 31. Initially a cook, he was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1915, Corporal (1916) and Acting Sergeant (1916). Because of ill-health, he was attached to headquarters in St. John's on 18 May 1918 and died on 22 May 1918 of bronchitis and asthma.



**Oscar Augustus
Vaughan
(# 337)**

Oscar was a carman who enlisted at age 23. He suffered from trench foot and frostbite in the trenches at Gallipoli and died at Jensen Camp convalescent hospital in St. John's on 4 July 1917 of pulmonary tuberculosis.



**No. 800 Joseph
Patrick (Joe)
Vaughan
(# 800)**

Joe was an office clerk who enlisted at age 16. Joe borrowed a pair of his brother's long pants to appear older when he enlisted. He was killed in action on 14 April 1917 at Monchy-le-Preux, the same day his brother Herbert was captured and sent to a POW camp.



**Herbert Augustine
Vaughan
(# 2742)**

Herbert enlisted at age 20. He was a Prisoner of War, captured at Arras on 14 April 1917, suffering from a gunshot wound upon capture. He was discharged with a disability pension and died in 1939 at age 44.

